

22 August 2005

Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
(Attn : Miss Becky Yu)
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong
(By fax : 2869 6794)

Dear Miss Yu,

Progress Report on the Restoration of the Tung Chung Stream

Supplementary Information

At the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs meeting on 24 March 2005, Members requested the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to provide the number of works projects which AFCD had been consulted on and might affect natural streams and rivers. Members also requested the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) to provide updated information on the workshops on protecting natural streams and rivers.

The ETWB Technical Circular on “Protection of natural streams/rivers from adverse impacts arising from construction works” issued on 15 March 2005 requires AFCD to maintain a master list of development projects with impacts on natural streams and rivers for which AFCD has been consulted. Since the issue of the Circular to end June 2005, a total of 51 works project proposals have been submitted to AFCD for comment. 28 cases were found to have no direct impacts on natural streams and rivers. The majority of the remaining 23 cases were minor drainage improvement works. AFCD has, where appropriate, recommended the necessary mitigation measures to minimize the adverse impacts of these proposed projects. However, as the nature of impacts to streams/rivers varies from project to project, it is not possible to quantify such impacts in terms of the total length of streams/rivers that could be affected.

ETWB organized a series of half-day workshops for professional staff in works departments between May and July 2005 to brief them on the details of the ETWB Technical Circular mentioned above and to share experience on the protection of natural streams and rivers. Major topics covered by the workshops included ecological considerations, relevant environmental legislation and design guidelines. About 400 participants attended these workshops.

Yours sincerely,

(Eric Chan)
for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c. ETWB (Attn : Mr Norman Heung) Fax : 2869 6712
AFCD (Attn : Mr C C Lay) Fax : 2199 7041