

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association

November 2017 Newsletter

President`s Message



PMKCA President Joe Clarkson

Aloha PMKCA Neighbors

Pa'auilo Mauka Water System Problems

October was a trying month for those who use the county water system in Pa'auilo Mauka and also for those who maintain it. Water hauling to the county water tank on Waikaalulu Road began early in the month due to a planned outage to repair a break in the 6 inch cast iron main coming from Ahualoa. The line was broken by the uplifted root system of a large tree that had fallen over.

Due to the rough terrain, it was impossible to repair the main line with pipe of similar size, so a 3 inch polyethylene bypass was installed around the damaged area. Depending on how well the smaller line supplies the system, additional 3 inch pipes may be added. Very dry weather in September through mid-October resulted in more water use than normal from the county system, further constraining the capacity of the repair to supply

enough water.

Just as the water system was being returned to normal service and the trucks hauling water were no longer needed, smaller lateral lines on both Kaapahu Road and Kulakahiko Road experienced ruptures and drained the system. Trucks had to haul water to the Waikaalulu tank just to fill it enough to allow repair crews to find water leaking out of the ground and thereby locate the leaks. Once found, the leaks were rapidly repaired and the laterals returned to service.

The Department of Water Supply (DWS) has endeavored to maintain service to their customers through all of these breaks and generally succeeded. It has required constant hauling of water, 5000 gallons per truckload at a time, and the hauling up steep roads has presented some noise problems for folks living along the route. Late night trucking was restricted to reduce the noise and we are grateful for the DWS for striking a balance between maintaining water service and minimizing truck noise. Water service will always take priority however.

Traffic Changes Coming to Pa'auilo Town

Recent fatalities and other traffic incidents in Pa'auilo led Council Chair Val Poindexter to arrange a meeting between representatives of the community and representatives of the state and county roads management agencies. Ron Theil from the county and Don Smith from the state met with representatives from the Pa'auilo Camp Community Association and Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association.

Many possible remedies for traffic dangers in Pa'auilo were discussed.

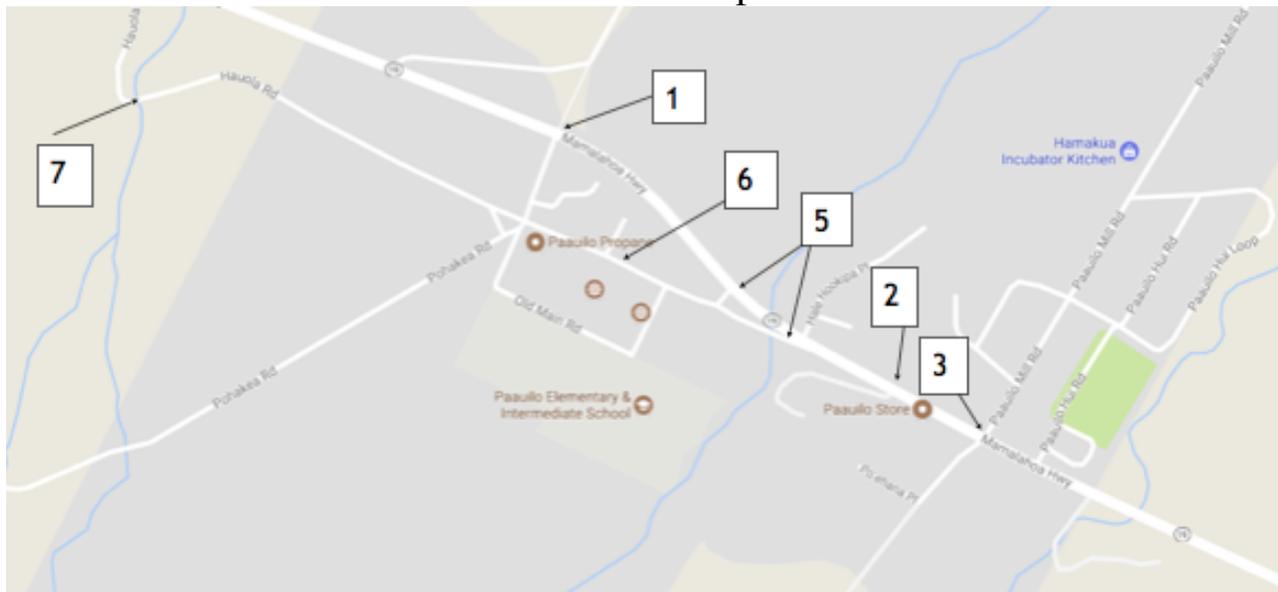
Please note that the following discussion items may not all be implemented and there is no concrete timetable for those that eventually are implemented, but there was definitely a sense of urgency expressed by all concerned.

Some possible traffic changes for the Pa'auilo town area are listed (see map below for location information for some of them):

- 1 Changing the allowed traffic pattern at the intersection of Pohakea

Road and the belt highway to prohibit left turns onto the highway from Pohakea Road due to the very poor sight distance toward the Hilo direction.

- 2 Installation of lighting near Hele-On bus stops in Pa'auilo.
- 3 Installation of pedestrian warning lights at the street level crosswalk of the belt highway near the Post Office and store.
- 4 Reducing the speed limit on the belt highway through Pa'auilo Town.
- 5 Eliminating the access onto the belt highway from the one lane extension of Hauola Road to the belt highway. Hilo-bound travelers would be required to use the short connector between Hauola and the highway and then turn right.
- 6 Prohibiting parking on the makai side of Hauola between Pohakea and Hauola Lane to allow better sight distance when approaching the Pohakea/Hauola intersection from the makai direction.
- 7 Installing yield signage at the approach to the Hauola Road bridge over Waipunahina Gulch (near the Pa'auilo transfer station).
- 8 Ensure that the pavement transition to the shoulder areas of the belt highway are repaired to have no abrupt drops through the center of town.
- 9 Installation of permanent radar speed indicating signs at both ends of town similar to those installed near Papaikou.



Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson
President, PMKCA

Pa'aulo Mauka Kalopa Community Association
PO Box 408
Paaulo, HI 96776