



Advocacy - Governance - Renewal

Shri Devendra Fadnavis
Chief Minister, Maharashtra
Mantralaya
Mumbai 400021

December 15, 2014

Dear Shri Fadnavis,

16/12/14 • *विधिक*
मुख्यमंत्री
मंत्रालय, मुंबई-४००३२

Citizens strongly protest the permitting of 4G installations on 'non buildable' reservations in Greater Mumbai.

Enclosed is a copy of the Resolution passed at a public meeting held on December 8, 2014 protesting the use of 'non buildable' reservations for installation of 4G Cell Towers Notified by UDD, Government of Maharashtra under 37 (1AA) of the MRTP Act 1966 on March 4, 2014.

Several citizen organisations and individuals had come together to discuss the proposal currently being considered by the MCGM. For the reasons contained in the attached Resolution we urge you to ask the MCGM to put this proposal on hold till a well advertised public debate is held on the subject. Inviting suggestions/objections advertised in innocuous papers, as was done for this notification on 2013, is just not good enough for actions that will have serious consequences!

We at NAGAR are keen to meet you on this subject as our long engagement with the issue of public open spaces has given us valuable insights and inputs to offer.

Looking forward to a positive response.

Yours sincerely.

Nayana Kathpalia

Meher Rafaat

On behalf of Trustees

Anand Akerkar

D M Sukthankar

Gerson Da Cunha

Dinesh Ahir

Meher Rafaat

Nayana Kathpalia

Kunti Oza

Neera Punj

Encl: as above

Resolution to protest against use of 'non buildable' reservations for installation of 4G Cell Towers Notified by UDD, Government of Maharashtra under 37 (1AA) of the MRTP Act 1966 on March 4, 2014

This meeting of citizens held on 8th December 2014 strongly disapproves of the 4G Cell Towers Notification issued by the Urban Development Department (UDD) Government of Maharashtra passed on March 2014.

Section 37 (1AA) of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 allows modification of any part of or proposal made in a DP if it is a) an urgent requirement & b) it will not change the character of the DP. In the present case there is no urgent requirement for installation of towers and it clearly changes the character of spaces reserved for recreation and playgrounds.

By allowing erection of such towers on 'non-buildable' spaces, the door has been opened even wider to grave health risks from the Base Station antennae emanations. School children, college going adults, the elderly and infirm whose health most deserves protection will now be most at risk.

These installations will further cut down open spaces available to citizens. This is now a dismal 1.24 sq m per person in Greater Mumbai against 10 / 12 sq. m which is the building guideline accepted by the Center.

The notification specifies the need for warning signs around the installation ("Danger", "RF Radiation", "Restricted AREA", "Don't Enter", etc.) which will act as a deterrent to citizens and negate the very purpose of providing such recreational spaces. The adverse effect of the electro-magnetic fields set up by these installations is thus fully recognized by UDD. Yet it is this very department that relaxes the regulation in 4G Cell Tower construction.

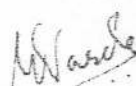
This meeting urges the Government of Maharashtra to withdraw permission for installing 4G Cell Towers on 'non-buildable' Reservations.



NAGAR



AGNI



WECOM Trust



Swachha Harit
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