

WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

March 20, 2023

Online Via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 1:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Tom Cook, Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member

STAFF: Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst
Ana Lillis, Legislative Analyst
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst
Nalani Fujihara, Hawaiian Language Communications Specialist
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney
Richelle Kawasaki, Legislative Attorney
Clarita Balala, Senior Committee Secretary
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office.
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office

Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka‘i Residency Area Office

Jared Agtunong, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Cook
Stacy Takahashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Cook
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson
Davideane Kama-Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Noelani Ahia, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Laura McDowell, Executive Assistant to Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins
Susan Clements, Executive Assistant to Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins

ADMIN.: Caleb Rowe, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

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Shayne Agawa, Director, Department of Environmental Management
John Stufflebean, Director, Department of Water Supply
James Kimo Landgraf, Deputy Director, Department of Water Supply
Thomas Ochwat, Civil Engineer, Department of Water Supply,
Eva Blumenstein, Planning Program Manager, Department of Water
Supply

OTHERS: Lucienne de Naie (WAI-1(1) and WAI-1(3))
Dean Frampton (WAI-1(1))
Anonymous Testifier (WAI-1(1) and WAI-1(3))
Faith Chase (WAI-1(1))
Dick Mayer (WAI-1(3))
(5) additional attendees

PRESS: *Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Water and Infrastructure Committee come to order on March 20th, 2023, at 1:34 p.m. May I ask that all participants please silence their cell phones and any other noise-making decision...devices. For those testifying on BlueJeans, please mute your mic until you are called on. I am your Chair, Tom Cook. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Now, I would like to introduce the Committee Members. Vice-Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura, she's running late. Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha Chair, Councilmembers, Committee Members. I'm here at the Lānaʻi District Office. There are no testifiers, and I forget the morning greeting, so konnichiwa. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Tasha Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha 'auinala and hujamba [sic], Chair, and looking forward to a wonderful meeting this afternoon. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hujambo.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Tamara Paltin is excused. Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinala, Chair, my Molokaʻi Nui A Hina. I'm at the District office, alone on my side of the office, and we have Zhantell Lindo, our community outreach specialist, on the other side of the office. Mahalo.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hey, aloha and hujambo, Chair. And there are no testifiers at the Hāna District Office. Happy to be here.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Good afternoon.

CHAIR COOK: Representing the Department of Environmental Management I would like to welcome, Director Shayne Agawa. I believe, Shayne is going to be online today.

MR. AGAWA: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: And the Department of Water Supply, Director John Stuffiebean.

MR. STUFFIEBEAN: Good afternoon.

CHAIR COOK: Good afternoon. From Corporation Counsel we have Deputy Corporation Counsel Caleb Rowe.

MR. ROWE: Good afternoon.

CHAIR COOK: From OCS, our Committee Staff, Committee Analyst Paige Greco.

MS. GRECO: Good morning, Members.

CHAIR COOK: Ana Lillis.

MS. LILLIS: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Members.

CHAIR COOK: Jared Pascual.

MR. PASCUAL: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Committee Secretary, Clarita Balala

MS. BALALA: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Legislative Attorney, Remi Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL: Good afternoon, Chair and Staff. And Members, sorry.

CHAIR COOK: Council Service Assistant Clerks, Jean Pokipala and Lei Dinneen. Okay. Please see the last page of your agenda for information on meeting connectivity. On today's agenda we have two items, WAI-1(1) and WAI-1(3). These two items include presentations on the Six-Year Capital Improvement Projects Under the Department of Environmental Management and Water Supply, respectively. In preparation for Fiscal

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Year...Fiscal Year 2024 budget, both are Rule 7(B) items, and no legislative action will be taken. For the two items on the agenda, oral testimony via phone or video conference will be taken after the presentations. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should have joined the online meeting via BlueJeans link or the phone numbers noted on today's agenda. All individuals logged in to the meeting will be added to the testifier sheet. If you do not intend to testify, please state this in the chat. If you do wish to testify, please state your full name, organization, and items you would like to testify on in the chat. If you wish to testify anonymously, please state this request in the chat, as well as in the items you wish to testify on. Chat should not be used to provide comments or discussion. Written testimony is encouraged, and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Please be courteous to others by turning off your video, muting...video, and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. Decorum must be maintained at all times, any person who behaves in a manner that disrupts, disturbs or impedes the orderly conduct of any Committee meeting can, at the discretion of presiding officer or the majority of the present Committee members, be ejected or banned from the Committee meeting, or if participating remotely, muted or dropped from the meeting. Examples of disruptive behavior include heckling, shouting, use of profanity, threatening or slanderous remarks made to any member of the Committee, Staff or general public. Again, chat should be used only to sign up for testimony, not for public commentary on the meeting. It will be considered a breach of decorum for members of the public to use chat for anything other than testimony signup. Staff has been monitoring individuals joining today's meeting by phone and by video, and we will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. Now, on to our first agenda item.

**WAI-1(1): CURRENT SIX-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDER
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT** (Rule 7(B))

CHAIR COOK: WAI-1(1), Current Six-Year Capital Improvement Projects Under the Department of Public...Department of Environmental Management. Members, you can find a copy of the Department's presentation in your Granicus file, item number 1.

MS. GRECO: Excuse me, Chair. Sorry, this is Staff. We received an updated version of the presentation, so it's actually Granicus item number 2, under WAI-1(1).

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Staff, for the correction. Director Agawa, please share any opening comments, followed by your presentation.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair Cook. Thank you, Members. Thank you for allowing us to present on our six-year CIP Plan. I did submit an updated version of the presentation, and the only change, just to let you know, is on the new proposed Waikapu Wastewater Treatment Facility. The...only those items have been pushed up by a couple of years,

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everything else in the presentation which you had previously did not change. And just to let you know that our Department, the CIP projects are with wastewater and solid waste, and we average about, I want to say, 50 to 60 a fiscal year. So, this presentation, if I went through all of them, would take like three days. So, just to let you know, this presentation, we're going to concentrate mostly on nonregulatory, nonmaintenance type of projects. I mean, you know, you don't need to know about pipe replacement type of things. So, we're going to concentrate more on expansion, new infrastructure type of projects. So, be aware if you don't see any project in your district, don't be alarmed, because there are projects in your district, they're just probably maintenance type of projects, and not expansion type. So, Chair, if you would allow me to share screen.

CHAIR COOK: Please do.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. You folks see what I'm sharing?

MS. GRECO: Yes, we can see it.

MR. AGAWA: Okay. Thank you. So, as I mentioned before, I'll be presenting on our six-year CIP Project from Fiscal Year '23, which is current to '28. So, the total proposed budget for DEM by fiscal year, as you can see, ranges from about 60 million all the way up to 131 million. And I put a disclaimer on the bottom, and I'm pretty sure you are well aware that these projects and dollar values are subject to change based on various reasons. It could be budget, planning issues, delay in construction materials, whatnot. So, please don't keep us to what I present here because they will probably change. This next slide shows basically the difference between our Solid Waste Division CIP budget versus our Wastewater Reclamation Division budget for CIP. Normally, we average about 80/20 percent split in CIP budget. As you can see, obviously in '27, '28, there's a huge disparity between wastewater and solid waste. And the reason being is that, that's when our wastewater reclamation facility in Waikapu is planned to be under construction. So, as you can imagine, that's going to be a huge budget item in those fiscal years. So, first I'd like to give a presentation on the Wastewater Reclamation Division CIP project six-year CIP plan. So, in wastewater, approximately 38 percent of the CIP budget is for the regulatory and the maintenance-related projects, and then about 62 percent of the projects are related to expansion type and new infrastructure. So, in this chart, you can see the expansion budget in yellow versus the total budget for wastewater. And as I mentioned before, there is the big values in '27, '28 because of the new Waikapu reclamation facility construction. So, I broke it down into different fiscal years, I'm not going to go over every one because the ones without a symbol next to them are basically R-1 expansion type projects, there are a lot of them. But I'll concentrate more on the new type of infrastructure type of projects. So, in '23, we have a Wailuku Waikapu diversion pump station, the stars denote all the projects that are related to the new Waikapu reclamation facility. We also have a diversion gravity sewer line, and these are all auxiliary projects to feed the new facility. And then we have in the triangle denoted projects are related to cesspool conversions. So, I wanted to narrow it down to these three different type of projects. So, in Fiscal Year '23, there's the Upper Waiko Road sewer extension project. So, that is an expansion of our sewer system in the Waiko Road area, and that'll service about...I believe maybe about 90...90 lots in

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total. In Fiscal Year '24, there's a Kaiola Place sewer extension project that is also a cesspool-related conversion project. We're going to service approximately eight to nine lots. Now, these are not eight to nine homes. Keep in mind, there are larger lots that have the potential to subdivide so, possibly up to 20 to 30 homes. This is a new sewer system that will service homes that are currently on either cesspool or septic. In Fiscal Year '25, we have a Waiko Road subdivision sewer system. Now, you'll see duplicate project names, and if you note in the parentheses, it's different phases of the project. So, previously you might have a planning, design, and then this one is construction. So, in Fiscal Year '25, that Waiko Road subdivision sewer expansion is for construction, as well as the Upper Waiko Road sewer extension. Those are in the same area, and they just service different amount of lots in different phases. In '26, also related to the new Waikapu treatment facility, there's a Waikapu diversion gravity sewer, which was mentioned earlier, along with a pump station and force main. Now, those were in design in the earlier Fiscal Year '23, '24 Fiscal Year, and these are now in construction in '26. And this is the first time we'll see the red circle, which is the Wailuku Kahului recycled water force main. That is force main from the old Wailuku Kahului treatment facility through Kahului town to the SAT...proposed SAT basins along Kuihelani Highway. And this is just to help to get off of the injection wells to dispose of the...the effluent treated wastewater. Also, in '26, Wailuku Kahului recycled water pump station, that's also related to the Kahului, taking out the effluent from the old treatment facility to the SAT basins. And also...and that's in construction, and in the Wailuku Kahului treatment facility upgrade. So, eventually, we are planning to upgrade for the facility to treat the wastewater to a R-1 standard. Currently the Kahului...old Kahului treatment plant treats it to R-2 standard. In Fiscal '27, we have the actual Central Maui regional wastewater reclamation facility under construction, and that's where previous slide you see the big jump in the budget in '27, and this is due to this project. You also have the force main, and the SAT basins related to the old Wailuku treatment facility R-1 effluent disposal. And these are both going to be in construction in '27. And another cesspool conversion-related project in '27 is the old Wailuku Heights sewer system, and this would be in design. We previously did a study, so in '27, we're planning on going into design for that old Wailuku Heights area. In Fiscal Year '28, Central Maui regional facility again, second year of construction. And then the upgrade to R-1 would be in construction for the old Wailuku facility, and the SAT basins will be in construction in this year, '28. And another...the two cesspool conversion projects would be Makawao masterplan and Central Hāna sewer system. And this is in the plan...early planning stages. Moving on to Solid Waste Division. So, similar to wastewater, about 37 percent of the budget are for maintenance and regulatory type of projects, which you will not see here. However, you will see about 62 percent of the expansion or new infrastructure-related projects. And in the chart, you can see the solid waste expansion projects versus the total CIP budget for solid waste. So, in Fiscal Year '23, all the projects that are not denoted by a symbol are related to landfill expansion, I'm not going to talk too much about that. And if you have any questions about specific projects in your district, we can...I'll be more than happy to talk offline with you folks. So, I'm going to concentrate more on the landfill operation type of projects for solid waste. In Fiscal Year '23, we have an interim green waste and biosolid management, which is in construction right now. It's prepping land that we acquired from A&B to relocate our mulching and biosolids processing. There's also Central Maui landfill operation

