

Responses to Major Comments on Relocation Proposal

(1) Impact to Nearby Road Network during Construction of the Relocated Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works (SKSTW)

During the Investigation Phase of the Project, a more detailed assessment on the traffic impact of the relocation project to the nearby road network would be conducted to evaluate the traffic impact due to the relocation works. The assessment, focused on the worst scenario of traffic condition during construction phase, would be analysed to formulate the necessary mitigation measures.

The assessment would be submitted to Transport Department (TD) and Traffic Branch of Hong Kong Police Force for approval before construction to ensure that the traffic impact to nearby road network would be minimized. Moreover, DSD would endeavour to tie in with the nearby CEDD's reclamation project by reusing the excavated materials for reclamation purpose so as to minimize the impact to the existing traffic. Meanwhile, the option of marine transportation for construction materials would also be considered.

(2) Location of the Submarine Outfall of SKSTW after the Relocation

The location of the submarine outfall of the relocated SKSTW was under review and would be identified by taking into account the nearby water flow and water depth, the surrounding marine ecology and the existing discharge standards at Inner Port Shelter. During the Investigation Phase of the Project, DSD would carry out a detailed environmental impact assessment to ensure that the effluent quality after the relocation would meet the standards set by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

(3) Water Quality of Inner Port Shelter (Sai Kung Hoi) during and after the Relocation of SKSTW

During the Investigation Phase, DSD's Consultant would carry out environmental impact assessment for the relocation project. The scope of the environmental impact assessment would include the assessment of the impacts on the water quality at the submarine outfall owing to the effluent discharge by simulating the water flow, water depth and location of submarine outfall after the relocation using a computer model in order to evaluate the impact on water quality after the relocation and to propose any necessary suitable mitigation measures to ensure compliance with the relevant discharge standards. The completed assessment report would be submitted to EPD for vetting. Subject to the approval of the environmental impact assessment, DSD would proceed to the next stage of the Project.

(4) Odour Impact and Control Measures in the Relocated SKSTW during Operation

The existing SKSTW and the Stanley Sewage Treatment Works built in cavern did not have any deodorising units or odour control measures. However, the exhaust gas had no apparent odour problem according to site observations.

The relocated SKSTW would install deodorising units. Exhaust gas would undergo central processing through deodorising units to treat the gas collected. The treated air would then be discharged at a ventilation shaft located near the hilltop for dilution and dispersion by the wind. As such, the air quality of exhaust gas was expected to fully meet the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance.

(5) Location of Ventilation Shaft

The location of the ventilation shaft was under review. According to the findings from preliminary odour assessment, the most suitable location for the ventilation shaft was near a remote hilltop site at Tsiu Hang. With the aid of the wind, there would be more effective dilution and dispersion of the exhaust gas to ensure the compliance with EPD's standards.

(6) Future Land Uses of the Existing SKSTW site and the Proposed Reclamation

Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) were conducting an integrated development study on the future land use of the released SKSTW site and the proposed reclaimed site at the adjoining seafront. This study would explore the synergy effects of development by integrating the various needs and aspirations of the community. CEDD would consult the public in near future in relation to their study.

(7) Other Community Aspirations

DSD had taken note of the various suggestions and aspirations for enhancements and installations of community facilities, and would relay them to CEDD accordingly.

(8) Design Capacity of the Relocated SKSTW

The design capacity of relocated SKSTW was estimated according to the population and development forecast in Sai Kung up to 2041 using the Territorial Population and Employment Data Matrix (TPEDM) issued by the Planning Department. In addition, the design capacity had also taken into consideration the associated sewage flow owing to the integrated development of the SKSTW released site and the CEDD reclaimed site.

Apart from the population and development forecast, the design capacity of the relocated SKSTW had also taken into account the sewage flow collected as a result of the village sewers that were currently being constructed or under planning in connection with the Village Sewerage Programme.

(9) Duration of the Relocation Works

According to past experience from the construction of the Stanley Sewage Treatment Works, the construction period was expected to be more than 4 years. However, as cavern development was a long-term and complex project, the preliminary estimated time for completion, from cavern development to the release of land, from planning to completion, would take at least more than 10 years. DSD would formulate a preliminary implementation programme for the relocation project under the feasibility study.

(10) Cost Effectiveness of the Project

The feasibility study would carry out technical assessment on the relocation works, including the size of caverns, method of construction, geotechnical conditions, method of sewage treatment, etc. Also, it would make preliminary estimate on the cost of the relocation works, and would provide such related information for CEDD to assess the cost effectiveness of their integrated development scheme.

(11) Footprint of the Relocated SKSTW

The footprint of the cavern SKSTW was yet to be determined as it would be governed by the biological treatment processes to be adopted and other technical requirements. DSD were expected to report on more findings in this respect during the PE2 activities.

(12) Sewage Treatment Level of the Relocated SKSTW

The sewage treatment level of the relocated SKSTW was proposed to remain as secondary. As such, the treated effluent should comply with the discharge requirements stipulated by EPD, and it would not affect the water quality at Sai Kung Hoi.