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Department of Environmental Management – Wastewater Reclamation Division

South Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Goal 2.3

Wastewater handling is an environmentally necessary utility that is complex and costly. The County has 122 dedicated people to plan, permit, build, operate and maintain our systems and facilities throughout the County. Our oldest South Maui systems are nearing 50 years of service or approaching expected useful life timeframes and require renovations and replacements. On top of this is the need for extended sewer service and the desire for expanded recycled water use.

Wastewater Collection and Treatment:

Our primary task is the collection and treatment of wastewater. Currently the County is focused on:

- Renovating our existing Wastewater Pump Stations (WWPS) and adding improvements where necessary for the anticipated sea level rise and associated issues.
- Replacing the force mains from each of these pump stations.
- Reviewing, upgrading and replacing gravity lines where needed due to condition or capacity.
- Extending our systems where economically/logistically feasible to eliminate cesspools.
- Upgrading our Kihei Wastewater Reclamation Facility to optimize efficiency and increase effluent quality.

Recycled Water:

Eventually the treated water needs to be reintroduced to the environment. This is done either by sending the water to reuse customers or to disposal. The division actively looks for potential new customers when reviewing proposed development projects and building permits. In South Maui we have 43 active users that used approximately 54% of our processed water in 2022. For expansion we would prefer larger volume users close to the facility in order to minimize infrastructure costs and ongoing operation and maintenance costs, otherwise we may require partners to share in the costs of the infrastructure development. We are currently working on:

- Upsizing our system to go toward North Kihei in order to serve the growing technology park, create redundancy in the existing system and potentially provide water to North Kihei development.
- Renovating our existing pump system that supplies our storage tanks and distribution system
- Renovating the aging onsite storage pond

Areas WWRD is Looking for Support:

1. Relocation and renovation projects that mitigate sea level rise, erosion and high wave event issues. This includes:
 - Relocating Pump Station 7 from Kamaole 1 Beach Park to a lot across South Kihei Road.
 - Construction of walls/flood proof gates at several pump stations

- Development of North Kihei Mauka Transmission System project that reroutes flows from South Kihei Road along Liloa Road to a new pump station near the Kihei Community Center then onto the Treatment facility.
2. Efforts that create a more reliable and redundant recycled water system. This includes
 - Equitable partnerships (public/private or interdepartmental) that grow our distribution network. This includes
 - Agricultural/Ranch owners
 - Department of Water Supply to offset potable water use
 - Fire/Parks Departments for drought relief/fire protection
 - Improvements that create greater capacity in the existing system
 3. Support Maalaea upgrading their wastewater systems with the qualification that it should be by using funds other than those from existing sewer users (sewer fund) for the new system. That means using general funds (tax money), Maalaea resident funds, or loans that are not repaid by the sewer fund (State Revolving Funds or others).

The South Maui Community Plan draft lists the following Wastewater Policies:

2.3.16 | New developments in South Maui, including projects developed under Chapter 201H, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and Chapter 2.96 and 2.97, MCC, must connect to County or private recycled water distribution systems when available; if recycled water infrastructure is not readily available, developments shall be designed to allow for future connections.

(Note: From WWRD standpoint we would add that this should be limited to areas where recycled water distribution infrastructure is possible or likely to be constructed in the future. It could go further to require them to install infrastructure to expand distribution where it was realistic.)

2.3.17 | Support the use of gray water and recycled water in County parks and community gardens.

(Note: WWRD supports and promotes the recycled water portion of this statement, however we are not responsible for regulating nor inspecting gray water systems. WE collect and treat wastewater. We believe that the DSA plumbing section could do inspections but really the State Department of Health should be the primary entity for approval and inspection of the systems to mitigate any pollution or potential health issues.)

2.3.18 | Support amendments to the Maui Island Plan and Community Plan, and changes in Zoning, for the acquisition of land outside of the SLR-XA for the construction of a new wastewater collection system and treatment options to serve the Mā'alaea area.

(Note: Agreed, land will be needed once a plan is finalized.)

2.3.19 | Support the transition of the Mā'alaea area away from the use of wastewater injection wells to a new system that increases treatment and provides better options for reuse or disposal of wastewater.

(Note: WWRD agrees that a new wastewater system is needed for the Mā'alaea area. The issues that need to be resolved to move forward are what is the best method to accomplish this, who should own and maintain it and who should pay for it. Our thoughts are Maalaea should pay for it, but the owner in the end should decide what gets built.)