

Status Report on Reducing and/or Continuing the Use of  
Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL)  
Public Hearing  
January 18, 2011  
5:00 p.m.  
City Hall, 530 South King Street,  
Room 301, Mayor's Conference Room

Presentation

1. Opening and Welcome

Notice of this public hearing was published in the Honolulu Star Advertiser on January 4, 2011 and on the City's Refuse Division website, [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org)

This public hearing is being held to comply with Conditions 15 and 16 of the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission's FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND DECISION AND ORDER WITH MODIFICATIONS, certified on October 22, 2009, in Docket No. SP09-403 (the LUC Order), which states:

"15. The Honolulu City Council through the City Administration shall report to the public every three months on the efforts of the City Council and the City Administration in regard to the continued use of the WGSL, including any funding arrangements that are being considered by the City Council and the City Administration."

"16. The City Council and the City Administration shall have a public hearing every three months to report on the status of their efforts to either reduce or continue the use of the WGSL."

The complete LUC Order is available at the State Land Use Commission website: [http://luc.state.hi.us/co\\_sphonolulu.htm](http://luc.state.hi.us/co_sphonolulu.htm)

The following report covers developments during the last calendar quarter regarding the matters set forth in Conditions 15 and 16 of the LUC Order.

2. Progress Toward Another Landfill Site

A. Condition 14 of the LUC Order states:

"On or before November 1, 2010, the Applicant shall begin to identify and develop one or more new landfill sites that shall either replace or supplement the WGSL."

The Mayor's Advisory Landfill Site Selection Committee will have its first meeting on January 20, 2011.

- B. The following tonnage chart includes municipal solid waste (MSW), H-POWER ash and residue delivered to WGSL during the last three months. There was an H-POWER maintenance diversion during the month of November, resulting in an increased amount of MSW delivered to WGSL.

October 2010	28,285 tons
November 2010	35,223 tons
December 2010	25,054 tons

3. Recent Discharge of MSW into Ocean

In December 2010, heavy rainfall and at least 2 large storm events caused WGSL to become inundated with flood waters from upstream of the landfill. The Palehua rain gauge is located just to the north of WGSL. Specifically, on December 19, 2010, the Palehua Rain gauge preliminarily showed that the area above WGSL received about 7.9 inches of rain in 13 hours. On December 27, 2010, the Palehua Rain gauge showed that the area above WGSL received an additional 3.9 inches of rain in 4 hours. On the night of January 12, 2001, there was a discharge of MSW, which included a very small amount of sterilized medical waste. On that night, the Palehua Rain gauge showed that the area above the landfill received another 10.7 inches in 24 hours (and 7.6 inches in 6 hours).

Further details about how this event occurred, what remedial actions were taken and additional remedies to prevent another occurrence will be addressed at the next meeting.

WMH received two written complaints from the Coconut Plantation and the KoOlina Home Owners Association concerning potential stormwater damage associated with the storms striking the area in late December. The December storms generated extraordinary storm flows that caused at least one landslide along Farrington Highway in the vicinity of Ko Olina and flooding in parts of the Ko Olina Golf Course.

Preliminary investigations by ENV have determined that the flooding in the Ko Olina area was limited to a relatively large ponding of water in the golf course, which left the affected areas laden with sediment and muddy conditions. There have been no reports of other damages to residents in the golf course area.

