

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT TO SRI ASHOK R.K. PROPOSED QUARRYING OF RIVER SAND OF CAPACITY 45,817 TPA IN A TOTAL AREA OF 25.00 ACRE (10.12 HECTARE) AT SAND MINING BLOCK – BLY-OSB-14 IN HAGARI RIVER BED, SY. NO. 167 (P) OF BANAPURA VILLAGE, SY. NO. 265(P) OF BENAKALLU VILLAGE, SY. NO. 260 (P) OF SINDAVALAM VILLAGE AND SY. NO. 190(P) OF VANENURU VILLAGE, BALLARI TALUK AND DISTRICT HELD ON 14-09-2021 AT 11:00 AM AT THE PROJECT SITE.

VENUE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING		Project Site: Sand Mining Block – BLY-OSB-14 in Hagari River Bed. Sy. No. 167(P) of Banapura Village. Sy. No. 265(P) of Benakallu Village. Sy. No. 260(P) of Sindavalam Village and Sy. No. 190(P) of Vanenuru Village. Ballari Taluk and District
DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE		DESIGNATION
1	Sri P. S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari	Chairperson
2	Sri K Raju, Senior Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Zonal Office, Ballari District	Member
3	Sri P. K. Umashankar, Environmental Officer. KSPCB. Regional Office, Ballari.	Member Convener
Officers of KSPCB present:		
1.	Sri Kiran Kumar. G.R. Deputy Environmental Officer, KSPCB. Ballari District.	
..	Sri Pavan S, Assistant Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari District.	
3.	Sri Hanumanthappa H, Assistant Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Ballari District.	
Others Officers present:		
1.	Sri K S Nagendrappa, Senior Geologist, DMG, Ballari	
2.	Sri Praveen Joshi. K - Geologist, DMG, Ballari	
3.	Sri K Srinivas – Revenue Inspector, Moka.	
4.	Sri P.Mariswamy Panchayat Development Officer (Vanenuru & Yaragudi)	
5.	Sri E.Thippaiah, VA - Bahapura	
6.	Sri L. Giriyappa – VA - Benakallu	
7.	Sri E Sashikumar – VA – Sinduvalla	
8.	Sri Mallikarjun – VA – Vanenuru Grama	
Representatives present on behalf of Hagari Sand Mining Block of Sri Ashok R. K.:		
1.	Sri B Vijaya Reddy -	

2.	Sri Ashok R. K. -
3.	Sri Vinayakumara P. T. -
4.	Sri Somashekar P. M. -
5.	Sri Sachin M.V. - Environmental Consultant
6.	Sri Arun R - Environmental Consultant
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Copy of extract Register containing signatures of officials participated in the public hearing is enclosed as Annexure-1. 2. A copy of extract of registers containing addresses and signature of public participants are enclosed as Annexure-2. 	

PREAMBLE:-

Sri Ashok R. K. has proposed to undertake quarrying of River Sand of capacity 45,817 TPA in a total area of 25.00 Acre (10.12 Hectare) at Sand Mining Block – BLY-OSB-14 in Hagari River Bed, Sy. No. 167(P) of Banapura Village, Sy. No. 265(P) of Benakallu Village, Sy. No. 260(P) of Sindavalam Village and Sy. No. 190(P) of Vanenuru Village, Ballari Taluk and District.

The project proponent is required to obtain Environmental Clearance as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended till 01.12.2009) issued under the Environment(Protection) Act, 1986 notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

As the proposed project schedule under EIA Notification 2006 and subsequent amendments made there on. As per the Notification, Environment Clearance is to be obtained from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Bangalore (SEIAA).

Accordingly, the Project Proponents have made an application to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Bangalore (SEIAA) in prescribed format. The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Bangalore (SEIAA) authorities after scrutiny of the application made by the project proponents, has issued Terms of Reference (TOR) vide letter No. SEIAA 796 MIN 2019 dated 14-05-2020. As per the terms of reference issued, conducting of Public Hearing is mandatory.

In order to comply with the TOR, the project proponents have submitted Rapid Environment Impact Assessment (REIA) Report and Executive Summary both in Kannada and English prepared by M/s Horizon Ventures, No 4, Anaga, 3rd Floor, Devasandra, New BEL Road, Opposite MS Ramaiah Hospital, Bengaluru - 560094 to The Member Secretary, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bangalore requesting to conduct the Environmental Public Hearing vide their letter dated 18-02-2021.

