



# STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP

Board of Water Supply, City & County of Honolulu  
March 19, 2026  
Meeting 59

# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS


DAVE EBERSOLD, FACILITATOR

STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING 59

MARCH 19, 2026



# VIRTUAL MEETING BEST PRACTICES

- Please stay muted unless you are speaking
- Use  or meeting chat to let us know you want to ask a question
- If you don't have the “raise hand” function or meeting chat, unmute your mic/phone and speak
- Speak one person at a time
- Expect something to go wrong



# MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Welcome and public comment
- Provide BWS updates
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment Findings
- Reservoir Condition Assessment Findings
- Accept notes from meeting #57
- PFAS and Emerging Contaminants Management
- Adjourn



# ROADMAP TOWARDS WMP ADOPTION



- In-person SAG
- Virtual SAG
- BWS Board



# PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS





# BWS UPDATES

Ernest Lau, PE  
Manager and Chief Engineer

[boardofwatersupply.com](http://boardofwatersupply.com)



# CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Brian O'Connor, PE  
CDM Smith

[boardofwatersupply.com](http://boardofwatersupply.com)

# Agenda

1. Assessment Background
2. General Findings and Common Conditions
3. Preliminary Recommendations



# Assessment Background: Field Inspections

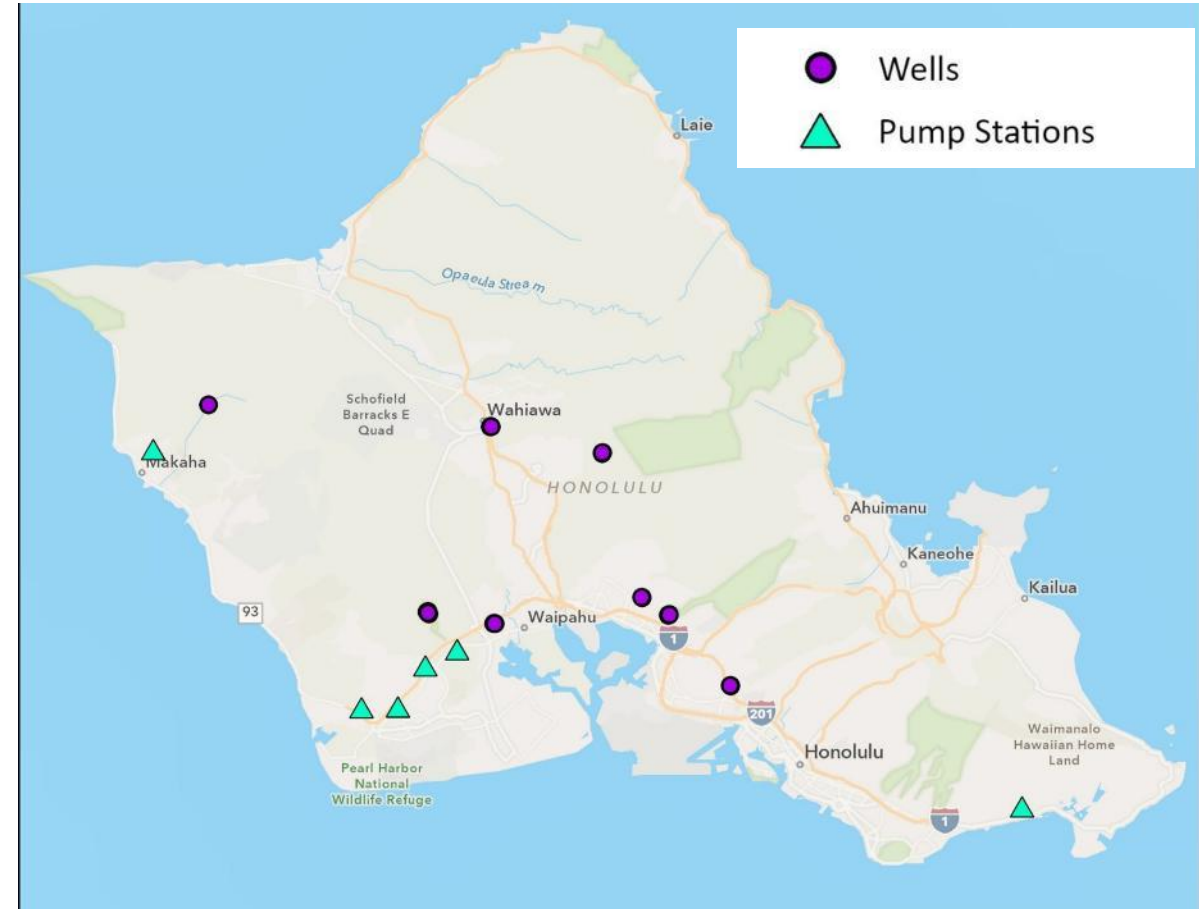
- Assessment types, performed at all sites:
  - Structural
  - Electrical
  - Instrumentation and Controls (I&C)
  - Climate Vulnerability
- Reality capture
  - Drone
  - LiDAR



Screenshot from LiDAR scan with added dimensions.

# Assessment Background: Climate Vulnerability

- Extreme events
  - Wind/Hurricane
  - Wildfire
  - Flood
- Site selection
  - Criticality to the system
  - Likelihood of extreme events
  - Variable locations and hazards
- Fifteen sites selected
  - Pump Stations (8)
  - Wells (7)
  - Combination of both (2)



# Hurricane Vulnerabilities

- Resilient Building Envelope
- Protected openings for wind-borne debris
- Wind-driven rain pathways into building
- Structural load path



