

# Windward Coalition Newsletter

Issue 3



July  
2013

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of Windward residents



## UPDATE ON MCBH-RELATED NOISE ISSUES

Noise-related issues are one of Windward Coalition's primary concerns. The Marine Corps reports that they have made several noise mitigation changes .

Below are some of these. Limited space precludes reporting all of the technical details.



- MCBH helicopters flying over Kaimalino and Aikahi are generally following revised course rules for arrivals and departures over Nuupia Ponds.
- There has been some revision of course rules for departing MCBH helicopters prompted by reports of flights over residential areas.



- P-3 aircraft are largely following course rules that avoid overflying residential areas.



- Hawaii-based C-17 course rules have been tightened to avoid overflying residential areas. These C-17s generally now use a 1.5 mile pattern (instead of 2 miles) when approaching the runway. However, non-Hawaii-based aircraft are not aware of the 1.5 mile pattern objective nor are they trained to fly such a tight approach.
- MCBH is working with the operators of non-tenant military aircraft (i.e. Army Garrison Hawaii) on noise mitigation policies for transiting MCBH airspace as well as areas to avoid when landing/departing MCBH..
- Other actions to further reduce noise are being evaluated, developed or discussed by the Marine Corps and other military branches (i.e. Army Garrison Hawaii).

We residents appreciate the noise mitigation efforts of MCBH. There are still unresolved noise issues including late hour noise, helicopter ground noise and fixed wing overflights. The Coalition asks residents to continue to monitor the situation and let us and the base know of any overflights or excessive noise.

### AVIATION NOISE REPORTING

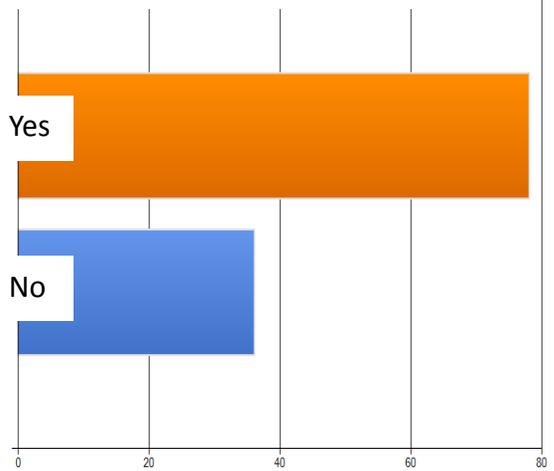
- Requesting personal follow-up from MCBH? Use the MCBH noise hotline: 257-8832 .
- Please also complete our [online form](http://www.windwardcoalition.com) at [www.windwardcoalition.com](http://www.windwardcoalition.com). Reports will be used for statistical reporting and archiving by the Windward Coalition.



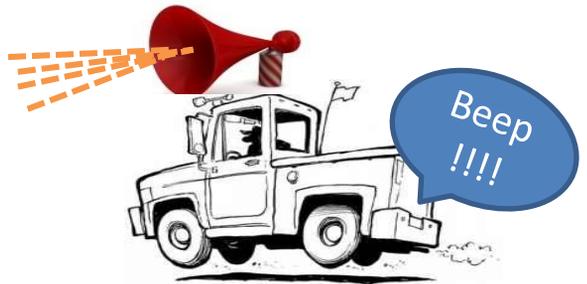
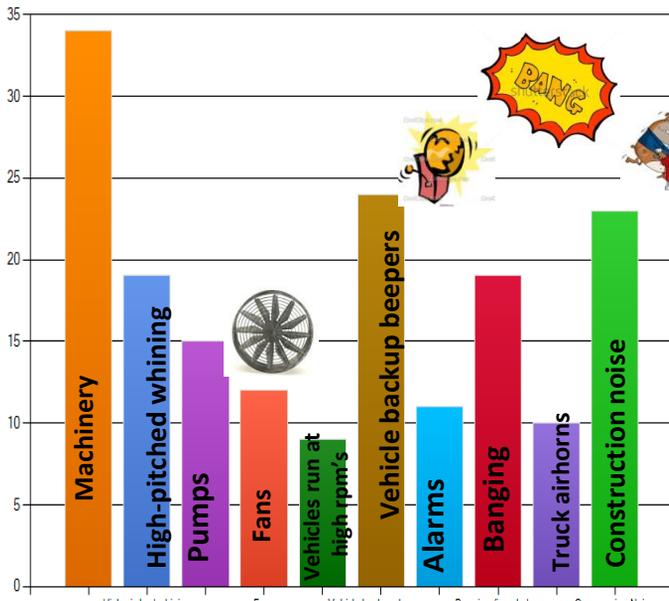
# Sewer Update

A survey was distributed to residents of Aikahi and Kaneohe Bay Drive. The results to date: 118 neighbors responded; 92% smelled either rotten eggs or raw sewage from the plant; 45% hear loud noises from the plant, more noticeable at night. 68% answered that sewer odors or noise adversely affected their quality of life.

