

## DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF COMMISSIONING OF PROPOSED 1,80,000 TPA BAUXITE MINING HAVING MINING LEASE AREA OF 14.24 HECTOR (FOREST LAND) UNDER "B" CATEGORY FOR PRODUCT BAUXITE AT GHUNGUR BAUXITE BLOCK-I, - GAT NO.685 (PART), GHUNGUR RESERVED FOREST, VILLAGE-GHUNGUR, TALUKA-SHAHUWADI, DISTRICT – KOLHAPUR, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SHRI BHAIRAVNATH EARTH MOVERS & COMPANY, MOHITE HOUSE, 240/B, GENERAL THORAT MARG, TARABAI PARK, KOLHAPUR-416 003, MAHARASHTRA STATE**

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The Environment Public Hearing in respect of commissioning of Proposed 1,80,000 TPA of Bauxite Mining having Mining Lease Area 14.24 hector (Forest Land) under "B" Category for product Bauxite at Ghungur Bauxite Block-I, Gat No. 685 (Part), Ghungur Reserved Forest, Village-Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s Bhairavnath Earth Movers & Company, Mohite House, 240/B, General Thorat Road, Tarabai Park, Kolhapur – 416 003, Maharashtra State was held on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. at Primary School-Sawarwadi, Village-Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra

Shri Pramod Rajaram Mane, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Sanjay Teli, Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Jayant Hajare, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs Journalists, Representatives of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, GoI) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended thereafter, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. Also, Project Proponent has submitted an online application dated **08-11-2023** to obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) and prepare the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report

from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai and it is approved Online dated 10-11-2023 by Maharashtra Government. Accordingly, after the submission of proposal from Project Proponent the Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter No. **250228-FTS-0176 dated 28-02-2025** directed Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur requested Hon. District Collector, Kolhapur to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity and as per directions it was decided to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. at Primary School-Sawarwadi, Village-Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra. After getting sanction from District Collector, Kolhapur, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai as per the Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14-09-2006 and as per Amended Notification S.O. 3067 (E) Dated 01-12-2009 as issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, Gol), New Delhi has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 27 of 2025 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 250403- FTS- 0297 dated 03-04-2025 as under: -

1) District Magistrate-Kolhapur  
or his representative not below  
the rank of an Additional District  
Magistrate

**Chairman**

2) Representative of Maharashtra  
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -  
Regional Officer – Kolhapur,  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Kolhapur

**Member**

3) Sub Regional Officer,  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Kolhapur

**Convener**

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur in the local newspaper in daily Pudhari for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Times of India

for English on 24-03-2025. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under:-

1	Hon. District Collector, Collector Office, Kolhapur;
2	General Manager, District Industries Center, Kolhapur;
3	Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur;
4	Hon. Principal Secretary, Environment Department, New Administrative Building, 15 <sup>th</sup> floor, Madam Cama Road, Mantralay, Mumbai-32;
5	Member Secretary, MPC Board (HQ), Kalpataru Point, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai;
6	Sub Divisional Officer-Panhala, District-Kolhapur;
7	Regional Office, MPC Board, Udyog Bhavan, Kolhapur;
8	Tahsildar, Tahsildar Office -Panhala, Taluka-Panhala, District- Kolhapur;
9	Tahsildar, Tahsildar Office -Shahuwadi, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur;
10	Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Shahuwadi, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur;
11	Gramsevak, Gampanchayat Office-Bandiwade, Taluka-Panhala, District-Kolhapur;
12	Grampanchayat Offices – Khotwadi/Savarde/Parkhandale/ Nandgaon/ Ambarde/Parali/Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur;
13	Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board – Executive Summary of the Proposed Project is made available in Marathi and English;

The Convener informed that 199 suggestions / objections including 03 E-mails have been received by Regional Office/Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Kolhapur regarding the proposed project. Also the Convener informed that an opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

The Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting in Marathi and English after approval of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change, Govt.

