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Activists oppose Mumbai's coastal road plan

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MUMBAI: Activists have lined up meetings to discuss ways to oppose the proposed 36 km coastal road. While one such meet will be held on Thursday, another comprising all koliwadadas will be held at Versova on Saturday.

Rajesh Mangela of Maharashtra Macchimar Kruti Samiti, "In 2010, we had opposed reclamation and the government had agreed to build a road on stilts. This was incorporated in the 2011 Coastal Regulation Zone notification," adding, "We won't allow the coastal road as we stand to lose land and livelihood."

P K Das, architect and a member of the joint technical committee whose report on the coastal road was approved both by the state and central government, said he was opposed to certain aspects of the coastal road. "The entire Malad creek is being proposed to be built over. Large swathes of mangroves are being sought to be destroyed. The government is going forth with the project in a high-handed manner, without considering the geography of the city," Das said.

While the last date for filing objections on the BMC's detailed project report is June 27, the last date for filing objections for the draft notification issued by the Union ministry of environment and forests to allow reclamation for the coastal road is August 25.

Advocate Godfrey Pimenta said the draft notification issued by the MoEF seeking to amend the CRZ notification 2011, to allow reclamation for the coastal road, is flawed. He said the BMC undertaking not to allow any real estate construction on the landward side of the coastal road will have no meaning unless the MoEF rewords its draft notification.

