MINUTES

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY COUNTY OF HAWAI'I WATER BOARD MEETING

September 24, 2024

Department of Water Supply, Hilo Operations Baseyard, 889 Leilani Street, Hilo, Hawai'i

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Stephen Kawena Lopez, Chairperson, Dist. 8

Mr. Michael Pono Kekela, Vice-Chairperson, Dist. 4

Mr. Michael Bell, Water Board Member, Dist. 7 (via videoconference)

Mr. Thomas Brown, Water Board Member, Dist. 3 Mr. James Kimo Lee, Water Board Member, Dist. 2 Mr. Benjamin Ney, Water Board Member, Dist. 9 Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer, Department of Water Supply (ex-officio member)

ABSENT: Ms. Kea Keolanui, Water Board Member, Dist. 1

Ms. Emily Taaroa, Water Board Member, Dist. 5 Mr. Keith Unger, Water Board Member, Dist. 6 Director, Planning Department (ex-officio member)

Director, Department of Public Works (ex-officio member)

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Jean Campbell, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Mr. Jeff Zimpfer, guest

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY STAFF:

Mr. Kawika Uyehara, Deputy

Mr. Kurt Inaba, Engineering Division Head Ms. Candace Gray, Waterworks Controller Mr. Gregory Goodale, Chief of Operations Mr. Eric Takamoto, Mechanical Engineer III Mr. Warren Ching, Energy Management Analyst Ms. Lindsey Howells, Information Systems Analyst III

Ms. Nora Avenue, Recording Secretary

- 1) <u>CALL TO ORDER</u> Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Six Board Members were present: Messrs. Bell, Brown, Lee, Ney, Kekela, and Chair Lopez.
- 2) <u>STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC</u> Pursuant to HRS §92-3, oral testimony may be provided entirely at the beginning of the meeting, or immediately preceding the agenda item. There were no statements from the public at this time.

(There were none.)

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

<u>ACTION</u>: Mr. Kekela moved for approval of the Minutes of the August 27, 2024 Public Hearing on the Power Cost Charge; seconded by Mr. Ney and carried unanimously by voice vote (Ayes: 6 – Bell, Brown, Kekela, Lee, Ney, and Chair Lopez).

CHR. LOPEZ: I want to thank Vice Chair Pono Kekela for chairing last month's meeting.

<u>ACTION</u>: Mr. Ney moved for approval of the Minutes of the August 27, 2024 Water Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Kekela and carried unanimously by voice vote (Ayes: 6 – Messrs. Bell, Brown, Kekela, Lee, Ney, and Chair Lopez).

4) APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA – None.

5) <u>PUNA</u>:

A. JOB NO. 2023-1227, KEONEPOKO NUI BOOSTER A & B REPAIR – REQUEST FOR TIME EXTENSION:

Chair Lopez asked if there was any testimony for this item. There being none, he continued with the agenda item.

The Contractor, Derrick's Well Drilling and Pump Services, LLC. is requesting a contract time extension of 46 calendar days, due to delays by the waterworks product vendor as a result of the 2023 Maui Wildfires. This was beyond the control of the Contractor.

Staff reviewed the request for the time extension and the accompanying supporting documentation and found the 46 calendar days to be justified. *Note: There are no additional costs associated with this time extension.*

| Ext. | From (Date) | To (Date) | Days (Calendar) | Reason |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 08/1/2024 | 10/10/2024 | 70 | Delays from waterworks product manufacturer. |
| 2 | 10/10/2024 | 11/25/2024 | 46 | Delays from waterworks product vendor. |
| Total Days (including this request) | | | 116 | |

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>: It is recommended that the Board approve a contract time extension of 46 calendar days to Derrick's Well Drilling and Pump Services, LLC., for JOB NO. 2023-1227, KEONEPOKO NUI BOOSTER A & B REPAIR. If approved, the contract completion date will be revised from October 10, 2024 to November 25, 2024.

<u>ACTION</u>: Mr. Kekela moved for approval of the recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Ney and was carried unanimously by voice vote (Ayes: 6 – Messrs. Bell, Brown, Kekela, Lee, Ney, and Chair Lopez).

6) <u>SOUTH KOHALA</u>:

A. SERVICE BID NO. 2024-09, WAIMEA WATER TREATMENT PLANT SLUDGE REMOVAL:

Chair Lopez asked if there was any testimony for this item. There being none, he continued with the agenda item.

This project generally consists of furnishing all labor, materials, tools and equipment necessary to remove and dispose of settled sludge from the Waimea Water Treatment Plant 2.7 MG reservoir, 8.5 MG reservoir, and drying beds, for a period not to exceed one year.

Bids for this project were opened on September 5, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., and the following are the bid results:

| | 2B Environmental | DWS Engineering Evaluation |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sludge Removal from 2.7MG Reservoir with Disposal Off-Site Per Gallon Cost | No Bid | \$0.27 |
| Sludge Removal from 2.7MG Reservoir with Disposal at Waikoloa #1 Per Gallon Cost | \$0.28 | \$0.27 |
| Sludge Removal from 8.5MG Reservoir with Disposal Off-Site Per Gallon Cost | No Bid | \$0.27 |
| Sludge Removal from 8.5MG Reservoir with Disposal at Waikoloa #1 Per Gallon Cost | \$0.28 | \$0.27 |
| Sludge Removal from Drying Beds with Disposal Off-Site Per Gallon Cost | No Bid | \$0.27 |
| Sludge Removal from Drying Beds with Disposal at Waikoloa #1 Per Gallon Cost | \$0.28 | \$0.27 |

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board award the contract for WAIMEA WATER TREATMENT PLANT SLUDGE REMOVAL, JOB NO. 2024-09 to the lowest responsible bidder, 2B Environmental, INC., for a unit price of \$0.28 per gallon, on an as-needed basis, and that either the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson be authorized to sign the contract, subject to review as to form and legality by Corporation Counsel. The sludge removal contract shall be from the date of Notice to Proceed, to June 30, 2025.

