

**BWS Wai'anae Watershed Management Plan (WWMP)**  
**CWRM Project Approval Presentation**  
**May 20st, 2025, 9:00am**  
**DLNR Boardroom & Zoom**

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZphJprauT0>

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**Attendees:**

**CWRM Commissioners:**

- Dawn Chang, Chair
- Ciara Kahahane
- Aurora Kagawa-Viviani
- Hannah Kihilani Springer
- Wayne Katayama
- Paul Meyer
- Lawrence Miike

**CWRM (Commission of Water Resource Management)**

- Katie Roth (In Person)

**BWS (Board of Water Supply)**

- Barry Usagawa (In Person)
- Dominic Dias (Zoom)
  - (Jonathan Likeke Scheuer [Ka Hālāwai])

**SSFM**

- Lala Nuss (Zoom)
- Jena Kamalani Earle (Youtube)

**I. Introductions**

- a. Katie Roth presented the submittal, recommending approval
- b. Plan is considered part of county WUDP

**II. BWS Wai'anae Watershed Presentation**

**O'ahu Watershed Management Plan (OWMP) Overview – Barry Usagawa**

- a. Barry explained there are four WMPs still in progress, and they have been delayed due to various elements they want to integrate, including:
- b. Climate change, particularly the impacts on rainfall and the sustainable yield of aquifers

**III. WWMP Overview and Scope – Barry Usagawa**

- a. Ahupua'a approach
- b. Culture tells us how to conserve water and manage resources holistically

- c. Stewardship and kuleana, including land use history and TCP (traditional and customary practices), Wahi Pana (storied places)
- d. OWMP Goals and 5 Objectives
  - i. Developed through community engagement when doing Ko'olauloa Plan
  - ii. How to address issues and concerns about water
- e. WWMP update process goals
- f. WWMP Planning Process
  - i. Received feedback on key water resource issues during Community Meeting #1
  - ii. Watershed Analysis, water demand in the works, findings to be presented in Community Meeting #2
  - iii. 5 chapters to Plan
    - 1. 3 projections: Low, medium and high and ultimate to 2100 (rainfall forecasts with drying trend)
  - iv. Ch.1 OWMP Overview
    - 1. Authority, purpose, framework, Plan implementation
    - 2. Uncertainties and contingencies
  - v. Project Phases and their components

#### IV. Questions & Feedback from CWRM

- a. **Q:** What round of stakeholder consultations are you in?
  - i. **A:** We are finished with stakeholder consultations in round 1 (conducted in 2024), and the list of organizations and community groups you see for round 2, we have conducted a handful and plan to complete in 2025.
- b. **Q:** How do land use and CDPs (Community Development Plans) integrate into the water demand model?
  - i. **A:** Sustainable policies. Water demand models are forecasted through population projection that DPP (Department of Permitting and Planning) does by looking at increase of Master Plan development, residential development, population increase, etc.
  - ii. **A:** Decreasing component (conservation efficiency, incentivized water conservation)
  - iii. **A:** Diversify water systems with storm water capture, grey water reuse, green infrastructure. If you want a meter from BWS (Board of Water Supply) you need to reuse. We can work with you for incentives etc.
  - iv. **C:** That's good Barry. We feel these things are woven in.
- c. **C:** Balance is important.
- d. **Q:** Your WMPs have somewhat been battered by permitting process through designations, but not in Wai'anae (groundwater designation). Your timeline for this WWMP looks like it will go on to 2027, and we are concurrently moving the designation process forward and giving out purpose. So, while we are proceeding, how do you see the integration of your WWMP planning process with designation?