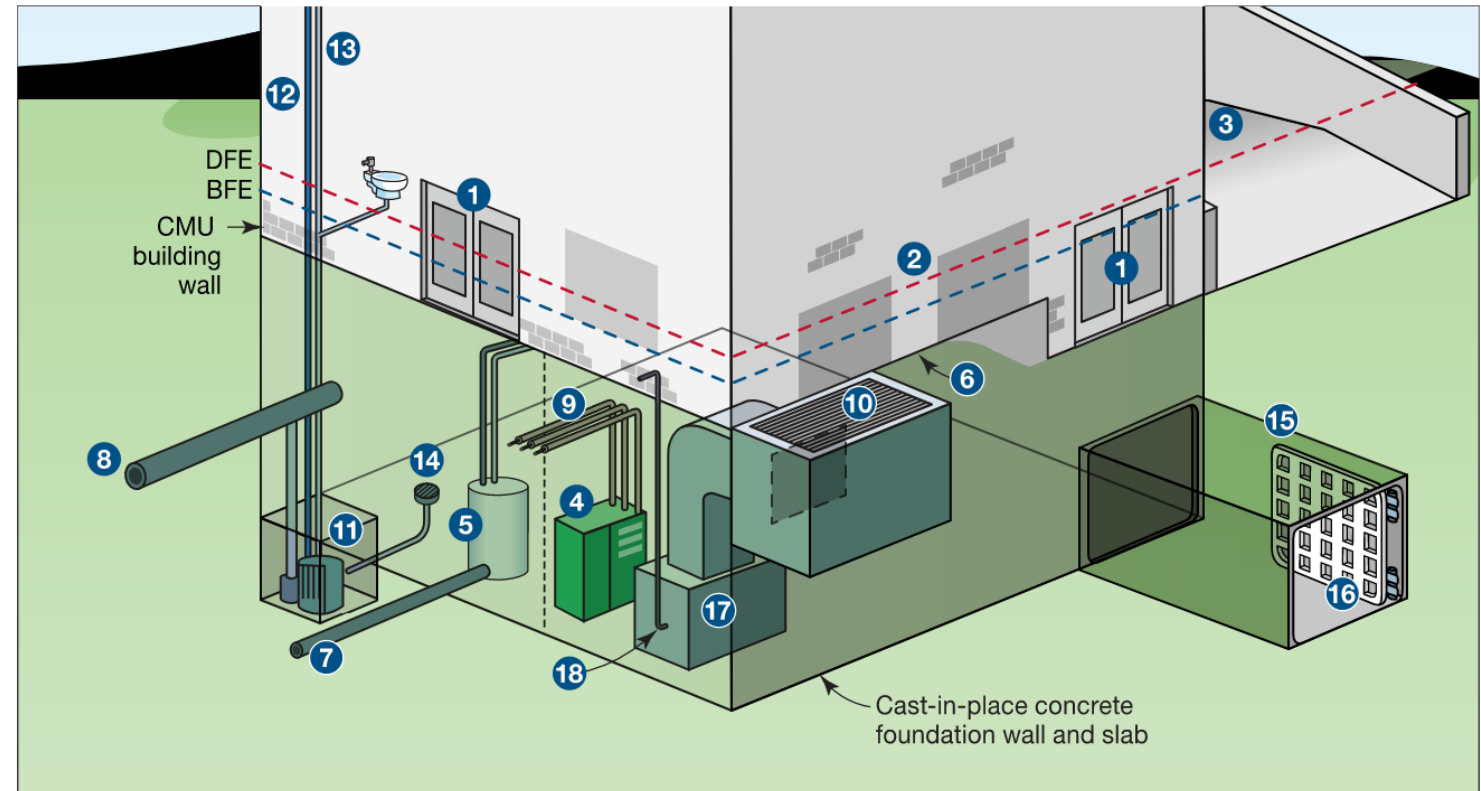
# General Hurricane Findings

- Unprotected openings: doors and louvers
  - Some openings are CMU blocks turned on side
  - Not rated for wind-borne debris impact
  - Not rated to prevent wind-driven rain intrusion
- Exterior pumps often unprotected
  - Vulnerable to all extreme event types



# Flood Vulnerabilities

- Identify pathways for water to enter building
- Electrical equipment vulnerable to inundation



## Component

- |   |                            |                                       |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Building entrance                     | 7 Water service            | 13 Waste line                         |
| 2 Windows                               | 8 Sewer line               | 14 Floor drain                        |
| 3 Access ramp to loading dock           | 9 Utility power            | 15 Access tunnel to adjacent building |
| 4 Electric service equipment room       | 10 Ventilation grill       | 16 Submarine door                     |
| 5 Building central plant equipment room | 11 Sump pit with sump pump | 17 Backup generator with fuel tank    |
| 6 Construction joint                    | 12 Stormwater drain        | 18 Fuel line                          |

# General Flood Findings

- Openings and doors would need to be protected against flood intrusion
- “Floor Drains” core-drilled through walls
- Potential for electrical conduits to carry floodwaters into buildings
- Electrical equipment at grade



# Wildfire Defensible Space

## ■ Three Zones

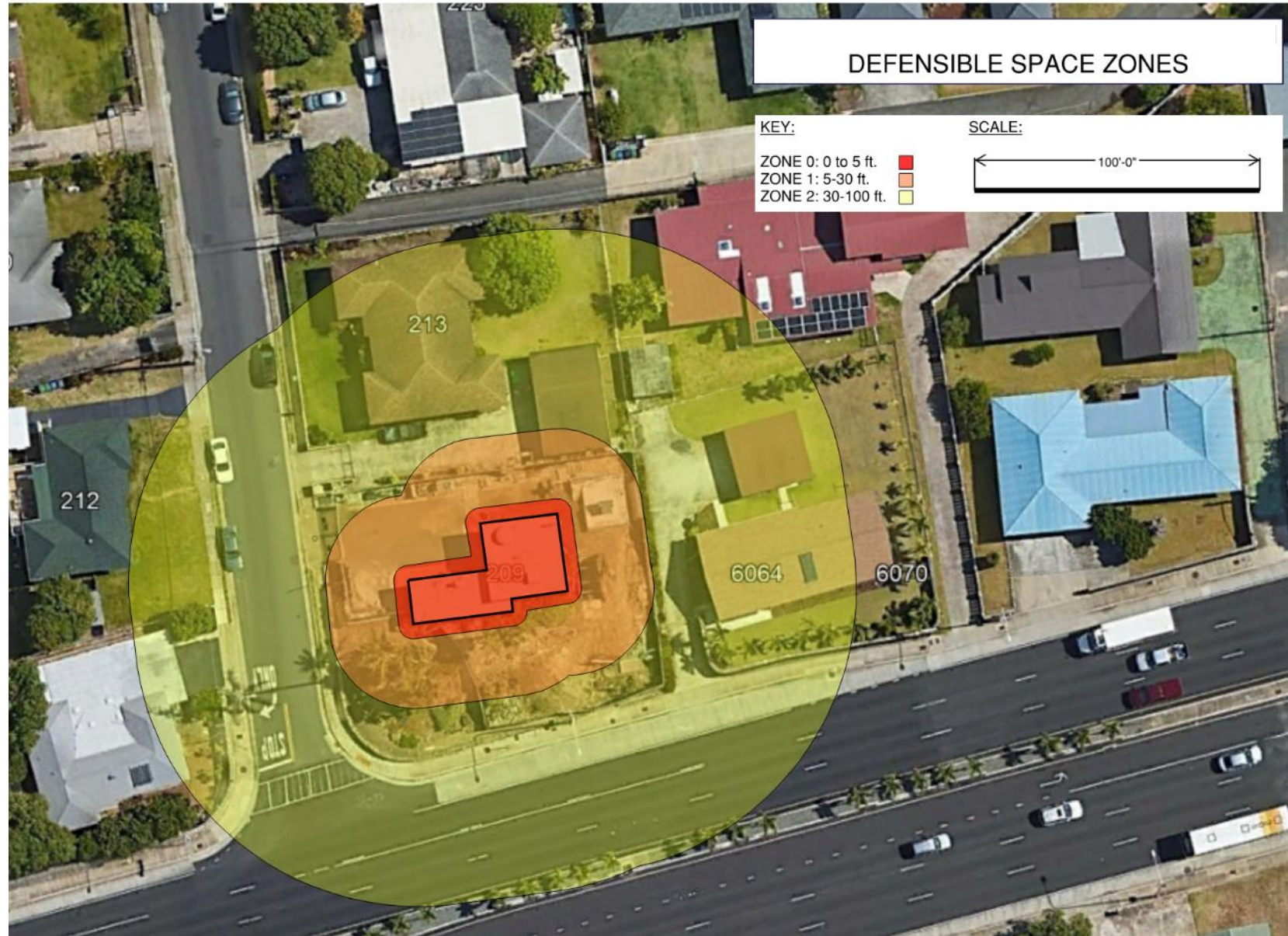
- Zone 0: 0-5 ft
  - No vegetation
- Zone 1: 5 to 30 ft
  - Well spaced trees, short grasses (4")
- Zone 2: 30 to 100 ft
  - No touching tree canopies or fuel ladders



# Wildfire Defensible Space

## BWS sites

- Able to control Zone 0 effectively
- Zone 1 and Zone 2 extend to adjacent properties
- Ensure site structures have no pathways for ember entry or combustion sensitive materials



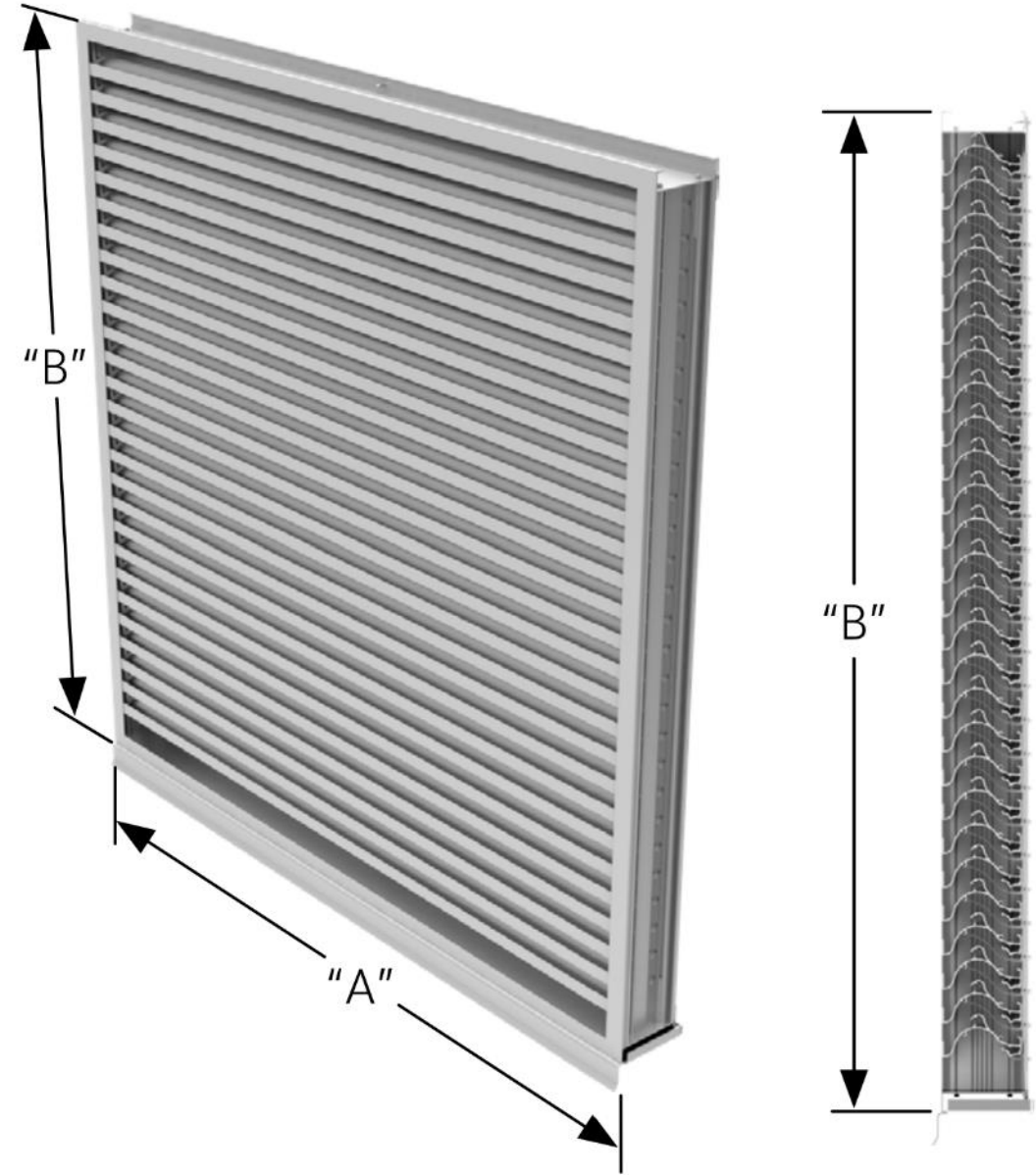
# General Wildfire Findings

- Building envelopes do not have combustion sensitive materials
  - Concrete and masonry
- Isolated combustible sensitive material around the site & inside buildings
- Taller vegetation around outside equipment
- Louvers have aluminum mesh that can stop embers
  - Isolated locations where mesh is torn or missing
- Challenging defensible space limitations



