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**ACE Paper 21/2016**

***For advice on 12 December 2016***

**Report on the 137<sup>th</sup>  
Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting**

**PURPOSE**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee (EIASC) considered the following EIA reports at the meeting on 21 November 2016 –

- (i) Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works (***ACE-EIA Paper 9/2016 at Annex A***); and
- (ii) Port Shelter Sewerage Stage 3 - Sewerage Works at Po Toi O (***ACE-EIA Paper 10/2016 at Annex B***).

2. The above EIA reports were submitted by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) in accordance with section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO).

3. Members are requested to consider the views of EIA Subcommittee at paragraphs 12 below and advise on the way forward for handling the EIA reports.

**BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECTS**

**(A) EIA Report on “Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works”**

4. The existing Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works (STKSTW) is located at Sha Tau Kok Town. It currently provides secondary level treatment to sewage collected from Sha Tau Kok area, with a design capacity of 1,660 m<sup>3</sup> / day at average dry weather flow (ADWF). The Project will increase its treatment capacity to 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> / day at ADWF in two phases, with enhancement through adopting membrane-bioreactor (MBR) type treatment process and provision of a new submarine outfall.

5. Based on the latest planning data and village sewerage programme, the existing capacity of STKSTW will be fully committed in early 2019. The Project is needed to meet projected sewage treatment demand arising from planned development and population growth in the Sha Tau Kok area, as well as planned extension of village sewerage.

**(B)EIA report on “Port Shelter Sewerage Stage 3 - Sewerage Works at Po Toi O”**

6. Po Toi O is located in the southern part of Sai Kung District, next to Clear Water Bay. As presented in the EIA Report, there is no public sewerage system in Po Toi O village. Sewage and wastewater generated by local restaurants and residents are treated and disposed of by means of private septic tanks and soakaway systems (STS). The Project Proponent has proposed a centralized public sewage treatment facility and public sewers under the Port Shelter Sewerage Master Plan Stage 3, with a view to improving environmental hygiene in the Po Toi O area.

7. The proposed sewerage work is an environmental enhancement project that aims to improve local hygiene conditions and remove odour nuisances associated with regular desludging the STS by villagers. It is also a preventive measure to avoid potential environmental problems arising from ineffective treatment or overflow of sewage due to insufficient desludging or structural defect of the STS.

**VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

8. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in conjunction with the relevant authorities, considered that the EIA reports have met the respective requirements of the EIA Study Brief and the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process. Comments from the public and the Advisory Council on the Environment will be taken into account by DEP in deciding whether or not to approve the EIA reports under the EIAO.

**VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

9. The EIA reports on “Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works” and “Port Shelter Sewerage Stage 3 - Sewerage Works at Po Toi O” were made available for public inspection from 2 September to 1 October 2016 and from 15 September to 14 October 2016 respectively. No public comment was received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in respect of the EIA report on “Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works”. The public comments on “Port Shelter Sewerage Stage 3 - Sewerage Works at Po Toi O” received by the EPD during the inspection period and gist of the public comments were issued to EIA Subcommittee Members on 8 November 2016 for

reference, with copies to non-Subcommittee Members for information.

10. A summary of the key issues discussed at the EIA Subcommittee meeting on the two EIA reports on 21 November 2016 is prepared at **Annex C**.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

11. Having considered the findings of the EIA reports as well as the responses and supplementary information provided by the respective Project Proponents, the EIA Subcommittee recommended the full Council to endorse the EIA reports with the following conditions and recommendations –

### **(A) EIA report on “Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works”**

#### ***Conditions of Endorsement***

The Project Proponent shall—

- (a) submit a Demolition Noise Mitigation Measures Plan (DNMMP) before the commencement of demolition of the existing structures in the STKSTW and Sha Tau Kok Sewage Pumping Station (STKSPS). The DNMMP shall include the use of low-noise technology and equipment to minimize demolition noise impact on the nearby noise sensitive receivers;
- (b) submit a detailed Landscape and Planting Plan (LPP) for the project site, including tree planting, rooftop and vertical greening to facilitate the STKSTW structures to harmonize with the surrounding natural environment. Native tree and plant species compatible with the STKSTW structures should be considered to provide better screening effect and to mitigate the landscape and visual impacts especially when viewing from the Starling Inlet. The LPP shall be submitted to the DEP for approval before commencement of the implementation of planting and landscape works;

#### ***Recommendations***

- (c) consider the adoption of remedial measures for the permanent loss of habitat and fishing ground due to the diffuser footprint;

- (d) liaise with relevant government departments to examine the feasibility of increasing the re-use of treated effluent by exploring its use outside the project site;
- (e) re-use surplus inert construction and demolition (C&D) materials generated from the project site in-situ as far as practicable;
- (f) minimize the odour impact such that the existing odour condition can be improved; and
- (g) ensure the sustainability of the development by achieving “Gold or above” rating under BEAM Plus (New Buildings) in the project design.

**(B) EIA report on “Port Shelter Sewerage Stage 3 - Sewerage Works at Po Toi O”**

***Conditions of Endorsement***

The Project Proponent shall—

- (a) conduct a supplementary fish survey using standard methods to assess the impact on fish fauna and fisheries resources in the vicinity of the planned location of the outfall diffuser before the construction of the submarine outfall of the project. Details of the supplementary fish survey shall be submitted to the DEP for approval before commencement of the survey;
- (b) devise a detailed plan on the structure and design of the retaining wall as well as the façade treatment of the sewage treatment plant with a view to harmonizing the structures with the surrounding natural environment. Measures to ensure the sustainable growth of climbing plants in respect of the species, planting area, soil depth and irrigation method should also be included. The detailed plan shall be submitted to the DEP for approval before commencement of the construction and landscape works; and

### ***Recommendations***

- (c) ensure the sustainability of the development by achieving “Gold or above” rating under BEAM Plus (New Buildings) in the project design.

12. EIA Subcommittee has agreed that the Project Proponents and their consultant teams for the two EIA reports are not required to attend the full Council meeting on 12 December 2016.

**EIA Subcommittee Secretariat  
December 2016**