

Kauai Water Use & Development Plan Update
First Series of Public Meetings
October 21, 2015
Kapa‘a Middle School (Cafeteria)
5PM to 6:15 PM

ATTENDANCE:

KDOW: Kirk Saiki (Manager and Chief Engineer), Edward Doi (Head of Water Resources & Planning Division, WR&P), Regina Flores (WR&P), Joel Bautista (WR&P), Kim Tamaoka (Public Relations, PR), Jonell Kaohelaulii (PR)

Fukunaga & Associates, Inc. (Consultant): Lynn Malinger, Amanda Tanaka, Amanda Kimi
Resolutions Hawaii (Facilitator): Dee Dee Letts

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this series of five (5) public meetings is to present the information that will be covered in the update, the sources for this information, how it will be presented, as well as any information that is available regarding the status of the resource on the Island. There will be a second series of public information meetings in about a year that will present all of the data gathered.

The intent of this series of meetings is to create an understanding of the purpose and intent of the Kauai Water Use & Development Plan Update and the context within which it is being developed. This series is to give the community an opportunity to express any concerns or voice any questions they may have about the process to be used to create the update. This will allow the consultant and the Department of Water to factor these into the planning process as the data is being collected and analyzed.

The meeting started with a presentation by Fukunaga & Associates. This presentation is posted on KauaiWater.org. There is a one page handout from the meetings that is also posted on the same website.

DISCUSSION:

These notes reflect the questions and concerns voiced by attendees at the Kapa‘a meeting. (Q = question; A = answer; C = comment.)

- 1) Q: Is there an inventory for existing water uses? How much water is the military taking?
A: Existing water use is being inventoried. The gathered information will be presented at the second series of public meetings next year.

- 2) Q: What is the difference between the CWRM categories, “Irrigation” and “Agriculture”?
A: Agriculture refers to uses for agriculture, such as crops or nursery plants, while Irrigation includes uses such as park and golf course irrigation.

- 3) Q: Should the Island of Kaua'i be divided up by ahupua'a instead of by aquifer systems? For example, the Kapa'a watershed and Anahola watershed are characteristically different but are grouped together in the same aquifer system.
A: The Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) requires that the WUDP update be based on the hydrologic units established by the CWRM. Therefore, all data for each of the Hawaii Water Plan components are compiled and summarized using the aquifer or hydrographic systems as basic study area units.
- 4) Q: How confident are you that the reported pumpage numbers are accurate? Is reporting required?
A: Reporting is required. Although we are aware that not all well owners report pumpage to the CWRM (< 100%), it is currently the best available information. It should be noted however that CWRM generally pursues most of the larger well owners to report.
- 5) Q: There was some confusion about the definition of a privately-owned public water system.
A: A public water system is one that has 15 or more service connections or serves 25 people daily for at least 60 days of the year. Public water systems can be privately owned. Princeville was given as an example of a privately-owned public water system.
- 6) Q: When the General Plan and/or Zoning are approaching the Sustainable Yield, what is the definition of approaching? Is it a percent?
A: As of now, there is no definition (%) set, but it is generally based on a relative scale when compared with conditions of other areas islandwide; this must be discussed further. ["Sensitive" areas are those areas where the General Plan full build-out demand or Zoning full build-out demand exceed Sustainable Yield. This is a very conservative approach as SY and full build-out concept are both conservative.]
- 7) C: A legend for the Zoning categories should be provided. [A legend was created and was posted with the zoning map at the remaining public meetings].
- 8) C: Label the quantities on the slides with their units (i.e., MGD). [The slides were revised to add unit labels for the remaining public meetings.]
- 9) C: The Sustainable Yield line should decrease over time, given that we are getting less rainfall, i.e. climate change.
- 10) C: We need to reuse wastewater. People should not be squeamish about reusing treated wastewater.
- 11) C: Springs need to be identified.
A: This is CWRM's responsibility. [Spring discharge would be accounted for in Instream Flow Standards.]

12) Q: How often is the Sustainable Yield document updated? Is climate change accounted for in this document?

A: The current sustainable yield numbers are from the 2008 Water Resource Protection Plan (WRPP). The Sustainable Yield is currently being updated by CWRM. [Climate change is accounted for in that the SY numbers are conservative. CWRM is working with climatology scientists to better understand climate change, but until more information becomes available, CWRM is taking a precautionary approach and uses the most conservative estimate.]

13) Q: For the 20-year demand projections, are resorts, industrial uses, etc. included in the calculation?

A: Yes, they are included. As population increases, not only will residential demands increase, these other demands will also increase.

14) Q: When was the last Kauai Water Use and Development Plan (KWUDP)?

A: The KWUDP was first adopted in 1990. It was updated in 1992, but that update was not adopted by the CWRM.

15) Q: Will we ever get a clear picture of where stream diversions are (ex. Waimea is a problem area)?

A: CWRM is responsible to inventory the stream diversions, and they are working on this.

16) Q: For Full Build-out, is it built out to the maximum capacity? Are there any areas of concern that are close to the Sustainable Yield (SY)?

A: The full build-out concept assumes that all land area is built out to the theoretical maximum extent. Based on the 2008 WRPP SY, there are no areas that are close to SY.

17) C: Concerns were expressed that the General Plan was developed a long time ago.

A: The General Plan was adopted in 2000 and is currently being updated. Zoning hasn't changed; some places are just more developed than before.

18) Q: What was discussed at the stakeholder meeting? How often do they meet?

A: The stakeholders have met once so far. They were given a similar presentation, and we discussed the update process/methodology as well as obtained their input on water resource issues.

19) Q: How long has the stakeholder group been in existence?

A: Approximately one year.

20) Q: How were the stakeholders chosen?

A: The stakeholder group is a cross-section of the community; there are representatives for farmers, developers, and Native Hawaiians.

- 21) C: Concern regarding water being diverted to Grove Farm and Kauai Island Utility Cooperative was raised.
- 22) Q: Why were Condominium Property Regimes (CPR) not included in the past General Plan?
A: [CPRs are a means of dividing ownership]. The County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) is what regulates the development of lots and the allowable density. Dwelling units on agricultural land, as allowed by the CZO, were accounted for in the full build-out calculations.
- 23) C: Form-based code was mentioned.
A: Information from the recent community plans [for South Kauai and Lihue] has been obtained and will be analyzed.
- 24) C: Please take Native Hawaiian water rights into consideration when writing the KWUDP.
- 25) C: An attendee expressed approval that the KWUDP Update will be taking a comprehensive look at the island's water needs and availability.

NEXT STEPS:

FAINC will continue to collect and analyze data and will explore the issues that were raised during the meeting. The findings will be presented at the next public information meeting. In the meantime, new and updated information will be posted on the DOW website periodically.