

BLUE FLOODLINE ROW

Proof of rule violation

Irrigation dept confirms that Blue Scapes building is in blueline; officials gave floodline maps to PMC in 2011, civic body gave permission in 2020

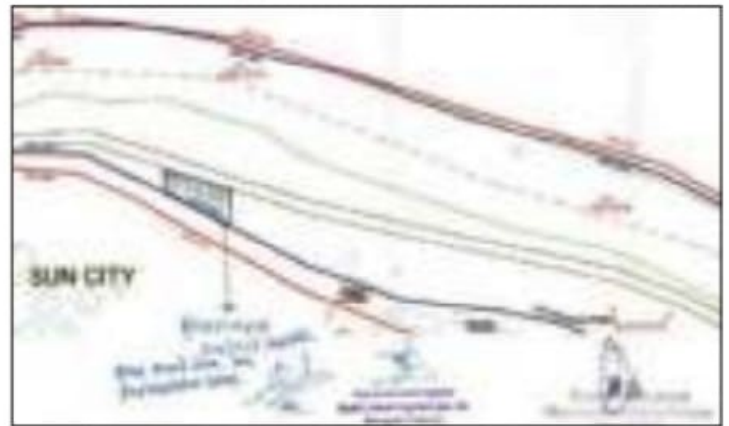
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A day after Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC) city engineer Prashant Waghmare denied the charge by activists that the civic body had granted building permission for construction of the multi-storied Blue Scapes building in the blueline of Mutha river, *Mirror* procured a report which established that the deputy executive engineer of the irrigation division, Khadakwasla had warned the superintending engineer of Pune irrigation zone about the Blue Scapes building being in the blueline of Mutha river.

Moreover, the irrigation department had handed over the floodline maps to the PMC as far back as March 5, 2011. Yet the report revealed that the PMC gave permission to the builder/developer as recent as October 5, 2020.

In his report dated May 8, 2023 and addressed to citizen activists with reference to activist Sarang Yadwadkar's letter to the water resource department, the deputy executive engineer minced no words saying, "It has been noticed that land filling and illegal constructions have been done at a large scale in the prohibited area of blueline on both banks of Mutha river under the jurisdiction of the



municipal corporation from the NH 4 bypass to Rajaram Bridge and the water resource department has repeatedly corresponded with the municipal corporation about its removal. The floodline maps attached to the applicant's RTI application are of the Blue Scapes project under the PMC's jurisdiction in the said area and as per the regional survey, the project has been found to be in the blueline."

The executive engineer of Khadakwasla irrigation division told *Mirror*, "The Blue Scapes building looks to be inside the blueline. The floodline maps were given to the PMC prior to giving the building permission. The department's duty is only to give the floodline maps. It is the duty of the concerned local body to check, verify and follow the GR that prohibits construction activity in the blueline."