

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED KHADAKWASALA - FURSUNGI TUNNEL PROJECT SUBSTITUTE TO NEW MUTHA RIGHT BANK CANAL KM 1 TO KM 34, DIST. PUNE, MAHARASHTRA BY EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, IRRIGATION PROJECT INVESTIGATION DIVISION (BSB), WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA KRISHNA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MKVDC), PUNE 411011

The public hearing of Proposed Khadakwasala - Fursungi Tunnel Substitute to New Mutha Right Bank Canal KM 1 to KM 34, Tal. Haveli Dist. Pune, was held on Friday, 28/02/2025 at 12.00 noon at Khadakwasla Judo Hall, bypass Road, Behind Petrol Pump, Khadakwasla, Tal. Haveli, Dist. Pune.

The coordinator, Mr. Kartikeya Langote, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune-1, welcomed Hon. Jyoti Kadam, Additional District Magistrate, Pune, and Chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee, along with other members, representatives of the project proponent, journalists, organizations working in the field of the environment, and the local public present at the event on behalf of the M.P.C.B. and the District Collector's office, Pune. With the permission of the chairperson of the committee, Mr. Langote briefed about the project and purpose of environmental public hearing.

The organizers briefed the project details and stated that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the said project were issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Government of India, on 3rd December 2024. Project proponent prepared a draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report on Proposed Khadakwasala - Fursungi Tunnel Substitute to New Mutha Right Bank Canal KM 1 to KM 34, Tal. Haveli Dist. Pune, Maharashtra and submitted it to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to initiate the process of Public hearing as per notification dated 14th September 2006 and its subsequent amendments

As per the letter dated 16/01/2025, the Additional District Magistrate, Pune, instructed to organize public hearing on 28/02/2025. Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide Office Order No. E- 15/2025 vide Letter No.BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-250227-FTS-0099, dated 27/02/2025 constituted an environmental public hearing Committee as follows: -

Hon. Jyoti Kadam - Chairman
Resident Deputy Collector /
Additional District Magistrate, Pune

Shri. Jagannath Salunkhe - Member
Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune

Shri. Kartikeya Langote - Convener
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune-1

As per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 30 days prior to the public hearing it was notified in local Marathi newspaper Loksatta and English national newspaper Indian Express dated 25/01/2025, that public hearing of the said project will be held at the Khadakwasla Judo Hall, bypass Road, Behind Petrol Pump, Khadakwasla, Tal. Haveli, Dist. Pune on Friday 28/02/2025 at 12.00 noon. A corrigendum was also published on 21st February 2025 in the same newspaper. The notice included information about the proposed project, inviting environmental suggestions, comments, objections from the public and organizations working in the environmental field.

Additionally, the project documents including the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Executive Summary in both English and Marathi, were made available for public information and review at the following government-designated offices: -

- District Collector Office, Pune
- District Industries Centre, Pune
- Zilla Parishad Office, Pune
- Regional Office and Sub-Regional Office, Pune-1, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Jog Center, 2nd & 3rd Floors, Wakdewadi, Pune-Mumbai Road, Pune-411003
- Hon. Member Secretary, MPCB (Headquarters), Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No. 7, opposite Cineplanet, near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-22
- Zonal Office, West-Central Zone, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001
- Environmental Department, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Madam Kama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32
- Pune Municipal Corporation, Main Building, Shivajinagar, opposite Mangala Talkies-411005
- Fursungi, Urli Devachi Municipal Council, Tal. Haveli, District Pune
- Village Panchayat Office, Vadki, Loni-kalbhor, Tal. Haveli, Dist. Pune
- Pollution Control Board's website.

Organizers said that if any instructions are to be given about the proposed project, they should be given in writing to the representative of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Suggestions will be submitted to the Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee. Those who wish to ask questions orally they can ask after the presentation by stating their name and village clearly. The Project proponent/Environmental Consultant will answer those questions. Minutes of the said meeting will be prepared and submitted to the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board headquarters. This committee is only to record people's opinions, suggestions, objections and this committee has no right to take any decision or recommendation. The said suggestions/objections will be recorded in the minutes. Similarly, the project proponent has to submit a revised environmental assessment report to the environment department, taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections presented in the meeting. The expert committee takes further decision

accordingly. Then he requested to the Chairman to order the project proponent to start the presentation.

The Chairman, Public Hearing Committee on Environment welcomed all the attendees and instructed the Project Officers and their technical advisors to inform about the environmental remedial plans in the government and local language Marathi and appealed to all the people to fearlessly register their objections and suggestions if any.

With the permission of the Chairman, the technical consultants appointed by the project proponent presented the brief about the project followed by environmental aspects of the project. In this presentation, the consultants mentioned that the Khadakwasla-Fursungi Tunnel Substitute to new Mutha Right Canal from km 1 to 34 is proposed in the Haveli Taluka, Pune district. The project authorities briefly introduced the project.

The Project Proponent stated that the proposed Khadakwasla-Fursungi Tunnel Project comes under the office of Executive Engineer, Irrigation Project Investigation Division (Bhima Sub Basin), Pune. The environmental clearance proposal for the project was submitted on the *Parivesh 2.0* portal on 25th January 2024. Subsequently, the Terms of Reference (TOR) were issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi, on 3rd December 2024. Baseline monitoring and data collection were carried out in pre-monsoon (summer season) from March to May 2024, monsoon season from June to August 2024, and post-monsoon from October to December 2024. Draft EIA report prepared and submitted to Pollution Control board for further process of public hearing. Accordingly, the public hearing notices were published in the *Indian Express* and *Loksatta* newspapers on 25th January 2025, and a corrigendum was published on 21st February 2015 in the same newspapers.

The Khadakwasla-Fursungi Tunnel Project starts from the Khadakwasla Dam and connects to the existing new Mutha Right Canal at 34 km. The total length of the project is 26.667 km and the alignment of the tunnel passes through the villages of Khadakwasla, Kirkatwadi, Dhayari, Narhe, Ambegaon Khurd, Katraj, Mangadewadi, Yewalewadi, Pisoli, Wadachiwadi, Autadewadi, Vadki, Loni kalbhor in Haveli Taluka, Dist.Pune.

2.18 TMC water will be saved due to this Project, which can be used for irrigation and non-irrigation purposes. Additionally, the water savings will help to restore 3471 hectares irrigation area.

The Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park and Wildlife Research Center, Katraj, Pune, and Ghera Sinhgad village in Western Ghat falls within a 10-kilometer radius of the project study area. The project area falls under Zone 3 (Medium seismic risk area) as per the Indian Seismic Zone Map 2002, IS 1893 Part 1. The environmental maps were briefly shown through a PowerPoint presentation (PPT). For the project, the total area is 23.03 hectares private land is required (11.71 hectares to be acquired, and the remaining 11.32 hectares will be leased) and 0.8064 hectares of forest land, for which Stage-1 Clearance has been received. In terms of workforce, during the construction phase, the permanent workforce will consist of approximately 75 employees, while the contractual workforce will be approximately 1350 employees. During the operational phase, once the project begins, the permanent workforce will be reduced to approximately 58 employees, with approximately 20 contractual employees. The total estimated cost of the project is 2190.47 Cr. For Environmental Management Plan, a capital expenditure of 1.93 Cr has been allocated. Additionally, a recurring expenditure of 1.60 Cr has been allocated annually for this purpose.

The Study of Ambient Air quality, Noise Level, Surface & ground water quality, and soil Quality, Land Use Land Cover etc. study was carried within a 10-kilometer radius of the project site during March to May 2024, June to August 2024, and October to December 2024.

The air quality study was carried at 8 locations within the area. Total 4 surface water samples, 12 groundwater samples were collected, and soil samples were taken from 12 locations. It was observed that Air Ambient Quality is within limit as per National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Also Soil Quality is good for Farming.

