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30 April 2007

Mr Michael M Y SUEN, GBS, JP
Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau

Dr Sarah LIAO Sau-tung
Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau

Mr Stephen IP, GBS, JP
Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
Economic Development and Labour Bureau

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Subcommittee on
Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) (Amendment) Regulation 2007,
Sewage Services (Trade Effluent Surcharge) (Amendment) Regulation 2007
and Technical Memorandum on Procedures and Methods for Sampling and
Analysis of Trade Effluents**

As you may be aware, a Subcommittee has been set up to scrutinize the captioned Amendment Regulations and Technical Memorandum. In the course of deliberation, members are gravely concerned about the preparatory work for the construction of an underground biological sewage treatment plant under the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2B.

According to the information provided by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), a site on Stonecutters Island has been identified which has the potential to accommodate the treatment facilities on a *co-use* basis. Under the Railway Development Strategy 2000 promulgated by the Government in May 2000, the site concerned has been identified for the Port Rail Terminal of the Port Rail Line (PRL). Implementation of the PRL will depend on cross-boundary freight build-up and the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation is currently exploring whether it would be commercially viable to implement the proposed PRL. On the other hand, the site is currently zoned under the Stonecutters Island Outline Zoning Plan No. S/SC/8 for "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Container Related Uses" and is being let on a number of short-term tenancies which will expire in early 2010. The Subcommittee has been advised that the originally intended use for the site must be settled before design work can start.

To address members' concerns about early implementation of HATS Stage 2B having regard to the co-use of the site, it was agreed at the meeting held on 30 April 2007 that I should, on behalf of the Subcommittee, write to seek the following clarifications from the policy bureaux concerned on the progress in implementing the originally planned uses of the site in question:

- (a) the planning policy or requirements governing the development of a site earmarked for certain uses, having regard to the fact that despite the site in question being identified for the Port Rail Terminal of the Port Rail Line (PRL) since 2000, no concrete decision or timetable has been announced over the years;
- (b) the latest development in the intended use of the site as the Port Rail Terminal of the PRL; and the timetable for taking forward the relevant decision;
- (c) the latest progress of the work being undertaken by the Economic and Labour Bureau in connection with the intended use of the site for "Container Related Uses"; and
- (d) a more concrete timetable on the various stakeholders' discussion of the planning, interface and development issues concerned with co-use of the site

I also attach a copy of the paper provided by EPD for the Subcommittee meeting for your easy reference (paragraphs 6 to 12 are relevant). As the Subcommittee will hold its next meeting on 3 May 2007 at 4:30 pm, grateful if the Administration's written response (in both Chinese and English and with softcopy to slchan@legco.gov.hk) would reach the Clerk to Subcommittee **before 10 am on 3 May 2007**. In line with our practice, the written information will be made available to the media and the public and posted on the Website of this Council, unless you advise otherwise.

Meanwhile, if you have any question, please contact me or Miss Polly YEUNG, Clerk to Subcommittee, at Tel. 28699246.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee)
Chairman of Subcommittee

Encl.

c.c. Mr Raymond FAN
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)