



## Governing Board Decides Against Expanding Eligibility Requirements

In March of 2019, LIHI staff solicited comments on a proposal to advance the eligibility date for dams and diversions under the LIHI Certification Program. In its April 2020 meeting, the LIHI governing board voted to accept the Technical Committee's recommendation to NOT make any changes to the eligibility requirements. LIHI will continue to assess whether any changes in eligibility may be warranted. More information on the decision can be found [HERE](#).

## Covid-19 Prevention and Safety

First and foremost, we hope that you and your families are safe and healthy. As a reminder, many of our Certified facilities have closed their recreational facilities temporarily. While open and free recreational access to rivers is one of our qualifying criteria to achieving Low Impact Certification, we also allow for safety to be considered in the type of and amount of recreation supported at any given site. Please check to see if a recreation facility is still open before venturing out; we will do our best to post on our project webpages any updates to recreational facilities.



The entire LIHI family hopes that you are all staying healthy, safe, and distant.



## Clean Water Act Ruling by Supreme Court

On Thursday, April 23rd, the Supreme Court ruled against a potential loophole in the Clean Water Act. The case, [County of Maui v. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund](#), concerned the pumping of wastewater treatment plant sewage into groundwater without obtaining [National Pollution Discharge Elimination System](#) permits. The County of Maui argued that the discharge through injection wells did not warrant a NPDES permit as the waste was passing through groundwater before reaching navigable waters. The Supreme Court found that NPDES permitting, required for direct discharge of a pollutant into a navigable waterway, is also required for the 'functional equivalent of a direct discharge.' For more on this ruling, please see the [Opinion of the Court](#) and [summary from](#)

## Inaugural Semi-Annual Strategy Session 2020

The Low Impact Hydropower Institute Governing and Advisory Boards convened for the first of its novel biannual board strategy meetings. The gathering was held virtually over the course of two days on May 18th and 19th. While disappointed that a LIHI Certified site-visit was not on the agenda, staff and board took the opportunity to review strategic priorities and plan for the future of the organization.



## Words on Water: 2020 Writing Contest

The Blue Institute is hosting a writing competition in honor of World Ocean Day and to celebrate ocean conservation throughout the month of June. The competition is split into two tracks - adult and K-12. Poetry, prose, and playwriting with an 'open-ended theme of water' may be submitted. As further incentive for submission, LIHI will send anyone who mentions low impact hydropower or LIHI a piece of LIHI gear! Just send your submission to [info@lowimpacthydro.com](mailto:info@lowimpacthydro.com) and even if not selected, we may post your submission here! The contest runs until June 30th, rules and submission details can be found [HERE](#).

## News of Note

- In a record breaking stretch from March 25 to May 3, electricity generation by renewables (hydro, wind, and solar) out-performed coal-fired electricity generation. In contrast, 2019 saw a total of 38 days in which renewables outpaced coal generation. More information can be found [HERE](#).