of Maharashtra, Mumbai with video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman, the Project Environmental Consultant made a presentation about the project and the project's Environmental Management Plan. The Environmental Advisor stated that the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Government of India, has approved the mining plan of the proposed project on 31-07-2020 and the Proposed project area is 14.24 hectares (forest land) with a production capacity of 1,80,000 tons per annum of Bauxite in the mining area. The capital cost of the project is ₹ 2.19 crore. As per the directives of the Central Pollution Control Board, 33% of the total project area will be developed as a green belt. The project requires 35 skilled and unskilled personnel and priority will be given to locals for employment in the project. However, the establishment of this project will greatly increase indirect business in the area. The budget of Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) of the project is nearly ₹ 40.90 lakh for five years and it will be spent on project affected villages. Also, the proposed capital expenditure for environmental management of the proposed project is ₹ 95.0 lakhs and the recurring expenditure will be ₹ 42.50 lakhs. Apart from CSR, the company has set aside 2% of the capital expenditure for the mining project as Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) fund and an amount of ₹ 4.39 lakh will be spent implementing the environmental suggestions raised by the locals during the public hearing.

A Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared as per the Wildlife Act and around ₹ 25/- lakhs have been reserved for direct participation and indirect participation. This project is in the interest of the local area, the state of Maharashtra, and the country.

After presentation, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all the participants to raise any suggestions, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. Also, he instructed while raising suggestions or objections, first inform your name, name of village and avoid to raise the same points, so that more participants can be given an opportunity. Also, the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed the participants that the suggestions or objections as raised are noted by video recording and minutes of the meeting in English and Marathi will be prepared which will send to concern authority through MPC Board officials. Those who wishes to register suggestions/objections,

may please raise the hand, so that person will be given an opportunity to talk on provided.

**Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environment Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by the Project Proponent/Environment Consultant/Environment Public Hearing Committee :-**

**1) Shri Pandurang Sankpal, Residence Desaiwadi, Tal: Panhala, District - Kolhapur:-**

I am here to support the Ghungur Bauxite Block-I project. Since our Taluka is remote, there is no job opportunities here. Hence, local people have to go from here to Mumbai / Pune. They do not come to the village for 6-6 months. This has been going on since our ancestors. Now we don't want that life of hardship and employment/job opportunities to be created in the village/ near the village. For this, we local people have come to support the local project. Hence, the said project should be started as soon as possible, for which the Government should approve it, as early as possible.

**2) Shri Rajaram Pandurang Patil, Residence-Ghotvade Village, Taluka Panhala, District – Kolhapur:-**

I support this Bauxite Project for the overall development of Ghungur area. Job opportunities will be available to the local unemployed. Local people who travel 50 km for jobs will get employment in the village itself. Project Proponent have worked hard for the last 14 years to build this project. My full support for their efforts and project.

**3) Shri Ramchandra Shivaji Tandale, Residence- Nivade, Taluka Panhala, District -Kolhapur:-**

Keeping in mind the problems of the local poor people here, a "Farmer's Son" has decided to set up a project. Due to the lack of job opportunities here, young boys here must leave their villages and farms and go to Pune and Mumbai. By getting employment here, they will be able to live with their families and do farming. Their families will be happy. However, on behalf of the Nivade Gram Panchayat, we are openly supporting this project, and we agree with this project.

**4) Shri Sardar Vasant Kamble, Residence-Ghungur village, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur, Acting President, Republican Party of India (RPI), Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur: -**

We have all experienced the Corona period. During the Corona period, people from the city were rushing to the village. Since there was no employment in the local village, those people left the Village and Taluka and went to the city for livelihood. If

an industry is commissioned here, the people of this area will get job opportunities. So, the bauxite project will be supported for this. Supporting the project.

**5) Shri Sandip Kesarkar, Residence-Ghungurwadi, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-**

I have been opposing this project for the past ten years. I have no personal animosity towards anyone, but I am opposing this project, because the water which comes to my village comes from the mountains only. The water will be cut off due to this project and the beautiful, dense forest on the mountain will be cut down. Also, animals such as Bison, Pigs, and Leopards as well as their livelihood will be affected. The Leopards have been seen here for years as Bison and leopards come to our fields every day. The project officials say that the project will provide jobs for the villagers, but they do not know what kind of job opportunities will be made available to the local people. As the local poor people here cannot purchase JCBs, machines, tractors, dumpers for excavation.