# Hazard Resilient Systems: Louvers

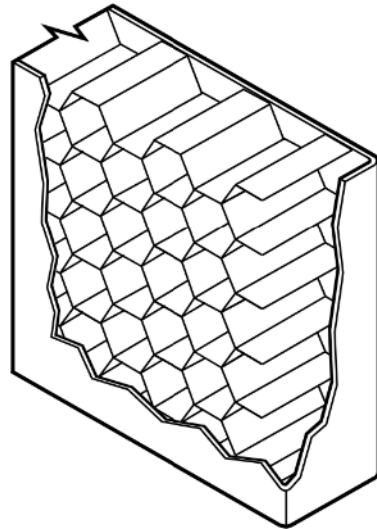
- Replace existing louvers/screened masonry block opening
- Rated to stop wind-driven rain
- Rated for E-missile impact
- Rated for wind pressure from future events
- Louvers pre-approved by Miami-Dade County



# Hazard Resilient Systems: Doors

- Replace existing doors
- Rated for E-Missile impact
- Rated for wind pressure from future events

**Rigid Honeycomb Core**



# Hazard Resilient Systems: Windows

- Replace existing windows or provide shutters
- Rated for E-Missile impact
- Rated for wind pressure from future events



# Hazard Resilient Systems: Flood Doors

- Replace existing doors with flood rated doors
- ANSI 2510 rated
- Flood protection always in place



# Hazard Resilient Systems: Fire

- Aluminum mesh over ventilation
  - BWS has robust system in place with combination of “bird screen” and aluminum mesh
- Roofing materials that are Class A rated for fire
- Eliminate combustible materials from building envelope and Zone 0
- Reduce available fuel in Zones 1 and 2





# Questions & Answers

Providing safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water, now and into the future.



# RESERVOIR CONDITION ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Brian O'Connor, PE  
CDM Smith

[boardofwatersupply.com](http://boardofwatersupply.com)

# Reservoir Condition Assessment

- 13 reservoirs maintained the same overall condition assessment score
  - One tank had an increase
  - One tank had a decrease
- Structural systems are being maintained and are appropriate for climate & loads.
- Leak repairs are working



2014



2025

# Reservoir Condition Assessment

- BWS is addressing identified areas of distress from 2014 inspections and 2016 Master Plan.
- 10 of the 12 reservoirs that that low scores (2 of 5) have been repaired or replaced.



2014



2025

# Reservoir Condition Assessment

- Identified a reservoir that corrosion advanced faster than anticipated
- BWS is responding to inspection findings to address concerns with this and similar reservoirs
  - Detailed inspections to prioritize repair or replacement



2014



2025





# Questions & Answers

Providing safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water, now and into the future.



# ACCEPT MEETING NOTES FROM MEETING 57

David Ebersold  
Facilitator

[www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com)



# PFAS AND EMERGING CONTAMINANTS MANAGEMENT

Michelle Sorensen

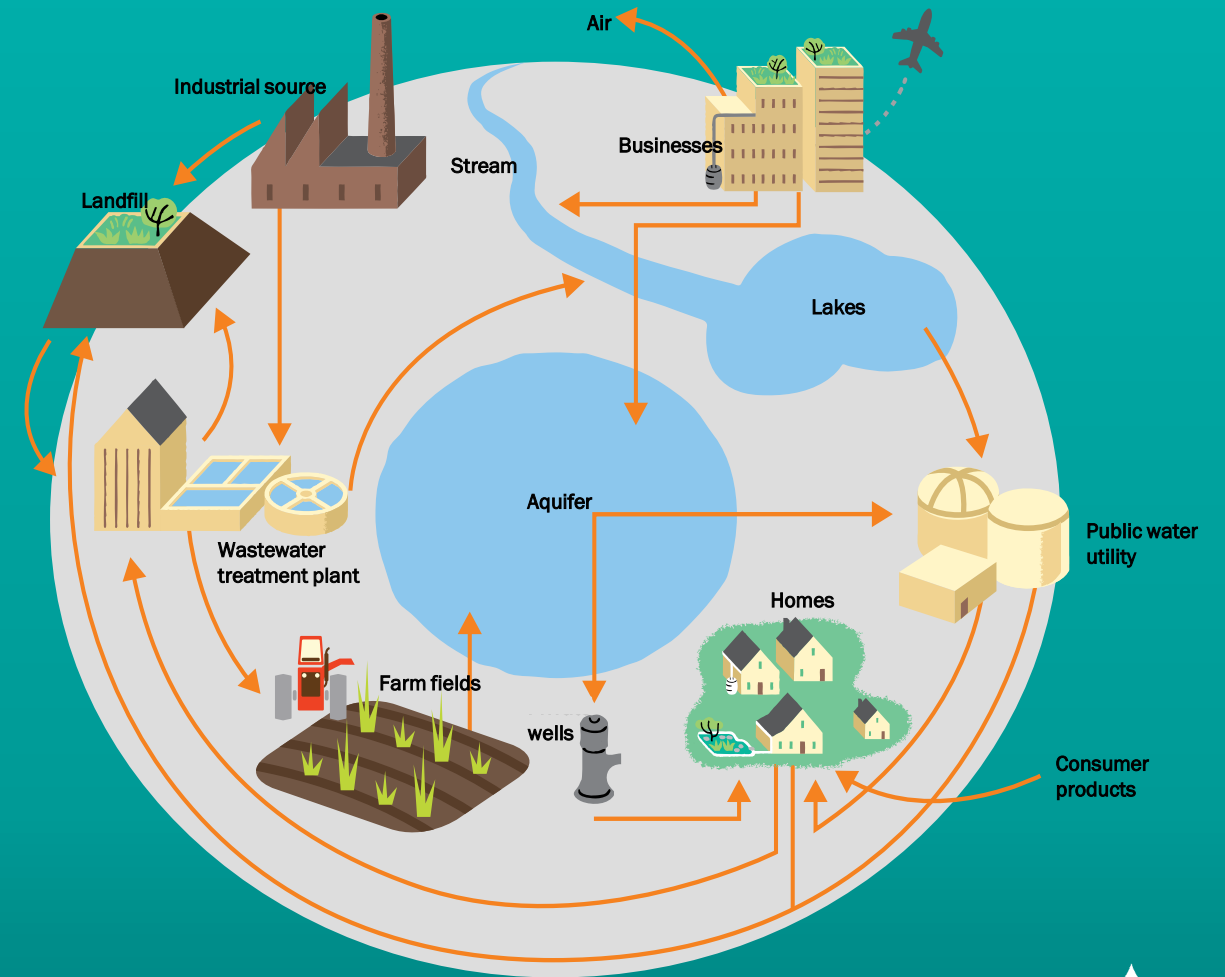
Sierra Johnson

Brown and Caldwell

[www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com)