Considering the request made by the project proponents, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bangalore vide letter Dated 08-03-2021 requested the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari to render suitable date and time for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing. But due to COVID-19 the meeting was not conducted.

Further The Deputy Commissioner has given the consent to conduct Environmental Public Hearing on 15-06-2021 at 3:00 pm at the project site.

But, due to COVID-19 the meeting was postponed by The Deputy Commissioner and rescheduled on 14-09-2021 at 11:00 AM at the project site. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board published Environmental Public Hearing meeting notice through paper notification in state level newspapers namely Prajavani (Kannada) and The Hindu (English) on 14-08-2021 & in the local Newspaper namely "E Namma Kannada Nadu" on 16-08-2021. (The copies are enclosed as **Annexure 3**) by informing the public to submit their objections/suggestions /opinions/ if any with regard to the proposed project within 30 days.

In continuation to the above, the Draft Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Report and copies of the executive summary in Kannada and English were kept in the following places for the information of the public.

- Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District.
- Office of Zilla Panchayath, Ballari District.
- District Industries Centre, Ballari District.
- Taluk Office, Ballari Taluk, Ballari District.
- Office of Taluk Panchayath Ballari Taluk, Ballari District.
- Village Panchayath Office. Hosa Yerragudi, Sindavalam. and Vanenuru.
- Zonal Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. Ballari.
- Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari.
- SEIAA Karnataka (Ecology and Environment) Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, Govt. of Karnataka, room No 706, 7th floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bangalore-560001.
- Help Desk, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Parisara Bhavana, Ground Floor, # 49, Church Street, Bangalore - 560001.

All the above departments have been informed about the environmental public meeting to be held on 14-09-2021 and also informed about the newspaper notification vide letter dated 16.08.2021.

In addition, wide publicity was also rendered through public address system and distribution of handbills kept at surrounding villages (Banapura, Vanenuru, Benakallu Sinduvalam and Kallukutiginahalu (K.K.Halu)) of the proposed project area on 09-09-2021 & 13-09-2021. (Photographs are enclosed as **Annexure 4**).

Deputy Commissioner Ballari District has issued the letter Dtd: 13-09-2021 to Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari to conduct public hearing on 14-09-2021 (The copy of letter is enclosed as **Annexure -5**).

After observing the statutory formalities as specified in the Notification, the environmental Public Hearing commenced on 14-09-2021 at 11.00 AM under the

Chairmanship of Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari at the proposed project site.

Proceedings of Public Hearing:-

Sri P K Umashankar, Member Convener of the Public Hearing Committee and Environmental Office, KSPCB, Ballari welcomed Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari & Sri K. Raju, Senior Environmental Officer, Zonal Office, Ballari. He also welcomed Government Officers, officers of the Hagari Sand Mining Block of Sri Ashok R. K., General public & press representatives and he informed the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. It was informed that the proposed Project Proponents have to obtain Environmental Clearance and also informed that all required procedure mentioned in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006(as amended till 2009) before conducting public hearing have been followed with. Further he requested Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari to chair the meeting and to conduct the process of public hearing.

Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari has addressed the gathering and briefed about the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14.09.2006. He also informed that all the oral & written statements will be recorded in the proceedings in Kannada & English. Further, the chairperson of the Public Hearing Panel informed the project proponent to present the technical details of the proposed project.

Accordingly, on behalf of Sand Mining Block of Sri Ashok R. K, Sri Sachin.M.V. has explained the details with respect to Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by M/s Horizon Ventures, No 4, Anaga, 3rd Floor, Devasandra, New BEL Road, Opposite MS Ramaiah Hospital, Bengaluru - 560094 which is comprising of Study area Map, salient features of the site, land use details, infrastructure demands, rain water management, the environmental aspects viz., land, water, noise, environment, economic and financial status, environment management plan, environment management programme, income, expenditure and total environment management plan and briefed about the CSR activities through power point presentation.

After the presentation, The Chairperson of the Environmental Public hearing panel requested the public gathered at the meeting to express their views/opinions/objections/Suggestions if any and informed to restrict their views to environmental issues only.

