



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

**Meeting Location:** 'Aiea Elementary School Cafeteria

**Date:** March 20, 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. Eighteen 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*.

- What sources are we using for our climate change projections?
  - *We have consulted with researchers at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (e.g. Chip Fletcher and Victoria Keener). We have also reviewed the State Sea Level Rise*

*Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change AR5 Report, and other data sources. The Hawai'i sea level rise viewer tool available online is also very helpful. We are presenting projections based on the RCP 8.5 scenario.*

- What proportion of the total population of the PUC is military? How does this compare with the proportion of water used by the military?
  - *The State of Hawai'i reports how many military personnel and their dependents reside in each county, however, this data is not broken down into the eight different Development Plan Areas on O'ahu (e.g. the PUC Development Plan Area). Townscape will investigate this question.*
- The Loko Pa'aiau fishpond is located in 'Aiea, next to the 'Aiea Bay State Recreation Area. A community organization is working to restore this fishpond, however, there is inadequate stream flow to feed the pond due to diversions of the stream water. How can we get more streamflow into the fishpond?
  - *Diversions are registered and approved with the State Water Commission. However, traditional and cultural practices are protected by law and are an important consideration in the PUC WMP. The planning team will consider the needs of the fishpond and will include projects and/or strategies to address some of the issues in the plan.*
- What will we do if/when we start to run out of water?
  - *The reason we develop the "Ultimate" scenario for the year 2100 is to test this question. We want to anticipate any "worst case scenario" and begin to plan for it.*
  - *Climate change rainfall projections are conservative and are continually being revised. However, it is fairly certain there will be increased droughts, more severe storms, and sea level rise. The "Ultimate" scenario considers these factors as a way to begin identifying key planning strategies to prepare for the long-term.*
  - *We need to develop alternative supply sources such as stormwater capture and recycled water. We also need to place an emphasis on water conservation, both on the demand-side and the provider-side.*
  - *The objective is to anticipate any potential shortages of water supply in the future and begin acting now to prevent this from occurring.*
- Climate change modeling is unreliable – some of the predicted impacts have not been realized.
  - *This may be true in some circumstances, however, there are examples of coastal erosion, flooding, and record-high tides. The reality is that these events are occurring more frequently and with more severity and we need to plan and manage our resources accordingly.*

In addition to taking questions from the community, BWS provided some additional information about several different priorities and topics of interest for the PUC WMP. A summary of the discussion is presented below:

- The overall priority approach to managing our drinking water resources is to practice and promote water conservation. “Keep water in the ground” as much as possible.
- The goal is to balance use, restoration, and protection.
- BWS supports cultural learning centers, such as the one in Mānoa Valley that cultivates kalo, conducts watershed restoration projects, promotes traditional and cultural practices, and has educational opportunities.
- BWS supports the watershed partnerships and other programs that work to protect and restore O‘ahu’s forests, which are essential for maintaining our water supply.
- Stormwater runoff should be minimized to allow for percolation in the aquifers. Stormwater capture, using rain barrels or other techniques, can provide water for landscape irrigation, reducing the demand for water from our aquifers.
- The City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawai‘i need to prepare for climate change impacts, including a projected sea level rise of 3.2 feet by 2100. The City is looking at the Kapālama area as a case study for how to prepare for these impacts.
- Senate Bill 3068, if passed, will require that the State of Hawai‘i begin actively planning for sea level rise and climate change.