



DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION
COUNTY OF MAUI

LINDA CROCKETT LINGLE
Mayor
CHARMAINE TAVARES
Director
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Deputy Director

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January 11, 1993

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

Mr. Brian J. J. Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
220 S. King Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Choy:

Subject: Negative Declaration for Kula Recreation Center,
TMK 2-2-14:1 and por. of 2, Kula, Maui, Hawaii

The Department of Parks and Recreation has reviewed the comments received during the 30-day public comment period which began on 12/08/92 (OEQC Publication Date). The agency has determined that this project will not have significant environmental effects and has issued a Negative Declaration. Please publish this notice in the OEQC Bulletin on January 23, 1993.

We have enclosed our completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form and four copies of the final EA.

Please contact Mr. Leonard Costa at 243-7231 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

CHARMAINE TAVARES
Director of Parks and Recreation

CT:PM:jm

Enclosures

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for

THE PROPOSED COUNTY OF MAUI KULA RECREATION CENTER

Kula, Maui, Hawaii

November, 1992

**Prepared for:
Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii**

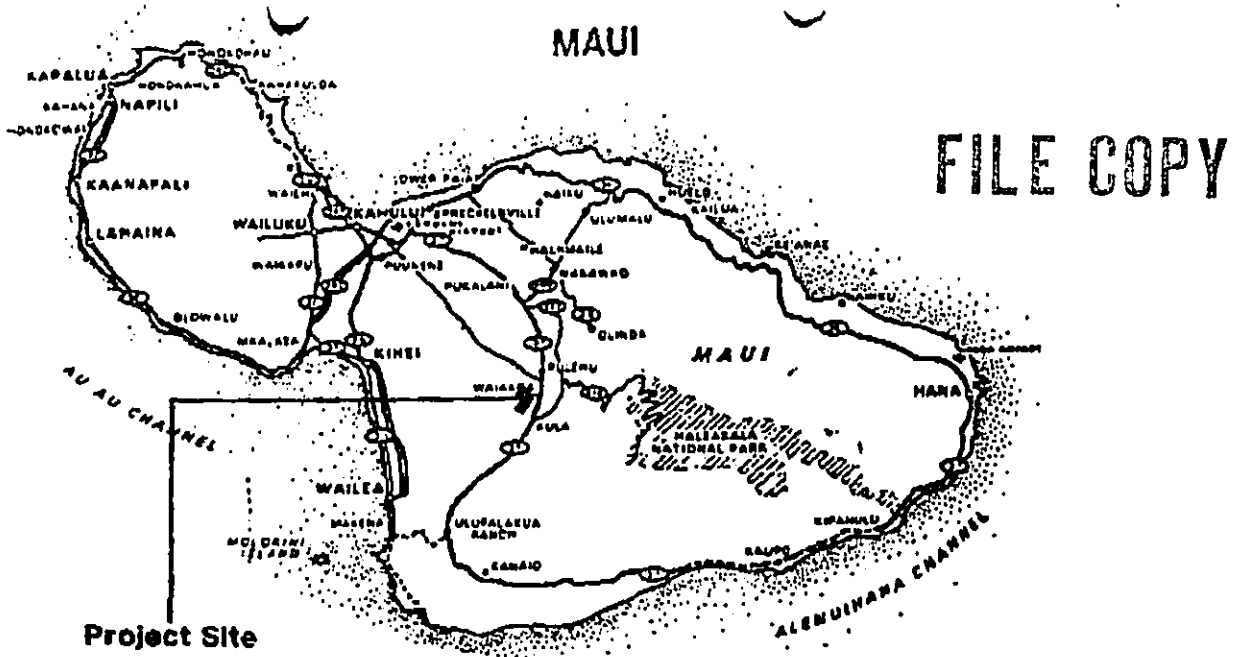
**Project Consultant:
Russel Y. Gushi, ASLA
Landscape Architect**

