

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

July 25, 2024

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:04 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Tom Cook, Chair
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member

STAFF: Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
Kasie Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Lori Tengan, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokai Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Nahulu Nunokawa, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Shayne Agawa, Director, Department of Environmental Management
James Jensen, Engineering Program Manager, Department of Water Supply
Jordan Molina, Director, Department of Public Works
Gregory Pfof, Administrative Planning Officer, Department of Planning
Jordan Hart, Planning Program Administrator, Department of Planning
Candace Thackerson, Shoreline Team Supervisor, Department of Planning

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Oliver Vaas, Fire Prevention Bureau Captain, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Richard Mitchell, Acting Director, Department of Housing

OTHERS: David Sellers, President, American Institute of Architects
Johann Lall
(17) additional attendees

PRESS: *Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Water and Infrastructure Committee of July 25th, 2024 please come to order. The time is now 9:04 a.m. May I ask that all participants please silence all your noise-making devices. I'm your Chair, Tom Cook. Members, per the Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workplace with you today, exclusive of minors. Before we begin, I would like to ask the Department representatives who have joined online to please also turn on your cameras when it's your turn to speak. Now, I'd like to introduce the Committee Members. Committee Vice-Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura, good morning.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, everyone, and looking forward to a productive meeting. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Tasha Kama, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Good morning, Chair. I am here in my workspace, and I am alone.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Gabe Johnson, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, Committee Members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office, and I am alone in my workspace. Mahalo.

CHAIR COOK: And Councilmember Tamara Paltin, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Good morning. Aloha kakahiaka. Streaming live and direct from the Lahaina Recovery Center. There's a whole bunch of folks outside of the door, but I'm alone in this 7x3-foot space.

CHAIR COOK: And good morning, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we don't see her online.

CHAIR COOK: Okay, excused for now. Council Chair Alice Lee.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, Vietnam, and all of Maui County. Xin chào, xin chào. And I'd like to offer my support for Member Paltin, maybe she can upgrade to the pantry instead of the closet, then you have access to all the food. . . .(laughing). . .

CHAIR COOK: I'm...I'm advocating for a full-blown office.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. You're...you're better than me. You have more influence than me. And I have no one here at my home. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: And today we have Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins in the office . . .(laughing).in the house.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I am here, good morning.

CHAIR COOK: And Councilmember Shane Sinenci, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Chair. Aloha kakahiaka kākou from the Hāna District Office, here with my Staff Member Dawn Lono, and no testifiers this morning.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. From the Department of Environmental Management, we have Director Shayne Agawa.

MR. AGAWA: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good morning.

CHAIR COOK: Good morning. From the Department of Fire and Public Safety and Fire Prevention, we have Fire Captain Oliver Vaas.

MR. VAAS: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good morning.

CHAIR COOK: Good morning. From the Department of Public Works, we have Director Jordan Molina.

MR. MOLINA: Hi, good morning, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: And Mr. Molina will join us. From the Department of Housing, Acting Director Remi Mitchell, good morning.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, Director Mitchell informed Staff that he'll be joining at 10:30 a.m. today.

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CHAIR COOK: Excellent. Thank you. From the Department of Planning, Planning Program Administrator Jordan Hart, and Shoreline Team Supervisor Candace Thackerson, good morning.

MS. THACKERSON: Good morning.

MR. HART: Morning.

CHAIR COOK: From the Department of Water Supply, we have Engineering Program Manager James Jensen.

MR. JENSEN: Aloha, Chair and Committee Members, and good morning.

CHAIR COOK: From Corporation Counsel, we have Nahulu Nunokawa.

MR. NUNOKAWA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR COOK: We also have with us today Mike Renner, Director of 4Leaf Consulting, Inc. Good morning, Mike.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I apologize. 4Leaf has not gotten back to us on their attendance for today's meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: He's right outside, do you want me to ask him?

CHAIR COOK: It's pretty important that he joins us. It's the second time we've invited them and, I'd really like them to participate and provide information.

MR. MOLINA: Chair, this is Jordan. I did not require them to attend today.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Good morning, Mr. Molina. Members, without objection, I will delegate the individuals mentioned as resource persons under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council because of their expertise in today's subject matter on the County's permit process.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: From OCS, our Committee Staff, Jarret Pascual, Paige Greco, Pauline Martins, Lori Ann Tengan, Carla Nakata, and Lei Dinneen. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on the meeting connectivity. Good morning, everyone, and thank you for joining today's WAI Committee. We have one item on our agenda, WAI-1(16), County Permit Processing Efficiencies. Members, if there are no objections, I would like to take testimony after receiving opening remarks on WAI-1(16).

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Members. Members, today I'd like to have a discussion about the County's permitting processes and the ways of making this processes more efficient. From application to issuance, the average processing time for a building permit is 300 days. As a Councilmember, finding ways to shorten this time frame has been one of my top priorities. Back on January 11th, 2024, the WAI Committee met on a similar topic, WAI-1(10), Expedited Permitting Process. Discussion on this item focused on the expediting permitting process for the Lahaina and Upcountry burn zones. In addition, on October 2nd, 2023, we heard from the permit process working group, led by former Managing Director Keku Akana, on the Administration's effort in tackling this longstanding issue. Today's discussion under WAI-1(16) is meant to process...meant to focus on Countywide permit processing efficiencies. Because there's a lot of overlap, all of the correspondence under WAI-1(10) can also be found under WAI-1(16) in Granicus. For this meeting, I wanted to hear from the Departments of any of the updates that they have made on their permitting review process in the last six months. At this time, I would like to ask our resources for opening comments. For the Departments, please include any updates you may have as part of your opening comments. I'll also repeat, please turn on your camera during your presentation for the general public and the Council. So, first I'd like to start with Director Agawa from the Department of Environmental Management. Do you have any opening comments?

MR. AGAWA: Morning, Chair, morning, Members. No official opening comments. I do have some responses to questions that were provided, and I'm here to answer any of those questions. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Director Agawa. Fire Department, would you like to share any opening remarks?

MR. VAAS: Good morning.

CHAIR COOK: Good morning.

MR. VAAS: So, we don't have any official comments, but just to address what changes we have made. We just hired two new client reviewers. It will be a while to train them, but that should make a huge dent in our efficiency. We've addressed some of our codes, ordinances, and policies to define the scope, to make the plan reviewer's job more efficient. On the negative side, we are proposing to look at possibly more items than we have before, but I think we can handle the workload. Also, we stole from Peter to pay Paul by taking those plan reviewers from the inspection side. So...but coming down the pipe, we're going to fill those inspection holes too, but it's just the manpower filling seat thing. I think we're looking good. The Lahaina fire investigations and the really tough work requiring all manpower is over the hump, so we're going to get those guys back doing their inspections, and back doing their plan reviews. That's going to be a great

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improvement over what has been happening the last couple of months. So, I have a pretty positive outlook for how we're going to move in the future. And that's all I have for now. I'm open to any questions.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you...thank you, Captain Vaas. And the Housing Department Director will be at 10:30, and he can give us an update. Planning Department, do you have any opening comments?

MR. HART: Chair, none from ZAED. We are here to respond to any questions. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Mr. Hart, and Ms. Thackerson. Department of Public Works, do you have any opening comments?

MR. MOLINA: No comments at this time. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Water Department, do you have any opening comments?

MR. JENSEN: Aloha, Chair. Yeah, we have quite a bit of an update, if now is the time to give that on what we've been up to. First and foremost, we added an engineer to our Central District staff. He's been with us for about a month, and he's already handling permits himself. He's picking up the work, understanding it, and he's doing a great job. We really appreciate that. We're continuing to plug away with recruitment to get our numbers up to full staff. We're just going to keep at that. I've been just...you know, I've been with the Department since March, and do just day to day, getting involved in our permit process. We have two districts that issue permits, and we are famously involved with almost every building permit that can be issued in the County of Maui. And just been paying attention to how we work, what we do, how we approve things, to work with my staff to understand the nuts and bolts and how that can be improved. So, I've been listening to my staff, and have solicited feedback from them. And we've made a couple of adjustments, particularly with how a permit review can mature from a permit clerk review to an engineer's review, and how that traffic back and forth between that staff can get disrupted if we kind of color outside the lines, and we put someone in a position where they get a permit back and it's not quite what they were expecting. So, we're...we've ironed that out, and I've gotten good feedback from staff that that's helping. We've had a...a kind of a mechanical issue with reconciling between our...our engineering division and our fiscal division on billing, with having the right TMK assigned to an address. And it's not something that really affects the issuance of a permit, but we've had an internal policy that we want to reconcile that before we issue a permit. We are moving back to prior policy, which deferred that to a later time when we don't have as many permits to review, and would still need work to do. So, we're starting that, we're about to implement that. A couple of the things that we are considering is, most of our projects involve excavation, which requires us to apply on behalf of the applicant with SHPD for clearance to excavate. Applicants can do that on their own, and we're looking at allowing applicants to do that before

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they apply so that they can get that clearance ahead of time. It can save us a lot of time. There is some risk on their part because of their project changes, then they might have to go back and ask again. And we're looking at allowing consultants or applicants to have their own consultants prepare easement deeds and things of that nature--that's something I did as a consultant when I was in the private world, and that should be okay. So, we're looking at implementing that. In terms of our code and admin rules, you know, we have a Title 14 amendment coming--it's not ready, there's a lot of work still to do on that--but we want to take parts of the code that are related to engineering standards and put them in the water system standards where they belong and kind of open the door to more material options, things that are industry standard and have been industry standard for many years now where...to eliminate and...you know, or at least reduce the amount of time we're having to look at a specific material that is okay to use, but we still have to approve it. Because that's...it's just that it takes time, and it's not particularly necessary. We are developing a hydraulic model. Carollo Engineers is developing a hydraulic model for the County, and it includes all districts, all water systems, and it's in the calibration stages. We're very optimistic. It'll be online and active for our use by the end of this year. Hopefully they didn't hear me say that just now. But, we've been kind of beta testing fire flow analysis in the model--even though we still have to do it with our traditional calculation method, we've been beta testing with the consultant to run scenarios and we've been getting similar results, which is very encouraging, and we get those results much faster when we just ping the model with the scenario. So, we're very excited for when that model is online because the crunch of these hydraulic calculations is a huge time killer, and it's...so, we're excited about that. We've been regularly...or holding regularly-scheduled meetings with applicants when they have multiple projects, or large projects, and...like every two weeks, once a month, and it's just an opportunity for us to check in with the applicant teams and their consultant staffs. Keep everybody on task. It keeps us understanding what their time frames are, and keeps the applicants understanding what they owe our reviewers to move their projects forward. And we've gotten positive feedback on that, so we're going to keep that going. And I'm planning--we haven't done this yet, but I'm planning to issue a survey to our key applicants and consultants that I've been getting to know over the past four months, and to get their...to get their feedback because I know there's a lot more that we can look at. And lastly, related to the code and admin rules, actually Oliver Vaas and Fire and I just...just literally started talking about making sure that our codes are aligned because there is a little bit of head-butting between NFPA-1 and ISO. So, we want to make sure we're on the same page there, which the expectation is that it'll make...not make life easier for everyone, but at least it'll be consistent. So, that's...that's what we have from Water Supply. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Mr. Jensen. And so, Director Molina, since we don't have Mr. Renner giving an update on the 4Leaf Program, could you give us an update?