If the project is to provide jobs, there is 150 acres of government land here. If the project officer puts as much effort into setting up an industry on this land which they did to destroy the mountain, we will fully support it. We totally opposed the said project.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee remarked that the views have been noted.

**6) Shri Deepak Ananda Patil, Residence - Nanundre, Tal – Panhala, Chairman, Panhala-Shahuwadi Paryavaran Bachav Kruti Samiti:-**

Project Proponents have put in a lot of effort for this project and Many people here are of the opinion that after operation of bauxite mining, the water sources will decrease. But Bauxite is a mineral that does not absorb the water as when the water falls on it, it is flown away. After extracting bauxite, if the trees are planted, then there will be absorption of water.

However, I request that the Government should approve this project subject to all environmental terms and conditions. As due to this project, there will be a huge increase in indirect business in the area, i.e jobs can also be generated in tea shops, bike puncture repair shops, and mobile repair shops etc.

At this time, some people collectively were raising slogans against the project. Here, the Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee stopped them and appealed to register their suggestions and objections in the meeting. Also, he

appeals to all that if there are any other suggestions/objections apart from the ones raised, they should be raised.

**7) Shri Sachin Gopal Kesarkar, Residence-Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi,**

**District-Kolhapur:-**

Information about this public hearing has not been communicated to Gram Panchayat as it was necessary to give notice from Gram Panchayat. Here large number of people from Panhala Taluka have come. The proposed project will be located in Ghungur village, but less people from the Ghungur Gram Panchayat area came here, as most of the people here are from outside villages.

At this time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that since this is a public hearing, everyone has freedom and right to be present here. Hence, objection should not be raised regarding anyone's presence and the Chairman appealed the opposing people and told them that four representatives from you can register their suggestions and objections.

In continuation Shri Sachin Gopal Kesarkar, resident of Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur, while registering his objection, said that when we step out of our house, there is a mountain nearby. We see what has happened to the villages and mountains of Konkan area, so we totally oppose this project.

The Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that views, suggestions and objections raised have been noted. He also appealed to women participants who were present in large number to register any suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project.

**8) Shri Shrikant Appaji Khot, Residence-Ghungurwadi, Taluka-Shahuwadi,**

**District-Kolhapur:-**

I am a resident of Ghungurwadi. Some people here are opposing the project; they are speaking out of hatred. This is my humble request that this project should be allowed. As this project will provide job opportunities for the local people, this project must be completed.

Here, Chairman of the Committee expressed the view that everyone has the freedom to express their opinion and that they are expressing it.

**9) Shri Santosh Patil, Residence-Ghungur Village, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-**

**Kolhapur:-**

This project is going to be commissioned on a mountain as it is just 01 KM away from here. As the habitats of animals living on the mountain, such as Bison, Pigs, and

Tigers, will be invaded and they will come down to the human settlements which are below the mountain. These wild animals can pose a threat to local people, and it can also cause damage to agriculture. The water level may decrease due to the proposed project due to which the water from the boreholes of the local people will vanish. As a result, there will be no water for agriculture. The mountain will have to be cut down for this project. Therefore, the land near the mountain is bound to be eroded using various machines and the accident like the one that happened at Malin village, Distinct-Pune, a few years ago, where the mountain has collapsed on the human settlements which can happen here also. Although we are not against the project and getting job opportunities, if there are no people and a good environment, then the project is of no use. The reason why local people are opposing this project should be considered first and local people's fear and views should be considered.

The Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee requested all the participants not to raise the same points/ issues repeatedly. He also appealed to Representatives of the groups opposing the project to register their suggestions and objections.

