

LETTERHEAD OF The Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society

26th September 1998

Miss Odelia LEUNG
LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs

(Fax No. 2877 8024)

Dear Miss LEUNG,

LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs

**Phase I of Environmental Impact Assessment for Stage II
Of the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme**

I only just received the SSDS EIA Study Briefing Document from consultants today. I am afraid I cannot send my comment before your deadline. I am pleased to see that the consultants consider disinfection as necessity to SSDS. This is being further improvement from the IRP back in 1994.

Before I draw my conclusion from the data in the Briefing Document, I would like to address the following points:

1. We have to agree on what do we mean by 'accepted quality' of the effluent from the sewage. According to the report, the study finds that there will be no toxic chemicals if CEPT to be used with disinfection and that no harmful pathogens will be released. As the study shows that ??? 2 to 7 of figure 3 of the Briefing Document will eliminate any harmful chemicals and pathogens that is likely to cause health risk to our local community. We should go for the most cost-effective option.
2. As to the oceanic outfall is it really necessary for the cost of about \$1 billion just for the slight increase in dilution of the effluent. Since most of the harmful substance are removed by CEPT and disinfection.
3. With reference to the Nitrogen content of the effluent, there is a small chance that it might cause occurrence of red tide. This will cause adverse effect to the proposed marine park in south-west Lamma. We would prefer the scenario 3, i.e., the outfall is to be sited at south-west Lamma if the oceanic outfall is considered necessary.

We hope to see that the final option should allow further upgrade in the future if needed. Having considered the above points, we hope that our water quality

objective to be achieved as soon as possible since the water quality is severely affecting our lives. We would like to recommend the Option 1 of page 29 in the document, i.e., SSDS Stage II to be treated with CEPT and disinfection, if considered necessary, with the south-west Lamma outfall at the later stage.

According to the data provided by the consultants, we believe that Option I would have minimum impact on the local community and dolphins as well as our marine lives, and most cost effective.

Both EPD and the consultants are congratulated for the objective and comprehensive data provided with practical solution suggested to solve our sewage problem.

With best regards,

John M.K. Wong
Chairman