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

Dear Mr. Choy:

Subject: Final Environmental Assessment (EA) in Anticipation of a Negative Declaration for the Proposed Septage Handling Facilities at the Paalua-Kai Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
Waialua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: 6-6-34: 33, 35

This letter constitutes a notice of determination by this department after the potential impacts of the proposed project have been assessed according to Title 11, Chapter 200, Environmental Impact Statement Rules, and Chapter 343, of the Hawaii Revised Statues relating to Environmental Impact Statements. The determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required based on the environmental assessment prepared by our consultants, Parametrix, Inc.

Based on our determination, we are filing a Final EA in anticipation of a Negative Declaration. The department is submitting with this transmittal, four copies of the Final EA and an OEQC publication form for this project.

We are requesting publication in your OEQC Bulletin of September 8, 1993.

Should there be any questions, please have your staff contact Mr. Robert Ishida at 527-5847.

Very truly yours,

KENNETH M. RAPDOLT
Director

Attachments
For The

Septage Facilities on Oahu

North Shore WWTP
Tributary Area
Paalaa-Kai WWTP

TMK: 6-6-34: 33, 35
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii

Proposing Agency:
Department of Wastewater Management
City and County of Honolulu
650 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Responsible Official: [Signature] 8/18/93

Prepared For:
Department of Wastewater Management
City and County of Honolulu

Prepared By
Parametrix, Inc.
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>PAGE NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. SUMMARY</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. SUMMARY OF MAJOR IMPACTS AND MITIGATED MEASURES</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. DETERMINATION, FINDINGS, AND REASONS SUPPORTING DETERMINATION</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. LIST OF PREPARERS</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. FUNDING AND PHASING</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. LIST OF AGENCIES CONSULTED DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIST OF FIGURES

- **FIGURE 1.** PROJECT LOCATION MAP (USGS QUAD MAP)  
  
- **FIGURE 2.** PROJECT SITE PLAN  
  
- **FIGURE 3.** SMA BOUNDARY MAP  

### EXHIBIT

Correspondence - Agencies Consulted
I. SUMMARY

CHAPTER 343, HRS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Action: Agency
Proposing Agency: Department of Public Works
                City & County of Honolulu
Project Name: North Shore Septage Facilities: Paalaa-Kai WWTP
Project Description: The Paalaa-Kai Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is being evaluated to determine the potential impacts that proposed septage handling and processing facilities will have on the long range operations on the North Shore. The proposed septage treatment facility will consist of the following:

(2) receiving stations consisting of an inlet box and concrete apron;
    aerated grit removal tank;
    comminutor grinder;
    influent pump station;
    dual sequencing batch reactors for batch treatment of the septage;
    effluent pump station;
    dual aerobic digestors;
    digested sludge precipitators and holding tank;
    vertical screw press facility;
    thickened sludge pump station;
    sludge drying beds;
    odor control units consisting of chemical oxidation scrubbers and activated carbon adsorption units;
    and other related units.

Project Location: Waialua-Haleiwa Paalaa-Kai WWTP, Waialua, Oahu
(See Figure 1)
Tax Map Key: 6-6-34: 33, 35
Area: 44,412 square feet
State Land Use Designation: Urban

North Shore Septage Facilities:
Paalaa-Kai WWTP 1  March 30, 1993
County Zoning Designation: AG-1

County Development Plan North Shore Land Use
Map Designation: Public Facility

Landowner: City & County of Honolulu

Contact:
F. J. Rodriguez
c/o Parametrix, Inc.
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel. (808) 524-0594

North Shore Septage Facilities:
Paalaa-Kai WWTP

May 5, 1993
II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Technical Characteristics

1. The septage wastes generated within the North Shore service area are primarily cesspool septage, septic tank waste, waste activated sludge (WAS) and preloader waste from private treatment plants. Small quantities of chemical toilet waste and grease trap waste are also generated in the sparsely populated service area. Individually, each type of waste exhibits different characteristics; in general, however, the wastes are highly variable, anaerobic, high strength wastes.

2. Septage handling and treatment fall into three general categories: land disposal; independent treatment facilities; and handling at wastewater treatment plants. In a City & County of Honolulu conducted study entitled “Septage Facilities on Oahu North Shore Tributary Area Parametrix, Inc., December, 1992”, it was concluded that handling septage at existing WWTP was the most economically cost effective and environmentally sound method of handling septage. For the North Shore service area, a minimum of two septage treatment facilities was considered necessary for the following reasons:

- shorter hauling distances with associated higher efficiencies in truck and labor usage.
- improved compatibility with the long term plan for septage treatment and handling a regional and sub regional wastewater treatment facilities.

The two septage treatment facilities would be at the Paalaa-Kai WWTP (the subject of this E.A.) and the second would be at the Kahuku WWTP.