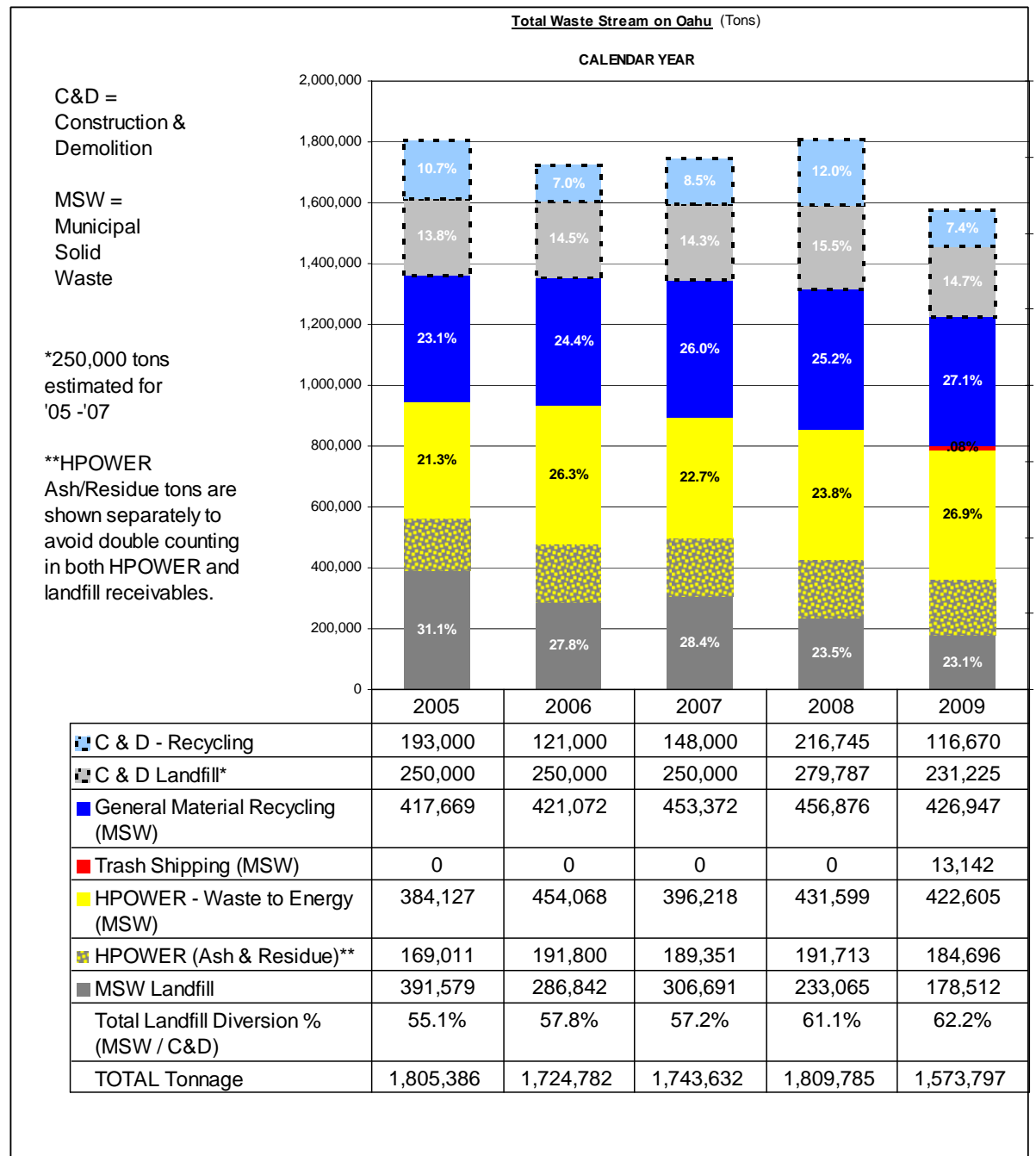
4. Progress Report on Diversion

- A. The construction of the H-POWER expansion project is 35% completed and is on schedule.
- B. Interim Off-Island Shipping of MSW

No waste was ever shipped to the mainland due to various problems encountered by HWS, the bidder awarded the contract to ship waste to

the mainland. As of January 2011, of the 20,000 tons of MSW stored at the HWS facility, approximately 11,000 tons had been taken to H-POWER and 140 tons had been taken to WGSL. On January 6, 2011, there was a fire at the HWS facility that damaged the building in which the waste bales were disassembled. Because HWS' solid waste permit requires the waste to be processed under cover, without the use of the building, HWS' breaking apart and sorting of the waste for disposal at H-POWER and WGSL had to be suspended. HWS is currently exploring whether it will be able to rebuild its facility. In the meantime, HWS still has approximately 8,000 tons of baled waste stored at its facility.

