

## **BACKGROUND**

Public Law 20-20, the CNMI Planning and Development Act of 2017, established OPD as well as the Commonwealth Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC) which resides within OPD. PDAC's members comprise leadership from various CNMI organizations and government offices, as well as representatives from the offices of the Mayors of the Northern Islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Public Law 20-20 also gave OPD and PDAC the task of developing the CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP). The CNMI CSDP was approved in October 2021.

Within the CSDP, the development of the CNMI (State) Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (CISWMP) was identified within Sustainable Development Goal #12 - Responsible Consumption and Production. Specifically, the CSDP states that by 2025, "OPD and DEQ will support DPW in the development and incorporation of the integrated waste management plan."

As of October 2022, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Office of Planning and Development (OPD), Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC), planning partners and supporting technical staff, in accordance with section 4002(b) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6942(b)) (the "Act"), and as described in 40 CFR 256.01 began the development and implementation of the first CNMI CISWMP.

In accord with 40 CFR 256.61 and 40 CFR 25.11, the CISWMP will include this CNMI Public Participation Work Plan (PPWP) in the required Annual State Work Program (ASWP). The ASWP is a component of the CISWMP (see 40 CFR 256.05).

### **40 CFR 256.60 REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE AND SUBSTATE PLANS**

#### 256.60(a)1

OPD will maintain a current list of agencies, organizations, and individuals affected by or interested in the plan, which shall include any parties that request to be on the list, the owner or operator of each facility classified as an open dump, and any other parties which OPD and DEQ in their support of DPW determines to be affected by or interested in the plan.

OPD and DEQ in their support of DPW will keep this list of agencies, organizations, and individuals affected by or interested in the plan electronically. The list will be located on a landing page on OPD's official website ([opd.gov.mp](http://opd.gov.mp)) that will serve as the primary information hub for all things CISWMP, including the latest draft of the CISWMP made available to the public, supporting materials, the list of stakeholders who have expressed interest in being part of

the CISWMP planning process, upcoming public hearings, and a space for the public to provide comments on the CISWMP.

256.60(a)2

OPD and DEQ in their support of DPW will provide depositories of relevant information regarding the CISWMP in one or more convenient locations, including electronic files on OPD's official website ([opd.gov.mp](http://opd.gov.mp)) that will serve as the primary information hub for all things CISWMP including the latest draft of the CISWMP made available to the public, supporting materials, the list of stakeholders who have expressed interest in being part of the CISWMP planning process, upcoming public hearings, and a space for the public to provide comments on the CISWMP.

Furthermore, OPD and DEQ on behalf of DPW will provide physical copies of the CISWMP to the CNMI's community libraries on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as well as the highest-authority government offices located on each island (Saipan: CNMI Office of the Governor; Tinian and Rota: each island's respective Office of the Mayor).

256.60(a)3

OPD and DEQ in their support of DPW will prepare responsiveness summaries that describe matters on which the public was consulted, summarize the public's views, and set forth the agency's response to the public input. OPD will store these responsiveness summaries with other documents described in 256.60(a)2.

256.60(b)

OPD and DEQ in their support of DPW will provide information and consult with the public on plan development and implementation. Provision of information and consultation by OPD and DEQ will occur both early in the planning process (including the preparation and distribution of a summary of the proposed plan) and on major policy decisions made during Plan development, revision, and implementation.

To meet this requirement for the 2023 CISWMP and its PPWD, OPD and DEQ on behalf of DPW are planning to hold the following Public Meetings:

- **April 18-19, 2023:** CNMI Zero Waste Visioning Workshops
- **~ October 2023- February 2024:** In-person and virtual public hearings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota
- **April 2024- onward:** Submission of updated final CISWMP draft to PDAC for review, followed by one public hearing in each of the three Senatorial Districts of the CNMI.

256.60(b)1

Publicize information in news media having broad audiences in the geographic area, which in the CNMI include but are not limited to KKMP, KSPN2, Marianas Variety, and Saipan Tribune.

To meet this requirement for the 2023 CISWMP and its PPWP, OPD and DEQ on behalf of DPW will coordinate with local news and radio stations and publish press releases announcing public hearings regarding the CISWMP both 10 days and one day prior to the hearing dates.

OPD and DEQ on behalf of DPW will also coordinate with local news and radio stations and publish press releases to announce the opening of the online public comment period on the day the online public comment period opens, and will also announce the upcoming closing of the public comment period 10 days prior to the day of said closing date.

256.60(b)2

Place information in depositories maintained under paragraph (a)(2) of this section;

To meet this requirement for the 2023 CISWMP and its PPWP, OPD and DEQ on behalf of DPW will host a landing page on OPD's official website ([opd.gov.mp](http://opd.gov.mp)) that will serve as the primary information hub for all things CISWMP including the latest draft of the CISWMP made available to the public, supporting materials, the list of stakeholders who have expressed interest in being part of the CISWMP planning process, upcoming public hearings, and a space for the public to provide comments on the CISWMP.