The septage facilities are needed to relieve existing treatment plants from present overload conditions and to reduce the hauling distance for municipal and private pumpers serving the North Shore service area.

Septage generated within the North Shore Service area consists primarily of cesspool septage. A highly concentrated wastewater, septage is traditionally treated by processes used at WWTPs. The handling of septage, however, is markedly different from domestic sewage and requires special consideration for proper design of receiving and handling facilities. Considerations for treating septage at a WWTP are:

a. Ability of the plant to accommodate septage

b. Addition to liquid and solid waste handling stream

North Shore Septage Facilities:
Paalaa-Kai WWTP

March 30, 1993
c. Mode of waste input

d. Receiving station
   Waste discharge station
   Pre treatment

e. Substances which could inhibit microbiological activity

f. Odor Control

3. Addition of a highly concentrated waste such as septage in relatively small quantities can substantially increase the organic and solids loading at a WWTP. The volume of septage that can be handled is generally dependent on three major factors:

a. The volume and nature of the waste flow

b. Biological oxidation capacity of the plant

c. Solids handling capacity of the plant

4. There are two methods of handling septage at a WWTP:

a. Addition to the liquid treatment stream;

b. Addition to the solids handling stream

In general, septage input into the headworks of a treatment plant liquid stream is desirable since the majority of the solids can be removed with the primary sludge. This is particularly true at plants with primary clarification. At secondary treatment plants without primary sedimentation, addition of septage to the liquid stream can overload biological processes resulting in major process upsets and poor effluent quality. At these secondary treatment plants, addition to the solids handling stream would be more appropriate.

B. Social and Economic Characteristics

Discharge of cesspool septage at the North Shore WWTP are as follows:

Paalaa-Kai WWTP is limited to municipal pumper trucks only. Private haulers must transport wastes to the Honolulu WWTP for treatment and disposal. A new treatment facility recently completed at the Turtle Bay Resort consists of a new aerated pond treatment facility. The system has not yet been accepted by the City & County DWWM for operation and maintenance. Originally, the Paalaa-Kai WWTP was designed and

North Shore Septage Facilities:
Paalaa-Kai WWTP  

March 30, 1993
built as an advanced secondary treatment facility designed for an average daily flow of 122,800 gallons per day (gpd). It serves a residential subdivision consisting of 307 homes, and was constructed as part of the housing development and subsequently dedicated to the City. (See Figure 2) The treatment plant is a temporary facility to provide wastewater treatment for the housing development until connection to the proposed regional Wai'awa-Haleiwa WWTP is completed. The facilities plan for the regional Wai'awa-Haleiwa WWTP has been completed but not yet adopted by the City.

**Schedule/Design Capacity:**

The schedule for implementation of the plan and construction of the proposed treatment plant is therefore uncertain. Present average daily wastewater flow is approximately 130,000 gpd and slightly exceeds the plant design average flow capacity. The plant receives 20 to 30 loads of cesspool septage daily. At 2000 gallons per load, the cesspool septage inflow is approximately 40,000 to 60,000 gpd. The current average daily flow of 130,000 gpd includes this septage flow. Because the Kahuku WWTP can only accommodate a maximum of four loads of septage daily, septage from the Kahuku area is often rerouted and discharged at Paalaa-Kai WWTP. The projected septage quantity generated strictly within the Wai'awa-Haleiwa district, at 935,000 gallons per month is equivalent to 42,500 gpd, and this is based on 22 working days per month. However, the estimated strength of the projected Wai'awa-Haleiwa septage is significantly higher than the weak cesspool septage presently being handled. As a result, the estimated waste loadings to the treatment plant are substantially higher than current septage waste loadings.

**C. Environmental Characteristics**

1. **Cesspool septage** - can be described as a highly variable anaerobic waste having a high solids and organic content. For a properly operating cesspool, cleaning would be required very infrequently, approximately in the range of once every 10-20 years. Cesspool failure, as characterized by sewer backups and or diminished sewer capacity, can occur due to high groundwater levels, poor soil conditions, and clogging of sidewall openings by solids deposition or microorganisms growth. Cesspool failure generally requires pumping to remove accumulated waste liquids and solids. High pressure washing or chemical additives are sometimes used to remove solids, grease or growths from the sidewalls. The waste load generated from pumping a failed cesspool is cesspool septage.