# WHY DON'T WATER UTILITIES TREAT CONTAMINANTS TO ZERO?

- Zero not physically achievable
- Health protection is based on risk
- Treatment itself can create new risks
- Cost and energy impacts quickly escalate





# PFAS and Emerging Contaminants Management

Proactively protecting public health, water quality and reliability



Stakeholder Advisory Group | March 2026



# Agenda

## PFAS and Emerging Contaminants Management

- PFAS overview 10 min
- Drinking water regulatory framework 10 min
- BWS's approach to PFAS management 10 min

---

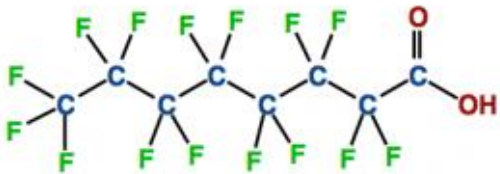
# PFAS Overview

What is PFAS? Where does it come from?

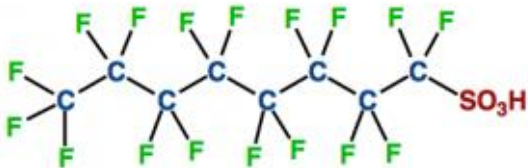


# What are PFAS?

- Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances are a large class of synthetic chemicals (eg; PFOA, PFOS) used across diverse manufacturing and industrial applications

