



BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Sirs/Madams,

**Suspected Illegal Outfalls Spotted in “OU (River Park)” Zone in
Tung Chung River before Implementation of Tung Chung New Town Extension**

Recently, Green Power has again spotted a suspected illegal outfall along Tung Chung River which reveals the existing deficiencies to protect the “Excellent” water quality, and important but fragile ecology of Tung Chung River and Bay, which are Government’s major planning intentions for Tung Chung New Town Extension.

Green Power visited Tung Chung, Lantau on 13th and 14th Sept, 2018 and spotted a suspected illegal outfall in Shek Lau Po that may drain into Tung Chung River. Although no observable sewage discharge through any extruding pipes or holes have been found during our site visit in the stream channel, a backfilled trough on the road surface leading from a suspected illegal open storage to the stream bank was observed, and it is suspected that pipe(s) was/were buried in the trough and discharged effluent, if any, underground behind the gabions into Tung Chung River. Please refer to the attached **Map 1** and **Photos 1 to 4**.

According to Tung Chung Valley Outline Zoning Plan, the concerned site is located in “OU (River Park)” zone which acts as buffer zone to protect ecologically important Tung Chung River from pollution and any developments.

Green Power is gravely concerned about the adverse impacts imposed by the outfall and more importantly its implications for the future development of Tung Chung River Valley. We would like to re-iterate our concerns and are grateful for responses of relevant bureaus, departments and/or government authorities for the following questions:

1. The suspected illegal outfall may discharge wastewater into Tung Chung River which is an Ecologically Important Stream designated by the Government and inhabits various rare and important species. Have the water quality and aquatic species been affected by the suspected illegal outfall?
2. Is it legal to lay down outfalls in “OU (River Park)” zone in Tung Chung Outline Zoning Plan? If not, then when and what actions will be taken to remedy the case?
3. Is the complaint outfall located on government or private lands?
4. According to the EIA report of Tung Chung New Town Extension, a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) will be constructed in Tung Chung River Valley for stormwater treatment. Then, will the suspected illegal outfall jeopardize the functions of SUDS?



5. Does construction of outfalls in Tung Chung Valley require official approval from relevant department(s), i.e. Environmental Protection Department, Home Affairs Department, Lands Department, Drainage Services Department, etc.?
6. Also, how can the Administration prevent and remove any illegal outfalls in Tung Chung River Valley and Bay?

Green Power appreciates the intention and efforts of the Administration taken to protect Tung Chung River and Bay through publishing a Development Permission Area plan and the following Outline Zoning Plan for Tung Chung River Valley, and planning to build SUDS. However, the lands adjoining Tung Chung River and its river water quality have been damaged and threatened over a decade by proliferating incompatible developments and the associated wastewater and stormwater discharge. The situation is worsening in a fast pace and revealed in the recent Annual River Quality of Hong Kong report.

We hope that the Administration investigates this complaint seriously and takes prompt actions to stop, rectify and prevent any environmental, hydrological and ecological damages.