<u>ACTION</u>: Mr. Brown moved for approval of the recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Kekela and was carried unanimously by voice vote (Ayes: 6 – Messrs. Bell, Brown, Kekela, Lee, Ney, and Chair Lopez).

7) <u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>:

A. <u>MATERIAL BID NO. 2024-08, FURNISHING AND DELIVERING SPARE PUMP AND MOTOR</u> SETS, AND PAD-MOUNTED TRANSFORMER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY:

Chair Lopez asked if there was any testimony for this item. There being none, he continued with the agenda item.

Bids were received and opened on September 12, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., and the following are the bid results.

| SECTION | DESCRIPTION | Derrick's Well Drilling and Pump Services, LLC | DWS Engineering Estimate |
|---------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | GROUP #1 | \$351,928.00 | \$284,500.00 |
| 2 | GROUP #4 | \$355,744.00 | \$282,000.00 |
| 3 | PAD-MOUNTED TRANSFORMER | No Bid | \$120,000.00 |

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board award the contract for MATERIAL BID NO. 2024-08, FURNISHING AND DELIVERING SPARE PUMP AND MOTOR SETS, AND PAD-MOUNTED TRANSFORMER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, by Sections to the following bidders for the amounts shown above, and that either the Chairperson of the Vice-Chairperson be authorized to sign the contract(s), subject to review as to form and legality of the contract(s) by Corporation Counsel.

Section 1 – Group #1 to Derrick's Well Drilling & Pump Services, LLC

Section 2 – Group #4 to Derrick's Well Drilling & Pump Services, LLC

For the Sections where no bids were received, staff shall seek alternative procurement pursuant to HAR 3-122-35 to procure the required materials in the best interests of the Department.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved for approval of the recommendation; seconded by Mr. Ney.

CHR. LOPEZ: Any discussion?

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes, for this one, Mr. Chair, I do want to share with the Board and have it on record, this is an ongoing attempt for us, as we standardize our pumps and motor sets better, to have on-hand spares so that our repairs can be done more efficiently. What we do want to share is Group No. 1 for example, would be able to be used in three different locations, two locations in Kona and one location in Hāmākua. If you look at Group 4, that can be used at a well up Mountain View as well as one of our main wells in South Kona, near the hospital. Again, for the record we wanted to share with the Board and the public that this is ongoing in our attempts to be more resilient and more effective in our repairs.

MR. NEY: This is not actually anything to do with installing these components.

MR. OKAMOTO: No.

MR. NEY: The only thing that's a little concerning is when you look at the engineering estimates, I mean are they making \$90-grand to pick that up from the dock and drop it off at the site? I mean I'm looking at the difference here and it's like, "Wow, this is not a job where you're actually doing any work, right? I mean I guess it's a job in terms of delivering a part. It just seems like that difference seems large.

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes, and I think it's still ongoing. We're still trying to get better estimates, but I think we're still seeing impacts; you know, post-COVID, and the impacts that it's having to the suppliers and manufacturers. The prices have really significantly risen versus prior years.

MR. NEY: Because to me it's like, you know, if you go get something wholesale cost, there's going to be a different price matrix, right? He might get it at a certain cost; he's adding his markup, but I'd just like to know what is that markup. Is it just us, I don't want to say, "throwing away money," but is it reasonable, which is a concern for me?

MR. OKAMOTO: And again, as I think we've shared in the past, you know every time that we—even if we have a single bidder, part of our process is to double check to make sure that cost we're getting is fair and reasonable, because we do have the opportunity to not accept the bid if it's over and beyond what we feel is fair and reasonable, and then we can pursue alternate means, as well. But I don't know, Eric, you wanted to share anything about some of the prices we've been getting?

MR. TAKAMOTO: Well, speaking to the amounts, this bid also included requirements so that we can meet the DWSSRF funding requirements, so it has BABA (Build America, Buy America) certification requirements which require domestic manufacturers that significantly increase the costs.

<u>MR. NEY</u>: Sorry, not to prolong this discussion too much but is this like the off-the-shelf prices with these kinds of items or is this like give us the specification of the pump and we'll get back to you. I mean what's the turnaround on actually getting—like if we want to do our own research, what's the actual, you know the reality of these costs? Is that something we can get right away or there's a time delay to that?

MR. OKAMOTO: I think as we've mentioned in the past, pretty much all our deep well, pump and motor sets are not off the shelf. They have to be custom manufactured, one for the depth of the well. A couple of other things, the motor specifications typically have horsepower, whether it's a two-pole, four-pole, three-phase, I mean that's normal for us, but that's not typical things that they would just have on the shelf waiting for somebody to order, that's my understanding.

MR. NEY: Variable costs.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: All right, I have a question. You said that costs have gone up, certainly since COVID. I'm looking at, and it doesn't say why in here, I'm looking at the difference in the DWS estimate and the bid, how far apart in time are those numbers versus is the DWS pre-COVID on the bid post-COVID? I'm just trying to understand.

MR. TAKAMOTO: The estimated cost is based on pricing around about a year-and-a-half ago.

CHR. LOPEZ: That was when DWS did their estimate?

MR. TAKAMOTO: That's the most recent pricing that we had of equipment that's somewhat similar to what was in this specific bid specification.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Okay, and the bid submitted was as of?

MR. TAKAMOTO: This month.

CHR. LOPEZ: This month?

MR. TAKAMOTO: Yes.

CHR. LOPEZ: So a year-and-a-half difference in estimates.?

MR. TAKAMOTO: Yes.

MR. OKAMOTO: I think the other significant point that Eric brought up was that it has to have this Build America, Buy America, that BABA requirement, so it has to be built in the U.S., basically.

MR. TAKAMOTO: Manufactured in the U.S., and 55% of the material component cost is also domestic.

CHR. LOPEZ: So that consideration is not part of your estimate, the year-and-a-half?

MR. TAKAMOTO: Yeah, it was not.

CHR. LOPEZ: All right, thank you.

MR. NEY: Sorry, one last thing. Now, would it be out of place if we ask like, "Hey, we get it. We're not asking you to order this for free. There's going to be a profit margin for you in this," but can they furnish a receipt to us and go, "This is fair." How do we ascertain fair and reasonable if we don't actually know what it is, the cost of him acquiring it?