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MR. MOLINA: Yeah, sure. As of Monday--where's my report?--we have issued, I believe, 39 permits? Confirm that. Yeah, 39 permits are issued, and approximately 100 are in review at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yuki said 42 were issued.

MR. MOLINA: Oh, last night, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and about 86 in your gate.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Well, thank you for that update, Member Paltin and Director Molina. Staff, is there anyone signed up to testify?

MS. GRECO: Yes, Chair. We have testifiers.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. So, I'm going to read. Anyone wanting to testify, please sign up in the conference room, join the online meeting, or call in on the phone number noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via eComment at maucounty.us/agendas. For online testifiers, please click the raise-your-hand button. For those calling in, please follow the prompts via the phone; star-five to raise and lower your hand, and star-six to mute and unmute. Staff will enable your microphone and video when it is your turn to testify. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you're still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. You can view the meeting on *Akakū* 53, Facebook Live, or maucounty.us/agendas. Decorum will be maintained throughout this meeting. Breaching decorum includes anything that disrupts the orderly management of the meeting. Violation of decorum may result in the removal of the...from the meeting. At this time, I would like to open public testimony. Staff, please call the first testifier.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. GRECO: Chair, the first testifier, and only testifier so far, is David Sellers.

CHAIR COOK: Welcome, Mr. Sellers. You have three minutes.

MS. GRECO: David, there you go.

MR. SELLERS: All right. Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity. Thank you, Chair Cook, for taking up this work. My name is David Sellers. I am the president of our local American Institute of Architects Chapter. And we've been working with various Councilmembers, and they are...with permitting issues for a very long time, and I really appreciate all the work that's gone into this. One of the things that I always try to remind people when we talk about permits, permits are intended to keep people safe. It's intended to keep our community safe, so access to permits and being able to make sure the community is getting permits is of

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the utmost importance. The current long lead times for permitting exacerbate our housing crisis, affordability, and impact our local community negatively. One of the things that I'd like to do is to post some written comments. I'm having a little bit of trouble due to my age and difficulty with technology, so I'll try to work on that, but to just kind of get the high level overview. There's a few things that we think that could really speed up permitting process. Currently, with the new MAPPS system--or relatively new MAPPS system--we currently have to wait for all agencies to review. Now, one of the things that we have been a supporter of is allowing us to address comments by certain reviewers sort of in real time. After the reviewer makes comments currently, we have to wait until all agencies have reviewed before we can upload comments. Some of the Departments due to, you know, unfortunate lack of staffing, are not able to review the permits in a timely manner, it can be six, sometimes eight months before we get an initial review. Going backwards, it's just a very efficient...inefficient process because previous reviewers who have looked at subsequently hundreds of permits in the meantime, as well as the design professionals themselves, have to get back up to speed, remember what was going on, and then make those comments, and then wait for that review process to go through again. As best we try to make a perfect submission, it is a complicated process, but we do...we do our best because it's the best in our interest as well. You know, with the staffing challenges, I have been a proponent of requesting or seeing how we can help assist the County. We attend multiple job fairs at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa, and we commonly see City and County of Honolulu, County, you know, of Hawai'i, and other jurisdictions, you know, they're advertising for engineering positions. I know that's a hard...hard thing to fill. We're happy to help out with that if there's a possibility and, you know, I think one of the things that would be helpful is, we continue to add more and more issues. . . .(timer sounds). . . I'll make my public testimony. Thank you for my opportunity.

CHAIR COOK: Now, thank you...thank you, Mr. Sellers. Members, with your permission, I'd like to ask if Mr. Sellers would be available as a resource person due to the fact he's the Maui Chair of AIA, and very knowledgeable about permitting issues.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: Mr. Sellers, would you be available for the next hour and a half or so to participate in the meeting?

MR. SELLERS: For most of that time I will be, yes.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you. Staff, do we have additional testifiers?

MS. GRECO: Chair, yes. We have one more person signed up at this time, that is Johann Lall.

CHAIR COOK: Welcome.

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MR. LALL: Aloha. Johann Lall testifying on behalf of myself. First, is there any way we can go back to BlueJeans? Because I always have issues with Teams and Webex. . . .(laughing). . . So, I...you know, I worked for the Planning Department for three years. When I started...so, I was in the long-range division, and the long-range division only had four GIS staff, and then the plan implementation division had one GIS, and current and ZAED had zero. The Public Works Department, I believe, has zero GIS staff. The Fire Department, I don't think, has any GIS. And these are all people who need GIS for permitting and a lot of the other stuff they do. So, one thing to streamline would be to actually hire GIS people, or distribute them better. Because when...when you're reviewing plans, and you're looking at things like wet zones, SLR-XA, or if you're trying to measure like fire risk or stuff like that, or impacts to cultural resources, it's all geographic. And so, a lot of permit review is geographic, but those staff don't exist for some reason, and...I don't know. It seemed like low-hanging fruit, you know, you could hire a few...a few people, and...and have a huge difference. And so, that's one suggestion I would have. I also want to, I guess, bring up a concern. Like...it seems like when there's discussion about streamlining, permitting and make it faster, there's an assumption among the public, especially that if you apply for a permit, that means it's like automatic that you should get the permit. And permitting here in Maui County is really more permissive than anywhere I've lived, and I've lived in Austin, I've lived in Houston, and some other places. In most cities, you need a permit to cut down a tree, right? Here's, there like no regulations protecting trees, you know, and it sounds great to say okay, yeah, just makes things easier. When someone cuts down a tree, that doesn't just impact them, it impacts the entire community, and that's just one example. You know, there's also shorelines to think about, there's the environment. We have more extinctions going on among our endangered species than anywhere else in America, and possibly the world. We're losing our shorelines. We've lost like miles and miles of shoreline because of poor planning and really, too permissive planning, and just allowing anything. And so, I...you know, we need stronger regulation, we can also streamline, and so whatever the discussion is and whatever happens, I want to encourage actually taking seriously things like protecting the environment, public safety, especially with fire risk and that kind of stuff . . .(timer sounds). . . and definitely shoreline and the environment. So, mahalo.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Members, any clarifying questions for the testifier? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Lall, for your testimony. I just want to say...or ask, I think I know what GIS is, but I could be wrong. Could you clarify what it is and...so I can understand why it's necessary to better distribute them or hire more.

MR. LALL: So, GIS is Geographic Information Science, and is basically anything related to maps. But, what's...what is important is that...is the geographic part because when you have geographic data, that means you can overlay different things, and

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you can compare and see how things stack up, but literally. And then what's close to what, like...which becomes important when you're...when you're looking at zoning and community plans and all that kind of stuff. A lot of things, when applications come in, they're just like pdf maps and more like pad drawings basically, and that's not geographic. And CAD is not geographic, and so it's a lot harder to overlay things. So, geographic information can be...I mean it can streamline things a lot. And that was the idea, for example, with like the cultural overlay. If you have things geographically referenced, then you have a map that you can refer to easily, and then add data and look at stuff all together. It makes it a lot easier and quicker versus trying to look at two things that are printed out and being like oh, how does that line up with that? So, hopefully that answers your questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is it kind of like trying to make 3--2D into 3D in a 2D format? Would that be a good layperson explanation?

MR. LALL: It's kind of the opposite because the globe is like 3D and the real world is 3D, but you're...you're sticking everything into 2D, and you're comparing in 2D.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. LALL: And there's all kinds of things related to accuracy that are important that GIS folks know about. So, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, I think I got it. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Members, additional questions?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I have a question.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Mr. Lall, for your testimony. I know you used to work here at the Maui Planning Department, but I was curious if you worked in Austin's Planning Department or the Texas one...I think you said both Houston and Austin, you used to live in. Austin is famous for having extremely relaxed zoning laws, which we do not. So, did you work there too, and what was your experience like if you did?

MR. LALL: I didn't work in Planning there, I worked in law enforcement in Austin. But I paid pretty close attention to the planning issues, and I went to meetings and stuff. But it's actually Houston I think you're thinking of. They don't have zoning, but you do have to get permits, and so they regulate that way. And so, for example, there was a project where they wanted to build on a slave cemetery that was...it was unmarked graves, and they found it through archeology. And the Houston Council just told them no, they couldn't build, which I don't think would ever happen here. There's always like oh, you can relocate the burials or

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whatever, so... But, Austin is very restrictive, especially of like trees, and environmental stuff, and protecting their streams and their watersheds.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Members, any further questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much, sir. Staff, any other additional testifiers?

MS. GRECO: Chair, there's nobody else signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a final call?

CHAIR COOK: Yes, please.

MS. GRECO: If there's anybody else joining the meeting that would like to testify, please click the raise-hand button at the top of your screen. I'm doing a countdown...three, two, one. Chair, there's nobody else wanting to testify.

CHAIR COOK: Members, with no objections, I'm going to close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF THE MEETING. . .

CHAIR COOK: As a reminder, written testimony will be...continue to be accepted and is encouraged. Discussion. Members, I'm proposing two rounds of four-minute questions per Member. Are there any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Members. I would like to open the floor for questions and discussion, starting with Vice-Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair for having this meeting. Always a hot topic, right?

CHAIR COOK: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: And so –

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Water Department...oh, go ahead.

CHAIR COOK: I so apologize, but we have...Remi Mitchell has...is in attendance, and I wanted to welcome him.

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MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Members, for inviting me.

CHAIR COOK: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: He could give his presentation and then we could do our questions, I guess?

CHAIR COOK: Okay. How about we do that? Opening comments from the Housing Director?

