

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Engineering Division
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 26, 2016

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

**Declare Project Exempt From Requirements of Chapter 343, HRS, and Title 11,
Chapter 200, Hawaii Administrative Rules**

**Job No. G75CH18B
Keopu Deep Monitor Well Improvements
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii**

The Board of Land & Natural Resources approved the award of the construction contract for the subject project on July 10, 2015. Pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and Chapter 11-200, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), the attached Exemption Notification labeled Exhibit A was prepared.

The project consists of modifications to the existing Keopu Deep Monitor Well (DMW) and construction of a new deep monitor well (10-inch casing), including chain link fence and gate enclosures, and related work. The work in this project is described and justified as follows:

1. The existing Keopu DMW must be modified to block the upward flow of fresh water encountered below the salt water zone in the Keopu DMW. An evaluation of the conditions within the well by the Commission on Water Resource Management staff, and consultant, Tom Nance Water Resource Engineering, indicated that the bottom portion of the existing Keopu DMW cannot be repaired and made usable for monitoring the deep fresh water zone. Therefore, the bottom portion of the Keopu DMW will be sealed to block the upward flow of fresh water, and modify the well into a basal monitoring well, needed for ongoing hydrologic studies in the Kona area.
2. To replace the sealed portion of the Keopu DMW that cannot be repaired, a new deep monitor well will be constructed adjacent to the Keopu DMW to allow testing and monitoring of the deep fresh water zone that was encountered in the existing Keopu DMW. Testing and monitoring the deep fresh water zone through access in the new well is critical for better understanding the complex geohydrologic regime, including the occurrence, quality, and extent of a deep, and potentially significant fresh water source in the Kona area.

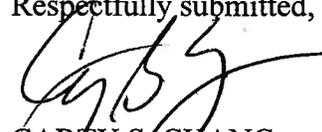
In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rule Section 11-200-8(A), and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, as reviewed and concurred upon by the Environmental Council on June 5, 2015, the subject project is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Exemption Class No. 1, Item No. 19 that states "Repairs to existing ground water, surface water, or climatological monitoring equipment, and other similar monitoring and data

collection equipment, and the structures that house or protect them” and Exemption Class No. 5, Item No. 8 that states “Construction of test wells with casing diameter of not more than 12 inches to provide ground truth for water resources investigations, the suggested size will enable the aquifer to be tested for its physical, chemical, biological qualities, as well as providing a pumping test to determine the specific capacity of the aquifer. Test wells shall not be developed to serve water unless an EIS or negative declaration is prepared.”

RECOMMENDATION:

Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed project as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR, this project will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

Respectfully submitted,



CARTY S. CHANG
Chief Engineer

Requested by:



JEFFREY T. PEARSON, Deputy Director
Commission on Water Resource Management

Approved For Submittal:



SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

ENGINEERING DIVISION
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February 26, 2016

EXEMPTION NOTIFICATION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200, HAR

Project Title:	Keopu Deep Monitor Well Improvements
Job Number:	G75CH18B
Project Location:	Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
Project Description:	Scope of work: Modifications to the existing Keopu Deep Monitor Well and construction of a new deep monitor well (10-inch casing), including chain link fence and gate enclosures, and related work.
Chapter 343 Trigger(s)	Use of State Funds
Consulted Parties:	State Historic Preservation Division, Disability and Communication Access Board
Exemption Class & Description:	Environmental Council, June 5, 2015, Exemption Class No. 1 – Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing and Exemption Class No. 5 – Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.
Exemption Item Number and Description:	Exemption Class No. 1, Item No. 19 that states "Repairs to existing ground water, surface water, or climatological monitoring equipment, and other similar monitoring and data collection equipment, and the structures that house or protect them." Exemption Class No. 5, Item No. 8 that states "Construction of test wells with casing diameter of not more than 12 inches to provide ground truth for water resources investigations, the suggested size will enable the aquifer to be tested for its physical, chemical, biological qualities, as well as providing a pumping test to determine the specific capacity of the aquifer. Test wells shall not be developed to serve water unless an EIS or negative declaration is prepared."
Recommendation	It is anticipated this project will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is presumed to be exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.


Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson

2/26/16
Date

EXHIBIT A