

OPSD Exhibit C

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Lt. Governor



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Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

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March 13, 2026



Mr. Finn Gibson  
Analyst  
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Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
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Subject: Request to Amend County Special Use Permit and State Special Permit for Proposed Hawaiian Cement Puunene Quarry Relocation  
TMK: (2)3-8-004: 001 (por.) and (2) 3-8-008: 031  
CUP 2006/0002 and SP 92-380  
Area: 125 acres

Dear Mr. Gibson:

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) is responding to your letter of November 7, 2025, that responded to our letter of October 29, 2025, regarding the subject permits and our proposed condition or equivalent stipulation of approval for the subject permits, as follows:

"That the Applicant shall undertake quarrying of the 125-acre project site in states and the existing agricultural activity will be allowed to continue in non-quarrying areas. The reclamation of each completed quarried stage shall include topsoil suited for agricultural cultivation of at least 24 inches depth and the reclaimed lands shall be made available for agricultural use."

You then asked for clarifications regarding the language and consequences of our proposed condition. To expedite review, we have copied both of your requests followed by our response to each.

1. The Applicant understands "topsoil suited for agricultural cultivation" to mean soil of a similar quality and character to the upper layers of soil currently present in the proposed 125-acre quarry site. The high soil productivity ratings under the LSB and ALISH systems provide evidence as to the high quality of these soils. The Applicant requests confirmation that this definition of "topsoil" is satisfactory to DAB."

Department response to 1.

We concur with your clarification that the definition of "topsoil" means soil of a similar quality and character to the upper layers of soil currently present at the proposed



125-acre quarry site. As noted in our letter of October 29, 2025, the soil present at the proposed quarry site is described as "A" and "B" in the "Detailed Land Classification – Island of Maui", L.S.B. Bulletin No. 7, May 1967.

- "2. Additionally, it is noted that soil quality is not the only factor involved in determining whether future agricultural use will be feasible on the 125-acre site after quarrying is complete. Indeed, the issue of water allocation to agricultural uses will likely pose significant difficulties to any future farming operation on the site, especially if the current drought and water use restrictions continue.

However, it is noted that Mahi Pono has expressed interest in continuing to grow on the site after mining is complete."

Department response to 2.

The Department notes that the Project Assessment Report we reviewed last year in support of the special use permit applications (page 19 and Appendix A, Flora and Fauna Survey Report) stated that the entire 125-acre project site is cultivated with irrigated Tahitian lime trees by Mahi Pono. We acknowledge that drought and the absence of or restriction on the quantity of water allocated for agricultural uses will directly affect agricultural use of the 125-acre project site after restoration is completed. We are pleased that Mahi Pono has expressed interest in resuming agricultural production on the project site.

The Department appreciates the applicant's recognition of the importance of protecting designated Important Agricultural Lands for agricultural uses. As we have written in earlier correspondence, these are the first land use permit applications involving designated Important Agricultural Land that is also in intensive agricultural production.

Please direct any questions to Earl Yamamoto at (808) 973-9466 or email at [earl.j.yamamoto@hawaii.gov](mailto:earl.j.yamamoto@hawaii.gov).

Sincerely,



Sharon Hurd, Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

- c: Ms. Mary Alice Evans, Director  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
Attn: Mr. Aaron Setogawa, Senior Planner  
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