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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION


'91 MAY 28 AM 11:00 1369 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

OFFICE OF
QUALITY

May 17, 1991

HAR-ED 640.91

To: Brian Choy, Acting Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control

From: Edward Y. Hirata, Director
Department of Transportation 

Subject: NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR ALA MOANA BEACH SAND
REPLENISHMENT, OAHU - JOB H. C. 2287

In accordance with Chapter 343-4 (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, we are notifying you that we will not require an Environmental Impact Statement for the subject project. We have attached a Negative Declaration for the proposed work.

Please contact Mr. Napoleon Agraan of our Design Section at 548-2505 if you have any question on the action.

Enc.

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- 1991-06-08-0A-FRA

NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
ALA MOANA BEACH SAND REPLENISHMENT, OAHU
JOB H. C. 2287

A. APPLICANT

Harbors Division, Department of Transportation

B. APPROVING AGENCY

Department of Transportation

C. AGENCIES CONSULTED

Ala Moana-Kakaako Neighborhood Board #11, beach users, swimmers, tourists and local citizens were consulted. They unanimously supported the proposed project.

The proposed maintenance project will be coordinated with the following agencies, and permits will be secured if required:

1. Corps of Engineers - Department of the Army Permit
2. Department of Health - Water Quality
3. Office of State Planning - CZM
4. City & County of Honolulu Department of Parks & Recreation - Parks Use Permit
5. Department of Land and Natural Resources - Conservation District Use and Right of Entry Permits

D. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION'S TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Technical (See attached map)

The proposed project consists of grading and/or redistributing existing sand, removing exposed coral chunks and importing additional sand within a portion of Ala Moana Beach to restore the shoreline and correct an existing hazardous condition.

2. Economic - Social

Ala Moana Beach was constructed in 1955, approximately 90 to 100 feet wide with coral fill and two feet maximum sand cover. The beach is adjacent to Ala Moana Park, one of the most beautiful, heavily used and convenient recreational parks in the city. Over

the years, Ala Moana Beach has experienced erosion and exposure of coral aggregates along approximately 900-1,000 feet of its shoreline located around the center of the beach. The exposed coral bottom in this area is uncomfortable and hazardous to bathers. Remedial work involving removal of some coral chunks and replenishment of sand has been done in the past to preclude injuries to the bathers and other beach users.

Throughout the year, this beach is heavily used by residents and tourists especially during the months between May and August.

Public facilities include showers and appurtenant facilities. Bathhouses and park areas for picnics and games are available at nearby Ala Mcana Park.

3. Environmental

The proposed improvements will be done on the existing beach and in the wading areas within Ala Moana Beach. It will not endanger any marine or other wildlife in the area.

The proposed improvements will temporarily disrupt the use of the existing beach but only for a short duration during construction. The proposed maintenance project will not change the present use of the area.

E. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The adverse environmental effects described in paragraphs G and H are expected to be brief and associated only with the construction of the project. The project area does not contain any historical or archaeological sites. No endangered wildlife lives on the site.

F. DISCUSSION OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The effect of this project upon the environment has been determined to be insignificant. The construction of the project will not:

1. Generate controversy;
2. Alter the existing topography of the land or character of its use;
3. Cause the displacement of any persons;

4. Affect any rare, threatened, or endangered species of animals, plants, or habitats;
5. Involve an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources, except for the labor and materials related to the construction of the improvements;
6. Curtail the beneficial uses of the environment;
7. Conflict with the State's long-term environmental policy goals, or guidelines; and
8. Degrade the environmental quality.

The implementation of this project will be beneficial for all the beach users by having a safer and more enjoyable beach and swimming areas.

G. IMPACTS AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

During the construction period, there will be a temporary increase in noise, dust and emissions from internal combustion engines associated with the construction. However, these impacts will be minimal and intermittent in nature. Emissions from internal combustion engines will be readily dispersed in the open area.

The relocation of the existing sand, distribution of imported additional sand and removal of some coral chunks will cause discoloration of the water in the swimming areas. However, the increase in turbidity will be only of short duration during construction. The water will restore to its original condition after the proposed maintenance work.

Alternative to the proposed project is to reduce the scope of work. However, all the planned improvements are vital to the restoration of the Beach.

The alternative of "no project" would continue the inconvenience within the reduced beach areas due to the displaced sand and perpetuate the hazardous conditions within the swimming areas.

H. MITIGATION MEASURES


Provisions will be made in the project specifications to control and minimize the temporary adverse effects of construction. Requirements will be coordinated with the Department of Health.

I. DETERMINATION

Since no major adverse impacts are anticipated, costly detailed studies were considered inappropriate. Consequently, a determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required.

