



**PRIMARY URBAN CENTER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (PUC WMP)  
Notes from Community Meeting #1C**

**Meeting Location: Aiea Elementary School Cafeteria**

**Date: May 30, 2017**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Purpose**

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

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) and Townscape, Inc. presented a slideshow that provided an overview of the following:

- Background and Overview of the O'ahu Water Management Plan
- About the Honolulu Primary Urban Center
- Watershed Overview
- Watershed Issues
- Next Steps

The slideshow is available on the BWS website at: <http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/water-resources/watershed-management-plan/primary-urban-center-plan>

A project fact sheet and a questionnaire were provided at the meeting. Both documents are available on the BWS website at: <http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/water-resources/watershed-management-plan/primary-urban-center-plan>

After the slideshow, meeting participants were asked to share their issues and concerns about the watersheds and water resources in the Primary Urban Center. A summary of the various questions, comments, and discussions are provided below. BWS and consultant comments and responses are in *Italics*.

Q Previously, BWS mentioned having meetings in June with the Navy and the EPA to discuss the Red Hill fuel leak situation – are those meetings open to the public?

A *No, most of those meetings are not open to the public but BWS website contains information that we have gathered to keep the public informed. The Navy periodically conducts public meetings to update on progress on the Red Hill fuel tanks repairs. Progress has been slow since the large fuel leak occurred in January*

2014. BWS will continue to engage the Navy, EPA and DOH to ensure the groundwater aquifer is protected.

Q What kinds of considerations will go into the “ultimate” water demand scenario? How will you develop this scenario?

A *The “ultimate” demand scenario looks beyond the next 30 years at the more distant future to try to evaluate how different factors may play out and influence population growth and water demand. Some factors that will be considered include:*

- *Future development opportunities in the PUC, especially Transit-Oriented Development (1/2 mile radius around rail stations) – how much growth is likely to occur?*
- *Impacts of climate change and sea level rise (3-6 feet); flooding that will result from sea level rise – how will this affect the PUC?*
- *Future water conservation technologies – do we expect water use per capita to continue to decrease in the future?*

*A “story line” will be developed that explains how various factors were taken into consideration for the “ultimate” scenario. The scenario will help guide the long-term planning process and will aid in making policy recommendations for the plan.*

A community member suggested placing an informational advertisement in the Midweek newspaper (as a “local insert”) to inform community members about upcoming meetings. Townscape will consider this idea along with additional outreach ideas to spread the word about future meetings.

In addition to taking questions from the community, BWS provided some additional information about the planning process for the PUC WMP and protecting drinking water supplies. A summary of the discussion is presented below:

- The goal of the O’ahu Water Management Plan is to balance water preservation with water use. There are three main types of strategies:
  - Conservation (decrease water use – water-saving technologies)
  - Diversify water supplies (use of recycled water – stormwater and wastewater)
  - Watershed protection (protect/restore native forests)
    - BWS has authorized up to \$3.3 million annually to fund watershed management projects; they currently fund many different agencies/organizations/projects.
- The WMPs also incorporate traditional Hawaiian concepts of land management (the ahupua’a system), as well as the U.S. Mainland approach known as “One Water” that recognizes that all forms of water are interconnected and should be collectively planned for.

- The PUC WMP will look at issues related to water from mauka to makai, including the health of mountain forests, streams and groundwater resources to the nearshore marine waters and coral ecosystems.
- The WMPs look at all users and uses of water, not just the BWS and BWS customers.
- The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) collaborates with BWS to protect important watershed areas (source water protection).
- DOH is prioritizing cesspools for upgrades, especially cesspools near water sources. There are hundreds of cesspools on O'ahu.
- In 2014, one of the 20 fuel tanks the Navy keeps inside Red Hill was found to have leaked 27,000 gallons of fuel affecting the underlying groundwater aquifer. The Navy is monitoring the surround area with wells – small amounts of fuel have been detected in the Navy's drinking water supplies, but the quantities fall below the maximum allowable amount (therefore the water is considered safe to drink). The BWS will also be installing additional monitoring wells to detect the movement of any contamination toward BWS drinking water supplies.
  - The Navy, EPA and State DOH are still working to evaluate the best plan for how to improve the fuel storage tanks to prevent future leaks. It has been over 3 years but no work plan has been approved to date.
  - The BWS is also considering future scenarios in case the fuel contamination spreads toward BWS water sources.
- It is essential to get community input on important issues/concerns. The PUC WMP will hopefully be endorsed by all 17 neighborhood boards in the PUC.