



GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • AHENSIAN PRUTEKSIÓN LINA'LA' GUÅHAN
LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO • GOVERNOR OF GUAM | JOSHUA F. TENORIO • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF GUAM
MICHELLE C. R. LASTIMOZA • ADMINISTRATOR

**Guam Environmental Protection Agency
Board of Directors' Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2025
(Which occurred on Thursday, October 2, 2025)**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order: Director Steven Carbullido called the Board of Director's meeting to order from the Guam EPA conference room at 4:07pm. Roll call certified by Acting Board Secretary, Arlene Acfalle, as follows:

II. Board Members:

Chairman Steven Carbullido	- Present
Vice Chairman Steven Carrara	- Present
Director Steven Hollister	- Present
Director Fran Castro	- Present- Attending virtually
Director Cathleen Moore-Linn	- Not present
Director Heather Quitugua	- Present

Quorum has been established

Guam EPA Staff: Michelle C.R. Lastimoza, Arlene Acfalle, Kristan Finney, Connie Afilleje, CAPT. Elizabeth DeGrange, Sierra Armstrong-Bettis, Nicole Diras, and Malia Tom

General Public: MCOG Executive Director JoyJean Arceo, Royelle Carter and Tianna Sarrosa (MCOG)

III. Approval of Agenda: Director Quitugua made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Hollister. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

IV. Approval of August 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Director Hollister advised to have paragraph 1 on page 3, amended stating he asked if Guam EPA was aware of any septic tanks (above the aquifer) that have failed due the water table rising during the wet season and the response was no. Director Quitugua made a motion to approve the August 21, 2025 minutes as amended, seconded by Director Hollister. All in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

V. Board Discussion / Action

MCOG's Request to Extend Expenditure End Date for RRF's IECF (FY23 & FY24) – Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Executive Director JoyJean Arceo, along with her staff, appeared before the Guam EPA board to request for an extension of the FY23 & FY24 expenditure date under the Recycling Revolving Fund (RRF). The formal letter of request was submitted to the Guam EPA Board on



September 9, 2025 seeking an extension deadline to June 30, 2026. Ms. Arceo advised MCOG still has invoices that they are trying to reconcile and pay down for those fiscal years. Additionally, Ms. Arceo advised that the MCOG Council, during a special meeting on September 24, 2025, concurred and voted that they would like to return the Islandwide Environmental Cleanup Program (IECP) program back to Guam EPA effective FY2026.

Administrator Lastimoza inquired if this would include returning the \$1.5Million from FY2025 and also if the current budget bill (FY26) appropriated another \$1.5Million will MCOG JV (journal voucher) the money back to Guam EPA. Ms. Arceo advised for FY2025 MCOG is looking to spend what they can and added MCOG did put out a bid for abandoned vehicles. The bid however was protested and it's with the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) right now and a decision hasn't been made. Ms. Arceo added they awarded the disposal of tires and that is all FY2025 funding and noted its good till March 2026 so they plan to use that under the IECP program.

Ms. Arceo stated MCOG will not be accepting the FY2026 funding. Administrator inquired that if MCOG is giving the program back to Guam EPA effective October 1, 2025 how will they expend the funds if they are no longer participating in the IECP program. Ms. Arceo noted MCOG will not be running the program for FY2026 which is on October 1st, 2026 but MCOG will still run the program using FY2025 funds because the FY25 funds will not expire till March 2026 and advised the bid will still be good. Administrator stated MCOG is doing the program using "old" money but when MCOG states they are not doing the program, then they are not doing the program. Ms. Arceo stated to her understanding it is just like any other purchase order (PO), where a PO can be cut at the end of the fiscal year as long as you spend it before the end of expenditure period which would be like 90day out.

Ms. Arceo stated MCOG did secure a bid for disposal of tires and the purchase order was cut September 29, 2025 and that is something MCOG will be able to use. However, Ms. Arceo stated if the body (board) does not want that, MCOG can return the funds however it gets decided.

Director Quitugua stated the question is who is making the decisions because essentially Guam EPA is going to be "hamstrung" in terms of the amount of money we can use. Director Quitugua added we are taking the program back with all the requirements and expenditures that have already been decided and Guam EPA having no control whether we do them. Administrator Lastimoza stated the activity is in FY26 but using FY25 monies.

Ms. Arceo stated MCOG is sticking with the FY2025 plan and since MCOG is returning back the program to Guam EPA, they won't need to move with FY2026 plan.

Director Hollister chimed in to clarify that MCOG was given the \$1.5Mil for FY2025. Ms. Arceo advised that is correct and explained that MCOG was not able to procure or start a bid until funds were identified and noted the money was deposited on January 10, 2025 into MCOG's account. Once the funds were received, MCOG did a market survey and a bid for such services. Ms. Arceo stated this was the very first time MCOG has done a bid, which should have always been done, because it's one lot, one description, same services and they can't circumvent procurement.



Ms. Arceo provided a rough timeline:

January 10, 2025 – Funds were deposited into MCOG account from the RRF
March 20, 2025 - Scope of work was completed and signed off by the end user and
May 2025 – Scope of work sent to the Attorney General's (AG) office
June 2025 – MCOG received it back in June for Phase 1 which allowed MCOG to publish the
bid on June 4th where bids started coming in shortly after
July 9, 2025- MCOG opened the bid, did the award and then the protest came in.

Ms. Arceo stated history has shown that with abandoned vehicles alone it's over half a million therefore it required the AG's review and approval.

Administrator inquired with Ms. Arceo if MCOG will expend the \$1.5Mil by March 2026. Ms. Arceo advised they don't know yet as there is a protest going on which is sitting with the OPA's office. Once the protest is lifted MCOG can move forward with procurement. Administrator sought confirmation that the money will be returned to Guam EPA if it is not spent by March 2026. Ms. Arceo concurred.

Director Hollister inquired on how much money has been spent. Ms. Arceo stated they just awarded the tires last week and noted it is important to mention that the permitted vendors, for this type of goods and services, are reluctant to participate in the bids because of prior payments which is why she is here to request for the extension of the expenditure date for FY23 & FY24.

Administrator Lastimoza inquired if the budget bill for those fiscal years allows MCOG to spend the money until its gone which would mean they don't need an extension from Guam EPA. MCOG's Royelle Carter stated right now it is under their work request and when they tried to submit payment DOA advised them it is expired. Guam EPA's Connie Afilleje advised the work request ties in a start date and end date for the expenditure of funds.

Administrator then asked for FY23 & FY24 how far MCOG wants the extension. Ms. Arceo responded June 30, 2026 which would allow MCOG to pay all outstanding invoices. Administrator inquired if this would also include FY2025. Ms. Arceo advised the current agreement between MCOG and GEPA doesn't expire till March 2026 but because of the protest she is not sure how long it will take but as we approach the deadline MCOG will keep Guam EPA informed. Ms. Arceo stated the plan was to spend these monies and the hope was to bid it out as an IDIQ (Indefinite delivery Indefinite quantity) so GSA (General Services Agency) themselves can ride off of it. Ms. Arceo noted MCOG has their own authority to procure so they don't go through GSA.

Ms. Afilleje inquired if other GovGuam agencies will be able to ride off the IDIQ once the protest gets lifted. Ms. Arceo stated we need an IDIQ but there is a hiccup. The bid they sent out was a two item bid, one for transport and one for disposal. Ms. Arceo stated what they found out on the disposal side, is that the Guam EPA permitted vendors are reluctant to participate due to payment history.



Chairman Carbullido inquired if the \$280K in FY23 has been spent or will it be rolled over. Ms. Arceo stated it doesn't roll over and MCOG was going to ask to lift it to be spent not realizing the council wanted to have the program returned. Chairman noted this is not about the rollover of funds but money that was spent in FY23 that needs to be paid. Ms. Arceo concurred. Chairman then inquired why the invoices were not paid on time. Ms. Carter stated she knows it was sent to DOA but not sure what happened from there.

Chairman asked if Guam EPA is in agreement with the prior invoices being paid. Administrator and Ms. Afleje stated they are in agreement. Ms. Afleje added she has been working with Ms. Arceo, and her team, since she came on board and Guam EPA is doing as much as it can to support them in getting the vendors paid. Administrator then inquired with Guam EPA Legal Counsel, Ms. Kristan Finney, if it's the board decision to or does the agency just need to provide the extension given that the budget bill technically allowed for the money to be rolled over. Ms. Finney stated she is not sure since the funds have not rolled over and MCOG is allowed to continue to expend it. Chairman stated the vendors need to be paid if the services were provided but is not sure if the law requires the board to discuss the matter since the board was not involved in determining the expenditure end date on the work request. Administrator advised the agency can prepare the extension letter if it is ok with the board. Chairman Carbullido agreed since the services were rendered and concurred by Ms. Finney.

