

SAVE AAREY

Address for Correspondence: Volunteer for Better India, 705 D-Definity, Jayprakash Nagar,
Goregaon (E), Mumbai – 400633 Website (under development) – www.saveaarey.org

2nd December 2014

Mr. Devendra Fadnavis Chief Minister & Chairman MMRDA Government of Maharashtra Mantralaya Mumbai – 400032	Mr. UPS Madan Metropolitan Commissioner Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority Bandra (E) Mumbai - 400051
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Sub: Relocating Car Shed for Mumbai Metro Line 3 from Aarey to Port Trust Land

Dear Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Madan,

As a community working towards saving the last green lung of Mumbai we wish to see that all Mumbaikars continue to derive the numerous health and other benefits from Aarey Milk Colony for perpetuity. This cannot be achieved if we propose large infrastructure projects and other developmental activities within Aarey Colony area.

We have been much aggrieved with locating the car shed for Line 3 of Mumbai Metro within the Aarey Milk Colony and the resulting approximately 2000 trees which will have to be cut in the process.

We are happy that attention is being paid to develop public transport in Mumbai and this will be good for the long term development of the city. But we are also acutely conscious of the deteriorating air quality in Mumbai and the rising number of vehicles and vehicular exhaust on the roads of Mumbai. It is conventional wisdom that we need clean air and a good environment to lead a good quality of life as much as business and infrastructure. Without a good quality of life business and people will actually start leaving the city.

A city like Hong Kong which has far higher economic development and GDP than Mumbai fiercely protects its natural green areas and almost 40 percent of the city is protected in such green spaces, parks and recreational areas; such is the love and commitment of the city residents.

(Source: http://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/docs/country_parks.pdf)

With the way quality of life has deteriorated in Mumbai the importance of Aarey is now far more felt than ever before. At completely no cost the green lung of Aarey is absorbing enormous amounts of polluted air and cooling the city as well. Without Aarey air quality will only further deteriorate and have an adverse impact on public health and well being. The whole of Mumbai is now developed and concretised, tree cover on roads has been sharply declining and Aarey Milk Colony is the only large urban green left in Mumbai.

We would like to suggest that the entire car shed for the Line 3 Metro be shifted from Aarey and be situated in the Bombay Port Trust lands. The BPT lands and its development have been in the news in recent months and almost 1000 acres of land is available for development as per what we are reading in the papers. Clearly a part of this land can be used to situate important infrastructure for

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मंत्रालय, मुंबई-४००३२

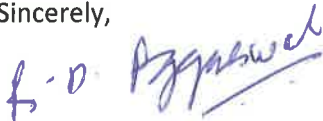
the city like the Metro Line 3 car shed. We are attaching some Google Earth images to suggest where such land could be identified in the dock area.

Additional underground tunnels to the extent of 1-3kms would have to be developed for the rakes to travel to the new location and we feel that this extra expenditure would be completely justifiable in the long term interest of the city. Please do bear in mind that the whole of Aarey is also giving us important services all of which has quantifiable economic value. If a car shed is situated in Aarey then that value will be destroyed and will have to necessarily be added to the cost of the Line 3 Metro cost in a good governance framework.

We are quite positive you will see merit in our idea and consider initiating the necessary feasibility studies as also the process of acquiring land in the BPT lands for the purpose.