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you. So, we've prepared a written response, and it's on route [sic] to the Committee. And so, perhaps I can give a verbal response now. The Department operates on a two-day business turnaround for both regular and fast track permits. The permits will go to a staffer in our Housing Community Development Division, and they are very efficient in reviewing those and turning them around. We've had 18 projects since 2018 that have qualified, following Mayor Arakawa's directive on fast-track permitting, which was issued April 29th, 2018, and transmitted to all departments on June 21st, 2018. So, to the extent that I sought to eke out additional efficiencies, I can't honestly say I could see where we could do that. But, when I looked at the permitting routing slip, first, second, third, and fourth or more dwelling permits are always routed to the Housing Department. And so I ask the question, if Section 22.96.030(a)(1) requires that we issue...we review those permits where they are ten or more lots in the subdivision, is it necessary for us to review the permits where it's one to four or more, or one to nine? And it appears it's not. I don't know if that would result in additional efficiencies, because that turnaround is still very quick nonetheless, but that's just my initial observation. And those are my comments. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. So, I apolog...Member Sugimura, I apologize for the interruption, and now it's your opportunity to have questions.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah. Thank you. So, going back to Water, I guess Mr. Jensen, as the new engineer that is...is in DWS, and sounds like you've been very busy. And what is the hydraulic model?

MR. JENSEN: So, the hydraulic model is a...it's an electronic representation of the Department of Water Supply's complete water system. So, it's...you know, the technology has been around for about 30 years. Our consultant is using a new software that I'm not familiar with, but it's...it's a mechanism for evaluating how well the system is working, and you can...the model, when it's finished, it's going to have all of our existing infrastructure in it. The consultant is going to input the demands on the system for each property, and then there...the undeveloped properties will be assigned the...what their theoretical demands could be, based on our water usage guidelines--so like the 600 gallons per day for a single-family dwelling. So, if there was a subdividable property that could be subdivided into 50 lots, the demand would be 50 times, you know, 600. So, this model gets built,

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and then there are different scenarios that the consultant will run. And the most important one is the peak domestic demand plus fire flow. So, when we...when we get to the point where we run that scenario, the model has the potential to show system improvements that are needed to allow water to move back and forth throughout the system efficiently and, you know, in accordance with our standards. So, that model is a very important tool used by municipalities to assess the adequacy of infrastructure, but also to inform an asset management program that can feed projects into our capital program in the right order. So, that's...that's how we intend to use it. Yeah, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Wow, that's fabulous. We've been hearing from Director that there is a study that was done by DWS regarding the...regarding Water. So, is that almost done? I think...I think he mentioned maybe August. And what was the name of the consultant?

MR. JENSEN: I'm sorry, I'm not...I am not familiar with that study. It might be Carollo. They're doing a lot of work for us, I'm not sure if it's them. Our --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think it --

MR. JENSEN: -- water...our water resources of Planning Division probably knows more about that than I do.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. So, for Jordan Molina, 4Leaf, I just wanted to verify that they're only doing residential, they're not doing any kind of commercial permitting --

MR. MOLINA: That is not correct.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- . . .*(inaudible)*. . . That's not correct? Ah, very good.

MR. MOLINA: They...with the ordinance we adopted, all properties affected by the fire are eligible to use the disaster recovery permit.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They're only issuing in the burn zone though. They won't issue for outside of the burn zone, and they're not doing SMA yet.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. Because there is no disaster-related permits outside the burn zone. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Member Kama, questions for our resource people?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I wanted to get back to the Department of Water Supply and ask--I don't even--if...if there are any plans in the work to develop new water source?

MR. JENSEN: Yes. So, we've...I've been working with Director Stufflebean. We're developing a map, it's kind of...it's likely going to be used to share information with the public. Right now, we're using it to kind of track the source development efforts that we're currently working on Upcountry. I didn't bring that map with me, that would have been nice, but there are a lot of source development opportunities being explored. Just to name a few--and right now they tend to relate to Upcountry, so apologies for not really talking about Central district, but--and none of these are happening tomorrow. But the Kamole Treatment Plant, we're looking at constructing raw water reservoirs that can help us maintain the peak output of that plant by capturing excess flow from the inflow to that plant. We're hoping to couple that with capacity upgrades to that plant to increase the output capability. We have some well development opportunities that we're looking at Upcountry. Some of them are where we're engaging with landowners, who...about the potential of exploring a well opportunity on a property, and then in some cases we have a constructed well that simply needs to be completed. So, there are some...some opportunities we're exploring in that regard. We also just executed a contract with Fukunaga Engineers to perform some aquifer exploration of the Makawao aquifer, and there is a couple of specific zones we're looking at. And, there's...yeah, there are a couple others that I am just not remembering the names at the moment. But there is quite a bit going on in terms of source development Upcountry. On the West Side, we have the Kahana well that is in construction, and in Central, we do have a...we have a well aquifer exploration underway for Waihe'e that we're working on taking the next steps with the owners of the land and their...and their hydrogeologist. So, yeah, a lot going on Upcountry, and a little bit going on in Central and West Side. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, how much...how much water do you anticipate yielding from all of these sources?

MR. JENSEN: I don't have those numbers in front of me at the moment. That's probably something we'd want to put together in a spreadsheet and share when we know that that information is correct. I don't...want to be careful saying anything about that here. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Member Paltin, questions for our resource people?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. First question, for Department of Environmental Management. Can you confirm that the R-1 expansion line is going towards Lahaina?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Paltin. For clarity, are you talking about a certain R-1 line, or...we have a lot of projects with R-1 in West Maui. So, can you be more specific which one you're talking about?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess I just wanted to know if...that there is a R-1 line from the wastewater treatment plant towards Lahainaluna Road by mauka side because, you know, that's where fires are starting. And we've heard from Kamehameha Schools during the community plan process that they really would like to do farming, but water is a drawback for them. And, you know, if there was farming and water, that would be helpful to the...to be like green and not, you know, how it is now.

MR. AGAWA: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. So, the answer is yes. We have our West Maui R-1 expansion project going on right now. So, the first phase is the pump station and the force main to the initial reservoir that we purchased from Maui Land and Pine. That would be the first phase. The next phase is to get it to a higher elevation. And then from...once we get it to the higher elevation, which is...I believe is like the 700-foot level reservoir that we currently own, from there, we're looking at utilizing existing ditch systems to take it toward Lahaina. I believe the terminus right now for that future phase is the Wahikuli Reservoir in the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Further south, the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . However, once --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're kind of coming in and out. If I could rewind to the higher elevation reservoir. Can you repeat what kind of system you said? It was kind of choppy.

MR. AGAWA: Okay, I apologize. I don't know if that's my . . .*(inaudible)*. . . So, going back, we have a reservoir right around the 300-foot elevation. That's the first phase. And then from there, it's another pump station and another force main to a reservoir that we own at the 700-foot level elevation, which affords us to disburse the R-1 water over a greater area because, you know, it's gravity flow. Then from the 700-foot elevation reservoir, we intend to utilize existing ditch systems to take it toward Lahaina. The terminus for that future phase we're looking at Wahikuli Reservoir, which is above the Wahikuli area. And then going further south, we haven't had the resources to look into that. However, we have options once we can get it to the Wahikuli Reservoir.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that Wahikuli Reservoir the 500,000-gallon one that they're going to be utilizing for the Ka La'i Ola and future DHHL, or is it a different reservoir?

MR. AGAWA: That, I would need to verify with Wastewater, and I can get back to you in writing on that one.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because I think they have an existing 50,000 one, and then they were going to try and construct the 500,000-gallon one. My next question would be for Dir...Mr. Hart. Currently, right now, if somebody in the burn zone submitted an SMA exemption for a single-family home, not on the shoreline, less than 7,500 square feet, could they receive that, and what kind of time frame? And I'm not talking about the anomalies of Kahoma Villages with the lawsuit, or . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . you know, special circumstance, but just regular guys.

MR. HART: Sure. You know, unfortunately, there were some moving parts that we were working on trying to get established in order to be able to delegate to 4Leaf, including an MOU with SHPD and some other streamline design standards for...for the National Historic Landmark District. In any case, we weren't able to get those resolved to the point where we could essentially establish a script so that 4Leaf could run it. So, the Planning Department is running it--sorry, this is a short...bringing you up to speed--the Planning Department is running SMA assessments, and I know that there's one in specific that is being run right now that's on the verge of being approved. So, I think that that'll set a standard of being able to say what the time frame is. But they are...they are going now, and there's one I know that's...that's on the verge of being approved. So, once...once that kind of gets established, I think there's going to be...you know, we'll be able to give you an update on expected time frames.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, no expected time frames right now?

MR. HART: The only thing I can say to you, that it's, you know, committed staff people...I mean the staff person that's processing is...grew up in Lahaina. They're taking it very seriously, they're putting their energy into it, and they're figuring out a way to streamline it post-fire. But I...there's not enough track record to give you stats, just that we're moving forward with it, and it's happening, and we'll be able to give you stats as we generate a track record. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Member Johnson stepped out for a minute, so we're going to --

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, Member Johnson is back on.

CHAIR COOK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I am here. Sure.

CHAIR COOK: Questions for the resource people?

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Chair. And I do apologize, I...because I'm in my district office, we had some folks come in and going. I have some questions for Department of Water because they had such a great update with all the new things they're doing. First off, thank you for, you know, trying to think outside the box, and make it easier for our people to rebuild. And forgive me if some of those question were asked already, and if they were, just let me know. The Title 14 amendments, it sounds like you...there's a lot of...lot to do. And did you give us a timeline of when it's going to be ready?

MR. JENSEN: Thank you for the question. I did not give a timeline for when it will be ready. I am optimistic that we can bring something forward within the next six months. I understand that our Water resources planning folks might be bringing something forward earlier than that, so there might be something before kind of our larger sweeping amendment, and we also have...we have a small amendment coming forward probably in the next couple of months. Don't mistake that for the larger amendment coming. But yeah, I'm hoping within the next six months. And --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. JENSEN: -- Director Stufflebean would probably tell you faster than that, but six months is the target.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's great news. I really like when the Administration and this body work together on policy and amending...our title. So, thank you for that. I'm also curious about the path that you chose to allow individual applicants to apply for SHPD permits, as opposed to you folks doing it. Can you just give me the impetuous of why you said it was slowing it down, or would it be for...like if I was...if my house burned down in the fire, there would be just one more application I would need to apply for. Wouldn't that slow the fire survivors folks down, as opposed to if the Administration where it has more posts in there, more manpower, more work staff, wouldn't that speed it up? Or maybe you can explain to me the impetuous of why you wanted it to go that route.

