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香港觀鳥會  
THE  
HONG  
KONG  
BIRD  
WATCHING  
SOCIETY

Since 1957 成立

26 May 2014

Dear Director,

### **Comments on Sha Tin Cavern Sewage Treatment Works – Project Profile**

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) would like to raise our concerns on the captioned project.

Less than 1 km away from the existing Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works (STSTW) where construction works would take place, is where the Penfold Park egretty is located (Figure 1). In 2013, 50 ardeid nests were recorded including nests of Great Egret (*Ardea modesta*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*) and Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*). It supports all five ardeid species that are found in egrettries of Hong Kong and is ranked as the seventh largest egretty in Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>. It also has significant historical breeding records, consistent breeding records have been noted since 2000 when the HKBWS began our egretty count surveys<sup>2</sup>. Ardeids of Penfold Park Egretty are known to feed at intertidal areas<sup>3</sup> and have been recorded foraging at the river outlet of Shing Mun River into Sha Tin Hoi<sup>4</sup> near the project sites. Ardeids, and especially during their breeding months, are sensitive to noise and human disturbance. Based on these findings, this egretty is considered to be a breeding site of significance and given its close proximity to the project sites, potential indirect impacts of the project should be fully investigated.

As such, the HKBWS would like to suggest the following:

1. Add Penfold Park Egretty as an ecological sensitive receiver in Section 4.1 of the PP so that any potential impacts arising from the project can be assessed in the

<sup>1</sup> Anon 2013. Egretty Counts in Hong Kong with particular reference to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site: Summer 2013 Report. HKBWS.

<sup>2</sup> Anon 2000 - 2013. Egretty Counts in Hong Kong with particular reference to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. HKBWS.

<sup>3</sup> HKBWS, 2009. Study of Feeding Habitats and Foraging Flight Lines of Ardeids Colonies in Hong Kong – January 2009.

<sup>4</sup> HKBWS internal records.



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Environmental Impact Assessment report..

2. Egret flight-line surveys to be conducted to properly assess whether the future landuse proposed for the existing STSTW would impact flight paths of ardeids.
3. Careful phasing of construction program should be considered to avoid/minimize disturbance impacts during the breeding season of ardeids, between the months of April to July.

The HKBWS respectfully requests the Environmental Protection Department to take our comments into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Captain Wong  
Egret Research Group  
The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

cc:  
AFCD  
Conservancy Association  
Designing Hong Kong  
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden  
WWF – Hong Kong

Figure 1 – Location of the Penfold Park Egretty

