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From: "William G. Swigart" [REDACTED]
Date: 02/22/2015 10:49AM
Cc: "Vivian Leung" [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
Subject: Relocation of Fresh Water Pumping Station

Dear Sirs / Madams:-

I am writing to express my vehement objection to the plan to relocate the Harcourt Road Fresh Water Pumping Station to a new site encroaching on Flagstaff House and Hong Kong Park.

The issues are amply addressed in other professional submissions; Ken Borthwick's detailed assessment of August 2014 comes to mind, and I don't think there's any purpose served to rehash his critique. But suffice it to say, the general public looks to its team of governance, embodied by institutions like Legco and professional departments such as the Development Bureau and the Water Supplies Department, to protect the overall interests of the public. In this regard, the selection of the precincts of Hong Kong Park and close proximity to Flagstaff House as a site for a new fresh water pumping station seems particularly inept and with total disregard to the important historic and aesthetic values that this site embodies.

The challenge of wise governance is to weigh cost factors with non-economic externalities such as historic and aesthetic values. For Hong Kong S.A.R., which is awash in surpluses, it is unforgiveable to shortchange the already diminished city-scape with what can only be assumed is an expedient choice on the part of the Water Services Department. While on the topic of governance, it does this Government no good that the progress of this proposal has been characterized by a lack of public consultation; that discussion papers to Legco have been misleading to the point of mendacious; and there is no evidence of proper consideration of obvious alternatives.

It can only further discredit the reputation of this Government in the eyes of the public if such a misconceived and destructive plan is allowed to proceed. We, the public, rely on you, our public servants, to make sure that our voice is respected.

Sincerely,
William G. Swigart

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