MR. JENSEN: And just to make sure I understood the question, you're asking why we're considering allowing applicants to seek their clearance from SHPD prior to submitting? So, the reason that we're looking at that is, when I'm...when I'm speaking with applicants and their consultants, something that I regularly hear that I'm thankful for is, what can we do to help. And one of the things that we're looking at is, every opportunity we have to offload some of our work to a consultant--in cases where it's appropriate. So, the thinking behind this is, when we...when we get a water service request, or something that involves excavation, we go through our review process. And then we get to a point where, you know, in that process, we apply with SHPD on the applicant's behalf. The thinking is, if the applicant comes in with that SHPD clearance in hand, we can...we can remove that 30 days from the process. So, it would just allow the applicant to kind of offset or stagger the time frame of that SHPD clearance.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I see. All right. Thanks for that clarification. It helps me understand. My last question, real quick. The hydropot [*sic*]...hydraulic model that you're working on, just for layman's terms, that's kind of mapping where water flows, is that...is that what that hydraulic model does?

MR. JENSEN: The model will do that. That's not its primary objective. It's really to understand physically . . .(*timer sounds*). . . how the water moves back and forth through the system, how fast the water is moving, and probably...you know, most importantly, in my opinion, where the...where the deficiencies might be in the system, particularly when we're talking about areas that are in the general plan for future development, and we either have infrastructure that can't convey the water at the appropriate rates, or we need system expansion, things of that nature. So, it's more of an engineering tool to...to accelerate the way we do...perform system analysis when we're looking at a project that maybe is using more water than expected, or a rezone application where the demand of a property is changing and we want to assess potentially a condition of approval for that applicant. Because if the project is a nexus for a system improvement, that's...it's evaluated by the model, and the model will tell us those kinds of things. So, it's an engineering tool that will tell us where the water is.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I see. Thank you so much for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, Member Rawlins-Fernandez has not yet joined the meeting.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Chair Lee, do you have questions for our resource people?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair Lee, your mic is muted.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's funny, I just clicked it. Okay. The Kahana Wells are supposed to come online in January 2025. My understanding is those wells...the water from those wells will not be used for new uses; is that correct?

MR. JENSEN: Yes, that is correct. And that --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, my point...my point is, then what other water sources are you working on in West Maui, knowing that we're in an emergency situation there, unlike the other parts of Maui County right now? Why don't you have other projects in the works to provide water for new uses? Because we need permanent housing in West Maui, and without new water, we can't get permanent housing. Can you answer that question?

MR. JENSEN: Yeah. I would need to provide a written response to that question. I don't have that answer now.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Can you make that a priority? Because all of us have been working really hard on trying to help the folks in West Maui. And, you know, expediting permits is fine, but if you don't have water, you're never going to get that permit. So, we need to address the major issues that relate to permits and the provision of housing. So, please give us an adequate answer and explanation on why you're not working on new sources. Thank you. Or, you can put that in writing since you said you want to put that in writing. And the other thing is, why and why not...because there's got to be a way, right? Where there's a will, there's water. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Chair Lee. Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins, questions for our resource people?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure. Thank you, Chair. I'll start with Planning. I'm not too sure if this is for Ms. Thackerson, which...I know you were a big part of the MAPPS in the switch over, or Director Molina. It doesn't really matter. But I'll ask the question from Mr. Sellers as he testified online regarding MAPPS and the agencies. When they review, and they have to wait for all the departments to review before they can update their plans, I'm wondering if that's something we can change?

CHAIR COOK: Mr. Sellers?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, I don't think he can answer that question. That's an "us" question, and what we can do on our end, and how –

CHAIR COOK: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- we can fix that. So, either Mister...Director Molina, or Jordan Hart...but I see Director Molina just put his camera on.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. So, one of the challenges we have with that strategy is to create multiple versions of submittals that are at different stages with different agencies. So, one agency might be on version three, the other agent might be on version one, then they don't have awareness of what changed between versions that they have versus versions other people have. So, that's kind of the crux of the challenge with kind of having different agencies on different submittal tracks, but we are working to kind of better utilize MAPPS to kind of work around that issue. One of the items is the electronic plan review, which is kind of not fully integrated just yet. So, it is an option, but it has pros and cons as well. So, that's kind of the crux of the struggle with that strategy. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I understand that. There are some Planning changes that are...or rather plan changes that are big, and some that are small, and then you...we're waiting for the small changes just as much as we're waiting

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for the large ones. What is the electronic plan review, if you could share that with us? I know it's not ready, but what does that look like?

MR. MOLINA: That's the Bluebeam system that was companioning with MAPPS. And the intent was to be doing plan markups in electronic format so that everybody could see everybody's comments. But that has been...it needs more development to be streamlined, just organizing the work flow so everybody is operating with the same understanding amongst the agencies for that plan review.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And when do you . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MR. MOLINA: Needs to improve. Also...sorry. One more note is that not all the review agencies are tied into that plan review system either.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh.

MR. MOLINA: So, you have external . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, okay. So, which ones are, and which ones aren't, and when will that be ready?

MR. MOLINA: No timelines at this point. So, like -

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- generally, DOH is outside of our system. SHPD is outside of our systems.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, all the State ones?

MR. MOLINA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Speaking of the State systems, like for DOE, they're--for at least housing projects--they are one of the reviewers. And unless it's a huge development, really, they just collect the fee. Is there any way that we can collect the fee on their behalf, like how Planning...or I'm sorry, like how you guys collect for Fire? Is there a way we can collect for State and just send it over, and we can avoid sending the entire plans to the State, considering the fee is already precalculated and determined geographically?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I'll have to review that one. I don't think that's really a problem on the DOE side.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: That'll be great. We can eliminate one more agency. Thank you. Do I still have some time left? Sure. Okay. For Water Department, first, you guys...thank you so much for doing all of these changes, I really appreciate your willingness to be efficient. It does still say that you guys are

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going through some changes and will be implementing them soon. I do have a question for the water meter worksheet. So, there's a nonapplicable box . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Can I continue?

CHAIR COOK: You can continue with your question.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I'll just do this last one. And then I see that it's still sent to you folks. If we check that box, is there a way that it doesn't have to be sent to you folks, if it's...if we have no plumbing? I do see that that's maybe something you guys are thinking about, but...

MR. JENSEN: Yeah. So, we're...we're working with DSA now to have...to figure out where are the opportunities, particularly where there's no plumbing plan, or there's no change in water, where DSA is comfortable not routing to Water Supply. Now, there has been in the past, you know, they're...for this reason or that reason, it was determined that the way we're currently operating is the way we wanted to. So, we are evaluating, looking back at the reasons for all that, and looking at whether or not we still feel that way. But there are...we need to be in cahoots with DSA so that...we don't want them making certain decisions on our behalf if they're not comfortable doing that. So, we are working through that, and there are instances where...because the worksheet's required for every application, someone could check no, and then it's a balcony, or it's a deck --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. JENSEN: -- and there's no water involved at all --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. JENSEN: -- to where if we're going to make...if we're going to say that we still want to see that, okay, fine, but we need to be able to pick those out of the pile of permits faster, and maybe in a separate...separate line than the more complicated ones, so that we can move them forward and not hold them up. So, those are the conversations we're having with our partners at DSA now.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, cool. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Councilmember Sinenci, questions for our resource people?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just a follow-up question with Mr. Hart. I know he started to speak to the historic designation in West Maui. I just wanted to give him some additional time to explain that part, or just the updates on the historic designation.

MR. HART: So, there's...okay. So, like what...what I was trying to say was that the Department's process for administering the design regulation toward the Lahaina National Historic Landmark District was not extremely streamlined pre-fire, and

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we were working on a process to streamline that. We've been working with a consultant. Unfortunately, that is...you know, it's complex, and it's ready to become operational to the point where it can be delegated to 4Leaf. As part of the contract, 4Leaf had three Secretary of Interior-qualified plans reviewers that were intended to run the reviews, but we needed to prepare the script for them. Unfortunately, the application of efficiently preparing that script was challenging, so that...that portion of the system plan wasn't able to come together. So, we're covering it within the Planning Department now. Another issue that you brought up is the status of the district. I'm not fully knowledgeable on that. I'm aware that there is an assessment that's being done, basically starting now, and I know the Department is coordinating with State Historic Preservation Division to participate in that, but I don't know...I've never...I'm not aware that the initial meetings have happened, and I haven't attended them, and then haven't gotten any feedback of what has been stated. So, I know that that's planned and will happen, and there will be some sort of assessment of the status of the district, but I don't have full knowledge of what will...the result of that will be. But I do think that everybody who is interested should start to keep an ear out for that and participate because it's going to affect the future of whatever the district will be going forward. Thank you. Cannot hear.

CHAIR COOK: You're muted, Shane.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sorry. Mr. Hart, are you speaking to Representative Tokuda's efforts to designate the area heritage park, or landmark?

MR. HART: No, I was not referring to that. I was informed, or...I don't have all the details on it, but I was informed that there's a Federal-level agency that's doing...initiating an assessment. I'm not 100 percent...anyway, I'm not knowledgeable enough to speak on it at a Council meeting, but I was informed that it's kicking off, and that there's going to be onsite meetings on Maui. And so, the Department is engaging with State Historic Preservation Division, Architectural Branch and Archaeological Branch in order to coordinate with them, and do our part as my co-administrators of that district.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great. Thanks, Jordan, for that update. I appreciate it. And then for Mr. Sellers, I was just curious if the preapproved plans permitting process...has it been going well, has there been a lot of requests for those preapproved lands, and do you need to also include site plans as part of those preapproved plans?

MR. SELLERS: Yes, thank you. So far, the plans that the AIA has provided to the community are not currently preapproved because of the process...the length of time to get a preapproved plan compared to the length of time that 4Leaf is processing these plans. Currently, I know that...I think around 50 or so homeowners, from my current knowledge, are utilizing the plans that have been provided by our local design professionals. Regarding the site plans, yes, the site plan is required, and that is somewhat of an issue. One of the issues that we

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have . . .(timer sounds). . . is the lack of surveyors, and maybe there is something on the County side that we can do to facilitate that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Sellers. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. So, Chair's question to Director of Public Works. Director, has the Department considered using artificial intelligence, or AI, to assist in...to initial permit processing, and do you know if any other municipalities are currently using that technology?

MR. MOLINA: I just got an email this morning about some...that kind of system, which I understand City and County has been utilizing for a short time now. So, we were going to explore that a bit further, but we haven't yet at this time.

CHAIR COOK: The comment from Director Hart about the complexity sort of resonates with this because my understanding--and I don't know from experience--but basically, the AI being able to have cross-reference information, and simplify some of the reviews. My second question, people have asked me, how long of a building...how long is a building permit valid for once it's issued?

