

WVWS DEA FAQs

1. What is the construction schedule for the new water system (Estimated Completion Date ECD)?

Reference: Section 2.4.6 of the DEA.

The anticipated project schedules for the action alternatives are presented in the tables below.

Table 2-5: Preliminary Schedule for the Wells/BWS Alternative

<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Duration</i>	<i>Estimated Completion Date</i>
EA process	12 months	October 2023
Permits and Approvals	24 months	October 2025
Construction	36 months	October 2028
Entire Project	6 years	NA

Source: PSI and BEI.

Table 2-6: Preliminary Schedule for the Wells/WVWS Alternative

<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Duration</i>	<i>Estimated Completion Date</i>
EA process	12 months	October 2023
Permits and Approvals	18 months	April 2025
Construction	18 months	October 2026
Entire Project	4 years	NA

Source: PSI and BEI.

Table 2-7: Preliminary Schedule for the Tunnel//BWS Alternative

<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Duration</i>	<i>Estimated Completion Date</i>
EA process	12 months	October 2023
Permits and Approvals	30 months	April 2026
Construction	36 months	April 2029
Entire Project	6.5 years	NA

Source: PSI and BEI.

Table 2-8: Preliminary Schedule for the Tunnel//WVWS Alternative

<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Duration</i>	<i>Estimated Completion Date</i>
EA process	12 months	October 2023
Permits and Approvals	30 months	April 2026
Construction	36 months	April 2029
Entire Project	6.5 years	NA

Source: PSI and BEI.

2. How much will the new water system cost?

Reference: Please see Table 2-9 of the DEA.

- a. Private System (in 2023 \$): \$14.8 Million
- b. BWS System (in 2023 \$): \$27.4 Million

3. Will there be any impact to wildlife or wetlands?

Reference: Section 3.4.2 of the DEA.

Summary: The potential impacts of the two action alternatives on biological resources would not be substantially different because the replacement and/or maintenance of the distribution system (BWS vs. WVWS) within the roadway network does not have the potential to affect biological resources in a substantial manner.

In the short-term, the action alternatives would remove some of the vegetation (habitat) on Lot 50 and replace it with the access driveway, tank, wells, and a landscaped area around it. This habitat loss is not considered significant because (i) no listed species are present or depend on the habitat, and (ii) the existing habitat on Lot 50 where the proposed improvements would be made consists of invasive species that are common over a large area. Over the long-term, the existing vegetation would be replaced by the proposed Lot 50 developments (access road, tank, wells, etc.) and landscaping. The area would be maintained over the long-term, which would involve the maintenance of the landscape and potentially the management of vegetation that encroaches into the area, including the removal of tree limbs that extend into the area and pose a hazard to the development or the people working there.

4. Will there be any disruption to water service during construction? If so, what will be done to provide water to the residents and farmers?

Reference: Section 2.4.3 of the DEA addresses this briefly.

No, there will be no significant disruption in water service. Only a brief disruption when service is transitioned from the old to new system. If necessary, potable water would be delivered to WVWS customers during water system change-over.

5. Will the new water system pumping water from wells cause the stream flow to decrease?

Reference: Section 3.3.3.2 of the DEA.

- a. The two existing HHFDC wells are at about 490-foot elevation, are roughly 20 feet from Waiāhole Stream, while the proposed wells would be at about 340-foot elevation, roughly 400 feet from the confluence of Waianu and Owao Streams.
- b. Given these characteristics, the existing wells are more likely to be reducing stream flow than the proposed wells would be to reduce stream flows. Pumping the existing wells has the potential to reduce the flow in Waiāhole Stream on a 1:1 basis. The potential for the proposed wells to reduce stream flow is substantially less than the existing wells. This is because the proposed wells are more distant from any stream and are at a lower elevation in the valley where alluvium provides a physical barrier between the groundwater in the Ko‘olau Basalts that the wells would pump and the surface water in the stream that is flowing over alluvium. As such, a reduction in stream flow due to using the proposed wells is considered highly unlikely. In fact, decommissioning the existing wells and using the proposed wells would likely result in an increase in stream flow, particularly in Waiāhole Stream above its confluence with Waianu Stream, but also below that. However, the change would likely be imperceptible because the volume of water pumped from the wells is small relative to the stream flow.
- c. An additional consideration is that the proposed wells would be located at a lower elevation than the Waianu Stream diversion for the offstream uses (e.g., taro lo‘i) within Waiāhole Valley (e.g., the McCandless System). The McCandless System diversion is at an elevation of roughly 500 feet and the proposed well site is at 340 feet. Therefore, any (unlikely) reduction in stream flow would occur downstream of the existing Waianu Stream diversion.