During the construction phase, controlled blasting will be ensured to manage environmental impacts. To control air pollution during construction sprinkling along with tree plantation will be carried out. Also Measures will be taken to prevent noise pollution. According to the CPCB guidelines, noise barriers will be installed on diesel generator sets to reduce noise. Additionally, regular monitoring of noise levels will be conducted. For water quality management, a portable sewage treatment plant (STP) of 20 KLD capacity will be installed at the labour camps during the construction phase. The treated water will be reused. Various waste management plans will be implemented, including the disposal of wet waste and the production of organic compost. Green belt will be developed at project sites, internal roads, shafts etc. for this approximately 25000 local trees will be planted on 3 Ha area.

To mitigate environmental impacts, department has allocated capital expenditure of 1.93 Cr and a recurring expenditure of 1.60 for Air quality monitoring, Noise level, Surface water and ground water quality testing, soil Quality, Fishery management, wildlife conservation plan and excavation various management plan, etc. Also under the corporate Environmental Responsibility Funds of Rs. 10.95 Cr has been allocated.

The following persons participated in the discussion and the responses given by the environmental consultant and project proponent-

Mr. Kartikeya Langote, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune responded that all the questions raised will be recorded in the meeting minutes, including the names, addresses, and contact details of the villagers. The minutes will be submitted to the chairman for approval, and after the chairman's approval, it will be submitted to the government. Live recordings and photos of the public hearing will also be taken.

1) Mr. Ramesh Dnyanoba Mate, Khadakwasla, Pune

The tunnel starts from the Khadakwasla Dam. 75% of the land in Khadakwasla village has been acquired for the Khadakwasla Dam project. Only 25% of the land will be remaining. Will we be provided with water facilities through this tunnel project?

Where will the muck from tunnel excavation be disposed off?

If written responses would be provided for the questions raised here?

In response, the project officer said that, for this project, land acquisition will not be necessary except for the shaft and cut & cover. Your demand is outside the scope of the project report and will be presented at a higher level.

Mr. Shrikant Kakade, the consultant, clarified that four locations have been identified for dumping the Excavated Muck, and a detailed plan for disposal of muck along with route will be submitted.

All the questions raised during public hearing will be documented and submitting in the format of proceeding signed by Hon. committee.

2) Mr. Dattatray Mahadev Kolhe, Kolhewadi, Pune

The department is closing the old canal and constructing a new tunnel. There are wells on both sides of the canal, and agriculture depends on this water. People depend on tanker water. If the canal water is stopped, there will be a water shortage, and citizens will face inconvenience. The government should take precautions and construct bridges and roads over the water and preserve the canal.

Existing canal is passing through Pune city and drinking water supplied by Pune Municipal corporation to the residents. The decision to preserve bridges, roads, existing canal will be taken at government level.

3) Mr. Santosh Ashok Mate, Khadakwasla

The Khadakwasla Dam is of no use to us. We have very little land left. The land is 2 to 3 km away from the dam, and it is not possible to bring water from such a distance. Water will be supplied through the tunnel. What will farmers do if nearby bore wells run dry? If the bore water goes dry after the project starts, whom should we approach? A survey of the wells and bore levels in the 1 km area of the alignment should be conducted.

Is the tunnel 80 meters deep from Khadakwasla Dam? My bore well is close to the alignment, yet it has not been surveyed.

If the wells are affected after the tunnel construction, how can we file complaints? Many farmers rely on the water from the wells, which has been passed down through generations. The compensation from the government is not enough.

What will be done with the vacant land of new Mutha Right Bank Canal, and how will it benefit farmers?

Mr. Jagannath Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune, mentioned that this issue is related to the water table.

The tunnel is expected to be 80 to 200 meters deep. It will be lined on the inside, so there should be no issue with the water from wells or sinks. A survey of wells and sinkholes in the 200-meter area of the alignment is underway, and the report will be submitted once completed. If there is any problem in the future, action will be taken according to government rules. Additionally, wells and sinkholes are usually 80 to 100 feet deep, so they will not be affected.

The project proponent confirmed that the tunnel depth varies at different points, and the specific depth for your plot can be checked at the office.

