



REGION 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

November 5, 2024

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Brenda D. Iokepa-Moses, Deputy Director
County of Hawai'i
Department of Environmental Management
345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41
Hilo, HI 96720
Brenda.Iokepa-Moses@hawaiicounty.gov

**Re: Revised Administrative Order on Consent
EPA Docket No. SDWA-UIC-AOC-09-2017-0002
Pāhala and Nā'ālehu Large Capacity Cesspool Closure Projects
Approval of Pāhala Implementation Plan**

Dear Deputy Director Iokepa-Moses:

On October 24, 2024, in accordance with Paragraph 33.a of the above-referenced Administrative Order on Consent (Consent Order), the County of Hawai'i (the County) submitted its Pāhala Implementation Plan for the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) review and approval. The Implementation Plan, which was prepared for the County by Engineering Partners, Inc., details the County's plans to close the two existing large-capacity cesspools that serve the community.

To fulfill the conditions of Paragraph 33.a of the Consent Order, the County's Implementation Plan was required to include a schedule and completion dates for each step necessary to permit, design and construct a new wastewater treatment plant and collection system in order to provide wastewater services for 174 properties and close the Pāhala Community Cesspools by no later than **January 22, 2027**.

Based on EPA's review of the document, EPA has determined that the County's Implementation Plan meets the requirements of Paragraph 33.a. EPA therefore approves the County to move forward with implementing the Pāhala Community Cesspool Closure Project in accordance with the provisions and schedule set forth in its Implementation Plan.

EPA appreciates the effort the County is putting forth to address its unique challenges concerning wastewater management and looks forward to continuing working together to ensure the closure of the Pāhala Community Cesspools. If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to have

your staff contact Jelani Shareem at (415) 972-3095 or via email at shareem.jelani@epa.gov. Legal questions should be addressed to Kimberly Wells at (415) 972-3056 or wells.kimberly@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Roberto Rodriguez, Assistant Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

cc: Mitch Roth, Mayor (MitchD.Roth@hawaiicounty.gov)
Deanna S. Sako, Managing Director (Deanna.Sako@hawaiicounty.gov)
Ramzi I. Mansour, DEM Director (Ramzi.Mansour@hawaiicounty.gov)
Diana Mellon-Lacey, Corporation Counsel (Diana.Mellon-Lacey@hawaiicounty.gov)
Mark J. Grant, Acting Wastewater Division Deputy Chief (MarkJ.Grant@hawaiicounty.gov)
Jonathan Nagato, P.E., DOH-WWB (jonathan.nagato@doh.hawaii.gov)