

Resolution

No. 24-167

URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO INITIATE UPDATES TO THE WEST MAUI COMMUNITY PLAN IN ALIGNMENT WITH WEST MAUI'S INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES

WHEREAS, the West Maui Community Plan, effective January 31, 2022, detailed the vision and goals for residents to design “their community to better meet their needs through strong, achievable policies, and meaningful actions;” and

WHEREAS, the August 2023 Wildfires devastated Lahaina and other parts of West Maui, caused the deaths of at least 102 persons, injured many others, and destroyed property, roads, and other infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the extreme changes the wildfires brought to Lahaina and the need for the West Maui community to adapt, recover, and rebuild from the wildfires have caused a shift in vision and priorities for many community members, meaning some aspects of the West Maui Community Plan are outdated; and

WHEREAS, to address this issue, the West Maui Community Plan should be updated to reflect the community’s needs and priorities in the aftermath of the wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the community plan updates must be considered alongside the County’s plans to repair, rebuild, and improve West Maui infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, even before the wildfires, progress on housing developments was slow because of insufficient infrastructure, including water and wastewater, and the destruction caused by the wildfires has exacerbated the problem; and

WHEREAS, careful prioritization and planning of road, water, and wastewater infrastructure will be crucial for both residents seeking to rebuild their homes as quickly as possible and for new housing for residents who needed homes even before the wildfires occurred; and

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WHEREAS, infrastructure plans should also account for other strategies that could support West Maui; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of R-1 water infrastructure and use could make potable water—often now used for landscaping and other activities that do not require potable water—more available for housing; and

WHEREAS, expanded R-1 water infrastructure and use could also promote resiliency measures to mitigate impacts and support the community in the event of a future disaster; and

WHEREAS, by considering what infrastructure will be prioritized as West Maui rebuilds, the West Maui Community Plan can be updated in such a way that ensures resources are directed toward realistic goals and policies that will produce the most benefit; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Administration to initiate updates to the West Maui Community Plan in alignment with West Maui's infrastructure plans in the aftermath of the August 2023 Wildfires; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, Managing Director, Planning Director, Director of Environmental Management, Director of Housing, , Director of Public Works, and Director of Water Supply.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tamara A.M. Paltin

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