

# GREEN HILLS GROUP

Public Charitable Trust Reg No E-4044.  
1 Vallabh Socceity , Senapati Bapat Road , Pune 411016

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24<sup>th</sup> January, 2011

To,

Deputy Director of Town Planning

Government of Maharashtra

Pune Division

Pune.

Cc:

Minister for Environment and Forests – Mr. Jairam Ramesh;

MP from Pune : Mr. Suresh Kalmadi.

Commissioner, PMC – Mr. Zagade;

Addl. Municipal Commissioner and Head of Garden Department, PMC – Mr. Zurmure

Local Shiv Sena MLA : Mr. Chandrakant Mokate

Local Compotators: Prof. Vikas Mathkari, Mr. Nilesh Nikam, Mr. Ujjwal Keskar

Sub : Regarding proposal under Maharashtra regional and Town Planning act **TPS/1809/3737/CR-2252/10/UD-13** for deleting the 20 ha land bearing S.No 102 (part) of Kothrud from hill top/hill slope and include the said land in public / semi public zone for Automotive Research Association of India (A.R.A.I) for constructing G+2 structure and maximum 59700 sqmt build area.

Respected Sir,

**Green Hills Group** (<http://greenhillsgroup.org>) has been working for last 10 years in rain water harvesting and tree plantation in Pune. Initially for 5 to 6 years, we worked as a small group and then registered as a trust by name "Green Hills Group". The group has been formed by like-minded individuals - some retired individuals, some still working with varying background – bankers, engineers, businessman and students too. All of us carry a common dream and drive a mission -- we want to make hills around Pune Green! With the help of corporate and local communities we have planted and nurtured around 6500 trees since last 10 years on three different hilltops/hillslopes in Pune viz. Hanuman Tekdi behind Symbiosis, Chatushrunji Hill. and ARAI / MIT Hilltop.

We have spotted dear, rabbits , peacocks and snakes while nurturing plants on the said land. On behalf of the native birds, animals, plants and nature loving citizens of Pune, Green Hills Group would like to raise below objections for the said proposal.

[www.greenhillsgroup.org](http://www.greenhillsgroup.org)



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## **Objections from birds**

We have been staying in the Pune region for several centuries and entire Pune city is proud of 200 peacocks inhabiting on around the MIT / ARAI Hilltop and Hillslopes. There have already been significant construction around the hill for residential purposes and this has been severely affecting our well being. We understand that you are permitting A.R.A.I to construct vehicle testing lab on the said forest land where we live. We are deeply concerned that our community will not be able to withstand the vehicle testing noise – particularly our young ones. Also, many of our fellow birds help planting trees by way of bird pollination and if they cease to exist, then number of naturally growing trees in this land would further go down.

## **Objections from snakes and other reptile animals.**

Like birds, we too have been forced to migrate to this hill (s. no 102) over last two decades, due to increasing invasion of humans around this land. We and our babies will not be able to withstand further invasions caused, particularly due to the vibrations caused during vehicle testing,. We appeal to Government of Maharashtra to leave us alone in this land and do not allow any roads, construction or vehicle movement on the said land.

## **Objections from Green Hills Group members.**

We have planted around 2500 plants on S. No 102 in Kothrud under joint forest management committee. A.R.A.I , Tata Motors , Forest Department , PMC and students of MIT college are helping us in nurturing these plants. We are attaching the letter from forest department inviting us in Joint Forest Management committee to plant and nurture trees on the hills around MIT college (s.no 102)

With the help of corporatē including A.R.A.I. we would like to continue to plant and nurture more trees on the said land and maintain the greenery.

We are concerned that the proposed 59700 sqmts of construction activity by A.R.A.I. will reduce the area marked for plantation. It will also have severe impact on the ecological balance during and after the construction phase -when tones of construction materiel is transported to the said land. The construction activity is expected to have deep impact as a result of noise, air and land pollution. The existing trees will be affected by the change in flow of ground water streams as a result of the construction/excavation activity. This will have significant setback to our fight against global warming and could lead to increase in temperature in the city. We request you to reserve the said land for forest and DO NOT permit any construction activity.

## **Objections from citizens**


Everyone knows -the hills of Pune are lungs of the city. We come to this hill every morning to get fresh air, exercise and stay away from noise and air pollution in the city. Such a move to delete the said land from the Hilltop/hillslope zone will further reduce the space available for exercise and recreation. As a matter of fact, with the increasing population in the city, we need more such spaces to be reserved and maintained with natural habitat and trees around.

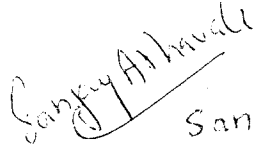
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Children to come to the said land and learn and understand nature. We appeal to Government of Maharashtra to keep said land reserved for forest and do not allow any construction .

Regards

  
Mahesh Sasankar

  
Sanjay Athavale  
Green Hills Group, Pune


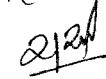
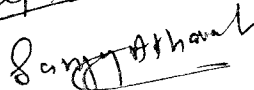
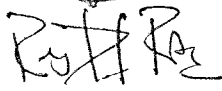
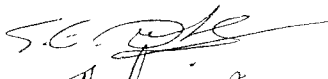
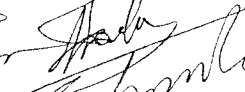

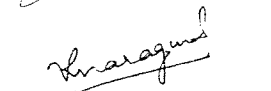
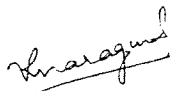
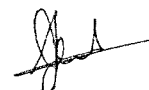


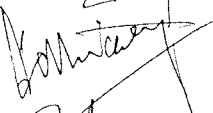
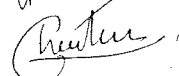
Web Site

[www.greenhillsgroup.org](http://www.greenhillsgroup.org)

Email

[Chatushrungi@greenhillsgroup.org](mailto:Chatushrungi@greenhillsgroup.org)

[Hanumantekdi@greenhillsgroup.org](mailto:Hanumantekdi@greenhillsgroup.org)

- 1) Ravindra Marathe 
- 2) Raste S.N. 
- 3) Sanjay Athavale 
- 4) Ramesh. Rao 
- 5) Shyprang G. Dedge 
- 6) Varat J. Kelkar 
- 7) Jayant D. Dandekar 
- 8) S. M. Dhormale 
- 9) Vivekananda R. Narayana 
- 10) Ananddeep. G. Gaikwad 
- 11) Siddhanta Gadgil 
- 12) Mohan Mahadolkar 
- 13) Sanjay Adhewary 
- 14) Chandan Desai 

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