RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR. Mayor

SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E. Director

ROBERT SCHMIDT
Deputy Director

MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E. Solid Waste Division

ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E. Wastewater Reclamation Division

Environmental Protection & Sustainability Division



## COUNTY OF MAUI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

2145 KAOHU STREET, SUITE 102 WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793

January 25, 2024

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

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Tom Cook, Chair Water and Infrastructure Committee 200 South High Street Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Councilmember Cook:

SUBJECT: COUNTY PERMIT PROCESSING EFFICIENCIES (WAI-1(16))

In response to your January 17, 2024 request regarding information on the permitting process, the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) provides the following response:

- 1. For Fiscal Years ("FY") 2018 through 2023:
  - a. How many residential permit applications did the Department receive each fiscal year?

The Wastewater Division does not differentiate between residential and other building permit types in its record keeping thus does not have this information.

b. How many residential permit applications did the Department process each fiscal year?

The Wastewater Division does not differentiate between residential and other building permit types in its record keeping thus does not have this information.

2. Of the Department's overall vacancy rate, what are the staffing levels for positions directly involved in the residential permit review process?

Wastewater Reclamation Division has three sections that review permits:

Planning and Permitting currently has five (5) positions: CE-V as a supervisor, two CE-III's, a CE-I and a Construction Inspector II. These positions all review commercial and residential permits. In December 2023 the CE-V and a CE-III retired. Additionally, the CE-I is vacant. The CE-V and CE-III positions were recently filled and we are training the new employees. Interviews for the CE-I are scheduled in the upcoming week.







Data

Councilmember Cook County Permit Processing Efficiencies January 25, 2024 Page 2 of 2

> Pretreatment has two positions: The Pretreatment Coordinator who does the majority of reviews and the Source Control Inspector who assists when available. Both of these positions are currently vacant and have been for an extended period. A pretreatment review only occurs on large residential properties with multiple units.

> Recycled Water has one employee. This position is only involved in large residential projects where R-1 water can be used.

3. If staffing levels were increased to improve the residential permit review process, how many of each type of position would be needed and to what programs would they be added?

The Wastewater Division is reorganizing its review staff and will be adding 2 new engineering positions (CE-VI and CE-V or IV) and a second Construction Inspector II for it's planning and permitting section.

In addition, a second Source Control Inspector in the Pretreatment Section is also being added.

- 4. What are the Department's top three challenges to processing residential permit applications? How is the Department resolving these issues?
  - 1. Number of reviewers/vacant positions
  - 2. Checking each lot for compliance with County Code (record and field verifications)
  - 3. Applicants not being aware of wastewater requirements, incomplete submittals.

We are working to fill vacant positions, adding some new positions, adding an informational form for the applicant to include with its MAPPS submittal so that they are aware and meet code requirements.

5. For the FY 2025 Budget, would the goal and objective of increasing the Department's overall permit processing efficiency be a priority the Department could consider in its Key Activity Goals & Measures? If yes, what steps are being taken to effectuate this? If no, please explain why not.

Yes, the positions mentioned above are included in the FY2025 budget for the Division.

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,

ON ca=Shayne R Agawa, ou=Director of the Dept of Environmental Management.
Environmental Management.
email=shayne agawa@co maui hi u s. c=US
Date 2024 01 25 14 21 50 -10'00'

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

cc: Wastewater Reclamation Division

## **WAI Committee**

From: Michelle Santos < Michelle.Santos@co.maui.hi.us>

**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2024 12:23 PM

To: WAI Committee

Cynthia Sasada; Josiah Nishita; Keanu LauHee; Leo Caires; Louise Batoon; Nadine Orikasa; Pili

Nahooikaika; Robert Schmidt; Shayne Agawa

**Subject:** MT#10472 County Permit Processing Efficiencies

**Attachments:** MT#10472-WAI Committee.pdf

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## Michelle L. Santos

## Office Operations Assistant

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