2. **Septic tank septage** - can be described as a highly variable anaerobic slurry containing large amounts of grit and scum, high solids and organic content, and often an accumulation of heavy metals. It is also characterized by a highly offensive odor, the ability to foam, and poor settling and dewatering characteristics. The septic tank itself is the treatment component where scum and solids are

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*North Shore Septage Facilities: Paalaa-Kai WWTP*  
*March 30, 1993*
separated from the wastewater providing a degree of treatment similar to a primary treatment process. The sludge and scum are retained within the tank where they undergo anaerobic stabilization, a digestion process. The partially clarified liquid flows to the disposal component comprised of a leaching field, seepage pit, or other effluent disposal systems. Solids retained within the septic tank are anaerobically digested, stabilizing and reducing the solids volume. The solids accumulation can reach a point where cleaning is required to prevent solids carryover and clogging of the disposal system. The mixture of partially digested solids and wastewater removed from the septic tank comprise septic tank septic tanks. Septic tank cleaning frequency ranges from once every year to once every five years, with an average of once every three years.

3. **Waste activated sludge** - There are approximately 27 private wastewater treatment plants located within the North Shore Service Area. These private facilities range from multiple housing units arranged in parallel, to package extended aeration activated sludge plants, to large facultative lagoons. Two types of waste are generated by private treatment plants: preloader waste, and waste activated sludge. Approximately 25 of the 27 private treatment facilities use a form of the activated sludge treatment process. The Turtle Bay WWTP and the Waialae Farm WWTP are biological pond systems that essentially generate no excess solids for disposal at treatment plants. However, over time, stabilized sludge deposits at the bottom of the ponds may require removal and disposal. The majority of the private treatment plants use the extended aeration modification of the activated sludge process. This process generates a relatively low amount of excess solids; however, for efficient treatment, some excess solids, or waste activated sludge (WAS) must be removed on a regular basis. Because WAS amounts at private treatment plants are small, it is generally not feasible for these plants to have complete solids handling and disposal facilities.

4. **Preloader Waste** - are characterized as a variable, anaerobic, high strength waste that can contain large amounts of grit, hair, oil, and grease. Preloader wastes are captured at the influent end of the treatment plant and generally contain floatables, oil and grease, grit, and readily settleable materials. As determined in a previously conducted study (Septage Facilities on Oahu North Shore Tributary Area, December, 1992), preloaders are essentially septic tanks operating under high hydraulic loading rates. Based on the similarity between septic tanks and preloaders, preloader waste characteristics were assumed to be similar to septic tank septic tanks.

5. **Chemical Toilet Waste** - On Oahu, chemical toilets are portable units that are typically used at locations such as construction sites, areas where permanent facilities are inadequate for a short term special event, and areas where permanent facilities are non-existent. Chemical toilet wastes are currently discharged into the municipal system at designated manholes. Within the North Shore area, discharge of chemical
of chemical toilet wastes into the municipal collection system is not allowed. In general, the waste must be transported to the Honouliuli WWTP or to designated manholes in Pearl City for discharge into the City's system.

6. **Grease Trap Waste** - Grease Traps are required by plumbing codes, the City's Sewer Ordinance, and are designed to separate fats, oils, and grease from wastewater flows from establishments such as restaurants prior to discharge into a sewage collection system. In general, the grease captured in a greases trap is primarily comprised of edible oils that separate readily from the wastewater and accumulate at the liquid surface. Grease buildup cause a number of problems including:

- coating and build up in sewer systems;
- excessive accumulation of floating materials;
- formation of grease balls in clarifiers;
- formation of dense scum layers in digesters; and
- poor effluent quality leading to coating and build up in effluent injection wells and reducing effluent disposal capacity.
III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Geographical Characteristics

1. Topography

The proposed Septage handling facility at the Paalaa-Kai WWTP is planned on two sides of the plant site. At the present time, the planned expansion will consist of approximately 44,412 square feet of structural improvements.

2. Soils

The Paalaa-Kai site is characterized as Haleiwa Silty Clay (HeA) and is generally located in strips adjacent to the ocean. It consists of well drained soils on fans and in drainage ways along the coastal plains.” USDA/SCS 8/72 Soil Survey of Islands of Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, and Lanai, State of Hawaii.

3. Vegetation

At the proposed location for the septage handling facility improvements, there are no varieties of vegetation as the Paalaa-Kai WWTP is an existing industrial facility. There are introduced species of plant material on the total parcel, but not at the septage facility location.

B. Hydrological Characteristics

1. Drainage

Onsite drainage will be provided with the existing system of drainage. The proposed improvements to provide septage handling will not increase drainage loading on the existing drainage system. In the event of accidental spills of the septage material, there are operational procedures that will mitigate the spillage and minimize the impacts into the adjacent coastal zone.

