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Clerk to Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislation Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn : Ms Miranda Hon)

4 June 2010

Dear Ms Hon,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
results of value for money audits (Report No.54)**

Development of EcoPark (Chapter 5)

I refer to your letter of 26 May 2010 to the Director of Environmental Protection on the above subject and would like to provide the additional information as follows:-

(a) Permanent jobs created

As at April 2010, a total of 120 permanent staff are employed by the EcoPark Operator and the tenants who have already started their operations. The number of permanent jobs in the EcoPark is expected to increase progressively in the coming months when more tenants will commence or scale up their recycling operations. Upon full commissioning of both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the EcoPark, it remains our estimate that about 750 permanent jobs would be created.

(b) Timetable for the development and commissioning of Phase 2

The site formation and road works for Phase 2 have been substantially completed. We are now reviewing in consultation with the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) the lot allocation

arrangement as well as other supporting measures, with a view to increasing the attractiveness of the EcoPark to the recycling industry and facilitating early commencement of recycling operations on site. Subject to follow-up consultation with relevant stakeholders and the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs, we aim to commence the process for the allocation of Phase 2 lots by late 2010.

(c) **Management contract for the EcoPark**

- (i) An extract of the relevant clauses on the marketing service of the management contract is enclosed at **Annex 1**.
- (ii) This management contract is a multi-disciplinary services contract on facility management, infrastructure maintenance, tenant support, tenancy management and marketing. A seven-year contract period was adopted to attract sufficient commercial interest in pulling together the necessary multi-disciplinary forces to provide the integrated services, and at the same time allowing the operator of the second contract to gain sufficient experience before dealing with the renewal or re-tendering of the tenancy lots in the tenth year. Contract periods in the public sector are determined according to the service requirements and relevant operational considerations. There are contracts on facility management, for example those on tunnel management, that cover periods longer than three years.
- (iii) The management contract prescribes the services to be provided by the Operator during the contract period and the payment to be made to the Operator in phases in accordance with the portions of the site of the Ecopark which would be handed over to the Operator (Table 6 and Table 7 of the Audit Report refer). The services required are in response to the operational circumstances at the Ecopark. With the commencement of recycling operations in some of the Phase 1 lots and the two waste processing centres in Phase 2 as well as the opening of the Visitor Centre, the Operator has been required to deploy higher level of resources for delivery of the necessary services in accordance with the terms of the management contract.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,



(Ellen Chan)
for Director of Environmental Protection

Encl.

c.c. Secretary for the Environment
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax : 2147 5239)
Director of Audit (fax : 2583 9063) } w/o
Encl.

***Note by Clerk, PAC: Annex 1 not attached.**