### C. Materials Recycling and Landfill Diversion



The most recent data available is for calendar year 2009. Although waste tracking to landfill and H-POWER is managed every month by ENV, recycling data is provided by commercial recycling companies which are surveyed annually. Recycling data for 2010 is currently being gathered.

The data in the chart above shows how Oahu's waste has been diverted from landfill through recycling and waste-to-energy. The general trend shows annual increases in recycling and waste-to-energy rates, and decreases in landfill disposal. In comparing the most recent years, 2008 and 2009, note that overall waste generation decreased significantly, likely due to the down-turn in the economy. Total waste generation dropped from 1.8 million tons in 2008 to 1.575 million tons in 2009. Although recycling tonnages decreased, the recycling rate, or percentage of the total waste stream, increased from 25% in 2008 to 27% in 2009 for general material recycling (not including C&D recycling). And the total landfill diversion rate continued to increase from 57% in 2006/2007 to 61% in 2008 and 62% in 2009. (National average is 44-46%)

The tables below provide detail of what was recycled per year and by material type. Note the upward trend of general material recycling from approximately 75,000 tons in 1988 to well over 400,000 tons today. Recycling of construction and demolition materials, such as concrete, rock and asphalt, has added between 100,000 and 200,000 tons to the recycling rates. These C&D recycling rates tend to fluctuate based on the volume and type of construction projects undertaken from year to year. C&D material is diverted from the WGS� to the private PVT landfill for disposal.

Year	General Material Recycling	C&D Recycling	Total Recycled
2009	426,947	116,670	543,617
	456,876	216,745	673,621
2007	453,282	148,952	602,234
2006	421,072	121,675	542,747
2005	417,669		611,498
2004	386,338		560,254
2003	366,639	106,773	473,412
2002	352,699	139,055	491,754
2001	367,300	114,070	481,370
2000	327,710	165,000	492,710
1999	314,075	225,200	539,275
	318,690	148,800	467,490
	313,394	204,400	517,794
	299,574	95,300	394,874
1995	294,340	44,400	338,740
1994	290,412	35,700	326,112
1993	241,600		271,600
1991	167,152	0	167,152
1988	73,992	0	73,992

**Oahu Recycling 2009**

<b>Material Type</b>	<b>Amount in tons</b>
<b>PAPER</b>	
Corrugated Cardboard	41,945
Newspaper	15,053
Office Paper	14,224
Other Paper	1,043
<b>METALS</b>	
Ferrous (includes autos)	152,377
Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum)	13,626
<b>GLASS</b>	21,306
<b>PLASTIC</b>	4,876
<b>TIRES</b>	10,277
<b>AUTO BATTERIES</b>	5,929
<b>ELECTRONIC SCRAP</b>	664
<b>GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)</b>	87,907
<b>WOOD WASTE/PALLETS</b>	16,185
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt)</b>	116,670
<b>FOOD WASTE</b>	25,736
<b>SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)</b>	-
<b>OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)</b>	15,777
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>543,617</b>

**Oahu Recycling 2008**

<b>Material Type</b>	<b>Amount in tons</b>
<b>PAPER</b>	
Corrugated Cardboard	34,249
Newspaper	13,905
Office Paper	13,301
Other Paper	1,124
<b>METALS</b>	
Ferrous (includes autos)	165,943
Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum)	23,656
<b>GLASS</b>	25,050
<b>PLASTIC</b>	4,704
<b>TIRES</b>	10,200
<b>AUTO BATTERIES</b>	6,327
<b>ELECTRONIC SCRAP</b>	1,123
<b>GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)</b>	95,941
<b>WOOD WASTE/PALLETS</b>	13,526
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt)</b>	216,745
<b>FOOD WASTE</b>	29,933
<b>SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)</b>	-
<b>OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)</b>	15,831
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>673,621</b>

The City's efforts to increase residential recycling have continued with the expansions of the islandwide curbside recycling program, community recycling bin program, condo recycling assistance programs and budget commitments to support these efforts.