**10) Shri Tanaji Ravande, Shahuwadi Taluka Sahyadri Prayavaran Bahu Uddeshiya Sanstha, Savarde BK, Tal-Shahuwadi, Distinct-Kolhapur:-**

My village will be affected due to this project, and I am raising the following points,

**First Point -**

Like Ghungur Block No. 1 and 2, in Thirteen mineral fields, there is inclusion of Bauxite, Copper, Iron, Laterite, and Manganese Laterite. While selecting the site of the project, a part of the Reserved Forest (R.F.) has been illegally diverted. We allege that the forest and reserved forest at Partale Ghungur in Shahuwadi Taluka are being destroyed due to this, and you should take note of opinion on this.

**Second Point -**

It a crime to convert a Forest or Reserved Forest for the sake of minerals and money and to illegally show a Forest as a Non- Forest land area?

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed not only to ask questions, but also to raise suggestions/objections as your thoughts, criticisms, suggestions, objections will be conveyed to Government.

**Third Point :-**

Answers/clarifications regarding allegations that the various projects in Kolhapur District for Bauxite and other minerals fall under Environmentally Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Western Ghats.

**Fourth Point:-**

Sixty hectares of Forest Land and plateau areas in Shahuwadi Taluka will be destroyed for the Bauxite mine. Don't you think that this project is environmentally damaging and poses a serious threat to biodiversity?

**Fifth Point:-**

What is your opinion about the fact that the tiger reserve forest and land in the Sahyadri Mountain will be affected due to Bauxite and Laterite mining and that this project will cause permanent damage to the Wildlife Protection Act, the Environment Act and various other biodiversity?

**Sixth Point:-**

What is your answer to this Bauxite mining project that is simultaneously destroying and damaging a large area of the Sahyadri Mountain Eco-Sensitive Forest, the Tiger Reserve, the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve up to Ratnagiri Protected Forest, destroying nature and the diverse eco-system there?

**SEVENTH POINT:-**

In the forests of Parli, Amberde, Savarde Budruk, Ghungur, there are leopards, bisons, wild boars, male buffalo, deer, sambar, rabbits, boars, scaly cats, birds, peacocks, Monitor Lizard/Ghorpad, etc., are there many wild animals and birds in the forests of Kolhapur district and in the proposed Bauxite project?

Even before this, the local people have demanded that permission for mining activities should not be allowed in the Kolhapur Forest area and the Western Ghats area, in environmentally sensitive areas. What have you done about the objections raised in the previous public hearings? Is the environmental public hearing a drama?

**Eighth Point :-**

Isn't it wrong to change the land use pattern of forests, land reserves, tiger reserve sites, and environmentally sensitive areas illegally for acquiring it for mining without any following any legal process?

Whether this is correct that this is for changing land use patterns and violating environmental laws?

**Ninth Point:-**

The affected area of this project is adjacent to Sonurale, which falls in the "Environmentally Sensitive Zone". There is no such distance. Because the area adjacent to the eco-sensitive area is a buffer zone. Therefore, the project will not be allowed there either.

**11) Shri Yashwant Lavate, Residence-Pedhewadi Parkhandale, Taluka - Shahuwadi, District -Kolhapur:-**

The signatures are being collected from all participants at the meeting. Are those signatures being collected for support or are they just for show?

On which the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the signatures which have been taken is neither for support nor for opposition it is for attendance of the meeting.

Shri Lavate opined that the local people here feel that this will be used for support.

The Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed participants that a video recording is being made and you can request a copy of the video recording through the Right to Information (RTI) Act. You can also request Marathi and English copy of the minutes of this meeting through the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Also, minutes of meeting are made available on the website of MPCB. The words and word of the participants are recorded and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Also, participants should note that this public hearing is being conducted in a transparent and peaceful manner as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2016, and that sufficient opportunity is being given to all participants to raise their views, suggestions and objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only.