2. Coastal Zone Management Program/City & County Special Management Area (SMA) Use Permit

The City & County Department of Land Utilization Special Management Area (SMA) boundary maps include this project in the SMA zone. An SMA permit will be prepared and processed with the Department of Land Utilization. (See Figure 3) Compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act is under the review jurisdiction of the Office of State Planning who will review this document to ensure compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

*North Shore Septage Facilities: Paalaa-Kai WWTP*  
*May 5, 1993*
C. Biological Characteristics

The location of the proposed Septage Handling Facilities at the Paalaa-Kai WWTP is on fully improved and previously disturbed land. There will be little if any impacts to the existing biota due to this proposed project. Plant and animal species prevalent at the WWTP are exotic or introduced species and will not be affected by this project.

D. Historic and Archaeological Characteristics

The previously disturbed nature of the proposed Septage Facility site and the fact that the Paalaa-Kai WWTP is on previously cultivated agricultural lands, precludes the possibility of uncovering sites with historic or archaeological significance. In the event that sites are uncovered, construction work will be halted and the State Historic Preservation Division, Department of Land and Natural Resources will be advised.
IV. SUMMARY OF MAJOR IMPACTS AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES

A. Impacts

Impacts due to the implementation of the proposed project improvements can be considered in two areas: short and long term. Short term impacts generally result from construction related activities. These are of short duration and are related and limited to the construction phase of site improvements, i.e. on site and structural.

Topographic alterations will result from the onsite grading necessary to provide an even and stable building platform for the structural improvements. Construction related impacts would consist of clearing, grading and installation of utilities. Other onsite improvements will be to provide ready access for the septage vehicles to reach the unloading ports; the connection of the utilities; the onsite drainage improvements to tie in with the existing drainage system; and the perimeter fencing to secure the facilities since the project location is adjacent to the urban residential housing project.

Site preparation could result in minor but temporary exceedance of ambient noise and air quality standards. Final installation of the mechanical and structural improvements, including the mechanical hardware could also create minimal noise impacts.

Minor increases in commercial traffic due to the additional private and municipal vehicles will result due to the implementation of this septage handling facility project.

Odor control may become an operational problem due to the increased septage handling. With proper design and maintenance, however, the odor problems can be managed.

B. Mitigative Measures

Short term or construction related impacts will be contractor’s responsibility to adhere to the State Department of Health Regulations on Community Noise for Oahu. This will be done by avoiding the “gunning” of equipment; working only during the normal operating hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and installing appropriate muffler noise abatement devices on all construction equipment. Fugitive Dust control will be abated by adhering to the State Department of Health Regulations on Air Quality. Abatement measures will include frequent street watering; use of dust control materials; and minimizing open earthwork areas.

Traffic Control: The contractor will be required to provide and maintain, adequate traffic mitigative measures for the adjacent residential community so that morning and evening peak traffic flows are not impacted. This should not be a significant problem since construction will commence at the normal hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and most outbound traffic is already on the road. Flagmen or off-duty HPD officers can also
be used to control specific traffic periods if heavy equipment or materials are being loaded or unloaded at the Site.

Odor Control: An odor control Facility will be installed to mitigate the impacts of normal treatment plant operations.
V. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives

The selected site location has taken into consideration the existing operations at Paalaa-Kai WWTP and the decision to place the Septage Facilities at the designated location was based on the use which requires ready ingress and egress for septage vehicles. Other areas evaluated and discarded due to the potential traffic congestion and economic cost benefits due to distances that would result include:

- Turtle Bay WWTP
- Kahuku WWTP
- Laie WWTP
- Wahiawa WWTP
- Honolulu WWTP

These included the "No Action" alternative, and selecting a separate location.

The "No Action" alternative would have resulted in the selected site remaining unused and the volume of septage continuing to be a problem for treatment and disposal.

A new and separate site would not have been cost effective since the septage treatment process requires wastewater treatment capabilities.

The septage facilities are needed to relieve the existing treatment plants from their present overload conditions and to reduce the handling distances for municipal and private septage hauler trucks servicing the North Shore Tributary Area. Although the current situation at the treatment plants is tolerable, a properly designed septage handling and treatment facility is not only more desirable, but is more efficient and cost effective.
VI. DETERMINATION, FINDINGS, AND REASONS SUPPORTING DETERMINATION

After completing an assessment of the potential environmental effects of the proposed action, and consulting with other government agencies, it has been determined that a Notice of Negative Declaration can be anticipated. This will be completed after the pre-agency consultation period and the Draft Environmental Assessment has been published in the OEQC Bulletin. The policies, guidelines, and provisions of Chapters 342, 343, and 344 Hawaii Revised Statutes were consulted in the evaluation process.

1. The proposed project will not adversely affect the physical and social environment. There may be minor discomfort and annoyances to the Wai'alu Beach Road and Oliana Street traffic during construction, but these will be mitigated by adherence to applicable City traffic control ordinances.

2. There will be no permanent degradation of the existing ambient air quality and community noise levels. During the construction phase, the air and noise standards will be temporarily affected, but these effects will be temporary and short term in nature. Operational controls on noise and odor control will be treated by odor control and noise abatement measures. No increased controls for odor control and noise are anticipated.