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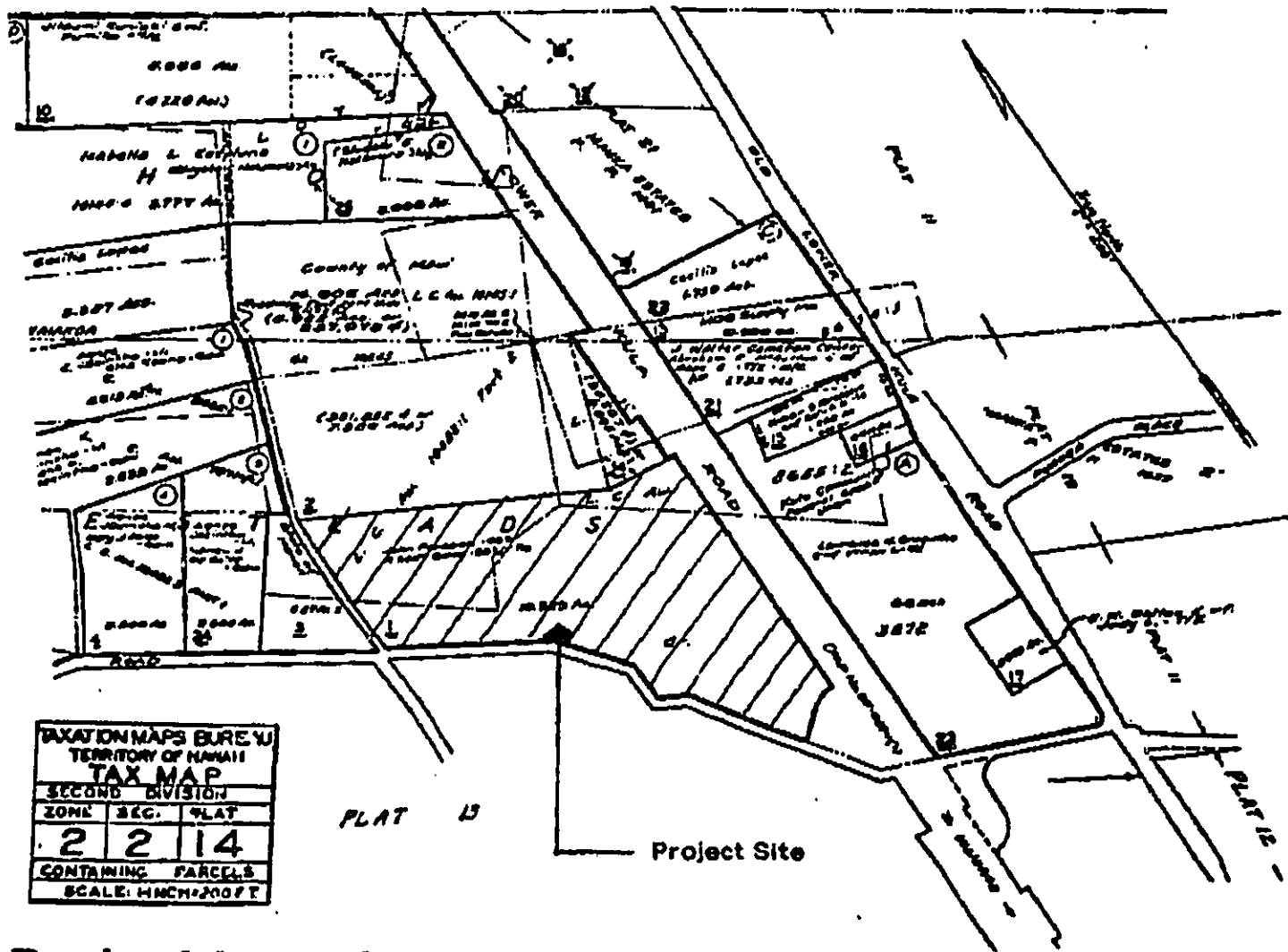
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FILE COPY**I. GENERAL INFORMATION****Project Name: Kula Recreation Center****Project Client: County of Maui****Project Site Location: One parcel of land located off of Kula Highway, between Kula Elementary School and Calasa Road and east of Inu Road.****T.M.K.: 2-2-14:1 and Portion of 2****Project Site Area: 10.3 acres****Land Use and Zoning Designation:****State of Hawaii Land Use Classification: Agriculture****Makawao-Pukalani-Kula Community Plan: Agriculture****Surrounding Land Uses:****North: Public/Quasi-Public****South: Agriculture****East: Single Family Residential****West: Agriculture**

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed project is the construction of a community recreation center. This facility will consist of two multi-purpose ballfields, two picnic sites with four tables/benches at each site, one fitness area with exercise apparatus, and paved pathways for passive recreation. There will be two on-site parking lots containing 48 stalls with direct access onto Calasa Road. There will also be a future restroom facility located between the two ballfields. Improvements to Calasa Road will consist of road widening and realignment, a concrete drainage swale and a shoulder improvements.



