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By Fax and by Hand

15 January 2003

Ms Anita SIT
Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road, Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Ms Sit,

Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 18 December 2002

**PWSC(2002-03)74 – Tai O Development, package 4,
stage II engineering works**

At the Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 18 December 2002, some Members urged the Administration to enhance the aesthetic aspects of the design of the seawall and breakwater under the Tai O Development, package 4, stage II engineering works project.

In order to preserve the original outlook of the historic seawall, we will salvage the old seawall blocks for use as facing stones. The seawall will be restored as a valuable attribute of Tai O in cultural heritage to match with the surrounding environment.

We have also studied the feasibility of providing soft landscaping on the proposed new breakwater. As the crest of the breakwater is subject to the saltwater spray and occasional wave overtopping during storms, it would not provide a favourable habitat for planting. Raising or widening the breakwater to reduce wave overtopping effects would not be cost effective and would still leave planting areas liable to deterioration due to salt water spray. Planting along the crest of the breakwater is therefore not recommended.

Nevertheless, we would endeavour to reduce the contrast of the proposed breakwater with the surrounding environment. We will select appropriate rock armour to be used above sea level to give a more harmonious appearance.

Yours sincerely,

(S C YIP)
Assistant Director (Civil)/Project Management
for Director of Civil Engineering

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