BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
KA 'OIHANA WAI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96843
Phone: (808) 748-5000 • www.boardofwatersupply.com

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA
DEPUTY MANAGER
HOPE MANAKIA

NĀ'ĀLEHU ANTHONY, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
BRYAN P. ANDAYA
JONATHAN KANESHIRO
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

March 5, 2024

'24MAR 4 AM 8:38 CITY CLERK

The Honorable Radiant Cordero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Budget
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Cordero and Members:

SUBJECT: City Council Resolution No. 24-18: Approving the Non-Exclusive License Agreement with the United States of America, Department of the Navy, for Continued Use of Land Within Portions of Kuahelani Neighborhood Park, Identified as TMK: 9-4-005:046 and Anania Drive, Mililani, Hawai'i, for Environmental Test Well Monitoring and a Subsurface Electrical Line

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) has concerns and questions regarding Resolution No. 24-18, approving the non-exclusive license agreement with the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) for the continued use of land within portions of Kuahelani Neighborhood Park, identified as TMK: 9-4-005:046 and Anania Drive, Mililani, Hawai'i, for the environmental test well monitoring and a subsurface electrical line.

The BWS appreciates the Committee on Budget reaching out to inform us of the subject resolution. The BWS has been a member of the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC) since its inception in 2016. Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 342L-62, the FTAC is required to study issues related to leaks of field-constructed underground fuel storage tanks, including short-term and long-term effects of leaks from fuel tanks, including the effects relating to the health of residents, safe drinking water, and the environment. In November 2017, the FTAC received communications and a draft report from the Navy regarding the closure of the Kipapa Gulch Fuel Storage Annex, which was formerly operated by the Air Force. In 2016, the Navy inherited all of the remaining

DEPT. COM. 136
BUD

field-constructed tanks from the Air Force.[1] Accordingly the draft report indicated, "there are 13 tanks [permanently out of use] at the Kipapa Gulch Fuel Storage Annex . . . it doesn't indicate . . . whether or not the Kipapa Gulch Fuel Storage Annex is located over a drinking water aquifer or not over a drinking water aquifer, even if it's no longer in use."[2] Further, the draft report provided to FTAC members in November 2017 did not reference any historical releases at these closed facilities, how much was released, when suspected releases occurred . . . the types of remediation efforts – soil vapor extraction, and monitor wells drilled.[3] The BWS to date, has not received any follow up information from the Navy on these inquiries at the FTAC November 2017 meeting.

Given the Red Hill fuel release in 2014, contaminations in 2021, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) release in 2022, the BWS is concerned about the environmental effects that may have occurred over time from the Kipapa Gulch Fuel Storage Annex. The BWS was not aware of the Non-Exclusive License Agreement between the City and County of Honolulu (City) and the Navy, which was executed in September 20, 2012, to use a portion of Kuahelani Neighborhood Park, and a portion of Anania Drive in Mililani, and any extensions thereof. The BWS would be very much interested in the details of the Navy's well testing monitoring results, including but not limited to the following:

- The purpose of the test well monitoring;
- Historical patterns of fuel releases and where they occurred;
- The estimated volume of leaks;
- The test results and the types of contaminants that have been found;
- Whether or not the contaminants have moved from its original site;
- Whether the pipelines under the Kipapa Gulch Fuel Storage Annex were connected to Pearl Harbor or to Hickam; and
- Details as to the remediation efforts and monitoring efforts.

Since the Red Hill Fuel Bulk Storage Facility crisis, we must become better stewards of the āina and ask these important questions, so we can better protect and care for the land to properly manage its resources. In reviewing Exhibit A attached to the resolution, the new five (5) year Non-Exclusive License Agreement for continued remedial investigation and environmental test well monitoring does not include any requirements for the Navy to submit to the City results of the test well monitoring (past or present) on any given periodic basis. A supplemental agreement providing for such information would be beneficial to the City knowing that our residents are safe.

---

[1] November 2017, Fuel Tank Advisory Committee Meeting; the Minutes from the FTAC is shown in November 1, 2018 Meeting # 3, and is available on the Department of Health website https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2019/01/Fuel-Tank-Advisory-Committee-110118.pdf.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

Currently, the Navy's subsurface electrical line crosses over BWS' 16" transmission pipeline. The BWS will need to be sure it does not affect its' ability to operate and maintain the transmission pipeline. So, albeit the past due timeline, the Navy should still submit its plans to the BWS for review and approval.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide comment on this matter.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer