

Maui County Department of Water Supply
Maui Island Water Use & Development Plan
Community Workshop – East Maui
May 21, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Summary

This was the 4th of four public workshops scheduled in 2016 on the Maui Island Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP) by Department of Water Supply (DWS) staff. Approximately 5 people attended in addition to DWS staff. This set of workshops is focused on WUDP strategies while an earlier set of public meetings in 2016 was focused on issues.

Written materials provided by DWS staff included the Agenda, WUDP Guidelines, Planning Objectives and April 19 East Maui Meeting Summary, along with an East Maui Region description and Strategies Matrix.

The following questions and comments were recorded by DWS staff at the meeting. DWS comments are provided as indicated.

DWS staff reviewed the East Maui Region handout.

On the table of interim instream flow standards (IIFS) on pages 3-6 of the Handout, what does the “Status” column mean?

DWS comment: It indicates the status of whether the IIFS is the subject of a contested case or whether the stream will be permanently restored by A&B per their Press Release issued on April 20, 2016.

How is the restoration of streamflow by A&B going to happen?

DWS comment: We don’t have that information yet

It would be good to see HC&S’s use and the return of water to the stream.

DWS comment: We have the January 15, 2015 Hearing Officer’s Decision and Order which has not been adopted by CWRM and is being reevaluated now that HC&S is ending surge cane production. The document represents a weighing of uses in determining how much water needs to be returned to the streams.

Add information summarizing the January 15, 2015 Hearing Officer’s Decision and Order graphically so people can see what is in current use. Compare use to the Lahaina situation since there is no sugar cane production.

Lots of families are being pushed back to the valleys and kuleanas in Kipahulu, Kaupo and Kahikinui because they cannot afford to live in urban areas. DHHL has a long list of beneficiaries waiting for lots that may take years to serve.

In some areas on Maui there is water service available but the beneficiaries of kuleana ancestral parcels cannot afford water meter costs of \$15,000 to \$16,000. For example in Honokohau Valley DWS has pipes but people across the creek cannot afford to hook up. Can this be addressed?

DWS comment: A 5/8-inch water meter currently costs \$6,030. The customer or developer pays for hook up and lateral to property.

DHHL developments brings in infrastructure and subsidizes the cost through federal funding.

Does EMI divert all the way to Kawaipapa? Can you provide a list of diversions east of EMI?

DWS comment: EMI does not divert all the way to Kawaipapa. We can supply the list from CWRM.

Is DWS adding a well in Hana?

DWS comment: DWS is developing a backup well for reliability not to increase source.

Is Kula ag water untreated?

DWS comment: Yes, water for Kula Ag Park bypasses the Kamole water treatment facility.

Is there adequate water?

DWS comment: In the winter, yes. It may not be adequate in the dry season Upcountry. Consider this scenario: Use groundwater in summer, surface water in winter. This is expensive because of the need to supply full groundwater source for the dry season. A benefit is allowing groundwater to recover. We are not doing this now.

Is DWS treating water?

DWS comment: Chlorine is added for bacteria. Surface water is also filtered.

Is the cost of production for ag water more expensive than domestic water (Kula)?

DWS comment: The ag rate is subsidized. Cost depends on the season and other factors. Gravity fed surface water is much cheaper than pumping groundwater uphill. The ag rate is \$1 per 1,000 gallons over 15,000 gallons per day. Residential is \$3.60 per 1,000 gallons over 15,000 gal. The ag rate is annually renewable.

Does population based demand include people on DHHL lands?

DWS comment: Yes.

What water is supplying the new water features at the Kahului airport, and what is the cost? This is not a good idea.

(Post meeting note: 140,000 gallons of nonpotable water will be used at the new consolidated car rental facility project; the facility is not being constructed with taxpayer money.)

DWS comment: Reclaimed water is expensive and subsidized; supply has to be available year round including peak use in dry months. The County can only commit to serve new demand above the peak use.

Maximize reclaimed water use. Look at what other islands (outside Hawai'i) are doing, how they treat reclaimed water. Don't reinvent the wheel.

The conservation water equation must deal with the whole picture. It is not useful to say conservation costs more.

Developers should pay upfront; do not pass the cost on to existing development to pay for new users. The Parks Dept. wastes water by watering too many hours, when not needed, overspray, etc. Lead by example.

Look at people who live in deserts. The worst users in San Diego are the high end people.

Different rates for thirsty ag crops (other than food); these should have a higher cost. Structure the rate this way: X amount per acre for average demand crop. People want to place more structures on homesteads for accommodate homeless people/family members.

DWS comment: The meter size is based on the number of fixtures. A 5/8 meter can usually serve a typical house and ohana. The State Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan projected a maximum of 12 mgd of water demand @3,400 gallons/acre = 3,500 acres of additional future demand (by 2021).

Consider coming back to Hana since today is graduation. Consider emailing people who came to the meetings and pose about 4 questions.

DWS comment: We will put the information online and also be back after summer with some defined strategies.

On the East Maui Region Handout, the loss prevention category is about supply, and Watershed Management (page 15) should be under Supply.

The Maui Island WUDP process is good, better than the use of consultants. We have high hopes for a relevant plan.

Comments on Key Issues – East Maui Region.

As people continue to move back to their ancestral lands, look at all the parcels that could be cultivated as a method for projecting water demand.

Identify the water paths of items 1-3 under Native Hawaiian rights.

Look at the maximum scenario of water needed in item 2 (How to determine water needs for kuleana, appurtenant, and Native Hawaiian traditional and customary uses?) so natural flow is maintained.

Applications to take water from streams - DWS should facilitate a process where people are informed of meetings and get to voice their opinions.

It is important to graphically show the relationship of issues, show you heard and understand. Google water sustainable framework.

DHHL is looking at doing something with their lands at Wailuanui and Ke'anae.

DWS can provide public education and information. People downstream need to know what is going on.

OHA Board of Trustees meeting in Lahaina- every person who spoke talked about kuleana lands and having access to water.

Send a reminder of WUDP meetings to people on email list. Send 3 bullets on why they should come. DWS staff should put on a lens as water advocates – not as DWS supplier. Rebrand, show the tide is turning, something that resonates with the community, and then people will come. A simple theme is - ensure water for future generations.

Summary prepared by DWS staff, May 25, 2016