He also mentioned that the survey of nearby wells and bore well is ongoing, and additional surveys will be done based on the farmers' requests. If wells or bore wells are affected, action will be taken according to government rules.

The project proponent confirmed that environmental measures will be implemented for the vacant land, benefiting the local community. The study is being conducted by the Pune Municipal Corporation, and after its completion, the proposal will be submitted to the Government.

4) Mr. Gokul Nivrutti Karanjawane, Sarpanch, Kirkatwadi

The project's cabinet approval came in September, and the tenders were issued. Why was environmental approval not obtained before the tender process? The tender process was conducted before the elections, and the environmental public hearing is being held now.

A list of the farmers whose land will be affected by the project, with survey numbers, should be displayed in the village, and information should be provided about whether construction of building & boreholes are possible on those lands. If there are objections, information regarding deadlines should be given.

What will be the width of the tunnel, and how much land will be acquired?

Will the affected farmers receive compensation?

List of farmers on alignment to be published within 30 days

The project officer explained that the environmental approval process started before the tender process. Various steps in the environmental approval includes, preparation and submission of ToR Application through Parivesh Web Portal-2, conducting baseline Environmental Survey, Preparation draft EIA EMP report etc. Public hearing the part of this process.

The land acquisition process has started where necessary. After joint measurements, the affected farmers will be identified. No decisions will be made unilaterally. A joint survey will be conducted with the affected farmers, and the land will be acquired accordingly.

The width of the tunnel is 6.3 meters, and land acquisition will not be required except for the shaft and cut & cover. 15 meters of land acquisition will be done on both sides of the open canal at Fursungi. There will be no land acquisition in the upper areas for the tunnel.

Farmers whose land is acquired will be compensated according to government rules. In areas like Nanded, Kirektwadi, and Khadakwasla, the tunnel will be underground, so no land acquisition will be necessary. Hence, there will be no compensation. The tunnel will be 80 meters deep, so construction will not face any difficulties.

Mrs. Jyoti Kadam, the Resident Deputy Collector of Pune, asked for the list of landowners based on survey numbers and information about whether construction can be done on the alignment.

The project officer said that construction can be done along the alignment, and gut number wise list of landowners will be provided accordingly.

5) Mr. Nilkanth Shitole, Daund

Khadakwasla Dam is a British-era dam. After that, land was acquired from farmers for Panshet and Varsagaon dams, and in return, they were provided land in the Daund Taluka, and they

fulfilled their duties in cooperation with the government. However, farmers who lost land to the dam are now facing a water shortage in Daund taluka. According to the Irrigation Department, there is a shortage of 3 TMC of water, which is required for proper irrigation.

Farmers from Daund, Indapur, and Baramati express their gratitude to the government for planning this tunnel project as it will save water. Additionally, water from the open canal in Pune is being polluted, and water supply schemes in Daund taluka depend on this water. Because of the contamination of groundwater, this project is a blessing. We thank the government for it.

6) Mr. Narendra Hagwane, Kirkatwadi, Pune

The first shaft for the tunnel will pass through our farmland. Therefore, we should be officially recognized as project-affected. Also, land acquisition will be needed for the road leading to the shaft. The road's alignment should match the alignment shown on the PMRDA map so that our land is not divided again. We request the planning department to consider this carefully.

The project officer confirmed that they will plan the alignment to minimize the impact on farmers and ensure that the work is done conveniently for everyone. Existing road network will be used. The official procedures for providing compensation will also be followed.

7) Mr. Rohan Suryankat Mate, Khadakwasla, Pune

There is a powerhouse at the new Mutha right canal site. What will be the process regarding that? Will the powerhouse continue to operate after the canal is closed, or will it be shut down? Has a decision been made about this? If so, where should objections be filled?

The project officer clarified that the powerhouse is not part of this project and is related to a different division. For more information, please contact the Khadakwasla Irrigation Division. Objections regarding this matter should be raised with them.

Shri. Kartikey Langote, SRO, MPCB stated that, this your objection is related to Khadakwasla Irrigation Division and will be forwarded to them.

