



received 16/11.

綠色學生聯會 GREEN STUDENT COUNCIL

Dear Sir/Madam,

Green Student Council is a registered green group established in 1994 concerning on various local environmental issues and dedicating to environmental education for youth.

We generally support the works of government in order to enhance the water quality of Victoria Harbour, we think that it is in the right path towards a sustainable development and achieve continuous improvement of the water quality. However, we would like to address our following concerns for your considerations:

Instead of phasing into two stages which the date of implementation of 2B is uncertain, we would opt for building new or upgrade the existing biological treatment facilities as soon as possible given the urgent need for improving the ever deteriorating water quality in Victoria Harbour. The proposed stage 2B should be implemented without delay-and a timetable scheduling the progress and monitoring of work is expected.

We also support the "Polluter Pays Principle" acknowledging citizens' social responsibility and believe the measure may help reduce sewage water to be discharged from point source. We generally consider that an average monthly charge of not more than \$50 per household would be acceptable.

The consultation document claimed that the provision of disinfection under Stage 2A alone will remove over 99.9% of the sewage bacteria from the sewage. Although chemical disinfection method could be used for primary treated effluent, but the effectiveness or performance of disinfection would decrease with the presence of organic pollutants in the sewage only receiving chemically enhanced primary treatment. It is doubt whether such a high level of 99.9% removal of sewage bacteria could be achieved. On the other hand, studies show that biological treatment alone could remove 99% of sewage bacteria which is already a satisfactory level. It seems more practical to put full strength in upgrading the treatment process to biological treatment before applying disinfection.

The document also stated that a performance based specification would be used for the design and construction of the biological treatment plant. In determining the specification, it would be better not to just specify the effluent standards requirement but also consider the overall environmental performance of the treatment plant as a whole. Targets such as minimizing solid waste disposal and reducing energy consumption should also be considered.

In response to the consultation document on Harbour Areas Treatment Scheme Stage2, we principally support the project and agree that option A – centralized treatment at Stonecutters Island is apparently a preferable option among the four.

Thank you for your attention and we hope the government's action on improving HK's poor water quality will be implemented shortly.

Yours sincerely

Angus Ho

Chairman