MR. MOLINA: Five years.

CHAIR COOK: And so, is there any...it's just five years, no matter what? Is there any variances between Residential, Commercial, renovation, or new?

MR. MOLINA: No.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you. Members, without objection, the Chair is going to call for a ten-minute recess for a break. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR COOK: It is now 10:15, we'll be back at 10:25. Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:13 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:26 a.m.

CHAIR COOK: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back, Members. It is 10:26 a.m., and we're going to continue with the WAI Committee meeting for a second round of questions. And before I do that, I'd like to properly introduce Acting Director Remi Mitchell from the Housing Department. No, you don't have to do another...sorry, I was just...I didn't appropriately let the public know that you are basically the Housing Director as far as for purposes. . . .(inaudible). . . Member Sugimura, you have the second questions...second round for our resource people?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not at this time. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Member Kama, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Yes. I just have one question for all of the departments that you have here. You know, I understand...it is very complicated, the permit process. I mean, I think any agency that is dealing with as much as our agen...our departments are dealing with is bound to be complex and complicated, especially for those of us who are on the outside and not, you know, on the inside, internally. So, I just wanted to know, and I just want...you have...I'm going to give you a choice of three answers. So, I just want to know, how has the vacancies in your Department impacted permit issuance for residents...for residents? And I just want to know, is it a problem, is it not a problem, or it is a problem that can be solved? And it doesn't matter which Department answers first, whoever is able to answer.

MR. JENSEN: I can answer for Water Supply.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

MR. JENSEN: Our district's...our district's review...our residential permits tend to go pretty well when they don't result in a fire flow analysis or an over-meter (*phonetic*) capacity analysis. When that happens, it gets kicked over to our districts for review by engineers. Right now, we are short about 40 percent. We have ten engineering staff in our two districts combined, we're short by four. So, it is challenging. It is solvable. We're continuing to beat the drum for recruitment, and create as good of a workplace as we can to retain the employees that we have to allow us to build. But yeah, the staff shortage does make it challenging to process those timely. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

MR. MITCHELL: Chair Cook...and thank you, Member Kama, for the question. For the Housing Department, we do have a number of vacancies, but none of those vacancies impact our permit view process.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, great. Oh, thank you. As the Chair of Housing, I love hearing that.

CHAIR COOK: Director Molina, do you have a comment for Member Kama's question?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. I mean staff is what runs the operation, so without staff, we cannot meet the throughput we need based on the demands we have. Unfortunately, in trying to help Lahaina recover, we also shot ourselves in the foot because we've lost some staff to 4Leaf. So, that challenges continue. We are looking at ways to kind of reorganize ourselves to provide more of a career path, try and get better pay, all those kind of things to make the positions more attractive. But, you know, trying to work through that with, you know, Management and DPS, and

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all our rules, civil service rules, et cetera, is extremely challenging and time-consuming. So, I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Mr. Vaas, does Fire have any issues with staffing and review?

MR. VAAS: Yeah. I think it's across the board that staffing is definitely an impact. You know, Council and Administration have been most supportive in approving the positions we need, and so I can say on that end, I feel like we're getting the support we need to allow for the new positions, but of course, it takes time to fill those positions. . . .(timer sounds). . . . But our biggest challenge right now is when we're having to pull somebody--because it's a promotional position for us, a plan reviewer's promotional position--so we're going to take from somewhere else, it's not necessarily going to be a new hire. And then there's...you know, you've got to think of what you're starting with. You've got this fireman, comes up through the ranks, and now you've got to teach them plan review. It really takes a while to make them super-efficient at that. So, they start off with the simple plans, and then it gets more complex. Just to be straight up, . . .(inaudible). . . . right now, we have four plan reviewers--two actively reviewing plans, one fully-trained to review every type of plan we look at, and another one that's probably to about 40 percent. So, that's where we're at. Mostly what I'm trying to focus on is the efficiency of the review, and working with the other departments to see how we can cooperate so things can be done quicker, and we're not waiting on each other. I feel like I've had some great communication with the other departments and seeing what we can do, and I really feel like that is where efficiency is going to build. So, it is manpower, but maybe we can get every reviewer also being more efficient by defining our scope and working with the other departments. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Would...to give this question some more time, would the Planning Department like to make a comment in response to Member Kama's question?

MR. HART: Chair, this is Jordan Hart. You know, one of the testifiers kind of made a...they didn't really call out these specific different things, but there's a difference between ministerial and discretionary permits. So, ministerial are the type of permits that essentially, if you file for it and you submit the requirements, you're going to get it. Generally, that's a building permit. Now, a building permit can trigger other discretionary approvals, and so that complicates things. So, for ZAED, we do the ministerial permits. For our staff that reviews permits, we have other vacancies right now in other sections, but we're generally staffed up on the reviewing staff. We have one outstanding vacancy where we have an offer pending that...with a start date for an employee. But I know that the current division that can...let's say a building permit application comes in, and it's in this special management area, and it's in the Lahaina National Historic Landmark District.

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There is basically discretionary components of that review. That will go up to current division. I know that they...Candace is here...that their staffing situation may be different than ours. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Candace, did you want to make a comment? Okay.

MS. THACKERSON: Sorry, I couldn't find my microphone button. Yeah, I mean I have to chime in just that, you know, we do have vacancies here in the current Planning Department, and specifically on the SMA CZM side. And of course, that's been more difficult with obviously the Lahaina recovery efforts, right? So, our staff's resources have been placed on multiple projects right now for Lahaina. But there's still the whole rest of the island, right?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. THACKERSON: Wailea, Kihei, Ha'ikū, Pā'ia--and we only have about five CZM Planners, so...and we have a couple of vacancies. It's just difficult, obviously, you know, finding staff, and then retaining staff, of course. Maybe it's not the most desirable position right now as well, so it's hard sometimes, it turns into a bit of a revolving door, but we're trying our best to let staff know that they're appreciated, and all their efforts are appreciated. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you for that.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I believe Director Agawa also had a response to Member Kama's question.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Director Agawa, welcome.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. So, for DEM, that is...our main issue is staffing. So, in recent times, I want to say in the last seven months, we've lost three engineers in our Permitting and Planning Section. Two of them had about 30 years' experience each, they left due to retirement. And we lost like a three-year engineer, relocation back to the mainland. However, we did acquire two engineers, exceptional engineers, in our Planning and Permitting Section. However, you know, there is that intrinsic knowledge, right, when it comes to review. They're doing extremely well, but there is a learning curve. So, until they get really proficient in the Wastewater permitting –

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

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MR. AGAWA: -- requirements, it's going to take some time to get us back up to efficiency. But what I can say is that with these two new engineers, we got rid of our backlog of permits that was lingering for a very long time. So, I believe we're caught up in that, but...yeah, we still have a couple vacancies in our Planning and Permitting as far as engineers. They're hard to come by and, as you folks know, we are faced with this new NPDS requirement at our Lahaina water treatment plant. So, that's going to put an extra burden on our engineers because we're right now working to reorg, to create a division to address just the NPDS permit issue. So, we're going to have to kind of shift around engineers that we have. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Thank you, Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Member Paltin, second round questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My question is for Director Molina. Is there any opportunity for...to allow 4Leaf to assist fire survivors outside of the burn zone? There's folks with land outside of the burn zone, there's...that lost their house. There's folks with businesses...with land outside of the burn zone that lost their businesses. And, you know, not like business is going on inside the burn zone right now. So, I just was wondering the possibility of that?

MR. MOLINA: Office of Recovery is working to provide a framework for how we validate legitimate requests in that regard, to know that the person asking for the expedited review is actually the person in need, or actually owns the property. So, we are looking at...or Office of Recovery is organizing to figure out that framework. Because we've...had a few of those questions, and very quickly, it was not as straightforward as you kind of summarized it to be. It was one person, and the girlfriend owned the property, and...you know, it wasn't actually the person who owned the property trying to get the permit. And just all these scenarios started to show up real quick. So, they've been working through to figure out how they're going to put that framework together to more or less grant disaster permits outside the burn zone. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And, you know, when you say lost people to the 4Leaf, would you say it's because they're making four times-plus what the County pays?

MR. MOLINA: I don't know how much the multiplier is, but it's more than what we pay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, I guess to anybody, would it be fair to say that HGEA, UPW, is actually holding us back? Because it seems as though the trades unions are working for their constituents and getting a living wage, whereas our

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Government unions are not paying a living wage. And then it creates this whole cycle of, you know, we have all these vacancies because we're not paying a living wage, and then we're not able to provide the services. And so, if the trades unions are getting paid a living wage to build a house, who are they building the house for if we don't pay a living wage? So, to allow our people in--whether it's HGEA, UPW, HSTA, UHPA, ILW, all the acronyms--if they're getting paid like 60 grand a year, they'll never be able to afford a house that the trades unions are building. So, I just was wondering, is anyone addressing that?

MR. MOLINA: I would say no. We do not...in my opinion, we do not really take care of our people the way we should, and our benefits have declined in value. The most egregious to me is, our health care programs are super-expensive for families. We, at Public Works, have had people go on Quest to get medical instead of taking the County medical. No one's working on that front. And the other thing I've heard, like Target pays \$25 starting pay, right. So . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Starbucks offers a college education, I heard.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. So, there's been this notion that you take less pay for public service, and before, when the benefits were more competitive, sure. But today's world, it's not. And we're just not trying to deal with that, in my opinion. So, the only way we've been trying to do it is, like I said, by reorganizing, trying to develop new positions that have higher pay so we can try and attract and retain people. Because the traditional collective bargaining process is not supporting us. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Time's up.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Member Paltin. And thank you, Director Molina, for your question...for your answers. Councilmember Johnson, second round of questions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. That discussion that we've just had, it's pretty frustrating because every year we seem to get into this scenario where we try to fund engineer positions, fund these positions, and they stay vacant because of the wages. And we can't raise them. And everything that was just said, I understand it, and I wish...I wish Administration would work with the unions. Because that's my understanding is how it works, is the Administrations, and the Mayors, and the Governors work with the unions, and they come up with the salaries, and then...it just never seems to be enough. But, anyways, those were already made, that points was already made, and my questions have been answered. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. And then, Members, Acting Director Remi Mitchell needs to leave at 11:00, so I would ask that anybody prioritize questions regarding to Department of Housing to him before he has to leave.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I have a quick question, but I can wait . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez is excused for today. And Chair Lee, do you have questions for Mr. Mitchell?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, it looks like Chair Lee has stepped out.

CHAIR COOK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: She’s right there.