MR. OKAMOTO: We can do that.

<u>MR. NEY</u>: That seems like kind of prudent, because I mean we're just going—I'm not saying there's any dishonesty, but just to keep anyone who gives us bids a little bit accountable. To have that backup seems like it would be wise.

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Yes, Pono, question?

MR. KEKELA: Did you guys set a timeline as far as when you want to have these on hand for you to be able to utilize?

MR. TAKAMOTO: I believe the contractor requires a delivery within 180 days.

MR. KEKELA: My concern is that these guys just always require another extension. I know that in the past they've had problems with testing motors and pumps.

MR. NEY: And the shipping cost.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Thank you. Any other questions? Hearing none. All in favor of approving the motion?

<u>ACTION</u>: Motion was carried unanimously by voice vote (Ayes: 6 – Messrs. Bell, Brown, Kekela, Lee, Ney, and Chair Lopez).

B. MAINTENANCE BID NO. 2024-11, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE EOF WAIMEA TREATMENT PLANT HACH EQUIPMENT:

Chair Lopez asked if there was any testimony for this item. There being none, he continued with the agenda item.

This project generally consists of furnishing all transportation, labor, equipment, tools and consumable materials necessary to provide maintenance and repair services to various Hach equipment at the Department of Water Supply's Waimea Water Treatment Plant facility for a period beginning from the notice to proceed, through June 30, 2026.

Bids for this project were opened on September 12, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., and the following are the bid results:

| Bidder | Bid Amount | DWS Engineering Estimate |
|------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| No Bids Received | N/A | \$57,645.00 |

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>: No bids were received. Staff will seek alternative procurement pursuant to HAR 3-122-35 to procure the required services.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved for approval of the recommendation; seconded by Mr. Kekela.

CHR. LOPEZ: Any discussion?

MR. NEY: What's the Hach acronym for, or abbreviation?

MR. OKAMOTO: It's not an abbreviation. It's the company name.

MR. NEY: Oh, got it.

MR. OKAMOTO: It's a widely used equipment manufacturer for water quality testing equipment.

MR. NEY: Thanks.

CHR. LOPEZ: Thank you. Hearing none, motion approved.

<u>ACTION</u>: Motion was carried unanimously by voice vote (Ayes: 6 – Messrs. Bell, Brown, Kekela, Lee, Ney, and Chair Lopez).

C. DISCUSSION ON THE DISASTER RECOVERY/MITIGATION PLAN:

For discussion and possible action.

Chair Lopez asked if there was any testimony for this item. There being none, he continued with the agenda item.

CHR. LOPEZ: Is there any report for this item?

<u>MR. OKAMOTO</u>: Yes. So this was from back in May, you had made some mention about certain cyber security incidents and things like that and wanted an update from the department on this topic. Kawika will share.

MR. UYEHARA: Yes, I'll provide a brief update report, and I'm going to keep it general just because some of the topics that are sensitive, some are confidential because they apply to our operations internally and how we respond to things. But basically yes, we do have an Emergency Response Plan

that was finalized a couple of years ago. It's pretty detailed; it goes into summarizing our systems and customers who we serve, and it even goes into a list of high-risk threats that we could be faced with, whether it's natural, like hurricanes or tsunamis, earthquakes, wildfires, or others like terrorism, or cyber security. Even goes into power outages or pandemics. This response plan is pretty comprehensive. It details those threats and pre-event, post-event activities before even in response, so I think your question was particularly in response. So yes, we do have this overall response plan.

We also have our Continuity of Operations Plan, which goes into order of succession, delegation of authority in case something was to happen. So those are kind of like bigger general plans. And we go to event specific, like we have an Emergency Response Plan for our Waikōloa Reservoirs. We're working on our internal protocols for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). On the IT (Information Technology) side, our staff has been doing a bunch of training recently on cyber security, Incident Triage and Response, so we're working with the Department of Homeland Security and the Cyber Security Infrastructure Agency (CISA), but they had a lot of training recently on how to posture yourself as a utility.

So yes, kind of in a nutshell, that's kind of what—there's probably other response plans that I'm not mentioning right now. But again, I just wanted to inform the Board and others that yes, we do actively draft these plans and keep them updated for the threats out there, so we can be as best prepared as possible, for an event and afterward.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: This emanated from two different areas in my mind, one was a utility company had a security breach, and probably in other areas they control water delivery through computer systems. I don't believe we have that situation, right?

MR. OKAMOTO: No.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: How about internally? The security of customer information, you are on top of that?

MR. UYEHARA: Yes.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: And your IT team is going through training, so could we expect improved disaster recovery procedures to address that in the future?

MR. UYEHARA: Yes, I mean we are doing training, but we also have processes and protocols in place in the event something happens, as far as we do backups of full-server backups.

MR. OKAMOTO: Daily.

MR. UYEHARA: And then daily is when we do changes on the files. But every week, everything is backed up, and right now it's on site, but eventually I think the concept is to also have it backed up on the Cloud.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: So you have daily backups on a change basis when information is changed that day, and you have weekly backups of the entire system, the server. How deep are your backups? Are they grandfathered? Son, father, grandfather?

MR. UYEHARA: Probably.

MS. HOWELLS: You're talking months, like how far back? About three months.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Three months. So in the worst possible disaster, you can go back, and assuming you had the three-month backup, which would mean catching up from three months back?

MS. HOWELLS: Yes.

CHR. LOPEZ: Okay, that's good. Are these backups kept offsite?

MS. HOWELLS: Right now, no. They are currently onsite.

CHR. LOPEZ: Are they kept in a fireproof safe place?

MR. UYEHARA: Yeah, part of the work is to get it Cloud-based.

MS. HOWELLS: Yeah.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: But you're not there yet.

MR. UYEHARA: We're working on the equipment.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: So there is an opening for security on that aspect, until you get data offsite, whether it's Cloud, or offsite, or whatever, so that's an opening. How about in the case of a natural disaster: earthquake, tsunami, what have you, obviously we went through some of this with the 2006 earthquake. If water systems are down, whether it's power, whether it's damage from an earthquake, how do you respond to those, what's your overall plan to recover? Is that private information?

