

PRESS RELEASE 28th May 2012

Reclaim Fingal Alliance (RFA) Response to Fingal County Council's report on 3 "Emerging sites" for a new 700,000 People Equivalent (PE) sewage plant and orbital sewer in North County Dublin

There are three fundamental flaws in this report casting serious doubts over the competence and credibility of FCC and the consultants they employ.

1. Current demand figures ignored

The project team continues to manipulate the population projections to justify the continuation of this project. The current 2011 measured load at Ringsend is 600,000 PE **lower** than this project team projected it would be. This fact is conveniently ignored by the consultancy firm Jacobs Tobin because they know **demand** is their only justification for this project to go ahead.

2. True costs of project not revealed

The calculation of a €500m cost as stated by RPS (the PR consultancy employed by Fingal County Council) is erroneous. Two of the chosen sites (Annsbrook and Newtowncorduff) are so far from their load centres that **48km** of orbital sewer will be required to transport the sewage to the treatment plant and from the plant to the coastal waters. **Each km will cost approximately €10m**, (Fingal County Council's own costs as stated in their 2005 report). Therefore **the orbital sewer alone will cost at least €480m**. This leaves only €20m for the waste water treatment plant and marine outfall from the €500m budget. **The truth is that RPS and Fingal County Council are concealing the true costs of this project because the cost of this solution cannot be justified.**

3. Impact of water metering overlooked

The project team refuses to adequately calculate the impact of water metering on hydrological load demand. The expected reduction of 10-18% on demand from the introduction of water metering requires a complete rethink of the strategy. The impact of lower demand will allow **Ringsend's 2.1M P/E up-graded capacity to be adequate until 2031.**

Conflict of interest

Why should Jacobs Tobin recommend that the project should halt when they are earning millions of euro in fees from the project? Their obvious conflict of commercial interest has eroded their credibility with the communities of Fingal. We can no longer believe the numbers from this project team.

See www.greaterdublinsewage.com for more details on why this project and its approach to Dublin's future waste water treatment will lead to the Irish taxpayer wasting over €800m.