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ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY BUREAU  
(ENVIRONMENT BRANCH)  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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Hong Kong

13 November 2024

Miss Rita YUNG  
Senior Council Secretary (1)2  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss YUNG,

**Panel on Development**  
**Follow-up Actions in relation to Funding Application for**  
**San Tin Technopole Arising from the Meeting on 22 October 2024**

Thank you for your email of 24 October 2024 to the Development Bureau. In consultation with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (“AFCD”), we provide supplementary information as follows.

**(a) Quantitative indicators of the economic benefits created for the aquaculture industry (including the operating density of aquaculture to be implemented, the expected increase in production of aquaculture product, etc.) through the proposed Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park, as well as the aquaculture facilities and technologies proposed to be introduced**

In order to compensate for the fisheries impact arising from the San Tin Technopole project, we explore setting up a “Fisheries Enhancement Zone” within the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (“WCP”) for implementing high-density, high-tech and high-yield aquaculture operations through introducing modernised aquaculture facilities, techniques and comprehensive management, such as recirculation aquaculture systems, smart monitoring systems, species selection, nutrition management, disease prevention and health management, with a view to enhancing the productivity, efficiency and quality of aquaculture for greater economic benefits as well as creating job opportunities for the industry.

According to relevant experiences in other regions, the production of modernised aquaculture practices could be several times higher than that of traditional aquaculture practices. We will, based on the actual situations of each individual area within the “Fisheries Enhancement Zone”, adopt corresponding technologies and configurations and implement different modes of aquaculture operations, with a view to achieving the best cost-effectiveness and balancing between ecological conservation and aquaculture.

**(b) The biodiversity of the area where the proposed Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park is located (including its biological and ecological values), and how the project incarnates the theme of “Biodiversity and Aquaculture in Harmony”**

According to the findings of the Strategic Feasibility Study on the Development of Wetland Conservation Parks System (“the Feasibility Study”) commissioned by the AFCD, the study area of the Sam Po Shue WCP is of high ecological value. The proposed area of the Park is situated along the core section of the flight path for migratory birds, and comprises diverse wetland habitats including fishponds, waterbodies, marshes/reedbeds, and existing ecological compensation areas, which provide feeding and resting grounds for numerous birds. In addition, the proposed area of the Park covers/is in close proximity to many areas of conservation importance, such as the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and Mai Po Nature Reserve, as well as ecologically sensitive areas such as cormorant roosts and egrettries, etc. Therefore, the establishment of the Sam Po Shue WCP and the implementation of proactive ecological enhancement and management measures therein can protect the flight path for migratory birds as a matter of priority, and increase the biodiversity of the area. The establishment of the Sam Po Shue WCP can also create synergy with the adjacent areas with conservation importance and existing ecological compensation wetlands, and provide the opportunity to restore some degraded habitats, thereby further enhancing the ecological value and biodiversity of wetlands in the Park area.

The theme of the Sam Po Shue WCP is “Biodiversity and Aquaculture in Harmony”, which aims to balance and promote ecological conservation and aquaculture. We explore establishing “ecologically enhanced fishponds” in the Park which will serve the dual purposes of nature conservation and pond fish culture. Through taking forward proactive conservation measures such as physical modification, reprofiling and management planning of the fish ponds, the habitat quality and biodiversity of the wetland habitats can be enhanced, increasing the overall ecological function of the wetlands. These “ecologically enhanced fishponds” will primarily adopt traditional aquaculture operations,

while suitably complemented by modernised aquaculture techniques (such as remote monitoring system, automated feeding system, use of renewable energy) to enhance production efficiency. In addition, we explore provision of “enhanced freshwater habitats” in the Park, where proactive conservation measures such as establishing areas of varying water depth, providing dense vegetation cover, maintaining seasonal wetlands, etc., will be implemented to provide birds and other wildlife species with diverse micro-habitats. On the other hand, we explore establishing a “Fisheries Enhancement Zone” to promote modernisation of aquaculture, so as to enhance its productivity, quality and technology, foster scientific research on aquaculture, as well as improve the livelihood of fishermen. Details on modernised aquaculture are also set out in part (a) above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Desmond WU', written in a cursive style.

for Secretary for Environment and Ecology

c.c.

Secretary for Development (Attn: Mr Eric Chung)

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Attn: Mr Eric Liu)