JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR

REC'D

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OFC. OF ENVIR.
QUALITY CON.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

REX D. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

DEPUTY DIRECTORS
JOYCE T. OMINE
AL PANG
JEANNE K. SCHULTZ
CALVIN M. TSUDA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 13, 1993 HAR-EM 1178.94

To: Brian J. J. Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control

From: Rex D. Johnson
Director of Transportation

Subject: NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT KAHULUI HARBOR, KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII, JOB H. C. 3241

In accordance with Act 241, SLH 1992, we have completed the formal draft environmental assessment 30-day review period for the subject project. We have not received any comments during the review period, therefore, we are submitting the Negative Declaration. We have enclosed four (4) copies of the Negative Declaration and a OEQC bulletin publication form for the subject project.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. August Perry or Mr. Kelly Sato at 587-1877.

Enc.

1993-08-01-MA-FEA- Kahului Harbor Maintenance Dredging AUG 8 199

NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT KAHULUI HARBOR
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII
JOB H. C. 3241

A. APPLICANT

Harbors Division, Department of Transportation

B. APPROVING AGENCY

Environmental Quality Commission
Department of Transportation

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 State Planning
- Department of Health
- Office of Environmental Quality Control

D. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION'S CHARACTERISTICS

1. Technical

The proposed project will include maintenance dredging of about 6,000 cubic yards of silt. Recent soundings have confirmed that silting has occurred. This project will restore the berthing areas to their original designed depth of minus 35 feet for Pier 1 and minus 18 feet for Pier 3, Mean Lower Low Water. Pier 1 was originally dredged in the 1930's and the last maintenance dredging was done in 1987. Pier 3 was originally dredged in 1978 and there has been no maintenance dredging since then.

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 cruise ships, cargo ships, fuel ships, and other commercial vessels at Piers 1 and 3. At present, sugar

ships are unable to depart Kahului Harbor fully loaded due to the shallowness of the water alongside the pier. The proposed dredging will allow the sugar ships to depart with a full load. The Contractor's work schedule will be coordinated with the harbor users to minimize interference with vessels using the piers.

3. Environmental

Dredging of the berthing areas will cause a temporary increase in noise and dust, and turbidity at the berthing areas. There will also be an increase of suspended particles near the dewatering site. Dewatering is expected to take place at the Harbor complex in the immediate area of the dredging. 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 Piers 1 and 3, Kahului, Maui, Hawaii.

The dewatering site will be at the Harbor complex 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 north side of Maui at Piers 1 and 3, Kahului, Maui, Hawaii. The proposed area

of dredging is approximately 1,800 feet long by 40 feet wide along the south and west side of the piers.

5. Infrastructure

   a. Access: Street access to the Harbor is via Wharf Street which leads directly into the pier 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 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 discharge, or dewatering and landfill site. Interruption of Harbor operations is expected to be minimal and temporary. Positive effect of the project is the restoring of the berthing area for safer egress and ingress of vessels at Piers 1 and 3. At present, ships must call at Piers 1 and 3 with less than full loads due to the shallowness

of the water at the berthing locations. The dredging will allow the ships to call with full loads.

Alternatives considered for this project:

1. No Action No action will result in the continuance of silting of the berthing area which will further reduce the safety of vessels. In turn, this will require vessels to moor with less than full loads, induce higher freight costs which will be passed on to consumers in the County, prevent vessels with deeper drafts from using the pier, and 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 quickly. All work on the contract including dredging, drying, disposal, and post dredging soundings will be completed in 30 working days.

The contract specifications will require that silt curtains be used at the dredge site. 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. 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 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
for Director of Transportation

7/13/93
Date