MR. UYEHARA: No, that's a good question.

MR. OKAMOTO: I'll start, and then everybody can add it. As we all know, we've been through multiple, right, and we have natural disasters that no other county in the State has, typically earthquakes and actual lava inundation, so we've gone through it all. Besides that, the common one is hurricanes. Well, you don't even need a hurricane, right? You can have a tropical depression that sits over you for a while, floods the whole region or knocks out power for an extended period of time.

Like every other incident, Civil Defense is the quarterback. We all huddle at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). We have typical protocols in advance. If we have advance warning, we try to—for example, a hurricane coming, we try to top off our tanks, make sure our generator sets, and we know where they all are.

During an event, none of our personnel are going to go out, right, for safety reasons. Once the "all clear" is made, it's safe to go out. Our guys are out there, typically us and HELCO usually out there, when things are still kind of gnarly; and then we're working with Public Works on access, typically, to various facilities. So, that's a typical response for systems that we already have.

Now, in future planning, we're also looking at being better resilient-wise to put in infrastructure to help us weather that storm a little better, and some of that includes, for a while now, our water storage tanks have been designed differently to handle the seismic activity that we have on the island. Wherever we can, we try to put redundant systems, like loop systems versus a single line, dead-end system, so that should an earthquake or whatever incident sever a line, or even the regular normal main break, if you just have a single dead-end line, everybody downstream of that break is going to be out of service until that repair; but now if you have a loop system, you can isolate that break and feed it from the other side, so those are things we're trying to do better.

Warren again, continually—we're adding to our generator inventory and increasing our ability to plug and play with the transfer switches. I think that's about all that I can think of at this point. But anybody have any—?

CHR. LOPEZ: In summary, you have some areas that you are working on?

MR. OKAMOTO: Oh, yes.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: In the case of a high-water tsunami, and I understand that some utilities/municipalities are protecting themselves from seawater intrusion or high water, with the water supply wells, and the other is sewage systems at sea level. Do we have anything like that? I mean not the sewage, but do we have any wells that may be inundated?

MR. OKAMOTO: Fortunately, all our sources are outside of the inundation zone, but we do have infrastructure like water mains and services that are. So, we have pre-identified certain valve locations; should that incident pose a threat, we'll have our guys kind of pre-position, ready to shut off those valves in case that incident comes. Those valves are of course outside of the inundation area.

<u>MR. UYEHARA</u>: we have some smaller water systems on the island that have a single source, so annually we, or maybe every two years, put out bids for water hauling. So in the event there's a natural disaster or if some equipment failure, we are ready to haul water just to keep the minimum amount of water to customers.

CHR. LOPEZ: Okay, so you activate certain outlets, where the water haulers can fill.

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: And the last one I thought of, Maui Fire is part of it, where one of the big scandals was there wasn't enough pressure for the firemen to put out fires. How do we deal with something like that, or is that an issue?

MR. OKAMOTO: For a situation like Maui, and we all kind of knew this intuitively, but Maui actually had an engineering consultant just verify what we felt we already knew. In a situation like that, with a whole community or town with structures being destroyed, every single service lateral is now a point of leakage. Even if you had an infinite supply, so that's what their evaluation did, even if they had an infinite supply on the production side, with all those leak points the system would not have been able to sustain pressure, regardless. With an inferno like that, actually the firemen had to evacuate themselves, so they wouldn't be in that area fighting fires.

We're trying to learn from them as much as we can, and I think the bottom line is awareness and preparation as much as possible beyond outside. Everybody needs to be part of the solution I think, is what we're hearing from the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization as well as the Fire Departments. Long story short, that situation as well as lava is one of those that is really hard to mitigate infrastructure-wise.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: For me to summarize, you've got plans for things that you're aware of and can control. You've got some areas for continued improvement. You've got maybe a hole here and there that you're aware of, and in case of a natural disaster of a magnitude we're talking about, it's all hands-on deck, and we did the best we could and figure out how we dealt with it in past because you can't plan for every single event.

MR. OKAMOTO: That's about a good of a summary as—

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: In my mind, you're on it, a backup generator, parts for our wells, certain wells are available. We're seeing that through this procurement process. That's a long way from where we were, when we had 11 wells down. Thank you. Any other questions, discussion? Just me, okay.

MR. OKAMOTO: Thank you for bringing that up. At least we could share with the public.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: My motivation comes from not only what I see and read, but also, it's the citizens in my community, as you know there's a group on top of some of these things, who would like to know these things. Any other questions?

MR. OKAMOTO: Thank you.

D. DISCUSSION ON FUTURE WATER SYSTEM SITE VISITS:

For discussion and possible action.

Chair Lopez asked if there was any testimony for this item. There being none, he continued with the agenda item.

MR. OKAMOTO: This is one thing that we wanted to bring up because I think there was interest. I think Chair actually reminded us.

The two sites that we typically taken the Board to have been our Kahalu'u Shaft in Kona and our Waimea Water Treatment Plant, so if there is interest for those again, we can schedule those. I think Greg had another great idea for one just north of Hilo.

MR. GOODALE: Yes, one of the sites that I think doesn't get seen that often is one of our spring sources, which is up in Hakalau. It's one of our spring sources that kind of got redone more than 10 years ago.

MR. OKAMOTO: Probably more than that.

MR. GOODALE: But anyway, it's just one of those sites. It's a little bit unique, different than like a normal well site, where you've got pumping equipment. This is more of a spring source.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: It's just water emanating from the ground.

MR. GOODALE: It's still a groundwater source.

MR. OKAMOTO: The one thing about spring sources that are awesome is if you find a real good one, you don't have to use electricity to get it to the surface. But the main thing is you capture it in a way that satisfies the Department of Health and EPA requirements so that it doesn't have external influence that could contaminate it. That was a significant project for us because we definitely didn't want to lose that source, but we had to upgrade that intake box to meet those requirements.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: My interest would be seeing the spring and seeing the way you capture and seeing where you separate the sediment and what you do with it after. Is that part of this site?