Accordingly, the public expressed their views/opinions/objections/Suggestions as below:-



- 1) **Sri Hanumantha - Vanenuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that almost 56% of the people living in Sy No 180 are dependent on water from Hagari river for their livelihood. He said that they are cultivating thousands of acres of land from Lift Irrigation. He said that there is no sand available in the region and only if the land is dug for a depth of 10 feet, the sand will be available. He said that most people are rearing sheep, goats, cows and making a living by live on the banks of the Hagari River. He said due to sand mining the groundwater table has also reduced. He said sand is needed to purify the contaminated water of Hagari and Talur village. He said that if sand mining is permitted it would cause contaminated water and create problems for crop cultivation. He said the cows will face problem for drinking water. He said during summer the water will be salty. He expressed his view and said that sand mining should not be allowed at this place.
- 2) **Sri D.N. Bheemaligaaya – Benakallu Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that Survey No. 265 and 167 belong to the Hagari village and if sand is mined at the site, the water content would be reduced. He said that the water coming from the Hagari river and common people would be effected.
- 3) **Sri G. Gangadhar - Vanenuru village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that Honanur village has 6000 people and the extent of the village is 1400 acres. He said in 1400 acres of land containing Sy No 190 there are lands of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and that they are making a living by cultivating Sajje, Corn and Paddy. He said if sand mining is carried out in Sy No 190 everyone would be troubled. He suggested that sand mining should not be allowed in Sy No 190 and can be done elsewhere.
- 4) **Sri Veeresh – Vanenuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that he lived over there since ancient times and without it they don't have a life. He said sand mining should not be done here.
- 5) **Smt Shanthamma - Vanenuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion she said that she was living on the same land and some had 10 acres and others have one acres were making a living by agricultural activity. She said their future was from agricultural land. She said that they belong to the Scheduled Tribes and requested not to spoil their life.
- 6) **Sri Rangappa - Vanenuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that his ancestor, father and great-grandfather, had been doing agricultural cultivation from ages and said they had no land elsewhere. He told them that the agricultural land was their livelihood. He said the sand mining would be a disaster for him and his family. He requested that sand mining to be stopped.



- 7) **Sri Sanappa - Vanenuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that they belong to the Scheduled Tribe and that they are making a living by agricultural land. He said there is no other way apart from their Agricultural Land. He requested to protect them.
- 8) **Sri Mariyappa - Vanenuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that if sand mining is allowed in Sy No 190, he would not live. So he told them sand mining should not be allowed at this the place.
- 9) **Sri Bheemesh - Vanenuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion he opposed the sand mining project on behalf of the citizens of Honnanur village and surrounding areas. He said their families have been living depending on Agricultural Land for about past 80-90 years. He said that everyone here has half acre, or one acre of land. He said that many families are dependent on these agricultural lands. He said sand mining would spoil the lives of many people. He said that he had no land elsewhere and depending on this land he was making a living and doing his education. He said sand mining should be stopped.
- 10) **Sri Ramalinga - Vanenuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion he told them to make a road to their village. He said earlier someone used to do sand mining here. He said there were poor people in the present area.
- 11) **Sri B. V. Reddy – Ballari** - Speaking on the occasion and referring to what villagers have talked about, he told that the villagers are facing problems and told that the Project Proponent should solve the villager's problem. He told to create a coordination committee and address the issue of villagers. He said sand mining should be done. The project proponent should solve the problems of the villagers. He said that if industries are established then there will be development.
- 12) **Sri Anand - Benekallu Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said the basic source of income for the village is agricultural land. He said that the village has a canal system and that if water is to flow, it has to pass through four villages. He said the source of the water is the Vedavati River. He said earlier, the water was available in tube well at a depth of 4 feet now it had increased to 8 feet. He said that if the sand is mined, then water will be available after digging 20 feet. He said the water in tube well having a depth of 20-30 feet was poisonous. He said the main source of drinking water as per the government is canal water. In reality, Hagari river water and tube well water are used by the villagers for drinking purpose. He said that pump sets are used for pumping of water from Hagari River and used for agricultural purposes and that the canal water does not reach his agricultural land. If sand mining is done then even after digging for 5 feet water will not be available in tube well. He said that the agricultural land would be ruined. He said that Moka forest area was adjoining to the site and that the forest area was surviving because of ground water of the Hagari River. He said if the

groundwater drops below 20 feet then the forest will be destroyed. He said that there is a lot of sand available in Ballari region and river sand is not needed. He said that sand is available at a lower rate in Ballari region. He said if they want to establish industry, it can be set on the open/plain area. He said that if sand was mined then water would accumulate and cause problem for people to commute. He said the water was flowing down the river all 365 days of the year and now it has been reduced to and flowing only for 6 to 7 months. He said that if there were holes created due to the water flow, it would disturb the movement of the people. He said the bridge should be constructed, otherwise. He pointed out that the population in the village of Benekalu is more and the land available is less. So, he said, he is living by tilling agricultural lands of different villages. He said sand mining will cause water problems and the trees and agricultural fields would be eroded. He said sand mining could not be done at this rate hence illegal mining is carried out making it less expensive. He said due to illegal mining the wealth would be destroyed.

