

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

August 23, 2019

Committee
Report No. 19-98

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Water and Infrastructure Committee, having met on August 5, 2019, refers to a Miscellaneous Communication dated May 21, 2019, from the County Clerk, relating to the Central Maui Landfill ("CML") Land Purchase Project ("Project"), CBS-3567.

Your Committee notes the following project description for CBS-3567:

The acquisition of this 17 acres completes the Central Maui Landfill subdivision parcel, approved by the County Development Services Agency in 2009. The additional land will allow for the development of a dedicated Emergency Debris Sorting and Recovery site and other ancillary facilities.

Your Committee notes the following project justification for CBS-3567:

The County does not currently have sufficient land for FEMA-approved emergency debris management. The County needs a permanent solution with larger land area to be prepared for future emergencies, as well as other landfill and refuse related infrastructure facilities. The land is currently available, as sugar cane cultivation has ceased in these fields adjacent to the Central Maui Landfill.

The Director of Environmental Management provided a written Project status update, including a site map.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

Page 2

Committee
Report No. 19-98

The Director of Environmental Management said during the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget session that the Council reduced the Project appropriation from \$1,000,000 to \$200,000. Your Committee notes the Council also withheld the bond authorization and requested the matter be referred to your Water and Infrastructure Committee.

The Acting Solid Waste Division Chief stated that to stage debris from the 2016 Iao Valley flood, the Department leased the Project site from A&B Properties. The Director explained the size of the 17-acre Project area was based on the debris volume from that flood event; however, a much larger area is needed to accommodate debris from a Category 4 hurricane, the required basis for the Department's update of its countywide emergency debris management plan.

The Acting Solid Waste Division Chief stated the 17-acre area was appraised at \$720,000. He said A&B Properties would prefer to sell the entire 63-acre parcel, rather than subdivide it, since the remainder would be less desirable to other buyers. Based on the appraisal, the entire parcel is estimated to cost \$2,660,000.

The Acting Solid Waste Division Chief said the proximity of the parcel to the CML is ideal, because the debris will be disposed there after it is processed and reduced. The Director explained a designated site for emergency debris management, pre-approved by the federal government, will allow the County to be reimbursed for disaster costs.

Your Committee inquired whether the significant amount of additional area could be used if the entire parcel is acquired. The Acting Solid Waste Division Chief said the Department has identified needs for additional land, including expanding Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division functions, creating a CML maintenance area, and possibly consolidating the collection baseyards. He said the Department has already purchased a nearby property to address these needs, but said the land purchase could also provide area to support those functions.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Page 3

**Committee
Report No. 19-98**

Your Committee noted in a large disaster, debris will need to be managed within the disaster area itself, and questioned the need for such a large Project area. The Director said regional sites are being identified for the emergency debris management plan, but eventually the debris will need to be transported to a central area for processing.

Your Committee inquired whether Federal Emergency Management Agency funds could apply to the Project, and the Acting Solid Waste Division Chief responded that funds would be available only after a disaster declaration.

Your Committee acknowledged the need to have available a large area of land to prepare for the anticipated need to clear and process debris after a natural disaster.

Your Committee notes further review of the Project would be more appropriately done by your Economic Development and Budget Committee, which can consider recommending approval of a budget adjustment and bond authorization.

Your Committee voted 6-0 to recommend referral of the communication to your Economic Development and Budget Committee. Committee Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Paltin, and members Kama, Molina, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci voted "aye." Committee member Hokama was excused.

Your Water and Infrastructure Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the Miscellaneous Communication be **REFERRED** to your Economic Development and Budget Committee.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

Page 4

Committee
Report No. 19-98

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



ALICE L. LEE, Chair

wai:cr:19042aa:ckc