

MAUI WASTEWATER COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Mission and Guiding Principles As Revised and Approved by the CWG March 4, 2010

Mission

The Maui Wastewater Community Working Group's mission is to provide enlightened, informed, and community-based, recommendations to the County of Maui. These recommendations will assist the County of Maui in achieving the goals of phasing out the use of injection wells and achieving 100 percent recycling of Maui's wastewater.

Guiding Principles

Recommendations developed by the CWG will be consistent with the following principles:

- A. The wise management of wastewater on Maui is closely tied to a broad range of public interests, including ensuring the sustainability of water resources, increasing the percentage of water used that is recycled water, maintaining public health, and supporting attainment of water quality standards, including designated beneficial uses of the inland and coastal water environment.
- B. Wastewater is a valuable resource. Much greater emphasis should be placed on developing and maximizing opportunities for the beneficial use of this resource.
- C. Planning for increased use of recycled wastewater (as a percentage of all water used) should be done on an island-wide basis; and take into consideration both public and private wastewater or similar systems.
- D. Plans to phase out the use of injection wells and to increase use of recycled wastewater should be realistic and achievable within a reasonable time frame. These plans should be implemented as soon as it is feasible to do so.
- E. To avoid non-compliance and ensure protection of the environment and public health, the reliability of the existing wastewater system must be maintained during the transition from the use of injection wells to expanded use of recycled wastewater.
- F. The costs of improvements to increase recycled water use should be evaluated in terms of the overall costs and impacts of maintaining the status quo. All alternatives for financing these improvements should be explored. Consideration should be given to addressing the increased financial burden of wastewater

- improvements on Maui residents, including ratepayers, users of water, and persons with low incomes.
- G. There should be meaningful, ongoing, and adequately resourced efforts to educate the community about the commitment needed to increase use of recycled wastewater as a way of preserving Maui's natural resources. There should also be an emphasis on water conservation as water is a vital resource.
 - H. Plans to improve Maui's wastewater management should be guided by principles of sustainability and water quality management and planning. Sustainability balances social (including political and cultural), environmental, and economic considerations with the overall intent of meeting present needs without compromising the community's ability to meet future needs. Sustainable water resource systems may be defined as "those designed and managed to fully contribute to the objectives of society, now and in the future, while maintaining their ecological, environmental, and hydrological integrity" (D.P. Louks, Sustainable water resources management, *Water International* **25** (1) (2000), pp. 3–10).
 - I. Wastewater planning should be consistent with existing plans, including the Maui County General Plan (including the Maui Island Plan and Community Plans), Water Use and Development Plan, Coastal Zone Management Plan, State water quality standards, total maximum daily loads, watershed plans, and similar policy documents.
 - J. Active and ongoing community involvement in efforts to achieve Maui Island's wastewater management goals is of vital importance.