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15 June 2009

Clerk to the Finance Committee Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road, Central Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms. Anita SIT)

Dear Ms. Sit,

Finance Committee Follow-up to Meeting on 22 May 2009 PWSC(2009-10)22

We refer to your letter referenced CB1/F/1/10 of 27 May 2009 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury.

In considering the paper referenced PWSC(2009-10)22 on 465CL "Kai Tak development - Kai Tak approach channel and Kwun Tong typhoon shelter improvement works" and 702CL "Kai Tak development - remaining infrastructure works for developments at the former runway", some Members requested the Administration to provide information on the benchmarking water quality aimed to be achieved before proceeding with the creation of the 600-metre opening.

The requested information is set out at Annex for Members' reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Andy YAU)

for Secretary for Development

SFST C.C.

(Attn: Ms. Elsie YUEN)

(Fax: 2530 5921)

CEDD (Attn: Mr. C B MAK)

(Fax: 2577 1069)

Annex

Finance Committee

Follow-up Action to Meeting on 22 May 2009 PWSC(2009-10)22

Benchmarking water and sediment qualities at the Kai Tak Approach Channel

During the planning review of the Kai Tak Development project between 2004 and 2006, we collected samples on site to find out the water and sediment qualities at Kai Tak Approach Channel (KTAC) in order to ascertain the existing environmental conditions at the channel. The results indicated that the dissolved oxygen level of the water at the bottom of the channel was generally around 1 mg/litre and the sediments contain a high concentration of Acid Volatile Sulphide which is an indicator of odourous substance (up to 7,000 mg/kg). This reveals that KTAC is an anaerobic coastal embayment with high organic pollutants, and is prone to giving rise to smelly hydrogen sulphide, thereby the odour problem.

In order to address this problem, we carried out trial treatment of the sediments at the KTAC between 2006 and 2008 using in-situ bioremediation method. The results after treatment indicated significant improvement in the quality of the sediments with 95% of the Acid Volatile Sulphide removed. This provided a useful benchmark for designing the improvement works for the KTAC.

Taking account of the trial treatment, the Kai Tak Development Environmental Impact Assessment Report, approved in March 2009, has recommended a package of mitigation measures to improve the KTAC. These include bioremediation of the sediments, interception of polluted discharges in the hinterland and the creation of a 600-metre opening at the runway to improve flushing of the channel. We will continue to monitor the improvements to the sediments and the water quality through implementation of these measures, first by intercepting the polluted discharges and the bioremediation of the sediments. Our target is to remove 95% Acid Volatile Sulphide in the sediments and to intercept most, if not all, of the polluted discharges in the hinterland by 2013.

With the data collected in the coming few years, we will be able to ascertain the effectiveness of the mitigation measures. We will consult parties concerned with the data and analysis before we proceed with the creation of the proposed 600-metre opening at the runway.