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AGENDA ITEM: C.1) Subarea 1: Mā'alaëa/Keālia
DATE RECEIVED: 8/27/2023 via email

Dear South Maui CPAC,

I'm urging you to designate the Ma'alaëa Mauka/Pohakea Watershed Lands as OPEN SPACE for the following reasons. I am listing only a few of them.

1. Studies by the Trust for Public Land have shown that residential development becomes a financial DRAIN on public resources over time. Property taxes do NOT cover the expense of the upkeep of roads, sewer, electrical infrastructure, etc. The Lahaina tragedy was due at least in part to outdated electrical infrastructure.
2. Residential construction contributes to flooding and pollution as the soils - which naturally absorbs rainwater - are now impervious. Even the simple act of washing one's car in the driveway causes toxic brake dust and other chemicals to be washed into the ocean - here - where whales come each year to give birth! Everything should be done to keep that bay as pristine as possible. A tipping point will eventually be reached and Maui will lose its whales.
3. Managed open space is an important ASSET to Maui - in particular, this important watershed. Studies have shown the financial long term benefit of open space far exceeds that of residential development. <https://stroudcenter.org/news/dollar-value-protected-open-space/>

Mahalo,

Yolaine Stout
Kihei, HI