ENV completed the final phase expansion of the 3-cart curbside recycling program into the Leeward communities in May, 2010. There are currently 160,000 homes participating in the program, and capturing material at a rate of 20,000 tons of mixed recyclables and 50,000 tons of green waste per year. Based on the pilot program evaluations, the City projected 28,000 tons of mixed recyclables and 46,000 tons of green waste per year for the islandwide program, a net gain of 53,000 tons per year over pre-curbside recycling program activity. The program is already exceeding expectations for green waste. Increased public experience with identifying and sorting recyclables should produce higher results for the mixed recyclables as the program matures.

The City has maintained approximately 100 Community Recycling Bin sites on Oahu. The community recycling bins provide convenient drop-off to areas not serviced by curbside collection, for residents living in condos, and for the host schools.

The City continues to promote condominium recycling through a program that reimburses condominium properties for costs associated with the start-up of a recycling program.

State law requiring manufacturers to provide take back programs for electronic waste went into effect January 1, 2010, and is administered by the State Department of Health (DOH). In general, the covered electronics included computers at the start in January 2010 and expand to include televisions in January 2011. DOH has indicated that they are allowing the manufacturers additional time to develop their programs and are also proposing amendments to the legislation that will more clearly specify the criteria and requirements for these programs. DOH expects to have collection data in April (due from manufacturers by March 31). DOH has indicated that it expects the programs and consumer convenience to evolve as the new program matures. City ENV will continue to work in collaboration with DOH and local ewaste recycling companies.

Public education regarding recycling is ongoing--distribution of brochures and print materials, opala.org website, WasteLine e-newsletter and annual events including Tour de Trash and Discover Recycling. In October 2009, ENV and Oceanic Time Warner Cable launched "Opalavision" on The Green Channel at Oceanic 332 and online at opala.org. Short stories about the City's recycling initiatives and programs are featured in 3-minute episodes that educate and entertain. New episodes are produced monthly. The format is

interactive, supporting 24/7 viewing of all episodes on demand. Coming up in April/May 2011, City ENV is sponsoring two educational shows for our youth – Honolulu Theatre for Youth production of “Where Do Things Go?” and a traveling show to local schools entitled “Sort It Out!” Both shows will include distribution of Opala IQ Books and educational materials to students and teachers.

D. Solid Waste Integrated Management Plan

Funds are available to initiate the next update of the plan.

5. City Council Resolutions and Bills

The following resolutions were transferred from the City Council Public Infrastructure Committee to the City Council Public Works and Sustainability Committee.

RESOLUTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
09-345	City administration immediately initiate site selection process for new landfill	Resolution deferred in committee 1/12/10 No change
09-346	City administration select new site to be used exclusively for disposal of H-POWER ash and residue	Resolution deferred in committee 1/12/10 No change
10-4	City auditor conduct an audit relating to delays in shipping City's municipal solid waste to mainland	Resolution deferred in committee 3/2/10 No change
10-146	City administration promote Freecycle Honolulu	Resolution deferred in committee 5/25/10
10-242	City administration conduct public education regarding proper disposal of bulky wastes	Resolution reported out of committee 10/5/10

The following bills were transferred from the City Council Public Infrastructure Committee to the City Council Public Works and Sustainability Committee.

BILL NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
76 (2009)	Waimanalo Gulch Landfill close no later than July 31, 2012	Bill deferred in committee 12/01/09
43 (2010)	Regulate use of non biodegradable plastic bags	Bill deferred in committee 8/31/10
44 (2010)	Require recycling or reuse of construction and demolition wastes	Bill deferred in committee 8/31/10
47 (2010)	Terminate recycling residue discount	Bill deferred in committee 10/5/10

All resolutions and bills, and video of Council meetings, can be found at the City website, [www.honolulu.gov](http://www.honolulu.gov)



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Public Comments:

Question: At the last meeting, I asked that you notify the Neighborhood Boards regarding these meetings.