Ms. Afleje clarified with Ms. Arceo that MCOG will not be accepting FY26 funds since MCOG will be returning the IECP program back to Guam EPA. Ms. Arceo concurred and advised a letter will be forthcoming for record purposes.

VC Carrara inquired on what was the main focus on why MCOG will not be continuing with the program. Ms. Arceo stated the program requires a lot of work, staff, and equipment and it has been a struggle for the mayor's offices. VC Carrara stated centralizing this program may not fix the problem and he thinks at the mayoral level at least the community is getting the stuff picked up. This was also echoed by Director Quitugua.

Chairman turned it over to Administrator Lastimoza for her Administrator's report.

VI. Administrator's Report

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Personnel:

- As of 09//12/2025: **55 FTEs** (Full-Time Equivalent)

DIVISION	PROGRAM	EMPLOYEES
Administration	EXECUTIVE	2
Legal Counsel	EXECUTIVE	1
Administrative Services	ADMINISTRATIVE	6
Administration	PERMITTING	2



Air and Land	SOLID WASTE	4
Air and Land	HAZWASTE	3
Air & Land	AIR POLLUTION	2
Air & Land	DSMOA	2
Air and Land	GREEN PARCEL	3
Air and Land	PESTICIDES	3
Air and Land	RECYCLING	1
Water	CHIEF ENGINEER	1
Water	WATER POLLUTION	3
Water	SAFE DRINKING WATER	4
Water	WATER RESOURCES	2
Water	INSPECTORS	5
EMAS	LABORATORY	3
EMAS	MONITORING AND ANALYTICAL	5
EMAS	SENIOR SCIENCE ADVISOR	1
EMAS	NON-POINT SOURCE	2
ACTING PIO	90 DAY TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT	1
TOTAL		55

Recruitment:

DIVISION / PROGRAM	POSITION	#	STATUS
ADMINISTRATION	PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER	1	Offer rescinded for non- response from the selected candidate. Awaiting supplemental list from DOA, otherwise this position will be re-announced.
WATER	ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN	1	One of 2 positions recruited. Agency will re-announce for recruitment of this vacancy
WATER	ENGINEER I	3	Pending announcement
EMAS	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST I	1	This position was re-announced. Waiting on certification packet

Agency Headquarters:

- **UPDATE:** Negotiations complete – Contract for A&E services signed on April 3, 2025. Contract at the AG's Office since May 28, 2025.

POLICY:

Public Hearing on Proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Regulations For Residential Septic Tank and Leaching System and Temporary Toilet Facilities

- 22 GAR 12 (Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Regulations)



- July 30, 2025 at 4:00pm

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/PARTNERSHIPS:

GWA-GEPA-DPHSS Dieldrin

- On September 12, 2025, the Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) issued Tier 1 advisory notifications to ratepayers in Yigo for the federally unregulated contaminant dieldrin. Dieldrin is a federally unregulated, manmade chemical used as an insecticide and termiticide from the 1950s until 1987. Dieldrin production ceased in 1987.
- The notifications were sent as compliance requirements with the Guam Environmental Protection Agency's (GEPA) Interim Action Level requirements (IAL) for Dieldrin which took effect on August 1, 2025. Notifications were mailed to affected Yigo ratepayers in the Santa Rosa area to inform them that the running annual average levels for dieldrin sampled at the entry point (the well) in their part of the distribution system is greater than 0.2 parts-per-billion (ppb).
- GWA, GEPA, DPHSS will send out a joint press release
- GWA, GEPA, DPHSS will hold a town hall meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at the Yigo gymnasium

Dieldrin Contamination

- Well Y-15 in Yigo
- Town hall meeting at Yigo Gym, along with GWA and DPHSS
 - GWA sent notice to 1,112 affected customer on September 12
 - Acting Governor Tenorio declared a state of emergency over dieldrin contamination
 - Allocates \$250,000 to GWA to procure point-of-entry filters and other supplies for affected households
 - Following a request by Acting Governor Tenorio, USEPA is providing assistance through funding for treatment systems, technical support for compliance, and guidance on lifting the "Do Not Drink without Treatment" advisory.
 - The U.S. EPA is also providing technical assistance and funding for both short term fixes like point-of-use devices and long-term solutions such as granulated activated carbon (GAC) systems for well remediation.
 - GWA installing 2 GAC systems at Y-15, expected to be completed on October 3, 2025
 - POU/POE purchase, installation, and reimbursement plan has been sent to USEPA for review and approval.
 - Whole house POE estimated at \$2700/unit. Not including installation. GWA will have to perform pre-piping so that when unit become available, they will be able to connect quicker.
 - GEPA reviewing a proposed operational adjustment that would take 300 affected customers off Y-15 distribution.

