

Kilauea Neighborhood Association: Special Meeting Report

Special Meeting	Topic: Kalihiwai Reservoir	Date of Report: 9/2/24
Date/Time of Meeting: 8/23/24 at Common Ground 5:30pm - 7:30pm Date of Next Mtg: TBD	Members present at mtg: Sarah Wright, Nathan Myers, Jeremy Burns, Gary Pacheco, Yoshito L’Hote, Bill Chase, Judy Gardener, Kalena Pacheco Guest(s): 35+ community members, including members from KRCA and residents from Kalihiwai Valley	
Summary of items covered in meeting: The meeting was facilitated by Sarah Wright, KNA Board Chair.		
Key Points:		
● Overview of decommissioning status: Nathan Myers (KRCA and KNA board member) provided a history of the dam ownership and the decision by KRCA to decommission the dam due to high remediation costs (~\$10M). The full update was included in the published agenda. The missing document (Screening Level Risk Analysis) is linked here. ● Overview of proposal to remediate: Yoshi L’Hote (AHK) answered questions about efforts towards a public-private partnership model to attempt to marshal the resources to remediate and manage the Kalihiwai Reservoir. This effort does not impact the current timelines and the burden would be on AHK and partners to “catch up” to the existing timeline. AHK has also applied for federal funding to look at the whole Kilauea-Kalihiwai watershed and do comprehensive planning. ● Permitting: The permit for decommissioning is under review by DLNR and two items are outstanding: Ka Pa’akai analysis and Clean Water Act compliance. The dam is currently at a low risk of overtopping due to its low water level maintained by KRCA. However, it’s still classified as high risk for a number of reasons, including its spillways. ● Community Concerns: ○ Safety of the reservoir, impacts of flooding on residents of the valley (significant concern, especially given recent flooding in the valley) ○ The timetable for remediating the reservoir and whether it will extend the length of time that the reservoir continues to <u>not</u> be in compliance with the Dam Safety Act and that valley residents need to live with that. ○ Veracity (accuracy) of the assessments/studies and their failure to account for and/or exacerbate recent and current conditions, such as albizia, location of homes in the valley, and use of the gage location to estimate the inundation zone, etc. Valley residents are concerned about whether the studies accurately estimate potential impacts to those living in the inundation zone. ○ The complexity and cost of remediation versus decommissioning. ○ Communication and community comment opportunities. Valley residents expressed that they were not consulted for several years, despite potential impacts and risk to valley residents. ○ Whether access to the reservoir is open to the public ● Next Steps: The meeting covered the need for further assessments, community involvement, possible alternatives for water management if the reservoir is decommissioned and a greater understanding of implications if the reservoir is <u>not</u> decommissioned. ○ Specific information was requested from AHK, KRCA and KNA who committed to circling back on outstanding questions and providing follow up to the requests. Please see sections below. ○ Sarah Wright/KNA will support the gathering of responses to questions and additional information to be provided by all parties and their consultants to valley residents.		

- Sarah Wright/KNA will support the request for a site visit with KRCA representatives and valley residents. Date/time to be determined.

The meeting emphasized the need for continued communication and exploration of options to address safety, environmental, and community concerns related to the reservoir's future. The meeting ended with a call for more effective outreach in the future. There are some follow up questions and asks, as well that have been captured below for the respective parties.

Questions or requests for AHK:

1. Question - What are all of the permits and/or exemptions being considered as part of the remediation effort and what is the status of each?
2. Request - Additional meetings would be a more effective outreach method, and/or Zoom style meetings since monthly KNA meetings are not effective/enough.
3. Request - Access to a copy of the Hale Halawai grant and the first report would be helpful for understanding the permitting processes.
4. Request - More information on alternate sources of water for the ag park, including groundwater, reclaimed water, and tapping surface water closer to the ag park.

Questions or requests to be brought to KRCA:

1. Question - What is the depth of the reservoir currently? What is the max water level for the reservoir now? What is the reservoir's storage volume now?
2. Question - Who is the contractor KRCA is working with?
3. Question - What is the definition of the "safety drain" status?
4. Question - What do you do with the water if the reservoir is decommissioned? What happens to the water? Does it just go through the valley unrestrained? Is it possible to obtain an engineering assessment of what will happen to the water if it is unimpeded?
5. Question - Have any repairs or inspections been done on the reservoir since the [July 2024 report](#)?
6. Question - What is the probable maximum flood for the reservoir?
7. Request - Site visit(s) of the reservoir with KRCA folks to be arranged.
8. Request - Future updates to KNA by KRCA on status, progress

Questions or requests for KNA:

1. Question - What is the timetable for action on this topic? When will a vote be taken, if at all?
2. Request - To report back at the next KNA meeting (Sept) on this special meeting
3. Request - To continue to support communication on this topic

Acknowledgements:

Mahalo to Common Ground for offering the space to host this meeting, to KNA for facilitating the special meeting, to Sarah Wright for facilitating the conversation, and to KNA, Sarah Wright, Kapua Chandler, and Kapua Sproat for providing food and beverages to attendees.