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facilities. This in the planning stage, it's going to allow us to plan for the newly acquired land from A&B...40 acres previously, and then 59 acres recently, so we have a total of 99 acres just makai of the landfill. So, this will help us plan on the use of those newly acquired land. In Fiscal Year '24, again, the interim green waste...now, this would be continuing construction. And also, there's a Kalialinui Gulch crossing, it's the access road that connects the old phase of the landfill to the new phase 3A, which is the active phase now. It crosses a gulch, and we're planning on the design and construction of a new crossing with new updated culverts. What we found out is that in these big storms that we've had recently, the culverts are pretty much at the capacity where's there is a chance for the road to wash out. So, this will improve that road crossing to the active phase. In Fiscal Year '25, again, the gulch crossing. Now, this is design. There's also a gulch litter screen, this is a litter screen similar to the one along Pulehu Road and this is to catch the litter flying off of the active face currently. The old litter screen was catching debris mostly from Phase 4 and 5, which is that high mound that you folks see out there. This is going to be a new litter screen to cover the new active phase of the landfill. Then we have Hāna landfill transfer station, this is just in the planning stages, study to see if a transfer station similar to the one in Olowalu would work better for us than a landfill out in Hāna. And then we have a Molokaʻi landfill entrance facility improvements, and that is design and construction in the same phase. And also, in '25, Kalamaula sea level rise impacts, that's just a study in the planning. In Fiscal Year '26, Central landfill parking area solar panels. That'll be design and construction, that's to get us more into renewable energy at the Central Maui landfill. In '27, the gulch crossing, this year would be the year that it would be in construction, previous years, as I mentioned, was the planning and the design stage. And then the sea level rise impacts would be in the planning stage. In '28, Central Maui landfill operation facility will finally hit the design stage, and the organics management PER would just be started. This is to help us for future organics management at the...the Central Maui landfill. And that is basically an overview of our six-year CIP plan. If you folks have any questions, I'd be more than happy to answer.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Director Agawa. I'm sure there will be quite a few questions. Members, I am proposing...Members, I'm proposing two rounds of two-minute questions per Member, with one member...one minute for follow up. Any objections?

MS. GRECO: Chair, would we like to take testimony on this first?

CHAIR COOK: That's correct. Thank you for correcting me.

MS. GRECO: Sure.

CHAIR COOK: I skipped a page. At this time, I would like to open public testimony for WAI-1(1). Staff, please call the first testifier.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM WAI-1(1). . .

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first testifier on the list is a testifier connected to the meeting by

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phone number with the last four digits being 4376.

MR. MAYER: Dick Mayer. I want to speak on...this is Dick Mayer. I would like to speak on the second item on water.

MS. GRECO: Thank you, Mr. Mayer. We'll add you to the list of this item.

MR. MAYER: Mahalo.

MS. GRECO: Chair, I believe I saw Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez had her hand up, I didn't know if you wanted to call upon her.

CHAIR COOK: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I was informed by someone in the community that the BlueJeans meeting link is not working. But the agenda link and the link that we're on is the same, and the meeting ID is 479 055 686. And so, anyone in the community having trouble with the link can go on to BlueJeans, and enter that meeting code, and can enter BlueJeans that way as well. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you for the clarification.

MS. GRECO: Chair, the next testifier is Lucienne de Naie.

MS. DE NAIE: Aloha. Wow. That was a very, very impressive presentation. And it's heartening to see every time you see one of those little symbols that this is trying to bring sewage service to an area that is currently with cesspools or septic tanks. That's a...that's a good thing for our environment. I was just wondering at all the investment in reuse in South Maui, Central Maui, et cetera, I was just wondering if the...if there's any long-term plans for any solutions to provide sewage opportunities for the Maui Meadows neighborhood in South Maui, since it is one of the larger, concentrated unsewered areas. It was nice to see that there's thoughts about having a plan for Makawao, since that is a nice compact area, that it could be retrofitted in some way for sewage service. But what about South Maui and Maui Meadows? I'm just hoping that maybe one of our Councilmembers wants to dig down into that a little bit and find out what's going on. But this is, I think, a very, very hopeful forward looking budget, and just want to thank the Department for putting all the thought into it, and making it very easy to understand what funds are being directed at what phase of what. So, mahalo. Also, I would like to testify also on the second item, I won't do it now, which is the Department of Water Supply. I'll put that in the chat.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Lucienne.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Dean Frampton.

MR. FRAMPTON: Aloha, Chair, and Members of the Council. My name is Dean Frampton, I'm a project manager for the Wailea 670 project. But I'm speaking as an individual today

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of the community. And what I'd like...and I appreciate that the Chair has scheduled both of these departments on the same day. There's a clear link that I see in between the two departments, and that is our R-1 water. And I really would like the County as a whole to start looking at R-1 water as actual source from the Water Department side. And as a really good example, and for my fellow members on the Board of Water of Supply, they heard me speak until I was blue in the face about this. But in Wailea, we have two million...close to two million gallons a day going to irrigation, and yet we're injecting R-1 water in Kihei. You know, I...I really think it's a sensible solution to start looking at bringing...giving the hotels and the large consumers an opportunity to utilize...offset their clear water use. When you think about, at two million gallons a day, that does a lot to free up water for affordable housing. So, I don't want to be, you know, somebody who's just sitting on the sidelines. I'm involved with a project that could potentially help be part of the solution. And anyway, I just would like the department, both departments, to start thinking about that, and hopefully maybe even inch their way up instead of being on 2026, maybe putting that R-1 water for Wailea just a little bit higher on the...the fiscal year plan. So, thank you all for letting me testify, and thank you for the work you're doing.

CHAIR COOK: Member Johnson has a question for Mr. Frampton.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Commissioner Frampton. So, my question is, you...you mention the idea of by making the R-1 water drinkable, it would go towards affordable housing. Would you...would you say...would you support legislation and earmark it for affordable housing, or it's just the idea that cleaner water means we don't have to inject it, and you can just go more into a pool, no pun intended, more of a bigger source?

MR. FRAMPTON: Yeah. One...just to clarify, one...the first part of your question, I think you said drinkable. No, I'm not talking about it being drinkable, I'm talking about using recycled water for irrigation purposes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

MR. FRAMPTON: And so that it's...it offsets...it offsets the freshwater use of, you know, very important parts of our community that...that are very valuable to our economy, the hotels, which are...keep our local people employed and help out, you know, just a part of our community. So, I wanted to see them...give them an opportunity. And at the same time, what Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez is doing is adjusting the rates. So, it's a two-pronged approach. But sorry to be so wordy, but coming back to your question, I'd...yeah, if...if it's under the idea that it's for affordable housing, yeah, it probably allows us to qualify for other funding sources from the Federal Government. So, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Yeah. Thanks for clarifying that. So, the R-1 would be used on like affordable housing projects for irrigation plans? Things of that nature, right?

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MR. FRAMPTON: I think that's a possibility, yes. But, no, my...what I'm speaking of specifically is --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. FRAMPTON: -- bringing...bringing R-1 to the Wailea area, where we have some of our thirstiest users on the island. And if you give them...if their water bills...I'm sorry, their water rates, collectively, are two million gallons a day. If you give them that alternate source, then that frees up freshwater source --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MR. FRAMPTON: -- that can be used for other projects. And it's just an...and especially when you're given the fact that we're injecting that R-1 into injection wells right now, which...problematic from at least what's happened on the West Side.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. FRAMPTON: It's not that simple though. We need the State Department of Health to get a little bit more on track, and a little bit more proactive in allowing irrigation for uses like this. In some cases, it's only allowed in multifamily and not in single family. But for the most part, we're looking at the hotels. They're the large users, help them out. Raise their rates on freshwater, and at the same time, give them an option to reduce the freshwater intake.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Frampton.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. No further questions.

MR. FRAMPTON: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you. The questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's currently no one left on the list wishing to testify. However, there may be one person in the Chamber that is wishing to testify.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. He's more than welcomed to testify.

ANONYMOUS TESTIFIER: Aloha auinala. Sorry, sleepy after lunch. Mr. Cook, and esteemed Councilmembers. I was kind of disappointed to...I mean thank you for the Director coming to work for Maui County. I know he's got a lot of ōpala on his plate. But I was hoping I would hear more about the waste energy, the burner plant, the burning factory to...you know, we can't keep putting...okay. Let me use Hāna. For example, again, they have a landfill in Hāna, that just doesn't...I mean you could put...this is kind of...I want to say my expertise, but I was a trash man for a couple years. And if you go on the

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mainland, they're piling up...they got so much ōpala that they...there's...they're paying other states millions of dollars to take their trash from them. Hawai'i's in a particular predicament where we can't actually...it's going to cost too much to ship it wherever...somebody will probably take it if we give them enough money for it. But yeah, the waste to burner factory, if you really want a plastic-free Maui--where's the camera--then you've got...we could put rocks in there, you could put tree branches in there, paper, dead horses, whatever. But putting plastic into the 'āina is just pono 'ole. So, I would like to see...if it can't get in the next six years, man--whew, boy, we got problems. And all you're doing is put...kicking the can down the road--no pun intended--but you're just putting the future generations...they're going to have to dig that stuff out of there and do something with it. We're on an island, you only got so much room. So, thank you, guys. And I'll thank all your Staff members for . . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR COOK: Questions for the testifier? Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Law. You mean the drop down gasification technology?

ANONYMOUS TESTIFIER: Gasification and pyrolysis.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And pyrolysis. Are...are they able...I know...you know, you mention about burying our trash, which we have been. We now have a pu'ū ōpala. But can we also use that technology to go into the . . .(inaudible). . . and burn the trash that's also been buried.

ANONYMOUS TESTIFIER: Well, I mean, a lot of things we didn't have back in the old days...you know, it gets Star Trek communicators now and stuff, but they had devices where they just...like a disintegration ray gun, maybe they'll come up with one of those before we get a chance to build a plant. But we got to have some plans and start somewhere. I'm not sure exactly what your questioning was, but your November 5th, 2019--or was it '18--I can't even remember, it's been so long ago now, you brought some guys over. And they were talking about down draft, and trying to figure out which was the best way for the factory, and then they had one already built in Alaska. It's going to cost a lot of money, but...so, Hāna is worth it.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. If I can interrupt?

ANONYMOUS TESTIFIER: Thank you for your time.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

ANONYMOUS TESTIFIER: Yeah, I know it's a long day.

CHAIR COOK: There...there...I'll just share with you, there are plans in the works, and people are discussing trial and experimental plants. So, that's not in the six-year budget, but I know that a wide variety of people--engineers, County officials, and the public--are

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advocating exactly what you're saying. And there will be...I believe that will be forthcoming. It isn't in this exact...in this budget so it's actually planned. So, let's work together on that. Thank you.

ANONYMOUS TESTIFIER: Yeah. I know you were one of the ones that was voted for the 3 Can Plan too.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, sir. Staff, any other testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the last person wishing to testify on this item is Faith Chase.

MS. CHASE: Good afternoon, Chair Cook. Nice to make your acquaintance. My name is Faith Chase from...I will...if you...I don't doubt that your fellow Councilmembers may eventually hint to you that I am a tenacious government watchdog, and I will be attending a lot of your meetings. And I know that there's a name for a female dog, but we'll just leave it right there. I...I...you should know that I'm going to do my best to guide your work towards the best practices, and that you should also know that I take other peoples' input and opinion before bringing my own to you. Specifically, today I just wanted to actually apologize to Director Agawa, Shayne Agawa. He is not...now my fifth environmental management director that I will be working with. I'm very familiar with the down drop gasification solutions. I have an event every year called Resource Recovery. I actually created it to specifically speak about trash when I saw our County go down that Anaergia debacle rabbit hole. And so, everybody kept pointing their finger at each other on what to do, what to do, and I decided to try to put the best information forward through this event. I actually would like to invite Shayne Agawa to maybe make a presentation at that event later this year. But specifically I have to apologize because I didn't get to catch the entire presentation. But when I heard my fellow testifier, JC, mention about Hāna, I had to jump on and actually testify to this item. Because if anything, if we can see how we can take out rubbish instead of bury it, and figure out the green waste situation. And forgive me if I'm behind the ball in understanding if there's been any changes in Hāna to this specifically, but we bring in fill, and then the trucks come out with green waste. The trucks should be coming out with all the rubbish that the tourist are making in Hāna. We're over capacity, we've got unresolved issues with Hāna Highway and the tourism management. So, whatever that little piece is should be tried to be worked out or attentioned [sic] and on your agenda, Mr. Director Agawa, I would really appreciate it. So, that's all I wanted to interject today. I'm looking forward to testifying on the next item. Mahalo.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you for your testimony. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's no one else signed up to testify. Anyone who is out there in the BlueJeans universe or in the Chamber, please make yourself present. I will give a brief countdown. Three, two, one. Seeing none. Chair, no one else is wishing to testify.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Now, Members, seeing that there are no more individuals listing [sic] to testify, without objections, I will now close oral testimony on WAI-1(1).

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM WAI-1(1). . .

CHAIR COOK: Members, I'm proposing two rounds of two-minute questions per Member, with one-minute for follow up. Any objections? Thank you, Members. I would now like to open the floor for questions and discussions. Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura? Excused. Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon. Good afternoon, Director Agawa, always good to see you. I love your vision. So, when you're talking about future projects, plans, proposals, I...I like...I like where the wind is blowing from your Department, just to say the least. So...okay. You said that...and again, I know we're all going to probably want to speak on our districts, but...of course, there's only two items in there that was...had Lānaʻi on them. So, the 2025 Lānaʻi solid waste master plan. That is...I thought that was put in the budget earlier, but it seemed it was 2025. And I also heard there was some concerns with the extra load Hokuau (*phonetic*) was...was giving our wastewater treatment plant, that it might need some kind of CIP sooner, rather than later. Can you speak on that?

MR. AGAWA: Chair Cook?

CHAIR COOK: . . .(*inaudible*). . .

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson, for that question. Yes. So, we had an informal notice of violation on Lānaʻi for our treatment facility. What happened was...it's not a issue of capacity or volume at this point, it's an issue of the load, meaning how dense is the sewer coming into our plant. So, what we've been is collaborating with Pūlama Lānaʻi. We've been doing so for...oh, I want to say, at least maybe this past year, or more. And we've finally come up with a plan, working with Department of Health, and we recently got their approval to start construction on a system that interacts their treatment facility, which is a polishing facility, and our facility. So, right now, my understanding, it's going to...it's under construction. It'll take about...I think the estimation is about three weeks, and then we need to run the system, and hopefully--and we're optimistic--that we'll be under compliance. And then we'll be back at available capacity. But to answer your question. Volume, we're okay, it's just the load. And this...this collaborative project should solve that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. I'm going to actually just pivot a little bit on the next question. So, it's...it says...the one thing I was wondering was, there's an issue with wastewater that was not treated to R-1 standards being disposed of in injection wells in South Maui, in Kahului. Recent community member Ray's concerns that contributes to the near-shore bacteria in places like Kanaha and Cove Park. So, what's the priority of upgrades to R-1 disinfection at Kahului and Kihei, and why is Kahului plan for construction in the late 2028s? Is there a way to expediate [*sic*] this? I know

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there's a lot of moving parts, but when we're getting reports of, you know, polluted waters at Cove and Kanaha presently, you know, is there anything to kind of step it up, push...push faster?

MR. AGAWA: Chair? Yes. Thank you . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Member Johnson, for that question. Just to clarify. So, Kihei, we are treating to R-1 standard already in South Maui. Kahului, as previous Administrations mentioned before, we...we treat to basically doing standards. So, right now, we're in compliance at the Kahului treatment facility, and yes, we do have a plan to upgrade to R-1. As we all know, regulations are becoming tighter. So, if regulatory requirements pushes us to push up our schedule for the Kahului treatment plant to go to R-1, then we will do so. If not, right now, we have it on our six-year CIP plan. And we're open to talks about the order of these projects. Like I said, they're not set in stone as far as order, but we can further the discussion about that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. My time's up, maybe I'll do a second round, Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Tasha Kama, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, Mr. Agawa. You know the Waikapu-Wailuku diversion pump station--and I still can't get in my head where that location is, or where that site is going to be.

MR. AGAWA: Chair? Thank you, Councilmember Kama, for that question. So, in order to divert the flows from, say, Wailuku, Wailuku Heights area, Old Wailuku Town, we need a pump station. That'll be located off of Waiale Road. We're kind of looking in the vicinity of...you know that parks sump, where the goats are on Waiale? Yeah, we're looking at that parcel as far as our pump station goes. And then the force main runs along Waiale, and then eventually will hit a high point in Waiale, where we would no longer need to pump it uphill. And then...hence the other project, which is the gravity line, which will take it down to the treatment facility.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Chair Alice Lee, questions? And I ask everybody to please speak clearly and distinctly in your mics. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Of course. Thank you. Hi, Shayne. I wanted to get a status report on the project in South Maui where we funded, at that time, Director Eric Nakagawa--yeah--several million dollars to embark on a project to divert treated water to various users, condos, and eventually above the police station and other places in order to prevent the use of...continued use of injection wells. So, how is that project coming along, and how many more years do you see this being worked on?

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Shayne.

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MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Lee. We do have it in our CIP plan, I just didn't mention on it because it was--like I said, I'm not going to talk about R-1 expansion because it would take too long. But we do have it--if you would bear with me--in Fiscal Year '23, we have a North Kihei reuse distribution expansion, which takes it from the R & T park--oh, excuse me, sorry--R&T park--sorry, all the way to where the new high school is going to be planned. And that's an expansion that utilizes that funding. If...Chair, if I may also address one of the testifiers since we're on the topic of South Maui expansion?

CHAIR COOK: Please do.

MR. AGAWA: In our...in our six-year CIP plan...again, I didn't talk about R-1 expansion, but...I'll save the time from sharing screen, but in Fiscal Year...wait...bear with me.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, are you going to give me more time? Yeah?

CHAIR COOK: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thanks.

MR. AGAWA: And this applies to Councilmember Lee's question. There is a South Maui R-1 expansion to Wailea, and that is in Fiscal Year...sorry...Fiscal Year '26, South Maui District R-1 distribution expansion to Wailea. Fiscal Year '26 is the planning, and in '27...bear with me... '28...sorry, '28, South Maui R-1 Distribution Expansion to Wailea in design. So, that's already in the works of utilizing that funding. And there's other expansions in South Kihei as well that I didn't mention. But yes, to answer your question, Councilmember, we are using that funding already.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. And one quick question. You mentioned Waikapu. Okay. So, is...the older section of Waikapu is not going to be addressed by the new treatment plant, I believe, unless your plans have changed. And also, how do we address Mā'alaea's issues with cesspools?

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. So, the Waikapu projects are an expansion, as I mentioned earlier, which currently goes to our...our current Kahului treatment facility. But with the shedding to the new Waikapu treatment facility, it will encompass Old Waikapu to the new facility. And hence, Councilmember Kama's question about the pump station and the force main, everything will tie into those...to the new facility in the future. And then for Mā'alaea, the County's vision is to eventually have that sewage transmitted to the same new Waikapu facility in the future. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Shayne.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Councilmember Paltin is excused. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, questions?

