HILO — What went wrong and how to prevent it from happening again were topmost in the minds of members of the county Water Board on Tuesday, as they heard an update on well breakdowns in West Hawaii.

The board unanimously agreed to spend $122,000 for backup pumps and motors for the Hawaiian Ocean View Estates and Waikoloa wells, but learned that backup equipment for the Honokohau well, estimated at $235,000, didn’t meet the bid requirements and had to be rejected. The department plans to continue pursuing a purchase under state procurement laws.

The board also unanimously approved a $907,625 bid from Beltco Drilling & Pump Service Inc. to repair the Kalaoa No. 1 well. The well is currently working but is one of the top high-level wells in the area and needs to be repaired “in advance of failure,” said Keith Okamoto, manager and chief engineer for the Department of Water Supply. With four of the area’s 13 wells under repair, North Kona has been under mandatory water restrictions since January, requiring a 33 percent reduction in water usage. The restrictions are expected to remain in effect even after the Waiakea Deepwell comes back on line July 31. Repairs at three other wells are set for completion by the end of the year.

Okamoto and Clyde Young, the lead mechanical engineer, said no one factor caused so many wells to break down in a short time. "Anytime firefighters go out to unnecessary fires, it takes away from something else they could be doing and sets up funding," Laura Malerry-Fayes, co-founder of the foundation.

The most recent suspicious fire being investigated occurred at 9:30 a.m. July 21. Hawaii Fire Maj. Robert Wagner said an abandoned vehicle was found on Fire Investigation 198 at mile marker 30. Several small brush fires were reported in the same area the weekend before that. The first was discovered at about 7:45 a.m. on July 15 at about mile marker 29 on Mamalahoa Highway, also as the upper summit. The second was discovered on July 16 at 7:45 p.m., a half mile up the road. The third fire was spotted July 16 at 11:33 a.m. at mile marker 30, that led to the apprehension and conviction of those responsible for the arsons, said Hawaii Fire Department Chief Pat Freitas.

The chief added the blazes are similar in nature and could be connected. When the arson fund was first set up in 2007, the fire department responded to nine brush fires set on fire Investigation 198 at mile marker 30.

"The last string of fires in the Kona area were all suspicious," said Hawaii Fire Department Chief Pat Freitas.

Rosario encouraged the nonprofit organization Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation, in support of the Hawaiian Ocean View Estates Estates and Halekii wells, but learned that backup equipment for the Honokohau well, estimated at $235,000, didn’t meet the bid requirements and had to be rejected. The department plans to continue pursuing a purchase under state procurement laws.

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Want a car with that condo? Hawaii developer offers leased Mercedes-Benz to buyers

A car with your condo? It’s happening in Waimea, Hawaii, where developers are offering buyers a lease on a Mercedes-Benz for three years when they purchase a condo.

The developers are hoping the offer will attract buyers who might not have considered purchasing a condo before, as the program allows them to test drive the lifestyle of living in Waimea, according to the developers.

The offer is available for a limited time and is only available for condos within a three-mile radius of Waimea.

The program is being offered by the developer, who is using it as a marketing tool to attract more buyers to their properties.

The developers have also introduced a policy for buyers who choose to purchase the lease, which allows them to continue the lease for an additional three years after the initial term.

For more information, contact the developers at the following number: 808-639-7777.