

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR



BRIAN K. MINAAI
DIRECTOR

DEPUTY DIRECTORS
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
JADINE Y. URASAKI

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

May 25, 2001

HWY-H 01-2.0277

Ms. Genevieve Salmonson, Director
State of Hawai'i
Office of Environmental Quality Control
235 South Beretania St. Ste. 702
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Ms. Salmonson:

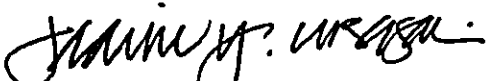
Subject: Final Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impacts
Paauilo Water Association - Waterline Replacement Project

The Department of Transportation has reviewed the comments received during the 30-day comment period, which began on January 23, 2001 and has determined that the subject project will not have a significant environmental effect. As such, the Department of Transportation has issued a Finding of No Significant Impacts for the Paauilo Water Association Waterline Replacement Project. Please publish a notice of this finding in your next edition of The Environmental Notice.

Enclosed is a completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form. Four (4) copies of the Final Environmental Assessment were forwarded earlier.

Should you have any questions, please contact Robert Taira in our Highways Division, Hawai'i District Office at (808) 933-8866.

Very truly yours,


BRIAN K. MINAAI
Director of Transportation

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**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING
OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

~~**PAAUILO WATER ASSOCIATION
WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**~~

Kukaiiau-Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii

April 2001

PREPARED FOR:
PAAUILO WATER ASSOCIATION

811 KANOELEHUA AVENUE
HILO, HAWAII 96720

PREPARED BY:
BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT

101 AUPUNI STREET
SUITE 217
HILO, HAWAII 96720

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The Paauilo Water Association (PWA), is proposing to replace approximately 3,540 lineal feet of 2½-inch waterline with a new 6-inch waterline within the Hawaii Belt Road right-of-way. The proposed project is situated between the Kaohe Subdivision (west end) and the Kukaiau Subdivision (east end), Hamakua District, Island of Hawaii. The purpose of this Environmental Assessment is to comply with the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) which is triggered by the use of State land for the proposed project.

1.2 Identification of the Applicant

The Paauilo Water Association (PWA), a domestic nonprofit corporation, is the applicant for the proposed project. The mailing address for the PWA is 811 Kanoelohua Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii 96720. The contact person for the applicant is Ivan I. Nakano, member.