3. Residences will be disrupted temporarily by the project construction. The site is part of the Paalaa-Kai WWTP and the Septage Handling Facility is a consistent use and compatible with the overall WWTP.

4. There are no endangered plant species on the project site, and the prevailing flora and fauna are exotic or introduced species.

5. There are no known natural, historic, or archaeological sites within the project's metes and bounds.

6. The project will not be consistent with the prevailing Land Use District Agricultural designation; however, the Development Plan Facilities Map and the Zoning designation of AG-I will permit this project as part of the existing WWTP.

7. There are no significant adverse secondary effects on population, future development, and public facilities due to this project.

North Shore Septage Facilities:
Paalaa-Kai WWTP

March 30, 1993
VII. LIST OF PREPARERS

Parametrix, Inc.

Hawaii Pacific Engineers, Inc.
VIII. FUNDING AND PHASING

This Project will be funded entirely by the applicant, the Department of Public Works, Division of Wastewater Management, City & County of Honolulu. All improvements will be designed and built to County Building code standards. Construction will commence after all required permits have been processed and completed. Construction costs are estimated to be $3,900,000.00 with the funding to be from the City & County of Honolulu. The work will be completed in one phase.

North Shore Septage Facilities:
Paalaa-Kai WWTP 18 March 30, 1993
IX. LIST OF AGENCIES CONSULTED DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES</th>
<th>Date of Consultation</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Mr. Harold Masamoto, Director</td>
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<td>Office of State Planning</td>
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<td>Mr. Keith W. Ahue, Chair</td>
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<td>State Dept. of Land &amp; Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Dr. Bruce Anderson, Dep. Director</td>
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<td>State Dept. of Health</td>
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<td>Mr. T. Harano, Chief</td>
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<td><strong>City &amp; County of Honolulu</strong></td>
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<td>Mr. Robin Foster</td>
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<td>Mr. Donald A. Clegg, Director</td>
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<td>Mr. C. Michael Street, Ch. Engr.</td>
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<td>Mr. Joseph N. Magaldi, Director</td>
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<td>Mr. Michael S. Nakamura, Chief</td>
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<td>Honolulu Police Department</td>
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<td>Mr. Donald Chang, Chief</td>
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<td>Honolulu Fire Department</td>
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North Shore Septage Facilities:
Paalaa-Kai WWTP

March 30, 1993
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<td>Mr. Kazu Hayashida, Manager</td>
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<td>Board of Water Supply</td>
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<td>Ms. Rene Mansho</td>
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North Shore Septage Facilities: Paalaa-Kai WWTP

March 30, 1993
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MEMORANDUM

TO:    MR. DONALD S.M. CHANG, CHIEF
        FIRE DEPARTMENT

FROM:  C. MICHAEL STREET, DIRECTOR AND CHIEF ENGINEER
        DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS PRE-AGENCY REVIEW FOR
PAALAA-KAI SEPTAGE HANDLING FACILITIES

We have received your department comments dated April 14, 1993
for the subject project and respond as follows:

1. All access for fire apparatus, water supply, and
   building construction shall be in accordance with
   existing codes and standards.

2. The department position of no adverse impact in Fire
   Department facilities or services is duly noted.

Thank you for your timely comments and continuing cooperation.

C. Michael Street

C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer

April 22, 1993
April 19, 1993

Mr. F. J. Rodrigues
Parametrix, Inc.
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Rodrigues:

This is in response to your letter of March 30, 1993 about septage facilities at the Paalaa-Kai Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The Honolulu Police Department notes that mitigative measures will be employed to minimize dust, noise, odor, and traffic problems, which would be our major concern. We have no other comments at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL S. NAKAMURA
Chief of Police

By

EUGENE UMEHARA
Assistant Chief of Police
Administrative Bureau

April 23, 1993

MEO 93-137

MEMORANDUM

TO:  MICHAEL S. NAKAMURA, CHIEF OF POLICE
      HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT

FROM:  C. MICHAEL STREET
        DIRECTOR AND CHIEF ENGINEER

SUBJECT:  ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS PRE-AGENCY REVIEW FOR
          PAALAA-KAI SEPTAGE HANDLING FACILITIES

We have received your department comments dated April 19, 1993 on the above project and respond as follows:

Mitigative measures will be employed to minimize dust, noise, odor and traffic problems.

Thank you for your timely comments and continuing cooperation.

C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer
April 21, 1993

Mr. F.J. Rodrigues
Parametrix, Inc.
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Rodrigues:


Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project to construct additional septage handling facilities at the WWTP.

We have no objections to the proposed project and anticipate no adverse impacts to our water system facilities in the area.

