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~~\$310m works~~ to improve water supply

FORTY-SEVEN contracts, valued at nearly \$310 million, were awarded by the Water Supplies Department last year to improve Hongkong's water supply.

They included a \$56.8-million contract for construction of Stage I of Yaukomtau treatment works, a \$17.4-million contract for a service reservoir at Table Hill in Sheungshui, a \$9-million contract for building a service reservoir at North Point, and a \$6-million contract for a pumping station and main laying work at Sheungshui.

A spokesman for the department said seven new projects, estimated to cost \$158 million, were given the go-ahead in 1983-84.

Among them were Stage I of the Junk Bay water supply scheme, water supply to south Lantau, and Stage I of the Pakkong treatment works and water transfer facilities.

Altogether eight contracts totalling \$33.64 million were awarded during the year in connection with these new projects.

A number of major waterworks schemes were also completed during the year. One of which was the Lamma Island scheme, inaugurated in October. The project, which cost \$47 million, comprised two submarine mains running from Sandy Bay and Wahfu on Hongkong Island to Lamma Islands.

Water was drawn from the Mount Davis service reservoir system via the two submarine mains to two service reservoirs on the island. As a result, filtered supply was made available to 15 of the island's 19 villages.

The spokesman said another project completed during the year was a third cross-harbour pipeline. The win 1,000 millimetre diameter submarine main runs from Tsimshatsui to Wanchai waterfront and has boosted transfer capacity from Kow-

loon to Hongkong Island by 180,000 cubic metres per day, giving a combined daily capacity of more than 500,000 cubic metres.

The spokesman said further contracts amounting to \$100 million on new projects, which had started this year, would be awarded.

Meanwhile, projects in connection with the reception and distribution of additional water supply from China were progressing smoothly, the spokesman said.

He said the entire scheme, to be completed in three stages, would raise supply from China to 620 million cubic metres a year over a 12-year period until 1994.

Work on Stage I comprised 12 major contracts worth \$724.5 million, five of which were completed during the year. Two contracts were completed in previous years and only five contracts remain outstanding. These included a large diameter aqueduct system from Mukwu to Tailamchung costing over \$220 million. When completed it would provide additional capacity of 910,000 cubic metres per day to the western region of the New Territories.

Another major contract for Stage I was in connection with the construction of a 5,200-metre long tunnel of 2.5 metres in diameter from Tsingtam to Yaukomtau, as well as site formation work for Yaukomtau treatment works.

The tunnel breakthrough was achieved in November and work on concrete lining of the tunnel has started. The \$105 million contract will be completed in 1984.

In addition, work on Stage II of the China Water Supply Scheme is also scheduled to start this year.

A \$21.6-million contract has already been awarded in 1983 for the laying of a pipeline from Sheungshui to Tau pass. — GIS