



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON

For immediate release: April 2, 2009

WATER COMMISSION SETS APRIL 30, 2009, DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR EXISTING SURFACE WATER USE PERMITS IN MAUI'S 'NA WAI EHA'

HONOLULU -- The Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) is reminding all existing users of surface water in the Na Wai Eha Surface Water Management Areas on Maui that April 30, 2009, is the deadline to apply for a surface water use permit if they wish to continue using that surface water.

The Na Wai Eha Surface Management Areas include the Waihe'e, Waiehu, Iao and Waikapu Streams in central Maui. If existing users fail to apply by the April 30, 2009, deadline, they will be required to apply for a surface water use permit as a new user and will be subject to the availability of surface water as determined by existing surface water use permits and the amount of water flowing in the streams (interim instream flow standards for Na Wai Eha).

The Commission designated Na Wai Eha in the Wailuku District of Maui, as Surface Water Management Areas, because serious disputes were occurring over the use of surface water resources in Na Wai Eha. The designation was made on March 13, 2008, after research and investigations, consultation with county officials, and public hearings and public notices on March 28, April 4, and 11, 2007.

No one can withdraw, divert, impound, or use surface water in a water management area without first obtaining a water use permit from the Commission. The Commission does not require water use permits for domestic consumption by individual users, users on Maui Department of Water Supply system, and users of rain catchment systems.

On June 19, 2008, the Commission mailed the first notice to existing surface water users who had declared their uses and/or registered their stream diversions with the Commission and to users who obtained stream diversion works permits from the Commission, to apply for water use permits to continue their existing uses. On March 5, 2009, the Commission mailed a second notice to existing users to apply for the water use permit by the April 30, 2009, deadline.

(more)

“The Commission strongly recommends that all existing surface water users apply for a surface water use permit before the April 30th deadline if they wish to continue their surface water uses. Failure to apply by the April 30th deadline creates an assumption of abandonment of the surface water use. In order to revive the use, the user must apply for a permit as a proposed new use,” said Ken Kawahara, Water Commission deputy director.

Applications for surface water use permits are available at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commission on Water Resource Management, Kalanimoku Building, Room 227, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813, or may be downloaded from the Commission’s website at: http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrm/resources_permits.htm.

For information on surface water use permit applications, please call the Commission’s Stream Protection and Management Branch at (808) 587-0234, or toll-free from Maui at 984-2400 extension 70234.

###

For more information news media may contact:
Deborah Ward
DLNR Public information specialist
Phone: (808) 587-0320