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ACE-EIA Paper 5/2009
For advice

Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499)
Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Hang Hau Tsuen Channel at Lau Fau Shan

PURPOSE

This paper outlines the key findings and recommendations of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report on the improvement works on Hang Hau Tsuen Channel at Lau Fau Shan (hereafter known as "the Project"), submitted under section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) (Application No. ESB-163/2008). The EIA report will be presented by the applicant, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), and their consultants at the meeting, if necessary.

ADVICE SOUGHT

2. Members' advice is sought on the findings and recommendations of the EIA report pursuant to section 7 of the EIAO.

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

3. According to CEDD, the Project is to alleviate flooding in the catchment by converting the existing Hang Hau Tsuen stream between Deep Bay and Deep Bay Road to an engineered channel that will meet the required flood protection standards.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

4. The location of the Project is shown in **Figure 1**. The Project involves mainly the construction of a 370 m long drainage channel between Deep Bay and

Deep Bay Road.

5. The proposed drainage channel will discharge into an area within 300 m from the nearest boundary of an existing Coastal Protection Area. The project is a designated project under the EIAO by virtue of item I.1(b) (vi) of Schedule 2, Part I of the EIAO.

SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS TO HIGHLIGHT

Ecology and Fisheries

6. Within the project area, 0.08 ha of mangrove will be retained. To compensate the loss of 0.07 ha of mangrove, the same size of mangrove will be planted at the downstream. Besides, the proposed drainage channel will be constructed with environment-friendly design. Grasscrete will be placed at the upper stream of the channel. A layer of approximately 100 mm thick original river bed material will be added on top of the rip-rap bedding of the dry weather flow channel to recreate a natural stream environment (see **Figure 2** attached).

7. Potential impacts on capture fisheries, oyster farming and pond culture in Lau Fau Shan and Inner Deep Bay will be insignificant. With respect to ecology and fisheries, the Project with the recommended mitigation measures in place will meet the requirements in the Technical Memorandum on Environmental Impact Assessment Process (TM).

Landscape and Visual Impacts

8. In relation to the landscape impacts, the Project would result in a loss of 16 nos. of trees. With the preservation of other existing trees, the transplanting of trees and the compensatory planting, the project area will contain about 114 nos. of trees. The landscape and visual impacts during the construction and operational stage will be acceptable after implementation of the recommended mitigation measures (see **Figure 2** attached).

Other Environmental Impacts

9. The EIA report also assessed the impacts on air quality, noise, water quality and waste management aspects. The assessments concluded that, with appropriate mitigation measures in place, the anticipated environmental impacts in all these aspects could be controlled within the requirements of the TM.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND AUDIT

10. The EIA report includes an Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) Manual which recommends an EM&A programme during both the construction and operation phases of the Project, in particular for air quality, noise, water quality, waste management, ecology, and landscape & visual impacts.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. The applicant has planned to consult the Yuen Long District Council on 9 March 2009. The EIA report is available for the public to comment under the EIAO from 5 February 2009 to 6 March 2009. Members will be briefed on any public comments received at the meeting.

February 2009
Environmental Assessment Division
Environmental Protection Department

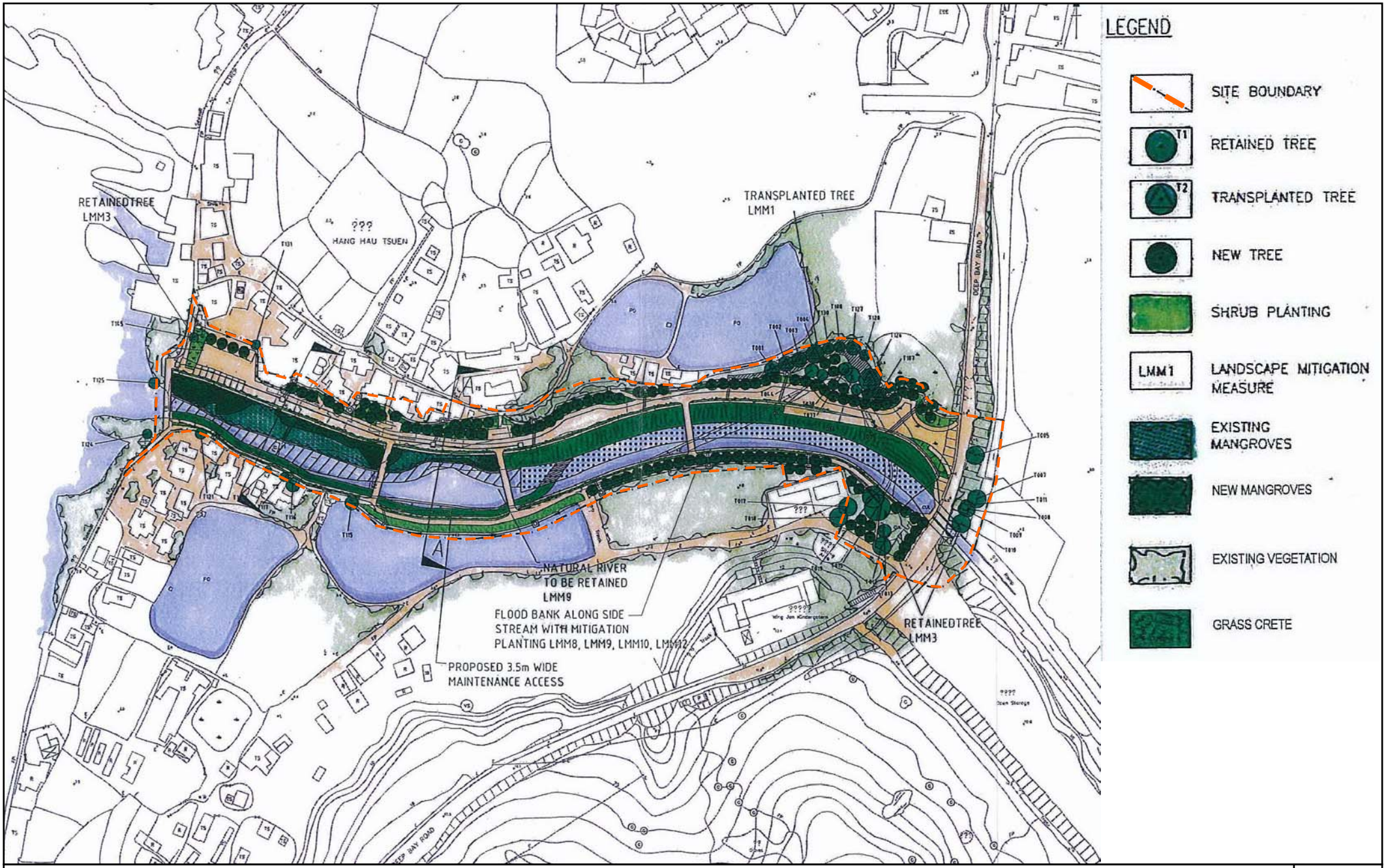

Figure 1: Hang Hau Tsuen Channel at Lau Fau Shan

Figure 2: Photomontage-view North from Hang Hau Tsuen during the Project Operation