SMEC to Assess Feasibility of Catchwater System Upgrades in Hong Kong

7 March 2016

SMEC has been appointed by the Hong Kong Water Supplies Department (WSD) to undertake a feasibility study of eight catchwater systems in Hong Kong. Catchwater systems are large-scale devices that catch surface runoff water, channelling it to reservoirs for future commercial and domestic use.

Following an increase in catchwater-related incidents, the Government of Hong Kong initiated studies to assess potential catchwater system hazards and identify relevant improvement works. Catchwater-related incidents are largely caused by failures of uphill slopes (both natural and man-made) causing blockages to catchwater flows, and erosion of natural stream courses conveying overflow water.

From these studies, eight catchwater systems were classified as medium to high-risk. These selected systems would require improvement works in order to mitigate the potential impact of catchwater failures on local developments in the area.

SMEC was engaged to: review previous catchwater system studies and assess any major discrepancies identified; recommend preliminary design solutions and improvement works for each of the eight catchwater systems; and determine the overall feasibility of the project to allow progression into Investigation, Design and Construction (IDC) stages.

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