- i. **A:** What the SY (Sustainable Yield) is will be a large consideration, when thinking of the amount of permits that will come in.
- e. **Q:** In Wai'anae, it's more than just yield because water is getting pumped in from Pearl Harbor, so their health dictates the health of Wai'anae. For example, is salinity in the Pear Harbor goes up or if the Red Hill contamination comes into play. It is difficult to think of the interaction – how do we issue permits and what implications would this Plan present/impact allocation of permits?
- f. **Q:** Transfer from pearl harbor is under BWS permit, the designation only deal with water coming out of the ground in Wai'anae. But the issue is, since we're looking at existing use of the aquifer we want to ID beneficial use in each aquifer. We need to address inequity.
  - i. **C:** There is unused SY (Sustainable Yield) in other places, Waiawa, 'Ewa and Kunia, etc., so we need to meet demand.
- g. **Q:** BWS is the applicant for the groundwater sources in Wai'anae?
  - i. **A:** Yes, mostly small sources
- h. **Q:** If we designate Wai'anae, we also have to have permits for surface water based on the Waiāhole case. I want specific language recognizing that. My gripe with the case, we never subjected surface water to the permit system.
  - i. **A:** Your point is well taken.
- i. **Q:** The issue is mostly for those diverting stream flows.
  - i. **A:** There are three known ones in Kaupuni.
- j. **Q:** Approval for project description – by ordinance, we HBWS, coordinate with DPP.
  - i. **A:** It is a C&C document.
- k. **Q:** If the WWMP is a document the commission has no control over (in terms of content) bc the statutes are set, why are you before us for approval?
  - i. **A:** Requirements for the project description are not in the code but in the Framework document, requiring each county plan to be approved.
- l. **Q:** So we don't approve the WWMP?
  - i. **A:** You do.
- m. **Q:** So we are approving the project description as part of the framework?
  - i. **A:** As part of the framework for WUP (Water Use Plans).
  - ii. You have the authority to approve and adopt water use plans.
- n. **Q:** So you do this so that when the plan comes to us, we can adopt?
  - i. **A:** Yes, we vet the final plan against this scope.
  - ii. **A:** EHWMP reinvented the process by adding reading, public hearings, etc.
- o. **A:** The Hawai'i water plan, including DP, and will inform decision making on water use permits. Not sure how permits will go given our work in Lahaina, but I think the staff can review to see what the Plan will entail, and alternatives and other mana'o can be employed. Same with new wells – we can look back at the Plan to see if these were anticipated. This Plan is unique since it incorporates KPA (Ka Pa'akai Analysis) and TCPs (Traditional and Customary Practices).

- p. **A:** The extent that this plan evaluates the region can inform future decisions and guide permitting process.
- q. **Q:** Looking hopefully that water availability may come in line ahead of land use. It seems like commitments to develop land is made first, before water availability. My ahupua'a lens doesn't seem to align.
  - i. **A:** Concurrency. We cannot plan for growth if we don't know how much water we have. We can't plan system capacity unless we know where the growth will be.
  - ii. **A:** Climate change and potential SY reduction, we already told TODs that water may not be guaranteed, so it's almost a first come first serve basis. Reduction of water, Red Hill, it all affects down the line the subsequent areas that depend on it.
- r. **C:** WUDP (Water Use Development Plans) and Water Plans are hugely depended on when I am seeking info and data. It seems like you're piggy backing research from designation, and it seems sensible to have these running together.
- s. **Q:** Because of the dependence of 'Ewa, what is the timeline in 'Ewa and Central because of these interactions (they are the toughest on the island politically and physically)
  - i. **A:** PUC (Primary Urban Center) is in the works now, trying to bring clarity to SLR (Sea Level Rise) impacts to Waikiki and Iwilei. Gets complex.
- t. **Q:** How is this in conversation with the CDP (Community Development Plans), GPs (Government Plans), SCPs (Sustainable Community Plans)?
  - i. SCP envisions a community's sustainable future, and they have sections integrated with our Plan.
- u. **A:** How do these two processes connect? And how are surface and GW (ground water) permits affected in the area?
  - i. **C:** Planning section of the case was supposed to avoid conflicts, and designation is there in the event they couldn't be avoided.
  - ii. **C:** Designation is the tool that gives commission the power to put meaningful conditions on the amount of water that is taken. It is complimentary in Wai'anae, with community given ground up Plan, so you have the ability to look at the newest and most recent ground up efforts to then have your decision making.
  - iii. **C:** The timelines not being completely in tandem, there is still a 2009 WWMP in the interim and any updates BWS has.
- v. **C:** (Mei F.), I work with MA'O Farms so I am just listening in.

## **V. Motion to approve**

- a. As amended
- b. Motion has been made
- c. Motion has been moved and seconded to approve with staff recommendation to the two amendments on page 5
  - i. Motion passes with seven votes
  - ii. Amendments: Timeline (May 2025 to July 2026), and change in authority (174c31q, 174c31,2)