



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature

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**"A Statement from Senator Dueñas to Guam Waterworks Authority Officials:
'Protect the People's Water — Connect 1,900 Homes to Available Sewer
Systems!'"**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 08, 2024

(Hagåtña, Guam) - During the public hearing on [Bill 175-37\(COR\)](#) last Thursday, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency raised concerns over a section of the proposed bill, [citing](#) potential risks leading to the degradation of our island's freshwater source. Guam Association of Realtors', John Dueñas, [highlighted](#) the ongoing issue of 1,900 homes within close proximity to sewer systems continuing to discharge wastewater, increasing the nitrate concentration found in Guam's water wells.

In an effort to resolve this issue, Senator Dueñas is calling on the Guam Waterworks Authority to seek a balance in the system, and take immediate action in connecting these homes to the island's sewer system.

"It is deeply unconscionable that the Guam Environmental Protection Agency delivered a presentation that highlighted the potential environmental risks posed by Bill 175-37 to our water system. At the same time, it is unacceptable that no actions have been taken to connect the nearly 2,000 households to the readily available sewer system. This disregard is not only concerning, but also raises serious questions about the commitment to safeguarding our water resources," stated Senator Dueñas.

Senator Dueñas continued, ***"There's an excess of \$13 million in the Guam Waterworks Authority System Development Charge account. There is absolutely no room for excuses regarding funding constraints with this financial reserve."***

Bill 175-37 aims to include the use of a type 4 nitrate reducing system that would open the door for more landowners to build homes on their lands. It is imperative that these available resources be used to address critical needs to safeguard Guam's water system. The public deserves and demands accountability in the allocation of these funds to ensure safe water sources.

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