- 13) **Sri Naganagouda – Benekallu Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that if the sand mining is done then the tube wells will be destroyed. He said some people have migrated to Bangalore in search of employment and if sand mining is allowed all the others have to go elsewhere in search for employment. He said sand mining should not be allowed and he opposed the project.
- 14) **Sri Basappa Anandappa - Vanenuru Village - Former President of the Gram Panchayat** - Speaking on the occasion he said if sand mining was carried out excluding the land belonging to Scheduled Caste people then he had no objection for the project.
- 15) **Sri Lakshminarayana – Benekallu Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said Sand mining should not be done at this place. He said there are many farmers and they are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. He said they will sacrifice their lives, but will not allow sand mining. He said illegal sand mining was carried out here and when they tried to stop it, they were faced with atrocities. He said they will not allow sand mining.
- 16) **Sri Sudarshan - Social worker – Hyderabad** - Speaking on the occasion he said that due to sand mining sand and mud both will be spoil and said he will advise how sand mining can be done several meters deep.
- 17) **Smt Nagamma – Vanenuru** - Speaking on the occasion she said that she was poor and was dependent on agriculture land for livelihood. She also said they had only a half acre/ Quarter acre of land and were dependent for their livelihood on it. She said that sand mining should not be allowed.



- 18) **Smt Chandramma – Vanenuru Village** - Speaking on the occasion she said that their lives are dependent of agriculture and sand mining should not be allowed.
- 19) **Sri Nanjappa – Benekallu Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that if sand mining is allowed in Sy No 190 of Hagari Village then the villagers are left with no option but to consume poison and die. He told everyone here owns only ½ acres, ¼ acres of agricultural land and sand mining should not be allowed in the area.
- 20) **Sri Naganagouda – Benekallu Village** - Speaking on the occasion he said that their village does not have Bank, Nada Kacheri or Panchayat. He said that the government facility for their village is only Anganwadi and Primary school. He said the village had no development and the sand mining should not be done here.
- 21) **Sri Honnurappa - Member of the Gram Panchayat** - Speaking on the occasion he said that drinking water facilities are provided under J J Scheme for the village. He said the scheme had come up and it was not possible for two months to build a tank and sump.

The Chairman of the public Hearing Sri P .S. Manjunatha, KAS (Sr Scale), Additional Deputy Commissioner & Additional District Magistrate, Ballari District in his presidential address informed to the public that, No decisions will be made in the Public hearing, all the oral and written statements will be recorded in the Proceedings in Kannada and English. The same will be forwarded to the Member Secretary, Karnataka state Pollution Control Board, Bangalore along with photographs (taken during public hearing is enclosed as **Annexure-7**) and Video (Documents enclosed as **Annexure-8**) so as to forward the same to the competent Authority for further necessary action.

He rendered vote of thanks for gathering and the Public Hearing is completed.



K RAJU

Senior Environmental Officer (I/c),
KSPCB, Zonal Office,
Ballari



P. S MANJUNATHA.KAS.(Sr. Scale)
Additional Deputy Commissioner &
Additional District Magistrate,
Ballari


ANNEXURE

1. A Copy of extract Register containing signatures of officials participated in the public hearing is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.
2. A copy of extract of registers containing addresses and signature of public participants are enclosed as **Annexure-2**.
3. The Newspaper advertisement in the leading state level newspapers Kannada (Prajavani 14-08-2021) and English (The Hindu 14-08-2021) and also local newspaper (E-namma Kannada nadu 16-08-2021) regarding public hearing is enclosed as **Annexure – 3**.
4. The photographs of public announcement through loud speakers and distribution of Hand bills on 09-09-2021 & 13-09-2021 are enclosed as **Annexure-4**.
5. Approval letter Dtd: 13-09-2021 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari to the Additional Deputy Commissioner and Additional District Magistrate Ballari to conduct the Environmental Public Hearing is enclosed as **Annexure -5**.
6. 38 No's of written statement/objection received directly from the public during public hearing and 19 No's of written statement/objection received at Regional Office, Ballari is enclosed as **Annexure-6**.
7. The photographs taken during the Public Hearing Proceedings is enclosed as **Annexure-7**.
8. The CD's containing Audio and Video on public hearing proceedings is enclosed as **Annexure-8**.



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