

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

February 17, 2006

Committee
Report No.

_____ 06-25

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

Chair and Members:

Your Public Works Committee, having met on January 9, 2006, makes reference to County Communication No. 05-366, from the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "ACCEPTING THE CENTRAL MAUI WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY STUDY AND CONCURRING RECOMMENDATIONS AND LONG TERM PLAN", along with a copy of the study entitled "Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility Study" prepared by Austin, Tsutsumi & Associates, Inc., dated August 12, 2005 ("Study"), and the Executive Summary.

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to accept the Study and recommendations of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management relating to how the County of Maui can best meet the wastewater treatment and disposal needs for the Central Maui Region for the next 20-30 years.

By correspondence dated January 4, 2006, the Chair of your Committee transmitted correspondence dated January 3, 2006, from Tom Cannon, Architect, AIA, questioning the recommendation to keep the wastewater reclamation facility at its present location.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Director of Finance; the Deputy Director of Public Works and Environmental Management; the Wastewater Reclamation Division Chief, Department of Public Works and Environmental Management; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; Berna Cabacungan, Earthplan; Russell Boudreau, Moffatt & Nichol Engineers; and Ray Matasci, Brown & Caldwell Engineers.

Your Committee received public testimony from two individuals who had participated in the core working group process detailed in the Study. The first testifier had been involved with discussions regarding the current wastewater reclamation facility site from the time it was first considered for construction. He stated that both the process and the recommendations of the current Study were unsatisfactory. The testifier submitted disaster preparedness guide maps to support his testimony. The second testifier

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represented a sport user group who participated in one of the core working groups involved in the Study, and spoke in support of both the process and the recommendation.

The Deputy Director of Public Works and Environmental Management provided background information on the proposed resolution.

The Wastewater Reclamation Division Chief (Division Chief) gave a presentation on the elements of the Study, and the consultants each addressed key components of the Study. The Division Chief also introduced a document relating to cost-estimate examples for the various options considered by the Study.

Ms. Cabacungan reviewed the community participation process used to guide the core working groups in assessing community values. Mr. Boudreau discussed shoreline issues, including the impact of erosion and various mitigation alternatives. Mr. Matasci reviewed a variety of possible alternatives for effluent disposal.

The Director of Finance responded to your Committee's questions regarding the County's ability to finance the various options considered by the Study. He stated that while the original facility had been constructed with the assistance of State and Federal funds, the current assessment concluded that no significant portion of future expenses would be available from any source other than the County.

Your Committee discussed the process used to involve the community in this Study, the Study's recommendation, and its adequacy. Your Committee reviewed the arguments in support of maintaining the facility at its current location, as opposed to abandoning it at some point in favor of a facility to be built in a more geographically favorable location.

Your Committee expressed concern about making a determination on whether the facility should be maintained at its current site or moved to another location without full Council discussion. Your Committee discussed whether this matter could best be considered by referring it to the Committee of the Whole, deferring the matter in order to hold Council public hearings, or recommending adoption of the proposed resolution.

Your Committee voted to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution and filing of the communication.

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Your Public Works Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution No. _____, attached hereto, entitled "ACCEPTING THE CENTRAL MAUI WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY STUDY AND CONCURRING RECOMMENDATIONS AND LONG TERM PLAN", be ADOPTED; and

2. That County Communication No. 05-366 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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JOSEPH PONTANILLA **Chair**

G. RIKI HOKAMA **Member**

MICHAEL J. MOLINA **Vice-Chair**

DANNY A. MATEO **Member**

ROBERT CARROLL **Member**