



香港特別行政區政府 The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

渠務署 Drainage Services Department

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19 April 2010

Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms SHEK,

**Public Works Subcommittee
Follow-up to meeting on 10 February 2010
PWSC(2009-10)87**

I refer to your letter referenced CB1/F/2/6(III) of 17 February 2010 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury. I write to provide supplementary information in response to the following requests raised by Members about 341DS "Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, stage 2A – upgrading of Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works and preliminary treatment works" (PWSC(2009-10)87) at the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) meeting held on 10 February 2010 –

- (a) The Administration was requested to provide supplementary information about the consultation with relevant district councils, in particular the Tuen Mun District Council, on the proposed expansion of facilities at Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works, as well as the upgrading of sludge reception facilities at the existing West New Territories landfill piers.

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- (b) At the request of Prof. Hon. Patrick LAU, the Administration agreed to provide information on the views and suggestions received from the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC) regarding the proposed layout design of the preliminary treatment works upgrading works at Wanchai and Central.
- (c) At the request of Hon WONG Kwok-hing, the Administration undertook to provide information on the result of monitoring the water quality of closed Tsuen Wan beaches over the period from March to October 2010, and advise whether the water quality would meet the desired standards good enough for re-opening the beaches concerned in due course.

Nonetheless, we will reply on (a) and (b) in this letter while the Administration's response to (c) will be provided after the water quality monitoring.

Consultation with the District Councils

Under the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) stage 2A, the existing Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works (SCISTW) and the eight existing preliminary treatment works (PTWs) along the route of the sewage conveyance system will be upgraded to increase its treatment capacity to handle the additional sewage flow conveyed to SCISTW via the deep tunnel system from Hong Kong Island.

We consulted the relevant committees under Kwai Tsing District Council (DC), Sham Shui Po DC, and Tsuen Wan DC on the proposed upgrading works at SCISTW for HATS Stage 2A in February and March 2009 as follows –

| DC | Committee consulted on the proposed works at SCISTW | Date |
|-----------------------|--|------------------|
| Kwai Tsing District | Community Affairs Committee | 10 February 2009 |
| Sham Shui Po District | Environment and Hygiene Committee | 12 February 2009 |
| Tsuen Wan District | Environmental and Health Affairs Committee | 5 March 2009 |

We also consulted the relevant committees under Southern DC, Central and Western DC, Wan Chai DC and Eastern DC on the proposed upgrading works at the eight Preliminary Treatment Works on Hong Kong Island in January and February 2009 as follows –

| DC | Committee consulted on the proposed works at PTWs | Date |
|------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Central and Western District | Food, Environment, Hygiene and Works Committee | 15 January 2009 |
| Eastern District | Planning, Works and Housing Committee | 15 January 2009 |
| Wan Chai District | Development, Planning and Transport Committee | 17 February 2009 |
| Southern District | District Development and Environment Committee | 23 February 2009 |

At present, the dewatered sludge from SCISTW is transported to West New Territories Landfill (WENT) either directly by trucks or by barges to an existing reception pier at WENT and then by trucks to the WENT tipping face. Upon completion of HATS stage 2A, all dewatered sludge from SCISTW will be delivered to the new sludge incineration plant built under the sludge treatment facilities (STF) project at Tsang Tsui for treatment¹. The mode of delivery will be in sealed containers firstly by marine transport from SCISTW to the existing reception pier at WENT and then by trucks from the existing pier to the nearby STF at Tsang Tsui, i.e. the new transport arrangements after completion of HATS stage 2A will essentially be the same as the existing arrangements except for the discontinuation of the alternative land transport mode from SCISTW to the landfill site at WENT. Minor upgrading works at the existing reception pier will be carried out under the HATS stage 2A project.

We consulted the Tuen Mun DC on the sludge disposal from HATS stage 2A, including sludge reception facilities at WENT, on three occasions given below and the sludge transport arrangement was also explained at the meetings in January and April 2009. The Tuen Mun DC showed no objection.

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¹ The funding proposal of 233DS "Sludge treatment facilities" was considered by PWSC in May 2009 vide PWSC(2009-10)16 and approved by the Finance Committee in June 2009.

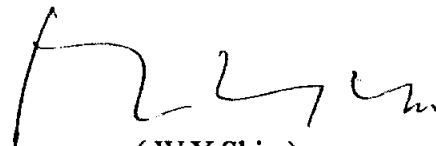
| DC | Consultation on the sludge disposal from HATS stage 2A | Date |
|-------------------|---|----------------|
| Tuen Mun District | DC Meeting No. 8 | 6 January 2009 |
| Tuen Mun District | DC Meeting No. 9 | 3 March 2009 |
| Tuen Mun District | Special DC Meeting No. 1 | 22 April 2009 |

Views and suggestion received from the HEC

We consulted the Sub-committee on Harbour Plan Review of the HEC at its meeting held on 18 March 2009 regarding the layout, aesthetics and greening proposals for the two preliminary treatment works (PTW) sites at Wanchai East and Central, as well as the enhancement of streetscape to the surroundings adjoining these two PTW sites. Extracts of the relevant minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2009 are attached at **Annex I**. At members' request, a joint site visit to these two PTW sites was held on 21 April 2009. The views and suggestions collected from members at the above meeting and site visit were addressed, responded and incorporated in the PTW upgrading works design as appropriate. In response, the Chairman of the Sub-committee on Harbour Plan Review remarked his appreciation of our efforts to improve the visual quality of these PTW sites.

