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3 December 2020

Legislative Council Finance Committee Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms SHEK,

**Views from the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector on  
Studies related to artificial islands in the Central Waters  
(PWP Item No. 768CL)**

I refer to your email of 26 November 2020 to the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, relaying the concerns about the subject matter. Having consulted the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Development Bureau hereby provides our response as enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

(Original signed)  
( Jacky WU )  
for Secretary for Development

C.C.

Director of Planning (Attn: Mr NG Kim-wai)

Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Attn: Mr Raymond IP)

**Views from the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector on  
Studies related to artificial islands in the Central Waters  
(PWP Item No. 768CL)**

In respect of the letter regarding the subject matter submitted by the Legislative Council (LegCo) member, Hon HO Chun-yin, to the LegCo Secretariat on 26 November 2020, having consulting the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Development Bureau hereby provides responses.

As stated in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address, the Government is committed to promoting high value-added and sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries industries. The Government has resumed issuing new marine fish culture licences since the beginning of this year, and is preparing to designate new fish culture zones at four locations in Hong Kong waters to increase fish production. Related environmental impact assessment is underway and is expected to be completed in 2022. The Government also supports Hong Kong fishermen to participate in the development of deep-sea mariculture in the Greater Bay Area. Last year, the Government signed a co-operation agreement with the relevant authorities of the Guangdong Provincial Government, and will provide assistance under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and set up a modern demonstration farm to help the fisheries trade switch to deep-sea mariculture.

We understand that the fisheries sector has grave concern about the potential impact to the sector due to the reclamation in the Central Waters. We will follow up with the Food and Health Bureau, which is responsible for fisheries policy, on policy matters such as assisting the fisheries sector in switching the mode of operation, mechanisms about the ex-gratia allowances for fishermen, etc. We will advance the fisheries impact assessment in the studies and fully consult the stakeholders of the sector on the land use proposals, impact assessments and proposed mitigation measures related to fisheries.

**Development Bureau  
December 2020**