Furthermore, OPD and DEQ on behalf of DPW will provide physical copies of the CISWMP to the CNMI's community libraries on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as well as the highest-authority government offices located on each island (Saipan: CNMI Office of the Governor; Tinian and Rota: each island's respective Office of the Mayor).

256.60(b)3

Send information directly to agencies, organizations and individuals on the list maintained under 256.60(a)(1) of this section; and

To meet this requirement for the 2023 CISWMP and its PPWD, OPD and DEQ on behalf of DPW will maintain a mailing list through an email and newsletter platform such as Mailchimp, and push out planning updates and announcements of events such as public hearings through this platform.

256.60(b)4

Prepare and make available to the public a responsiveness summary in accord with 40 CFR 25.8.

To meet this requirement for the 2023 CISWMP and its PPWD, OPD and DEQ on behalf of DPW will prepare several responsiveness summaries within 2 weeks of the date that a public hearing and/or outreach activity has concluded, and have these responsiveness summaries reviewed, approved, and submitted to appropriate decision-making official, and published on the OPD website. Furthermore, once ALL public outreach activities have been completed, OPD will compile all previous summaries and prepare a comprehensive responsiveness summary encapsulating all public outreach activities that were conducted for this planning effort.

#### 256.60(c)

In accordance with 40 CFR 256.60(c), OPD and DEQ in their support of DPW will conduct public hearings (and public meetings, where the agency determines there is sufficient interest) in accordance with 40 CFR 25.5 and 25.6. The purpose of the hearings and meetings is to solicit reactions and recommendations from interested or affected parties and to explain major issues within the proposed plan. Following the public hearings, a responsiveness summary shall be prepared by OPD and DEQ and made available to the public in accordance with 40 CFR 25.8.

In accordance with 40 CFR 25.8, each responsiveness summary will identify the public participation activity conducted; describe the matters on which the public was consulted; summarize the public's views, significant comments, criticisms and suggestions; and set forth OPD's and DEQ's specific responses in terms of modifications of the proposed action or an explanation for rejection of proposals made by the public.

As an agency receiving U.S. Environmental Protection Agency financial assistance, OPD and DEQ will also include evaluations of the effectiveness of the public participation program within the responsiveness summary. OPD and DEQ will request such evaluations from any advisory group and provide an opportunity for other participating members of the public to contribute to the evaluation. Responsiveness summaries will be forwarded to the appropriate decision-making official and will be made available to the public.

Furthermore, this Public Participation Work Plan (PPWP) will be an element within the CISWMP which is identified within the CNMI CSDP. As a result, the PPWP and CISWMP must also comply with CNMI P.L. 20-20 § 20178. Within P.L. 20-20 § 20178, it is stated that "The [CNMI CCSDP] Plan or any of its elements prepared by the various public agencies or any private entity shall be submitted to the Council [PDAC] for review".

Within forty-five (45) days following receipt of the Public Participation Work Plan by PDAC, PDAC shall hold one (1) or more public hearings thereon in each Senatorial District. Announcements of such hearings shall be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the CNMI ten (10) days and one (1) day prior thereto. A summary of the Public Participation Work Plan will be prepared by PDAC and submitted to appropriate news media.

## ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

40 CFR 256.60(a)(3) references 40 CFR 25.8 and 40 CFR 256.61(a) references 40 CFR 25.11(b) therefore the following components are listed below:

### CONTACTS

- OPD Staff Contacts: Lead Planner Erin Derrington and Communications Specialist Joshua Santos
- OPD Contact information: Telephone (670) 233-2673 or email [planning@opd.gov.mp](mailto:planning@opd.gov.mp) or [joshua.santos@opd.gov.mp](mailto:joshua.santos@opd.gov.mp).
- DEQ Staff Contacts: BECQ Administrator Eli Cabrera, DEQ Director Zabrina Cruz,
- DEQ Contact Information: Telephone (670) 664-8550 or email [eli.cabrera@becq.gov.mp](mailto:eli.cabrera@becq.gov.mp) or [zabrina.shai@becq.gov.mp](mailto:zabrina.shai@becq.gov.mp)

### PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARIES

Proposed Schedule for Public Participation Activities to Impact Major Decisions as related to the development and submittal of the 2023 CISWMP.