Child Lead Poisoning Investigation

- GEPA notified by DPHSS on Aug. 29, 2025 and reported a child with an elevated blood lead level and requested an environmental assessment
- GEPA coordinated inspections for faucets and other household contents



- There was no water service at the residence so no water samples were taken
- GEPA's XRF equipment was used to test paint, toys, flooring, furniture, kitchen ware, outdoor fixtures, yard contents
- Floor tiles were found to contain lead levels about 5000 ppm (0.5% lead by weight) which is the federal threshold used in formal lead based paint inspections. NOTE: This screening was conducted for informational purposes only and is not a certified lead-based paint inspection of a regulatory determination under 40 CFR 745
- Two of the four siblings living in the home test positive for elevated blood lead levels
- GEPA following up

USACE AREA 101

- DSMOA staff met with USACE for AREA 101 update and other FUDS sites on September 12th at 9:00 AM
 - Site walk-through was held on September 11th at Area 101, Anao Trail
 - Site is moving on to the RI/FS phase and field work will begin early Feb.2026
 - Parsons Corp. has been awarded the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) until 2030.
- Conducted a site visit with the USACE team at Pago Bay Range, Area 104, 106, and 108, Camp Dealy and Chalan Pago Trench

Green Parcel Program

- 2025 California Land Recycling Conference- Sep 16-18, 2025, in Carson, California
 - Chie Takase and Tasi Castro will be speakers for Topic Talks
- FY26 Brownfields Job Training Grant
 - Grant provides technical assistance to help nonprofits, local governments, and other eligible organizations build local workforces to perform assessment, cleanup, or preparation of contaminated sites (including brownfields) for reuse.
 - Staff in communication with GCC and Department of Labor as potential recipients of the grant
 - Example Courses:
 - Brownfields hazardous waste training
 - "Green Remediation" technologies
 - Green infrastructure and storm water management
 - Emergency planning, preparedness, and response training for emergencies leading to contamination on brownfield sites
 - Enhanced environmental health and safety related to site remediation
 - Energy efficiency and alternative energy technologies
 - Training in assessment, inventory, analysis, and remediation of brownfield sites
 - Use of techniques and methods for cleanup of hazardous substances
 - Awareness training in Environmental Stewardship
 - Training in strategies for environmental mitigation, adaptation, or resiliency
- GEPA Drone Program Certification- Date: TBA
 - The submission of GP staff nomination was sent on July 24, 2025



- Staff in communication with UOG NASA Guam Space Grant regarding prospective knowledge courses and training courses
- 2025 National Preparedness Month Grand Finale
 - Green Parcel staff held community outreach on September 27, 2025, 10 am – 4 pm, at the Agana Shopping Center

Safe Drinking Water Program

- Conducted Sanitary Surveys
 - US Navy
 - AAFB
 - GRMC
 - GIAA
- Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities (SUDC) Grant (182K) Program FY 2025
 - Received an email from Daria Walker of EPA R9 on 09/10/2025 a re-budget of the WIIN SUDC grant. R9 had expiring FY24 funds available to be added to the Consolidated Grant, which increases the WIIN SUDC funding to a total of \$315,000.

Inspection Activity: Week of August 18 – September 12

DIVISION	PROGRAM	TYPE OF INSPECTION	# OF INSPECTIONS
AIR & LAND	DSMOA	Project site	0
AIR & LAND	Green Parcel	Project Site	4
AIR & LAND	HAZWASTE	Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST)	3
AIR & LAND	HAZWASTE	Underground Storage Tanks (UST)	21
AIR & LAND	PESTICIDE	Inspections & Investigation	0
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Occupancy inspections	10
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Complaints	38
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Disposal Plan	0
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Paper Bag Outreach	46
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	BUILDING PERMITS	36
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	LITTER CITATIONS	0
WATER	INSPECTORS	Ocular, Septic & leaching, Grease trap inspections, complaints, H2, stormwater, compliance, UIC, Product / Irrigation wells and occupancy permits	104



WATER	SAFE DRINKING WATER	Sanitary Inspection	1
WATER	SAFE DRINKING WATER	Lead Free Inspections	16
EMAS	MONITORING	WETLAND AGGREGATE TESTING	0 0
TOTAL	279		

