

DSD to complete second stage of maintenance works for Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works in March

The Drainage Services Department (DSD) announced today (February 22) that the second stage maintenance works and replacement of electrical and mechanical facilities at the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW) are expected to complete in March.

The SCISTW has been in continuous operation 24 hours a day over the past 18 years since its commissioning in December 2001, during which the DSD has been providing timely maintenance. However, some of the key electrical and mechanical facilities are now approaching the end of their service lives. Replacement works have to be carried out to maintain proper functioning of the system.

The maintenance and replacement works will require partial bypass of preliminarily treated sewage at the upstream preliminary treatment works into Victoria Harbour on up to five occasions, each not exceeding two weeks. The third bypass is scheduled to take place during the non-bathing season from March 4 to 17. The first and second bypasses have completed as scheduled last year. Subject to the progress of the maintenance and replacement works, the DSD will review the need and arrangement for further bypasses.

Sewage bypass involves the submarine discharge of preliminarily treated sewage at seven of the 16 preliminary treatment works located on either side of Victoria Harbour (namely Chai Wan, Shau Kei Wan, Tseung Kwan O, Kwun Tong, To Kwa Wan, Tsing Yi and Kwai Chung preliminary treatment works) for dilution and dispersion at deep sea level. Areas concerned include the waters of Hong Kong Island East, Kowloon East and the Rambler Channel.

Prior to the bypass, the DSD has formulated a series of mitigation and contingency measures. As attested by water quality monitoring results obtained by the DSD during the first and second bypasses, the impact on the water quality of Victoria Harbour was slight and transient. The water quality returned to normal a few days after cessation of the bypasses. The bypasses did not have significant impact on the sensitive waters including beaches in Tsuen Wan, fish culture zones and coral sites near Victoria Harbour.

The DSD has formulated the same mitigation and contingency measures, and will closely monitor the water quality of Victoria Harbour during the third bypass. The monitoring results will be uploaded to the DSD's website for public perusal (www.dsd.gov.hk/others/HATS1bypass).

The public should avoid water sports, angling or seawater extraction in the potentially affected locations during the bypass period. Notices will be put up at relevant places, including Approach Beach, Ting Kau Beach, Lido Beach, Casam Beach, Hoi Mei Wan, Gemini Beach, Angler's Beach, Ma Wan Tung Wan and promenades along Victoria Harbour, to remind the public of the potential effect of the works.

During the above period of maintenance works and sewage bypass, members of the public may call the DSD's hotline 7388 9900 (operating daily from 8am to 10pm) or email enquiry@dsd.gov.hk for enquiries.

Ends/Friday, February 22, 2019 11:00