



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, HONOLULU DISTRICT  
230 OTAKE STREET  
FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5440

June 30, 2025

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Tom Cook  
Water and Infrastructure Committee, County Council  
County of Maui  
200 S. High Street  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Cook:

Aloha and mahalo for your inquiry regarding the transportation of nonhazardous Lahaina Wildfire Debris from Olowalu to the Central Maui Landfill. The Honolulu District remains committed to safely and efficiently executing this critical phase of the recovery process with our County, State, and Federal partners. We are implementing rigorous protocols at every stage of the debris transport process that will help us get the job done safely and with the utmost respect for the Lahaina community. The following information is provided to expand on what we previously said at the Maui County Council's Water and Infrastructure Committee's meeting on June 4, 2025.

Question 1: Please confirm the specific wind speed and duration thresholds that would trigger a halt in transport operations (e.g., sustained winds of 25 mph for 15 minutes). How are those thresholds determined, and will the public be notified in real time, both when operations pause and when they resume?

Answer 1: The Contractor is responsible to determine the weather events, including wind speed and duration, that would halt the safe transport operations based on the trucks that they are utilizing. Previously, sustained winds of 25 mph for 15 minutes was a wind restriction at the TDS for truck dumping operations. Trucks are subject to tipping over in high winds during truck dumping operations when the bed is raised. As there are no more truck dumping operations at the TDS, the final determination for safe operations in the wind is up to the Contractor. Shutdown and restart operations will be communicated with all County of Maui, State and Federal agency stakeholders. The public will not be directly notified by USACE when operations pause or when they resume.

Question 2: In the event of a hurricane or other natural hazard, what protocols would determine the shutdown of operations? How will coordination with the Maui County Emergency Management Agency and other County, State, or Federal agencies take place?

Answer 2: During a hurricane or other natural hazard events, USACE and the Contractor will follow MEMA and HIEMA advisories and warnings. USACE is actively

monitoring MEMA alerts throughout the mission. Shutdown and restart operations will be communicated with all County of Maui, State and Federal agency stakeholders.

Question 3: Will the temporary improvements made to roads, crossings, and baseyard infrastructure be retained after operations conclude or will they be removed and returned to pre-operation conditions? Please explain.

Answer 3: The Contractor will remove the temporary irrigation ditch mat bridge crossings and associated improvements at the crossings that the Contractor installed along Cane Haul Road. The irrigation ditch crossings along the Cane Haul Road will be restored to pre-operation conditions.

Question 4: Has USACE considered integrating environmental factors, such as King Tides and surf conditions, and localized cultural factors, such as rainbow viewing and marine wildlife viewing, into the daily assessment of operational feasibility? Please explain.

Answer 4: USACE considered environmental, recreation and cultural factors in determining operations. The impacts of artificial lights on seabird and turtles, the dark skies ordinance, and worker and driver safety were considered in determining daylight operations. MEMA puts out advisories for King Tides and surf conditions that may impact low lying areas. Upon receipt of a MEMA alert/advisory, USACE will adjust operations as necessary and will communicate with all County of Maui, State and Federal agency stakeholders. The truck drivers will safely operate their vehicles and watch for vehicles pulling off or entering the road for rainbow and marine wildlife viewing, especially along the beaches that are frequented for swimming and surfing. The truck drivers are local to Maui and have experience driving with the mix of local and tourist traffic along the route.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by e-mail at [adrian.o.biggerstaff@usace.army.mil](mailto:adrian.o.biggerstaff@usace.army.mil). Mahalo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian O. Biggerstaff', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Adrian O. Biggerstaff, PhD, PE, PMP  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer