

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
**PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

March 19, 2004

**Committee
Report No.**

04-61

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

Chair and Members:

Your Public Works and Traffic Committee, having met on March 4, 2004, makes reference to County Communication No. 04-49, from the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management, transmitting a copy of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) Consent Decree Quarterly Progress Report #18 (Consent Decree), October through December 2003, relating to wastewater reclamation improvements.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management; the Wastewater Reclamation Division Chief (Division Chief), Department of Public Works and Environmental Management; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

There was no public testimony.

The Division Chief provided your Committee with a computer-generated presentation entitled "County of Maui Wastewater Reclamation Division" (Wastewater Division) outlining the Consent Decree submitted to the EPA and DOH. The Division Chief indicated that the quarterly reports are required to provide the status of wastewater reclamation improvements as mandated by the Consent Decree. He noted that the County has taken significant steps to develop and implement various goals, plans, programs, and procedures relating to supplemental environmental projects, fats, oil and grease (FOG) disposal, sewer line preventative maintenance, system analysis rehabilitation programs, and personnel training.

The Division Chief reviewed the current Wastewater Division collection facilities, staffing and organization. He indicated that collection system spills have reduced significantly over the past ten years. He stated that spill reduction plans have been approved and are being implemented throughout the County. He indicated that spill reduction efforts consist of a spill response plan, sewer line

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system preventative maintenance plan, pump station spill reduction plan, and personnel training. He also indicated that maintenance and repair is continuous, which consists of daily maintenance, periodic flushing, construction repair and automated reporting.

The Division Chief stated that the FOG program was initiated in 1993. He noted that the purpose of the FOG program is to significantly reduce the materials from entering the wastewater reclamation system and clogging the collection lines. He indicated that verbal notification of the FOG interceptor requirements began in 1995, by the Wastewater Source Control Technician (inspectors). He noted that since 1998, the release of FOG into the collection system has reduced significantly. He noted that in 1998, less than 100 tons of FOG was diverted from the collection system. In 2003, approximately 500 tons of FOG was diverted from entering the collection system. He also noted that grease spills have reduced from 25 in 1996 to 2 in 2003.

The Division Chief noted that the Consent Decree consists of eight action or implementation plans. He indicated that the EPA and DOH require that reports be submitted on a quarterly basis. However, only the fourth quarter report is required to be submitted to the Council for review.

Your Committee inquired whether the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management (Department), when requesting Construction Improvement Projects, informs the Council of appropriations, which may fund programs that are mandated by the Consent Decree. The Director responded that during recent fiscal years, the Department has requested funding to meet the requirements of the Consent Decree. Your Committee encouraged the Director to clarify when such requests are submitted to the Council for budget review.

In response to an inquiry by your Committee, the Director stated that once a sewer treatment facility achieves 71 percent of its capacity, planning and design for expansion is initiated. The Division Chief provided the following treatment facility statistics:

1. Lahaina average daily flow is 5 million gallons per day (gpd), with a plant capacity of 9 million gpd;

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2. Central Maui average daily flow is 5.2 million gpd, with a plant capacity of 7.9 million gpd; and
3. Kihei average daily flow is 4.5 million gpd, with a plant capacity of 8 million gpd.

The Division Chief stated that 16 of 41 sewer pump stations have been upgraded. He noted that 7 pump stations have received an appropriation for planning and design in the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget. He suggested that the pump station locations are in Kuau, Kihei, Kaunakakai and Lahaina. He indicated that these pump stations have reached the end of their useful life and must be upgraded.

Your Committee voted to file the communication.

Your Public Works and Traffic Committee RECOMMENDS that County Communication No. 04-49 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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