I shall be grateful if you would distribute this letter to PWSC Members.

Yours sincerely,



(W Y Shiu)

for Director of Drainage Services

Encl.

c.c. SFST (Attn.: Miss Sandra Lam) (Fax : 2147 5240)
SEN (Attn.: Mr Elvis Au) (Fax : 2575 3371)

**HEC Sub-committee on
Harbour Plan Review**

Minutes of Twenty-seventh Meeting

Date : 18 March 2009
Time : 10:00 am
Venue : Conference Room, 15/F, North Point Government Offices
333 Java Road, North Point

Present

Mr Vincent Ng (Chairman) Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Dr Andrew Thomson Representing Business Environment Council
Dr Sujata Govada Representing Citizen Envisioning @ Harbour
Dr Alvin Kwok Representing Conservancy Association
Mr Kim Chan Representing Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Mr Yu Kam-hung Representing Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Mr Mason Hung Representing Hong Kong Tourism Board
Mr Paul Zimmerman Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour Ltd.
Mr Patrick Lau
Ms Alice Cheung Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), Development
Bureau (DEVB)
Mr Jeff Lam Assistant Director (Headquarters), Lands Department
(LandsD)
Mr Raymond Lee Chief Town Planner/Studies & Research, Planning
Department (PlanD)
Ms Ying Fun-fong Chief Engineer/Transport Planning, Transport
Department (TD)
Mr Peter Mok Senior Engineer/Kowloon 2, Civil Engineering and
Development Department (CEDD)
Ms Sally Fong (Secretary) Senior Town Planner/Studies & Research 3, PlanD

In Attendance

Ms Lydia Lam Assistant Secretary (Planning) 3, DEVB

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Absent with Apologies

Mrs Mei Ng Representing Friends of the Earth
Dr Chan Fuk-cheung Representing Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Nicholas Brooke
Mrs Ann Ho Chief Executive Officer (2) 1, Home Affairs Department

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Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 26th Meeting

1.1 The draft minutes of the 26th meeting held on 21 January 2009 were circulated to Members for comment on 13 March 2009. A revised draft incorporating comments received was issued to Members on 17 March 2009. The meeting confirmed the revised draft minutes without amendment.

Item 2 Matters Arising

Working Meeting on Temporary Uses and Inventory (paras. 2.17, 4.7 and 5.8 of the minutes of the 26th meeting)

2.1 The Chairman said that at the working meeting held on 4 March 2009, Members identified several quick-wins for enhancement, including the Hung Hom waterfront promenade and adjoining open space, waterfront promenade/open space at the ex-North Point Estate site, temporary enhancement in Kai Tak and removal of advertising billboards in Wan Chai near the Cross Harbour Tunnel. The Secretariat would circulate the meeting notes to Members in due course, and the Sub-committee would monitor the progress of the matter in subsequent meetings. Secretariat

2.2 Mr Paul Zimmerman suggested, and the meeting agreed, to arrange another working meeting to review the Inventory with LandsD and PlanD. Secretariat

[Post-meeting note: Two working meetings on the Inventory were held on 20 March 2009 and 1 April 2009.]

Views of the Sub-committee on various proposals presented at the 26th meeting (Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the minutes of the 26th meeting)

2.3 The meeting noted that the relevant parts of the confirmed

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3.5 Ms Ying Fun-fong pointed out the need for suitable separation of the cycle track and footpath for pedestrian safety.

3.6 The Chairman summed up the discussion as follows:

- (a) cycling along the harbour-front was supported from harbour-front enhancement point of view;
- (b) Members generally had no in-principle objection to the project, but considered that the mere construction of a cycle track might not lead to harbour-front enhancement. A place-making approach should be adopted in enhancing this part of the harbour-front to become a destination for public enjoyment;
- (c) it was important to identify the end-users and their needs. Mixed uses including eating places and other supporting facilities should be incorporated to enhance vibrancy;
- (d) transport planning guidelines should not be rigidly applied in designing the cycling facilities. Shared use of the cycle track by other users should be considered; and
- (e) public transport arrangements and safety matters should be thoroughly considered.

