

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED PUNE RING ROAD EXPANSION EASTERN ALIGNMENT (PART-II) PROJECT OF MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MSRDC)

The Environmental Public Hearing for the proposed Pune Ring Road Expansion Eastern Alignment (Part-II) Project of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) was conducted on Thursday, 30/04/2026 at 12:00 Noon at Ambekar Lawns, Pune-Hadapsar-Saswad Road, beside Old Sakal Press, Ghat Paytha, Dive, Wadki, Taluka Haveli, District Pune.

The said Public Hearing was conducted under the Chairmanship of Hon. Ms. Jyoti Kadam, Additional District Magistrate, Pune. The members of the Public Hearing Committee namely Mr. Babasaheb Kukade, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune, Mr. Navnath Awatade, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune-2, and Mr. Kartikeya Langote, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune-1 and Coordinator, were present during the hearing.

Representatives of the Project Proponent, journalists, various organizations working in the environmental sector, officers and staff of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, as well as a large number of local residents, were present on the occasion.

With the permission of the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr. Kartikeya Langote briefed the gathering regarding the project and explained the purpose of conducting the Environmental Public Hearing. He stated that, as per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification dated 14 September 2006 and subsequent amendments thereto, the proposed project falls under Item No. 7(f) of the Schedule and is categorized as "Category B1".

It was further informed that the existing Pune Ring Road Expansion Eastern Alignment (Part-II) Project had obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) vide EC No. EC23B034MH139969 dated 09/01/2023. The total length of the project is 66.5 km.

It was also informed that the Terms of Reference (TOR) required for obtaining prior Environmental Clearance for the proposed expansion project had been approved by the State Expert Appraisal Committee-I (SEAC-I), and TOR Identification No. TO25B3602MH5748572N dated 19/10/2025 had been granted.

Hon. Ms. Jyoti Kadam

Resident Deputy Collector /
Additional District Magistrate, Pune

– Chairman

Shri. Mr. Babasaheb Kukade

Regional Coordination Officer,
MPCB Board, Pune

– Member

Shri. Mr. Kartikeya Langote

Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune-1

– Convener

Mr. Navnath Awatade

Deputy Regional Officer,

Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune-2

– Member

As per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification dated 14 September 2006 and subsequent amendments thereto, the notice regarding the Environmental Public Hearing of the proposed project was published at least 30 days prior to the hearing in the local Marathi daily "Loksatta" and the national English daily "Indian Express" on 26/03/2026.

Accordingly, the public was informed that the Environmental Public Hearing for the proposed Pune Ring Road Expansion Eastern Alignment (Part-II) Project of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) would be held on Thursday, 30/04/2026 at 12:00 Noon at Ambekar Lawns, Pune-Hadapsar-Saswad Road, beside Old Sakal Press, Ghat Paytha, Dive, Wadki, Taluka Haveli, District Pune.

Further, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and its Executive Summary in English and Marathi languages were made available for public inspection and obtaining comments at the following Government Offices:

1. Collector Office, Pune.
2. District Industries Centre, Pune.
3. Zilla Parishad Office, Pune.
4. Regional Office and Sub-Regional Office, Pune-1, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Jog Centre, Wakdewadi, Pune.
5. Office of the Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (Head Office), Sion (East), Mumbai.
6. West Central Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Nagpur.
7. Environment Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
8. Tahsil Offices – Khed, Haveli, Purandar and Bhore, District Pune.
9. Sub-Divisional Officer Offices – Khed, Haveli, Purandar and Bhore, District Pune.
10. Concerned Gram Panchayat Offices of project affected villages under Talukas Khed, Haveli, Purandar and Bhore, District Pune.
11. The Executive Summary in Marathi and English languages was also made available on the official website of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Citizens were invited to submit their suggestions, objections or representations regarding the proposed project in writing to the representatives of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. It was informed that all representations and suggestions

received would be placed before the Chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee for consideration.

Further, persons desirous of raising questions or suggestions orally during the Public Hearing were requested to clearly mention their name and village name and present their views before the Committee after completion of the presentation. It was also informed that satisfactory replies to the questions raised by the citizens would be provided by the Project Proponent as well as the appointed Environmental Consultant.

The Coordinator further informed that the entire proceedings and minutes of the Public Hearing would be prepared by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and submitted to the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai for further necessary action.

The Environmental Public Hearing Committee clarified that the role of the Committee is limited to recording the opinions, suggestions and objections received from the public, and that granting approval to the proposed project or making any recommendations does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee. It was further stated that all suggestions, objections and feedback received during the hearing would be incorporated in the Minutes of the Meeting.

Thereafter, the Chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee welcomed all the participants and instructed the Project Authorities and their Technical Consultants to clearly present the project details, particularly the environmental mitigation measures, in the official language as well as the local Marathi language. The citizens present were also requested to freely express their views, objections and suggestions.