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MS. GRECO: Chair, it appears that Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez is still...oh, there she is.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry. Sorry, Chair. I don't have questions right at this moment. Mahalo.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Director Agawa, for your presentation. I just wanted to kind of address some of the concerns of our two testifiers today about the pilot project in Hāna, down draft gasification. I know we've been having this discussions for a while now, and there has been challenges, including, you know, the MOU to create that pilot project. But this is the first time I'm hearing about a transfer station. Can you briefly expound on it?

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Chair. Thank you, Member Sinenci, for the question. Yes...I...I...thank you for the opportunity to do...address the testifiers' concerns about waste to energy. I'll talk about that first. So, for the public to realize, we have been in talks for a while with different developers and technologies of waste to energy. One, as Councilmember Sinenci mentioned, was a pilot project in Hāna. Unfortunately, we worked on the MOU between both parties, and we couldn't come to an agreement from both sides. So, that's...right now it's stalled, but it hasn't died. We're in further talks with the developer. We've also been in talks with another developer of waste to energy using gasification. This project is proposed to be on private land, which is good for us because it takes out a lot of the red tape of utilizing County facility for this type of project. So, in talks with them, my concern was that we want to get data on this type of technology. And for everybody's knowledge, there hasn't been an established down draft or any type of waste to energy gasification system for a municipality in the whole United States, which makes it hard for us to do our due diligence and compare notes with people to see, has this technology worked for you. There has been in other countries, but the waste stream isn't exactly the same, and the...the regulations are different in those types of countries. So, that's on that. And then as far as the transfer station goes, it's...it's a study to see--as we all know, landfilling is the cheapest way to dispose of trash. However, we're not tied to that, but we need to look at the most economical . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . system for the people, for the taxpayers. So, what we're looking at Hāna right now is to see if we can do something similar to Olowalu, where people can bring their trash to a transfer station, where we can compact it, and then maybe truck it to...eventually truck it to Central Maui landfill. When you compact...when you compact trash, you get maybe like a three to one reduction in volume. So, it minimizes the trips out of Hāna, and it obviously will prevent more trash from going into the landfill. So, it's just a study to find out if it's feasible and most economical for the taxpayers at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Director Agawa. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Member Sinenci. Questions

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or...Ms. U'u-Hodgess [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hodgins, Chair. There's an I, no E...but thank you. Thanks, Chair. Director Agawa, how would likely do you assume some of your priorities might change in the next six years? And not to be geographically biased, but...I don't know, maybe moving Makawao up higher on the priority list for the sewer master plan. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins, for that question. We're pretty sure it's going to change. As we know, in history, our six-year CIP plan is very volatile, very revolving, evolving, based on budget, planning. So, what you see here is most likely not going to be what you see here in, say, two, three years down the road. It'll be similar. As far as the Makawao area study, we plan our six-year CIP plan to best fit our budgetary operational needs. We still have to service our existing customers, and we still need to look at future growth. So, for us, right now, where it stands for Makawao, the study...it fits in our six-year CIP, it fits in our budget. As far as pushing it up, that's to be discussed. We're open to discussion, but right now, our priorities are such that it sits where it sits because of our needs as a department.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Director Agawa. I have a question. What are the limiting factors to meeting the plans of this CIP budget? I...I'm...you made a note that, you know, changes due to unvarious [sic] situations.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair Cook. Yes, there is so many factors, one is permitting. As we all know, sometimes you get bogged down in permitting for unsuch...for unforeseen reasons. You get public testimony, back...push back, unforeseen push back, problems with your EIS. There's so many different things. But, you know, like when COVID hit, the supply change bogged down...that type of thing would definitely change our six-year CIP plan as shown here.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. For a second round of questions? Councilmember Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for allowing me second round. Director Agawa, we want to make farming easy for our farmers. And my understanding is, they've been struggling with where they can do their composting. My understanding is you can't do it on Ag land so the dump has been...or the landfill is where it's been happening, I guess. So, can you speak on that? Like is the County of Maui trying to support our farmers with organic soils, and taking the green waste and, you know, separating it? And are we doing the best we can, and there are other projects to kind of help...help it along?

CHAIR COOK: Director.

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MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for that question, Member Johnson. Yes, that is a hot topic for us right now, composting. So, as mentioned in our six-year CIP plan, we are currently in the process of working our new 40 acres that we acquired from A&B. There is some land prep that's involved with relocating our composting operations. Right now, as far as my knowledge, we are permitted to do composting on the 40 acres. However, we're in the construction phase of the land prep, and there's also a special use permits that we need to work on and update for that. But we are trying the fastest we can to restart composting for Maui County. We've been approached by several interested parties. So, our plan is to...to prep that land on the 40 acres, start composting as soon as we can. And what I've been hearing from stakeholders is that there's demand for both composting with the biosolids, and also, composting without. So --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MR. AGAWA: -- my vision for the next RFP for that is, we're going to have the proposal for both together. Now, this is going to require more land because you need to separate the compost, biosolids, and non-biosolids, but I think we can make it work. But we are pushing really fast on getting that back online.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . you didn't mention time line. So, the simple question is, any time line...I mean soon or, you know, you don't have a time line set, right?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that follow-up question. Yes. Like I said, right now, we are constructing land prep. The...the permitting is the issue. What we can legally do --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. But...

MR. AGAWA: -- like I said, we believe we can, but we're waiting to get all our ducks in a row before we start.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, if permitting is the issue...

CHAIR COOK: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'll just finish this, if you could allow...if you'll allow it, Chair. Anything we can do to help? That's all I wanted to ask. Anything we, as lawmakers--is there a law in the way that...you know, is there something in the way for you guys to make this happen? Because we want to make it happen. If it's a law, please let us know. That's all. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. And you . . . *(inaudible)*. . . with that. Thank you. Councilmember Tasha Kama, question?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, Mr. Agawa, you know, in your sewer conversion, you have...some are in design--the Waiko, Upper Waiko Road, the Old

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Wailuku Heights, you got the...in...and then you got construction for the Kaiola. And then you've got the planning for Makawao and Hāna in 2028. How long does it take to get from planning to design to construction? What is the timeline on that?

CHAIR COOK: Director.

Mr. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Kama, for that question. Yes, that...that is a common question we always get in any of our CIP projects. So, planning, we normally optimistically hope for roughly about a year. Permitting goes usually hand-in-hand with the design, which will be about another year. And then in our six-year CIP plan, construction normally comes about a year or two later. So, that is the progression. Planning about a year, design and permitting about a year, and then depending on the size of the project, obviously, construction can take maybe as short as six to nine months for a smaller project, or say, the Waikapu treatment facility, we're expecting about a two-year construction time. So, it varies a lot.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, if you took the plan that you're going to begin in 2028 for Makawao or Hāna, and you added the one year, and the one year, and then the two years, then technically, they probably wouldn't get their sewer conversion until 2032; is that right?

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Assuming...yeah. Thank you, Chair. Assuming that everything falls into place, that would be the projected year, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Questions, Chair Alice Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Director Agawa, where we going to get the money from? That's a lot of Moloka'i Bread to sell.

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Lee. Yes, that is the question. Especially with this new treatment facility, we're looking upward of an area of, you know, hundred-plus million dollars. We had a meeting yesterday, in fact, with some legislators and the Mayor Office, and we talked about funding. So, we're looking at assistance from the State with matching, and also potential Federal...Federal monies also, to help fund a lot of these --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I have --

MR. AGAWA: -- higher and better.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- okay. I don't have much...may I ask you one last question? What

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percentage of the cost will come from fees?

MR. AGAWA: That's a...oh, sorry, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Lee. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: If you don't have it available, you can send it to us.

MR. AGAWA: No. We did discuss that in the meeting yesterday. And there is further discussion whether they come from fees, or if it comes from bonded...yeah, bonded funding.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Would you use...are...based on cost, yeah, it's not like real property taxes where you can just raise the rates. Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Director. If you could follow up with some of those questions later, appreciate it. For the next question, Tamara...Councilmember Paltin is excused. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just one question. Aloha, Director Agawa. Mahalo for the presentation. Okay. So, there's a new Office of Innovations. Is the new Office of Innovations doing any kind of work to advance any new ideas in waste disposal, different kind of wastewater disposal?

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Chair. Thank you, Chair. Thank you for that question, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. That's a good question. We...we recently lost our CIO officer, and we replaced with a new person. We haven't...to be honest, we haven't had a chance to have discussions with the new Innovations officer. But I can mention that, as far as cesspool conversion goes, that there has been some Federal monies set aside through the Mayor's Office, who will be managing those funds. And I don't want to speak for the Innovations officer, but previously, it was the Climate Sustainability group that would have been managing, and my understanding is this Innovations division or section is going to replace that. So, the end role is to help on the technical side with the Innovations section on the cesspool conversion as far as qualifications and that type of thing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response. And then for that new position that you're creating, any luck in filling...is it grants position?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. So, we have it in our Fiscal Year '24. There has been some new discussion with the Mayor's Administration regarding grants positions. We need to talk further about it. But for now, we are looking still at a department grant person. The concern is that these people applying for these grant manager positions may be only--how should I say it--mostly one-dimensional, meaning . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . a lot of them can know how to hunt for the grants, but they might not know how to work on the deliverables. So, to find a person to take care all of the grant aspects, that's the question right now.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, a unicorn. You're looking for a unicorn.

MR. AGAWA: They are out there, to my understanding. But yes, they are like engineers, hard to come by.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Member Sinenci, questions, second round?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Mahalo, Chair. Just a follow up for Director Agawa. We've been getting calls from some rural residents that are putting in applications to convert from cesspool. And so, is that process to you, or is that a building permit that they need to (*audio interference*) --

CHAIR COOK: I think you deserve another crack at that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Director?

MR. AGAWA: Chair. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And I know past...the past director was on the State Commission for that conversion in 2045. So, if you have any updates.

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. AGAWA: If I understand your question about application. Could I get more clarification? Do you mean application when they convert to septic, or...what kind of application are you asking about, Councilmember?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We've...some residents have put in applications with the County to convert from cesspool. And so, they're...I guess they're starting the process. Would that be through your department or through public...permitting?

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Chair. Thank you. My understanding is that whenever you convert from a cesspool to septic, it's a DOH-managed process. So, there's a person from the State building here under DOH that will approve and...look at the plans, and then will approve, and close out the project once completed. But as far as the County jurisdiction, we don't have any jurisdiction on any cesspool to septic conversion. It's a State DOH.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Yeah, that's correct. They went ahead with the State, but I believe the State had informed them that now we have to go through a County process. So, did you mention that you would...the County would finish the project? Is that what I heard from you? And I can get more clarification from the residents.

MR. AGAWA: So, to my knowledge, again, the County...right now, we don't have any

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jurisdiction on any type of . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . cesspool conversion to septic. It's all approved and inspected and mandated by the State DOH.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. I'll follow up. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Director. Member Sinenci, we can follow . . .*(inaudible)*. . . on that, okay? Okay. Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I like the way you say my name. I'm wondering, Director Agawa, is there any hope for a transfer station Upcountry, Ha'ikū, Makawao...anywhere Upcountry? Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. There is always a possibility for a transfer station in...in any district. Again, we would have to do a PER, preliminary engineering report, basically a study to see if that would be the most effective...cost effective and most efficient way. But the answer is yes, we could have a transfer station similar to Olowalu for Upcountry. Part of that is acquiring land...you know, available and permitted land.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Director Agawa. Members, if there's no objections, the Chair would like to defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: TP and YLS)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CHAIR COOK: Also, the Chair would like to call for a ten-minute recess. The Director of Water Supply will be able to come down. Any objections?

MS. GRECO: Chair, please state the current time and the time you will be reconvening.

CHAIR COOK: Let's reconvene at 2:50 . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:42 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:54 p.m.

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Committee meeting will now reconvene at 2:54 p.m.

**WAI-1(3): CURRENT SIX-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDER
THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY (RULE 7(B))**

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CHAIR COOK: This...let's move on to our next agenda item, WAI-1(3) Current Six-Year Capital Improvement Projects Under the Department of Water Supply. Members, you can find a copy of the Department's presentation in your Granicus files, Item number 1. As a reminder, public testimony will be taken after the Department's presentation. Director Stufflebean will please...please share any opening comments, followed by your presentation. If I may, I also want to introduce that we also have Deputy Director Landgraf with us today. So, Director Stufflebean, please share any opening comments.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We're going to...thank you. Thank you, Chair. Yes, also, I would mention that online we have our CIP engineer, his name is Tom Ochwat, and he's available as well to answer some of the questions. As all of you know, this is my third month, so I'm sure there's going to be some questions that...that between the EMO (*phonetic*), my Deputy Director and Tom, we can make sure we try to convey, you know, the best we can to answer all the questions. So, I'm going to...I have a presentation, and I'll begin here and...next slide. And...yeah, go ahead. Here. Again, just a brief summary of our water system, this is kind of a reminder, and that is that we have a...we have action water system, it's...the slide say's five different water systems. If you actually look at what's not connected, there's actually 12 different...12 different systems that are...you know, that are all different...in different parts of the islands. And, of course, we provide potable water from ground water and surface water. The large systems, of course, are the West Maui system, the Central South system, and Upcountry. Also have core systems in Hāna and Molokaʻi. Next. And we divide our capital improvement program into three categories in terms of the different projects. One is to develop new water sources. The second one is to maintain and improve facility reliability, and that really relates to facilities that have basically pumps and motors and moving parts that need to be replaced and repaired. And then finally, infrastructure replacement. And when we use that we're generally talking about pipes and storage tanks. Next. And reservoirs. So, in terms of source development, just going back a little bit in history to kind of bring everybody up to speed on where we are. If you can go to the next slide...there we go. Thank you. So, for source development, again, we have 39 active ground water source wells, we have about 10 wells that are not currently in...active, and we have 6 service treatment facilities delivering just under 39 million gallons on an average day. But again, there's quite a variability in the amount of water delivered in a day, which is an important element. And I guess the only thing I would mention is that Maui is different than the other islands. Most of the other islands are almost completely on water...on wells. So, the fact that we have treatment plants is unique to Maui. Next. And here's an example of a past project. This is a replacement project in the Central district. So, this is a well that...basically, back in 2012, what we had to take out of it...the County had to take it out of service because of high chloride levels. This is always an issue with the wells, is that if you pump them, at a certain point, the chlorides could start building up, especially if they're close to the ocean, and so you have to throttle them back. In this case, this well is completely lost. And I think the point to make on this slide is, it was fairly expensive, and you can see that we're expecting the replacement to be in service in 2025. So, it took 13 years to get from when this problem occurred until when...until when this well was replaced. So, it takes a while to get these things permitted, and designed, and constructed. So, in the estimated capacity, this will be one million gallons per day. Remember, the total use in the County is on the order of

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36. So, it's...this isn't a good source in the Central area. Next slide. Here's another example. This is the big new well over in Kahana. As you can see, it's an expensive project, the total budget is almost \$16 million. The design was done in '17, '18. There were some delays for a variety of reasons, but it...and that one includes a fairly deep well, 1,390 feet, but also 2.4 miles of water line to connect it to our system, a storage tank, emergency generator...and again, the estimated capacity of this well is also on the order of one million gallons per day. Next slide. And this is just another example of a past project that's in the works. This one is scheduled to be complete in June 2023, the Pookela Well number B. This is...really is a back-up well. The well A is an important element of the source system for the water services...for the water supply, and this is a backup so that with...if there's any problems with well A, we have a well B. It's really important because problems can take months and months to fix, and this is a critical element of our system. Next slide. And then finally, we have...again, the six treatment plants. This is the Iao water treatment plant, and the estimate...or the budget on this, which was completed back in 2019, is over \$20 million for the treatment plant. So...and these things are all fairly expensive. This is our newest plant, and all the plants are working quite well. Thanks. Next slide. Okay. In terms of facility reliability--next slide--and this is the pumps and...pumps and motors. You may have...as I mentioned, we have 49 wells, of which 39 are active. We have 34 pump stations, a lot of pump stations because, of course, the topography on Maui calls for that, and then 6 treatment plants. Next slide. And here's some examples of a replacement. This was...again, the pictures tell a lot. These are the...a booster pump that was replaced. It was completed in 2016, but you can kind of see that...what these facilities look like. I think it's important to note that, you know, there...there's significant plant...there's significant wells, they wear out, and have to be replaced. And so, the well also includes a motor control center. Next slide. And the construction budget of this was 3 million. Here's another one that's 3 million. Again, we replaced the motor control center, this one controls two different wells. So, it isn't just...you know, it isn't just you drill a well, and you put a pump in, and you use it, you also have to be able to have a control center to control the pump, make sure that it matches up with the system, provides all the wells. We have to do chlorination, so that has be...that has to be integrated into the system control as well. Next slide. And here's a pump station, this is the...we call the phase 10 pump stations. This basically...these series of pump stations get the water up to the Upcountry. And this is replacing some old pumps with some newer more efficient pumps and motors. But again, major...got a major infrastructure investments budget of \$6.86 million to install these ten different pumps that pump the water up the hill. Next slide. And that's estimated to be completed in August of this year. And then the third state...the third...the category infrastructure replacement. Next slide. And again, this is the tanks and pipes. And again, we have 145 storage tanks...again, that's a lot of storage tanks. And the reason we have so many storage tanks is because, again, there's all the different elevations that have to be served from our system. And then that 750 miles of pipeline, some of which is quite old, some of which is material that we need to replace with better material. So, a lot of work to be done on the pipelines as well. Next slide. And here's some quick examples. This is a tank that had to be refurbished in the Lāhainā water treatment plant. The tank was built in 1996. And you can see, it's...it had cracking and corrosion, delamination, spalling...all these things that you have to then go back in and basically renovate the tank. Next slide. This is

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another tank replacement up in Lower Kula, the cost of 1.7 million. And again, this was built way back in 1975, so these tanks need to be replaced. This one holds 250,000 gallons, and this one has been completed. Next slide. And give you an idea what these things look like. This is one of our larger tanks. This is...construction began in 2016, it was completed in 2019 in about a three-year project, the budget was 6.7 million. So...next slide. And then finally, this is a waterline replacement over in Hāna. And we replaced this...we kind of replaced a four-inch cast iron pipe with eight-inch ductile iron pipe. This is...kind of highlights one of the issues in our system is that the standard for pipelines, really anywhere, is eight-inch. You want all your waterlines to be at least eight-inch to provide enough water, and for...and also, water for fire suppression. And there's a lot of four-inch lines on Maui, a lot of two-inch lines on Maui. And so, one of the issues is, how do you...you know, replacing all those with eight-inch lines. And we're working on...we'll be working on that over the next six years--and forever, probably. And of course, we also include standpipes, hydrants, meter boxes, and so on. Next slide. So, now, I'm going to go back to 2022, which seems like...gee, why we going back there? Well, there's interesting story here, and a lot of these projects are still kind of in progress. So, next slide. So, this first one...so, what...what this shows on each of these next few slides is how much money was appropriated for these projects, and then how much has lapsed. And by lapsed, we mean it wasn't spent, and it was just moved back into...into the water...the water fund. And what you'll notice is there was a lot of money that was appropriated that was never spent. And I imagine most of you are quite familiar with that. This one is a waterline that was cancelled, you know, for a variety of reasons, and some other issues there that...you know, basically there was a million dollars budgeted, but most of it wasn't spent. The second one is the County-wide water system modifications. Now, this is a bucket that we use for change orders because the projects are designed in one year, the bids are less. And then in future years, as it's being actually built, changes come up, and this is kind of a bucket that we use for that purpose. And then the third one is the County upgrades and replacements. And this is for pump and motor replacements kind of wherever they happen to occur. This one, you can see that about 4.5 million was budgeted. That was, again, another approximation. You never know exactly what's going to happen in this category, and about 2.5 million was spent. Next slide. And then these...this project, the first and the second one, are really the same project, the West Maui reliable capacity. And that's...what that really is, is the Kahana well and related facilities. And what this shows is that...unfortunately, this was funded by SRF, which is a State revolving fund. State revolving fund is a wonderful thing, it gives us...it gives the County money at a very low interest rate. And from time to time, they actually forgive the principal, or part of the principal. But what you can see here is that this was...this was budgeted, and none of the money was spent. And the reason that was...there was just a series of delays. There was a big protest, a number of other things. So, essentially, the County lost this loan because it wasn't able to complete this project. But we're going to do it now. And then this...the second one...second bullet is again, the same project showing restricted and unrestricted funding from the Water Supply Department. And you can kind of see the...again, this all lapsed as well because we're now just able finally to actually start developing, building it...constructing and building this well. Now, the third item here is one that probably many of you are familiar with, is the Wailuku Water Company acquisition. And again, this also lapsed because that...the decision to purchase the

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water system was...was not made. And so, it's still in negotiations. Next slide. And then here's just a couple other projects that lapsed for a variety of reasons. These are tanks that were worked in cooperation with developers. So, this was kind of the County...often, when the developer is going to develop a system, and they're going to put in a tank, the County says well, you know, make it bigger so it'll provide additional benefit to the County. And then the County has to kick in their portion. You see these are fairly small amounts, but, you know, it didn't move forward. So, kind of here's the bottom line, and kind of the whole...kind of the conclusion of this story, \$23.4 million was budgeted, only \$20.8 million was spent. And so, the County has had trouble spending money. And we do have a solution for this moving forward, so I'll move on to the next slide, talk about the solution here. So, here's the current active CIP projects. Next slide. So, these are what's actually in progress right now. And you can see there's...we categorized them into a series of categorizations. The first one is source development. So, we have the Kahana well, it's currently...just about ready to start construction. The Pookela well is in construction. And then we have a couple that are in the design phase in terms of exploring and getting ready to move ahead with the projects. So, these are...these are new sources that are extremely important that we move forward on. And then we have some reliability...facility reliability projects that are underway, is construction of the...of underdrain repair at the sludge basin in Olinda, and then there's a couple that are in design, a roof replacement and a underdrain repair. And then we have plant...from the actual plant operations...like that, you know, we call plants, we check about wells and pumps, and we have a well and booster pump motor control center that's in construction, and a bunch of motor control centers that are in design. Again, these motor control centers tend to wear out the most...you know, more quickly than anything...any of the other things because it's electrical equipment and that sort of thing. So, these are all in design. Now, I want you...as you're going through this, this is the first page of three of the current active CIP projects. I think it's important to note that...who's carrying out these projects from the County. We have one registered professional engineer, that's Tom, who's online here, who's carrying out these projects. And there's 30 of them, I think. So, my understanding is the County used to have four registered professional engineers. Right now, we have one. He has two additional engineers that are right out of college...so, are, you know, really in the first year of engineering experience. And they're great, but they've...you know, they really don't really have a lot of experience in terms of developing and delivering capital programs. So, Tom is having to mentor them, as well as deliver these projects. So, that's, I think, pretty important information. Next slide. Here's some more of the projects. There's booster pump stations. There's one in construction, the phase 10 that we had a picture of earlier, and then the booster pump relocation at the Kula Ag Park is in design. And then water tank replacements, we have a number of those that are in design. And infrastructure replacements, waterline replacements...again, and there were...these are in design, and I won't go through all, but...list them all, you can see them there. And then we have the water system analysis. This is...the East Maui source development feasibility study was...the driver for that was the consent decree that my understanding said that we...the County has to prove that we don't have additional sources before we can develop additional sources in this area. And so, this is the feasibility study to determine that, and it's underway...and it's well underway. Next slide. And...oh, good, that was fixed. And then we have dams. So, we have a number of dams. The State did

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an analysis of all the dams in our system. These are fairly small dams, but they all have issues. And so, we are now proceeding through the checklist of all the things that need to be fixed up in these dams that are generally above the treatment plants to serve the County. And then there's just land matters, we're dealing with a variety of land matters. So, this is all the current active CIP projects. Next slide. And now, let's talk about '23 project status. Next slide. So, now we...on these slides, what we're showing is--if you look at the blue numbers, the number on the left is the funding that was basically the budget, and on the right side is, if we have a bid...if we have a...we've already wrote a bid, then we put in the amount of that. If it hasn't, you know, it's just to be determined. So, let's get you some idea of where we are in terms of getting these projects completed. There's the Upper Kula transmission improvements, that's the pipe that was washed out from the flooding a while back, and it crosses over five different gulches. And you see, we put 1.5 million in, like we got...is a good answer, I think, that we...the cost for the design was 725, so that's good. And if this is in the...now, next year's budget for the actual construction of it. So, we're actually moving ahead with that, of course. And then we have the Central Maui and West Maui water system analysis, and then the...which is basically looking at the modeling of our system, which is important. The East Maui source development, we talked about, and then lead and copper. So, obviously, water is fairly highly regulated, and one of the issues is, if there's any lead or copper in your pipes, you have to determine that, and then...and then...and then deal with it. And so, this is the project to work on the lead and copper issue in terms of complying with the new Federal...new Federal rules about removing those pipes that have lead and copper issues. And then we have the dam improvements that we talked about, and these are the two that are actually under way. Next slide. Okay. And here's some source projects. Again, the Kahana well, you can see the price here, the budget was 17.2. As I mentioned earlier, the actual price is going to be about 16.3 million. Again, it's more than just a well, it's a well, pipeline, storage tank, and so on. And then the exploratory phase for the Wailuku Heights well. And you can see, it's coming...it came in right on...pretty much right on budget. And so...next slide. And here's the reliability projects. Again, these are all motor control centers, and you can kind of see that there's four of them, and one of them has been awarded, the other three are still, you know, out. Next slide. And then infrastructure replacement. These are...the first one is a waterline replacement, came in pretty close to budget, just under budget. You always want to be a little under budget, it's a lot easier that way. And then we have a tank replacement, a chemical building painting, and a roof replacement. So, again, these are all projects that are in the current budget that are...we expect to complete. Next slide. Okay. Then 2024. Next slide. So, we mentioned that we only have one engineer that's registered in the CIP division. So, we would love to have more engineers, but meanwhile, we are in the process of getting a consultant to assist us. We already have to do that to some degree, but we are going to...looking...we're looking at getting consultants to provide kind of pretty significant assistance to help us get these projects completed. And again, the preference would be to do it with County Staff, but plan B is to use this consultant. The other advantage of having this consultant onboard would be that there are consultants out there who are very, very good at project management, that have really got this down to a fine art. And so, we can learn from them as they...as we manage them, that they can provide the training and assistance to our young engineers to help us so that then we can do the...kind of a handoff, and we can become

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also project management experts like some of these consultants are. In terms of developing new sources, we have two West Maui wells that were proposed, and they're in the planning stage. There's the Central Maui well that's proposed as well, and also an Upcountry well that is in partnership with the State. So, obviously, are very high priorities to develop new water sources as we move ahead into the future, and this is in...proposed for our budget in 2024. Next slide. And some reliability projects. We have five well and booster pump replacements throughout the County, including one in Hāna, we're not leaving Hāna out over there. So, then we have various water treatment plants that require repair and maintenance. Again, all six of our treatment plants are in pretty good shape, but there's always things that need to be done in terms of repair and maintenance. And in infrastructure replacement, we have various waterlines and waterline matter replacements, projects are related to public works. And then we have the Upper Kula transmission, we've talked about the waterline improvements. That's a big project to make sure we fix that line in Upper Kula that was washed out. Next slide. And then we have some planning studies, we have the USGS study on the Ha'ikū aquifer, and the planning study on the Makawao aquifer well sites. And so, these are both underway--or excuse me, they're both planned for 2024. And then we have land acquisition for some issues there, and additional planning related to current CIP projects. So, this is...this is kind of that catch all category where things that you didn't think about, or things that came up, you want to make sure you have some money to deal with those as well. So, that's 2024. Next slide. And then we do have a list of all the projects moving out for six years, which we can certainly share with you. I think the key point here is that if you look at our budget for next year, we're actually...forget the CIP, we're in a deficit just from operating. So, it's...but it's only because of the carry-forward in the monies that weren't spent in previous years that we're able to have a capital program at all. And we're proposing a rate increase, of course, which I think we'll get into in another time. But ideally, we want to get it back up to around a \$25 million budget. If you look at a system that assets are valued where ours are, you'd want to be spending about 25 million. That's kind of a standard, would be to spend about 25 million a year on a capital improvement program. And so...and the budget includes the management consulting services. And obviously, the actual amounts that we spend will depend on projected revenues, which will be based on the rates and operating costs. The...kind of the capital gets what's left over if you have to operate. Next slide. And then I just...in terms of looking forward, again, we have the list. If you want to see them, we can bring that up of all the projects, but it's more of the same, really. It's, you know, wells, and pipes, and pumps, and so on. But here's...I want to leave you with the fact that we are really working hard to get money from others, which is always a good thing, especially the...one issue was the State revolving fund, which...again, this isn't free money, it's low-interest loan, which is really good. And again, sometimes they forgive the principal, which is wonderful. So, we have the Mahinahina well number one, we have the Waiehu...Waiehu Heights well number one, and the Launiupoko well. And so, these are the projects that we've...kind of the estimated amount, what fiscal year they're in over the next six years, and...and, you know, these are all projects that we think are very likely to get State revolving fund assistance. So, this is all, you know, really, really good news for the County, that there's this program to help us out. Next slide. Yeah, next. There we go. Thank you. And then we talked about the compliance of lead and copper rules, that we also can get some

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State revolving fund for that. And then the last four here are...is Federal money, and some of these are actually grants, which is even better than the loans, right, so...and this is money that's earmarked from the...typically earmarked from the Federal Government. And you notice that the middle one, the third one, the Upper Kula transmission, we think this one is a...actually a good candidate for FEMA because it was caused by flooding. But here's the projects that were...kind of the bigger projects that we're looking forward in the future that we think are eligible for State and Federal funding. Next slide. And then here's a couple more. And then again, the total is, you know, 32 million or so for Federal funding, and 35...almost 36 million from the State revolving fund. So, we're looking at...for a lot of assistance from the State and Federal Government. And again, we think we're very well positioned to secure a lot of these. So, that's a good thing. Next slide. And that concludes the presentation. Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Director Stufflebean. And I'm just going to call for a five-minute recess. We'll reconvene at 3:25, and take public testimony. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 3:20 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:31 p.m.

CHAIR COOK: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Water and Infrastructure Committee meeting will now reconvene at 3:31 p.m. At this time, I would like to open public testimony for the WAI-1(3). Staff, please call the first testifier.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WAI-1(3). . .

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first testifier on the list is Dick Mayer, followed by Faith Chase.
(Audio interference)

MR. MAYER: Good afternoon, Councilmembers.

MS. GRECO: Excuse me, Mr. Mayer. If you have other devices unmuted, can you please mute those before proceeding with your testimony.

MR. MAYER: Can you hear me?

MS. GRECO: It sounds like you may still have another device logged in.

MR. MAYER: Okay. Is it clear now?

MS. GRECO: No, we still hear a reverb. If you've got any other...a TV, maybe a phone logged in, if you can --

MR. MAYER: Let me try one more time. Is it better now?

MS. GRECO: Sorry, we still hear it.

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MR. MAYER: Is it better?

MS. GRECO: No.

MR. MAYER: I don't know what else I can do.

MS. GRECO: Mr. Mayer, we're going to call the next testifier. And I believe you were calling in via phone earlier. So, maybe you still have your phone connected, you can try disconnecting that. We'll move on to the next testifier and come right back to you after. Faith Chase, it's now your turn to testify. Chair, it appears that Faith is no longer connected to the meeting. After that we have Lucienne De Naie.

MS. DE NAIE: Aloha. Happy to have this opportunity to testify. My name is, Lucienne de Naie, and I'm testifying as an individual. This is a great snapshot of what our Water Department is doing, and I do hope that some of the projects, this Committee would get into a little bit more depth on, and figure out what is planned, and how things are moving along. Because it's certainly a great overview, but there are some fairly complex parts to the next few years, and would be good to understand what's happening where. I'd like to comment on a couple of the things that are in the plan. First of all, proceeding as quickly as possible with the new pump that's needed for Reservoir 40 at the Kula Ag Park just...you know, this has been discussed for several years. And I'm sure Councilmember Sugimura and Chair Lee remember discussions of this back when this land was acquired. So, anything we can do to make sure that there's enough water for the new Ag Park will really help our farmers here have another place to go with the security of having access to water. Also, looking at the Īao treatment plant, our newest treatment plant, it's great, you know, that it's built. I've toured it myself, it's a wonderful plant. Are there any plans in the next six years to look at boosting its treatment capacity? Because the Department has acknowledged that one of the strategies that might work in these uncertain climate times is having the ability to utilize more stream water when flows are heavy, and then store it after it's treated rather than just look at the capacity of, you know, we're using now. And that would mean that the capacity of this plant would need to be increased. It's not at maximum capacity most of the time, as I understand it, from looking at the County's reports. But it really...it should have that option. So, if that's possible...we were told on our tour that it was designed to have incremental ability to expand. So, it would be good to see if we're thinking about that in the next six years since our...our stream levels really vary, and that could be a good part of our strategy. And then over on the other side of the island, the treatment plant in Kamole, the one on Hāliimaile Avenue, for years and years there's been recommendations by various consultants, recommendations by the State water commission, that there actually be a large reservoir installed there that could once again capture when there's big, big flows, large amounts of even raw water could be stored at that treatment plant, and then used ...*(timer sounds)*... when the flow...so, there's a couple of unanswered questions in the report, and thank you for your consideration.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Lucienne.

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MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we'll go back to Dick Mayer to see if he's ready to testify.

MR. MAYER: Yes, I am. Can you hear me now? I'm on BlueJeans, not on my phone.

MS. GRECO: Yes, we can hear you. Please proceed.

MR. MAYER: Thank you very much. Thank you for the presentation on the CIP for the next few years. All projects should have not only the initial construction costs, but also the annual operating costs. This is very critical when discussing CIP because there are decisions that need to be made. For example, one of the items was the Pookela well, which will have to pump the water up around 14, 1,500 feet--I'm not sure of the exact elevation, but approximately--and will have very expensive operating costs. An alternative would be to put a reservoir at a higher elevation up in Olinda or the Piipholo site or near there, additional thing that may be expensive initially, but will then have much lower operating costs over the long-term. And those kinds of decisions cannot be made if we just have construction costs in...in a CIP plan. So, for all the projects, as you go into your budget session in the future, I would ask that also, the decision making capability be allowed so that you can see alternatives. And that leads me to the second recommendation. The project should not be done by water source versus, you know, repairs and that kind of thing, but rather by water systems. As the water Director said correctly, there are five systems--three big ones, Central Maui and South Maui, which is one system, Upcountry and West Maui, and then two smaller systems, Hāna and Moloka'i. I think each system should be looked at as to what is needed to make that system more efficient, more productive, and also cost effective. And I think that the project should be listed by system because the systems do not tie together, the five of them. Thirdly, are all of the projects that are mentioned in the...in that list there consistent with the Water Use and Development Plan, which is now before the State CWRM committee? And that, I think, is critical, otherwise you'll be violating the Water Use and Development Plan. So, I would hope that the Water Department will be checking that they're all in the Water Use and Development Plan, which is sort of the bedrock. Or if the CWRM refuses to accept these...the WUDP, then there'll be an opportunity to correct the WUDP and modify it to include these kinds of projects. And finally, I did not see any reference in the plan to the possibility of the East Maui water authority being established, and how that will interact with the needs of the...of the island and...both in terms of providing water for Central Maui farming, as well as Upcountry farming, and domestic use. And so, that should definitely be...should certainly be a part of your considerations in the question you do as to whether these projects will tie in...whether, for example, the Kamole Weir will need any modifications to accept water from the water authority. Those kind of questions that likely . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . East Maui. And one last item, and that is how much of the water is intended to service domestic and industrial uses versus agriculture. And why that's important is because for agriculture, you receive...the Water Department receives much lower amounts of revenue per thousand gallons by comparison to domestic industrial. So, decision making should not only look at the costs, but also the potential revenues from different improvements to the system. I thank you very much.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you, Dick. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank

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you.

MR. MAYER: Thank you.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Tammy, followed by Eva Blumenstein. Tammy, please unmute your mic, this is your moment to testify. Hearing nothing. Chair, the next testifier on the list is Eva Blumenstein, followed by...actually, there's no one else listed on here to testify.

MS. GRECO: Chair, Eva --

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: This is Eva Blumenstein. I'm not here to testify, I'm here as a resource for the Department.

MS. GRECO: Thank you, Ms. Blumenstein. The next individual to testify is the individual joining us in Chamber. If you would like to testify, please come to the podium.

ANONYMOUS TESTIFIER: It's gonna be a record day, Mr. Chair. Hey, thank you, Mr. Stufflebean, I didn't get to catch you at the GREAT Committee meeting when they...when you got your job here. So, thank you, malama wai for the...the wai is the stored value, the stored treasure of the land, and for the future generations. Thank you. More work for the County.

CHAIR COOK: Any questions for the testifier? I'm seeing none.

MS. GRECO: Chair, we don't have anyone else on the testifier list. I'm doing a last run through, it doesn't look like anyone else has joined BlueJeans. If there is anybody else connected to the meeting or in person that would like to testify, please unmute yourself now. Chair, no other individuals have indicated they wish to testify. You can proceed with closing testimony.

CHAIR COOK: Members, seeing there are no individuals wishing to testify. Without objection I will now close oral testimony for WAI-1(3).

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM WAI-1(3). . .

CHAIR COOK: Members, I again propose two rounds of two-minute questions per Member with one minute for follow up. Any objections? Okay. Thank you, Members. I would now like to open the floor for questions and discussion. Yuki Lei Sugimura is excused. Councilmember Gabe Johnson, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Certainly. Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Mr. Stufflebean. Thank you for your presentation. Making sure...yeah...okay. So, I have a lot of questions. If I cut you off, I'm not...I'm not trying to be rude, I'm just on a

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tight...I'm on...I'm on a time limit. So, my first questions for you, Director, is how does the well increase its chloride level?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. And thank you for the question. Yes, as the well pumps, pulls water in from all around it, and if its reasonably close to, for example, the ocean, it would start pulling in the salty water from the ocean. So, that...that's the main way it happens. It just pulls in water, saltier water, from further away.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, is it more like a overuse, or is it more of location close to the ocean kind of thing?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: It's a combination, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Or both.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: If the well is over pumping, it would pull in water too fast. So, you need to make sure you let it relax for a while, let it settle back down, then you can continue pumping some more. Typically you would pump a well 16 hours out of each 24-hour period, for example, instead of continuously going 24 hours all the time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you for that. So, if the fuel costs go up, what's the effect...you know, it's...you know, the cost of fuel's been going across...going up everywhere. How does that affect you guys' operation when you're pumping water up and down and everything?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. The cost of electricity is over \$16 million a year out of our budget of 90...of 90 right now. So, it's a huge factor. And so, yeah, that...that's probably the most important variable in our budget, is how much the electricity costs goes up and down, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You said \$60 million, 79 of...is your...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No. I'm sorry 16, 1-6. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 16, oh. All right. Well, still, that's pretty shocking, and I just would think that maybe...you know, have you looked into solar, or other energy...other energy sources, or is it just we're stuck with that?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Sure. We are working with Department of Innovation to look at renewables, and potentially storage, and other sources as well. But yes, solar . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . solar would be the big one.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. I give my time.

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CHAIR COOK: Second round.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: You'll have round two.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Tasha Kama, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, thank you for being here. My question is, did I...did I see correctly that \$20 million in lapsed funding...is that...did you say? Okay. So, that...so, when I look at the report that you just gave us, it looks really ambitious, and I'm concerned that you may not have the Staff, but you are going to go and try to get some consultants to help you to be able to complete this task. And are you confident that you'll be able to do it without having too much lapsing again, and not have to wait maybe 25 years to get a replacement pump?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes. Thank you, Councilmember. The...you can ask my past employers, I'm really good at spending money. So, yes, I feel quite confident that...that we can start making some significant progress, and...and getting at least a couple of programs built. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Chair Alice Lee, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Mr. Stufflebean. I too had questions on the lapsed funds versus the appropriated funds. Did you have an influx of new workers lately?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, how many positions are vacant?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: In engineering, we're at about half of the positions are filled, half of them are vacant in engineering staff.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, half would be how many vacancies?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Seven.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You sure it's seven?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Seven engineers. And who would do most of the...the actual

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overseeing, and monitoring, and procurement, et cetera, of the projects, would it be the engineers?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. And again, that's...as I mentioned, my...the plan...that would...an ideal situation, it would County staff, County engineers, that would be performing that work. But I want to have a plan B. Plan B would be to utilize consultants to help with that work, and there are consultants that are very good at that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, would they be consultants from Hawai'i?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: They would be whoever we select. And we...and currently just starting the consultant selection process, and so we would be looking at consultants whoever applies for that job, and selecting maybe even more than one, but certainly consultants from whoever submits their proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Because I appreciate your enthusiasm and your optimism, but I would bet that your predecessor also had ideas about outsourcing work as well. I think you are going to run into problems when you find out how slow things happen here. You know, it's not only...it's not only getting...procuring someone to manage a project, but when you start getting into approvals, and permits, and all these other community issues, that could set you back a far...I mean a couple years. So...but I appreciate...I hope you continue on...on the track, and we really need new water sources . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . and thank you very much.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Councilmember Paltin is excused. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo for the presentation, Director Stufflebean. Yes. I mean most of the CIPs that you highlighted are on Maui. Were there any that you'd like to highlight for Moloka'i?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: When we put together our...for 2024, which is, I think, not been released yet, it will include projects for Moloka'i.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ. Sounds good. And I know you had an opportunity last week to come to Moloka'i so mahalo for flying over and meeting with Staff on island, checking out our systems. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Councilmember Shane Sinenci, question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo, Director Stufflebean, for the presentation, Mr. Landgraf. Yeah, I understand that in past Administration, we did have a lot of Carryover funding, and a lot of the projects that didn't get finished or even started. So, I appreciate you continuing in some of them. But in your past experience, are you aware of any consultants? Have you created like a list of consultants that we

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could possibly work with...the County could possibly work with?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Certainly. Thank you for the question. Yeah, I guess I would say that in my last job, which was in San Diego, we had a project that was \$4 billion, and we were utilizing, I think, seven or eight project management consultants. And that project is now spending \$2 million a day in construction costs between ten different construction contracts. So, yes, I'm familiar with the...the...I'm very familiar with the consultants that provide the service.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Great. And then I did see on the list East Maui feasibility study that was from the consent decree. Would that also go out for a consultant to complete?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: A consultant has been selected on that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, already?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That is in progress. That's in progress.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Already in progress. Okay, great. And then I know in the past the County has not utilized their...their take from the East Maui system. Do we plan to...does the County plan to increase their take from the East Maui system?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Are you speaking of the flow that goes by...down the ditch past the...so...so at this point, we deliver the water that's demanded by the users on a daily basis. So, my understanding is that we have additional rights to that water. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And so with the additional demand, we would certainly...and the treatment plant does have additional capacity. So, I would mention that a previous...one of the callers mentioned the need for a reservoir there, and that's certainly on our list of projects to consider. That would be extremely beneficial, not only to capture the water during heavier rains to use later, but also, when the water comes in and it's too dirty, the treatment plant can't treat it. So, by having a reservoir, you can allow the solids to settle out, and you can utilize the treatment plant even during these other times as well. So, yeah, I think storage . . .*(inaudible)*. . . would really help with that, and also, with the ability to potentially take ultimately more water from that system.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. Because normally, the Upcountry residents would be the only ones that have to be on drought restrictions during dryer climate. So, mahalo for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Almost, Chair. Director, I can appreciate your comment about your former employee [sic] saying you're really good at spending money. I think my husband says that about me. In our meeting...before you were confirmed, you had a meeting with our office, so, thank you for that. You were sharing with us that Maui loses about 16 percent of our water through our old piping system. Are we going to see

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any of our CIP projects address that issue?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes. And the first step to that process is to do an evaluation of the system. And so, we've already initiated that...that project, to do an evaluation of the condition of our system, and also a hydraulic model that will help us model the system. And that combination of those two things, plus the meters that we have, would help us to identify the leakage, where it occurs, and where we can make the most improvements that would reduce the leakage. So, that is well underway. And then you go through, and the CIP then would include those projects which have been identified as the most...as the most beneficial.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I do have another quick question, and it's going to feel like I'm swearing at you, but I'm not. How many individuals do we have on the Upcountry water waiting meter list?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Last, I think it's 1,500...1,500, I think. Yes. 1,500, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. I have a brief question. Director, what's the main impediments to ground water development? From...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: It's getting a permit.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you. Second round of questions. Councilmember Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, thanks, first...allowing me a round. Okay, Director. The lapse...the list of lapse in fundings, it was surprising to me, and I notice some of the other Councilmembers asked on that. So, is that list that you shared with us extensive...are you done...is that all of the lapse in funds, or is there other lapse in funds?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: To the best of my understanding, that's everything, sir. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you so much. I looked at your one...one of your...I forget what page it was on, but it had the \$30 million cost for the year 2023, and then 2024, it went down to 10 million. Can you explain the huge reduction in that slide?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. I can't explain the past. I can tell you why there's 10 million in this year's budget is because when you look at...I guess I probably needed to defer that until the budget is actually submitted by the Mayor. But it relates to how much money is available, and how much money is needed for operations.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How much money is available, and how much is...what was that second part?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: How much is need for the basic operations of the system. If the...the

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way the capital --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, are you saying --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- the way it works is...yeah, the way it works is that we'll get a certain amount of revenue, and we have to...we have to operate the system. So, the capital improvement program basically gets what's left over, what's available after you've taken care of operating costs. And going forward, right now it's going to be...it's really the Carryover that's allowing us to have a capital improvement program. And we...when you look at...when you see the budget, you'll see how we're trying to address that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. That makes sense. Thank you for that. So, this is a question kind of from our testifier, Dick Mayer's, comments, is that has SHPD ever denied a WUDP plan? And I don't know if Eva could speak on to it or yourself, I don't know. But has it ever happened where SHPD has denied a Water Use and Development Plan from the County? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I don't know the answer. Eva, do you know?

CHAIR COOK: I think...I think we gotta stick to the CIP agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, CWRM, I'm sorry. I get all the acronyms...thank you for that. CWRM deny them and...yeah, I didn't mean SHPD, I beg your pardon. See, I was just wondering if that's ever happened in the past. If you don't want to ask...allow me that, Chair, it's fine.

CHAIR COOK: Director, do you have an answer?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I would have to defer to Eva.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Chair, Director. Yes, the Commission on Water Resource Management did reject the 2009-2010 Water Use and Development Plan that was for the Central District only. It didn't meet State water code. So, that has happened.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's...that's very interesting. I never knew that happened. Thank you, Chair, for allowing that.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you. Councilmember Tasha Kama, question?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. The construct...the West Maui well, or the Kahana well, you had...it says in here that they had to dig 1,390 feet to be able to get to the water, right, that's what I'm understanding. Do we always go that deep to be able to hit water?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Because of our --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: That's like a quarter of a mile, right?

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CHAIR COOK: Director.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- yeah. It depends where we are. The...if you're closer to the coast, it would be shallower, and as you move up the mountain, then it gets deeper and deeper as you go.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So, it leads me to ask now, how...how are we going to take care of the Upcountry water meter list?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I've only been here two and a half months. I don't have an answer yet, but we're --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- we're working on...that we're working on how we can best resolve that issue.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Alice Lee, question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Director, I'll give you an easy one. Okay. And maybe you can do it by next week. We pay \$16 million a year on electricity. In your experience in San Diego, did you initiate projects like hydroelectricity, or things like that, in order to cut down on expenses, such as electricity and power?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: In other cities I've been, we did do a lot of solar installations, and so I...and I certainly would be looking to do that here as well. I would also mention that we met with a representative from...from HECO last week, and talked about how we can best be as most efficient as we can with the system that we've got. And potentially, they were very helpful in terms of...you know, it's a little bit counterintuitive because they make money by selling electricity, but they were...they seemed quite sincere about trying to help us to be as efficient as we can. Because it does help them if we're far more efficient because that's less infrastructure they have to build in terms of delivering energy. So, there are things we can do to work together to help reduce our costs, and help them as well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well, I'm glad to hear they're cooperative because we probably are their number one customer.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We are. Yes, they mentioned that. We are the number one customer. We knew it, it's all us.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good. And then my last question. With all the projects that you covered, are any projects being delayed or deleted from last time...last year? Do you know?

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MR. STUFFLEBEAN: There aren't any deleted. I don't...other than the ones I mentioned in the presentation, I don't think any others are being deleted. No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Paltin is excused. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, questions for the Director?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. No questions.

CHAIR COOK: Councilmember Sinenci, second round.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Just one more question, Director. Does the Department encourage like larger water rates for our larger users to promote conservation?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, we do have tiered water rates, which means that the first certain number of gallons that you buy are lower cost for residences, then it...the cost goes up as you use more and more water. So, certainly, for residents, we have tiered water rates. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then for the larger users?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: At this point in time, all the other users pay a fixed rate. Stay tuned for the proposal we have.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. No questions. So my...*(clears throat)*...excuse me. So, my question, Director, have you reviewed the community plan, the island plan with its projection over the next 20 years...from 10 years ago, and do you feel that the...did you feel that the Department is capable...do we have the source if we had the money and the engineering to meet the requirements for Maui County's growth?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes, I do.

CHAIR COOK: Okay. Thank you. We do have a little more time. Does anybody else have any further questions? If not, I would like to thank you both, and adjourn the meeting.

MS. GRECO: Excuse me, Chair. Sorry, I think you first you need to defer the item.

CHAIR COOK: Members...pardon?

MS. GRECO: Please defer the item, and then you can adjourn.

CHAIR COOK: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No objections.

CHAIR COOK: Any objections to deferring this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: TP and YLS)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CHAIR COOK: Thank you. Members, this concludes today's Water and Infrastructure Committee meeting. Thank you for a great meeting. The time is now 4:04 p.m. This meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 4:04 p.m.

APPROVED:



TOM COOK, Chair
Water and Infrastructure Committee

wai:min:230320:cvk

Transcribed by: Cheryl von Kugler

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CERTIFICATION

I, Cheryl von Kugler, hereby certify that pages 1 through 42 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 1st day of May 2023, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cheryl von Kugler", is written over a horizontal line.

Cheryl von Kugler