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TAXATION MAPS BUREAU		
TERRITORY OF HAWAII		
TAX MAP		
SECOND DIVISION		
ZONE	SEC.	PLAT
2	2	14
CONTAINING PARCELS		
SCALE: 1/4" = 100 FT		

Project Location

II. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

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A. Location

The project site is located off Kula Highway and bordered by Kula Elementary School to the north, Inu Road to the west, Calasa Road to the south, and Kula Highway to the east. Surrounding developments include single-family agriculture lots to the south and west, a community center, church, gas station/ garage, family-operated grocery stores, and single-family residences to the east.

B. Topography

The site is an undeveloped parcel with a few rock outcroppings and overgrown mainly with black wattle trees, panini cactus, and noxious grasses. The existence of dry-stone walls indicate past pasture use on the site.

Total relief over the site is about 150 feet, ranging from 2750 foot elevation to 2900 foot elevation. The average slope is approximately 15 percent.

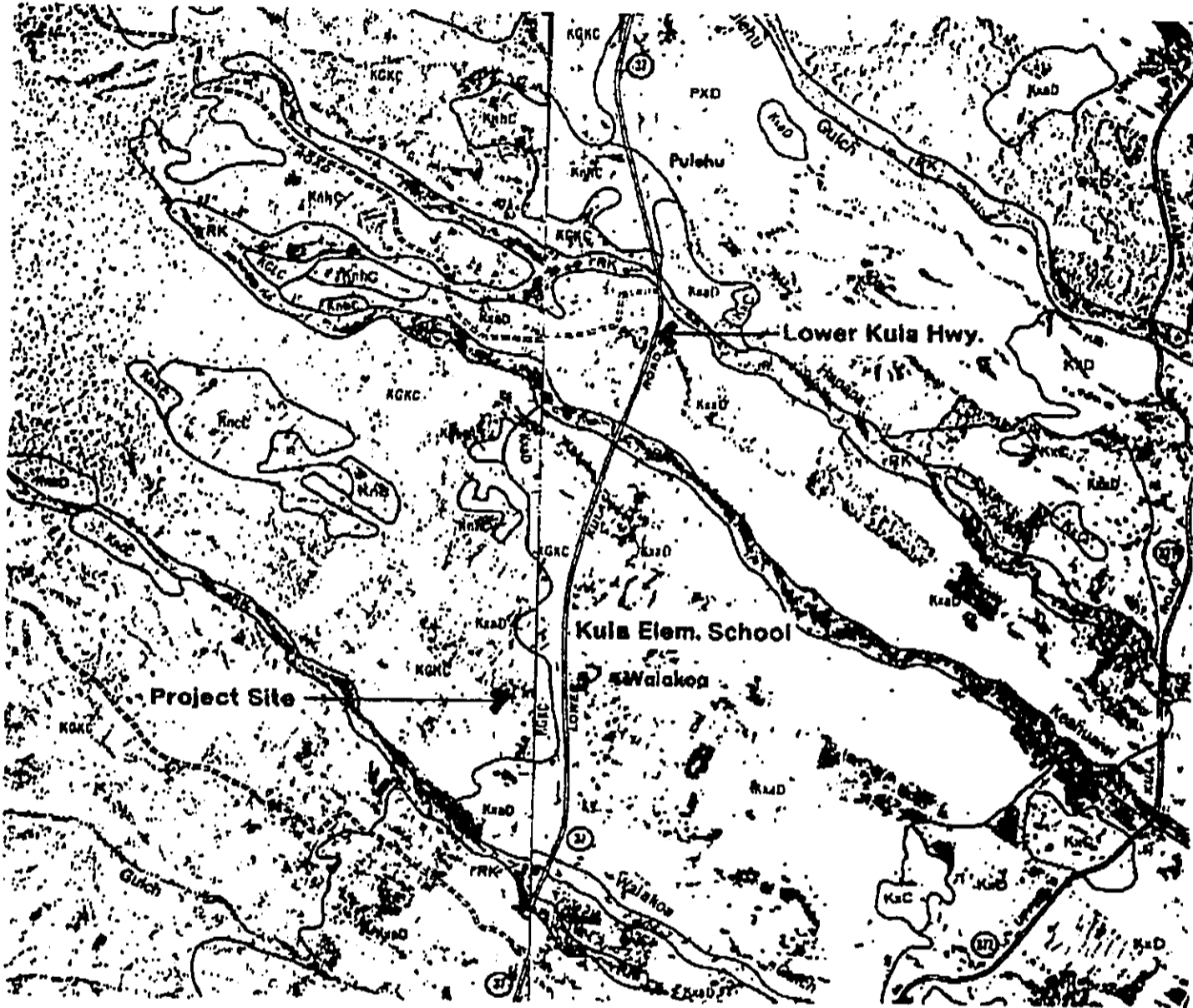
The site will be graded to develop two relatively level ballfields, two gently sloping parking lots, and paved pathways which will also be handicapped accessible. The ballfields will be created by balancing the cut and fill, cutting at the east ends and filling the west ends of the ballfields. Excavation into portions of the subgrade will be accomplished with the use of conventional equipment. Excavation into the harder subgrade material may require pneumatic equipment.