**Do sewer odors or noise adversely affect the quality of life at your home ?**



**Please describe the noise**



**Fumes, sewage smells etc?**

Kailua Wastewater Plant – 768-5900; after hours 847-8307;  
 sewer collection system odors – 24 hour 768-7272

Online [sewer complaint form](http://www.windwardcoalition.com) at [www.windwardcoalition.com](http://www.windwardcoalition.com) for smells and/or noise issues

# What is this tunnel we are hearing about and why is it happening?

The City and County of Honolulu plans to replace the “force main system” that connects the Kaneohe Pre-Treatment Facility (PTF) to the Kailua Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RWWTP), with a “gravity sewer tunnel” (approximately 13-15 feet in diameter). The tunnel will be 3 miles long, with 1 ½ miles running under the Oneawa hills. A tunnel-boring machine will be used, beginning at a depth of approximately 85 feet below ground level at the Kailua RWWTP and will drill under the Mauka Moakaka Place Neighborhood and Kaneohe Bay Drive. The tunnel boring machine will stop at the Bay View Golf Park area, where the subsurface condition changes from basalt (blue rock) to soft soil. The last 10% of the tunnel (closest to the Kaneohe PTF) will be constructed with a different trenchless technology, one more suitable for soft soil conditions. The tunnel at the Kaneohe PTF will be approximately 35 feet below ground.

### About the Tunnel:

The tunnel will be a gravity tunnel, which means it keeps a constant slope from Kaneohe to Kailua. The consistent pipe slope results in wastewater flowing from Kaneohe PTF to Kailua RWWTP, without the need for a pump station or force main. The pipe will be oversized to allow for wastewater storage during wet weather. However there are issues of concern to the surrounding communities.

### Community Concerns:



The City and County has stated that: “Construction activities associated with the gravity sewer tunnel will include the temporary disruption of traffic and on-street parking on nearby streets; unavoidable noise in the vicinity of the Kaneohe PTF and Kailua RWWTP; limited ground vibration in the immediate vicinity of tunnel shafts; dust and lights (during night-work). The expected properties which will be most affected by construction are residences, schools and businesses located in the immediate vicinity of the Kaneohe PTF and Kailua RWWTP. The City is working to mitigate these impacts.”



### Noise, Debris, Light Pollution, Traffic and Dirt:

Drilling will be through 3 miles of basalt that is very hard and may require use of abrasives on the machinery. There will likely be a substantial amount of dust and debris, as well as noise. There may be loud noise due to blasting for the staging for drilling and/or tunneling. Construction noise may be high with an estimated 60 trucks a day going 24 hours a day through the surrounding



Path of Tunnel



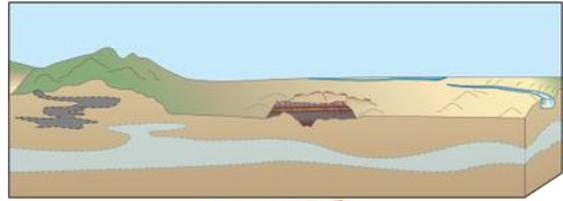
Tunnel Boring Machine

neighborhoods. Since construction will be occurring 24 hours a day there will be bright lights during nighttime hours. The drilling may create fugitive dusts with particles composed mainly of soil minerals. These dusts can reduce visibility in the surrounding areas as well as cause health issues. When inhaled, these particles can travel to the lower lungs causing respiratory illness, lung damage, and even death in sensitive individuals.

### Water issues :

This tunnel will traverse beneath Kaneohe and the Kawa and Keaalu streams. The city states they will not be “diverting” the streams but will “dewater” them. The EIS states they may be discharging dewatering effluent into the city’s drainage system and surrounding waters. This may cause high sediment loads in streams and the bay.

This tunnel will be travelling through the Koolaupoko Aquifer and the Waimanalo Aquifer systems. These aquifers feed the wetlands in the surrounding areas. The EIS suggests ground water contamination will be “low”. What would happen in the event of heavy rainfall or blockage?



Other theoretical concerns involve drilling under potentially unstable areas. It is unknown at this point how the vibrations from the drilling may affect preexisting fissures. Additionally, the city views the risks of tunnel damage from earthquakes as “minimal”.



Another concern is that this project will delay the completion of the latest Odor Containment project started in 2010 at the Kailua RWWTP. These unresolved odor issues have been a blight on the community for decades. They need to be corrected now and not put on the back burner using the tunnel as the excuse.



**Schedule:**

Construction has already begun on demolition of the unused facilities at the Kailua RWWTP and will continue until September 2013.

Construction of the tunnel begins as early as October 2013 and is expected to end November 2016. Bids are open for the project of approximately **\$175,000,000**.

After that the construction of the new influent pump station will begin at the Kailua RWWTP from April 15-June 2018.

For project detail information, see: [kkgravity-tunnel.org](http://kkgravity-tunnel.org).

If you have further questions, call Darryl Lum DOH Clean Water Branch at: 586-4309.

**WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE ARE NOT**

The Windward Coalition is a group of community members who came together to address the problems of increasing noise and pollution in our area. We are a voluntary not-for-profit community action group. We are not affiliated with, or part of, any political party, the government or other community organizations. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of Windward residents by reducing noise and other pollutants in our neighborhoods. We identify problems in our environment, work on actions to alleviate the problems, including proposing solutions and monitoring whether the situation is improving or not.