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29 June 2010

Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
 Legislative Council Secretariat
 Legislative Council Building
 8 Jackson Road
 Central
 Hong Kong

(Attn : Ms Becky YU)

Dear Ms YU,

**Legislative Council
 Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**363DS – Provision of interception facilities at Jordan Valley Box
 Culvert**

Supplementary information

In considering LC Paper No. CB(1)1923/09-10(03) at the meeting of 24 May 2010, the Panel on Environmental Affairs (EA Panel) requested for supplementary information on implications of the captioned project to Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works (STW), which include –

- (a) the percentage of treatment capacity of Stonecutters Island STW to be used to treat the intercepted flows from Jordan Valley Box Culvert (JVBC);
- (b) the implication to the STW's service life; and
- (c) the additional treatment cost to be incurred.

The Panel also requested for supplementary information on the enforcement actions taken to combat illegal discharges and expedient connections within the catchment of Kai Tak Approach Channel (KTAC).

We wish to provide the following information for Members' reference.

Implications of the project to Stonecutters Island STW

According to our estimations, the daily intercepted flow from JVBC should contain pollutants equivalent to that in around 6 000 cubic metres (m³) of domestic sewage. In comparison with the daily treatment capacity of Stonecutters Island STW at about 1.7 million m³, the intercepted flow is expected to utilise just around 0.35% of the STW's daily treatment capacity. As the wastewater part of the intercepted flow should have formed a portion of the designed sewage flow to Stonecutters Island STW but it has somehow ended up inside the storm water drainage system, the design of Stonecutters Island STW has accounted for such pollutants which would have no adverse impacts on the service life of the STW. The current operating cost for providing daily treatment to 6 000 m³ of domestic sewage is estimated at around \$1.5 million per annum.

Enforcement actions taken to combat illegal discharges and expedient connections

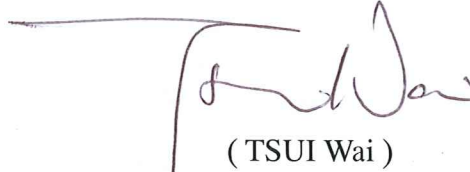
To tackle water pollution and odour problems at KTAC, the Government has made strenuous effort to control pollution at sources, stepped up enforcement against illegal discharge and rectified misconnections from foul sewer to storm drains in the catchment.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has completed detailed investigations of 57 cases of suspected foul sewer-to-storm drains misconnections over the past two years, among which 33 cases were confirmed to be misconnections. 13 cases have already been rectified, whereas EPD is collaborating with various departments to follow up the remaining misconnection cases. As many of the remaining cases involve residential premises, EPD has sought assistance from Buildings Department (BD) to take parallel actions. Besides, EPD's study in 2008 has identified 47 cases of suspected illegal discharges from malpractice of roadside establishments such as restaurants and vehicle repair workshops. EPD has followed up on all these suspected cases as well as stepped up inspection at roadside establishments to deter malpractices, notably the discharge of polluted water into storm drains at roadside. EPD will continue to step up enforcement, combat illegal discharges and rectify misconnections in the catchment as on-going endeavours to improve the water quality of KTAC.

Besides, we have also identified seven cases of public foul sewer-to-storm drain misconnections in the catchment of KTAC. Among these, we have rectified two cases while works are being carried out to rectify four other cases. We are liaising with the Housing Department to prepare for rectifying the last misconnection.

I should be grateful for your kind assistance to distribute this letter to all Members of EA Panel for their reference please.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tsui Wai', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

(TSUI Wai)

for Director of Drainage Services

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn : Miss Sandra LAM)
(Fax : 2147 5240)

Director of Environmental Protection
(Attn : Dr H Y YEUNG)
(Fax : 2575 3371)