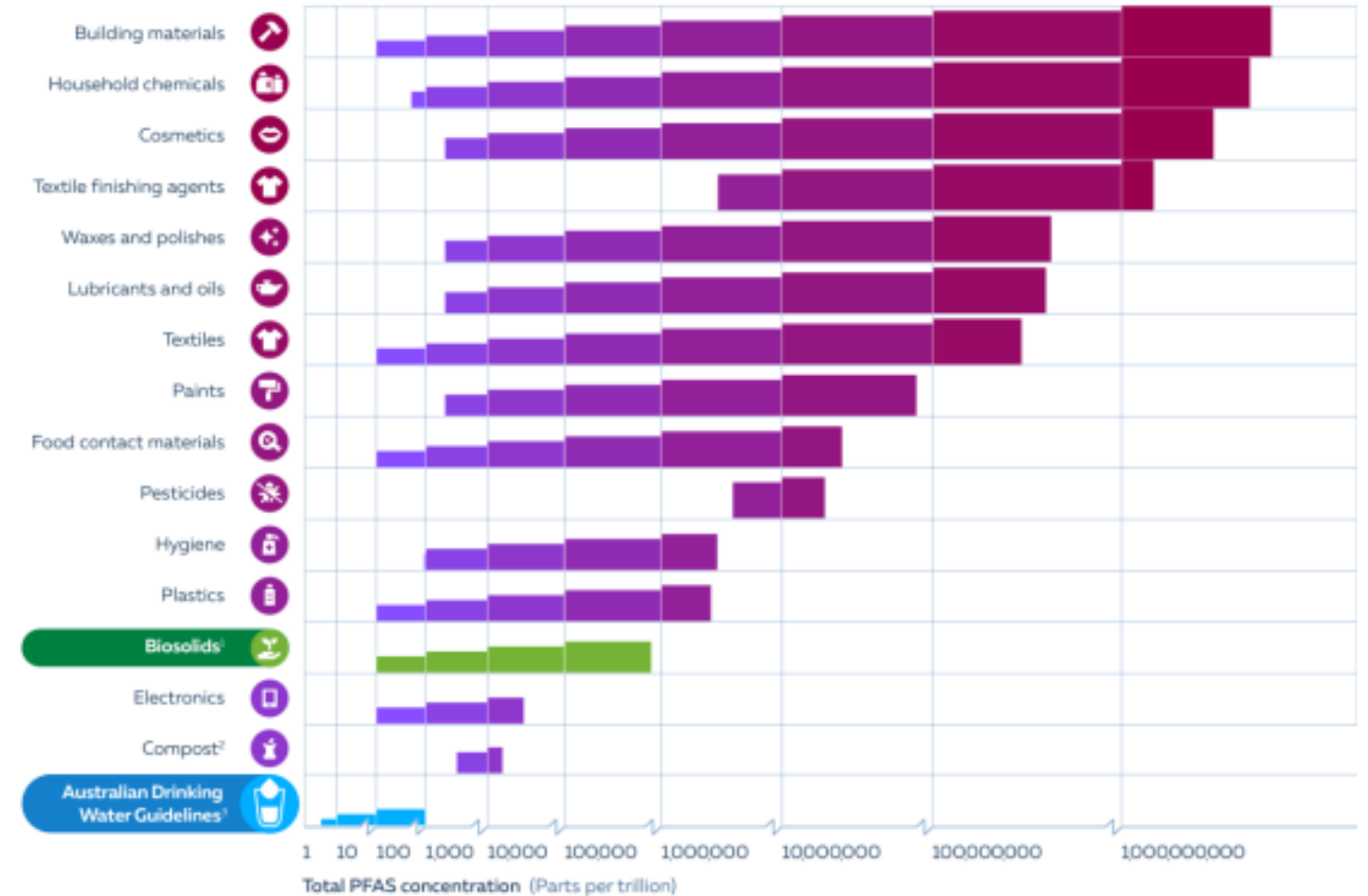


PFOA - perfluorooctanoic acid



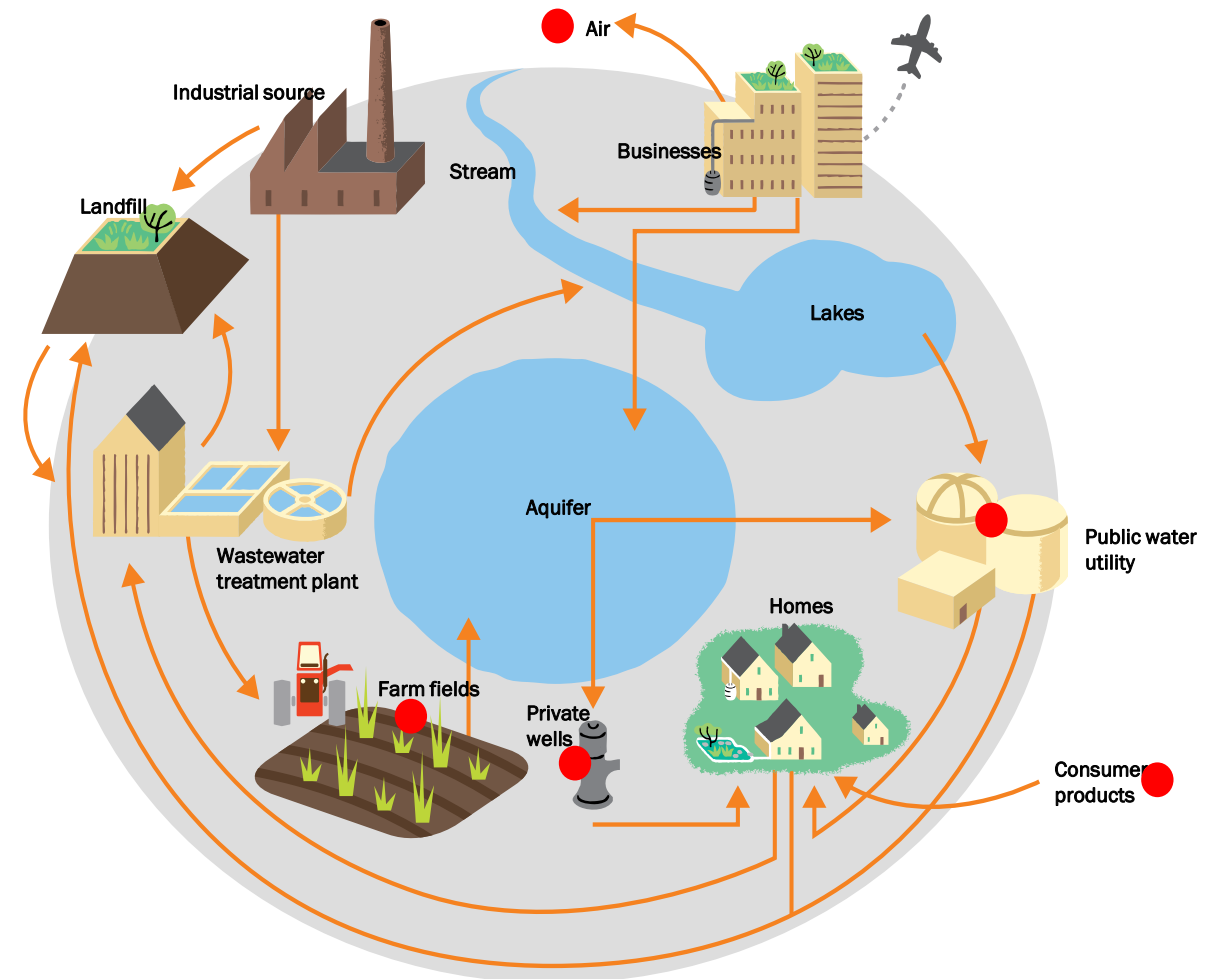
PFOS - perfluorooctanesulfonic acid

## Relative concentrations of PFAS in consumer products, drinking water guidelines and biosolids



# How do we get exposed to PFAS?

- PFAS are often referred to as ‘forever chemicals’ due to their stability in the environment
- As result, PFAS builds up in the environment and can be present in our water, soil, air, and food
- PFAS are present in many household products often at concentrations higher than drinking water regulations



---

# Drinking Water Regulatory Framework

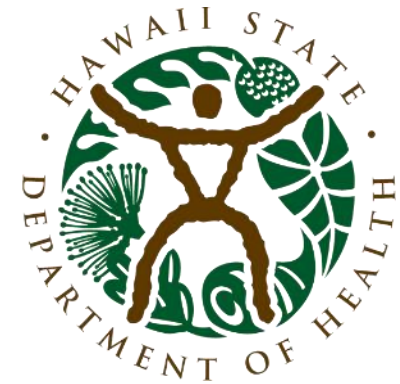
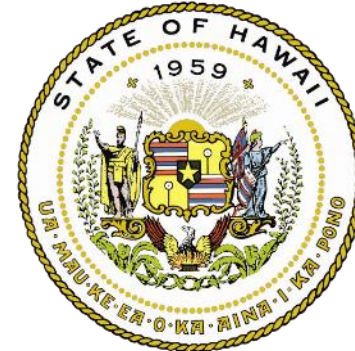
How do we ensure our drinking water is safe and clean?



# Who is responsible for regulating PFAS in drinking water?



The U.S. EPA sets **national drinking water regulations** under the Safe Drinking Water Act, including Maximum Contaminant Levels for emerging contaminants of concern and PFAS



Hawaii DOH Safe Drinking Water Branch enforces national regulations and can set **state water regulations**, no less stringent than EPA