Item 4 Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A - Upgrading of Central and Wan Chai East Preliminary Treatment Works (Paper No. 5/2009)

4.1 The following representatives of the Project Team were invited to the meeting:

Mr C M Choi) HATS Division, DSD
Mr Michael Leung)

Mr S Y Chan) Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd
Mr Paul Clarke)
Mr Roy Stevens)
Mr Paul Taylor)

4.2 After a powerpoint presentation by the Project Team, Members raised the following comments/questions:

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- (a) consideration should be given to realigning the Western Fire Service Street so as to provide a wider waterfront promenade;
- (b) the possibility of setting back the boundary walls of the Central Preliminary Treatment Works (PTW) to incorporate some commercial activities or vibrant uses for public enjoyment should be explored;
- (c) as the Wan Chai waterfront could become more popular in future, opportunity should be taken to set back the boundary walls of the Wan Chai East PTW and widen the pavement to facilitate pedestrian circulation;
- (d) consideration should be given to reduce the footprints of the developments and to allow public access to the rooftops for enjoying harbour view;
- (e) whilst solar panels were not proposed in view of their glare impact, whether wind turbines had been considered as an alternative source of sustainable energy for the PTWs;
- (f) advertising signboards should not be allowed at the rooftop of the Wan Chai East PTW after the upgrading works;
- (g) incongruous design should be avoided. Apart from glass panels, what other materials had been considered for the façade; and
- (h) opportunities should be taken to enhance the streetscape of the surroundings adjoining the subject sites by planting more trees to provide shading and improving the paving, street furniture, lighting, railing, etc.

4.3 In response, the Project Team made the following points:

- (a) technically, it was difficult to realign the Western Fire Service Street as it was a one-way loop road providing access to the nearby Sheung Wan Fire Station and electricity sub-station. Besides, there was level difference between the road and the site of the Central PTW;
- (b) as the sites were already very cramped, it was unlikely to

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have scope to further reduce the footprints of the developments;

- (c) for the Central PTW, recesses proposed in the boundary wall facing the Harbour could be set back by 1m. The new building had been set back by 2.5m from the existing boundary wall giving a greater provision for planting. The aesthetic design of the boundary wall facing Sun Yet Sen Memorial Park would be similar to that shown in Enclosure 7 of the Paper. Existing trees within the site would be retained as far as possible;
- (d) the existing advertising panel at the rooftop of the Wan Chai East PTW would be removed under this project;
- (e) the use of wind turbines as an energy source for the PTWs had been considered and was found to be not effective;
- (f) the proposed curtain wall could make the sites more transparent to the public; and
- (g) provision of seating areas, street sculptures, etc. could be further considered after consultation with the local community.

4.4 The Chairman remarked that the Project Team's efforts to improve the visual quality of the sites were appreciated, and noted that some suggestions made by Members on improving the urban design of the area as a whole might be outside the scope of the subject project.

4.5 In response to a Member's suggestion, the Project Team agreed to arrange a site visit to the Central and Wan Chai East PTWs for the Sub-committee.

DSD

[Post-meeting note: A half-day site visit to the 2 PTWs was arranged by DSD on 21 April 2009. The following additional comments on the design of the PTWs as raised by Members joining the site visit had been conveyed to the Project Team for consideration:

- (a) setting back of fence walls to provide wider pedestrian footpath along waterfront was recommended;

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- (b) the design of fence walls should enhance visual permeability, such as low fence walls with high transparency;
- (c) the proposal on more greening of the grounds and roofs was acknowledged; and
- (d) if possible, a pedestrian thoroughfare should be provided between the Central PTW site and Sheung Wan Fire Station to enhance physical permeability of the area.]

Item 5 Draft Planning Briefs for "Comprehensive Development Area (1)" Site (KIL 11205) and "Comprehensive Development Area (2)" Site (KIL 11111) on Draft Hung Hom Outline Zoning Plan No. S/K9/21 (Paper No. 6/2009)

- 5.1 The following representatives of PlanD were invited to the meeting:

Mr Eric Yue) District Planning Office/Kowloon
Mr Wilson Chan)
Ms Christine Cheung)

- 5.2 After a powerpoint presentation by Mr Wilson Chan, Members raised the following comments/questions:

- (a) the design of the future developments at the "Comprehensive Development Area" ("CDA") sites should integrate with that of the nearby "Open Space" ("O") sites;
- (b) building setback from Hung Luen Road should be stipulated in the planning briefs;
- (c) shared access from Hung Luen Road serving the "CDA" sites and the "O" site to the west should be considered;
- (d) whilst the non-building areas (NBAs) proposed at the "CDA(2)" site would increase building permeability, the long frontage of the "CDA(1)" site might induce the creation of a wall of buildings which might in turn hinder visual permeability and air circulation;
- (e) the NBAs should be open 24 hours for public use. Whether NBA(2) should be widened to 30m, i.e. the same