

GET Committee

From: Steve Paselk <stevepaselk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2019 3:03 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Confirmation of Eric Nakagawa for Environmental Management

My name is Steve Paselk and I have concerns about the policies and directions that nominee Eric Nakagawa will be leading his department. Many including myself have concerns about the Anergia contracts at Central Maui Dump and Kahului Treatment Plant and the lack of transparency about them. Recently funds have been proposed to expand pipelines to divert wastewater for agricultural purposes. This is well and good however my understanding is that no funding or plans are proposed or in effect to study tertiary upgrades to the Kahului, Lahaina, and Kihei Wastewater Treatment Plants so that this wastewater is truly safe to use and not just diverting problems elsewhere. This director will need to look at the location of the Kahului Wastewater Treatment Plant directly in a Tsunami Zone. I have been a Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water testing volunteer and the Lahaina and Kihei Treatment Plants exceed the allowable nutrient pollution discharge rates by 9 times the allowable rates. The Kahului Wastewater Treatment Injection wells exceed this limit by 24 times allowable limits due to its larger size and volume. Whether or not the County wins, loses, or settles its Supreme Court Appeal the County needs to plan ahead for needed upgrades to the Lahaina, Kihei and Kahului Treatment Plants. The State which originally signed off on the Injection Well Permits many years ago is now revising their Clean Water standards due to the Court Case and is already cracking down on similar violations by several Maalaea Condo injection wells. How much longer are Government Leaders going to close their eyes to these continuing Crimes against Nature (the environment)? My vision is that further treating wastewater can make it available for agriculture and to create reforested greenbelts with hiking trails surrounding Kahului and above Kihei and Lahaina possibly financed with upcoming Carbon Offset Grants. If potential directors cannot commit to addressing issues such as these should they be approved? These are some of the issues and questions the Council should be asking this nominee before any approval.-Steve Paselk, Paia