



長春社 Since 1968

The Conservancy Association

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11th March 2019

Town Planning Board
15/F North Point Government Offices
333 Java Road, North Point
Hong Kong

By e-mail: tpbpd@pland.gov.hk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Comments on the Section 16 Applications No. A/NE-SLT/2

The Conservancy Association (CA) welcomes the habitat and biodiversity conservation scheme to be implemented in Sha Lo Tung, which is one of the Priority Sites for Enhanced Conservation. Due to the ecological importance and sensitivity of the site, we would like to express our concerns regarding the application.

1. Earth works / land excavation

According to the procedures on the restoration of artificial marshes and eco-pond, “*removal of unwanted materials including exotic vegetation, trash and debris would be carried out using hand-held grass-trimmer or other hand tools within the SSSI zone..., and a bulldozer (below 5.5 tonnes) within the CA zone (30m away from the natural streams)*”. To reduce the potential impacts by the heavy machinery (i.e. bulldozer) during excavation, if possible, we recommend that the use of hand-held grass-trimmer / hand tools should be prioritized over the use of bulldozer. Also, sufficient briefing and training for site workers should be provided by the applicant before the commencement of earth works to avoid clearance or damage to native vegetation.

2. Planting of wetland vegetation

According to the information provided by the applicant, wetland flora species would be planted in the proposed eco-pond and artificial marsh. We would like to reiterate the importance of prioritizing the use of native species in the planting process. Seedlings originated from local Sha Lo Tung population would be recommended



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and the transplantation process should be under strict supervision by the applicant to avoid excessive amount of local population being transplanted (i.e. 20% of the local population as suggested by the applicant).

However, we have reservations about “*Commercial sources would be considered as a last resort for the supply of wetland plants*”. Although screening and inspection would be carried out, we are worried that invasive species would still be unintentionally introduced to the wetland (given that some species are difficult to be detected), generating another ecological concern. The applicant should reconsider if commercial sources would be a desirable last resort for the supply of wetland plant.

3. Sewage

We urge the applicant to strongly uphold the principle of “*no additional effluent is generated and no new sewage facilities will be built*” to prevent potential adverse impacts on the wetland.

Yours faithfully,

Charlotte Chan

Campaign Officer

The Conservancy Association