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STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION

79 SOUTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-4898

REF: BOR:KLS/DFB

April 23, 1993

BOR-EM 2044.93

To: Brian Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control

From: David E. Parsons, Administrator
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation

Subject: NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT MALA
BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITY, MALA, MAUI, HAWAII - BOR 4172

In accordance with Chapter 343, HRS, we have completed the formal Draft Environmental Assessment 30-day review period for the subject project. We have incorporated comments received during the review period into the Negative Declaration. We have enclosed four (4) copies of the Negative Declaration and an OEQC bulletin publication form for the subject project.

If you have any question, please call Mr. David Parsons at 587-1966.

Encs.

1993-05-23-MA-PEA-Mala Boat Launching Facility Maintenance
Dredging

NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT MALA BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITY
MALA, MAUI, HAWAII
BOR 4172

A. APPLICANT

Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation
Department of Land and Natural Resources

B. APPROVING AGENCY

Environmental Quality Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources

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
- Office of Environmental Quality Control

D. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION'S CHARACTERISTICS

1. Technical

The proposed project will include maintenance dredging of about 2,300 cubic yards of silt. Recent soundings have confirmed that silting has occurred. This project will restore the boat launching facility to its original designed depth of minus 7 feet Mean Lower Low Water. The basin was originally dredged in the 1970'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 ingress and egress for fishing boats, commercial operators and other vessels that use the boat launching facility. Present conditions preclude the use of the ramp by several small commercial tour operators and fishermen who depend on its use for their principal means of livelihood. The Contractor's work schedule will be

coordinated with the facility users to minimize interference at the facility.

3. Environmental

Dredging of the basin area will cause a temporary increase in noise and dust at the drying site, and turbidity at the facility. However, these increases are expected to be of short duration and not expected to lower the quality of water in the area.

If the material is taken to a county landfill, it will be used by the county to cover and bury deposited trash. Otherwise, it will be used by the Contractor as fill 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 Mala Boat Launching Facility, Mala, Maui, Hawaii.

The dewatering site will be adjacent to the facility and the disposal site will be at an approved developed land disposal site in Maui 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 conservation.

4. Site Description

The project site is located on the west side of Maui at the Mala Boat Launching Facility, Mala, Maui, Hawaii. The proposed area of dredging is approximately 20,000 square feet.

5. Infrastructure

- a. Access: Street access to the facility from Front Street leads directly to the site.

- b. Utilities: There are adequate water, and electrical facilities within the area. The project will not affect these utilities.

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 State's 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 at the dewatering and landfill site.

Positive effect of the project is the restoring of the facility for safer egress and ingress of vessels at the Mala Boat Launching Facility. At present, the users launch their boats unsafely due to the shallowness of the ramp area. Also due to the shallowness in the turning basin, the users are unable to run their engines until they reach outside the breakwater area, making it very unsafe for operations at the facility.

Alternatives considered for this project:

No Action No action will result in the continuance of silting of the launching ramp and turning basin area.

The breakwater protecting the ramp and turning basin will prevent the accumulation of sand and silt from being dispersed by the natural forces of wave, current and tidal action. Due to the proximity of Kahoma Stream, the turning basin and launching ramp will eventually fill up with silt and debris up to the mean water level, and shut down any use of the facility which is the only launching ramp serving the West Maui area.

H. MITIGATION MEASURES

The quantity of material to be dredged on this project will be small. Consequently, the work should be accomplished quickly. All work on the contract including dredging, drying, disposal and post dredging soundings will be completed in 20 consecutive calendar days.


The contract specifications will require that silt curtains be used at the dredge site during the entire dredging operation to eliminate turbidity increases in the waters immediately adjacent to the project site. The specifications will also require that the dredged material be dried in a confined area near the facility prior to the material being hauled to the disposal site. The drying site will be constructed in a manner to prevent the sediment from seeping out of the site. Hauling to the disposal site will be done in a manner to prevent dust from polluting the air.

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 Determination. 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 small boat harbor boundary has an insignificant effect on the environment, both short and long term.


David E. Parsons
Administrator - Division of Boating
and Ocean Recreation

2/29/93
Date