

2 July 2010

Chairman and Members
Subcommittee on Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2010
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong
(Email: cpnien@legco.gov.hk)

Re: Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2010

We OBJECT to excising of 5ha of land from the Clear Water Bay Country Park without having first identified additional land to be included in the same country park as compensation for the loss.

We urge the Legislative Council to ensure there is 'no net-loss' in the total area covered by the Clear Water Bay Country Park and to adopt the following principles:

- A. To protect conservation areas there must be a presumption against encroachment of its boundaries;
- B. Cogent materials must be obtained through due public process demonstrating that the action is 'inevitable', that the development project is 'essential', that it serves a 'public overriding need', and that there is 'no reasonable alternative' prior to considering excising part of a conservation area;
- C. There shall be sufficient and adequate compensation when the boundaries of a conservation area are to be violated;
- D. Notwithstanding other compensation and mitigation measures agreed on, there shall be no-net loss of land and at least the same amount of land of at least a similar quality must be added elsewhere to the conservation area from which land is to be excised.

A failure to ensure a 'no-net loss' policy by the Legislative Council will create a dangerous precedent and result in the continuous and ongoing loss of Hong Kong's unique legacy: its country parks, natural coast line and areas of high ecological value.

Herewith we so submit for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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