MR. PASCUAL: Oh, Chair, I apologize.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: She’s muted. She’s muted.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don’t have questions for him, but I have questions for others.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Well, we’ll...going to do some quick questions for Mr. Mitchell, and then we’ll come back in our lineup for the second round of questions. Member U‘u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I do have one quick question. So, I think in your opening statements, you described that one house...units from one to four...one to four units go to your Department, and you guys review it, and you guys are relatively quick. What are you guys looking at, at that one to four units?

MR. MITCHELL: So, each time a permit application is sent to our Department, our staff looks at MAPPS for the permit itself, the project, and specifically the subdivision, to see if it’s ten or more lots per Code Section 2.96.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

MR. MITCHELL: If it’s ten or more lots, then that triggers the Residential Workforce Housing Agreement. The project needs that, and that’s what we review.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

MR. MITCHELL: So, for permits for projects...or for permit applications on a single lot, up to nine lots, they don’t need to come to us unless they’re in a subdivision –

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

MR. MITCHELL: -- of ten or more lots.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

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MR. MITCHELL: You can exclude all of those. We just need to double-check to see if it's ten or more lots, and whether there's a Workforce Residential Housing Agreement.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And so, did you guys not...you guys don't have to review anything...nine lots, and under?

MR. MITCHELL: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But do you guys still do that?

MR. MITCHELL: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can we not do that?

MR. MITCHELL: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Right. Let's not do that. Thank you. That's all I have.

CHAIR COOK: Any other questions for Acting Director Mitchell? Okay.

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Then we can to back –

MR. PASCUAL: Chair. Chair, I apologize. Member Paltin has her hand up.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Member Paltin, thank you. I apologize, I didn't see you. You're up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think...Director Mitchell, are we making any progress on preapproved permitting for modular homes?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I think design registration.

MR. MITCHELL: I'll have to get back to you on that, Councilmember Paltin. I'm not entirely clear which of our staff members may be working on that, and where they are in the process. So, let me get back to you on that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One further question. So, the modulares that the State and FEMA are getting, are considered HUD-approved...I'm not sure how that translates. Like what does that mean in terms of us, the County, permitting those, I guess, emergency modulares? Would it translate into, say, something out of the burn zone, not disaster-related, being able to permit a HUD-approved modular home?

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MR. MITCHELL: Thank you for the question, Chair, Member Paltin. I think that question might be better suited, Member Paltin, for the Department of Public Works.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. I'll then let you go.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, sir.

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Would you like to...okay. So, with that being said, we're going to go back to Chair Lee, second round of questions. You're up.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I'd like to direct this to Jordan Molina, Director Molina. So, Jordan, my understanding is that you hired back some retirees to try and whittle down any backlog of permits. And could you give us an update on that?

MR. MOLINA: Retirees are my best candidates right now --

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. MOLINA: -- in large part because they have their medical covered, and so it makes sense for them to pick up some hours, more or less for extra spending money. So, fortunately, we've hired at least two at this point...one in DSA and one in engineering, and it's been very helpful having those people. So, yeah, the one in DSA has been, you know, helpful keeping us afloat because we've had retirements as well recently in DSA. So, yeah, that's...if you know anybody else looking to work 19 hours a week, let's send them our way.

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, are you constrained as far as compensation goes?

MR. MOLINA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. What do we have to pay them minimum...I mean maximum? What's the maximum can you pay them?

MR. MOLINA: My...max I can pay them is entry level Step C for that position. And based on how long it takes to work your way up the salary schedule, step-by-step, you know, right now, I think it's two years at the lower step, and then three years as you go up the step. So, it's very slow for someone to, you know, increase their wage staying at a position at the County.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You think we should hire somebody to lobby the Legislature and the Governor to change the compensation and salaries for our collective bargaining folks?

MR. MOLINA: I don't know if it's...I think it's more...maybe we need more support for DPS and the County team when we go into these negotiations to better understand what we're trying to achieve when we talk about salaries for some of these positions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, good. Can we help other departments with funding...like yours, to bring in other retirees for other departments?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. I think the challenge is the applicant pool, there's not too many that I've been able to convince to come work. A lot of people are happy being retired.

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. No, but if we had a little more discretion on the compensation level, we probably could entice more people to come back in every department, right?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. They...that could be an option, I think. I know I have some people that, you know, have kind of considered, you know, whether they'll come back after they retire. But then we also need to kind of find the right position, also. So, fortunately, for –

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: -- the case of DSA, she was previously a plan reviewer and would fit back in a plan review role --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- so that one worked out.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay, I'm glad you're doing that. I applaud you, and any other director who is, you know, being inventive and creative. And I like the representative from Fire who talked about looking for efficiencies because, you know, we're scraping the barrel here, we have to do things differently. But I hope all of you know that the County Council is very supportive of you guys needing more resources, and more people. We're fully supportive of you. That's all I have, Chair Cook.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Chair Lee. Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Okay. I have a couple questions. For Water Department, I’ll...I just have a quick question. In your letter that you sent to us, on page 2, question 2, in your response, flagging Section 64.09, Eligible Applications, can you define what that means for me, please?

MR. JENSEN: Yeah. So, Section 64.09, Application, is...those are communications-based projects. They are submitted by utility companies. They tend to be things like cell...cell tower modifications. And what happens is, they...they linger because we tend to not...we tend to have one line for all permits coming in, and we want to be able to--and maybe AI would be a big part of this--but to pick out those ones that just...they’re in line, they’re waiting their turn, but if we actually look at them, and if we are aware of them quickly, there’s really nothing for us to do. And we have statutory requirements to dele...to approve those in 60 days. So, that’s just...by pulling those out of the main flow, we make that backlog less intimidating, and it looks like a smaller pile of permits, so we’re just looking at ways to pick things like that out. So, that’s just...we’ve had communications from utility companies that created the awareness of that issue. So...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: And these utility towers, let’s say, they require water?

MR. JENSEN: They do not require water.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: And they’re being sent to you guys, even though they don’t require water?

MR. JENSEN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. That doesn’t make sense for me, but --

MR. JENSEN: Yes, that’s a good question.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- I guess it kind of goes back to our earlier discussion, in which if it does not require water, perhaps it doesn’t need to be sent to you, and you don’t need to isolate those. But I don’t disagree that you guys should probably triage. Later on in that response as well, you describe a...Excel-based calculations, and you guys are changing that, and it should shorten the review time for applications. Can you go into some detail about what that looks like?

MR. JENSEN: The...how we’re going to shorten the time frames, or the Excel calculations?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yes, the Excel-based calculations --

MR. JENSEN: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- and what that looks like if it changes.

MR. JENSEN: Yeah. So, right now, if we are over meter capacity, or if we have to do a fire flow analysis, we’re doing things with Excel, which was great in the late ‘90s and early 2000s, but it’s still kind of the...it’s kind of like doing them by hand, doing these calculations by hand. And hydraulic calculations can be very complicated by hand because--not to get into too much geek speak--but we basically start with the simplest analysis that we can do, and if it works, great.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. JENSEN: If it doesn’t work, then we can complicate that analysis a little bit by expanding how much we’re looking at, and then it will work. So, by spreading the flow out over larger areas, we can usually get to the point where the analysis works, and we don’t need to...you know, we don’t trigger improvements of any kind. The hydraulic model is going to replace all of that. Because if a project comes in, we plug in a demand, hit the go button, and it gives us the results. So, it’ll just fast forward through that heavy-lift calculation.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that. For Planning, I think...oh, I still...I see Mr. Hart and Ms. Thackerson. I’m wondering if you could provide us a status of the SMA new rules, and where are they? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MS. THACKERSON: Ooh, the buzzer sounded, I don’t have to answer. No, I’m just kidding.

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(laughing)*. . . No, you’re not off the hook.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. THACKERSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . . No, I’ll go ahead and give you an answer.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. THACKERSON: So, currently, the SMA and shoreline rules are with our Corporation Counsel. As you guys know, they did get voted on last November, but then, you know, with the fire situation, the Department wanted to make sure that we were...that they were all proper to form and legality. So, they’re with Corp. Counsel, and we’re hoping to have them once they’re finished. We’ll send them to the County Clerk’s Office, and then if the Mayor signs them, then they will be adopted 30 days within signature. So, I was told end of the month, that Corp. Counsel might be done, so we’re hoping that they’ll be adopted...like signed and then adopted by the end of this month.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay, I can follow up with Corp. Counsel to see when they'll be done. As we all know, that'll impact how Lahaina is reviewed, and how everything else is reviewed. So, thank you.

MS. THACKERSON: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Members --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We've been told every week that'll we'll get them back from Corp. Counsel at the weekly disaster meeting. So, you know, I wouldn't put too much stock in Corp. Counsel.

MS. THACKERSON: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Member Sinenci, second round of questions for our resource people.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered, and I did want to thank the departments for answering our questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Okay. Chair has a question, and I want to thank Mr. Sellers for sticking with us. Are you still with us, Mr. Sellers? Is he online?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I don't see Mr. Sellers online. I apologize.

CHAIR COOK: He probably had to go back to work. So, my question would be for Director Molina. You mentioned...we...this was discussed before, but I was asking for some more clarification. The revision for submittals, what is the challenge with basically...clarify why we have to wait for every single department to comment before it can be moved forward?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. So, the initial review has all agencies looking at the same set of documents. What happens if we do basically independent submittals for each agency, we're going to lose that coherency as far as what is being approved. And so, small changes that Water may be requiring could prompt...or create conflicts with what Wastewater needs to be looking at. And if so, if Wastewater is two versions behind, they're going to be spending their time reviewing an old submittal more or less. And then managing all those different submittal tracks for the, you know, half dozen to dozen review agencies we coordinate with starts to get complicated to manage, and it only serves to slow down the approval process on the back end by trying to have...make sure we reconcile all the various submittal versions, ensuring everybody had received the latest one, commented on the latest one, so we know when we issue, that we're all on the same page.

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CHAIR COOK: Could it...could it possibly be...I mean, everybody sub...somebody will submit a full complete set of drawings for review, and the various departments are going to be reviewing them. Are they distributed to all of the departments through MAPPS simultaneously? And do...does everybody...as DSA processes it, do they give it to all the departments at the same time?

MR. MOLINA: That's correct.

CHAIR COOK: Director?

MR. MOLINA: That's correct. The submittals go out concurrently to all the agencies, so they all get the same set of documents --

CHAIR COOK: So, if someone...when someone reviews it, there's...it sounds like there's somewhat of a hierarchy. Like Department of Water has to sub...that needs to review it before Wastewater --

MR. MOLINA: No, that's not correct.

