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Shane Sinenci, Chair
Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee
Maui County Council

Albert Perez, Executive Director
Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc.

August 19, 2019

Re: EACP-8

Aloha Chair Sinenci and members of the Committee:

My name is Albert Perez, and I am the Executive Director of Maui Tomorrow.

The following comments relate to Anaergia's sludge processing, energy generation, and biocrop growing/burning project at the Wailuku-Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

1. The proposed Anaergia sludge drying lease at the Wailuku-Kahului WWRF is in the tsunami zone. A report prepared in 2014 says that tsunami heights in the area of this facility are 30 feet instead of the 20 feet that the tsunami wall is designed for. The wastewater facility is also in the area projected to be inundated by 3-foot sea level rise. As the sea level rises, the tsunami heights will also be higher relative to the existing tsunami wall. It is critical that we adopt proven methods to move this facility inland, instead of allowing more investment in a known hazard area. It is just a matter of time before we have a tsunami that will take this wastewater plant out, filling Kanahā Pond with contaminated water; then we will have a huge environmental disaster on our hands.
2. A very poor environmental impact statement was prepared by Anaergia for the sludge drying project. Maui Tomorrow challenged the EIS in Environmental Court and was successful. Anaergia has appealed the decision.
3. This project is not a good deal for Maui County. The cost of the energy produced will be 29 cents per kilowatt-hour, and will rise 2 percent per year. In comparison, solar projects with battery storage are now down to 8 cents per kilowatt-hour, and are continuing to drop.
4. The Maui County Charter, and the Contract itself, give the County Administration the power to cancel either or both contracts. This should be done as soon as possible, and the County should move forward with siting wastewater technology away from the tsunami and sea level rise as soon as possible.

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After more than 5 years, Anaergia has not fulfilled any of its obligations under the landfill waste conversion contract. Why would we expect anything different under the sludge drying contract? It's time to pull the plug on both of these projects.

Mahalo.