MR. OKAMOTO: That's part of it too, yes. Let's go to someplace really interesting January 2025.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: It's really up to the Department of what they think is the best but, Board members, if you have a particular interest—I've been down the Keauhou site, and it's awesome. You're amazed when you're way down there. The other one is very good to know, how water is caught and treated. You could see it in its darkest form, and you could see it in its clean form. That's amazing.

MR. OKAMOTO: Right, right.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: So if you haven't been to those, I would suggest all three over time. Please let your interest be known so that they know what to set up for us, and that would be just in a meeting, let them know. Let Nora know, so she can give the feedback to us. At present, with members here, is there anybody who wants to express interest in any one or three of those? I vote for all of them.

MR. LEE: I would vote for all of them.

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay. Because wells have been a topic, I don't—have you guys gone to one of our well sites? You know, just to see the magnitude of what goes into all these well repairs and things like that, and the control building.

CHR. LOPEZ: Other than what we saw down the bottom of the shaft.

MR. OKAMOTO: Maybe we'll get you to one that's under repair, and you can see how big that pump is, or even if it's lying on the ground.

MR. INABA: Just the pump column.

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes, just the number of columns and the size of the pump.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: That would be impressive. So I think from what we've heard, just leave it to the department to schedule based on availability. All four are of interest to the board.

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay, sounds good.

CHR. LOPEZ: Would be good to get one this year.

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay, we'll try to figure out something. Just for the Board's awareness, what we'll typically do is try to have a Board meeting like this, and then go to the site visit right after. But once we get to the site, it's still part of the meeting, it's still a public meeting. So stick together, and don't everybody drift apart because Nora's going to still have to record everybody. But anyway, we'll figure it out. If we can schedule something this year, we'll definitely do that.

E. DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY COLLECTION AND DELINQUENCY POLICIES:

Chair Lopez asked if there was any testimony for this item. There being none, he continued with the agenda item.

Information will be provided to the Board on status updates on collection efforts due to delinquent balances for water service charges with information on current policies and procedures in place for collection and water shut offs. Discussion will follow along with any recommendations that should be considered for future action.

CHR. LOPEZ: Any report from the department?

MR. OKAMOTO: We do have something to share.

MS. GRAY: You should have received two handouts. The second handout is just a copy of the flow chart that you folks have seen before, just for your reference. The report that I provided is just an update and summary.

Our main concern for this delinquency is the delinquencies in the greater than 90-day category. When we started this conversation, and it became a topic on the Board agenda, the total delinquency amount was over \$1 million. I'm just going to reference the tables in the first handout. The first table I included shows the amounts reported for 2024, and you can see that the delinquency amounts have decreased, although there is a fluctuation from month to month, but it has decreased down to the \$800,000 as of August 2024.

In the next section, I have another table there that includes a breakdown of that \$884,000 delinquency amount in the greater than 90-day category. You can see that 56% of that includes 199 accounts, which is only 10% of the total accounts that have a delinquency in this greater than 90-day category. So the total number of accounts that fall into this greater than 90-day category is about 2,060 accounts, which is a small percentage of the total of our customer base. Our customers include about 45,000 accounts. I just wanted to illustrate that so you can see as far as the amounts in the number of accounts in relation to our total customer base.

The third table that I have on page 2, shows a breakdown of the accounts in the greater than the 90-day category, with delinquency balances \$1,000 or more. As you can see, I have columns labeled AA, CC, LK, PP, and SO, that relates to how the accounts are currently being handled. In regard to AA and CC column labels, those are the accounts that are currently being handled by our third-party collectors, and the columns labeled LK and PP, those accounts already have payment plans with the customers. The column labeled SO, those accounts are currently in the shut off process. So they are currently being handled as far as collection efforts. The next section, I referenced our water shut off and collection process, which is related to the second handout; you've already seen that in previous Board meetings.

In page 3, I provided the report of disconnections for 2024, for each month, from January through September, and there's been a total of 2221 disconnections so far in 2024. In the next section, I referenced the Rules and Regulations that we rely on, as far as how to manage our bill payments and processes. In the last section, I also provided some possible proposed changes. These suggestions were in coordination with discussion from staff, Collection staff, Customer Service, as well as review of the data, the information that I provided, and of our current processes. I guess I can read through it. No need?

CHR. LOPEZ: I don't think you need to.

MS. GRAY: Okay. I did identify two of proposed changes that would require Board approval.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Say that again, you require what?

MS. GRAY: I guess Board approval, or a discussion.

CHR. LOPEZ: That would require Board approval?

MS. GRAY: Yes.

MR. OKAMOTO: Yeah, if we decide to modify or revise our existing Rules and Regulations, we will have to take it for action at the Board.

CHR. LOPEZ: Okay, thank you.

MR. NEY: Mr. Chair? It's probably going to be an appropriate time because I have the draft of the—

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: No, inappropriate. This is their presentation. It has nothing to do with PIG. Thank you. Sorry. We can't discuss the PIG.

MR. NEY: Because I asked this to be agendized for this meeting.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: The way to agendize for a meeting is to request of the Chair and the secretary to get on the agenda, never saw it. It cannot be—we were very clear on the rules for the PIG. You were to submit your report, and it's discussed for the next meeting.

MR. NEY: Does the PIG got to be reviewed for 30 days, Keith, because that wasn't clarified to me?

MR. OKAMOTO: As far as the PIG report—

CHR. LOPEZ: Corp. Counsel.

MS. CAMPBELL: So if you formed the PIG, and the PIG—you probably already know this though, but sometimes you want me to repeat it all for you anyways. The Permitted Action Group is a three-meeting process. At the very first meeting, you will determine that you want to form a PIG. You will them a task, so you articulate what it is the job they're going to go out and do, and you identify the members of that group. Then they go out and do their work, and it could take them as long as it takes them. Once they've completed all their work—and they do only get to come back and report once, there's not like an update along the way kind of process. So once the PIG is either done or going to be disbanded because they're not going to finish, they will come back at the second meeting and make a report, and at that meeting there could be no discussion among the Board members about the report. That has to wait for a third meeting, where the members of the public and the Board have all had a chance to receive the information in the report, and then discuss things at that third meeting.

