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15 April 2016

Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
Central, Hong Kong.
(Attn: Ms. Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms. SHEK,

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Disposal of Chemicals into Dasha River of Shenzhen Bay

I refer to your letter of 23 February 2016 requesting the Administration to update Members on the progress of the captioned matter. Our reply is as follows:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) conducted its monthly water quality monitoring at Deep Bay on 16 March 2016. Monitoring results from the five water monitoring stations show that dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, 5-day biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia-nitrogen and *E. coli* counts were all at normal levels.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) also conducted regular site inspection of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site on 18 February and 11 March 2016. No abnormality in the ecology of the Inner Deep Bay wetlands was observed. AFCD will continue to closely monitor the situation of the wetlands and any impact of the incident on the culture environment of oyster beds and fishing operation at Deep Bay.

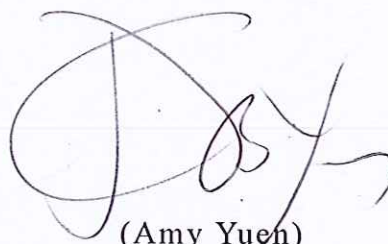
Regarding the small scale trial of sediment treatment at the mouth of Dasha River in Shenzhen Bay, the Shenzhen Municipal Water Affairs Bureau (SZMWAB) has drawn up surveillance and evaluation plans to regularly monitor the quality of the surrounding water. SZMWAB collected for

comparison water samples at the mouth of Dasha River as well as the eastern and western sides of the Dasha River footbridge on 4 February, 17 February and 2 March 2016 respectively. The monitoring results indicate that the turbidity, pH, chemical oxygen demand and ammonia-nitrogen were all at normal levels and there was no abnormality. The odorous condition on-site has been greatly improved and the overall performance evaluation is satisfactory.

SZMWAB has advised that there currently is no plan to conduct sediment treatment on a larger scale. If large-scale sediment treatment is to proceed, apart from studying the chemical reagents involved in greater detail, bench-scale tests and environmental impact assessment will also be undertaken to ensure that the treatment will not cause any adverse environmental impact. In developing schemes for the sediment treatment, SZMWAB will fully consider public views, and communicate with the public effectively to solicit their support. Moreover, reference will be made to the successful experience of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen joint regulation of Shenzhen River, with close liaison with relevant government departments in Hong Kong, so as to ensure that Deep Bay's water quality and ecology meet the established standards.

Over the years, EPD and the Human Settlements and Environment Commission of Shenzhen Municipality have fostered co-operation and exchange of views on environmental matters of mutual concern through the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Environmental Co-operation Forum. EPD will continue to liaise and follow up with the relevant Shenzhen authorities on environmental issues of mutual concern.

Yours sincerely,



(Amy Yuen)

for Director of Environmental Protection

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