After that Shri Lavate objected that when we had sought permission from the District Collector for the Mandala Lake, the Forest Department had reported that the forest here would be largely destroyed. Now, when the proposal for Bauxite Mining was sought from the Forest Department, they reported that there was no forest here at all. So, some officials are misleading the Government and deceiving the people, which is why I am compelled to ask this question. Also, if this public hearing should be on secret ballot in the villages which are affected by the project. So, it will be known who is against it and who is in support, because the people who have been brought here have come out of greed and for their own self interests.

The Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed the view that objection should not be raised regarding the presence of anyone and instructed to express your views only.

Shri Lavate suggested that a secret ballot should be held in the project affected villages regarding the installation of this project. After that, further decisions should be taken and our demand which should be informed to the Government.

The Chairman, Public Hearing Committee on Environment assured to inform the government.

**12) Shri Mansingh Savare, Residence-Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District –**

**Kolhapur:-**

I am raising objections to this proposed project and the issues are as follows: -

The people of our village will surely present their suggestions, objections or views regarding proposed project after me. However, I am expressing the feelings of the locals regarding the proposed project. The letter which is posted to local people regarding the environment public hearing for the proposed project is received fifteen days late and after receiving the said copy by the Gram Panchayat office, it was necessary to Gram Panchayat Office to inform local people about the public hearing meeting, place and time by carrying procedure with shouting on loudspeakers as many villagers in this village were repeatedly demanding to call Gram Sabha. So, I am raising the following points,

**Objection No.1:-**

Proposed Bauxite Mining Project site falls under Western Ghat Environment Sensitive Zone (ESZ) area and the Western Ghat is an “**Ecologically Sensitive Area**” as well as extremely rich in Biodiversity and Despite the fact that Western Ghats are considered important on a global scale, it is illegal to start environmentally unfriendly mining projects in such a sensitive area. Hence, my demand is that the proposed mining project should not be approved here.

**Objection No.2:-**

This Mining Project will permanently destroy the rich, extremely rare biodiversity of this area, which cannot be recreated. The Mining will cause environmental degradation, creating many serious environmental issues and problems, making it difficult for villagers to live.

**Objection No.3 –**

This mining project area is located on a tiger movement route and this project will disrupt the migration process of tigers which pose a threat to their survival.

**Objection No.4:-**

The mining project area is in residence of leopards, Bisons, tigers, and other wild animals due to which will distract wild animals who are staying here, and it will disturb wildlife as well as increase the number of conflicts between humans and wild animals. This should be thought seriously by the Government.

**Objection No.5:-**

The mining project will cause air and water pollution in the area as well as there will be an increase in noise pollution. This will endanger the health of citizens and wildlife there. So, we request that the mining project should not be approved.

**Objection No.6:-**

As per Notification of 2024 of the Union Ministry of Water Environment, 52 villages in Shahuwadi Taluka are in the list of environmentally sensitive area and many of these villages are in the project area. This is important to consider seriously.

**Objection No.7:-**

The mining project area and its surrounding areas are rich in Biodiversity, and the impact of proposed mining activities on biodiversity has not been noted/ included in the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. So, the submitted report is unscientific and incomplete as well as this report is prepared by a private organization from Nagpur, which has only a cursory knowledge of the Biodiversity of the Western Ghats, the project affected area, and no zoological knowledge whatsoever related to the environment. Therefore, this incomplete report should not be accepted, and our main demand is that the report should be prepared in collaboration with Shivaji University, Kolhapur, along with the Forest Department, as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report of the project should be prepared by Shivaji University. So we demand that these mining projects, which are coming up in the "Ecologically Sensitive Areas" of the Western Ghats area, should not be approved as they are anti-environmental and will destroy Biodiversity.

**Objections No.8:-**

Similarly, this project 223-Forest Department Parli, as well as 685-Ghungur, which is a completely reserved as "Forest Area", on records of "Vishalgad Conservation and Masai Conservation". So why are the landowners present? As the

Head of the Forest Department was required to be present at this meeting. Also, why the Senior Forest Department officials not called here to provide information about the land that is going to be acquired? The Locals are suspecting that the project will be started by keeping the Forest Department in the dark.

The Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee, expressed the view that the person concerned has been given ample time and another person should be given the opportunity to present his/her views.

