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13 March 2018

Ms Anita SIT
Clerk to Finance Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Sit,

**Follow-up to Meeting of Finance Committee on 13 October 2017
FCR(2017-18)33A**

**356WF – Uprating of Tung Chung fresh water supply system
363WF – Upgrading of disinfection facilities in water treatment works
357WF – Design and construction for first stage of desalination plant at
Tseung Kwan O**

At the meeting of the Finance Committee (FC) on 13 October 2017 when members discussed the titled works projects, Hon CHU Hoi-dick requested the Government to provide supplementary information on the calculation of the production capacity of the first and second stage of the desalination plant meeting 10% of the total fresh water demand in Hong Kong. The relevant information is provided as follows –

A reliable fresh water supply is of paramount importance in sustaining Hong Kong's development and economic growth. However, our fresh water resources, which come from the yield collected from local gathering ground and raw water imported from Dongjiang (DJ) in Guangdong Province, are both vulnerable to climate change such as unforeseen drought condition. That aside, the reliability of fresh water supply to Hong Kong is also facing other challenges such as increasing water demand arising from population and economic growth as

well as keen competition for DJ water resource due to the rapid economic development in the Pearl River Delta Region. With the increasing water demand and the possible impact of climate change, we need to develop strategic additional water resources which are not susceptible to climate change to safeguard water security in Hong Kong, including building a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O.

The proposed desalination plant is planned to be constructed in two stages. The first stage of the plant will have a production capacity of 135 000 cubic metres per day with provisions for future expansion up to 270 000 cubic metres per day to meet around 5% to 10% of the total fresh water demand in Hong Kong (which is around 2 700 000 cubic metres per day in 2016). With reference to overseas experiences, the proposed first stage of the desalination plant is a medium-sized plant which is of sufficiently large scale on its own to achieve an economy of scale. Whilst the first stage of the plant is targeted for commissioning in 2022, we shall take into account the latest assessment of various factors including climate change, water supply resources and water demand to determine the timing for implementing the second stage.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vitus NG', written in a cursive style.

(Vitus NG)
for Secretary for Development