C&WDC Paper No. 23/2021 - Annex I

Century-old waterworks sites demolished Request the Government to make every effort to conserve existing waterworks sites in the Central and Western District

Reply from the Water Services Department:

The Antiquities and Monuments Office ("AMO") fully supports the grading and conservation of waterworks installations (including underground waterworks installations) with historical and heritage values. AMO is communicating closely with the Water Supplies Department ("WSD") for in-depth researches to prepare for the subsequent grading of the waterworks installations.

- 2. According to the records provided by WSD, the old Hatton Road Fresh Water Service Reservoir had experienced aging and leakage, and might endanger the stability of the adjacent slopes, making it not suitable for long-term use. AMO noted that the problems could not be solved by maintenance and that WSD proposed to preserve the brickworks of two columns and the connected arch. AMO did not object to the project. For the Magazine Gap Road Fresh Water Service Reservoir, pursuant to records of WSD, after years of use, the service reservoir had experienced aging and leakage, and might endanger the stability of the adjacent slopes and buildings under the slopes, and the service reservoir had not been in use since 1997. The construction of a new salt water service reservoir at the same site was required and AMO had no objection against the project.
- 3. Pok Fu Lam Conduit, Hong Kong was accorded with Grade 2 status in December 2009. As per the prevailing practice, when AMO receives new and reliable information on the heritage value of a graded item, which was not considered during the grading assessment exercise, the information will be conveyed to the independent Historic Buildings Assessment Panel ("Assessment Panel") for consideration. The Assessment Panel would re-examine the heritage value and grading of the building or structure based on the six prevailing assessment criteria, namely historical interest, architectural merit, group value, social value and local interest, authenticity and rarity. The recommendation of the Assessment Panel will then be submitted to the Antiquities Advisory Board ("AAB") for deliberation. AAB would re-examine the grading of the item concerned according to the

aforesaid six assessment criteria after considering the views from the public and the recommendations of the Assessment Panel. AMO is closely collaborating with WSD to study the heritage value of the Pok Fu Lam Conduit on the basis of the existing mechanism, and to conduct grading assessment for items with heritage value.

(Received on 28 January 2021)

C&WDC Secretariat
January 2021