

## APPENDIX 2A: SUMMARY OF PROJECT CONSULTATIONS

Consultations were carried out to solicit the public views and support on the proposed Peng Chau STW Upgrade. The Project Proponent (DSD and/or EPD) and the Consultant (CDM) have consulted the following stakeholders. The brief summary of each consultation is provided below.

- 1) Peng Chau/Discovery Bay Area Committee (17 December 2003)
- 2) Peng Chau Fishermen Association (6 January 2004)
- 3) Green Peng Chau Association (GPCA) (13 January 2004)
- 4) Incorporated Owners' of Sea Crest Villa (15 January 2004)
- 5) Islands District Council (9 February 2004)

### (1) Peng Chau/Discovery Bay Area Committee

Attendants:

- Chairman and members of Peng Chau/Discovery Bay Area Committee
- Representatives of Consultants Management Division of DSD
- Representative of Sewage Infrastructure Planning Group of EPD
- Representatives of CDM

Key concerns raised by Area Committee members included:

- Treatment levels of Peng Chau STW Upgrade and location of proposed submarine outfall.
- Proposed submarine outfall is in the vicinity of ferry route of Discovery Bay/Mui Wo
- Potential impact to marine organisms from submarine outfall construction
- Environmental impacts during operation of the STW Upgrade
- Interference with or impacts to fishing activities during construction of submarine outfall

Issues of treatment levels, potential impact from construction of submarine outfall to marine organism have been addressed in Peng Chau STW Upgrade draft EIA report. The Project Proponent/ Consultant reported the findings of draft EIA report that no insurmountable environmental and marine ecological impacts would be occurred with implementation of recommended mitigation measures. Committee members were also informed of the potential improvement in overall environment, resulting from the implementation of the Project.

Marine traffic issue has also been investigated and it was revealed that the proposed location would not interfere with marine traffic in the vicinity.

Fisheries impact was not considered as a key issue according to EIA study brief. In this connection, the Project Proponent/Consultant had collected views from Peng Chau fishermen with regards to the implementation of the Project.

Members in the Area Committee generally supported the Project.

## **(2) Peng Chau Fishermen Association (PCFA)**

Attendants:

- Chairman and members of PCFA
- Representatives of Consultants Management Division of DSD
- Representative of Sewage Infrastructure Planning Group of EPD
- Representatives of CDM
- Representative of Scott Wilson Limited

The purpose of the meeting was to present the project details to the representatives of the fishermen, namely the PCFA, at Peng Chau so as to gather their views at the early phase of this Project.

PCFA was well aware of the benefits of the Project to the development of Peng Chau. However, PCFA proposed that the orientation of the submarine outfalls could be moved to the north-west side of Tai Lei Island (See **Figure A2-1**) which would give a better dispersion based on their fishing experience. In addition, PCFA suggested that the disposal route of the marine vessel during the construction phase should avoid moving close to Chi Ma Wan, which is in a close proximity of fish culture zone. It was also suggested that the marine vessel should pass the east side of Chau Kung To before turning to the west side, if required.

To address the dispersion issue, the Project Proponent/Consultant explained that the effluent discharge via the outfall pipes would be designed at a high standard after the secondary treatment and the quality of the effluent discharge would meet relevant environmental standards having regards to the proposed treatment process, submarine outfall configurations, the current and tidal conditions of the receiving water body, etc. After the meeting, a review was conducted on the PCFA suggested submarine outfall location, which falls within the same area as Option B in the submarine outfall selection sections. No observable difference was noted between the PCFA suggested submarine outfall and Option B outfall. Option B was not selected as the preferred submarine outfall location as it is less favoured than Option A in terms of potential environmental impacts.

The Project Proponent/Consultant appreciated the suggestions provided by the PCFA and would include the proposed marine vessel disposal route in the contract document to ensure that the Contractor would follow the requirement to minimise the potential environmental impacts.

The PCFA representatives generally supported the Project.

