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30 April 2007

Clerk to Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Anita SIT)

Dear Ms Sit,

Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

**Subcommittee to Review the Planning for the Central Waterfront
(including the Tamar Site)**

Meeting on 7 May 2007

I refer to your letter dated 13 April 2007 to the Director of Administration on the above subject.

The Government is conducting tender assessment for the Tamar Development Project. As the tender exercise involves the interests of four tenderers and over 100 sub-contractors/consultants, the Government has to be very careful in handling every single detail to ensure the fairness and integrity of the whole tendering process.

Under established procedures, only designated personnel responsible for tender assessment are privy to details of tender submissions. Given the importance and uniqueness of the Tamar Development Project, the Government has, on an unprecedented basis, launched a two-month public viewing exercise to give the public an opportunity to view the tender designs and comment on their design and aesthetics aspects.

For the purpose of the public viewing exercise, we have requested tenderers to provide a physical model, 18 display boards and a five-minute video to highlight their design philosophy, key features and merits of their proposals. We believe the exhibit materials can offer adequate information for the public to better understand the tender designs so that they may comment on their design and aesthetics aspects. To prevent any foul-play, the Government has appointed an independent consultant (the Public Policy Research Institute of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University) to collate and analyse, in a fair and impartial manner, the public comments received during the exercise. The consultant will also conduct telephone polls and exit polls to triangulate the public views collected.

The Administration has to strike a balance between allowing greater public participation in the project and safeguarding the integrity of the tender exercise. In this regard, the Government has advised all the relevant parties to avoid any comments or moves that may prejudice or be perceived as prejudicing the fairness and integrity of the tender process. We have also laid down clear stipulations in the tender document prohibiting the tenderers from explaining their tender proposals to the public, or responding to any views and comments received from the public and the media in relation to their tender proposals during the tender period. To avoid any perception of government favouring any particular tenderer or misrepresenting any tender details, the Government has to refrain from any discussion of tender submissions. As such, we will not be able to attend the meeting.

As for the coordination between the Tamar project and the future Central Waterfront Promenade, I attach an information paper which sets out the Administration's consolidated response. The waterfront promenade would hinge on the final recommendations of the "Central Reclamation Urban Design Study" now being undertaken by the Planning Department. We understand that the Planning Department will soon engage the public on the Central Reclamation Urban Design Study. I hope the paper will provide Members with some background information for their reference.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Winnie Wong)
for Director of Administration