

The IRC Gazette



FEMA

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This Week in the IRC

Community Assistance RSF

Supporting Maui County to develop a Recovery Framework to help position the county to coordinate and synchronize efforts across the Recovery Support Functions. The SDRC and FDRC will discuss the framework and strategize on path forward for sharing the framework to integrate County, State, Fed partners.

Economic RSF

Connected with the Maui Fire Department and the Maui County Department of Management to discuss some of their extensive needs which can be shared across the RSFs to align assistance.

Health and Social Services RSF

The Environmental Health/Public Health team mediated an outstanding Hawaii Department of Health request for Public Health Emergency (PHE) to support HIDOH's wildfire and COVID-19 responses. The work of HSS EH/PH team lead to a planned redirection of approximately \$1.7M funds under the CDC Crisis Cooperative Agreement Workforce Development grant towards.

Infrastructure RSF

Facilitated a meeting between Maui County and the Federal Agencies supporting the wildfire recovery effort and began identifying the infrastructure systems needs and actions required to support the Maui County recovery mission.

Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

Continued coordination with FEMA EHP on technical support proposal concepts for Maui County consideration that would advance stabilization of historic structures creating possibility for future restoration.

US Department of Agriculture

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced a waiver of the cost-share requirement for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) to address watershed impairments in Maui. The waiver will allow NRCS to pay for 100% of the cost. NRCS teams are currently surveying several impacted sites to determine damages and necessary protective measures.

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A Message from the IRC leadership team

It is our hope to share with you the many accomplishments our team is making each week in support of the State, county and federal partners here in the IRC (Interagency Recovery Coordination) on the Maui Road to Recovery.

We will also talk a little bit about the IRC mission, structure, roles, responsibilities, strategy and objectives.

IRC Mission:

To facilitate the coordination of the interagency partners and resources to ensure a cooperative and collaborative community-led recovery that supports the restoration, redevelopment, and revitalization of the health, social, physical, economic, natural, and environmental sectors of governments and communities.

We do this by:

- Providing equitable support and a voice to all partners to define and achieve their unique recovery priorities, objectives, and outcomes.
- Supporting the coordination of federal, state, local resources needed to begin restoration, rebuilding, and revitalization work.
- Providing technical assistance through data analyses needed for risk-informed strategic decision-making.

Tip

from the Cultural Protocol Task Force

Aloha means more than love, hello, and goodbye. It encompasses compassion, mercy, grace, charity, kindness, and affection. Be aloha. Speak aloha. Practice aloha. Share aloha.

Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator: Sandy Eslinger
Federal Disaster Recovery Officer: Christy Grant

Maui County Infrastructure Systems Meeting

By David P. Apple, P.E. USACE LNO to FEMA

On September 27, 2023 County, State and Federal partners met to discuss current and long-term needs of Infrastructure Systems in Maui County. The meeting with the Maui County focused on the County's needs concerning the repairing/rebuilding of the City of Lahaina's infrastructure systems damaged by the wildfire. The County's main concern is that this is a large operation in responding to the damages caused by the wildfire and that the County is capable of building projects, but they don't have the capability to manage large programs and need directions on how to move forward.

Dave Apple (USACE), the IS-RSF Field Coordinator, explained what the Federal agencies could do to assist the County with its infrastructure system recovery efforts; that the infrastructure system mission focuses on three areas:

1. Needs Assessment - Listen to County, the State, the Community, and first responders to determine what are the needs and priorities in order to better focus the recovery mission efforts.
2. Identify Programs that can help fund projects - Knowing the needs and priorities, identify potential projects and the federal funds/ programs/authorities that can meet these needs. Part of this analysis will involve identifying funding resources that can integrate building resiliency (building back better) into these identified projects.
3. Provide Technical Assistance- Support the County in developing strategies and timelines to address infrastructure repairs/rebuilding projects. Additionally, provide technical assistance to the County when encountering technical problems in repairing/rebuilding damaged/destroyed infrastructure systems.



The meeting shifted its focus to the various areas of infrastructure impacted by the wildfire (roadways, water, wastewater, stormwater, etc.) and what could be done to assist the County in their recovery efforts in these various areas. From the discussions covering the various infrastructure systems damage by the wildfire, the County expressed the following common themes:

- Understand what the future Vision for the City of Lahaina is.
- Understand what the Community wants and what their vision for their City is.
- Tell us what we don't know and help us to understand.
- Litmus test - if a meeting is not connected in some way to helping residents rebuild their homes back, don't waste time on this meeting and move on to the next meeting.
- Residents just want to rebuild as fast as they can and go home.
- How to manage the community's expectations - Timelines for debris removal and rebuilding of the City of Lahaina.

The County expressed appreciation for the support that the Federal Agencies are providing and is looking forward to working with the supporting Federal Agencies in moving ahead with the rebuilding of the City of Lahaina and giving the community back their homes and a sense of belonging.

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Environmental Protection/Sustainability Advisor

Engaged the County's Sustainability Advisor to evaluate the option to locally generate organic compost mulch that could be applied by USACE at the end of Phase II to the Lahaina burn area and beyond. The County intends to follow up with local composters for expert input. If feasible, compost mulch would support growth of more fire-resistant, native vegetation for ecosystem benefits, stormwater control, greenhouse gas mitigation, and local economic benefits and has been demonstrated to be effective on fire-impacted soils in California.

Small Business Administration Advisor

SBA and Operation HOPE, an organization assisting individuals with financial literacy, access to capital and financial disaster recovery, successfully opened and completed the first week of operations at the Business Resource and Assessment Center in Kihei. This new center is the first of its kind for SBA and will provide a variety of public and private sector assistance, in addition to disaster support.

Unified Federal Review Advisor

Participated in the initial RSF introductory meeting for Maui County with the Infrastructure Team: USACE, EPA, US DOT, and HHS along with County and State representatives.

Who's Packing your Parachute?

As I think about the question "who packs your parachute?", it is difficult to pinpoint just one person especially in group of such passionate and talented people in the IRC. One memory that sticks out in my mind is when the FEMA-HHS Liaisons, Ms. Linda Landers and Mr. Pizeme Tchara approached me on day 1 of my deployment. With their wonderful smiles and positive attitudes, they introduced themselves and stated they are here to help me with whatever I need. Now going into day 12 of my time in the IRC, they have not disappointed. Both Linda and Pizeme have gone above and beyond in assisting me navigate my position as an IRC Mission Support Specialist, helping me in reporting and assisting me in identifying connections to answer questions for my HSS colleagues in the field. I appreciate the kindness, assistance, and laughter they have brought me & the team daily. I am new to Recovery Missions and in my role. So THANK YOU to Linda and Pizeme for helping me understand the inter-workings of the Inter-agency Recovery Coordination efforts.

Cmdr Jill Gelviro



If you would like to recognize someone who has packed your parachute, send info to deborah.costa@fema.dhs.gov

US DOT Advisor

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The USDOT participated in the successful establishment of an Emergency Group Shelter Site, designed to support displaced and formerly unhoused individuals. This development is located on land within the HDOT Right of Way (ROW).

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT), in partnership with the USDOT Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has finalized various critical phases of the project in only a matter of weeks. This includes grading the site, installing fencing, and setting up furnished tents equipped with bunk beds and linens. Additionally, specific structures for bathrooms have been constructed, along with the installation of above-ground water and septic tanks.