8) Mr. Manoj Gaikwad, Dhayari, Pune

In Dhayari village, where the tunnel will pass, will there be any shafts? If not, since the tunnel is 80 meters underground, will the Pune Municipal Corporation or the Urban Development Department raise any objections for building permits?

Will land acquisition be done for shafts in Dhayari?

There is a marking on my land, but no contact has been made with me regarding this.

The KML file of the tunnel alignment should be provided to the farmers.

The project officer confirmed that the tunnel will be 80 meters below the surface, and there should be no issues for building permission. Coordination with the Pune Municipal Corporation and Urban Development Department will be done for this purpose.

A local inspection has been done in Dhayari for land acquisition for shafts, and once the acquisition process starts, affected farmers will be informed, and necessary steps will be taken accordingly.

The project officer confirmed that the KML file of the alignment is ready and will be provided to the farmers.

Mrs. Jyoti Kadam, Resident Deputy Collector, Pune, also asked about the status of the project beyond the 34 km mark and how long the project will take to complete.

The project proponent clarified that the tunnel starts from Khadakwasla Dam and reaches the new Mutha right canal at the 34 km mark. After that, the original open canal will continue. The project is planned to be completed in 3 years.

Mrs. Jyoti Kadam further stated that the list of farmers based on survey numbers be made available in the office of Executive Engineer, IPI Division, Pune. She also asked for detailed information about the environmental impact of the project and the social environmental responsibility.

Mr. Shrikant Kakade, the consultant, mentioned that major pollution is due to muck. Total 1670000 cubic meters muck will be generated. Out of these 375000 cu.m shall be used for backfilling of open channel portion, 600000 cu.m stone & aggregates shall be utilised for construction. And Balance 695000 cu.m material shall be utilised for lo lying area and adjoining Quarry area

For Corporate environmental responsibility, efforts like providing drinking water, vocational training, waste management workshops, creating green spaces, and conducting awareness programs in schools will be implemented. A budget of Rs. 10.95 crore will be allocated for these activities over the next three years.

9) Mr. Rohit Mate, Khadakwasla, Pune

What will be done with the to be vacant land of existing new Mutha right canal in future?

The project proponent stated that environmental measures are planned for the vacant land, benefiting the local population. A study by the Pune Municipal Corporation is underway regarding the same, and once completed, the proposal will be submitted to the government.

10) Mr. Vijay Mahadev Kolhe, Former Sarpanch Khadakwasla

The Khadakwasla tunnel project is very useful, and it will prevent water wastage. What will be done with the vacant land along the new Mutha right canal? This land should not be sold to commercial entities; if it is to be sold, it should be given to the original farmers.

The project officer stated that this is a policy matter, and a decision will be made at a senior level.

11) Grampanchayat Loni Kalbhor, Pune

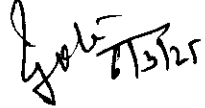
Written application received from Grampanchayat Loni Kalbhor stating that, the New Mutha Right Bank Canal shall be flowing as it is in the boundaries of Fursungi to Loni Kalbhor.

The Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune, mentioned that environmental discussions had already been held regarding the project, and if there were any

further questions, they should be submitted in writing. He then concluded the meeting, thanked the chairman and the participants, and declared the public hearing closed.

12) SSR Power LLP, Kothrud Pune

The written application received from SSR Power LLP, Kothrud stating that to prefer the alignment 1A submitted by them wide letter no. SSR/Khadakwasala/SHP/07/2022-23, Dt, 27/06/2022 to Water Resource Department. As per this alignment tunnel will start from downstream of Power house and canal outlet already constructed by department and them.



(Mr. Kartikeya Langote)

Convener

of the Public Hearing Committee and
Sub Regional Officer, Pune- I, MPCB,
Pune



(Mr. Jagannath Salunkhe)

Member

of the Public Hearing Committee and
Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune



(Hon. Jyoti Kadam)

Chairman

Resident Deputy Collector /
Additional District Magistrate, Pune

