

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1) 513/01-02
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref: CB1/PL/EA/1

LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs

**Minutes of meeting held on
Monday, 26 November 2001, at 3:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon CHOY So-yuk (Chairman)
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LAU Kong-wah
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

Members absent : Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok
Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Non-Panel Members : Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP
attending Hon MA Fung-kwok

- Public officers attending** : Environment and Food Bureau
- Mr Donald TONG
Deputy Secretary (B)
- Mr Raistlin LAU
Principal Assistant Secretary (B)1
- Drainage Services Department
- Mr W H KO
Assistant Director (Projects and Development)
- Mr David CHEUNG
Chief Engineer (Consultants Management)
- Mr NG Kam-chi
Chief Engineer (Project Management)
- Mr Samson LAM
Senior Engineer (Consultants Management)
- Mr CHUNG Chi-ming
Senior Engineer (Project Management)
- Environmental Protection Department
- Mr Edmond HO
Principal Environmental Protection Officer
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Becky YU
Chief Assistant Secretary (1)1
- Staff in attendance** : Mrs Mary TANG
Senior Assistant Secretary (1)2
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I Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 375/01-02 — Minutes of the joint meeting with the Transport Panel held on 29 October 2001

LC Paper No. CB(1) 376/01-02 — Minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2001)

The minutes of the joint meeting with the Transport Panel and the regular meeting held on 29 October 2001 were confirmed.

II Information papers issued since last meeting

2. Members noted that no information papers had been issued since the last meeting.

III Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(1)379/01-02(01) — List of follow-up actions arising from discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1) 379/01-02(02) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

3. The Chairman reminded members of the joint meeting with the Transport Panel and the Planning, Lands and Works Panel on 27 November 2001, and the informal meeting with the Advisory Council on the Environment on 3 December 2001.

4. Members agreed to advance the next regular meeting from 24 December 2001 to Thursday, 13 December 2001, at 9:30 am to discuss “Mechanism of Environmental Impact Assessment”. It was also agreed that a joint meeting with the Transport Panel would be held on the same day at 8:30 am to discuss “Protection of wetlands in Long Valley in light of the latest development of the Spur Line Project”. Green groups and concerned parties would be invited to give views at these meetings.

IV Composite paper on nine sewage collection and treatment schemes

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 379/01-02(03) — Information paper provided by the Administration)

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Deputy Secretary for the Environment and Food (DSEF) briefly introduced the nine sewage collection and treatment schemes. The Senior Engineer (Consultants Management) then gave a power-point presentation on the background and justifications for the schemes.

203DS - North District sewerage

6. Referring to paragraph 7(d) of the information paper, Ms Emily LAU agreed that efforts should be made to avoid repeated road opening works. She however noted with concern that such an arrangement was left out in other schemes. The Assistant Director (Projects and Development) (AD/P&D) confirmed that where possible, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) would entrust or work jointly with other departments. By way of illustration, DSD had combined the road opening works of project 274DS in Yuen Long with another contract to avoid repeated works. DS/EF supplemented that there were established guidelines on the avoidance of repeated road opening works. No road excavation works would be allowed within a period of five years after road reconstruction unless under exceptional circumstances. Ms LAU stressed the need for better co-ordination in road opening works and requested the Administration to provide more information in the relevant Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) paper.

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143DS - Central, Western and Wan Chai West sewerage, stage 2

7. Noting that the proposed construction works would span from June 2002 to late 2005, Ms Cyd HO expressed concern about the impact of works on business operators in the region and enquired whether consideration could be given to compensating the affected operators for business loss. The Chief Engineer (Project Management) (CE/PM) explained that the works would be implemented by phases, and that each phase would involve some 20 to 30 meters of road excavation works. Before commencing with the works, DSD would work out with the Police and the Transport Department a set of temporary transport measures to help alleviate the traffic impact on the surrounding areas. On the duration of road opening works for each phase of works, AD/P&D said that this would vary from one to three months depending on the complexity of the works.

8. Responding to Ms HO's further enquiries about the expedient connections to the sewage system and the parties who should be held responsible for these improper connections, CE/PM explained that while it was difficult to trace the parties who made the expedient connections, DSD would try its best to identify and rectify the connections. DSEF added that one of the aims of the Sewerage Master Plans was to rectify the expedient connections which had been diverting foul sewage flows into storm drains and storm water flows into foul sewers. The rectification works would ensure that the sewage would enter the sewerage system and receive proper treatment before its discharge to receiving waters. Ms HO considered it necessary for the Administration to provide further information on the background to the problem of expedient connections and the consequences of such connections when submitting the proposal to the PWSC. The Chairman concurred that the Administration should also explain how it proposed to prevent the recurrence of the problem.

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9. Mr Henry WU remained concerned about the disruption to traffic arising from the construction works along busy roads such as Murray Road and Queen's Central Road. He enquired if such disturbance could be further minimized through the wider application of the trenchless method. While agreeing that the more expensive trenchless method could greatly reduce the need for road opening and thus minimizing disruption to traffic during the construction phase, CE/PM said that its applicability was dependent on site conditions and would require a longer construction time as compared to the conventional open cut method.

10. Noting that the trenchless method could only be applied to six sites along the busy Central area, Ms Miriam LAU opined that consideration should be given to performing construction works at night and/or round-the-clock in order to expedite the project in Central. This was a feasible option as Central was principally a business area and night works would not cause much disturbance to the public. CE/PM confirmed that night works had been performed at construction sites with busy traffic. At Ms LAU's request, the Administration undertook to provide further information in the PWSC paper on how it proposed to implement the project in Central and the hours of construction works to be carried out each day in different areas of Central.

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V Any other business

11. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat
6 December 2001