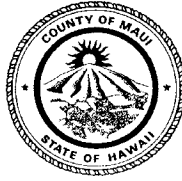


ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor



DAVID TAYLOR, P.E.
Director

GLADYS C. BAISA
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155
www.mauewater.org

April 19, 2017

Ms. Lynn A.S. Araki-Regan
Budget Director, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan M. Arakawa", followed by the date "4/19/17".

Honorable Alan M. Arakawa
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

For Transmittal to:

Honorable G. Riki Hokama
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Hokama:

**SUBJECT: RESPONSES/QUESTIONS FROM THE APRIL 12, 2017 MEETING
(WS-3) (BF-1)**

Thank you for your April 13, 2017 letter regarding the above-referenced subject. The Department of Water Supply (Department) is transmitting for your review and offers the following response to your question:

Question:

Pursuant to a proviso on page 13 of the FY 2017 Budget (Ordinance 4334, as amended), 3.0 equivalent personnel under the Department of Management were assigned "to assist with projects furthering the goal of resolving the Upcountry water meter wait list, specific projects such as the restoration of Moku`ula and Mokuhinia, and other capital improvement projects as needed."

How effective has the assignment of these equivalent personnel been on projects within your Department? Please explain. (EC)

"By Water All Things Find Life"

Answer: The Department of Management made available three staff members to assist. The Department utilized two of these staff in complying with the proviso. The decision to utilize only two of the staff was based on training time and balancing workload.

The County Capital Improvement Program Coordinator, Ms. Taomoto, was temporarily assigned on a full-time basis as the Engineering Program Manager beginning on September 1, 2016. By having Ms. Taomoto assigned on a full-time basis provided Engineering Division staff the necessary support for various functions, including the Upcountry water meter wait list.

The Capital Improvement Project Coordinator, Mr. Sumida, has been reporting to the Department's Engineering Division beginning on January 2017 for approximately 7 hours a week. As Mr. Sumida does not have engineering experience in water analysis, his assistance is limited to doing the preliminary research on the properties on the Upcountry water meter list. Unfortunately, the preliminary research performed by any person performing a similar function to Mr. Sumida does not make the review of the properties on the waitlist move significantly faster. Our experience has shown that, in order to be effective, staff needs to be immersed in the details of the process and water system operation. It is our opinion that the only way to improve on the number of waitlist properties reviewed is to hire more engineers.

As the Department has 4 vacant engineer positions, we are actively recruiting engineers for a number of functions, including the Upcountry water meter wait list. It is our hope that it will be successful in hiring 1-2 engineers in the next year.

We hope you find this information useful. Should further clarification be necessary, please contact me at Ext. 7514.

Sincerely,



DAVID TAYLOR, P.E.
Director of Water Supply

xc: Keith A. Regan, Managing Director
Lynn A.S. Araki-Regan, Budget Director
Gladys C. Baisa, Deputy, Department of Water Supply
Wendy Taomoto, Engineering Program Manager

DT:WT:atn
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