

Great Committee

From: Tamara A. Paltin
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:26 AM
To: Great Committee
Subject: Info from DEM
Attachments: MT#10340-Paltin, Tamara.pdf

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RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

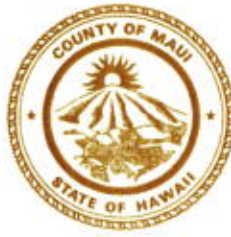
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Director

ROBERT SCHMIDT
Deputy Director

MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E.
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Wastewater Reclamation Division

Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**
2145 KAOHU STREET, SUITE 102
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

October 26, 2023

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Richard T. Bissen, Jr. 10-26-23
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Tamara Paltin
Councilmember, Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Councilmember Paltin:

SUBJECT: WAHIKULI REBUILD AND SEWER CONNECTION

This is in response to your October 17, 2023 request regarding future sewer construction in the Waihi area. Your request and the corresponding answers are provided below by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM):

1. When is the County's sewer line scheduled to be completed in this area?

This sewer installation is not currently part of the department's Fiscal year 2024 6-year CIP plan. It is being considered as a design project beginning in 2030 with construction commencing in 2032

2. Can the sewer line project be expedited? If not, why not?

The department has many high cost projects already within its 6-year CIP plan to rehabilitate/replace existing infrastructure (pump stations, force mains, gravity lines, WWRD process upgrades), expand wastewater treatment capacity (Central Maui WWRF etc.), increase the use of recycled water (Lahaina and Kihei systems), and minimize the use of injection wells (SAT basins, pumps station, force mains.) Most of these cannot be deferred, thus adding this project would require additional funding and additional rate increases.

Note that the original study in 2013 estimated the cost to be \$13M to complete the design and construct the project. Due to inflation, supply issues and contractor pricing trends before the Lahaina wildfire the cost was estimated to be approximately \$18M. Judging by bids since the fire this cost will increase even more.

On a positive note, the department has been working with the Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) during the emergency response in Lahaina to find funds to complete a system now while there is access to the streets and required easements between lots. While we do not currently have a concrete confirmation or timeline, we are optimistic that funds may be available and USACE may take on the project at an earlier date.

3. As Wahikuli residents rebuild their homes, would they be allowed to reconnect to their existing cesspools and septic tanks until they can connect to the completed County sewer line?

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) has oversight in regards to cesspools and individual wastewater systems (septic systems.) We contacted (HDOH) and received the following guidance:

Cesspools: Based on chapter 11-62 regulations, if a home is destroyed and needs to be rebuilt, the owner would be required to upgrade their existing cesspool. This could be made exempt at any time by the Governor's Proclamation.

Existing Septic Systems: The owner would be allowed to tie back into an existing septic system if it was inspected by a licensed engineer or contractor and determined not to be damaged. If inspected and cleared for use, the homeowner can rebuild based on the design capacity of the existing septic system. Septic systems are designed for 1 to 5 bedrooms.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with information on this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to transmit them to the Department of Environmental Management via transmittal through the Office of the Mayor.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Shayne R. Agawa, P.E.
DN: cn=Shayne R. Agawa, P.E., o=County
of Maui, ou=Director of Environmental
Management,
email=shayne.agawa@co.maui.hi.us, c=US
Date: 2023.10.26 09:10:17 -10'00'

SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Director of Environmental Management

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Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

October 17, 2023

Shayne Agawa, Director
Department of Environmental Management
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Director Agawa,

SUBJECT: WAHIKULI REBUILD AND SEWER CONNECTION

In the last several weeks, my office has received several inquiries from residents who lost their homes in the Wahikuli neighborhood during the Lahaina wildfires. Like many others, they would like to rebuild as soon as possible and are interested in connecting to County wastewater infrastructure.

Please provide the following information:

When is the County's sewer line scheduled to be completed in this area?

Can the sewer line project be expedited? If not, why not?

As Wahikuli residents rebuild their homes, would they be allowed to reconnect to their existing cesspools and septic tanks until they can connect to the completed County sewer line?

May I request that you transmit the information no later than Tuesday, October 31st? Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara M. Paltin".

TAMARA PALTIN
Councilmember

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Scott Rollins, DEM