PERMIT ACTIVITY: August 18 – September 12

PERMIT TYPE	APPLICATIONS*	ISSUANCES**	HOLDS***
Building Permit Clearance	29	23	0
Clearing/Grading Clearance	1	2	0
Occupancy Clearance	21	22	0
Underground Injection Control Permit	3	3	0
H2B Clearance	10	11	0
Well Operating Permit	13	0	0
Well Abandonment Permit	0	0	0
Well Drilling Permit	1	4	0
Test Boring Permit	2	5	0
Application Review Committee (ARC) Review	10	7	0
Aboveground Storage Tank (AST)	Not on WALTERS	13	0
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Permit	Not on WALTERS	0	0
Solid Waste Management Permit	Not on WALTERS	2	0
Wastewater Collection Permit	Not on WALTERS	0	0
MILCON	3	0	0
Highway Encroachment	4	4	0
Fumigation	Not on WALTERS	0	0
Environmental Clearance (Aggregate)	Not on WALTERS	4	0
Burial at Sea	Not on WALTERS	6	0
Notice of Arrivals (Pesticides)	Not on WALTERS	233	
Air Pollution	Not on WALTERS	0	0
TOTALS	97*	339**	0***



*Applications received between August 18 – September 12.

**Includes approved permits and clearances granted to applications submitted prior to July 23, 2025.

***Includes permit and clearance holds applied to applications submitted prior to July 23, 2025.

Chairman opened the floor for questions/ discussion.

Director Quitugua inquired if there are any efforts to figure out the source of the dieldrin contamination. Administrator advised the agency has had daily calls with US EPA and inquired if there was any grant money available to do a study. CAPT. DeGrange advised that in discussion with US EPA and GWA they talked about doing assessments or soil surveys because one of the big questions is if it's safe to eat crops grown in that area in Yigo. CAPT. added we know crops uptake dieldrin so we have authorization to use some of our grant money but also GWA has offered to assist Guam EPA with some sampling and testing. CAPT. advised she spoke with DoAG (Dept. of Agriculture) and GWA today and they will come up with a design or study to give us data that is useful. CAPT. went on to say with previous sampling and limited data we know there is dieldrin in Tumon Bay and Orote. So to talk about the source, the big problem is that dieldrin was so widely used commercially, privately and by Dept. of Defense (DOD) so it's not going to be easy to identify a source. Director Quitugua stated she is concerned that we identify it for the purpose of preventing it from going anywhere else. CAPT. also mentioned there will be joint farm inspection with DoAG and our Pesticides program.

Administrator advised the agency did reach out to US FDA (Federal Drug Administration) that is stationed here on Guam to see if they can test for a pesticide residue in the food and vegetable crops. US FDA is still working out that protocol because they haven't had much luck with sending out samples because by the time it gets to the laboratory it is not a useful sample even with dry ice.

Chairman inquired on the other PWS's (Public Water Systems) as they have to start to get a running annual average. Administrator advised the agency has decided from October 1 to Dec 31st (1st quarter) we will look at those results and make a determination about notification and not an official notification because they don't have a 12 month rolling average. Administrator stated one of the criticisms during the town hall meeting is that if there is an exceedance the community should know, so depending on what the results are from the other PWS's Guam EPA will provide information. Administrator added this will not trigger the Tier 1 or Tier 2 notification for those PWS's because they don't have four quarters of data to calculate the running average.

DPW – Abandoned Vehicles Removal MOA – Administrator advised DPW provided their operational and expenditure plan but unfortunately due to a conflicting schedule they won't make it to present it to the Board. Administrator stated DPW will be requesting for \$2Million so their expenditure plan breaks down the resources they need. Administrator added DPW will only be focusing on abandoned vehicles. Chairman stated DPW should follow the same requirements as MCOG where the plan should include SOP's, invoicing procedures and so on. After further discussion Chairman Carbullido advised the Administrator and board members to review DPW's operation and expenditure plan over the next month for discussion during our next meeting.

US EPA Water Sampling Results from February 2025– Presented by Nicole Diras and Sierra Armstrong-Bettis- Guam EPA's Safe Drinking Water Program. **Copy of the PowerPoint presentation available upon request**



NOTICE OF VIOLATION'S – Chairman Carbullido inquired on any new NOV's from last board meeting which there has been none reported.

New Meeting Date/Adjournment: Next regular meeting was tentatively set November 13, 2025. Director Carrara made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Director Quitugua. All in favor, zero (0) opposed, and regular meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

Arlene M.S. Acfalle
Acting Board Secretary

