Panel on Development

Extension of Siu Ho Wan Water Treatment Works and improvement of water supply to Sha Tin, Sheung Shui and Fanling

Follow-up Actions of the Meeting held on 23 February 2021

At the meeting held on 23 February 2021, the Panel on Development discussed the proposal on the extension of Siu Ho Wan Water Treatment Works ("WTW") and improvement of water supply to Sha Tin, Sheung Shui and Fanling (LC Paper No. CB(1)531/20-21(07)). The Administration was requested to provide supplementary information on the overall strategy of water supply from various sources, including fresh water from Dongjiang and local reservoirs, desalinated water, salt water and reclaimed water, and how to cope with the anticipated increase in water demand arising from the proposed developments on Lantau and artificial islands in the Central Waters. This paper provides the response of the Administration.

For the long term planning of water supply in Hong Kong, the Water Supplies Department ("WSD") has formulated the Total Water Management Strategy to ensure a reliable water supply to support the sustainable development of Hong Kong. While maintaining the current water supply portfolio (viz. rainwater collected in local catchments, imported water from Dongjiang in Guangdong and seawater for flushing), the Strategy emphasizes enhancing measures to contain the fresh water demand growth (including the use of recycled water for flushing and other non-potable purposes), coupled with increase of raw water supply for combating climate change, such as constructing the first stage of the desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O to build resilience in fresh water supply to cope with extreme effects of climate change. With the implementation of the above water management initiatives, the projected reliable fresh water supply will be able to meet the forecast fresh water demand up to 2040 with enhancement of resilience in fresh water supply as well.

Based on the latest forecast of population distribution and the pace of various development proposals, WSD closely collaborates with relevant government departments and timely plans waterworks in a strategic and orderly manner for meeting the growth in water demand. At present, we are implementing various projects, including in-situ reprovisioning of Sha Tin WTW (South Works) – main works currently under construction; Ngau Tam Mei WTW Extension – investigation study, design and site investigation to be commenced soon; and Siu Ho Wan WTW extension – main works being proposed, to meet the water demand arising from various development projects located in different areas. To cope with the anticipated increase in water demand arising from the proposed developments on artificial islands in the Central Waters, WSD, together with the Civil Engineering and Development Department ("CEDD"), will formulate the strategy of water supply including the sources of water supplies, the requirements of waterworks and the programme of implementation based on the findings from the consultancy study "Artificial Islands in the Central Waters – Investigation" to be jointly commissioned by CEDD and the Planning Department in mid-2021.

Development Bureau Water Supplies Department March 2021