

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary Information on 90CD – Regulation of Shenzhen River, stage III

INTRODUCTION

In considering PWSC(2001-02)79 on 90CD “Regulation of Shenzhen River, stage III” at the Public Works Subcommittee meeting held on 28 November 2001, Members requested and the Administration undertook to provide the following supplementary information in respect of the Shenzhen River regulation project (the Project) –

- (a) membership and functions of the Joint Working Group for the Project;
- (b) the key elements in Waste Management Plans (WMPs) usually adopted for similar projects and an illustration of the prevailing government policy in dealing with contractors not adhering to the approved WMPs;
- (c) how the former Lo Wu Bridge (to be preserved as a monument) could be put to good use;
- (d) a summary of the number of jobs created for Hong Kong under stages I and II of the Project; and
- (e) an assessment of the number of jobs that will be created for Hong Kong under the proposed stage III of the Project.

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THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

Membership and functions of the Joint Working Group

2. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Shenzhen Municipal Government have set up a Joint Working Group to steer the implementation of the Project. The membership of the Joint Working Group is at Enclosure 1.

3. The main functions of the Joint Working Group are –

- (a) to monitor the progress of the preparatory works;
- (b) to endorse the appointment of consultants for carrying out the design work and an Environmental Impact Assessment Study;
- (c) to agree on the funding arrangements for various works items;
- (d) to endorse the successful tenders for the entrusted works;
- (e) to monitor and control expenditure of the entrusted works; and
- (f) to monitor and control implementation of the entrusted works.

Under the Joint Working Group, we have also formed a number of Sub-groups to manage specific areas of works such as the Technical Sub-group, the Environmental Sub-group, and the Bridge Works Design and Construction Sub-group.

Waste management plan

4. To minimise the generation of construction and demolition (C&D) materials, encourage the reuse and recycle of C&D materials generated, and maintain site cleanliness and tidiness in public works project contracts, contractors are required to submit WMPs for the approval by the respective engineers supervising the contracts (the Engineer) before the works commence. There is no standard WMP applicable to projects of all kinds. The Engineer will take into account the relevant features of a particular contract in setting the requirements for each WMP. A typical WMP for flood prevention projects includes sections dealing with the following –

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- (a) classification and listing of the types and quantities of C&D materials to be generated;
- (b) avoidance/minimisation of the generation of C&D materials;
- (c) handling, recycling, reuse and return of the suitable C&D materials;
- (d) minimisation, storage and disposal of general refuse;
- (e) disposal arrangement of surplus C&D materials;
- (f) measures to maintain the site in a clean and tidy condition; and
- (g) monitoring and auditing of the WMP.

5. During the construction stage, the Engineer and his site staff will supervise the construction works, and monitor the implementation of WMPs to ensure that contractors comply with WMPs and other contractual requirements. The Engineer can take regulatory measures against contractors who have failed to meet contractual requirements. For instance, we may issue warning letters, interview the top management of contractors, and/or give adverse performance reports on contractors. Such reports may adversely affect their eligibility for getting future contracts. If a contractor's overall performance could not meet the contractual requirements, we will, as a last resort, exercise the contractual right to forfeit the contract in the public interest.

Lo Wu Bridge

6. The Environmental Impact Assessment for the project has concluded that the existing Lo Wu Railway Bridge is of historical value. As it is currently owned by both the Government of the HKSAR and the Shenzhen Municipal Government, we have agreed with the Shenzhen Relics Management Committee to re-assemble the bridge at the bank of River Indus adjacent to the Lo Wu Station. The re-assembled bridge will be visible from both Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

7. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will be responsible for maintenance of the re-assembled bridge. We will provide flood lighting and carry out landscaping works in areas adjacent to the bridge to enhance its scenic value. The Administration will also explore the practicability of opening the bridge to visitors.

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Job creation

8. This is a joint project between the Government of the HKSAR and the Shenzhen Municipal Government. The two Governments have agreed that each side will carry out the works in relation to demolition or relocation/diversion/reprovisioning of border security facilities within their own territory. The main river improvement works will be a joint undertaking to be entrusted to the Shenzhen Municipal Government. This is not a labour-intensive project as the major portion of the works involves river dredging which relies heavily on the use of plants.

9. The number of jobs created in Hong Kong under each stage of the Project depends on the nature of the works. Stage I of the Project has created ten jobs in Hong Kong for environmental monitoring works. Stage II has created 111 jobs in Hong Kong for reprovisioning of border road and border fence, and environmental monitoring works.

10. We estimate that stage III of the Project will create some 280 jobs, comprising 50 professional/technical staff and 230 labourers. Some 120 jobs will be created in Hong Kong for works in relation to demolition or relocation/diversion/reprovisioning of border security facilities to be undertaken by the HKSAR Government. The main river improvement works to be entrusted to the Shenzhen Municipal Government will create another 160 jobs. Qualified contractors from both Hong Kong and the Mainland will be invited to submit tenders for the river improvement works. The total number of jobs to be created in Hong Kong under stage III of the Project will depend on the outcome of the tender exercise for the main river improvement works.

Works Bureau
December 2001

**Membership of the Joint Working Group
for the Shenzhen River regulation project**

The Hong Kong side

- Deputy Secretary for Works
(Leader of the delegation)
- Director of Drainage Services
- Assistant Director of Environmental Protection
- Assistant Secretary, Finance Bureau
- Assistant Secretary, Constitutional Affairs Bureau

(Officials in attendance at the meetings)

- Chief Assistant Secretary, Works Bureau
- Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Environmental Protection Department
- Chief Engineer, Drainage Services Department
- Senior Engineer, Drainage Services Department

The Shenzhen side

- Deputy Secretary-General of the Shenzhen Municipal Government
(Leader of the delegation)
- Director of Shenzhen Water Resources Bureau
- Director of Shenzhen Environmental Protection Bureau
- Director of Shenzhen River Regulation Office
- Director of Border Administration Sub-bureau of Shenzhen
- Deputy Director of Shenzhen Foreign Affair Bureau
- Deputy Director of Shenzhen Planning Bureau
- Deputy Director of Shenzhen Immigration Headquarter
- Deputy Director of Shenzhen Municipal Legal Bureau
- Commander of Shenzhen Armed Police
- Captain of the 6th Detachment of Armed Police