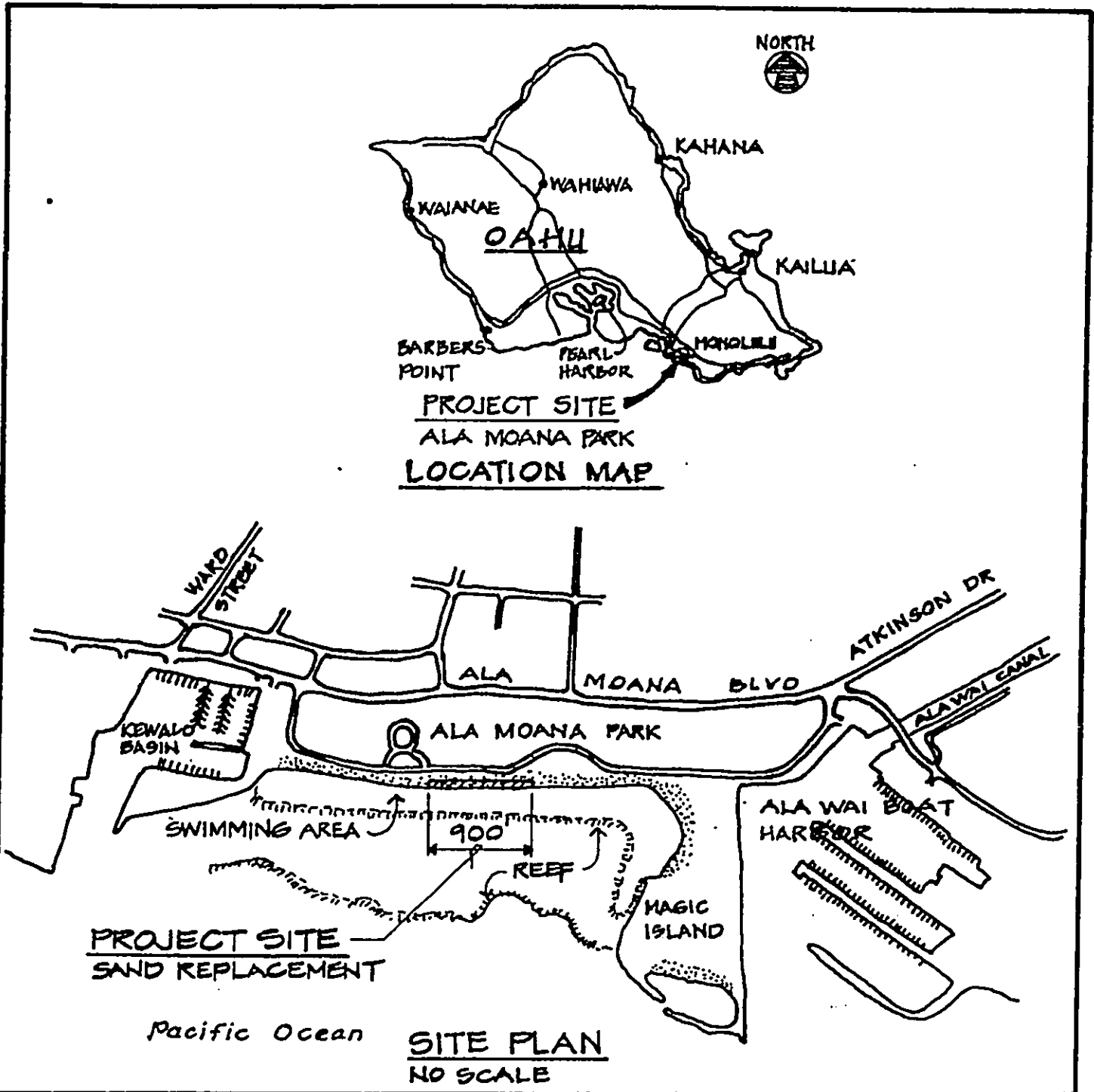
J. REASONS

Reasons supporting the "no EIS" determination are outlined in Sections F and G of this Negative Declaration. Any adverse environmental impact resulting from this project has been determined to be insignificant. Past experience has shown that this type of construction would have an insignificant effect on the environment, both short and long term.



