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For advice by circulation

Report on the 155th Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting

PURPOSE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on “**Hung Shui Kiu Effluent Polishing Plant**” (the Project) submitted under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on 15 August 2022. The EIA report was submitted by the Drainage Services Department (the Project Proponent).

2. Members are requested to note the views of the EIA Subcommittee and advise on whether the EIA report should be endorsed.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

3. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region plans to develop the Hung Shui Kiu / Ha Tsuen New Development Area (HSK/HT NDA) to meet the territory’s medium to long-term need for housing development. Within the HSK/HT NDA, about 5.2 hectares of land is reserved for the Project to treat the sewage generated from the HSK/HT NDA and other developments in the North West New Territories (NWNT).

4. The Project is to construct and operate a Secondary plus Nitrification, Denitrification and Disinfection sewage treatment works comprising a sewage treatment plant, the associated supporting structures and the food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion facilities. The HSK/HT NDA is proposed to accommodate a population of approximately 176,000 and generate about 15,000 employment opportunities upon its full development.

5. Please refer to ACE-EIA Paper 7/2022 (*Annex A*) for the details of the EIA project.

VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

6. Members noted that the EIA report was made available for public inspection during the period from 15 June to 14 July 2022. During the inspection period, no public comment had been received by the Environmental Protection Department.

7. Relevant extract of the draft minutes of the EIA Subcommittee meeting held on 15 August 2022 is at *Annex B*.

VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

8. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with relevant authorities, considered that the EIA report has met the requirements in the EIA Study Brief and the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process, for the purpose of its exhibition for public inspection under Section 7(4) of the EIAO.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

9. Having regard to the findings of the EIA report as well as the information provided by the Project Proponent and its consultants at the meeting, the EIA Subcommittee recommended the full Council to endorse the EIA report with the following conditions and recommendations –

Conditions of Endorsement

The Project Proponent shall –

- (i) devise a detailed Compensatory Tree Planting Implementation Plan (the Plan) with engagement of terrestrial ecologist(s), which shall include details of the planting objectives, planting numbers and locations and list of tree species to be used, with the aim to enhance ecological values and urban biodiversity. Native tree species shall be deployed as far as possible, unless the deployment of exotic species would bring ecological enhancements. The Project Proponent shall consult the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC) on the Plan prior to submission to the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) for approval before the commencement of compensatory tree planting; and
- (ii) develop a contingency and response plan (the Plan) for handling potential overflow of effluent under adverse weather conditions and emergency discharges due to other incidents such as power supply failure or maintenance works. The Project Proponent shall consult the DAFC on the Plan prior to submission to the DEP for approval before the commencement of the project.

Recommendations

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (i) liaise proactively with the Environmental Protection Department to put in place appropriate odour control measures with a view to minimising odour emissions during the transportation of food waste to the project site;
- (ii) minimise the generation of construction and demolition (C&D) waste as well as reuse and recycle on site the C&D materials generated from the project as far as possible; and
- (iii) explore ways to adopt green design and construction approach such as proper scheduling of construction programme to avoid repetitive works, offsite construction methods and assemble the building blocks on site, reuse building materials and felled trees as well as the choice of suitable and durable materials with the aim to minimise carbon emissions from the project and achieve carbon neutrality.

**EIA Subcommittee Secretariat
September 2022**