Annex A

EIA Report on Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Ngau Tam Mei and Tin Shui Wai Drainage Improvement Stage 1, Phase 2B – Kam Tin, Secondary Drainage Channel KT13

Project Proponent's Response to Public Comments received by EPD

(1) Mikania colonization

We will conduct a Mikania monitoring program as part of the operational phase (vegetation establishment) Environmental Maintenance and Audit (EM&A) of this project.

For long term measure, it is recommended that Drainage Services Department (DSD) regularly inspect the gabion channel for presence of Mikania. If Mikania is found, DSD should carry out Mikania-specific clearance work with reference to Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's (AFCD) Nature Conservation Practice Note No. 1/2003 – Clearing Mikania. Where appropriate, advice from the relevant authorities (e.g. AFCD) would be sought prior to any clearance work.

(2) Riparian vegetation

Landscape planting with portion of shading similar to the existing channel would be provided in the new channel.

(3) Stream bed substratum

It is recommended that a minimum of 75 mm thick sediment be allowed to accumulate at the channel bed to permit recolonization of benthos community.

(4) Maintenance of the new channels

<u>Avoidance of dredging and deployment of heavy machine on stream bed</u>

It should be noted that removal of sediment on stream bed cannot be totally avoided and desilting works are required either to maintain the hydraulic capacity of the channel regularly or to remove imminent flooding risk during emergency situation. Nevertheless, we have recommended environmentally friendly measures to minimize impacts during maintenance of the proposed channels in Section 4.9.2 (ii) of the EIA. This is quoted below for easy reference.

"Potentially adverse impacts arising from the maintenance of the channelized sections will be minimized by restricting routine channel maintenance to annual silt removal by hand or light machinery during the dry season (October to March). The management of woody / emergent vegetation will be limited to manual cutting, to be carried out only when unchecked growth of such vegetation is very likely to impede channel flow."

Environmentally friendly maintenance scheme for this project

The following good practice for the planning and execution of desilting and maintenance works will be implemented for this project –

- Maintenance of the channelized sections should be restricted to annual silt removal when the accumulated silt will adversely affect the hydraulic capacity of the channel except during emergency situations where flooding risk is imminent. Desilting will be carried out by hand or light machinery during the dry season (October to March) when water flow is low. The management of woody / emergent vegetation should be limited to manual cutting, to be carried out during dry season and only when unchecked growth of such vegetation is very likely to impede channel flow.

- A minimum of 75 mm thick of sediment should be allowed to accumulate on the channel bed to permit recolonization of benthos community.

- Phasing of the works should be considered to better control and minimize any impacts caused, and to provide refuges for aquatic organisms. Works would be carried out phase by phase in short sections of the watercourse. A free passage along the watercourse should be provided to maintain water flow as well as the integrity of aquatic community.

- Containment structures (such as sand bags barrier) should be provided for the active desilting works area to facilitate a dry or at least confined working area within the watercourses.

- Where no maintenance access is available for the channel, temporary access to the works site should be carefully planned and located to minimize disturbance caused to the channel, adjacent vegetation and nearby sensitive receivers by maintenance equipment.

- Temporary stockpile of waste materials should be located away from the channel and properly covered. These waste materials should be disposed of in a timely and appropriate manner.

- If the presence of the invasive weed Mikania (*Mikania micrantha*) (薇甘菊) is found in the gabion channels, Mikania-specific clearance work should be carried out with reference to AFCD's Nature Conservation Practice Note No. 1/2003 – Clearing Mikania. Where necessary, advice from the relevant authorities (e.g. AFCD) should be also sought prior to any clearance work.

- Maintenance of the bypass culvert should be restricted to dry season (October to March) to avoid potential disturbance to the Ho Pui Egretry except during emergency situations where flooding risk is imminent.