

Maui County Department of Water Supply  
Maui Island Water Use & Development Plan  
Public Meeting - Upcountry  
March 21, 2016, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Meeting Summary

This was the third of four public meetings and four public workshops scheduled in 2016 on the Maui Island Water Use and Development Plan by Department of Water Supply (DWS) staff. Approximately 21 people attended in addition to DWS staff.

A PowerPoint (PPT) presentation was provided by DWS staff. Written materials included the Agenda, WUDP Public Meeting Schedule, Frequently Asked Questions, and presentation slides. A 'Share your Thoughts' Questionnaire was provided.

The following questions and comments were recorded by DWS staff at the meeting. DWS responses are provided in parentheses.

Comments on the PPT slides included to indicate which data is for DWS systems only, and when demand is population based and does not include agriculture.

In the PPT, "Water Use by Resource" pie chart, what does the category "untapped" mean? (It is the total balance of the unutilized sustainable yield of each aquifer.)

PPT Reliability slide- what does seasonal mean? (It means when water is plentiful.) Doesn't it also mean in times of drought?

PPT page 18- what is the population based projection based on? (The 2014 Socio-Economic Forecast base case prepared by the Planning Department.)

The 7.5 mgd scenario for Upcountry is not planned for in the population growth based planning scenario.

PPT slide 20 says the Upcountry meter list demand is 1.75 to 7.5 mgd. What is this based on? (Per DWS experience about 50% of meters that are allowed to proceed are falling through, so a worst case scenario is about 7.5 mgd.) It is irresponsible to call 7.5 mgd "unplanned" – it should say "potential".

What does it mean when you say the Saturday workshops are going to be technical? (We are going to get into strategies, benefits, generalized costs, etc. You do not need to be a scientist or technician to participate, but they will be hands on. The DWS is soliciting public input to create a more diversely and comprehensively informed WUDP.)

For the Upcountry meter list, how many meters are within and outside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)? (We can do a count, but it does not affect whether the meters are issued. The DWS does not prioritize on an “inside” or “outside” basis.)

It should matter. The Community Plan for the Upcountry area provides policy on priorities based on types of users, e.g. agriculture and DHHL are prioritized.

There was nothing mentioned in your presentation about elevation which affects cost to pump to various areas. The cost to deliver to different elevations should be disclosed in the WUDP. (We will provide cost ranges, life cycle costs.)

Will the WUDP look at aging infrastructure- repair, replacement? A map for each region for capital costs and pumping should be provided to provide decision-makers with information to better plan where water and people should go. (The WUDP is resource based, not capital improvement plan (CIP) level so this will not be addressed in detail.)

Does the County have a plan for aging infrastructure? (Yes, asset replacement is addressed in ongoing CIP.)

How will water allocation policies and the WUDP support anticipated population growth Upcountry? Policy seems to drive population to the central Maui and Kihei areas. We are subsidizing expensive meters Upcountry (Land use policies in the Maui Island Plan are conflicting, we have the meter list; is subsidizing meters Upcountry something the community does not want?)

The PPT talks about Kuleana Rights and Public Trust Purposes and opportunities for ahupua‘a management, which emphasize sustainability. This may not align with the “best economic and social interests” of the people. It’s great to say you will look at ahupua‘a management but what are some examples of how the DWS will implement Native Hawaiian water rights? (It may be other entities than DWS implementing water rights. An example could be extending active watershed management to lower elevations. With fragmented land ownership and instream flow standards being set by CWRM among other constraints, we are seeking your feedback.)

In Na Wai ‘Eha, the County pays Wailuku Water Company \$0.06 per thousand gallons of untreated water. Will that change? (We do not have contracts addressing future service from WWC or EMI so this is unknown.)

How does draft House Bill 2501 (holdover of revocable water rights) affect Upcountry? (The Upcountry meter list is not affected by HR 2501.)

The relationship of the meter list to the UGB should be addressed, whether the meter application was filed before or after the UGB was established. (We can provide that

information. This could be an example of something that could be prioritized in the WUDP.)

Pukalani area- what consideration is given to water in ditches that wind through the area and support aesthetic values? (Since water in ditches for aesthetic purposes would probably not qualify as a public trust use, it would not be a priority.)

What are the costs and benefits of the County taking over the EMI system? What are the range of potential uses? This should be assessed and disclosed to some extent in the WUDP. (The degree to which this would be addressed in the WUDP is not determined. It may be part of an alternative. The 2004 State Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan projects a demand of 3 to 12 mgd for diversified ag over a 20-year period. Compared to the water demands of HC&S, this is miniscule. The WUDP will provide several alternative scenarios to sugar.)

For the Upcountry meter list, provide information on the proposed use (domestic, agriculture) which relates to drastically varying quantities of water. It is critical to provide information on the number or units being proposed.

The DWS Director's posture is that he is running a utility, which is immoral because it shows no regard for other community uses and values, but this is consistent with the apparent unwillingness or inability of the DWS to address many issues. There is no sense of the rights of native tenants. Everyone is waiting for the state to address public trust uses. The only vehicle is litigation. There are so many issues that DWS is not prepared to address. I don't see that this process is going to address the real issues- this is an injustice to Na Kua'aina. We should be looking at reparations. If not, look at the sustainability of all uses. The plantations have implemented adverse possession in order to take water and land away from the people. DWS needs to call HC&S to the table; if HC&S wants water, they need to participate. Is this HC&S's plan or a community plan? (This is not the DWS's WUDP; we need more public input.)

In the PPT, Water Use by Resource pie chart, how much of the agricultural demand is HC&S? (About 90 percent, or upwards of 190 mgd.) Even if HC&S uses water for diversified ag, this would reduce demand from around 200 mgd for HC&S to about 74 mgd for diversified ag which represents a significant decrease. What is the basis for the DWS assumption that HC&S will be involved in agriculture and therefore allow them to dictate future water use? This statement is important because the previous monocrop agriculture operations like Wailuku Water have attempted to stay in the water business even though they no longer grow. *(Post meeting note: we used a demand of about 5,555 mgd per acre for sugar cane.)*

Because the pie charts' agricultural component is comprised predominantly of sugar cultivation, if sugar will no longer be grown, the pie chart should be adjusted to reflect

future anticipated needs—since the WUDP is a vehicle for future decision-making, not historical use. (The pie chart represent 2014 water use, not projected demand.)

Providing average water use in the WUDP will not help us. Summer supply and demand during stressed peak demand should be reflected in the WUDP, not yearly averages, because these figures are misleading when it really matters, i.e. times when demand is increased by 20-40%, but supply is decreased by 20-40%, which would yield a cumulative data error of 40-80%. (We agree that peak demand and studies of low flow conditions in streams are important information.)

How does total domestic household and other uses compare to agricultural use? (Agriculture is about 200 mgd vs. 45-50 mgd for total domestic and commercial use including resorts.)

In order to reflect actual demand, the meter list use should show single and multiple units per applicant—in order to show more accurate, useful data.

Will the plan be on the website? (Yes, our website information is in the handouts.)

*Prepared by DWS staff, 3/21/2016*