**13) Shri Ranvirsingh Mansingh Gaikwad, Residence - Supatre, Director, Kolhapur District Central Co-op. Bank:-**

Today, this public hearing is being held at Savarewadi and thank you all the dignitaries for this public hearing. The Shahuwadi Taluka is geographically mountainous/hilly terrain and in this Taluka, there are small localities/Bastis spread over in Taluka. Due to the hilly terrain, industrial development has never took place and therefore, the only industrial institution here is the Udaysinghrao Gaikwad Co-operative Sugar Factory. The factory has provided job opportunities to many local needy people and the indirect business in the area has improved a lot. Due to this, the living standards of the local people have also improved and as the project has come to Taluka, the socio-economic conditions of the people & farmers of Taluka have improved. The public hearing has been organized here to grant Environmental Clearance to the Bauxite project in Savrawadi and once these projects are implemented, job opportunities will be available to the young boys and girls here. The Farmers need to make progress with determination as they have tractors, and they are now expected to take trucks and tippers to use them in the project to make progress. So, everyone here is local and has supported this project, so I express my gratitude for that.

**14) Sou. Kalpana Yuvraj Patil, Residence-Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-**

Shri Bhairavnath Earth Movers & Company was established by Project Proponent to provide job opportunities to the locals and till today, I was hearing about the industry from outside, but it is a matter of pride for me and everyone in the village that my husband founded Shri Bhairavnath Earth Movers & Company in a mountainous area in the year 2007. The proposed project is opposed by those who are not knowledgeable in the field of environment, opposing the proposed Bauxite project in the name of environment. However, many villagers have supported this

project, and I thank them as well as I request Government to approve this project for brightening the fortune of the village.

**15)Sou. Shubhangi Kamble, Sarpanch, Ghungur Grampanchayat, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-**

This project will provide job opportunities for local people as at present there is no job opportunities here and the youth of this place have to go elsewhere. The Village Sarpanch and the villagers are ready to give assurance that this project will not pose any threat to the village.

**16)Sou. Deepali Dalvi, Members of Grampanchayat Parkhandale, Tal – Shahuwadi, Dist – Kolhapur-**

As I am a Member of Paratantre Gram Panchayat and this is a land that has been made Holy by the touch of the feet of our Shivajimaharaj. All villagers here are supporting this project. But this mining project will cause damage to agriculture, if the company's tractor goes through the fields or the dust from the project goes into the fields, it will cause damage to agriculture. So, we local people should be made aware of how the local poor farmers will grow food from here so I am completely against this process.

**17)Sou. Lalita Sanjay Khot, Former Sarpanch, Ghungur Grampanchayat, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-**

Proposed project should not only provide job opportunities to the youth but also provide an opportunity for local women and self-help groups to prepare food and sale it. I wish this project should start at the earliest and so local women will be benefitted from the project.

**18) Nanda Patil, Village-Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-**

I am daughter of this village and here since my childhood as well as My village is in remote area. Due to this project, there will be development in our village so, I request my all brothers present here to support the project.

**19)Bhavya Narayan Sutar, Residence- Undri, Tal- Panhala, Dist- Kolhapur-**

Project's concept is good. I request everyone to support it for the better.

**20)Shri Prakash Kamble, Residence-Kargule, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-**

The issue of unemployment in Shahuwadi taluka came up in the meeting as the Shahuwadi taluka is in mountainous and remote and there are no industries of any kind. So, If such type of industries come, unemployment in Shahuwadi taluka will

decrease as this project will provide employment to the local peoples. According to the discussions held in the meeting, not only the workers working in the project, but there will be huge increase in indirect business-like tea stall operators, two-wheeler puncture repairers, mobile repairers, etc. They will also benefit from this project. So there will be a huge increase in indirect business in the area as many mines like Udgir, Dhopeswar were to come up in Shahuwadi taluka which were cancelled due to the government's "Eco-Sensitive Zone". Also, for this project, many local people took loans worth lakhs for trucks and tippers and invested. So, if the project was cancelled, they will suffer due to losses. Hence for the development of everyone in Shahuwadi, this project should be started as soon as possible.

