

25 April 2016

To All Authorized Persons,
Registered Structural Engineers
Registered Geotechnical Engineers
Registered General Building Contractors
Registered Specialist Contractors and
Registered Minor Works Contractors

Dear Sir/Madam,

Flood Prevention Measures at Construction Sites

With the advent of the rainy season, I am writing to solicit your concerted support in taking preventive measures proactively to ensure no adverse drainage impacts would be caused by the construction sites under your supervision on the public drainage systems.

Over the years, a considerable number of flooding incidents during heavy rainstorms have been experienced particularly in the flooding blackspots. Investigations conducted by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) reveal that some incidents have been aggravated or caused by the construction activities nearby. The following are some improper site activities which have adverse impacts on the stormwater/foul drainage systems:

- (a) Misplacement of construction and building debris which would be washed down to block the underground drainage inlet during rainstorms;
- (b) Improper design and lack of maintenance of silt traps in construction sites. As a result, large amount of silt, mud or cement slurry would be allowed to enter the public stormwater drainage system causing serious blockage and damage to the system;
- (c) Improper design, connection or maintenance of temporary site drainage. The surface runoff carried with silt and mud would overflow from construction sites to block the stormwater drain inlets and aggravate flooding in the vicinity;
- (d) Inadequate surface protection of temporary cut/fill slope or earth stockpiles. Silt and mud would be washed down from the slope surface during rainstorm, thereby blocking the drainage inlets; and
- (e) Discharge of surface water from construction sites through illicit connection into foul sewers. The discharge would contribute to exceptionally high flood flows and deposit of grit and silt at sewage treatment works, causing treatment and pollution problems.

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In this regard, you are obliged to prevent the occurrence of the above-mentioned improper activities at your construction sites. Please ensure proper design, maintenance and functioning of temporary drainage for construction sites under your supervision and take all necessary precautionary measure to prevent discharge of construction debris, silt and sediments or cementitious materials into the public drains or sewers. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance.

For any improper/illegal discharges arising from construction activities, please report the incidents to the DSD or Environmental Protection Department for follow up.

Yours faithfully,



(LEE Yun-choi)

Assistant Director/New Buildings 2
for Director of Buildings

cc CE/MN, DSD