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**ACE Paper 7/2020**  
***For advice by circulation***

**Report on the 146<sup>th</sup>  
Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting**

**PURPOSE**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee deliberated the EIA report on “Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah (Town Centre Section)” submitted under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on 15 June 2020. The EIA report was submitted by the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”) (the Project Proponent).

2. Members are requested to note the views of the EIA Subcommittee in paragraph 9 below and advise whether the EIA report should be endorsed or not.

**BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

3. The existing Yuen Long Town Nullah (YLTN) was constructed in mid 1960s to alleviate the flooding risks in the Northwest New Territories and is one of the oldest drainage systems in Hong Kong. In January 2007, DSD commissioned a feasibility study to investigate various options for improving the design and environmental conditions of the YLTN. The study recommended intercepting the polluted dry weather flow (DWF) to the nullah for treatment in the existing Yuen Long Sewage Treatment Works (YLSTW) to alleviate the odour nuisance from the YLTN. It also recommended landscaping works to be undertaken along the nullah for beautification purpose in order to bring beneficial landscape and visual impacts. The proposed project will involve the installation of the dry weather flow interception system (DWFIS) while the landscaping and beautification schemes will be taken forward under the future Yuen Long Barrage Scheme (YLBS).

4. The polluted DWF discharging into the YLTN has been causing nuisance to nearby residents. The project is proposed to resolve the odour problem through the provision of a covered DWFIS. The YLBS will greatly draw down the water level in YLTN and provide more options for the landscaping and beautification schemes. According to the Project Proponent, a separate EIA study will be conducted for the YLBS.

5. Please refer to the ACE-EIA Paper 2/2020 at *Annex A* for details.

## **VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

6. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with all relevant authorities, considered that the EIA report had met the requirements of 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. Comments from the public and the ACE will be taken into account by DEP in deciding whether or not to approve the EIA report under the EIAO.

## **VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

7. The public inspection period of the said EIA report lasted from 22 April to 21 May 2020. A total of 25 sets of public comments had been received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). All public comments were submitted to Members of the Subcommittee for consideration on 4 June 2020.

8. Relevant extract of the draft minutes of the EIA Subcommittee meeting on the deliberation of the EIA report held on 15 June 2020 is at *Annex B*.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

9. Having considered all information available, including the findings of the EIA report, public comments, further information provided by the Project Proponent and its consultants at the meeting on 15 June 2020, the EIA Subcommittee agrees to recommend to the full Council to endorse the EIA report with the following condition and recommendations –

### ***Condition of Endorsement***

The Project Proponent shall submit a Water Quality Monitoring Plan (the Plan) as part of the updated Environmental Monitoring and Audit Manual, to detect potential adverse water quality impacts at the Project and downstream area directly affected by the Project, and the additional measures to be taken in the event of heavy rainfall during dry seasons to ensure the water quality is not

adversely affected. The Plan shall be submitted to DEP for approval before commencement of construction of the Project.

### ***Recommendations***

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (a) adopt a holistic approach and achieve the synergy in the planning of beautification works and ecological enhancement measures, as well as developing a water-friendly culture in the Yuen Long Town Nullah area. The adoption of the “Sponge City” concept and identification of alternative and additional freshwater sources to maintain the water flow especially during dry seasons should be explored. Furthermore, consideration should be given to enhancing environmental sustainability and incorporating green elements in the beautification of the Yuen Long Town Nullah;
- (b) identify and control water pollution at source as far as possible to control the polluted flow entering the Yuen Long Town Nullah; and
- (c) minimise the generation of and reuse surplus inert construction and demolition (C&D) materials in-situ as far as practicable.

10. Members of the EIA Subcommittee have also agreed at the meeting that the Project Proponent would not be required to attend the full Council meeting scheduled for Monday, 6 July 2020.

**EIA Subcommittee Secretariat  
July 2020**