EDWARD Y. HIRATA
Director of Transportation

5/22/91
Date

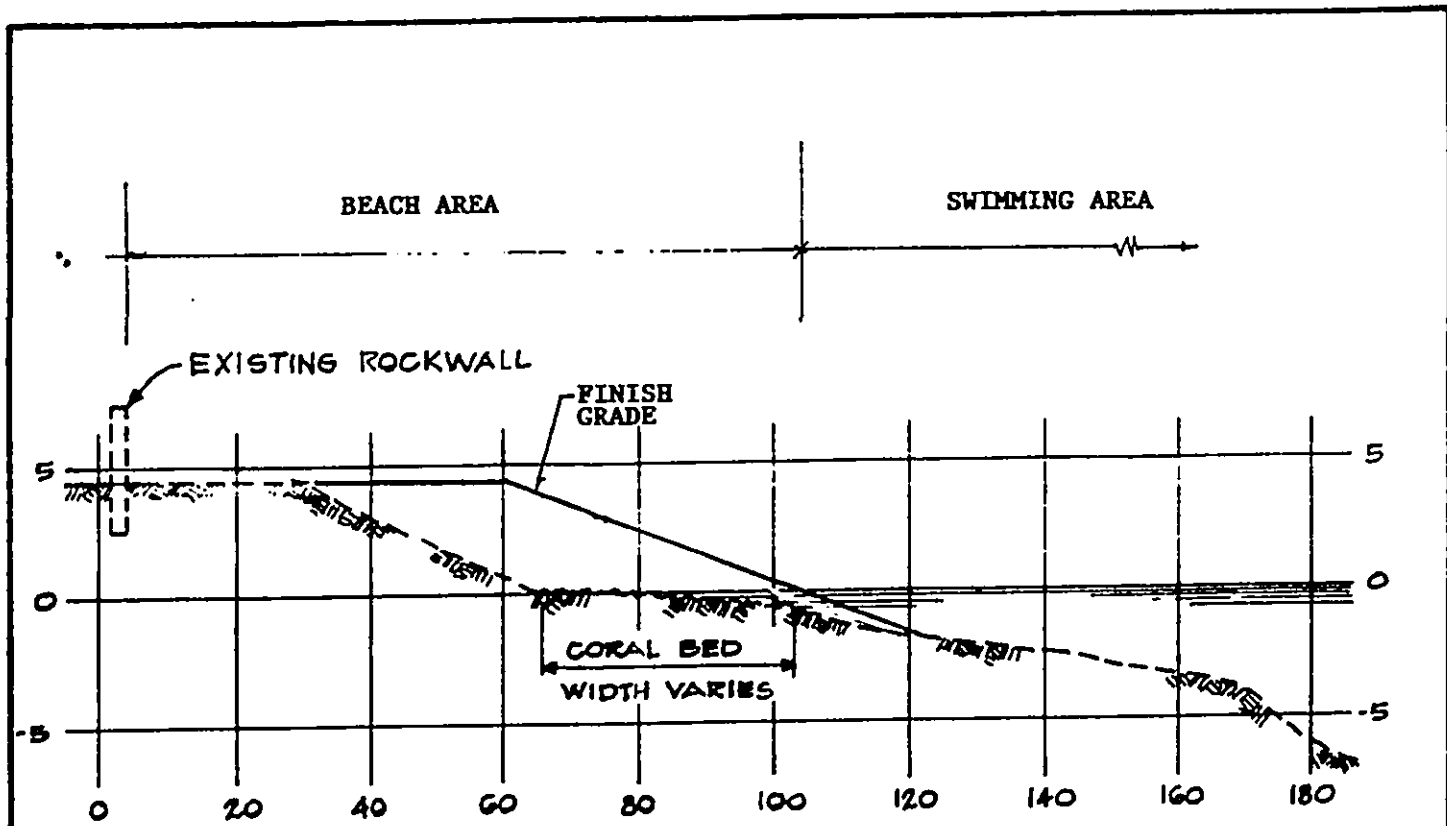


PURPOSE : RESTORE SAND EROSION
AT BEACH AREA
DATUM : MEAN LOWER LOW WATER
OWNER : STATE OF HAWAII
DEPT. OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

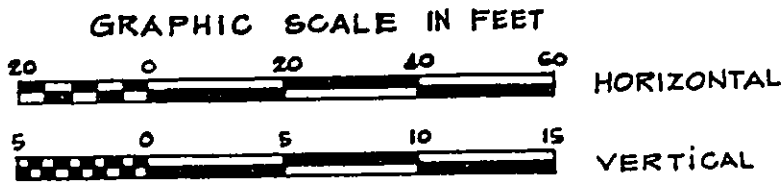
T.K.M, 2-3-37-1

RESTORING THE BEACH WHERE
SAND HAS ERODED
AT ALA MOANA PARK BEACH
AT HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAII
APPLICATION BY: HARBORS DIVISION
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

SHT OF DATE: SEPT. 10, 1990



TYPICAL CROSS-SECTION



<p>PURPOSE : RESTORE SAND EROSION AT BEACH AREA</p> <p>DATUM : MEAN LOWER LOW WATER</p> <p>OWNER : STATE OF HAWAII DEPT. OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES</p> <p>T.K.M. 2-3-37-1</p>	<p>RESTORING THE BEACH WHERE SAND HAS ERODED</p> <p>AT ALA MOANA PARK BEACH AT HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAII</p> <p>APPLICATION BY: HARBORS DIVISION DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>SHT. OF DATE : MAY 8, 1991</p>
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