# EPA's approach to establishing limits for PFAS and Emerging Contaminants of Concern (CoCs)



## 1. SCREENING

### PROCESS

Identify what contaminants may be present and monitor for them

## 2. ASSESSMENT

Evaluate the occurrence and toxicity

## 3. FEASIBILITY

Conduct benefit-cost analysis for treatment

## 4. SELECTION

Set feasible, risk-based water quality goals



### CONSIDERATIONS

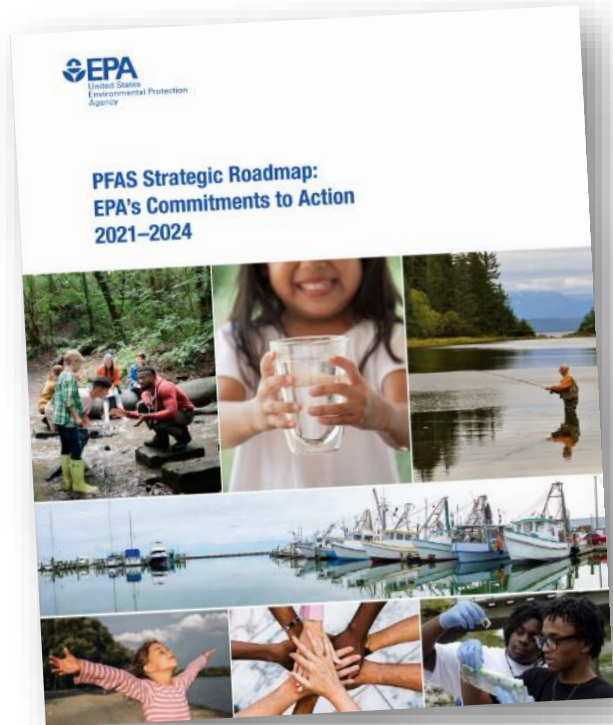
*What chemicals might be released into the environment?*

*Where is it? What is the risk to human health?*

*What can we do about it? How much will it cost?*

*Do water quality goals change as we learn more?*

# EPA's Current Published Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for PFAS Compounds



**Public Water Systems are required to meet MCLs by 2029**



<b>PFAS COMPOUNDS</b>	<b>MCL</b>
<b>PFOA</b>	<b>4.0 ppt</b>
<b>PFOS</b>	<b>4.0 ppt</b>
<b>PFHxS</b>	<b>10 ppt</b>
<b>PFNA</b>	<b>10 ppt</b>
<b>HFPO-DA (GenX)</b>	<b>10 ppt</b>
<b>Mixture of PFHxS, PFNA, GenX, PFBS measured as “hazard index”</b>	

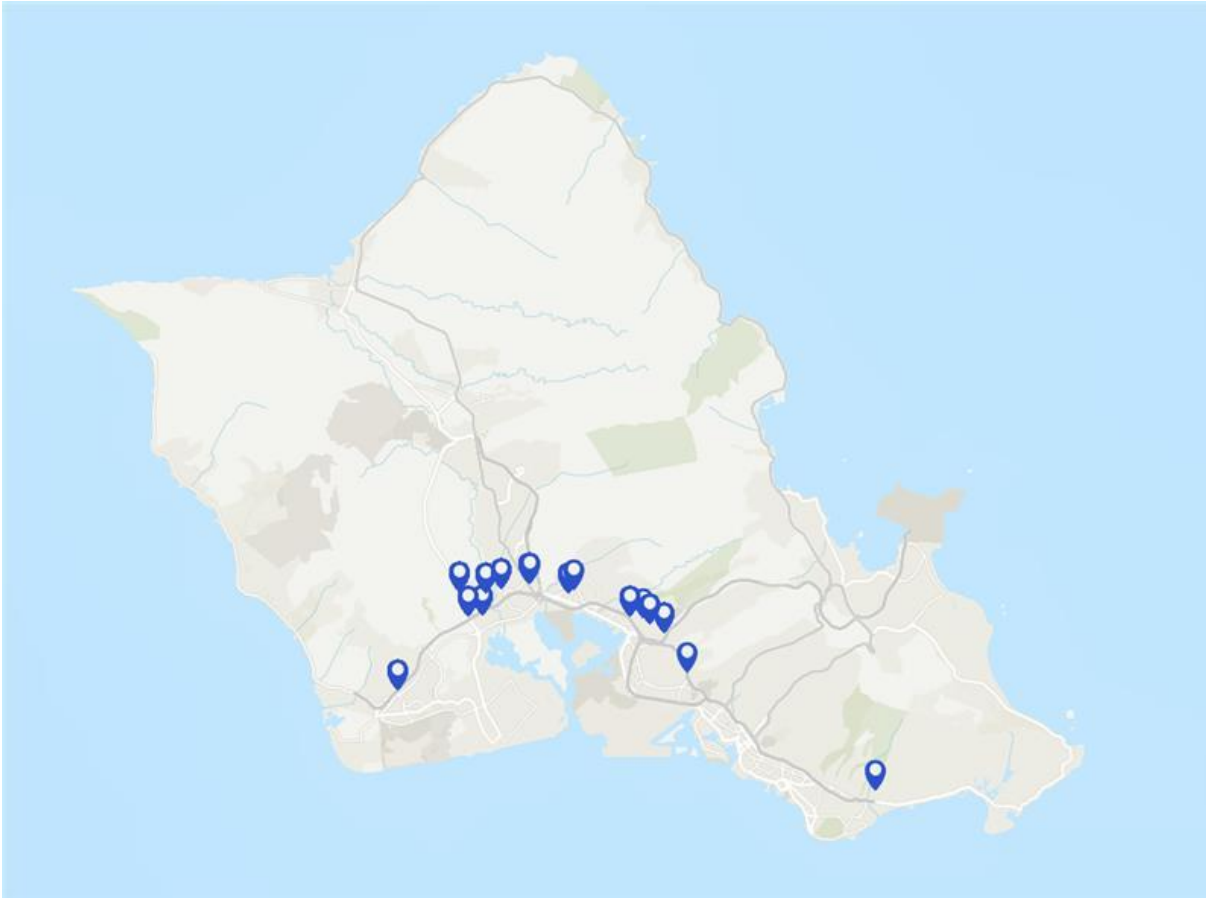
---

# BWS Approach to Manage PFAS

How do we proactively manage risks, costs, and operations to ensure safe and reliable drinking water?