So it sounds like, if I am understanding this correctly, that the PIG has gone out and done the work, and you have the report.

CHR. LOPEZ: Submitted today.

MS. CAMPBELL: Submitted today, okay. Because it's not actually an agenda item, the PIG can't make its report to the group. So what I'm assuming will happen is probably at your next meeting, that the PIG report will be identified on your agenda, and at that meeting the PIG will be able to say, "Here's what we found," and talk about everything that's in your report; and then at the meeting after that, the whole Board will be able to discuss the contents of the report.

MR. NEY: Okay, so this was a little more loosely explained about just, hey, when you're ready to disband, you give a final report. Now, I guess I won't make a verbal request at the meeting if it's not going to get recorded, I mean does it have to be via email? I mean a request is a request.

MR. LEE: Well, can he discuss it during the discussion item?

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: No, he can't discuss it. This is the Final Report, so it's got wait till next meeting, to get agendized and discuss it.

MS. CAMPBELL: Yes.

CHR. LOPEZ: That's the third meeting that she just mentioned.

MR. LEE: Okay.

MR. OKAMOTO: I think maybe just to be safe, Ben, we'll take the minutes from this meeting, and we'll likely just put it on the agenda for October; but just to cover your bases as the Chair of the PIG to follow protocol, I would suggest you send an email to the Chair and copy Nora, specifically requesting.

MR. NEY: I can do that. Probably in the minutes that I made that request.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: It is, it is, and Keith said okay.

MR. NEY: Nora, there are a couple typographical, grammatical things.

CHR. LOPEZ: You're going off topic, excuse me. Get back on topic.

MS. CAMPBELL: Yes, can we get back on to where you are in your agenda.

CHR. LOPEZ: Thank you. We're back to Candace, discussing page 3.

MS. GRAY: As I mentioned earlier, I do have a list of proposed changes that you might want to further discuss or we could actually just implement internally, if that's what we'd like to do.

CHR. LOPEZ: So there are several, it goes on to page 4, there's probably more there. Eight ideas.

MS. GRAY: Yes.

MR. OKAMOTO: We apologize we didn't get this to you guys in advance of today's meeting, but if you folks want, you guys have it now in your hands and you can digest it; and if there's some specific task that you would like us to pursue, we can—because we'll have this on the agenda again, next meeting, as a kind of standing order agenda item, we can further discuss specifics from Candace's report that you'd like to either have us follow up on or expand on.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: We'll hear what you may have to say, but probably come into the discussion of this Final Report. I would say not to go on with possible PIG recommendations.

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: I have a question. So what do you attribute the decrease in outstanding collections for the eight months, 2024, if you could put your finger on it?

MS. GRAY: I would say it's a combination of write-offs, collections. We do have a lot of these accounts on payment plans as well as leak adjustments.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: I guess I was looking for, have you done anything internally to make this improvement or is this just the standard flow of your process?

MS. GRAY: As far as internally, I would say we are monitoring, especially the collections, more closely. Internally, we've also like I said started collecting the emails. Prior to this, we've been sending out communications, primarily by mail or phone calls, but we've added emails as part of communications.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: So you have done proactive things.

MS. GRAY: Definitely, yes.

CHR. LOPEZ: Okay. In the shut-off, I see you've shut off 3%, up on page 2.

MS. GRAY: Yes.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: What's the impact to you as the department in having to shut off somebody's water? Is it just shut it off and no issues, such as screaming, crying, or go get legal help, going somewhere else, or say, "You can't do that." Is there any such reaction?

MS. GRAY: There is a notification process prior to shut off, and I think the flow chart that I provided illustrates the timeline as far as from notification to the shut off. It is, I would say, it is several months, more than several months at times. A lot of times when we do go to shut off, the customers will pay on site, or they'll immediately call in to our office and then pay their fees.

CHR. LOPEZ: Making some arrangements. So that's helped in terms of this outstanding collections?

MS. GRAY: Yes.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: What I'm really looking for, is there any negative, somebody coming at you with a rubber-band gun or something and say, "You can't shut off my power, I'm going to do this or that?" Do you take any abuse?

MS. GRAY: I'd say definitely safety is a concern, but incidents are not frequent.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Okay, so there is some but not enough to really worry about?

MS. GRAY: Yes.

CHR. LOPEZ: Just wondering what responses you get when you shut off somebody's water.

MR. OKAMOTO: Typically, I think a lot of times it will be our field guys. As you know, the meter is here and the house is typically distant from the meter, and we'll shut it off at the meter. Our collection guy will try to see if that person wants to come up with something so that we don't have to. But they usually go out, and at least in a pair, right?

MS. GRAY: Yes, always.

CHR. LOPEZ: Do they knock on the door, or do they just go shut off?

MS. GRAY: I believe they do make an attempt to communicate.

MR. OKAMOTO: Don't we normally hang something, a notice saying shut off is imminent?

CHR. LOPEZ: Before you do it.

MR. OKAMOTO: Before we actually do it, yes.

CHR. LOPEZ: More worried about possible confrontation.

MR. OKAMOTO: Right. Appreciate that.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Of these possible proposed changes, I think you've already explained it. Then you would come back to the Board for several recommendations to change procedures or rules. Any other questions? Yes, Ben.

MR. NEY: Yes, thank you for this report because it provides a better idea. I was surprised how small the number for the accounts is to rack up this number. I think we've been a little too lenient in the past, to be honest, and kind of over-emphasizing being sensitive to turning people's water off, I get it, and we should have reasonable efforts to notify. But I'm to the point that it's very unfair to the paying customers who pay their bill on time, that keeps this department financially healthy and solvent to absorb the cost of someone who just doesn't want to pay their water bill. A lot of times these water bill costs accumulate a lot of times on the negligence of the property owner to be the negligence of the tenant, but I'm getting tired of kicking around this idea, "Oh, we got to (inaudible), we got the optics, and what are people going to say when we shut off their water?" I'm sorry if we're going to nip this problem in the bud, sometimes you've got to come down with the axe. This has just been deferred and pushed back so far. Since I got on the Board, no progress has been made towards this.

