John H. Seebart
5095 Napilihau St., Ste. 109 B, PMB 178
Lahaina Hi, 96761
September 21, 2008

Nancy Rumil
EPA region 9 office (WTR-9)
75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, Ca 94105

Dear Ms. Rumil:

I am writing concerning the intent to issue an Underground injection control (UIC) permit for the Lahaina Waste Water Reclamation Facility, Lahaina Maui.

The purpose of my comment is to pass along to you information which has recently been discovered regarding the injection of treated wastewater here on Maui. The nitrates and phosphates contained in the water injected by this well, and others, have been shown to cause algae blooms which are smothering the coral on nearby reefs, specifically at Kahekili. These reef habitats are threatened world wide. We are lucky to have identified this specific threat before this reef has been destroyed as the reef at Maalaea Bay has been, and apparently by the same cause. We must act now to stop this known threat to such an important eco-system.

I would like to request that the renewal of this permit be conditional upon the removal of the nitrates and phosphates or that the water not be injected. We are short of water here on Maui and this water could possibly replace or augment irrigation water. Other solutions may be available, but it is imperative that we stop destroying the reefs by feeding the algae with our wastewater through injection wells. The state of the reef is dire.

Further, I would like to request that the EPA come to Maui and talk to the scientists working in this area. The State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) have done substantial work with regard to this problem, and have shown the plume from the Lahaina injection well is delivering nutrient rich fresh water to the reef at Kahekili which is killing, smothering, the reef. The County of Maui will not act on its own, the reef is continuing to be destroyed, and we know about it.

This is an urgent issue for a disappearing eco-system and I hope you can help find a remedy.

Thank you,

John Seebart