C. Land Classification and Soil Characteristics

The project area, as designated by the University of Hawaii Land Study Bureau's "Detailed Land Classification - Island of Maui", is classified as Agriculture(Ag), 41.

The U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, in its "Soil Survey of Islands Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai and Lanai, State of Hawaii", August, 1972, indicates that the soils at the site belongs to the Kamaole Series. This series consist of well-drained soils developed from volcanic ash. The site, in particular, has soil classified as Kamaole very stony silt loam(KGRC). A soils investigation(Ernest K. Hirata & Associates, November, 1991) was conducted to determine the subsurface material. Subsurface soil was classified as brown clayey silt derived from volcanic ash.

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Soils Survey Map

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Fractured basalt and completely weathered rock were encountered below the clayey silt. Groundwater was not encountered in any of the borings to the maximum depth drilled.

D. Drainage and Flooding

Project site is identified as being in Zone C (Areas of minimal flooding; FEMA Maps).

Drainage for the site will be mainly by swales. Cut and fill slopes are being terraced at 15 feet vertical intervals to slow run-off down the slopes.

The play fields are grassed as well as much of the site so the storm run-off will not increase due to the project.

Calasa Road will also be improved. Road storm drainage consisting of concrete swales will transport run-off to catch basins and drain pipes with outlets at existing drainage ways along Calasa Road.

A drainage and erosion report (Norman Saito Engineering Consultants, Inc., October, 1992) will be submitted with the construction plans in conformance with grading and erosion control requirements of the County of Maui.

E. Flora and Fauna

There are no evidence of endemic, rare or endangered flora on the site. Historic land use of the project parcel has been mainly for pasturage. Typical existing flora consist mainly of black wattle trees, koa haole, lantana, panini cactus, morning glory guava, caster bean, kikuyu grass and noxious weeds.

The project site is located at the elevation level where the Pueo, the native Hawaiian Owl which is on the State's endangered species list, is known to inhabit. However, none were observed on the site. Most of the existing on-site trees will be removed during construction. However, the site will be replanted with groupings of large trees between the ballfields and shade trees around the parking lots which should provide potential habitat for the Pueo.

Other fauna noticed on the site were domestic chickens which were feeding/nesting in the area, sparrows, and cardinals.

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F. Noise

No noise quality data exist for the Kula area. Most of the noise presently occurring in this vicinity is created by passing vehicles, especially during morning and afternoon school hours. Any long-term increase in the noise will occur during the afternoon hours and during daylight hours on the weekends (no lights for night time use are planned for the park). These are the times the ballfields will be in greatest use by children. The increase in noise will be from a slight increase in vehicular traffic to and from the park and from kids playing.

