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Clerk to Panel on Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Rita Yung)

6 March 2018

Dear Ms Yung,

**Panel on Development
Follow-up Actions to Meeting on 28 November 2017**

At the Panel on Development meeting on 28 November 2017, Members requested supplementary information in relation to the agenda item “PWP Item No. 7804CL – Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Development at Kam Tin South, Yuen Long – Advance Works”. The Government’s response is at **Enclosure**.

Yours sincerely,

(LAI Yiu-kei, Samson)
for Secretary for Development

**Supplementary Information on
“PWP Item No. 7804CL – Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for
Development at Kam Tin South, Yuen Long – Advance Works””**

(a) The ecological impact of the proposed re-provisioning of wetland;

The area of wetland to be affected by the proposed Advance Works is about 0.6 hectares. The proposed re-provisioned wetland has an area of about 0.7 hectares and will be re-provisioned near the junction of Chi Ho Road and Shui Tau Road. The re-provisioned wetland is directly adjoining existing wetlands and will provide a similar habitat as the existing one.

2. Since the re-provisioned wetland is comparatively intact and less affected by traffic, it can provide a replacement habitat with ecological value not less than those affected and mitigate the ecological impact caused by the Advance Works. In addition, the proposed road works affecting the existing wetlands will only commence after completion of the re-provisioning of wetland so that the size of wetlands in the area will not be reduced during the construction of works.

(b) The rationale for not terminating the engineering consultancy agreement with AECOM Asia Company Limited in respect of the relevant site formation and infrastructure works for the development at Kam Tin South, Yuen Long, even after the Company was found to have used the data obtained in the course of exercising its duties under the said consultancy agreement in other non-government projects and hence violated the “confidentiality” and “conflict of interest” requirements; and how the Administration could prevent recurrence of such violation; and

3. Regarding the improper use of information obtained under the government consultancy agreement by AECOM Asia Company Limited (“AECOM”), we have taken regulating action against AECOM in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the Development Bureau Technical Circular (Works) No. 3/2016. AECOM was temporarily suspended from tendering for all categories of engineering consultancy agreements within the jurisdiction of the Engineering and Associated Consultants Selection Board for two months, with effect from 23 June 2017 to

22 August 2017. We consider that the regulating action was in accordance with established policy and of appropriate proportion in handling the incident on improper use of information. Termination of the consultancy agreement was not justified since the performance of AECOM, other than the above-mentioned incident, has been assessed as satisfactory and technically competent in carrying out the consultancy services.

4. In addition, from the perspective of overall management of consultants, we have issued a memorandum in November 2016 requesting all works and relevant government departments to remind consultants employed by them to comply strictly with the “confidentiality” and “conflict of interest” provisions in their consultancy agreements. We are also conducting a review on the consultant management mechanism, which is anticipated to be completed in 2018.

(c) Whether the Administration would consider providing more parking spaces at the housing development projects in Kam Tin South on top of the number required in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines; if it would, the details; if not, the reason.

5. The two West Rail property development projects and the three public housing development sites in Kam Tin South will provide associated parking facilities for residents and visitors, by applying the higher end within the range of parking standard in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. With a view to addressing the local demand for more parking spaces, relevant departments will also further explore the feasibility of providing public parking spaces in the “Government, Institution or Community” and public housing development sites during the detailed design stage.