



PRIMARY URBAN CENTER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (PUC WMP) Notes from Community Meeting No. 2 (C)

Meeting Location: Kapālama Elementary School Cafeteria

Date: March 27, 2018

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Purpose:

The purpose of the meeting was to share preliminary research on water resource issues and current and projected water demands and to seek public input on important water-related issues for the Primary Urban Center. Twenty-one individuals from the community attended the meeting.

Summary of Meeting:

Townscape, Inc. presented a slideshow that provided an overview of the following:

- Introduction and Background Information
- Recap of first round of community meetings (May 2017)
- Overview of the Primary Urban Center
- Water Resources in the PUC
- Water Systems in the PUC
- Current and Future Water Demand
- Future Water Supply Considerations
- Next Steps

Materials from the meeting, including the slideshow, project fact sheet, comment form, and meeting notes, are available on the BWS website at:

<https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/water-resources/watershed-management-plan/primary-urban-center-plan>.

After the slideshow, meeting participants were invited to ask questions and share any concerns about water resources in the Primary Urban Center. Barry Usagawa from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) led the discussion. A summary of the various questions, comments, and discussions is provided below. BWS responses are in *Italics*.

- Is the use of bottled water included in your water numbers for the PUC?

- *If the bottled water is produced from water sources in the PUC, then that amount of water would be included in our numbers.*
- What happens if the aquifer gets polluted by the Navy's Red Hill fuel storage tanks? Doesn't that aquifer supply water to the whole island? The water does not belong to the Navy; the water belongs to the people of Hawai'i! The Navy is poisoning our water!
 - *The Navy is working with the State Department of Health to address these issues, however, the BWS wants the Navy to act more quickly. BWS is an advocate for the community's interests on this critical issue. If a catastrophic event like an earthquake were to result in a major leak of Red Hill fuel storage tanks, key water sources including the Hālawa Shaft would become contaminated and this would result in a major water supply crisis for the PUC.*
- This plan should include a "CONTAMINATION SCENARIO" – what would happen if there IS a major leak of the Red Hill fuel storage tanks?
 - *Water quality DOES control water quantity. We will be addressing water supply solutions to various scenarios in our next series of community meetings, scheduled for this summer. We will be looking at various kinds of watershed protection and restoration projects. We will also need to develop responses to climate change. We know that (land and ocean) temperatures will rise, that there will be longer droughts and more intense storms and flooding. We are looking at projects like using water from Nu'uaniu Reservoir to produce hydroelectric power and to supplement the aquifer that is tapped by the BWS Kalihi Pumping Station which provides potable water for Nu'uaniu and Kalihi Valleys.*
- I'm skeptical about the water use data that the U.S. Military has provided to you.
 - *It is understandable to be skeptical. We do the best we can with the information we are given.*
- Why are our elected officials NOT addressing the Red Hill fuel tank issues? The Governor is not addressing these issues; the Mayor is not addressing these issues!
 - *We need to understand the future impacts of sea level rise. Take a look at some of the maps of future sea level rise for urban Honolulu – at 1-foot, 2-feet and 3+ feet of sea level rise. There will be major impacts in the future. The PUC WMP and the PUC DP will need to address these future impacts.*
- What about water quality – lots of people are buying filters for their water.
 - *BWS tests and monitors water quality on a regular, ongoing basis. Over-pumping of ground water can result in increased levels of chlorides in the water. Some of the BWS PUC wells are producing water that has only 80 mg/l of chlorides – which is a very low level of chlorides. However, as water use in the PUC continues to increase, more pumping will be required and the chloride levels will rise.*
 - *BWS is implementing water conservation programs, including a program to reduce leaks in our system. BWS has 2100 miles of water pipes on O'ahu. If we can reduce leaks, we can reduce pumpage. We plan to replace 21 miles of water pipes per year. We will also be implementing rebate programs in the near future for rain barrels (\$40 rebate), more efficient clothes washers (\$75 rebate) and*

irrigation controllers (\$50 rebate). If water demand begins to exceed supply, BWS may need to limit water use and may need to implement “managed growth” policies.

- What was the condition of groundwater on O’ahu 100 years ago?
 - *We know that there was more groundwater in pre-contact O’ahu – perhaps as much as twice as much groundwater as we have today. Pumpage of our groundwater is now regulated by the Commission on Water Resource Management.*
- What is the status of this Plan?
 - *The PUC Watershed Management Plan will be adopted as a City Ordinance by the City Council. The Plan will also be adopted by the State Commission on Water Resources Management, and we will be asking the 17 PUC Neighborhood Boards for their endorsement of the Plan. One of the key themes of this Plan is the integration of land use and water use.*
- We hope that this Plan will be taken seriously by our decision-makers.
 - *Water resources is one of the important constraints for future growth and development. The scenarios for future water demand are intended to “stress” the BWS system so that we can plan for future demands in an informed way.*
- Where can we find information on the BWS rebate program?
 - *The information will be on the BWS website from this summer.*

Additionally, two comment forms were completed and submitted at the meeting. One comment asked, “How can word get out better to alert more citizens” [about these community meetings]? The other comment expressed concerns about the Navy’s Red Hill fuel tanks and the long-term supply of quality groundwater to Oahu’s people. The commenter expressed that more must be done than asking the question “what if the fuel continues to leak?” They stated that fuel should not be stored only 100 feet above groundwater resources.