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December 26, 1991 '92 JAN -8-1992 HAWAIIAN 5207.92

GFC. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

To: The Honorable Brian Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control

From: Rex D. Johnson, Director
Department of Transportation *Rex*

Subject: NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT
OVERSEAS TERMINAL, KAWAIHAE, HAWAII - JOB H. C. 5248

In accordance with Chapter 343-4(c) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, we are notifying you that we will not require an Environmental Impact Statement for the subject project. Enclosed are the original and four (4) copies of the Negative Declaration for the project.

If you have any question, please call August Perry at 587-1878.

Encs.

743

1992-01-23-HI-FBA-Kawaihae Maintenance Dredging at Overseas Terminal

FILE COPY

NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT OVERSEAS TERMINAL
KAWAIHAE, HAWAII
JOB H. C. 5248

A. APPLICANT

Harbors Division, Department of Transportation

B. APPROVING AGENCY

Environmental Quality Commission

C. AGENCIES CONSULTED

Agencies informed of the project but were not consulted in the preparation of this Negative Declaration are:

Federal Government - Army Corps of Engineers

State of Hawaii - Department of Land & Natural Resources
- Department of Business, Economic
Development and Tourism
- Department of Health

County of Hawaii - Planning Department

D. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION'S CHARACTERISTICS

1. Technical

The proposed project will include maintenance dredging of about 4,000 cubic yards of sand, silt and rocks. Recent soundings have confirmed that silting has occurred. This project will restore the berthing area to its original designed depth of minus 35 feet Mean Lower Low Water. The berthing area was originally dredged in the 1950's.

Disposal of the dredged material will be accomplished through dewatering and transporting the material to an approved developed land disposal site. The construction contractor will be responsible for locating the disposal site and obtaining all permits required for the use of the site.

2. Economic

The proposed project will allow normal berthing access for sugar ships, fuel and cargo barges, and other large commercial vessels calling at the Kawaihae Overseas Terminal.

The contractor's work schedule will be coordinated with the harbor users to minimize interference with vessels using the pier.

3. Environmental

Dredging of the berthing area will cause a temporary increase in noise and dust, and turbidity of the harbor waters adjacent to the pier. However, these increases are expected to be of short duration, less than one month, and not expected to lower the quality of water in the area. Dewatering of the dredged material is expected to take place within the harbor complex. Berms will be provided to prevent the sediment from flowing back into the harbor waters.

If the material is taken to a county landfill, it will be used by the County of Hawaii to cover and bury the deposited trash. Otherwise, it will be used by the contractor as fill material at an approved developed land disposal site.

The proposed project will not alter conditions which may result in the increased possibility of damage from flooding, storm waves, subsidence, or erosion. No change in salinity, currents or tidal action is expected to occur as a result of this project.

E. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

1. Location

The dredging site is located at the Overseas Terminal Pier at Kawaihae Harbor, Hawaii.

The dewatering site will be within the harbor complex and the disposal site will be at an approved developed land disposal site in Hawaii County selected by the contractor.

2. Project Area Description

The adjacent properties are owned by the State of Hawaii.

3. Land Use Designation of Proposed Site

The State of Hawaii, Land Use Commission designates the project site as Urban.

4. Site Description

The project site is located on the west side of Hawaii at the Overseas Terminal, Kawaihae, Hawaii. The proposed area of dredging is approximately 600 feet long by 30 feet wide along the west side of the pier.

5. Infrastructure

- a. Access: Street access to the harbor is via the Kawaihae Mahukona Road which leads directly into the harbor area.
- b. Utilities: There are adequate water, telephone, sewer and electrical facilities within the area. The project will not affect these facilities.

F. DISCUSSION OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Evaluation of the effects of the proposed project on the environment indicates that there will be no significant adverse effects on the environment. The proposed project will not:

1. Cause the permanent displacement of any persons;
2. Affect any rare, threatened, or endangered plants, animals, or habitats;
3. 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 this project;
4. Permanently curtail the beneficial uses of the environment;
5. Conflict with the States long-term environmental policies, goals, or guidelines;
6. Permanently degrade the environmental quality; and,
7. Alter the existing character of the land or its use.

Rather, the implementation of this project will have a beneficial effect on the general public and its environment.

G. IMPACTS AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The proposed project will not cause any significant adverse effects on the environment. The primary negative effects include short-term noise, dust, and turbidity of the area of dredging, and short-term noise and dust at the dewatering and landfill sites. Interruption of harbor operations is expected to be minimal and temporary. The work will be scheduled so as not to conflict with shipping activities.

Positive effect of the project is the restoring of the berthing area to its design depth. At present, sugar ships must depart from Kawaihae Harbor with less than full loads due to the shallowness of the water at the berthing location. The dredging will allow the ships to leave with full sugar loads which will be an economic benefit to the Island of Hawaii's sugar industry.

Alternatives considered for this project:

1. No Action: No action will result in the continuance of silting of the berthing area which will reduce the safety of vessels. This continued silting will require vessels to depart with smaller and smaller loads of sugar, will prevent vessels with deeper drafts from using the harbor, and will make the docking of ships more difficult with an increase in the possibility of damage to the ship or to the pier structure.

H. MITIGATION MEASURES

The quantity of material to be dredged on this project will be small. Consequently, the work should be accomplished in less than one month.

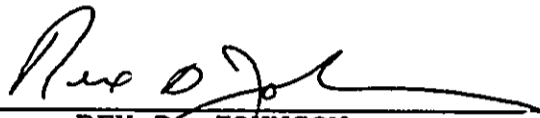
The contract specifications will require that silt curtains be used at the dredge site should the turbidity level of the harbor waters increase. The specifications will also require that the dredged material be dried in a confined area within the harbor complex prior to the material being hauled to the disposal site.

I. DETERMINATION

Since no major or significant 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

The 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 temporary and insignificant. Experience has shown that this type of construction within an established harbor boundary has an insignificant effect on the environment, both short and long term.



REX D. JOHNSON
Director of Transportation

1/2/92
Date