

**From:** dominique leu cordy liveinthenaa@gmail.com

**Subject:** Answers to community Questions

**Date:** September 5, 2024 at 10:25 AM

**To:**

**Cc:** Sarah Wright sarah.wright15@gmail.com, Elizabeth Letcher esl@elizabethletcher.com

DC

Aloha Kalihiwai 'ohana and residents,

Sarah just forwarded an email from Elizabeth Letcher, I am cc'ing them both, so anyone can follow up individually with them if you have additional questions. Elizabeth also shared her phone number if anyone prefers texting.

Mahalo,  
Dominique

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Elizabeth Letcher <esl@elizabethletcher.com>

**Date:** Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 8:05 AM

**Subject:** Re: KNA's Kalihiwai Reservoir `Special Meeting Report 8/23

**To:** Sarah Wright <sarah.wright15@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Nathan Myers <n@nathanmyers.com>

Hi Sarah - and Kalihiwai neighbors,

Thanks for the update, and I'm so sorry I wasn't able to attend the meeting.

I'll answer the questions as best I can, but first one clarification from your report: the dam is classified as high risk solely because of the loss of life possible if the dam fails - it has nothing to do with the spillways or condition of the dam. See the "definitions" section of the dam-related laws, HRS §13-190.1-2, under "high hazard."

**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?

The depth at the deepest point is 7 feet, when there has been sufficient rain. In dry periods it is lower. You can find pertinent information about the dam in the DLNR risk assessment report - about nine pages into the document. I've attached the relevant page here. Storage is about 20-30 acre-feet.

**Question -** Who is the contractor KRCA is working with?

As the permit has not yet been issued and we don't know how long it will take, we have not sought formal bids from contractors yet. Gannett Fleming is the engineer.

**Question -** What is the definition of the "safety drain" status

When the DLNR issued a notice that the dam's compliance with current safety regulations was deficient, it required the owners to keep the water at no higher than 10.2 feet - that is, draining it to that level for safety. The water easement holders keep it at 7 feet. Most of the Reservoir is much shallower.

**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?

Once the dam is removed, it will flow naturally from the watershed through the lake bed and then to the Kalihiwai River. It will be unrestrained. I imagine it would be possible to obtain an assessment, but that is not something the owners plan to undertake.

**Question -** Have any repairs or inspections been done on the reservoir since the [July 2024 report](#)?

The DLNR conducts safety inspections every year or so, but there has not been one in 2024 to my knowledge. There have not been repairs to my knowledge.

**Question -** What is the probable maximum flood for the reservoir?

The "probable maximum flood" - the figure the DLNR arrives at if every single possible condition that would create rainfall in the watershed - for many years, it was 50 inches of rainfall in 24 hours. After 2018, the DLNR raised the figure, I believe to 60 inches, although I can't put my hands on the document right now.

**Request -** Site visit(s) of the reservoir with KRCA folks to be arranged.

I (and I'm sure other community members) would be happy to give a tour - although Tripp McCallister, the dam operator from Wai Koa, has deeper knowledge of the mechanical workings.

**Request -** Future updates to KNA by KRCA on status, progress

We would be happy to continue to communicate with the community as we are here. I don't know if we can commit to regular reporting, as we are all volunteers, and construction on a dam, the associated coordination with other owners, and mandated governmental reporting is a lot of volunteer work! However, we do want to keep lines of communication open. We have tried to communicate through Yoshi and Dominique, but I'm really happy there is a more organized way to convey information.

Thanks again for your efforts in spearheading this communication - I look forward to speaking further.

Mahalo nui,

Elizabeth  
415-860-0323 (text best)

On Sep 4, 2024, at 10:37 AM, Sarah Wright <[sarah.wright15@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.wright15@gmail.com)> wrote:

Aloha Elizabeth (and welcome back!),

Hope you're doing well! I wanted to thank you again for your support in providing a written update on the reservoir so that it could be shared at our Special Meeting on 8/23. There were 35+ community members present, including members from KRCA and residents of Kalihiwai Valley. Mahalo to Nathan for representing KRCA. The two-hour conversation covered decommissioning, proposed remediation, community concerns, etc.

While there were some clarifying points brought up, there were also a lot of questions gathered and some requests for follow up from KRCA, AHK and KNA. I compiled a 2-ish page report (please see attached) that gives an overview of the key points from the meeting. Folks from the valley expressed interest in your offer to meet with them separately and also get a site tour of the reservoir. There are a handful of questions that the community would like more information about as it concerns the reservoir and decommissioning (they're listed in the report and are also pasted below). I assume you're the best person to address these questions, however if I'm mistaken, please advise on how I might proceed gathering some of this information to relay to the community, specifically Kalihiwai Valley residents.

Mahalo again and looking forward to catching up soon,  
Sarah

+++

Questions and Requests for 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

--

Sarah Wright  
[sarah.wright15@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.wright15@gmail.com)

2024-07      2024.08.23\_Spe      SLA Pertinent  
Kalihiw....red.pdf      cial Me...4-1.pdf      Data o...oir.pdf  
54 KB