CHR. LOPEZ: Ben, you're going off-topic. You should be addressing agenda items.

<u>MR. NEY</u>: I guess my question to you is, how are we going to set a target date to make some real changes and not keep things just status quo here because status quo doesn't fix the problem? So that's my question I guess I present.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Any other question, discussion? Thank you, Candace. It's a good time to get updated information.

MR. OKAMOTO: Thanks, Candace.

MR. NEY: Thanks, Candace.

F. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT:

Chair Lopez asked if there was any testimony for this item. There being none, he continued with the agenda item.

Submission of Progress Report of Projects by the Department. Department personnel will be available to respond to questions by the Board regarding the status/progress of any project.

MR. INABA: Just kind of letting you folks know, we just started the paving for the Puakō project, so that one is getting close to being completed.

For Lālāmilo, I know last month I said we would get the completion date. We just got the schedule; we have to review it to make sure, so we'll provide that update. We wanted to note the contractor was able to get back on site on August 5th. I failed to mention at last month's meeting also, part of the delays which were reported in previous meetings but were part of the UXO efforts to clear the site, so that one was finally cleared, and the contractor was finally able to get on-site in August.

I also wanted to mention that our two Kona well projects have been long delayed. We have started, or at least began, that Kapa'akai analysis, which is required for the well construction permit, so we're hoping to get some (inaudible) on it. It will take quite a bit of effort. I think we're anticipating at least a couple of months for that.

I do also want to make a correction on the Lead and Copper Rule Revision, well I want to make an adjustment to that. At the time we did this, we believe we were just about ready to submit our inventory to the Department of Health. We had a meeting with them and found we needed to do a few more inspections in our North Hilo Systems, so that is being done this week, we should be submitting all of the inventories next week, so we're still ahead of the October 16th deadline. Questions on that one?

CHR. LOPEZ: No, thank you.

MR. INABA: Today, there's a blessing for Highway 137 project. The contractor—well, it's in conjunction with Public Works, that project. Pohoiki, we still don't have a definite timeline, but it should be bidding out.

CHR. LOPEZ: So all of the issues of right-of-way and stuff got resolved? Don't know yet?

MR. OKAMOTO: Don't know yet.

CHR. LOPEZ: But you're proceeding with the blessing?

MR. INABA: So Highway 137, that one has been resolved. That one is okay. So that's as much as I would know.

CHR. LOPEZ: All right, thank you.

MR. OKAMOTO: Thanks, Kurt.

G. REVIEW OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Chair Lopez asked if there was any testimony for this item. There being none, he continued with the agenda item.

Submission of financial statements and information relating to the financial status of the Department. Department personnel will be available to respond to questions by the Board relating to the financial status of the Department.

(Note: At this time, Finance Controller Candace Gray came forward and provided a brief overview of the Financial Statements – August 2024, FY 2024-25.)

MS. GRAY: Do you have any questions?

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: I have a question, but it's not in today's report. I was looking at the minutes, and I just wondered, what is SBIT?

MS. GRAY: That relates to subscriptions for software, or subscriptions based—

CHR. LOPEZ: IT use assets?

MS. GRAY: Yes.

CHR. LOPEZ: Anything else, Candace?

MS. GRAY: No.

CHR. LOPEZ: Okay, thank you.

H. MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT:

The Manager-Chief Engineer to provide an update on the following:

1. North Kona Wells

MR. UYEHARA: Okay, for this month we're happy to report that Kalaoa well was repaired and put back in service, so kudos to Operations and the contractor that they pushed to get the well back online. As a result of that, we downgraded the restriction, Water Restriction Notice, to Voluntary Conservation, so the whole district, North Kona, is back on the Water Conservation Notice.

So we still have the four wells offline: Mākālei, Holualoa, Wai'aha, and Honokōhau. So for Mākālei, they're making the electrical connection this week, and anticipating doing some start-up testing. If that's successful. They probably got to pump and collect some water quality samples before we can reactivate the source or put the source back into our system.

Holualoa Well, we're working on the bid specs, as a standard repair project. Planning to solicit it on the end of the second quarter of this fiscal year.

Wai'aha Well, we're working on the—pumping assembly still in production, and that project completion has been extended to December 19 of this year; and then Honokōhau Well, unfortunately that one is going to get pushed out till mid-February of 2025, estimated at this point. There are a couple of things that are happening. So one, we mentioned the several months, there's still some material down in the hole that has to get extracted. The contractor has the materials for our fishing tool, they're starting to fabricate that. So we're working to get on schedule for that fabrication on that equipment. So, that's going to have to be done.

But what also happened over the last maybe month-in-a-half, Waimea Well, the South Kohala system up north, went down. We tried to repair that one. I'll touch upon in our Emergency Procurement report, the next agenda item too. But we tried to repair Waimea Well, it wasn't successful in our first go-around. So because Honokōhau Well's pump and motor and Waimea's pump and motor are kind of similar, right now the plan is we're going to use the

pump, motor, seal, power cable from Honokōhau and use it up at the Waimea Well repair, but that now means we'd have to get another replacement equipment for Honokōhau. So that is why that schedule is being pushed at this point out till February of 2025-ish. Questions?

So again, the North Kona system, we still have the four wells down, but it's back on the Water Conservation.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: I think it was in the last meeting, weren't we down in Kona three wells?

MR. UYEHARA: No, we were up at five.

CHR. LOPEZ: Okay, thank you.

2. Report on Emergency Procurement for FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 (1st quarter)

MR. OKAMOTO: This spreadsheet, we wanted to provide the Board with a report of our Emergency Procurement during Fiscal Year 2024. Here's a summary, and as you can see here, typically well repair projects. So if you have any questions, ask Eric and Greg, they're ready. Like Kawika said, some of it has been included is the recent Waimea Well repair. If you have any questions, fire away.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: I noticed while I was gone, public relations sent out a message about 25 percent water reduction.

MR. UYEHARA: That was for North Kona. Before it went down, we put it on the water restrictions.

CHR. LOPEZ: And then subsequently it was lifted.