If you have any questions, please contact Roy Del at 527-5121.

Very truly yours,

Kazu Hayashida
Manager and Chief Engineer

cc: Robert Ishida
(Deartment of Public Works)

May 6, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: MR. KAZU HAYASHIDA, MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER
BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

FROM: C. MICHAEL STREET, DIRECTOR AND CHIEF ENGINEER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SUBJECT: SEPTAGE HANDLING FACILITIES ON OAHU:
PASILAK-HAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

We have received your agency comments dated April 21, 1993 on the above proposed project and respond as follows:

We acknowledge the BWS position that states "The proposed project will have no adverse impacts to the BWS water system facilities, and there are no objections to the project."

Thank you for your timely comments and continuing cooperation.

C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer
March 29, 1993

Mr. C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer
Department of Public Works
City and County of Honolulu
650 S. King St. 11th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Street:

SUBJECT: PaaHa'a Kai Wastewater Treatment Plant/Septage Facility

I have received several calls from residents in the community surrounding the PaaHa'a Kai Treatment Plant expressing their concern with reports of the proposed construction of a septage facility at PaaHa'a Kai. They have heard that sewage and sludge from the Kahuku Wastewater Treatment Plant will be processed at this facility.

The major concern of the community is the increased truck traffic on Waialua Beach Road entering the facility and an increase in odor, which they feel will lower their property values.

It is my understanding that an Environmental Assessment is planned for the project. I would appreciate a clarification of the following:

1. Scope of the project. Will sewage be trucked from Kahuku? How many additional trucks are expected? What measures can or will be taken to address the question of odor?

2. What is the timetable of the project? Will community input be solicited?

Thank you for your cooperation in responding to these community concerns. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Rene Manaho
Councilmember, District 1

attachment

Mr. C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer
Department of Public Works
City and County of Honolulu
650 S. King St. 11th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 27, 1993

The Honorable Rene Manaho
Councilmember
City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Councilmember Manaho:

Subject: North Shore Septage Handling Facilities

PaaHa'a Kai Wastewater Treatment Plant

Our response to your letter of March 29, 1993, is as follows:

1. Scope of the project. Will sewage be trucked from Kahuku? How many additional trucks are expected? What measures can or will be taken to address the question of odor?

Scope of the project: The primary objective of the project is to develop cost effective and acceptable septage handling facilities for the North Shore area. Presently, septage wastes such as cesspool septage and septic tank septage are already being discharged into the collection systems of the PaaHa'a Kai and Kahuku Wastewater treatment Plants. Two completely separate septage handling facilities will be built at these treatment plants to relieve the presently overloaded conditions, and also to maintain the present hauling distance for municipal and private purposes serving the North Shore area. If the septage handling facilities are not built in the North Shore area, the hauling will be required to transport their septage to the Honolulu Wastewater Treatment Plant (HWTP). Construction of the facilities at the existing treatment plants would involve extension of the current land use rather than a change in land use elsewhere. Thus, the septage handling facilities will be constructed much more expeditiously.

Will sewage be trucked from Kahuku? Although the Preliminary Engineering Report recommends that treated sludge be trucked to the PaaHa'a Kai HWTP, trucking of treated sludge from the Kahuku WTP will not be considered. In designing the facilities, we shall consider the following options in the final design:
A. Provide new sludge drying beds utilizing a thermoplastic filter module within the designated Kahuku Septage Handling Facility area although the space is limited.

B. Convert the two (2) existing Kahuku WWTP sand drying beds to thermoplastic filter beds to enhance the drying time to accommodate the additional sludge from the septage handling facility.

C. Acquire a larger land area at the Kahuku facility to provide adequately sized sludge drying beds.

D. Provide sludge drying beds at the Kaneohe and/or Aulani WWTPs to receive treated sludge from the Kahuku Septage Handling Facility.

E. Consider hauling treated sludge from the Kahuku Septage Handling Facility to the Kailua and/or Honolulu WWTPs.

How many additional trucks are expected? We do not foresee any additional trucks to be hauling septage and sludge originating from the Kahuku facility for the reasons explained above.

What measures can or will be taken to address the question of odor? The tanks for the septage handling facilities will be covered and odor control systems with chemical scrubbers will be provided to prevent odor nuisance.

2. What is the timetable of the project? Will community input be solicited?

What is the timetable of the project? The tentative timetable of the project is as follows:

Start Design: May 1993
Complete Design: Summer 1994
Start Construction: Fall 1994
Complete Construction: Fall 1996

Will community input be solicited? Community input will be solicited during the environmental document processing in accordance with Chapter 347, HRQ. We will consider any other means for community input as necessary.
Mr. F. J. Rodriguez
Parametrix, Inc.
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment for the Septage Handling Facilities at the Pailoa-Pai Waste Water Treatment Plant
Tax Map Rev: 6-6-24, 32, 34

The Planning Department has reviewed the subject document and offers the following comments:

1. The proposed project is designated "Public Facility" on the North Shore Development Plan (DP) Land Use Map. This designation should be included in the "Summary" section of the proposed project.

