

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Extensive drainage enhancement across the island to increase flood protection

PUB plans to start works at 16 locations in 2018

Singapore, 30 November 2017 – PUB, Singapore’s National Water Agency has completed drainage improvement works at 325 locations since 2012 to increase the capacities of our drains and canals. Today, drains and canals at another 75 locations are undergoing expansion. PUB also plans to upgrade drains and canals at 16 locations in 2018.

Major canals which have been upgraded since 2012 include Rochor Canal (between Jalan Besar and Crawford Street), Alexandra Canal (between Zion Road and Kim Seng Road), Geylang River (between Guillemard and Dunman Road), Bukit Timah Canal (between Maple Avenue and Jalan Kampong Chantek) and Siglap Canal (between ECP and the sea).

Improvement works have also been completed at outlet drains such as Farnborough Road Outlet Drain and Pioneer Sector Outlet Drain, as well as roadside drains in various areas such as Jalan Boon Lay (near International Road), Chai Chee Lane, and Lower Delta Road/Jalan Bukit Merah.

This continual drainage improvement is part of PUB’s strategy to enhance Singapore’s ability to cope with higher-intensity storms. To this end, the Government has invested some \$1.2 billion on drainage improvement works since 2011. In next 2 to 3 years, the Government plans to spend some \$500 million to upgrade more drains.

Holistic Approach to Stormwater Management

PUB adopts a holistic stormwater management approach, known as the “Source-Pathway-Receptor” approach, to introduce flexibility and adaptability into Singapore’s drainage system. This approach goes beyond drainage upgrading (i.e. “Pathway” solutions) to also manage stormwater at where it falls (i.e. through “Source” solutions such as on-site detention tanks in buildings) and at the areas where floodwaters may flow to (i.e. through “Receptor” solutions such as flood barriers, minimum crest and platform levels).

“With climate change, we expect more intense storms to occur more frequently in Singapore. PUB will continue to implement ‘Pathway’ measures by deepening and widening drains. However, due to competing demands for land use, there is a limit to this measure. A more sustainable approach is a collective effort involving developers to put in ‘source’ and ‘receptor’ measures to slow down runoff into public drains and to protect developments from floods,” said Mr Ridzuan Ismail, PUB’s Director of Catchment and Waterways.

Expansion of Singapore’s first massive drainage scheme

The Bukit Timah First Diversion Canal was built in 1972 as part of the Bukit Timah Flood Alleviation Scheme, an important and complex undertaking by the Government then to divert water away from the Bukit Timah Canal to Sungei Ulu Pandan near Clementi to alleviate flooding in the Bukit Timah area.

The expansion of the 3.2km diversion canal, which runs from Bukit Timah Road near Maple Avenue to Clementi Road, is carried out in three phases. When the entire diversion canal is completed by end of 2018, it will enhance flood protection for the upper Bukit Timah catchment, which includes areas such as Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Beauty World Plaza, Bukit Timah Shopping Centre and Sime Darby Centre.

Ongoing drainage improvement works

PUB's ongoing drainage improvement works at 75 locations, including the Bukit Timah First Diversion Canal, are expected to be completed over the next 2 to 3 years.

Some of the other major works include:

- Sungei Pandan Kechil (a 600m section between AYE and West Coast Rd and a 850m section between West Coast Rd and the Sea)
- Bedok Canal (a 1.2km section between Upper Changi Rd East and Bedok Junction and a 300m section between ECP and the sea)
- Kallang River (a 1.8km section between Bishan Road and Braddell Road)

The Stamford Diversion Canal and Stamford Detention Tank will alleviate flooding in the Stamford Canal catchment, which covers the Orchard Road shopping belt.

The Stamford Diversion Canal comprises box drains at Grange/Tanglin Road and off Kim Seng Road, and twin tunnels under Grange Road. The first of the twin tunnels has been completed, while the second tunnel will be completed by this December. A last segment of the open-cut section at the junction of Irwell Bank and River Valley Road is in progress. The entire Stamford Diversion Canal will be completed by 3Q 2018.

The Stamford Detention Tank project is substantially completed. PUB will be testing the pumps in December 2017. This project will be completed by 2Q 2018 when the inlet pipe is connected to the tank.

"These drainage projects will reduce flood risks but in more extreme storms, floods may still occur. We will do our best to update the public of flood situations through various channels such as the PUB Facebook page and Twitter, as well as our mobile app MyWaters," said Mr Ridzuan.

How the public can stay updated

In preparation for the monsoon season, the public can subscribe to the heavy rain warning SMS alert service provided by the Meteorological Service Singapore.

During heavy rain events, they can check on water levels in major drains and canals, as well as flood alerts via PUB's Facebook: www.facebook.com/PUBsg, Twitter: www.twitter.com/PUBsingapore, and PUB's mobile app "MyWaters". Drivers can also tune in to radio traffic watch broadcasts or view electronic signages on roads for flood reports. The public can call PUB's 24-hour Call Centre at 1800- 2255-782 to report flood incidents.

About PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency

PUB is a statutory board under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. It is the national water agency, and manages Singapore's water supply, water catchment and used water in an integrated way.

PUB has ensured a diversified and sustainable supply of water for Singapore with the Four National Taps (local catchment water, imported water, NEWater, desalinated water).

PUB calls on everyone to play a part in conserving water, in keeping our waterways clean, and in caring for Singapore's precious water resources. If we all do our little bit, there will be enough water for all our needs – for commerce and industry, for living, for life.

Find out more about us

Like us at www.facebook.com/PUBsg

Follow us on www.instagram.com/PUBsingapore and www.twitter.com/PUBsingapore

Subscribe to our channel at www.youtube.com/sgPUB

For our latest event photos, visit www.flickr.com/PUBsg or www.pinterest.com/PUBsg

Download our mobile apps: MyWaters for [iOS](#), [Android](#) or [Windows Phone](#)

Visit our website at www.pub.gov.sg

National Archives of Singapore