

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

政府總部
發展局
工務科

香港花園道美利大廈



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20 June 2011

Ms Debbie Yau
Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Yau,

**Public Works Subcommittee
Follow-up to meeting on 1 June 2011
PWSC(2011-12)15**

I refer to your letter of 8 June 2011 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury.

In considering the paper referenced PWSC(2011-12)15 on **465CL** “Kai Tak development – Kai Tak approach channel and Kwun Tong typhoon shelter improvement works”, Members requested the Administration to liaise with the local group on the measurement of *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) in To Kwa Wan (TKW) Typhoon Shelter and provide information on the measurement data showing the particular areas which required further improvement.

Since December 2009, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) has commissioned a baseline monitoring programme on water quality in the adjoining waterways of Kai Tak Development, including TKW Typhoon Shelter. Water samples have been taken at 3-month intervals for analysis of a number of physic-chemical and biological parameters including dissolved oxygen (DO) and *E.coli*. So far the monitoring results by CEDD have indicated that the water quality in TKW Typhoon Shelter is comparable to that in the Victoria Harbour. The

concentrations of DO¹ in 2010 were all better than the specified limits in the Water Quality Objectives and the annual average² of *E.coli* in TKW Typhoon Shelter was in the range of 149 to 271 counts³. The monitoring results are given at the “Kai Tak Development” web site (<http://www.ktd.gov.hk/>) for public inspection.

Our measured results (including DO and *E.coli*) are consistent with the marine water quality monitoring data at TKW Typhoon Shelter recorded by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) since January 1994. According to EPD’s marine water quality monitoring results, improvement in the water quality of Victoria Harbour including TKW Typhoon Shelter has been recorded since the commissioning of Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 1 in late 2001. The DO concentrations of waters of TKW Typhoon Shelter have been improved by about 30% comparing with those in 2001. The annual average of *E.coli* in waters of TKW Typhoon Shelter has been reduced by about 90%. These results indicate that the water quality of TKW Typhoon Shelter has been improving.

Upon the request of Members, we have approached the local group who took water samples with the assistance of a university professor as technical adviser in January 2011 to measure the water quality. According to their test results, the *E.coli* in the water samples taken at the waterfront adjacent to Kowloon City Ferry Pier and Hoi Sham Park was in the range of 50 000 to 60 000 counts at seabed and 70 000 to 230 000 counts at sea surface. They also detected odour problem at the sampling points and considered that the problem was caused by organic pollutants from untreated domestic sewage discharged to the waterfront area through illegal connection of sewers into stormwater drains. The high levels of *E.coli* measured by the local group differ quite significantly from our previous measurements (details of the measurements are given at the “Kai Tak Development” web site) at the water quality monitoring stations located in TKW Typhoon Shelter. Upon our request, the local group has agreed to arrange a time slot for us to meet with the technical adviser to discuss their findings in detail.

On top of the regular monitoring efforts as set out above, to tackle the odour problem and water pollution raised by the local group, we have been undertaking a host of mitigation measures. Improvement works to the existing sewers and dry weather flow interceptors at TKW commenced in January 2009 for completion in phases by 2012/13 under the “Upgrading of Central and East Kowloon sewerage” project. We expect that upon completion of the improvement works, water quality of TKW waterfront will be progressively improved. In addition, we

¹ The bottom DO concentrations in TKW Typhoon Shelter in 2010 were measured in the range of 3.6 mg/litre to 7.9 mg/litre, against the minimum of 2 mg/litre in the Water Quality Objectives for marine waters in the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone.

² Annual average value means the geometric mean of the measured depth-averaged values during the year.

³ *E.coli* counts are represented in colony forming units per 100 millilitre of water sample.

have completed a new dry weather flow interceptor in the box culvert at Hok Yuen Street in March 2010. During dry days, the dry weather flow interceptor will intercept and divert the polluted flow to the sewerage system for treatment and disposal, thereby reducing the pollution load from this culvert outfall to the waters near TKW and Hung Hom.

Further, in response to the concern about the water quality of TKW Typhoon Shelter, we have set up an inter-departmental working group to look into the problem and identify necessary follow up actions since May 2009. Over the past two years, the relevant departments have made concerted effort by undertaking various follow-up actions (see the list at **Annex**) and are all committed to stepping up necessary maintenance and cleansing effort in tackling the problem.

We will keep vigilance in our routine inspections against illegal discharges and will continue our enforcement actions against any illegal connections. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the follow-up actions and submit reports to Kowloon City District Council on the latest situation.

Yours sincerely,



(C S LIU)
for Secretary for Development

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SFST

DCED

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Follow-up actions for dealing with the Water Quality Problem at To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter

Actions	Responsible Department	Progress
(1) Monitoring of the water quality of To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter (TKWTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Engineering and Development Department 	(a) Monitoring programme commenced in December 2009 and being maintained at quarterly basis.
(2) Repairing of existing seawall / maintenance dredging at TKWTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Engineering and Development Department 	(a) Repairing of existing seawall near Hoi Sham Park completed in August 2009. (b) Maintenance dredging works at the waterfront of Ma Tau Kok Road (near Grand Waterfront) completed in March 2011.
(3) Maintenance of existing drainage and sewerage infrastructures in the hinterland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage Services Department 	(a) Cleansing of existing dry weather flow interceptors at To Kwa Wan being increased from half-yearly to bi-monthly since March 2010.
(4) Cleansing / removal of floating refuse within TKWTS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Department 	(a) Daily cleansing services being maintained and to be stepped up when necessary.
(5) Cleansing of debris scattered along the TKW waterfront	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Environmental Hygiene Department • Leisure and Cultural Services Department (Hoi Sham Park only) 	(a) Daily cleansing services being maintained and to be stepped up when necessary.

Actions	Responsible Department	Progress
(6) Rectification of expedient connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Department • Buildings Department 	<p>(a) EPD issued advisory letters in March 2010 to owners' committees/management companies of private residential buildings in TKW.</p> <p>(b) Continue enforcement actions against expedient connections.</p>
(7) Inspection of illegal scullery and preparation of food at rear lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Environmental Hygiene Department 	<p>(a) Routine inspections being maintained and to continue taking enforcement actions against illegal discharge.</p>
(8) Cleansing of gullies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Environmental Hygiene Department • Highways Department 	<p>(a) Regular cleansing services being maintained.</p>