2. The North Shore Development Plan (DP) Public Facilities Map was recently amended by Ordinance 91-43 to allow for sewage treatment plant improvements to accommodate septage handling at the Pailoa-Pai Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions, please contact Mel Murakami of our staff at 527-6020.

ROBIN FOSTER
Chief Planning Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: MR. ROBIN FOSTER, CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FROM: C. MICHAEL STREET, DIRECTOR AND CHIEF ENGINEER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SUBJECT: PRE-AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED SEPTAGE HANDLING FACILITIES AT PAILOA-PAI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT. TAX MAP REVS: 6-6-24, 32, 34

We have received your department comments dated April 28, 1993 and we respond as follows:

Inclusion of the Development Plan Land Use map indicating "Public Facility" has been made in the "Summary" section of the E.A. document. We have attached a copy for your files.

Thank you for your timely comments and continuing cooperation.

C. MICHAEL STREET
Director and Chief Engineer
Mr. Harold S. Masumoto, Director
Office of State Planning
P. O. Box 3540
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-3540

Dear Mr. Masumoto:

Subject: Pre-Agency Comments on Septage Handling Facilities at Pasilo-Kal Wastewater Treatment Plant

We have received your agency comments dated April 29, 1993 on the above proposed project and we respond as follows:

1. Revisions to the Draft EA document will be made to correct the incorrect reference to the Coastal Zone Management Act review jurisdiction. We direct you to the revisions which are attached.

Thank you for your timely response and continuing cooperation.

Very truly yours,

C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer

Attachments

If you have any questions, please contact our Coastal Zone Management Program at 587-2876.

Sincerely,

Harold S. Masumoto
Director
April 13, 1993

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
LAND USE COMMISSION
Room 11, Old Federal Building
3110alias Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: 587-3623

April 16, 1993

Mr. F. J. Rodriguez
Parametrix, Inc.
1194 Bishop Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism is pleased to submit the enclosed comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for Septage Facilities on Oahu: Kahuku Septage Handling Facilities, Paialee-Kal Septage Handling Facilities, and Sand Island Septage Handling Facilities.

The comments were provided by the Land Use Commission. Questions regarding these comments may be directed to Esther Ueda, LUC Executive Officer at 587-3629.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Muhi Haimanowicz

Enclosure

SUBJECT: Director's Referral No. 93-101-M
Draft Environmental Assessment for Septage Facilities
on Oahu: (Kahuku Septage Handling Facilities, Paialee-Kal Septage Handling Facilities, Sand Island Septage Handling Facilities)

We have reviewed the subject draft environmental assessment and have the following comments to offer:

Kahuku Septage Handling Facilities

1) The tax map key identification on page 1 of the draft EA is in error. The current tax map key should read TMK: 5-6-1: por. 24.

2) We confirm that the project location is within the State Land Use Agricultural District.

3) The existing sewage treatment plant was the subject of SPR-217/City and County of Honolulu, Department of Public Works, approved by the LUC on January 11, 1979.

4) Based on Figure 2 of the respective Draft EA, it appears that the proposed septage handling facility involves TMK: 5-6-1: por. 1 (part of TMK: 5-6-2: por. 24). This should be clarified in the Final EA and amendments made accordingly. We also note that if expansion into TMK: 5-6-2: por. 1 is proposed, another Special Permit or amendment to SPR-217 is needed.

5) The project site is near to an area recommended for reclassification from the Agricultural District to the Conservation District under the Draft State Land Use District Boundary Review – Oahu, currently being conducted by the Office of State Planning. Specifically, the Kili Unit of the James Campbell National Wildlife Preserve is a Priority 2 recommendation.
Paalaa-Kai Septage Handling Facilities

1) We confirm that the project location, identified as TMK: 6-6-34: 32 & 34, is within the State Land Use Urban District and not the Agricultural District as stated on page 1 of the respective Draft EA.

2) Review of Figure 2 of the respective Draft EA indicates that proposed improvements are within TMK: 6-6-34: por. 33 and por. 35. It appears that no improvements are proposed within 6-6-34: 34. This should be clarified in the Final EA and references amended accordingly.

Sand Island Septage Handling Facilities

1) We wish to note that because the proposed septage handling facility will not involve the total parcel, the TMK identification should read as TMK: 1-5-41: por. 5.

2) We confirm that the project location, identified as TMK: 1-5-41: por. 5, is within the State Land Use Urban District.

We have no further comments to offer at this time.