### **(3) Green Peng Chau Association (GPCA)**

Attendants:

- Chairman and members of GPCA
- Representative of Consultants Management Division of DSD
- Representatives of CDM
- Representative of Oceanway Corporation Limited

GPCA raised an issue that in a dive survey performed in 2001 near Tai Lei Island of Peng Chau, a species of seahorse (*hippocampus kuda*) was found. The effluent from the outfall pipe may have impact on marine ecology. Other issues of concerns are the under-estimation of designed population served by the Project, waste disposal, odour problem and water quality impact. GPCA also questioned if renewable energy would be used in the Project.

Representative of Oceanway Corporation Limited, who performed the 2001 dive survey, explained that the seahorse found was not a protected species and could be found in other areas of Hong Kong. Unlike sessile marine organisms, seahorse would swim away from the affected area and the potential impact is considered insignificant. In addition, based on the underwater diving experience, the proposed outfall pipes would be the best option with the least impact to the marine ecology. With regards to effluent discharge, the Consultant stated that the existing treatment plant would be upgraded to provide secondary treatment with denitrification to remove most harmful materials in the sewage and the effluent quality would be much better than the existing discharge. Impact on marine ecology is not envisaged.

The Consultant explained that the design was based on the latest population forecast provided by the Planning Department. The design of the STW Upgrade would take into account the safety factors, buffer capacity and standby units to ensure that the plant would give a reliable quality of effluent. Other environmental issues have been assessed in the Draft EIA and no insurmountable impacts were envisaged with implementation of adequate mitigation measures.

As of the issue of renewable energy, the GPCA was informed that the STW design would minimise the energy consumption and the use of renewable energy might not be cost-effective in view of the complexity of the engineering requirements.

GPCA showed their support to the implementation of the project. However, they requested the government to conduct more consultation exercise to increase the transparency of the works. The Project Proponent informed GPCA that apart from following the statutory procedures and requirements for public consultation, relevant parties including the Peng Chau/ Discovery Bay Area Committee, Peng Chau Fishermen Association have been consulted. Views from residents in Sea Crest Villa would be collected.

### **(4) Incorporated Owners' of Sea Crest Villa (IOSEA)**

Attendants:

- Chairman, vice-chairman and members of IOSEA
- Representative of Consultants Management Division of DSD

- Representatives of CDM

Representatives from Incorporated Owners of Sea Crest Villa was briefed by the Project Proponent and Consultant on the implementation schedules, construction sequences, of the proposed Peng Chau STW Upgrade. The findings of draft EIA where environmental parameters of concern would be in compliance with relevant environmental criteria and standards with provision of recommended mitigation measures were also presented.

IOSCV suggested that the Project proponent should improve the appearance of the STW. This was noted by the Project Proponent and the Consultant.

IOSCV showed their support to the implementation of the Project.

#### **(5) Islands District Council (IDC)**

Attendants:

- Chairman and members of Islands District Council
- Representatives of Consultants Management Division of DSD
- Representative of Sewage Infrastructure Planning Group of EPD
- Representatives of CDM

IDC members were briefed by the Project Proponent on the provision of submarine outfall, the implementation schedule and the findings of EIA with regards to air quality, noise, water quality, sediment contamination, solid waste management, marine ecology, cultural heritage, as well as Environmental Monitoring and Audit. Impacts on marine traffic were also assessed. None of the impacts were insurmountable with provision of adequate mitigation measures.

The IDC members were concerned that construction and operation of submarine outfall would have impact in the Peng Chau and Discovery Bay marine environment. The Consultant explained that the EIA result revealed that construction of submarine outfall would not have unacceptable impacts to Peng Chau and Discovery Bay marine environment. Operational phase impacts were also unlikely as wastewater would undergo secondary treatment, resulting in high quality of effluent.

IDC stated that the appearance of the proposed STW upgrade should be aesthetic. IDC urged the Project Proponent that the STW Upgrade should be completed as early as possible and try to minimize the environmental impacts to Peng Chau residents during construction phase.

IDC showed their support to the implementation of the project.