1.3 Identification of the Approving Agency

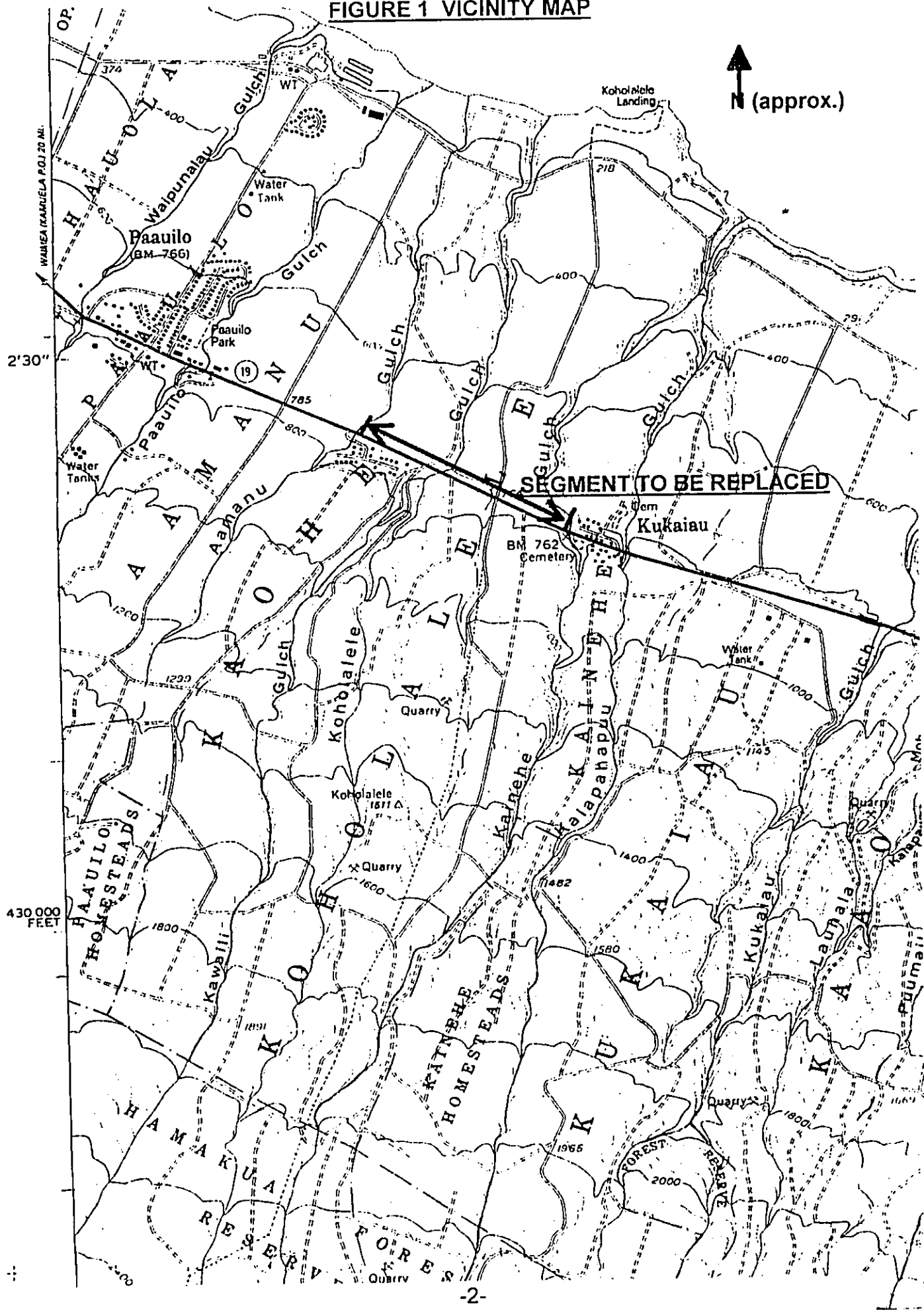
In accordance with Chapter 343, HRS, the State Department of Transportation is the appropriate accepting authority of the Environmental Assessment.

1.4 Technical Description

The PWA is proposing to replace approximately 3,540 lineal feet of 2½-inch waterline with a new 6-inch waterline within the Hawaii Belt Road right-of-way. The County of Hawaii, Department of Water Supply (DWS) owns the existing 2½-inch waterline and the new 6-inch waterline will be dedicated to the DWS upon completion. The proposed waterline replacement project will extend from the Kaohe Subdivision (west end) to the Kukaiau Subdivision (east end) in the Hamakua District near Paauilo. (See Figure 1 - Vicinity Map)

The new 6-inch waterline will connect to an existing 4-inch waterline along the south side of the Mamalahoa Highway, near the east end of Aamanu Stream Bridge (mile post 34.41). The waterline will cross under the highway, just east of Aamanu Stream Bridge, to the north side and then proceed in an easterly direction. The new 6-inch waterline will connect to an existing 4-inch waterline at its easterly terminus, near Kainche Bridge (mile post 33.74). The proposed improvements will begin at an elevation of approximately 760 feet above sea level on the westerly end and will be at approximately 785 feet above sea level on the easterly end. The trench for the waterline will be approximately 4½-feet deep with a minimum 6-inches of pipe cushion above and below the pipe. The waterline will be required to have a minimum cover of 3-feet and be located as far from the edge of the travel lane as possible. The proposed alignment will cross Kawalii Gulch and the plan is to attach the 6-inch waterline to the Kawalii Bridge. The existing 2½-inch waterline will remain in service until the new line is ready for service. The new 6-inch waterline will be designed in accordance with current DWS and State Department of

FIGURE 1 VICINITY MAP



Transportation (SDOT) standards. The proposed project will take approximately three months to construct at a cost of approximately \$400,000.00.

1.5 Project Background

1.5.1 Need for the Project

The new 6 inch waterline is a water system improvement resulting from a settlement agreement in the Kozy, et al, v. John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, et al, Civil No. 93-021. A "COUNTY AGREEMENT FOR WATER USAGE IN THE VICINITY OF MAUNA KEA RANCH" was entered into on September 19, 1997, by and among Fred and Shirley Kozy ("KOZYS") John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company ("JOHN HANCOCK"), Sang Hoon Hahn ("HAIHN") (collectively "WATER USERS") and the County of Hawaii and the Department of Water Supply, (collectively "COUNTY").

