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From: Douglas Black

Date: 05/26/2014 04:08PM

Cc: pid@legco.gov.hk, cwdcadm@cwdc.had.gov.hk, sdev@sdev.gov.hk, dlcsoffice@lcsd.gov.hk

Subject: Re: Proposed Relocation of a Fresh Water Pumping Station to Hong Kong Park

Dear Legco,

We are writing to express my objection to the proposed relocation of Harcourt Road Fresh Water Pumping Station to Hong Kong Park. This action will encroach upon Hong Kong Park by permanently taking away 2,150 square meters of the Park.

In addition, (a) 91 trees will be felled, (b) 35 meters of an important historic, 150-year old granite wall will dismantled and (c) slope excavation will come within 10 meters of Flagstaff House, a Declared Monument. The extensive excavation will require construction of bored pile wall along the pumping station boundary in an attempt to minimize ground movement at Flagstaff House.

It is disappointing to see destruction of yet more cherished public park space. Victoria Park has already been reduced in size by approximately 20,000 square feet to make way for a road cutting through the park to connect to the new Central-Wan Chai bypass tunnel. It is truly a shame that the tranquility and natural aesthetic beauty of Hong Kong Park is now under threat.

Urban development in Hong Kong must be balanced to ensure that

adequate green spaces are available and open to the Hong Kong public to enjoy. The existing slope that is to be excavated for the pumping station is a natural slope with dense tree cover. This extensive tree cover acts as a green buffer at the perimeter of the Park and the adjacent Cotton Tree Drive. Construction of a pumping station at this location will result in permanent loss of the slope and its dense tree cover.

Hong Kong Park is a rare green oasis in the heart of a densely developed metropolitan area. It is akin to Raffles Place Park in Singapore, Da'an Park in Taipei, Hyde Park in London, and Central Park in New York City. These cities take great efforts to preserve such parks and to ensure that they remain protected and not encroached upon.

We ask the Panel on Development to object to this proposal and ensure that the proposal does not proceed further to the Public Works Sub-committee or the Finance Committee.

Sincerely,
Douglas Black