Tung Chung New Town Extension (TCNTE) – Professional Liaison Group (PLG)

Notes of 1st Meeting

Date: 13th December 2018 (Thursday)
Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Venue: The Conference Room, 12/F, 1063 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong

Members present:

Mr WONG Chi-sing, Janson (Chairman)	Deputy Head (Works) Sustainable Lantau Office (SLO), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)	
Mr LAM Wai-chuen, Eddie (Secretary)	Senior Engineer SLO, CEDD	
Prof Kenneth MY LEUNG	School of Biological Sciences, HKU	
Prof Quentin Zhong Qi YUE	Department of Civil Engineering, HKU	
Dr Cynthia YAU	Division of Life Science, HKUST	
Dr Simon WONG	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong	
Mr WONG Kwok-fai, Alfred	Chief Engineer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr CHEUNG Kin-tak, Henry	Senior Geotechnical Engineer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr WONG Ka-chung, Colin	Engineer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr LAI Ho-keung, Stanley	Assistant Engineer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr WO King-tai	Marine Conservation Officer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr Jovy TAM	Environmental Team Leader, ERM-Hong Kong, Limited	) Environmental Team
Mr Raymond CHOW	Deputy Environmental Team Leader, ERM-Hong Kong, Limited	) Environmental Team

Mr Manuel CHUA	Independent Environmental Checker, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited	) Independent Environmental Checker
Dr Sarah YAU	Assistant Independent Environmental Checker, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited	) Independent Environmental Checker

Member absent with apologises:

Ir Thomas CT CHAN	Environmental Division, HKIE

In attendance:

Ir Eric CHING	Environmental Division, HKIE	
Mr Chris HO	Senior Project Engineer, AECOM (Asia) Company Limited	) Project Consultant
Mr Frankie FAN	Principal Resident Engineer, AECOM (Asia) Company Limited	) Project Consultant
Mr Chris CHEUNG	Senior Resident Engineer, AECOM (Asia) Company Limited	) Project Consultant
Mr Anthony YUNG	Senior Resident Engineer, AECOM (Asia) Company Limited	) Project Consultant

1 Welcome and Introduction **Responsible**

1.1 The Chairman welcomed members for attending the first meeting of the PLG. The Chairman introduced the members of the meeting and advised that the purpose of setting up the PLG meeting was to provide the latest information of TCNTE project and collect the member's views regarding environmental issues related to the TCNTE project (the Project).

2 Confirmation of Terms of Reference

2.1 The Secretary introduced the Terms of Reference of the Professional Liaison Group. The Terms of Reference were agreed by all PLG members.

3 Presentation

The Secretary gave a briefing on TCNTE project and provided an overview of the reclamation contract NL/2017/03. The Secretary presented the key environmental designs including deep cement mixing (DCM) method, eco-shoreline, GPS system and reuse of glass cullets for reclamation. The Project Consultant reported the current construction progress and the works forecast in the next six months. Moreover, CEDD would continue to issue Project

Newsletters quarterly for disseminating first-hand project information to the nearby residents to enhance the connection with the local community.

3.1 The Environmental Team (ET) introduced the Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) programme including management organisation, environmental permit and associated documents, and environmental mitigation measures. The ET also reported the past environmental monitoring results including air quality, noise, water quality and ecology and their implementation status. The public could gain access to the environmental monitoring results through the dedicated website.

3.2 The ET expounded the complaint handling procedures and reported the details of the complaints received since the commencement of works. If any complaint was received, the ET would formulate additional mitigation measures, if necessary, with the Contractor and review its effectiveness.

4 Discussion

4.1 After the presentation, some PLG members raised the following questions and the responses from CEDD/ET/IECT/Project Consultant were summarized below.

1) Ecology

(a) <u>Possibility of constructing a bathing beach along the new foreshore</u>

CEDD responded that the nearby water quality was unfavourable for the purpose of swimming and the land use of the shore had been gazetted in 2015 under the Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance.

(b) <u>Any action and limit levels defined for the soft shore ecological monitoring</u>

The ET responded that the result of ecological survey would be influenced by seasonal variation and there were no action and limit figures specified in the EM&A manual. In case of any significant reduction in terms of the numbers of individuals of species, the ET would report and discuss such circumstances to the Environmental Protection Department.

(c) <u>Criteria of action and limit levels for horseshoe crab monitoring</u>

A member suggested establishing quantitative survey for recording the death rate of horseshoe crab. The member added that the ratio of live and dead horseshoe crabs might help reveal the non-natural mortality and subsequently the potential implications arising from the Project. The ET explained that the horseshoe crabs would continue

to molt and grow. Hence, based on the body cell alone, it would be difficult to identify whether the horseshoe crabs were actually dead or molted.

(d) Any benchmark for the action and limit levels of ecological monitoring

A member opined that adding a benchmark, say 30% difference, could serve as an objective triggering point for further investigation. The ET explained that the soft shore ecology would be influenced by numerous external factors. Notwithstanding, the ET could consider the suggestion by analysing the ecological data to review the criteria of action and limit levels but the adoption of any criteria would be subject to the agreement with EPD.

(e) Monitoring frequency of seagrass beds and types of intertidal assemblages

The ET reported that reference had been made to the EIA reports of nearby projects on ecological survey frequency and the currently adopted monitoring frequency was considered appropriate. The ET added that, in addition to seagrass beds and horseshoe crab, quantitative transect surveys were conducted to record the intertidal assemblages, including bivalves, chitons, crabs and gastropods.

