

Hong Kong, 6 November 2012

Mr. TSANG Tak Sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs
Home Affairs Bureau
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hab@hab.gov.hk

Mrs. Betty FUNG CHING Suk Yee
Director of Leisure & Cultural Services
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Re: Defer commitments to Bathing Beach at Lung Mei until Environmental Permit has been reviewed

Dear Mr. Tsang and Mrs. Fung,

It is our understanding that the Home Affairs Bureau is the policy bureau and that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is the project proponent, supported by the Port Works Division of the Civil Engineering and Development Department as the works department, for the captioned project.

This is to inform you that the 'Save Lung Mei' alliance of concern groups have as a group and individually submitted substantive information last week to the Secretary for the Environment and the Director of Environmental Protection identifying among others endangered species and alternatives sites not included in the EIA report, and requested a review of the Environmental Permit for the captioned project under section 14 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance.

The Secretary for the Environment and the Director of Environmental Protection cannot dispose of such information by saying that it is government policy that the beach should be built, and must decide for themselves, acting in a quasi judicial manner, whether material information about the project's impacts was concealed or the information presented otherwise causes him to decide to suspend, vary or cancel the environmental permit.

We have requested the Secretary for the Environment and the Director of Environmental Protection to let us know soonest, and before any further financial or contractual commitments are made to the development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei, what their decision is.

A press release issued by the Government on 4 November 2012 refers to a spokesman who explained that the project will be implemented as planned. The press release failed to mention the requests made under section 14 of the EIAO, prompting us to make sure you are aware.

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To minimize the risk of (further) abortive costs for the public we urge the Secretary of Home Affairs and Director of Leisure & Cultural Services to defer further commitments to this project until the Secretary for the Environment and the Director of Environmental Protection have communicated their decision.

Can you confirm the nature and dates of any deadlines you may be facing for this project, and whether or not these have been communicated to the Secretary for the Environment and the Director of Environmental Protection to set a time line for the review of the Environmental Permit? We are keenly interested in avoiding any unnecessary abortive costs for the public.

We request the Secretary of Home Affairs and the Director of Leisure & Cultural Services to let us know soonest what their decision is regarding this deferral, and any deadlines involved.

Separately, new information has become available last week on the extent of the contaminated seabed and the translocation of affected marine life. We are keenly interested in finding out more from you on what the impact is on the feasibility and cost of the project, and when such information will be made available.

Yours sincerely



Paul Zimmerman
CEO
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c.c.

Panel on Environmental Affairs, Legislative Council, regarding their discussion of the development of an artificial beach on the shoreline of Lung Mei in the Meeting on Monday, 26 November 2012

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