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2 September 2015

Clerk to the Finance Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong

(Attn: Mr. Daniel SIN)

Dear Mr. SIN ,

**Finance Committee  
Follow-up to meeting on 14 July 2015  
408DS – Yuen Long effluent polishing plant**

At the meeting of the Finance Committee on 14 July 2015, Members requested the Government to release the agreement made between Shenzhen and Hong Kong to jointly improve the water quality of Deep Bay. The Government's response is provided as follows :

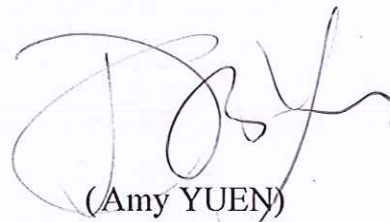
In 2000, the Shenzhen and Hong Kong governments formulated the "Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Water Pollution Control Joint Implementation Programme" (the Programme) with a view to progressively reducing the pollution load to Deep Bay. In accordance with the Programme, Shenzhen has completed the newly built Xili Reclaimed Wastewater Treatment Plant, Buji Wastewater Treatment Plant, Budexia Wastewater Treatment Plant, expansion of Binhe Wastewater Treatment Plant, upgrading of Nanshan Wastewater Treatment Plant and so on. On the Hong Kong side, construction of trunk sewers and the associated sewerage network including village sewerage in the North District, Yuen Long and Kam Tin areas have already started and some have been completed.

Since the implementation of the Programme, some signs of water quality improvement in Deep Bay have been observed. According to our water quality monitoring data (see figure attached), the water quality of the Deep Bay Water Control Zone (WCZ) has improved with reduction in the levels of organic pollutants, nutrients and bacteria since the mid-2000s. During the period from 2004 to 2014, 5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>) has reduced from 2.6 mg/L to 1.5 mg/L,

Ammonia Nitrogen from 2.2 mg/L to 0.9 mg/L, Total Inorganic Nitrogen from 2.9 mg/L to 1.9 mg/L, Orthophosphate Phosphorus from 0.2 mg/L to 0.1 mg/L, and *E. coli* level from 594 cfu/100mL to 197 cfu/100mL.

On Members' request to release the relevant document, we have consulted the Shenzhen authorities. Since the document contains a lot of Shenzhen's water quality monitoring data for formulating the Programme, the document and its content would not be suitable for public release.

Yours sincerely,



(Amy YUEN)  
for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c.	SFST	(Attn: Ms. Crystal PANG)	(Fax.: 2147 5240)
	DDS	(Attn: Mr. Edwin TONG)	(Fax.: 2827 8605)

Figure