**21) Shri Anil Dalvi, Residence – Parkhandale, Tal: Shahuwadi, Dist: Kolhapur.**

Shri Anil Dalvi said that this is a public hearing for five villages but on which the Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that this is for the villages in the area i.e. all the villages within a 10 km radius of the project site as per the EIA notification.

**22) Gita Sambhaji Patil, Residence- Ghungur, Tal- Shahuwadi, Dist- Kolhapur-**

We are totally opposing this project, because our forest area is destroyed.

The Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed the view that many participants here have registered their suggestions, thoughts and objections. The Public Hearing Committee on Environment has understood the role of everyone.

However, if anyone has any other suggestions or objections in respect of the proposed project on an environmental angle, it should be raised.

**23) Shri Suresh Pandhurang Bhosale, Residence-Parali, Taluka - Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-**

My village Kasarwadi is on top of a hill and it is not even 100.0 meters away from the proposed project. The water of my village comes from the mountain itself. My farm is in Gut No. 223. So, this project is being done in my field.

**24) Shri Jeevan Mansing Savare, Residence- Ghungur, Tal: Shahuwadi, Dist: Kolhapur -**

Shri Jeevan said in English that I am against this proposed project. He informed about the decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to keep mining projects limited. However, the Government of India has given 33 mining projects on lease only in

Western Maharashtra and out of which, only 28 projects are operational. At that time, Chairman suggested to present his views, suggestions or objections regarding proposed project. On which Mr. Jeevan Savare opined that the people here do not need employment, so why is this bauxite mining plan proposed?

**25) Savita Shamrao Khot, Residence-Ghungurwadi, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-**

For the past five years, people here had forgotten my identity, and she asked that anyone from the Forest department is here? As they did not let us cut wood and we do not need employment as we have employment in agriculture. So, we are against the project.

**26) Seema Lugde, Residence-Savarde Budruk, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-**

Our village has a water shortage and challenges the Committee Members to stand in the sun like us. Also, they permitting to cut down the trees for this project, and they themselves sit in the shade. Also, the Water from the mountain is the source of our village. On which the Chairman of the Committee remarked that the objection regarding water is noted.

**27) Shri Sunanda Reddy, an Environmentalist, Residence – Telangana :-**

I am the first environmentalist in India who supports industrial development. Mining is in government property and the government has full right to lease or sale mining.

On which the Chairman of the Committee informed to Shri Reddy to briefly state the points. So, Shri Reddy opined that unemployment is the biggest pollution in India. It can be reduced by providing employment opportunities in various industries. So, Chairman of the Committee asked Shri Reddy to submit his views in writing. Also, the Chairman of the Committee said that all the issues raised by the participants have been noted. Those who wish to submit a written suggestion or objection should submitted to the local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board officials which are present here.

**28) Shri Mahadev Shripati Fatil, Residence – Salashi, Taluka Shahuwadi, District**

**– Kolhapur:-**

In taluka, Late resident Hon'ble Mr. Gaikwad, Member of Parliament built a sugar factory. On which the Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee

suggested that only speak whether they support or oppose the project. So Shri Mahadev Patil expressed his full support for this project on behalf of our group.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions, views or objections raised by the participants who were supporting the project and opposing the project have been noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Those who desires to submit written suggestions or objections, they may submit it. All the participants have raised the points very well; hence I am thankful for them and declare that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

The Copies of total 1530 written representations in support of the proposed project and 195 representations objecting the proposed project along with 03 emails which are received on and before the public hearing with presentation copy are enclosed herewith.



**(Pramod Rajaram Mane)**

Convener,

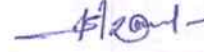
Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Sub Regional Officer,

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,

Kolhapur



**(Jayavant Hajare)**

Member,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Regional Officer,

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,

Kolhapur



**(Sanjay Teli)**

Chairman,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur,

District – Kolhapur