

For Official Release
PR 001-05102023
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
May 10, 2023



Day 2 for American Samoa at the Territorial Climate & Infrastructure Workshop



In a full fledge agenda on the second day of the Territorial Climate Infrastructure Workshop 2.0, the presentations from American Samoa began with the Invasive Species focus area and is presented by Deputy Director Mrs. Selaina Tuimavave of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources and Mr. Tavita Togia of the Biodiversity office of the Governor's office. The Nature Based solutions presentation is delivered by Director Petti Matila of the Department of Commerce and Mr. Tavita Togia of the Biodiversity office. The Cleanup Revitalizing and

Recycle presentation is led by Director Faamao Asalele of the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency. In all of their presentations, American Samoa directors identified priority climate and infrastructure related projects, associated challenges and desired outcomes of their proposals. The territories of Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas (Saipan) and US Virgin Islands also shared their projects.

In addition to the Territory's presentations, the keynote address for today is by the US Department of the Interior Ecosystem Restoration Program. This is followed by the federal round tables sub-sessions for the American Samoa Pollution with US Environmental Protection Agency and with the American Samoa Nature Based solutions with Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Interior (USFWS, USGS, BOR), US Department of Agriculture (NRCS, USFS), US Department Of Transportation, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, US Army Corp of Engineer and USEPA. An opportunity was also afforded to American Samoa to meet with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a national laboratory of the US Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC. The NREL is providing assistance with updating of the American Samoa State Energy Security Plan and is working closely with the American Samoa Renewable Energy Committee. The American Samoa Power Authority Executive Director Wallon Young raised the critical and urgent issue of the LBJ Tropical Medical Center large standby generator from 1968 where the parts needed are no longer manufactured and we had to buy them from foreign countries. He also states that although we are discussing renewable energy, for redundancy and back-up purposes, we are still retaining diesel for electricity needs.

The General Services Administration session by Ms. Brandy Untalan, the Customer Services Director for Guam, CNMI, American Samoa, Australia and Pacific Islands shared about the types of assistance they provide to all government customers and vendor support. She also encouraged territories to request seminars and training on a variety of GSA topics and resolutions. The GSA training sessions include GSA e-Tools Suite (Advantage, E-Library, E-Buy), GSA Autochoice, GSA vendor and customer self service (VCSS) Invoicing/Payment and State and local programs. Under the BIL, Ms. Untalan shares about the GSA MAS program with electric vehicle charging stations and electric vehicles, and under the GSA Autochoice, were the alternative fuel vehicles such as medium and heavy duty trucks, buses, ambulances, wheelchair vehicles and wreckers and carriers. She also provided information on the 1122 Program and identified Ms. Sapi Ma'o Ena, American Samoa Office of Procurement Deputy Director as the State Agency for Surplus Property contact.

In taking advantage of the opportunity with federal partners attending the TCIW 2.0, a follow-up meeting of the AS Fagaima Drainage project with Mr. Mathew Jepsen of FEMA and Gabrielle Gershe of the Federal Highway Administration, American Samoa Government Chief of Staff

Loa Tuimavave Tauapai Laupola, Department of Public Works Director Faleosina Voigt, DPW Senior Engineer Estella Rubin, ODAPM Director Lisa Tuatoo, AS State Hazard Mitigation Officer Sandi Tonumaiepa and the ODAPM Hazard Mitigation team Camilla Poufa and Max Haleck III with FEMA representative Michael Kern discussed alternative routes of the previously approved plans to ensure eligibility under separate federal funding available for this project. A week earlier, the Fagaima drainage project meeting held at the ODAPM office in Tafuna was attended by Honorable Senator High Chief Magalei Logovii, Honorable Representatives Larry Sanitoa and Sam Meleisea with DPW and ODAPM teams to provide an update of this long overdue project that will greatly benefit residents of the Tualauta district and the people of American Samoa utilizing these public roads.

Day two sessions of the TCIW 2.0 started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 5:30 p.m. with the American Samoa delegation in full attendance.

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