- **April 18-19, 2023:** CNMI Zero Waste Visioning Workshops
- ~ **October 2023:** In-person and virtual public hearings on Saipan.
- ~ **December 2023:** In-person and virtual public hearing on Tinian.
- ~ **February 2024:** In-person and virtual public hearing on Rota.
- ~**March- April 2024:** Online public comment period for the latest draft version of the CISWMP.
- ~**April 2024- onward:** Submission of updated final CISWMP draft to PDAC for review, followed by one public hearing in each of the Senatorial Districts of the CNMI
  - The CISWMP will be added to the CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP), and as a result, the CISWMP must also comply with Public Law 20-20 § 20178. Within P.L. 20-20 § 20178, it is stated that “The Plan

or any of its elements prepared by the various public agencies or any private entity shall be submitted to the Council for review”.

- “The Plan” is in reference to the CSDP, and the “Council” is in reference to the Planning and Development and Advisory Council, whose members comprise of leadership from various CNMI organizations and government offices, as well as representatives from the offices of the Mayors of the Northern Islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.
- In accordance with P.L. 20-20 § 20178, the CNMI Office of Planning and Development will submit the CISWMP to the Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC) for review. Within forty-five (45) days following receipt of the CISWMP by PDAC, PDAC shall hold one (1) or more public hearings thereon in each Senatorial District. Announcements of such hearings shall be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the CNMI ten (10) days and one (1) day prior thereto. A summary of the CISWMP will be prepared by PDAC and submitted to appropriate news media.

Discussion of Responsiveness Summaries prepared from the Public Participation Activities.

- **November 2023:** Responsiveness summary for Saipan public hearings prepared, reviewed, approved, and submitted to appropriate decision-making official, and published on the OPD website.
- **December 2023:** Responsiveness summary for Tinian public hearing prepared, reviewed, approved, and submitted to appropriate decision-making official, and published on the OPD website.
- **February 2024:** Responsiveness summary for Rota public hearing prepared, reviewed, approved, and submitted to appropriate decision-making official, and published on the OPD website.
- **May 2024:** Responsiveness summary covering the comments received during the two-month online public comment period to be prepared, reviewed, approved, and submitted to appropriate decision-making official, and published on the OPD website.
- **June 2024- onward:** Responsiveness summary covering the public hearings in each Senatorial District regarding CISWMP integration into the CSDP to be prepared, reviewed, approved, and submitted to appropriate decision-making official, and published on the OPD website.

- **June 2024- onward:** A responsiveness summary that encapsulates all public outreach activities from ~ November 2023 to date will be compiled, reviewed, approved, and submitted to appropriate decision-making official, and published on the OPD website.

## **CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION MECHANISMS TO BE USED**

OPD and DEQ on behalf of DPW will use a variety of consultation and information mechanisms to ensure that all interested will have ample opportunity to provide their input on the CISWMP and to ensure that all interested will have the means to access the materials needed to form full, informed opinions on the CISWMP. These mechanisms include:

- Press releases and announcements on local news and radio stations to announce upcoming public hearings and to share planning milestones throughout the CISWMP development process
- Social media content aimed at summarizing key items and areas of interest found within the CISWMP, announcing upcoming public hearings, and sharing planning milestones throughout the CISWMP development process
- A landing page on OPD’s official website ([opd.gov.mp](http://opd.gov.mp)) that will serve as the primary information hub for all things CISWMP including the latest draft of the CISWMP made available to the public, supporting materials, the list of stakeholders who have expressed interest in being part of the CISWMP planning process, upcoming public hearings, and a space for the public to provide comments on the CISWMP.
- An email and newsletter platform such as Mailchimp to push out planning updates and announcements of events such as public hearings

## **SEGMENTS OF PUBLIC TARGETED FOR INVOLVEMENT**

At this time, the current list of agencies, organizations, and individuals affected by or interested in the CISWMP include:

- **The members of the Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Taskforce:** Office of Planning and Development (OPD), the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Offices of the Mayors of Tinian, Rota, Saipan, and the Northern Islands, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- **The members of the Planning and Development Advisory Council:** OPD, BECQ, Department of Commerce, Department of Public Lands, DPW, the Offices of the Mayors

of Tinian, Rota, Saipan, and the Northern Islands, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Marianas Visitors Authority, CNMI Zoning Office, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, and the Department of Lands and natural Resources.

- **Private sector:** garbage collection companies, recyclers, construction companies, the contractors and subcontractors who would be involved in constructing the solid waste management facilities outlined in the CISWMP, grocery store owners, food and beverage companies,
- **Local nonprofit organizations such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Green 2 Go, Rotary International, and others**
- **Local media partners— TV news, radio, and newspapers**
- **Members of the general public that are interested in the CISWMP, solid waste, and Zero Waste practices at large**
- **Educational Institutions:** CNMI Public School System, private schools, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Technical Institute
- **Legislators: House and Senate**
- **Public Health Departments:** Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., local clinics
- **Emergency and Medical Services:** Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- **Financial and economic development institutions:** banks, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority
- **The U.S. military and the CNMI's liaisons to the military:** Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, the branches of the military with a presence in the CNMI
- **The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI)**
- **Apartment and building owners**