G. Water

Water for the site will be from the Maui County Department of Water Supply Lower Kula water line. On site small water storage tank and a pressure pump system will be used to maintain flows and regulate water pressure for landscape irrigation purposes.

Except for the pump house, no structures are proposed with this phase of the project. A future restroom may necessitate a fire hydrant near by, fire protection will be considered when the future buildings are constructed.

H. Electricity and Telephone

Utility poles and overhead lines exist along the north property boundary. The upper (eastern) section of the existing line will be relocated outside the playfields. The lower (western) section will be removed and relocated by Maui Electric Company. Demand for on-site power will be for the operation of an irrigation booster pump and automatic irrigation controllers.

I. Air Quality

No ambient air quality data is available for the project site or the Kula area. An inquiry with the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, Environmental Health Division revealed that the nearest monitoring station is at Kihei. The proposed use of the site is not expected to significantly affect the ambient air quality.

Project site will be taking the necessary mitigating measures during grading and construction to minimize the dust.

FILE COPY**J. Traffic - Vehicular**

A traffic study and report (Pacific Planning & Engineering, Inc., October, 1992) was prepared for the project and its conclusion was that the project would have a negligible impact on the Calasa Road and Kula Highway intersection. The study also concluded that the existing roadway facilities have sufficient capacity to accommodate the forecasted volumes including the project traffic. Thus, the proposed improvements to Calasa road will improve its operational quality, safety, and provide wider shoulders for pedestrians.

Anticipated increase in traffic should occur during the afternoon hours when organized sports teams hold practice and during the weekend daylight hours when there are games, practice or other activities occurring. No playfield lights are planned for the park so there should be no night time traffic.

K. Historic Sites Classification

The existing site has no dwelling but contains numerous dry-stone walls. These walls were used in the past to contain livestock and/or for erosion control.

There exist two petroglyphs sites, one rock art site, and two heiau sites in the general Kula vicinity of the project site (but not within the project site) and as identified by previous archaeological studies. This project's archaeological inventory and survey report (Xamanek Researches, October, 1991, Revised July, 1992) produced no surface evidence or indications of permanent or semi-permanent Hawaiian use of study area.

L. Visual Impact

Presently, the site is overgrown with vegetation. Most of this vegetation will be removed during construction to create two ballfields. Upon completion of the park, grass will be planted throughout the areas affected by grading and ground cover planted on the cut slopes. Groups of trees will be planted between the ballfields and around the parking lots. The only structure planned for this phase of the park development is for a pump house. A future restroom building will be located next to the pump house. Therefore, the visual impact will be minimal. It will not appear as it exists presently, but it will remain open space with new vistas of Central and South Maui, and of a couple of the outer islands.

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M. Socioeconomic Aspects

The project is not anticipated to have a negative impact on the socioeconomic structure of the community. The only probable adverse impacts will occur during the construction phase and are therefore temporary. Temporary employment will be provided during the construction period. On-going maintenance will also be required. The park will provide a much needed recreation facility for the Kula area.

III. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES.

The following adverse environmental effects (both short and long term) cannot be avoided:

1. The site clearing and construction work will result in temporary noise, fugitive dust, vibration and some disruption to traffic.

Compliance with the grading permit and mitigating measures such as wetting down of the work areas will effectively reduce fugitive dust.

Compliance with regulations set by Federal, State and County agencies regarding excavation blasting methods to minimize risk from vibration, fly rocks and noise.

The contractor must have adequate mufflers on his/her construction equipment to minimize operating noise.

Proper signs and barricades adhering to County and State laws and regulations will be assembled during construction to regulate traffic.

Construction will be limited to daylight hours.

2. The appearance of the site will be altered.

Most of the existing vegetation will be removed. Most of the site designated for park use will be graded with an attempt to balance the cut and fill occurring for the ballfields. The entire site will be re-vegetated with trees that are common in the Upcountry area, with ground covers on the slopes and grass throughout the ballfields and the rest of the landscape areas. Field fences will be installed along the Kula Highway boundary to keep in character with other fences in the area.

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IV. SUMMARY:

In accordance with the rules and regulations, the proposed project does not have significant adverse effects upon the environment, as follows:

1. Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources.

The Archaeological Inventory Survey concluded that the site was mainly used for ranching and agriculture in the past. There are existing stone walls which are indications of these practices. Although they were determined as not being historically significant, a data recovery program will be initiated prior to disturbing any of the existing stone walls. Archaeological monitoring will also be done during major grubbing or grading. Should any artifacts or remains of historic value be encountered during the construction work, work shall cease in the immediate vicinity of the find and the find shall be protected from further damage. The contractor shall immediately contact the State Historic Preservation Office which will assess the significance of the find and recommend an appropriate mitigation measure, if necessary.

The site is identified by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, as being potential habitation area for the Pueo, or native Hawaiian Owl. However, the parcel of land designated for the park is a very small area of the entire range described as possible Pueo habitation area. Therefore, the public gain by developing a public park on the site may outweigh the relative loss of possible Pueo habitation area.

2. Curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.

The Kula is in dire need of ballfields. Presently, children are practicing and playing on already crowded fields in Pukalani and Keokea. The park will be located adjacent to an existing school so the land use will be consistent with the surrounding uses. Park use, as open space, is also consistent with the agricultural and residential zoned areas surrounding the site. Therefore, the project would not curtail beneficial uses of the environment in the area.

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3. Conflicts with the County's and State's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines.

The site is presently zoned Agriculture and is surrounded by agriculture, single-family residence and quasi-public land uses. In the past, the site has been mainly used for grazing livestock. The use of the site for a park is consistent in keeping it open space and compatible with the surrounding use.

4. Substantially affects the economic or social welfare activities of the community, County or State.

The main effect on the economic and social welfare of the community will be positive, providing a quality recreation facility for both the children and adults of the community as well as improving Calasa Road.

5. Involve substantial secondary impact, such as population changes, and effects on public facilities.

The project is not expected to cause any changes in population movement and growth. However, it will be providing an additional public facility.

6. Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions.

There is no foreseeable expansion to the park project. Other than for a future restroom building the project does not involve any commitment for larger action.

7. Substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species of animal or plant, or its habitat.

The elevation at which the site is located, along with the associated vegetation, has been identified as Pueo, native Hawaiian Owl, habitat. However, the area size of the project is very small when compared to the total range of Pueo habitat area. The project site will be replanted with trees between the ballfields and hope they will provide potential habitat for the Pueo. Therefore, the impact is minimal.

There are no known rare, threatened or endangered plant species within the project site.

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8. Detrimentially affects air or water quality or ambient noise level.

The proposed project is not expected to have any adverse affect on air or water quality.

Short term impact on air and water quality as well as noise will occur during construction period. Measures to mitigate this impact are already required by existing laws and construction of this project will be conducted in compliance with the Maui County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, OSHA Standards, State Air, Noise and Water Quality regulations.

9. Affects an environmentally sensitive area, such as flood plains, tsunami zones, erosion prone areas, geologically hazardous lands, estuaries, fresh waters or coastal waters.

The proposed project is not expected to directly affect any environmentally sensitive areas.

There will be a substantial amount of cut and fill occurring on the project site. Slopes will be held to a 2:1 ratio maximum and these slopes will have erosion control fabric installed and re-vegetated immediately. Other exposed areas during construction shall either be paved, grassed or landscaped.

V. DETERMINATION AND SUPPORTING REASONS

After a review of the short and long term impacts of the proposed action based on the "significance criteria" contained in Section 2 of the Environmental Quality Commission's Regulations implementing Chapter 343 HRS, it is determined that a Negative Declaration is appropriate and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The only probable adverse impacts will occur during the construction phase and are therefore temporary. As stated earlier, these impacts will be mitigated by appropriate County and State laws relating to construction activities.

It does not appear that the long term impacts will detrimentally affect the region. In fact, the only long term impacts should be beneficial to the surrounding neighborhood and the community in general

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VI. CONSULTING AGENCIES

State:

1. Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Division of Historic Preservation
2. Department of Health
Division of Clean Air/Water
3. Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
Land use Commission

County:

1. Planning Department
2. Department of Public Works
3. Department of Parks and Recreation