CHAIR COOK: No? Not necessarily?

MR. MOLINA: We just want to ensure that all the agencies are reviewing the same submittal.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. I'm just curious because like normally...like you have deltas on plans if there's any changes at all, you'd have the original drawings...and I'm just encouraging to some way be creative to move past that. Because that's one of the feedbacks and comments I get from architects, and submitters, and whatnot. I hear what you're saying --

MR. MOLINA: There's a tradeoff though, yeah.

CHAIR COOK: -- it's problematic for the Department, and I empathize with that. It's not being critical, it's just that strikes me as a way to basically compress the review period time if we can address that methodology.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. I got --

CHAIR COOK: I know you're working on it, so when you have the answer, you'll tell us. Director Molina, triage, how is that working now? Because it also relates to that giving everybody the plans at once.

MR. MOLINA: So, we take our direction from the agencies, they're the ones who tell us what they do and do not want to see.

CHAIR COOK: So...

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MR. MOLINA: But where we get into problems is where they have too many exceptions, or buts, or ifs, that our staff now needs to get trained up on to understand the different agencies' process. And, you know, these are entry-level positions that we assign to these reviews. And so, when it gets too complex, that's where we start getting . . .(timer sounds). . . breakdowns, and things fall through the gaps.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. My time's up. So, Member Sugimura, you have questions for third round? It's 10:00, we still have time.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: No questions.

CHAIR COOK: 11:00. No questions, thank you. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Can I repeat my question that I asked to Mr. Mitchell to Director Molina? Do you need me to repeat it?

MR. MOLINA: Yes, please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. If modular housing is HUD-approved, does that mean it can get a County permit like automatically? Or what does HUD-approved modular housing mean, and what is their pathway to getting permitted?

MR. MOLINA: So, modular housing refers to Federal rules that governs that type of build. And so, the Federal rules preempt State and Building Codes, so they don't need a permit for the construction of those units in the factory. Where they do have to come pull a permit is when they do the foundation and the placement on site with the connection to the utilities. So, that's that process for HUD-approved. So, they'll just come submit the site plan permit when they're ready to install onsite.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are those ministerial or discretionary?

MR. MOLINA: All building permits are ministerial.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if someone purchases a HUD-approved modular home, all they need is ministerial permits for their lot?

MR. MOLINA: Provided they're not in SMA or any other zones that create a discretionary approval requirement.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, all the various models of HUD-approved modular that the State and the Feds are bringing in, those models could...no?

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MR. MOLINA: They're not HUD-approved.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not all of them?

MR. MOLINA: None of them, to my understanding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Curtis Jackson said they're HUD-approved.

MR. MOLINA: There was HUD-like...their...they have minimum standards for these temporary structures for habitability. So, they meet the HUD habitability requirements, but that is not the same as HUD-approved modular housing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: HUD habitability versus HUD-approved.

MR. MOLINA: HUD modular approved, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you know if the Federal Government has a list of HUD-approved housing?

MR. MOLINA: I don't believe so. I think it's more the manufacturers that they approve.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because, you know, that one-bedroom Nanonest is 65 grand, and we're giving out 100 grand for an ADU. So, I mean we could be housing folks, and that's just one model. They got like four models coming in, Nainova (*phonetic*), and Feds got models coming in. It seemed like they said...Curtis Jackson said it was HUD-approved, and . . .(*inaudible*). . .

MR. MOLINA: HUD habitability...it meets HUD habitability standards. It's not HUD-approved modular homes that would be able to obtain building permits from the County on a permanent basis.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we just got to Google HUD-approved modular homes, and then get those.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, so that's like your FABMAC is the premier fender on Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And HPM? Is HPM the same as FABMAC?

MR. MOLINA: HPM...no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. MOLINA: This is...this gets real granular real quick, but what HPM is constructing its factory-built homes. These are not regulated by the Federal Code for modular housing, so it's a different...it's not within that Federal...Federally-approved track. And so, we are working with them to get our...get us in alignment to be

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able to facilitate those. Our biggest challenge we've got to work through right now is that off-site inspection program so that we can approve that the construction of those units are appropriate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you...are you aware of what the difference between HUD habitability and HUD-approved is?

MR. MOLINA: Basically, habitability is kind of your minimum standards that...for living, whereas the HUD modular insures the structure meets all the Building Codes, has the white...right...which includes, you know, the wind resistance, and all those kinds of design requirements that go into a structure to make sure it's . . .(timer sounds). . . suitable for permanent residency and permanent habitation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I think I heard a bell.

CHAIR COOK: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Member Johnson, third round, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered.

CHAIR COOK: Chair Lee, you've got additional questions? Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I have a couple more questions. Is Oliver Vaas...Captain Vaas, are you still on the line? Yes?

CHAIR COOK: I see him.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, he's currently online.

MR. VAAS: Here I am.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hi. In your opening statement, did you say that you stole--good for you--some plans reviewers from another department?

MR. VAAS: Well, what it is, is that two inspectors were promoted to lieutenants, and the lieutenant is apparently tasked with the plan review responsibility. Our lieutenants are also fire investigators, and we also do the interpretation of the Code for amendments for people who want to have pre-construction meetings. So, their responsibilities are far beyond just reviewing plans. So, at this point, that's why it's not just...they don't just sit and review plans all day, and if there's a fire that they've got to investigate, like the last couple days, we lose them for a day on the fire, another day to the reports that go with that.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. Thank you so much. Then I have another question for Public Works and Planning. And this one might be a little bit confusing, so you're welcome in advance. Chapter 19, Article V, 19.500, discusses, Director Molina, your overarching ability to have some discretion in Title 19. Congratulations. So, my question is, for simple permits that don't require, let's say, flood, SMA, and you have a single-family house, can you folks in Public Works, or AI, do the height and setback requirements, and we don't have to send them to Planning?

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. MOLINA: So, I guess...a couple things. So, those references are outdated. They never been updated in Title 19.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I hear you. Nonetheless, they're still there.

MR. MOLINA: They're still there, but by Charter, I don't hold that authority.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. So, you cannot do anything --

MR. MOLINA: So...no, I do not enforce anything --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So our Charter is not in alignment?

MR. MOLINA: The Code is not in alignment with the Charter.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hmm. With our Charter?

MR. MOLINA: And so --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, you don't...you don't have the ability to do that?

MR. MOLINA: -- so, back in the day, there used to be an agency called LUCA, which was in Public Works, which did zoning enforcement. The way it was organized, it was Planning did Land Use Enforcement, and DSA--or it was LUCA at the time--did kind of the standards enforcement under the Zoning Code.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: That went away, and now it's always Planning. So, back to the flood question...so, we are relocating the flood program into Public Works out of Planning, so that's taking effect in September. And so, we are working to build that flood program within Public Works with the engineer staff that we have right now.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

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MR. MOLINA: Unfortunately, the staff...we've been able to task one of our new hires to just work exclusively on this, to make sure she has capacity, and she's been able to help work through the backlog of those flood permits.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. MOLINA: But there's a lot we're learning that we're going to have to build out to really support the flood program to the extent required by the Federal laws. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. Well, you let us know what we can do as a Council to help you. Thank you. For Planning, I know we are expecting a Title 19 rewrite. Do you have a timeline when that will be completed, and then will these simple old school outdated changes be met and changed?

MR. HART: Chair, just...thank you. So, the Title 19 rewrite is a total rewrite, so you should assume that any anomalies or irregularities are gone because it's starting from scratch. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . That's all my time.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR COOK: No. You're not...you're not off time, Jordan.

MR. HART: With the --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And unfortunately, the buzzers apply to us, not to you.

MR. HART: The...unfortunately, that project is run by the Planning Implementation *(phonetic)* Division of the Planning Department, which is not my division, and we didn't get an update or a status. But I know that they are...they're staffing up to take that on, but I can't report any timelines for you. You can get that from the Director or that division. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Member Sinenci, you have questions for your third round?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No more questions.

CHAIR COOK: No more questions. So, Members, with your...I have a question, and then I was going to ask if anybody else has questions afterwards. I think Member U'u-Hodgins might.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I just have like one more super-general question for everybody, but I can wait.

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CHAIR COOK: Okay. Why don't you ask your super-general question --

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, Member Paltin actually had her hand up.

CHAIR COOK: I apologize. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can go after Nohe.

CHAIR COOK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. This is just a broad question for all of our resources we have here. What, in your opinion, can you do, and can we help with to help expedite the current building permit process? As you know, we do have 4Leaf, which has been such a great relief for those people in Lahaina. And unfortunately, the rest of Maui County is still suffering through some building permit holdbacks. For instance--you know, I say this all the time--but I'm from Upcountry in Pā'ia, and we've been slowly bleeding out our people for years. So, is there anything we can do to help you? Is there anything that you can do to alleviate some of your pressure? I know we discussed staffing, and I know everybody's staff is doing the best in what they can do, but when you have 15 people doing the work of 45, it...I know it becomes tough. Is there anything we can help you with? Is there anything you suggest we can do...or you can do?

MR. MOLINA: Chair. I'll take a crack at this one. So, while we were sitting here in this meeting, I went ahead and issued an RFP to hire third-party services to help with our permit reviews for the regular --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yay.

MR. MOLINA: -- the regular permit track. So that just went out today, and so that'll...that will be our...kind of our first attempt to try and get some support to get through our aspect of the permit review, which is specific to that Building Code plan review. Thank you. And I didn't do it while during this meeting, it just happened to come out while this meeting was going on.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Perfect timing for you though.

CHAIR COOK: Planning, do you have a response for --

MR. HART: Sure, Chair. Thank you. You know, there was a question for the Director of Public Works on, you know, how...whether or not they could take over the land use review for building permits. And, you know, that's kind of touching on this over...underlying concern, is like how do you expedite and still fully check, you know. Some of the other agencies, like they don't check the first and second dwelling. So, anyway, where I'm going with this is, you can deregulate if you

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want to, it just...as long as the tolerance of potential discrepancies or, you know, finding out mid-construction that something's not the way you wanted it, that will happen periodically. But I mean if, to your level of comfort, you can deregulate, and that would expedite the process. So, that's always...it's just a balance of what do you view that the community wants more. Are there, you know, too many discrepancies happening, or are we taking too long in the review process? Because managing staff to the constant flow of applications through the business cycle up and down, it's impossible, so you just try and keep on ramping up as the community grows. But I think the regulation issues are the underlying challenge that everybody seems to be struggling with. And it's not an easy thing, it's really complicated, but that's, to me, the lever. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Any other departments want to weigh in on Member U'u-Hodgins' question? Okay, then. Member Paltin, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. For Director Molina, I just was wondering if the County...or we had idea of what we expect to do with these housing...modular housing after the emergency proclamation is over. Is that the only reason they're getting permitted? And if it's temporary for five years, then what? Are...is the State and Federal going to take it back because they can't get permits, or would they be unpermitted housing, or how does that work? We'll give them to DHHL because they don't need to follow County zoning? What...is there a plan that you're aware of?

