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\$500m bill for waterworks

By FRANK CHOI

An estimated \$500 million is to be spent on major waterworks to meet increasing demand in East Kowloon, Hongkong Island East and Sai Kung.

The project will also help to meet demand arising from the development of Junk Bay new town, which will take its first inhabitants in about two years.

Conservation of the environment has become a major issue in the project. All engineering work is designed to have a minimum impact.

The project will be built in two stages, with the first stage concentrating on the installation of the treatment plants near Sai Kung. These will give an output of 273,000 cubic metres a day.

An aqueduct will be built in the final stage.

The site of the treatment works will house the Pak Kong pumping station, which will house the main pumps for supplying water to the Junk Bay primary service reservoir, together with smaller pumps for supplying Sai Kung and the proposed Junk Bay hinterland service reservoirs.

Estimated spending on this part of the project will be \$265 million.

In a bid to lessen noise and environmental pollution problems for residents near the sites, officials from the Water Supplies Department have sought the views of the Sai Kung District Board.

Construction equipment will be specially selected and noise reduction measures taken. Blasting in the tunnels will also be limited.

Some noise and disturb-

ance will be unavoidable next to the site, but it is not envisaged that night work will disturb the neighbourhood.

The western fringe of the site will be planted with trees and all slopes will be grassed, while the wooded knoll at the southeast of the site will be preserved.

Work on the treatment plant site is expected to start in August next year and the plant is due for operation by the end of 1987.

Also included in the first stage of work is a service reservoir with a capacity of 90,000 cubic metres. This part of the project is estimated to cost \$45 million.

The first section of the aqueduct will be a buried pipeline 685 metres long through the Pak Kong Valley, and the second 2,350-metre section will be in a tunnel up to Ho Chung.

The third section will again be a buried pipeline across Ho Chung Valley about 450 metres long, while the final 3,570-metre stretch to the service reservoir will again be in a tunnel.

A twin, gravity-fed main to bring water to Kowloon East and Hongkong Island East will also be laid.

The first section of about 900 metres will be laid in the proposed Junk Bay access tunnel and the section from the western end of the tunnel to the Lyemun Road junction will be laid along Junk Bay Road.

Work on the tunnelling and pipeline is expected to start in February.

The cost of the aqueduct and gravity mains will be about \$160 million.