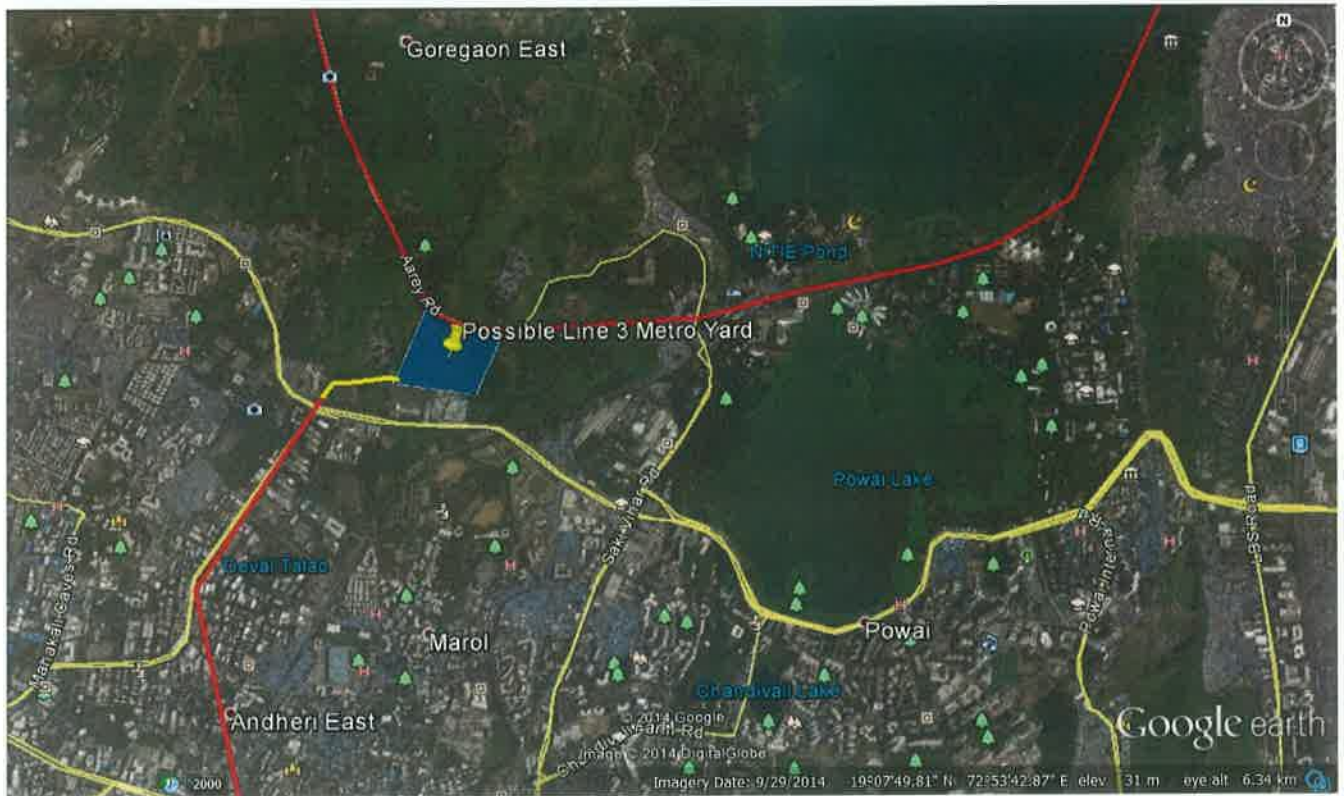
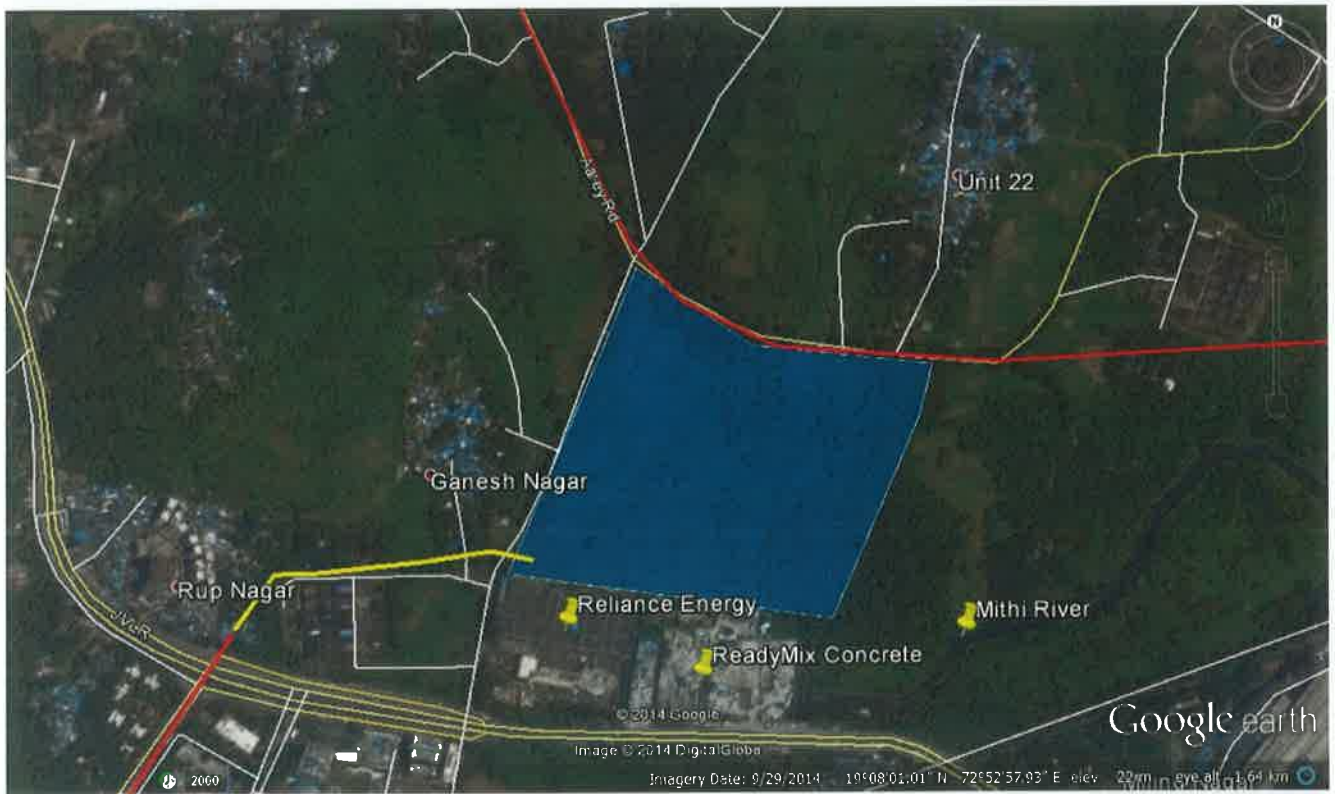
We eagerly look forward to your response and use this occasion to request you to give our group members an appointment for a meeting to discuss the above in a personal meeting.