Mr. Hafri Hanneman, Director
Department of Business,
Economic Development & Tourism
P. O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Dear Mr. Hanneman:

Subject: Pre-Agency Comments on Septage Facilities on Oahu
At Paalaa-Kai Wastewater Treatment Plant

We have received your department comments dated April 16, 1993 on the proposed facilities and we respond as follows:

Paalaa-Kai Septage Handling Facilities:

1. We have amended the land use designation for the subject parcel from Agriculture to Urban.

2. Clarification of the correct Tax Map Key to reflect the "no improvements within TMK: 6-6-34: 34" has been made.

Thank you for your timely comments and continuing cooperation.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer
Mr. Fred Rodrigues
Parametric, Inc.
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Rodrigues:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (EPA): Septage Facilities at the Paiaa-Kea North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant, Waimanalo, Oahu, May 4, 1993

We have reviewed the EPA information for the subject project transmitted by your letter dated March 30, 1993, and have the following comments:

Division of Aquatic Resources

The Division of Aquatic Resources comments that a condition should be included to restrict acceptance of septage to lands that are being made in by municipal permits. If private trucks are allowed, there is a greater possibility that lands from commercial sources or those containing toxins could be introduced, leading to plant upsets and the emergency release of unacceptable effluent discharges during the plant’s recovery.

Historic Preservation Division

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) comments that a review of their records show that there are no known historic sites at the proposed project location. These lands are old growth forests where it is unlikely that historic sites will be found. Therefore, HPD believes that this project will have no effect on historic sites.

We have no other comments to offer at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Please feel free to call Steve Tepa at our office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs, at 587-0377, should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

KEITH W. Ai Me

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

May 25, 1993

Mr. Keith H. Aube, Chair
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Aube:

Subject: Pre-Agency Comments on the Proposed Septage Handling Facilities at the Paiaa-Kea Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP), Waimanalo, Oahu, May 4, 1993

We have received your comments dated May 4, 1993, and we respond as follows:

1. The comments from the Division of Aquatic Resources stating that the septage wastes from the private trucking firms should be restricted at the facilities is commendable but in practice, not an environmentally sound practice. If it were realistic, the City’s Division of Wastewater Management would wholeheartedly agree to outright prohibition of any private septage wastes into the City sewer system. However, without any private entity in the business of treating septage wastes, the City must provide this service to preclude illegal discharging and serious environmental impacts.

The Division of Wastewater Management is very concerned about the impacts of private septage hauler discharges on the City sewage facilities. These discharges could possibly interfere with treatment operations and pass through toxic wastes into receiving waters, resulting in Clean Water Act fines that taxpayers and sewer users must pay. A separate hauler permitting system, which is in effect, and the proposed facilities to treat the septage wastes separately from domestic wastewater, would provide a workable and sound solution. Furthermore, routine surveillance of septage receiving stations will be done to ensure that permitted pumpers are complying with their permit requirements.
2. We acknowledge the Historic Preservation Division consent of "No effect" at the Paiaa Ral WTP.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Very truly yours,

C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer
May 10, 1993

Mr. P.J. Rodriguez:
Parametrics, Inc.
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

Environmental Assessment Pre-Agency Review,
Pa'auilo-Kai Septage Handling Facilities,
Waiaulu, Oahu. TK#: 5-6-34: 33 & 14

Thank you for providing the Department of Land Utilization the opportunity to review the above-referenced project. We offer the following comments:

The Special Management Area (SMA) Boundary Map (Figure 3) delineates the project site as being entirely within the SMA. Our review of the Tax Map, however, indicates that the site is partially outside of the SMA boundary. The Environmental Assessment document should clarify the proper location of the site as well as whether the project is within the SMA.

The Draft EA should identify all required permits for construction of the septage handling facility.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Art Chillumbe of our staff at 533-4107.

Very truly yours,

DONALD A. CLEGG
Director of Land Utilization

MEMORANDUM

TO:
Mr. DONALD A. CLEGG, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF LAND UTILIZATION

FROM:
C. MICHAEL STREET, DIRECTOR AND CHIEF ENGINEER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SUBJECT: PRE-AGENCY COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SEPTAGE HANDLING FACILITY AT THE PA'AAUOLO KAI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP), WAIAULU, OAHU

We have received your comments dated May 10, 1993, and we respond as follows:

1. The environmental assessment has been prepared with the intent of supporting the City DLU Special Management Area (SMA) permit process. The portion of the Pa'aaauilo Kai WTP where the septage handling facility will be constructed is partially within the SMA. Figure 3 will be revised accordingly.

2. The following permits are the minimum required for construction of the septage handling facility and the permit requirements will be included in the draft environmental assessment:
   a. Building permit.
   b.ewatering permit.
   c. Noise permit.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer