

# **PUBLIC WORKS AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

*Council of the County of Maui*

## **MINUTES**

**March 22, 2004**

### **Site Inspection**

**CONVENE:** 10:10 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Chair  
Councilmember Charmaine Tavares, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Member  
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Non-Member  
Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Non-Member  
Councilmember Danny Mateo, Non-Member

**ABSENT:** None

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Member  
Councilmember Dain P. Kane, Member

**STAFF:** Gary Saldana, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary

**ADMIN.:** Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran, Director of Public Works and Environmental Management  
John Buck, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation  
Lloyd Lee, Engineering Division Chief, Department of Public Works and Environmental Management  
John Harder, Solid Waste Division Chief, Department of Public Works and Environmental Management  
Cindy Young, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Steven Arce, Highway District Supervisor, Department of Public Works and Environmental Management  
Zachary Helm, Molokai District Supervisor, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Benito Piros, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Greg Jenkins, Firefighter, Department of Fire and Public Safety  
Danilo Agsalog, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
George English, Naiwa Landfill, Solid Waste Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Management

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Candy English, Naiwa Landfill, Solid Waste Division, Department of Public  
Works and Environmental Management

**OTHERS:**   **Item 21:**     Bill Feeter  
                                  Curtis Crabbe, Molokai Portable Toilets and Pumping  
                                  Service

**Item 23:**     Annette Pauole-Ahakuelo  
                                  Liko Wallace  
                                  Duane Dawson, Head Custodian, Kaunakakai  
                                  Elementary School  
                                  Joshua Adachi, Executive Director, Molokai Youth  
                                  Center

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**PWT-21           MOLOKAI LANDFILL**

The Committee assembled at the Molokai Recycling Center located at the entrance of the Naiwa Landfill (Landfill), along Maunaloa Highway.

Chair Molina convened the site inspection by introducing the Committee members, Council Members, staff and Administration representatives. He noted that the purpose of the site inspection is to receive an overview of the operations and expansion of the Landfill and recycling facility.

Councilmember Mateo stated that the stockpiling of white goods, scrap metal, and recyclable materials was placing a burden on the Landfill. He noted that the stockpiling is unsightly and a potential health and safety hazard. He indicated that the recent supplemental budget amendment, approved by the Council, would assist in alleviating the problem.

The Solid Waste Division Chief provided an overview of the recycling area. He indicated that the recycling program is contracted to a private company that collects and processes cardboard, glass, aluminum and plastic. He also noted that community-based volunteer programs also assist with the collection of recyclable materials.

Bill Feeter stated that a shredder is required to process magazines. He noted that currently only newspaper is recycled; however, with the addition of a shredder, magazines could be recycled to assist in extending the life of the Landfill.

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Curtis Crabbe indicated that more public education of the recycling program is required. He stated that Molokai generates much more aluminum waste that should be recycled. He noted concerns that the \$500,000 appropriated for the cleanup of the stockpiled materials may not adequately complete the project.

The Solid Waste Division Chief showed the Committee the equipment utilized in the processing of recyclables. He noted that the recycling area also accepts used motor oil and distributes crushed glass used for landscaping, road improvements and drainage backfill.

Chair Molina recessed the inspection at 10:25 a.m. so that the Committee could drive through the Landfill.

Chair Molina reconvened the inspection at 10:30 a.m. in the Landfill.

The Solid Waste Division Chief identified cells 1 and 2 currently utilized for landfill operations. He drew the Committee's attention to areas where white goods, scrap metal, tires, batteries and drip irrigation pipes are stockpiled. He noted that once the white goods are removed, the planning and design of cell 3 will commence. He stated that cells 1 and 2 have a life expectancy of an additional two to three years. He noted the construction of cell 3 will add five years to the life of the Landfill. He stated that long-range planning for the Landfill would consist of six cells. He indicated construction of six cells will extend the life of the Landfill by 30 years. He also noted that a tractor loader would assist with the operation at the Landfill. He said that the Landfill operations currently utilize equipment from the Highway Division. He also advised the Committee that an appropriation request of \$100,000 annually will be pursued to prevent future stockpiling of materials.

Chair Molina recessed the inspection at 10.38 a.m. so that the Committee could proceed to the next site.

**PWT-23            DRAINAGE AND FLOODING CONCERNS ON MOLOKAI**

The Committee assembled at the home of Annette Pauole-Ahakuelo located at 19 Oki Place in Kaunakakai. Chair Molina reconvened the inspection at 11:30 a.m.

Chair Molina reconvened the site inspection by introducing the Committee members, Council Members, staff and Administration representatives. He noted that heavy rains caused serious flooding throughout low-lying areas of Molokai. He noted that the Seaside Subdivision (Subdivision) is one of many residential communities that experienced such flooding.

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Councilmember Mateo stated that the flooding in this neighborhood was significant. He noted that many homes experienced flood damage, especially in this Subdivision located makai of the Kamehameha V Highway (Highway). He also stated that the flooding occurred when rainwater overflowed from the Duke Maliu Regional Park (Park) mauka of the Highway.

Ms. Pauole-Ahakuelo shared photographs of flooding that occurred in various homes within the Subdivision. She noted that the rainwater overflow from the Park accumulated in the neighborhood. She stated that the entire Subdivision was under water; some homes were flooded up to the ankles of its residents.

The Engineering Division Chief stated that the first two phases of the Drainage Master Plan for Kaunakakai have commenced. He noted that a drainage ditch above Kaunakakai near the Molokai General Hospital has been completed which will divert water to the Kaunakakai Stream. He also noted that drainage improvements along Ala Malama Avenue are currently under construction. However, he indicated that drainage construction for the Subdivision is in the preliminary planning stages. Appropriations for design and construction have not been requested for this phase of improvements. He estimated project cost to be \$5.7 million.

The Engineering Division Chief also noted that a breach in a berm in the Ranch Camp Subdivision, owned by Molokai Ranch, Ltd., may have contributed to the excess flooding in Kaunakakai.

Ms. Wallace stated that road improvements along Oki and Seaside Place may contribute to flooding of homes in the area. She noted that new pavement is installed above the old, which increased the height of Oki and Seaside Place and prohibits water from flowing away from individual properties. She indicated that the residents in the area require assistance for improving drainage conditions.

Chair Molina recessed the inspection at 11:46 a.m. so that the Committee could proceed to the next site.

Chair Molina reconvened the inspection at 11:50 a.m. at the Park along the Highway.

Councilmember Mateo stated that heavy rains flowed down the hill and flooded the Park. He indicated that once the Park is completely flooded, the water flows across the Highway to the Subdivision.

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Mr. Helm stated that rainwater runoff overflowed from a drainage basin along Kolapa Place, adjacent to the Molokai Youth Center (Center), through the Kaunakakai Elementary School (School) and floods the Park. He indicated that 50 percent of the Park was under water. He noted that the Park accumulates water because it has no ability to drain to the ocean. He noted that a sump area to the east of the park should be opened to assist the flow of water to the ocean.

Chair Molina recessed the inspection at 11:57 a.m. so that the Committee could proceed to the next site.

Chair Molina reconvened the inspection at 12:01 p.m. at the School located at 30 Ailoa Street.

Mr. Dawson stated that rainwater flows between the School buildings down to the playground area. He indicated that the playground and its equipment remained flooded for approximately three weeks.

Chair Molina recessed the inspection at 12:05 p.m. so that the Committee could take a lunch break and proceed to the next site.

Chair Molina reconvened the inspection at 1:10 p.m. at the Kaunakakai Fire Station (Station).

Councilmember Mateo noted that the Department of Fire and Public Safety (Department) posted photographs throughout the Station, which reflected the flooding that occurs during heavy rains. He noted concerns that such flooding may impact the ability of the Department to adequately perform its duties.

Mr. Jenkins stated that flooding has occurred three times this year. He also stated that the entire complex experiences flooding during heavy rains. He indicated that the Station is in a very vulnerable location because rainwater flows downhill along the roadway directly into the buildings. Mr. Jenkins also noted concerns regarding the potential impacts flooding may have on emergency response time.

Chair Molina recessed the inspection at 1:20 p.m. so that the Committee could proceed to the next site.

Chair Molina reconvened the inspection at 1:25 p.m. at the Kaunakakai Ball Field (Ball Field).

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Councilmember Mateo stated that the Ball Field location at the bottom of the roadway makes it vulnerable to flooding. He noted that flooding is an inconvenience to the residents of Molokai because the Ball Field is utilized for youth baseball and soccer leagues. He noted that when the Ball Field is flooded, it may take up to three weeks to dry.

Chair Molina recessed the inspection at 1:30 p.m. so that the Committee could proceed to the next site.

Chair Molina reconvened the inspection at 1:35 p.m. at the Center.

Your Committee received photographs of the flooding damage at the Center.

Councilmember Mateo noted that water drains downhill from the adjacent road into the parking lot. He stated that the parking lot has only one drain, which is not adequate to control flooding of the Center.

Mr. Adachi indicated that debris from the hillside would clog the drainage in the parking lot and prohibit water from flowing properly away from the Center. He noted that the Center experienced a couple inches of flooding during the heavy rains.

The Committee reviewed the drainage ditch adjacent to the Center. It was noted that when the drainage ditch overflows, it contributes to flooding throughout Kaunakakai.

There being no further questions or discussion, Chair Molina adjourned the site inspection at 1:41 p.m.

APPROVED:



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MICHAEL J. MOLINA, Chair  
Public Works and Traffic Committee

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