(f) Any existence of pipefishes during the ecological survey

The ET responded that there was no pipefish survey conducted in the soft shore ecological survey under EIA requirements and no pipefish was observed during the ecological survey under EM&A programme.

(g) Any monitoring of seagrass beds at San Tau

The ET replied that ecological monitoring at San Tau was not required under EM&A manual. The ET supplemented that the reason might be due to that San Tau was located far away from the reclamation area. Despite, ecological monitoring was conducted at Tung Chung Bay and Tai Ho Wan. Nevertheless, for monitoring purpose, the Chairman noted the member's suggestion and would discuss with the ET if there would be any additional benefit on the monitoring. CEDD/ET

(h) Potential loss of marine species and benthic communities arising from the project

The Project Consultant responded that the survey was conducted in EIA stage and the relevant records would be provided for member's information.

[Post-meeting notes: The impact evaluation for marine ecology due to the Project was discussed in Section 9.7 of EIA Report AEIAR-196/2016, which was available at the following website: https://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/english/alpha/aspd_652.html.]

(i) Any blockage of the existing outlets at Tai Ho Wan due to the reclamation works

CEDD responded that the existing outlets would be extended so as to maintain the tidal current exchange.

(j) Possible installation of permanent water gauges for sedimentation monitoring

The ET responded that sedimentation rate was monitored by surveying technique, which could provide more accurate survey data than permanent water gauge.

2) Water Quality

(a) Design of the opening of perimeter silt curtain

The ET replied that the opening was a necessary entrance to facilitate marine transportation. The overlapping length of silt curtains complied with the Silt Curtain Deployment Plan, which had been approved by EPD. Moreover, the opening would be closed after works in order to prevent dolphins, if any, inadvertently entering the works area.

(b) Location of leading seawall

The Project Consultant showed the location of leading seawall, which at least 200m long was required for all reclamation filling works to be carried out.

(c) Influence on water quality due to potential sediment plume created by vessels movement

The ET explained that good site management practices had been adopted, e.g. vessel speed limit and vessel trip controls. The ET reported that no project related exceedance was recorded and the silt curtain was effective to confine any sediment plumes within the works area.

(d) Number of non-project related vessels around the site

The Project Consultant replied that the travelling routes of all project-related marine vessels had been recorded and were all complied with the approved Works Vessel Travel Route Plan. Non-projects related vessels would travel through the Tung Chung Buoyed Channel. The Project Consultant reported their observation that the number of non-

project related vessels using Tung Chung Buoyed channel was relatively small.

(e) Ad-hoc water sampling upon receiving complaint

The ET responded that, according to the EM&A Manual, the water quality monitoring was conducted three times a week and the monitoring frequency of water quality was considered to be sufficient for complaint investigation purpose. If the complaint was valid and revealed to be project-related, additional mitigation measures, if necessary, would be proposed in accordance with the EM&A manual.

3) Waste Management

(a) Security of GPS devices for tracking the travelling route of dump trucks

The Project Consultant responded that GPS devices were securely fixed on dump trucks. The ET supplemented that portable GPS devices with locking system would be installed if the dump trucks were deployed temporarily for materials transportation by the Contractor. The Surveillance Team of ET would also conduct surveillance checks in order to prevent illegal dumping.

(b) Possible reuse of C&D materials and the surplus for surcharge

The Project Consultant reported that inert C&D materials and surplus for surcharge would be reused on-site during whole construction phase so as to minimize offsite disposal.

4) Noise

(a) Noise complaint received during the restricted hours

The Project Consultant responded that some construction works would be carried out during the restricted hours but it would be in full compliance with the Construction Noise Permit (CNP). The ET supplemented that individual investigations were carried out for each complaint and the recorded noise levels so far were all within the statutory requirements. The ET further responded that noise monitoring during the restricted hours was not required under the conditions of the CNP and the Contractor had implemented a permit-to-work system to ensure that the numbers of powered mechanical equipment in operation would meet the requirements of approved CNP.

5) Eco-shoreline

(a) Selection of locations for different types of eco-shoreline

The Project Consultant responded that either mangrove eco-shoreline or rocky eco-shoreline was proposed in the light of actual circumstances of each section of the sloping seawalls with a view to enhancing the biodiversity, while vertical seawalls were provided at the areas exposed to waves and adjacent to the navigation channel.

(b) Implementation status of eco-shoreline

The Project Consultant responded that the trial of eco-shoreline was planned to be carried out in 2019Q3 and several species of mangroves would be selected for testing their performance for the eco-shoreline along Tung Chung waterfront. The Project Consultant explained that mangroves to be procured were of local species and a monitoring period of one year would be conducted to assure the growth performance in four seasons.

(c) Consideration of tidal effect in the design of eco-shoreline

The Project Consultant responded that the effects of tides had been considered in the design such that mangroves would be planted within the intertidal zone. The final installation level of eco-shorelines would be adjusted after reviewing the trial results.

(d) Possible mosquito breeding problems due to stagnant water on bio-blocks

The Project Consultant explained that bio-blocks would be placed within tidal levels with seawater exchange during ebb and flood tides, which would not cause any stagnant water and hence the mosquito bleeding problem.

5 AOB

5.1 PLG members expressed their interest in the eco-shoreline site trial installation. CEDD replied that a site visit for the eco-shoreline trial could be arranged as part of the next PLG meeting if the works programme matched. CEDD

5.2 The Chairman thanked the members for their attendance, expert insights and recommendations. The next meeting would be held in mid-2019.

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