Answer: Letter sent to Acting Neighborhood Board Executive Secretary on November 19, 2010 (attached). It is noted that many Boards recess in December.

Question: Why was the venue changed from Kapolei to downtown?

Answer: We were not getting very good attendance in Kapolei and since this is an Islandwide issue it was decided to move the meeting to downtown in an effort to garner more participation.

Question: Could you change the day of the meeting in the future as this is the same day that the Nanakuli Neighborhood Board holds its meetings.

Answer: We hold these public meetings toward the end of the month so that we have the maximum amount of information to share – we will look at changing meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

It was announced that the first meeting of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Solid Waste Landfill Siting would be held on January 20, 2011 in the Mayor’s Conference Room from 9AM to Noon. The meeting is public and all are invited to attend. It was also announced that there is a special Council Committee meeting regarding the landfill on Monday, January 24, 2011, at 9AM.

There being no further comments the meeting adjourned at 6:00.

Public attendees:

Cynthia Rezentes  
Lyla Fujimori, Honolulu Star Advertiser  
Bruce Asato, Honolulu Star Advertiser

City Attendees:

Department of Environmental Services

Timothy E. Steinberger, P.E., Director  
Manuel S. Lanuevo, P.E., Deputy Director  
Wilma Namumnart, P.E., Acting Chief Refuse Division  
Wayne Hamada, P.E., Disposal Engineer  
Suzanne Jones, Recycling Program Branch Chief  
Marcus Owens, Public Information Officer

Department of the Corporation Counsel

Gary Takeuchi, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Sharon Blanchard, Deputy Corporation Counsel

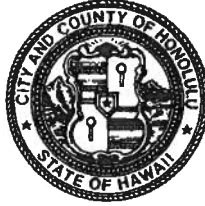
Other

Dee Dee Letts, Meeting Facilitator

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR



TIMOTHY E. STEINBERGER, P.E.  
ACTING DIRECTOR

MANUEL S. LANUEVO, P.E., LEED AP  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
RA 10-054

November 19, 2010

TO: BAYBEE HUFANA-ABLAN, ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION

FROM: TIMOTHY E. STEINBERGER, P.E., ACTING DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR  
WAIMANALO GULCH SANITARY LANDFILL (WGSL)

We have been asked to announce public information meeting notices for Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL) to all the neighborhood board meetings. Can you please distribute the attached notice to each of your chairpersons for action? Our next two meetings will be on January 18 and April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Meetings will start at 5:00 p.m. and are scheduled to end at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor's Conference Room on the third floor of City Hall is the location site.

For further information, please contact Wilma Namumnart, Acting Chief of the Refuse Division at 768-3406.

Attachment

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a public hearing to be held by the City and County of Honolulu:

PLACE: Honolulu Hale  
Mayor's Conference Room, Room 300  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96803

DATE: January 18, 2011  
TIME: 5:00 pm

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing notice will be published in the Star Advertiser at a later date.

1. Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL)  
Public Information Meeting

A public information hearing to report to the public on the efforts of the Department of Environmental Services regard to the continued use of the WGSL. This public hearing shall be in accordance with the terms of the ORDER ADOPTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU PLANNING COMMISSION'S FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND DECISION AND ORDER WITH MODIFICATIONS certified on October 22, 2009, by the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission in Docket No. SP09-403, in The Matter of the Application Of The DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, For a New Special Use Permit to Supercede Existing Special Use Permit To Allow A 92.5-Acre Expansion and Time Extension for Waimanalo Gulch, O'ahu, Hawai'i, Tax Map Key: 9-2-03:72 And 73.

All interested persons shall be afforded the opportunity of being heard.

Information regarding this public hearing can be obtained by contacting the Department of Environmental Services, Refuse Division, 1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 212, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707, telephone 768-3401. Special services for people with disabilities will be provided upon prior request.