



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

Meeting Location: Ala Wai Elementary School Cafeteria

Date: March 22, 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. Thirty-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 desalination a future strategy for increasing water supply in the PUC?
 - *BWS currently has two seawater desalination plants in 'Ewa at Campbell Industrial Park to the alleviate the need to transfer water from Central O'ahu to*

‘Ewa, freeing up more ground water for Central O‘ahu and PUC uses. There is no space available in the PUC for a desalination plant.

- What desalination technology is currently used by BWS at Campbell Industrial Park?
 - *Reverse osmosis. The Honouliuli Water Recycling Facility also uses reverse osmosis.*
- The Ala Wai Canal is filled with sediments – some sediment “islands” can sometimes be seen in the canal. This is an important concern. Additionally, the plan that has been developed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to address flooding in the Ala Wai Canal recommends a wall on the makai side of the canal only – this will result in flooding the Mō‘ili‘ili residents while protecting Waikīkī. Flooding and the impacts of a 100-year storm are critical issues for the area around the Ala Wai Canal.
 - *The PUC WMP will consider strategies for improving water quality of the watersheds that drain into the Ala Wai, especially related to sedimentation.*
 - *The planning team will assess flooding issues in the Ala Wai and the USACE plan.*
 - *Strategies such as raising infrastructure can help reduce the impacts of flooding.*
 - *Supporting and encouraging watershed projects, such as lo‘i kalo cultivation, can help address sedimentation and flooding issues.*
 - *Rain barrels are also a strategy for reducing runoff that BWS encourages. BWS currently has a mail-in rebate program for 55-gallon rain barrels.*
 - *BWS has key partnerships with watershed management organizations to help address some of these issues.*
 - *The planning team will look at the 100-year flood map and assess how the PUC WMP can address flooding.*
 - *The planning team will consider projects related to the Ala Wai.*
- The communities of the PUC are not prepared for natural disaster emergencies. Government agencies often speak about the risk of natural disasters, yet it is difficult to see any action at the local level. Every community and government agency needs to be prepared.
 - *Education and outreach on emergency preparedness is critical. Senate Bill 3068, if passed, will require that the State of Hawai‘i begin actively planning for sea level rise and climate change. The BWS has emergency generators to ensure that their pumps can continue to provide water.*
- Does this plan consider infrastructure for water distribution? With new development being planned, updating the existing water infrastructure is important.
 - *While this plan looks at water resources, BWS also developed a Water Master Plan (finalized in 2016) that focused on infrastructure. It assessed the current system and prioritized projects for future infrastructure improvements based on water demand projections.*
 - *One focus of the Water Master Plan is to improve infrastructure to reduce leaks in water transmission lines. Currently, the rate of water loss is about 10.5%; BWS wants to reduce the water loss to 8%.*

- *The PUC needs more water storage (i.e. reservoirs) to provide water for peak demand.*
- *Additionally, it is a priority to improve water efficiency on the user-end, focusing on residential uses. Water conservation measures include capturing stormwater using rain barrels to use for irrigation, purchasing high efficiency appliances, and converting to an auto-irrigation system that does not irrigate on rainy days.*
- Is the PUC WMP going to assess atmospheric water capture technologies as a new source of water?
 - *The PUC WMP will assess new water supply technologies, although, this technology may not be feasible at an industrial scale. One method that will be assessed is capturing water condensation from air conditioning systems.*
- There are two projects that were recently completed by graduate students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. One was by a student in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning that looked at low impact development strategies for the Ala Wai Canal area. The other was done by an architect student that focused on native plants and constructed wetlands.
 - *Thank you. We will take these into consideration.*
- There needs to be better City policies that are aimed at reducing impervious surfaces in new development. With all the new development and re-development of existing neighborhoods, the quantity of impervious surfaces in the PUC is increasing. There should be requirements for green space in permits for new construction.
 - *Kathy Sokugawa from the City Department of Planning and Permitting replied that the City tried to promote regulations along these lines, but the local community opposed them.*
- Cesspools are a threat to ground water and surface water quality.
 - *There are hundreds of cesspools in the PUC, even though most of the developed portions of the PUC have sewerlines.*
 - *The City has a regulation that requires that structures next to sewerlines be connected (this does not apply to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands).*
 - *The State Department of Health has prioritized certain areas for cesspool upgrades. Diamond Head is one area that is a priority (a "Priority 3" area).*