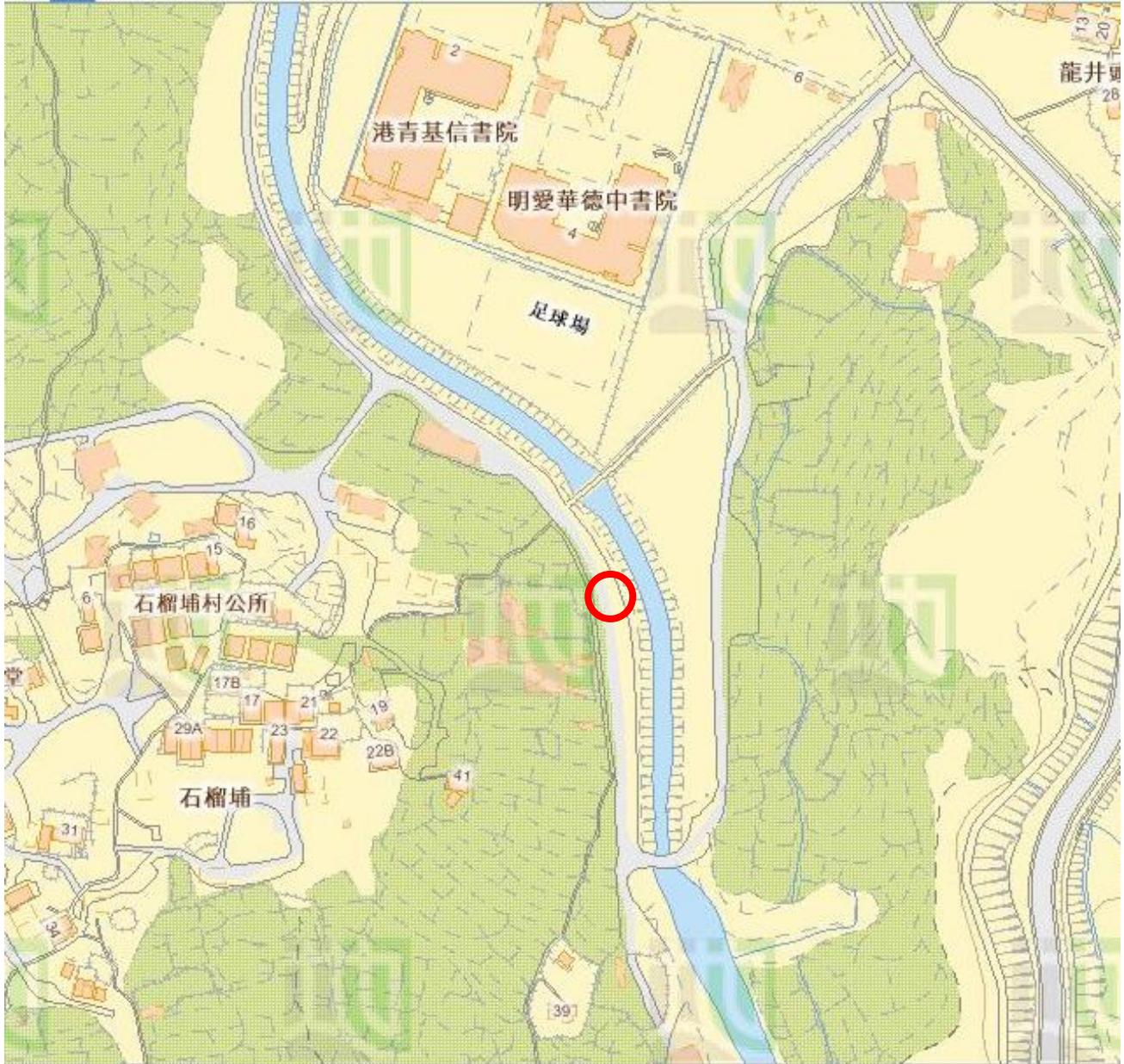
For any inquiries, please contact the undersigned (T: 3961 0200, F: 2314 2661, Email: lkcheng@greenpower.org.hk) or Ms. Elaine Yuen (T: 3961 0200, Email: elaine@greenpower.org.hk) at Green Power.

We look forward to your reply and prompt actions as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. CHENG Luk-ki
Director, GREEN POWER

Map 1 showing the location of suspected suspected illegal outfall draining into Tung Chung River.



Photos 1 & 2 showing a backfilled trough suspected to cover an illegal outfall and leading from an open storage in Shek Lau Po to the bank of Tung Chung River. Photos taken on 14th Sep, 2018.



Photo 3 showing an excavator digging at one end of the burrow inside the suspected illegal open storage in Shek Lau Po on 13th Sep, 2018.



Photo 4 showing an excavator possibly backfilling at one end of the trough inside the suspected illegal open storage in Shek Lau Po on 14th Sep, 2018.