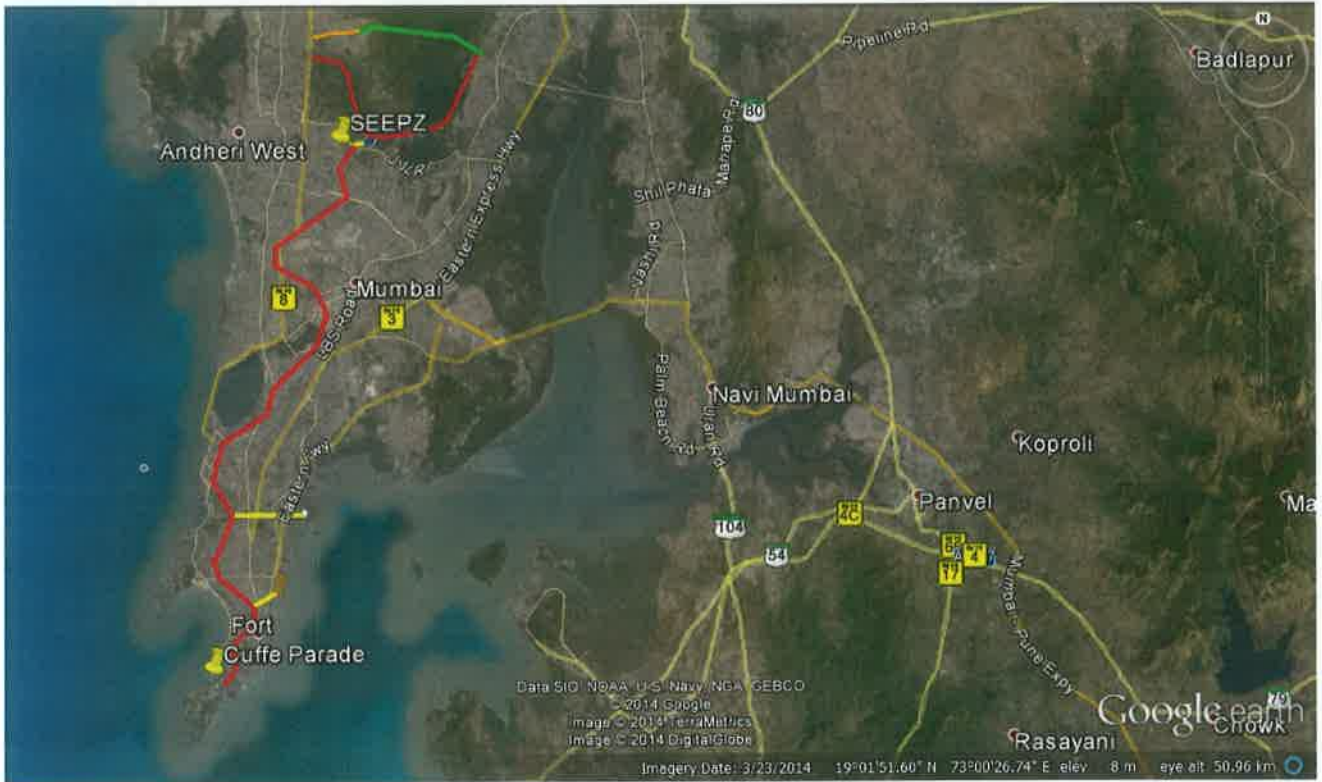
Sincerely,



On behalf of Save Aarey Group members
Rishi Aggarwal
98206-40324

Attached maps as mentioned above





Possible plots for situating car shed in the Bombay Port Trust land