## E-1. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND BECQ RESPONSES

**COMMENT 1 - 09.20.22\_Muna\_Joseph-Drinking Water Palatability and Chlorine Treatment**

“From: **J Muna** <[josephmuna73@gmail.com](mailto:josephmuna73@gmail.com)>  
Date: Tue, 20 Sept 2022 at 09:26  
Subject: Water Quality Concerns / Gualo Rai  
To: [cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com](mailto:cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com) <[cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com](mailto:cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com)>

Greetings,

I am submitting a comment about  water quality concern effecting all residents in the Gualo Rai area. Most especially for those living in the upper portion of Gualo Rai.

I had read and reviewed the water quality report that BECQ had submitted for public view and kuddos to all that continue to keep our water system safe and clean through sampling and testing. The report states general information about regulatory standards and procedures. Which is important information.

I have been a long time resident in the village of Gualo Rai. Its always been my home village and our parcel of land has been passed down through family generations which i am proud of and blessed with. My cocnern, is this. Through my upbringing. Our family has had no issues with water quality in the past. Until the development of rural housing ie.,apartment complexes and influx of residential build up. Through these developments. Water quality had changed and of course it should be expected. Although, I am not entirely sure what quality level is BECQ basing itself from test results. But currently the water quality has gotten from bad to worst in Gualo Rai. The water service being provided by CUC in the area is almost unbearable to use because of EXCESSIVE amounts of chlorine in the water to treat contaminants. Residents or atleast for those that have no choice are left to use the water service from CUC for thier daily use. Exposing them of excessively large amount of chlorine daily. This chlorine concern has not only effected our daily lives but our health. The water quality is excessively salty to even taste which is actually a health concern. It is so bad that we as residents or at least for some. Refuse to use CUC water to even do laundry at home. It has cost lots of families financial loss because of chlorine damage to clothing and what not. The chlorine within the water system  has also taken its toll of a lot of our water fixtures. Leaving us residents little to no choice but to keep replacing damaged fixtures because of chlorine deterioration. These are just some serious cocnerns that I see as an issue that needs to be properly addressed.

 Thank you for allowing us citizens to submit comments to this regulatory water report. And Thank you BECQ for all the efforts in keeping our Island safe especially our natural resources.”

**RESPONSE 1 - 09.21.22\_WQS/NPS and SDWP**

From: **becq waterquality** <cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com>  
Date: Wed, 21 Sept 2022 at 11:30  
Subject: Re: Water Quality Concerns / Gualo Rai  
To: J Muna <josephmuna73@gmail.com>, <travisspaeth@becq.gov.mp>

Hafa Adai Mr. Muna

Thank you for submitting comments to BECQ’s Water Quality Surveillance/Non-point Source Pollution (WQS/NPS) Program’s for the DRAFT 2022 CNMI 305(b) and 303(d) Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report (IR). Your concerns about Gualo Rai’s drinking water palatability “saltiness”, and chlorine treatment levels are valid. This IR provides a general overview of BECQ’s groundwater program in Sections B.2.4.,; and a detailed discussion follows in PART D., beginning on page 249. However, this IR does not assess CNMI’s potable “drinking” water supply, only CNMI *surface* waters.

To clarify, the WQS/NPS program is only responsible for sampling and analyzing CNMI *surface*, or coastal waters, streams, wetlands and lakes. We publish the “Red Flag” reports. Unlike other states and territories, CNMI’s drinking water is sourced solely from groundwater, and not from any of our surface waters. Therefore, the potable ”drinking” water supply is not assessed in this IR.

However, drinking water quality oversight and assessment is provided by BECQ’s  “Safe Drinking Water Program”. Therefore, I have cc’d the Program’s Engineer, Travis Spaeth herein, so he can respond thoroughly to your concerns. Mr. Spaeth works with CUC to direct the utility towards meeting supply pressures, demands, and contamination. He may be contacted directly at: 670-664-8509, or by replying to [travis.spaeth@becq.gov.mp](mailto:travis.spaeth@becq.gov.mp).

Again, thank you for your comments. We appreciate our citizens’ valuable input, which improves the content of this biennial report to EPA and Congress, to better serve our community, meet environmental justice standards, and to keep our surface waters “fishable and swimmable” for everyone.

Please find out more about your village’s coastal waters, streams and wetlands in the Central West Takpochao Section of this report. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further concerns.

Si yu’us ma’ase and Tirow for your time and comments.