CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 19-270

RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE COUNCIL'S POSITION, AS SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION 18-266, CD1, ADOPTED ON MARCH 8, 2019, RELATING TO THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY UPGRADE ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS.

WHEREAS, as the primary source of potable water on Oahu, groundwater must be preserved in as close to pristine condition as possible to accommodate the needs of Oahu's residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility ("Facility") stores up to 187 million gallons of fuel per day, has a total capacity of 250 million gallons, and is located only 100 feet above a sole-source aquifer drinking water resource; and

WHEREAS, in January 2014, the U.S. Department of the Navy (the "Navy") reported a 27,000-gallon fuel leak at the Facility to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and the State of Hawaii Department of Health ("DOH"), and subsequent tests in and near the fuel release area indicated a spike in levels of hydrocarbons in soil vapor and ground water; and

WHEREAS, in response to the fuel release from the Facility, the EPA and the DOH negotiated an Administrative Order on Consent ("AOC") with the Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency ("DLA") requiring the Navy and DLA to take actions, subject to EPA and DOH approval, to ensure that the groundwater resource in the vicinity of the Facility is protected and ensure that the Facility is operated and maintained in an environmentally protective manner; and

WHEREAS, in response to the AOC Statement of Work, the Navy submitted to the EPA and DOH for approval a Tank Upgrade Alternatives and Release Detection Decision Document, dated September 9, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Navy has concluded, among other things, that the most practicable tank upgrade alternative is to retain the single-walled steel tank liner configuration and implement certain technical and mitigating improvements for the Facility, including "double-wall equivalency" secondary containment or removal of fuel in the 2045 time frame; and

WHEREAS, concerns remain, however, as to whether the Navy's proposed "double-wall equivalency" is comparable to a secondary containment tank-within-a-tank double-wall system, and whether the Navy's plans for the removal of fuel in the 2045 timeframe are viable; and

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WHEREAS, a quantitative risk and vulnerability assessment for the Facility, which the Navy released in November 2018, indicated that the tanks are at risk of additional leaks in the future and that the undetected Facility-wide fuel release is expected to be 5,803 gallons per year; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2019, the City Council ("Council") adopted Resolution 18-266, CD1, which, in part, urges the EPA and DOH to reject the approval of a single wall tank upgrade alternative option for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; and

WHEREAS, the DOH and the EPA have announced that they are reviewing the Navy's proposal, will hold a public meeting to receive oral and written comments on the Navy's proposal in November 2019, and will continue to gather public and stakeholder comments before approving or rejecting the proposal in part or in full; and

WHEREAS, the DOH is also reviewing and soliciting public comment on the Navy's application for an underground storage tank ("UST") permit for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, DOH Facility ID No. 9-102271, which would allow the Navy to operate the Facility in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 342L and Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-280.1; and

WHEREAS, as the DOH reviews the Navy's application for a permit and a request for a contested case hearing, the Navy is currently operating the UST system through a July 15, 2019 letter from the DOH; and

WHEREAS, the DOH considers the Navy's submission of its application for a permit as timely, and the DOH is allowing the Navy to continue to operate the subject UST system until the DOH's decision on the permit application is rendered; and

WHEREAS, due to the lengthy review period, the Council urges the expeditious resolution of all AOC requirements in the DOH's decision on the Navy permit application; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it reaffirms its position, as set forth in Resolution 18-266, CD1, adopted on March 8, 2019, urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Hawaii Department of Health to reject the approval of a single wall upgrade alternative option for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and supports for secondary containment tank upgrade alternative option, or, if secondary containment is determined to be infeasible, the relocation of the fuel tanks away from the aquifer; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health, the Chairperson of the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Chair of the Commission on Water Resource Management of the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the President of the Hawaii Senate, the Speaker of the Hawaii House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Navy, the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, the Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, the Executive Director of the Sierra Club of Hawaii, the Chair of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 17 2019

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

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