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Technical Consultants appointed by the Project Proponent presented a brief overview of the proposed project. Thereafter, detailed information regarding various environmental aspects of the project, anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures was presented. During the presentation, it was stated that the proposed Eastern Alignment commences from Solu Village at Latitude 18°39'58.83" North and Longitude 73°56'8.33" East (CH 38+340).

The terrain surrounding the project site is predominantly plain in nature, with certain stretches consisting of hilly topography. Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) analysis of the study area was carried out based on multi-spectral satellite imagery. The analysis revealed that agricultural land constitutes the predominant land use category, covering 48.77% (937.65 sq. km.) of the total study area. This is followed by built-up area accounting for 20.63% (396.71 sq. km.), whereas water bodies constitute the least land use category covering 0.92% (17.63 sq. km.).

Among the land cover categories, fallow land was identified as the major land cover type, covering 29.46% (566.41 sq. km.) of the study area. Forest area was observed to cover 0.23% (4.38 sq. km.). Water resources comprising rivers/streams under land cover classification and lakes/reservoirs/tanks/canals under land use classification collectively account for 0.92% (17.63 sq. km.) of the study area.

As per the soil quality chemical classification of ICAR, the soil within the study area falls under medium to high productivity category. Further, according to the soil fertility classification by Tandon H.L.S., the soil of the study area is classified under highly

fertile category. Except for commercial areas, the ambient noise levels observed in residential and industrial areas were found to be within satisfactory limits.

Mr. Pritesh Ghadigaonkar, while concluding his presentation, stated that the proposed Expressway Project would provide fast, safe, smooth and efficient connectivity between the regions of Vidarbha, Marathwada, Pune and Konkan. The project would reduce travel time and improve road safety. Further, reduction in traffic congestion, fuel consumption and vehicular emissions would contribute towards lowering pollution levels.

He further stated that the project would improve accessibility to agricultural markets, thereby enabling farmers to obtain better market prices for their agricultural produce. The project would also promote regional economic development by attracting investments and reducing vehicle operating and maintenance costs. The proposed alignment includes various public utility and safety provisions such as rest areas, pedestrian and cattle underpasses, wildlife crossings, plantation and landscaping, emergency medical facilities, telecommunication facilities, traffic aid posts, and street lighting wherever feasible.

The following persons participated in the discussion and the replies provided by the Environmental Consultant and the Project Proponent are recorded as under:

Mr. Kartikeya Langote, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune, stated that all questions, suggestions and objections raised during the Public Hearing, along with the names, addresses and contact details of the concerned villagers, would be duly recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting. He further informed that the said minutes would be submitted to the Hon. Chairperson for approval and, upon approval, would be forwarded to the Government for further necessary action.

He also clarified that live audio-video recording and photography of the entire Public Hearing proceedings would be carried out as part of the official documentation process.

Question No. 1

Raised by:

Hon. Ms. Jyoti Kadam

Resident Deputy Collector / Additional District Magistrate, Pune
Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee

Question:

The Hon. Chairperson observed that, during implementation of the project, complaints are occasionally received regarding excavation or other project-related activities being carried out by appointed contractors on private lands belonging to villagers without obtaining prior consent from the concerned landowners. Clarification was sought regarding the mechanism proposed for redressal of such grievances and the corrective and administrative actions proposed against the concerned contractors in such cases.

Reply by:**Mr. Govind Gaikwad**

Deputy Engineer, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC)

Reply:

Mr. Gaikwad clarified that all contractors appointed for the project would be strictly instructed to undertake project-related activities only within the approved project boundary and officially acquired land area. Under no circumstances would any excavation or construction activity be permitted on private land without obtaining prior consent from the concerned landowner and completion of the requisite statutory procedures.

He further stated that, in the event of any complaint regarding unauthorized intervention, excavation or damage to private property, the matter would be immediately investigated by the Project Proponent. If any contractor is found responsible upon investigation, appropriate penal and corrective action would be initiated against the concerned contractor in accordance with the contractual terms and conditions as well as applicable legal provisions.

Further, a proper grievance redressal mechanism would be established for addressing complaints received from affected villagers, and suitable action would be taken on such complaints from time to time. He also assured that all necessary preventive measures would be strictly implemented to avoid occurrence of such incidents during the execution of the project.

Question No. 2**Raised by:****Hon. Ms. Jyoti Kadam**Resident Deputy Collector / Additional District Magistrate, Pune
Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee**Question:**

The Hon. Chairperson directed that any contractor appointed for the project shall obtain all necessary permissions, No Objection Certificates (NOCs), and statutory approvals from the concerned Government Departments prior to undertaking excavation, transportation of construction materials, or any other project-related activities. Clarification was also sought regarding ensuring that all applicable royalty payments, fees, and other statutory dues payable to the Government would be regularly paid in accordance with prevailing rules and regulations.

Reply by:**Mr. Govind Gaikwad**

Deputy Engineer, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC)

Reply:

Mr. Gaikwad clarified that all contractors appointed for the project would be mandatorily required to obtain all necessary permissions, approvals, statutory licenses, and clearances from the competent Government Authorities before commencing any excavation, transportation of construction materials, or other project-related activities.

He further stated that all royalty payments, taxes, fees, and other statutory charges payable to the Government in connection with excavation, procurement, and utilization

of construction materials required for the project would be regularly paid in accordance with the prevailing laws, rules, and Government directives.

He also assured that all environmental and statutory conditions would be strictly complied with during implementation of the project and that all procedures would be carried out in a systematic and lawful manner in coordination with the concerned Government Departments and Authorities.

Question No. 3

Raised by:

Mr. Kartikeya Langote

Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune

Question:

Information was sought regarding the measures proposed to be undertaken by the Project Authority for controlling dust pollution during the construction phase and the steps proposed for undertaking adequate plantation along both sides of the proposed Pune Ring Road in order to minimize environmental impacts on nearby villages and residents.

Reply by:

Mr. Govind Gaikwad

Deputy Engineer, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC)

Reply:

Mr. Gaikwad clarified that all necessary mitigation measures would be effectively implemented during the construction phase for controlling dust and other environmental pollution arising from project activities. These measures would include regular water sprinkling at construction sites, covering construction materials during transportation, regulating vehicle speeds on unpaved roads, and carrying out periodic maintenance of construction machinery and equipment in order to minimize emissions.

He further stated that large-scale plantation would be undertaken along both sides of the proposed road alignment as well as the service roads. Green Buffer Zones would be developed wherever feasible and depending upon the availability of land, with the objective of minimizing environmental impacts on nearby villages and residents.

In addition, all environmental protection measures would be regularly monitored during the construction phase, and strict compliance with the prescribed environmental standards and norms would be ensured throughout the implementation of the project.

Question No. 4

Raised by:

Hon. Ms. Jyoti Kadam

Resident Deputy Collector / Additional District Magistrate, Pune

Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee

Question:

The Hon. Chairperson sought information regarding the status of royalty payments made for the project till date. Further, clarification was sought as to whether royalty-related reports had been prepared in accordance with the prescribed procedures and submitted to the concerned competent authorities. Details were also sought regarding whether any related cases, reports, or submissions were pending in this regard.

Reply by:

Mr. Govind Gaikwad

Deputy Engineer, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC)

Reply:

Mr. Gaikwad stated in reply that the details pertaining to royalty payments and related reports concerning the project would be compiled and resubmitted to the concerned competent authorities in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

He further clarified that all necessary documents and reports would be duly updated and maintained as per the prevailing rules and regulations and would be made available to the concerned departments and authorities as required.

Question No. 5

Raised by:

Mr. Babasaheb Kukade

Regional Coordination Officer, MPCB Board, Pune
Committee Member

Question:

Mr. Babasaheb Kukade stated that all contractors engaged for the project are required to strictly comply with the applicable guidelines pertaining to Ready Mix Concrete (RMC) Plants as well as the prescribed rules governing Stone Crusher Units. He further pointed out that instances of non-compliance with the guidelines issued on 17/10/2025 have been observed at certain locations.

Accordingly, clarification was sought regarding the monitoring mechanism being implemented by the Project Proponent to ensure compliance with the said guidelines and whether appropriate legal and administrative action would be initiated against the concerned contractors or units in case any violations of the prescribed rules are detected.

Reply by:

Mr. Govind Gaikwad

Deputy Engineer, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC)

Reply:

Mr. Gaikwad clarified in reply that regular supervision and monitoring of the Ready-Mix Concrete (RMC) Plants and related construction activities operating under the project are being carried out through qualified civil engineering officials. Compliance with prescribed standards and technical specifications is being ensured through verification of cement quality, concrete grade, quality of construction materials, and other technical parameters.

He further stated that all RMC Plants have been mandatorily required to obtain all necessary statutory permissions and approvals prior to commencement of operations, and strict instructions have been issued for compliance with all applicable environmental and technical guidelines.

He also informed that an effective monitoring mechanism has been established by the Project Proponent to ensure quality control and compliance with regulatory conditions. Further, in the event of any violation of prescribed norms or detection of any deficiencies, necessary action would be initiated against the concerned parties in accordance with applicable legal provisions, rules and regulations.

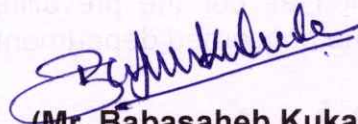
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(Mr. Kartikeya Langote)

Convener

Sub-Regional Officer, Pune-1

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune



(Mr. Babasaheb Kukade)

Committee Member

Regional Officer

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune



(Hon. Ms. Jyoti Kadam)

Chairman

Hon. Resident Deputy Collector, Pune and

Additional District Magistrate, Pune