

11. 5 INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

A EXISTING CONDITIONS

Overview

The West End of Moloka'i lacks numerous public facilities and services, and the basic infrastructure that does exist is in disrepair and/ or is inadequate. Public facilities include 7 public rights-of-way to the western shoreline, Maunaloa Community Center, Maunaloa Park (baseball/ softball fields), Papohaku Beach Park (County park that provides picnic areas, camping spaces, restrooms, and beach access), and Kapukahehu Beach controlled by Molokai Ranch (Dixie Maru Beach). Moloka'i Ranch controls access to much of the shoreline, including all coastal areas south of Kapukahehu (Dixie Maru), which means access is limited to those who can walk in, or those who ask for Ranch permission to enter. The addition of a few key amenities would add to the quality of life to the West End, while still preserving its rural character.

Emergency Services

The closest fire station to Maunaloa is in Ho'olehua, which is 12 miles away. The main police station is in Kaunakakai, which is 16.5 miles away. This means it takes too long to respond to fires and other emergencies on the West End. Molokai Fire Department's record of response times to incidents on the West End exceeds national standards. Furthermore, the 2016 call volume for all incidents west of Mahana is an amount that is comparable to the Puko'o fire substation on the East End.⁵⁰ Property and environmental damage, as well as personal welfare would be better protected if there were a fire and police substation in Maunaloa. Lastly, the only shelter on the West End is Maunaloa Elementary School, which is a tsunami shelter, but not a hurricane shelter. The closest hurricane shelter is the Moloka'i High School in Ho'olehua.

Water

The water supply for the West End is supplied by Molokai Public Utilities and Wai'ola O' Molokai. The quality of water provided by utility companies is regulated by the DOH. Regular water quality testing is performed, and water quality requirements are met. However, the community lacks confidence in the safety of the drinking water.

Commented [M1]: What is the source of this information? Recommend removing this statement.

The water supplied to the West End of Moloka'i is regulated by DOH Safe Drinking Water Branch as the Maunaloa-Kaluakoi (PWS231) water system. As of December 26, 2017, the ground water for this water system is pumped from Well 17, disinfected with chlorine and conveyed to the Maunaloa and Kaluakoi communities through a series of closed pipelines, tanks, and pump stations. Kualapu'u Reservoir and the Molokai Irrigation System surface water are no longer being utilized. If there is an extended outage at Well 17, Moloka'i Ranch may use surface water from the east Moloka'i mountains and treat it through the Ranch's Pu'u Nana Water Treatment Plant. This is an emergency mode of operation.

Between 2013-2017, the Maunaloa-Kaluakoi (PWS 231) water system has received three Tier 2 violations for exceeding the maximum contaminant level ("MCL") for Total Trihalomethanes ("TTHMs"). A violation of the MCL occurs when the Locational Running Annual Average at a sample point exceeds 80 micrograms per liter (ug/L). Following each of the violations, Moloka'i Ranch provided the required public notification to their customers and took steps to reduce TTHM concentrations. These steps included a flushing program to reduce water age, increased testing of TTHMs, purchase of a benchtop TTHM analyzer, conversion of the Maunaloa-Kaluakoi water system to groundwater, and replacement of the Maunaloa 3.0 million-gallon reservoir. The Maunaloa-Kaluakoi water system has met all other federal and state drinking water standards, which cover over ninety bacteriological and chemical contaminants and is currently in compliance with all federal and state drinking water regulations.

Commented [M2]: This section of the Community Plan is for current conditions. It doesn't seem appropriate to include descriptions of past occurrences. The previous paragraph already states that the water system is regulated by the DOH. Recommend removing this paragraph.

In exchange for expedited development permission in the 1970's, the Ranch agreed to provide all of the water required for its projects. These contracts with the County of Maui are still in effect and apply to the current owner and to all successors. Molokai Public Utilities, Inc. ("MPU") and Waiola O Molokai, Inc. continue to provide water to its west end customers at rates that are approved by the PUC.

Commented [M3]: What is the source of this statement? Was this Molokai Ranch or a company that it acquired?

The Ranch continues to provide water to its properties, but at rates that were approved by the PUC, after the Ranch shut down most operations in 2008 and threatened to shut down its water system too. Water rates are now among the highest in the nation. DOH Safe Drinking Water Branch encourages all drinking water utilities to recover all operational costs through rates for long-term sustainable finances to support the delivery of safe drinking water. Moloka'i Ranch is responsible for providing residents with safe, clean, and affordable drinking water.

Commented [M4]: Water is provided to west end customers through MPU and Waiola. Rates are approved by the PUC. Recommend changing the wording as shown above.

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Committee Chair

Roads

West Molokai private roads, owned by Molokai Properties Limited (MPL), are used to access public parks and private residences. They are needed for emergency responders, tsunami evacuation routes, and MEO transportation. Almost all of these private roads are in desperate need of repair.

Molokai Ranch repairs its roads as needed and to the extent permitted by its resources. When Kaluakoi and the Ranchlands were developed by the original subdivision developer, Kaluakoi Corporation, rights of way were designed, surveyed, platted, and recorded with County approval. These rights of way are the means for delivery of government services, including emergency responders, tsunami evacuation routes, and MEO transportation. There are additional platted and recorded rights of way, including four-wheel drive roads to Hale O' Lono and the Kaluakoi rights of way, which permit public access to remote beach sites.

Water drainage systems, including culverting and erosion control areas were designed and installed in accordance with County requirements. The platted rights of way include public utility easements with assets owned by MECO, Hawaiian