MR. MOLINA: My underst...my understanding is the FEMA units go away. They take them back. I'm not sure what the State project...what units they're preparing. But, yeah. If they cannot be shown to meet Building Code, we will not be able to permit them with a permanent building permit.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could they be nonconforming structures from emergency proclamation era?

MR. MOLINA: We would have to enact that ordinance to accept these...basically these structures to whatever unknown standard they're built to. And it would not be Code-compliant.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if they're not Code-compliant, and they're unpermitted, is that still legal on DHHL if DHHL wants it?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. As far as I understand, DHHL is super-broad authority, and they can almost do what...do whatever they want. . . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if DHHL wanted to keep them, then they could have them and use them until they can't use them anymore, and then they end up in the landfill or something? Like what would be the disposal process for this, or

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would it...if DHHL doesn't accept it, would it be the State's responsibility to dispose of?

MR. MOLINA: I would assume in that scenario, the State will have dispose of it by giving it to DHHL, and then DHHL will own these units, and then they'll have to decide...or the lessees will have to decide what to do when they reach the end of their life--which will most likely be they go into the landfill. Yes, there is a...there is a waste concern with all these temporary units going out there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I guess the...is it your understanding that the difference between HUD habitability and HUD-approved is a cost factor?

MR. MOLINA: No. It's the method of construction and the type of construction. These separate units are meant --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if there's no difference --

MR. MOLINA: -- to be quick and easy, so there's a lot of the components that are not going to be required like is required in a permanent home.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the cost wasn't a factor, it was speed of delivery that was the factor?

MR. MOLINA: Correct. And then cost in terms of the...just the cheaper way of building these things.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Is that it Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I mean I got a lot more, but it's not appropriate for prime time.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. . . .*(laughing)* . . .

MR. MOLINA: If I could just add real quick, Chair. I mean that's why, you know, we've been trying to push to get permanent options available and expedite permanent permitting so we can kind of bypass this...the challenges that come with all these temporary structures out there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess I do have one more question. You know the CNHA builds, the one...the one by Lahainaluna Road, and the one in Maui Lani, and all those, are those HUD-approved? I know they're not modular, but can they be permitted and moved?

MR. MOLINA: They...so, with those because--you know, we understand how HPM is constructing them, and they're basically constructing them to be compliant with

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Building Code--there is a path forward for those to become permanent. Basically, right now, that option is through an after-the-fact process, which requires the designer and the...well, the designer, the architect, to certify that they're built to meet Code. And so, because we know they are being built that way, and that they have Hawai'i-licensed architects on their staff that are doing these designs and overseeing the construction, you know, we don't anticipate they're going to have a problem getting that certification from the designer. But...like with these other units, they're not built intentionally to meet Maui County Building Code, and so they're probably not...going to be unable to get that certification so we can issue after-the-fact permits.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And would the ones that CNHA is building be considered modular? Are they able to be moved, or they have to stay in that location?

MR. MOLINA: They...they're considered factory-built, so it's just the terminology. And they...I mean any structure can be moved, it's just a matter of money. I saw a video yesterday where...I think it said England somewhere, they're moving like a five-story building out of its spot and relocating it. So, yeah, the relocation part is not really the issue, it's whether the building can meet Code and get permits from us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And when you say factory-built, like that's HPM, or that's...

MR. MOLINA: That's the model HPM is using where these are being constructed offsite in a factory. And either they're fully assembled and ready to go, which I think most of the CNHA units are, or you would have to have, you know, just a little bit of connections between the components in the field.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do we know if the factory is in Hawai'i?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. So, they have a factory in the Big Island, and they've been working to develop a factory here on Maui as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: HPM?

MR. MOLINA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. That clarifies a lot for me. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. So, Chair had three questions. One for...actually it's Director Molina, and the Planning Department, and Fire...third-party agencies to review permits. I guess for Director Molina first. You've been with 4Leaf, is that...how is that working out, and do you foresee in the future that review process being appropriate, and applied, and for...in general, in the future, since we seem to have a perennial shortage of staff?

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MR. MOLINA: Yeah. So, one, I guess, benefit of this wildfire experience was forcing us to go through this process of hiring a third-party vendor to understand, you know, how we structure that request for service, how those contracts are structured, you know, what kind of staff they provide, what their limitations are so, you know, we...our team at DSA has been able to kind of learn and get some comfort in working with the third-party vendors specific for our plan review needs. So, again, this is the review for the building, plumbing, electrical code aspects of the building permit. And so, like I mentioned earlier, as a result of that kind of comfort level, we did just publish another RFP to get that same kind of services to help address the backlog for the nonfire permits. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you for that. And Planning, Mr. Hart, do you foresee the...is it appropriate and possible to outsource some of the review processes in the Planning?

MR. HART: Thank you, Chair. I'm not aware that the Planning Department's looking into that right now, or how contracting services come into play with civil service in a nonemergency situation, so I wouldn't be prepared to respond to that right now. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you. And then for Fire, is that something that potentially could be...would be considered? I understand the Fire Code is very...it's...obviously needs to be enforced very strictly, but is outsourcing an opportunity or an option?

MR. VAAS: I was really pretty happy with the idea of this, and worked with Mike and the other agencies to do the best we could to sort of package up the most simplified program for the easiest permits to review. And I think we're still working out some kinks, but I really believe it could be an asset to continue on with this type of thing because a large percentage of our permits could very easily be delegated to them, and then results of this trigger, where they looked at maybe...most of it, and in some cases, just a portion would go back to us. For example, if they put in sprinklers, we could go and review that, or maybe they even expand with an engineer to review that kind of thing. So, I'm pretty happy with it. I think it's going to be a huge benefit. You know, there's other programs we're trying to work with where maybe through GIS we could even determine areas where, just by geographic location and infrastructure, it could bypass the whole fire review already because we know that where that house is built meets all the requirements. We're not looking that closely at the house, we're looking more at the street and hydrant. If that's in place, we don't need to see it. So, we're trying to see maybe if we can go to something where I guess you could call it AI, but automation with GIS to say hey, if you're in this green area, we don't even need to see the permit. So, these are things that are a little bit beyond my comprehension, and I have to reach out to other departments to see what the resources would be available, but that's kind of the concept I'm working towards. I think...and that could be a third-party thing, or that could be just utilizing what we have in place with the County. Like what Mr. Lall was saying about maybe

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we could use a GIS guide to help us create something like that. It's kind of the path I'm researching right now.

CHAIR COOK: Good. Thank you.

MR. JENSEN: Chair Cook, if I may?

CHAIR COOK: I was going to ask you next. Welcome.

MR. JENSEN: So, yeah. James Jensen, Water Supply. So, we initially hired Carollo Engineers--I believe it was just prior to the fire--but it was to provide staff augmentation. So, they act as our staff, they're in our office. We usually have one or two of them in our office every day of the week. So, our...our contract with them is not as complicated as DPW's is with 4Leaf because our Carollo...they just act as staff support. But they are helping substantially with us getting caught up on our backlog. And ideally, being at full staff is best, but even if we got to that point and we were totally caught up, I would still hope that we have a small contract with Carollo for those situations where we get a sudden influx of permits, for whatever reason that is. Because that will be very helpful with kind of trimming and attenuating that sudden lag time of getting permits issued. So, our experience has been very positive with third-party plan review.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Director Agawa, are you online? Does that --

MR. AGAWA: Hi, Chair Cook. So, for DEM, we do not outsource to a third-party for review. As I mentioned earlier, we've caught up with our backlog, and we've actually been doing pretty well with our current permit reviews with our current staff.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. I don't think I missed anybody. I have another question, and this was for the issue of areas where the Code is in conflict with the Charter. And this is for Director Molina. What's necessary to get that in alignment, and how can the Council be of assistance?

MR. MOLINA: In particular to the Title 19, that'll get addressed through the Planning Department's cleanup of that chapter. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: So, the re...the work in process for Title 19 review will clean that up?

MR. MOLINA: Yes.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you. And then there was a comment by Direc...by Mr. Hart, suggestions of areas where deregulation could occur that are possible, but without jeopardizing the health or safety in the community. I guess I just want to plant that seed. So, any comments on that?

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MR. MOLINA: Yeah. I'll just say that generally, these regulations are put forth not in consideration of the permit process because they don't have that objective, right? I'll just point out like recent ones, like wetland overlay and cultural overlays. They are actually intended to slow the permit process intentionally to provide that extra protection, so you just got to be cognizant of adding those layers to the process. So, you know, it's a tradeoff between expediency and protection.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you for that. So, Members, if there are no further questions, Chair would like to make kind of a closing comment before we close the meeting. I want to acknowledge all the work that all the departments are doing. The general public might not recognize or see just how diligently all the departments have been working this last year. The wildfires have caused big disruption in everybody's life. People from Lahaina, it's immeasurable. But also, the departments, and governments, and government in general...and from my being on the Council, I've witnessed and seen the departments have really stepped up and doing their best. I also can only speak for myself, but from all of the other Councilmembers' conversations in Budget and whatnot, the Council's extremely supportive of all the departments. This issue of not being able to pay enough, and not being able to get all the departments filled, I am personally--and I think it's kind of a common theme with the Council--that we're willing to help in any way we can. So, I just want to thank everybody, all the departments, everyone working in the County. Morale is a big thing, and we want to know that you are appreciated. So, thank you, Directors, for being here today, and giving us an update, and for all of your efforts. And if there are any...any comments or feedback from any of the Members before I end the meeting? Seeing none. This concludes today's Water and Infrastructure Committee Meeting. The time is now --

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I apologize. Can we defer this item if there are no objections?

CHAIR COOK: Yeah, okay. Can we defer the options? Any objections to deferring this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KRF)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion

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CHAIR COOK: Great. This concludes today's Water and Infrastructure Committee meeting. The now is...the time is now 11:35. This meeting is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 11:35 a.m.

APPROVED:



TOM COOK, Chair
Water and Infrastructure Committee

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Transcribed by: Terianne L. Arreola

**WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui**

July 25, 2024

CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne L. Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 50 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 5th day of September 2024, in Makawao, Hawai'i.



Terianne Arreola