MR. UYEHARA: Correct.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Those broadcast, do they get out to the public? I mean people out there affected, they know about it, but I don't remember seeing anything in the newspaper about it. I could be wrong.

MR. UYEHARA: I can double-check, but I know that one went on Big Island Now, the local media.

CHR. LOPEZ: So it does get out to the public. It's not just internal, Jason Armstrong.

MR. UYEHARA: North Kona, we used the message board again, I think this past situation, right?

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes.

MR. UYEHARA: I think folks in the area, there's a visual from the upper road.

MR. OKAMOTO: So when we put out Conservation and Restriction notices, we have an email blast distribution list that includes everybody, whoever wants to be on it, but it also includes the radio stations, who else?

MR. UYEHARA: Radio, the TV stations, some media to pick it up; in the newspaper, Tribune Herald.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Is it something that doesn't get out, Civil Defense, or Nixle?

MR. UYEHARA: No, we don't normally. We send it to Civil Defense, but we don't ask them to use their messaging? system.

CHR. LOPEZ: Okay, thank you. Questions?

MR. NEY: Yes, this Emergency Procurement is just the timeframe of the month of August, is that correct?

MR. UYEHARA: I think at the top we have Fiscal Year 2024-2025, so that's the procurements we've done so far, this fiscal. Then the second—complete 11x17, we have Fiscal 2023-2024, so during that fiscal year, this is the compilation of Emergency Procurement for the whole year.

MR. NEY: Oh, okay. The Notice to Proceed date signifies what?

MR. UYEHARA: we put out a Request for Quote, and once we get a bidder that has price and timeframe that's evaluated, then we'll give, "NTP," your Notice to Proceed, you have 14 days now from that date.

MR. NEY: Are all those consolidated, then you guys send out a Notice to Proceed? Because they all fall within a kind of —

MR. UYEHARA: It's all unique to the contractor.

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes, unique to the project and the contractor

MR. NEY: Oh, okay. Because just in case of our spaced-out dates, that's all I'm trying to say.

MR. OKAMOTO: When the incidents occur and we have to do the Emergency Procurement. Although Emergency Procurement would allow us just to go, hey, we pick one guy and we work out something with them, we typically just to be fiscally responsible, we try to get some quotes, and then we still process a contract so that there's terms and conditions to the work.

MR. NEY: Okay.

MR. OKAMOTO: Including a Notice to Proceed and a completion date.

MR. NEY: Okay, thanks.

MR. KEKELA: Any of these projects complete?

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes, most of them. Any one not complete yet? 2024-08 is done, the leak repair, and it wasn't that cost. The stock chemicals is not complete yet.

MR. KEKELA: I just wanted to see how effective Emergency Procurement was for the last couple of years.

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes, we don't use that lightly, really because there's the potential to affect the health and safety of our customers, and not having water typically affects their health and safety. Not having safe water is—

MR. KEKELA: Can be worse. Thank you.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: I have a question, oriented towards North Kona wells. I noticed that there is a—I need to notarize a document today regarding Dan Bolten's well proposal. Did that come before the Board earlier?

MR. OKAMOTO: Yes, that was that Agreement—Wai'aha.

CHR. LOPEZ: So is that in the well property that's been dormant for so long, or is this a different well?

MR. INABA: Different. It's a developer proposed well. It's an Agreement to agree. It's kind of a Memorandum of Agreement.

CHR. LOPEZ: This has nothing to do with that well.

MR. INABA: Yeah, sorry.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: That's all right. It does have a TMK number. So there was an Agreement many years ago when that subdivision was approved. All right, are you done?

MR. OKAMOTO: I am done. Yes, sir.

I. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

- 1. Chairperson to report on matters of interest to the Board
- 2. 2025 Water Board Schedule

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: The Water Board Schedule, for the first time in my tenure on the Board I saw a schedule of next year's meetings, the earliest I've ever seen, but it is tentative. As discussed in the last two meetings, at least you were made aware that I was working with Kona side, to schedule the conference room over there, and I was successful in doing that, and I just actually got the misinformation yesterday afternoon. They entertain to the various commission secretaries what is your request for next year? They do that about July, but they don't actually have calendars until September, and on the Hilo side they still don't have the calendars.

I had a discussion with Barbara Kossow yesterday, and we do have scheduled the Kona Conference Room every other month beginning January.

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: Same time, same place. I just wanted to make you aware that I think for public parity in participation.

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: And then we can vote on it in a future meeting.

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay.

CHR. LOPEZ: But the room is reserved already.

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Chair, okay so it will be alternating, it will be different than this?

CHR. LOPEZ: Yes.

MR. BROWN: Like if the first one is in January—

CHR. LOPEZ: No, Kona.

MR. BROWN: Oh, Kona. Then Hilo in February, Kona in March?

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: The purpose for that is to provide parity across the county. But it wasn't on paper, I just wanted to let you know that I did secure that, and I'll work with Nora to produce a new proposal to work with.

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay, sounds good.

<u>CHR. LOPEZ</u>: I was thinking about the things we've accomplished this term and recall IT giving us keyword searches to the minutes and attachments, and some of you had a chance to use that, I have.

Also, the department's action to have the Zoom meeting on site, which have gone without a hiccup, which some of our members have taken advantage of that. So we have had some wins, and I'm more than happy to see those things happen, as a matter of the Board and how it comes together in a better fashion, and gets done early. So with that, I'll close the meeting.

8) ANNOUNCEMENTS:

• Next Meeting – October 22, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Department of Water Supply, Hilo Operations Baseyard, 889 Leilani Street, Hilo, Hawai'i.

9) ADJOURNMENT:

CHR. LOPEZ: For the minutes, I entertain a motion to adjourn? All in favor say "aye."

<u>ACTION</u>: Mr. Ney moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Kekela and carried unanimously by voice vote: (Ayes: 6 – Messrs. Bell, Brown, Kekela, Lee, Ney, Chairperson Lopez).

CHR. LOPEZ: We're done. Thank you.

(Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.)

Recording Secretary

APPROVED BY WATER BOARD (October 22, 2024)