# BWS Sites with PFAS detections



- BWS has been monitoring for low level PFAS at all 194 wells since 2020.
- PFAS has been detected at 16 sites.
- Some PFAS samples have been above the MCLs (up to 6.1 ppt) at only 4 sites. BWS is addressing PFAS at these sites with:
  - Existing treatment
  - New treatment (with the well off until it is installed)
  - Keeping the well shut down



# BWS' Approach to Managing PFAS



## Immediate Priorities

- Proactive and prepared by treating sites with:
  - Regulated PFAS detection
  - No treatment (GAC) in place
  - Wells are needed to support system demand



## Long-term Strategy

- Management of PFAS islandwide
  - Maintain long-term compliance
  - Prioritize sites by risk of contamination
  - Optimize for trade-offs (risks, costs, feasibility)



# Immediate Priorities | Current Status & Next Steps

## Temporary Treatment System

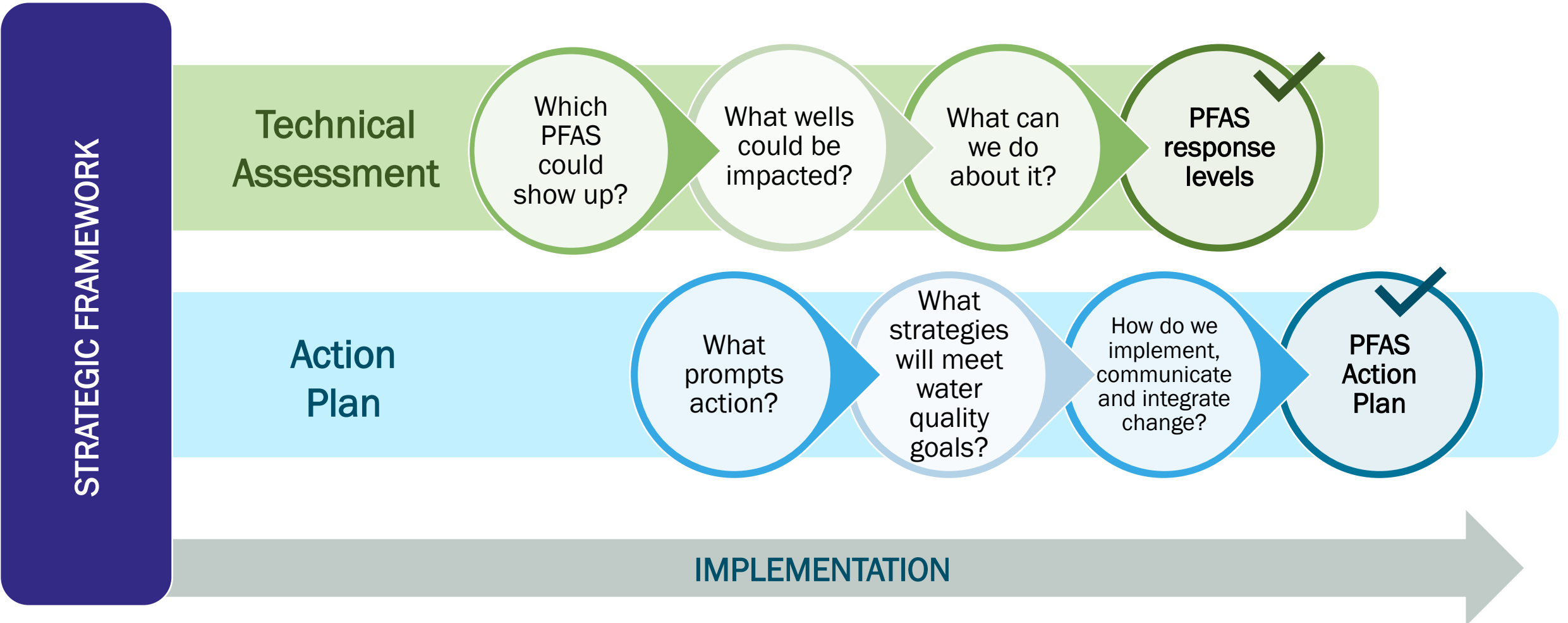
- **In-progress** | Temporary treatment system in commissioning at Ka'amilo Wells
- **Next Steps** | Temporary treatment system to begin operations in summer 2026

## Permanent Treatment Systems

- **In-progress** | Permanent treatment systems are being designed and constructed for 3 well sites
- **Next Steps** | Designs to go out to bid in early 2027 to meet 2029 construction completion deadline



# BWS Long-Term PFAS Priority-Based Approach: The Islandwide Management Plan





# Long-term Strategy | Current Status & Next Steps

## Technical Assessment

- **In-progress** | Groundwater modeling  
| PFAS source identification  
| Treatment cost evaluation
- **Next Steps** | Prioritize well sites by  
likelihood of PFAS impact  
| Develop CIP projects



# Project Schedule



# Questions

- What questions do you think the public might have that BWS should be prepared to answer?
- What should the public be informed about?

# PFAS Information & Resources

- Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) on PFAS [1.itrcweb.org/](https://www.itrcweb.org/)
- Hawai‘i State, Department of Health [health.hawaii.gov/heer/environmental-health/highlighted-projects/pfas/](https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/environmental-health/highlighted-projects/pfas/)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [epa.gov/pfas](https://www.epa.gov/pfas)
- CDC’s Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) [atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS) [niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/pfc/index.cfm](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/pfc/index.cfm)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [fda.gov/food/chemicals/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas](https://www.fda.gov/food/chemicals-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas)
- Department of Defense [defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/pfas/](https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/pfas/)



# Questions & Answers

Providing safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water, now and into the future.

# STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS THROUGH 2026

Type	Date	Topic	Stakeholder Input
In-Person	15-Jan-26	2026 WMP Roadmap CIP Process and Prioritization	WMP Input Milestones CIP Priorities
Virtual	26-Feb-26	Existing scorecard update New Scorecard Objectives CIP Prioritization Methodology	New Scorecard Priorities
Virtual	19-Mar-26	Condition Assessment Results Preliminary Climate Resilience Options	Preferences for level of climate facility mitigation
In-Person	16-Apr-26	Demand Projections Potential Additional Supplies	Preferences for supply hardening and diversification
In-Person	16-Jul-26	Major Findings Draft CIP	Input on CIP Priorities and Funding Levels
Virtual	17-Sep-26	One Water Coordination	Feedback on One Water CIP Integration
In-Person	15-Oct-26	Draft Reports and Policy Feedback: WMP, CIP, LRFP, WSFC	Feedback on overall plan and policy recommendations to BWS Board
Virtual	19-Nov-26	Feedback and Discussion	Feedback on overall plan and policy recommendations to BWS Board
In-Person	15-Jan-27	Recommendations to the Board: WMP, CIP, LRFP, WSFC	Feedback on overall plan and policy recommendations to BWS Board
In-Person	15-Apr-27	Draft WMP Final Review	Concurrence with Board-approved Draft WMP
In-Person	15-Jul-27	Final WMP and Summaries (pending Board Adoption)	Recommendation for Board adoption of Final WMP





# Mahalo!

Providing safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water, now and into the future.