



BY EMAIL ONLY

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17 January 2022

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

**Suspected Illegal Sewage Discharge Spotted in the “Revitalisation Zone” of
Tung Chung River Park**

Green Power would like to draw your attention to a suspected case of illegal sewage discharge into the current worksite of the “Revitalisation Zone” of Tung Chung River Park, and subsequently into the ecologically important Tung Chung River (TCR) Estuary and Bay. The incident reveals the existing deficiencies to protect the “Excellent” water quality and important but fragile ecology of Tung Chung River and Bay, which are Government’s major planning intentions for Tung Chung New Town Extension.

Green Power visited Tung Chung River, Lantau on 15th January, 2022 and spotted discharge of a large amount of murky white sewage at around 12:00 noon through a storm drain outlet (Figures 1 & 2) into the channelised section of Tung Chung River East Stream, which is currently included as the worksite of the Tung Chung River Park “Revitalisation Zone” (Figures 2 & 3). The quantity of sewage was so large that it rendered the water at the sections downstream near the estuary milky white (Figures 4 & 5). The discharge continued for at least an hour.

We noted that the storm drain may collect and discharge surface runoff from existing urban areas and several other construction worksites under the Tung Chung New Town Extension (TCNTE) programme, which are all possible sources of the discharge. Green Power is gravely concerned about the adverse impacts observed, and more importantly its implications for the conservation of Tung Chung River amid intensive development and construction works within and around its valley. We are grateful for responses of relevant government authorities for the following questions:

1. What is the catchment area of the storm drain concerned (see Figures 1 & 2)? Does this catchment area include Mun Tung Estate and Area 42 (currently a worksite undergoing land formation for Residential (Group A))?
2. Is the complained incident related to any activities under the TCNTE programme, and are there any government departments / related parties need to be held responsible for it?
3. What is the contingency protocol when such incidents happen within the River Park, whether during construction or operation phases?
4. When Area 42 is handed over to the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), how can we ascertain HA is aware of the ecological importance of TCR and conduct all required measures to protect it?
5. Are there any measures proposed under EIAO to avoid / prevent such wastewater discharge to an ecologically sensitive river, i.e. TCR?
6. If so, we would be grateful for the reasons of failure of these measures.

We hope that the Administration investigates this complaint seriously and takes prompt actions to stop, rectify and prevent any environmental and ecological damages. For any inquiries, please contact the undersigned at Green Power (T: 3961 0200, F: 2314 2661, Email: elaine@greenpower.org.hk).

We look forward to your replies and actions as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



YUEN Yan Ling, Elaine

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Green Power

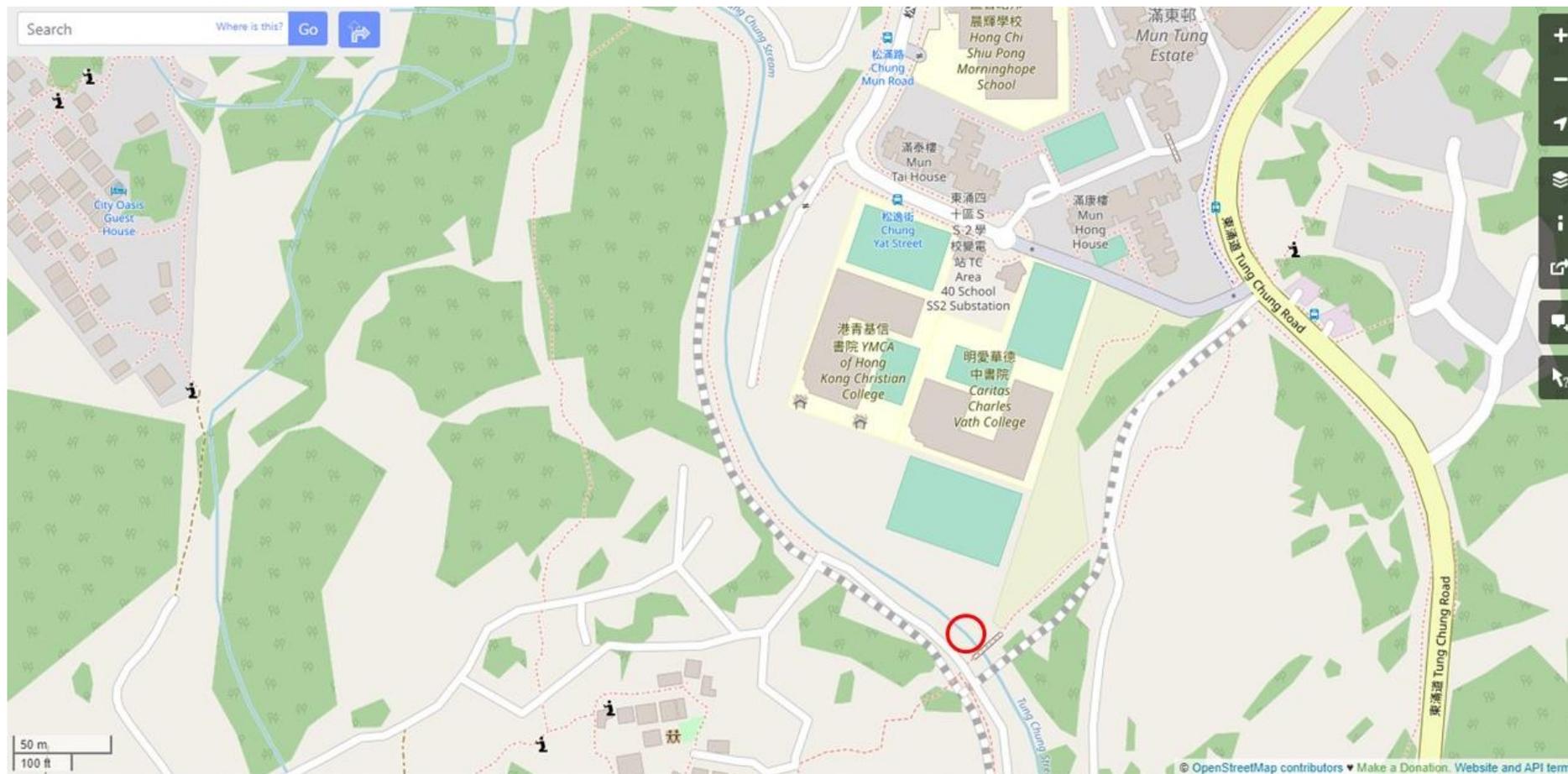


Figure 1. Location (denoted by red circle) of a storm drain outlet with suspected illegal sewage discharge sighted on 15th January, 2022.



Figure 2. Storm drain outlet (denoted by red arrow) with suspected illegal sewage discharge sighted. Photo taken on 15th January, 2022.



Figure 3. Stream of milky white sewage running through the channelised section of Tung Chung River East Stream. Photo taken on 15th January, 2022.



Figure 4. Lower channelised section found to be filled with milky white sewage. Photo taken on 15th January, 2022.



Figure 5. The natural section near the junction of Tung Chung River East and West Streams were found to be filled with milky white sewage. Photo taken on 15th January, 2022.