

BY EMAIL ONLY

Ms. Maisie Cheng, J.P.

Director of Environmental Protection

EIA Ordinance Register Office

Environmental Protection Department

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26 April 2021

Dear Ms. Cheng,

Environmental Impact Assessment report for Yuen Long Barrage Scheme

Green Power would like to draw your kind attention to our comments about the above-captioned EIA report.

- 1. The project should not threaten the ecological value of the global important wetland Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and its associated Wetland Conservation Area and Wetland Buffer Area.
- 2. The project proponent should adopt effective measures to reduce adverse impacts on the water quality and hydrodynamics of Shan Pui River, Nam Sang Wai and Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. The construction site runoff, discharge, sewage and stockpiled materials induced from the project should be well-controlled and minimized. We opine that no construction works should be taken place under adverse weather condition.
- 3. Unauthorized disposal of the project's C&D materials should be strictly prohibited. Apart from the proposed trip-ticket system (Section 6.6.9), the project proponent could consider applying real-time GPS tracking technology to monitor the actual disposal route of the dump trucks. Deterrent clauses should be incorporated in the work contracts to monitor and penalize any fly-tipping activities.
- 4. The ecological connectivity between the Yuen Long Nullah (YLN) and the Inner Deep Bay area should be enhanced after the completion of the project. In light of the no-flood-risk condition, the natural tidal current should be allowed flushing in and out the YLN as much as possible. The design of the tidal barriers should allow certain flexibility to control their degree of openness such that the operation of the barriers could be adaptively adjusted in the future in response to the changing water quality in the Inner Deep Bay area. Nevertheless, the provision of low flow pump (Section 7.6.46) and corridor (Section 7.6.64) should be eco-friendly and favorable to the targeted fauna.

5. Although the mudflat-like habitat between the existing inflatable dam and proposed

barrage is comparatively tiny to the mud-flats in the Inner Deep Bay area, the net loss of

such habitats should not be neglected. If in-situ mimic of similar kind of habitats (Section

7.8.9) are found impractical after the construction of barrage, other compensation

measures should be needed.

6. Regarding the revitalization works in YLN, the provision of a permeable channel bed with

natural substrates should be considered to accommodate the aquatic fauna. Invasive exotic

plants should not be introduced into the YLN. Native plant species that are adaptive to the

revitalized channel should be chosen.

7. In addition, sufficient water flow should be maintained all year round along the YLN.

Diversion of additional flow to Yuen Long Bypass Floodway from YLN should not

excessively affect the flow volume of YLN (Town Centre Section) that will compromise

the revitalization works.

8. It is important to maintain the water quality of YLN at least to an extent suitable for

aesthetic purposes. Any point-source and non-point-source sewage, and polluted

stormwater should not be allowed to discard into YLN. The public should be deterred from

littering and refuse dumping into the YLN as well.

9. The linkage bridge of the barrage connecting Wang Lok Street and Shan Pui Ho East Road

should not be opened to public vehicular access to avoid disturbance to waterbirds and

eco-vandalism.

10. The project proponent should engage with the local green groups at the detailed design

stage to formulate the barrage operation protocol and YLN revitalization plan etc.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. For any inquiries, please contact the

undersigned at Green Power (T: 39610 200, F: 2314 2661, Email: wflo@greenpower.org.hk).

Yours faithfully,

LO Wing-fung

Senior Education & Conservation Officer

Green Power