Pursuant to the terms of the settlement, the WATER USERS desire to increase the legally permissible quantity of COUNTY water used by the WATER USERS on their property in the vicinity of Mauna Kea Ranch, Kula, Island of Hawaii. In order to permit the WATER USERS to legally consume a larger quantity of COUNTY water than currently permitted, the COUNTY required the WATER USERS to expand certain portions of the Hawaii Belt Road COUNTY waterline.

The COUNTY will allow the WATER USERS to obtain water service through an appropriately sized meter capable of delivering water service to 15 units of 600 gallons per day per unit. The WATER USERS may request to purchase additional units of water for use on their respective properties. Availability of additional units will be subject to review by the County Department of Water Supply at the time of the request.

A hydraulic analysis of the COUNTY'S Paauilo to Kula pipeline determined that the existing 2½ inch section reduced the quantity of water that could be delivered to customers at the far end of the system in and beyond Kula. The analysis determined that replacing the 2½ inch section with a new 6 inch waterline was necessary to deliver the 15 units of water to the WATER USERS as required in the Agreement for Water Usage. The proposed improvement is intended to increase pressures at peak rates of flow substantially higher than at present and meet the DWS' psi minimum pressure criterion everywhere in the system.

1.5.2 Land Use Designations

No parcels of land are involved in this project because the waterline replacement work will occur within the existing highway right-of-way. The land use designations of the adjacent properties are listed below:

- County Zoning Code: Agricultural forty acres (A-40a)
- County General Plan
Land Use Designation: Agricultural , Intensive or Extensive

- State Land Use Designation: Agricultural
- Special Management Area: NA – project area not within SMA

The Project is consistent with all of the land use designations and regulations of the State and County of Hawaii.

1.5.3 Listing of Permits and Approvals

State of Hawaii

Department of Transportation	Approval-Project Construction Plans Construction Permit
Department of Health	NPDES Hydrotesting Permit

County of Hawaii

Department of Water Supply	Approval-Project Construction Plans
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1.6 Agency and Public Consultation

The following public and private organizations and individuals were consulted during the preparation of this environmental assessment:

- United States Fish and Wildlife Services, Division of Ecological Services
- State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division and Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- State of Hawaii, Department of Health
- State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation
- County of Hawaii, Planning Department
- County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works
- County of Hawaii, Police Department
- Wesley R. Segawa & Associates, Inc.
- The Saito family (Tax Map Key No.s (3) 4-3-16: 1 & 2)
- The Maekawa family (Tax Map Key No. (3) 4-3-16: 3)
- The Matsumoto family (Tax Map Key No. (3) 4-3-16: 5)

2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.1 Physical Environment

2.1.1 Geology and Hazards

Environmental Setting

The project area is located on the lower northeastern slopes of Mauna Kea and consists of the Hamakua volcanic series (Sterns and Macdonald, 1946). The Hamakua volcanic series consists mainly of basaltic lava flows.

The volcanic hazard as assessed by the United States Geological Survey for the project area is "8" on a scale of ascending risk 9 to 1 (Heliker 1990). Zone "8" includes the lower slopes of Mauna Kea, most of which has not been affected by lava flows for the past 10,000 years.

The entire island of Hawaii is in earthquake zone 4 of the Uniform Building Code which establishes structural design standards for earthquake resistance for certain types of buildings. This zone is prone to major damages from potential earthquake activity.

Impacts

The proposed project will not expose the County's water transmission system to any additional hazard risk that does not already exist. The volcanic hazard risk is relatively low and the same as any other alternative site that could be utilized for the same purpose.

2.1.2 Soils

Environmental Setting

The soils of the project area consist of the Kukaiau silty clay loam (KuC), as classified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Soil Survey (U. S. Soil Conservation Service 1973). The Kukaiau series consists of well-drained, silty clay loams that formed in volcanic ash. In a representative profile the surface layer is dark grayish-brown silty clay loam about 10 inches thick. The subsoil is dark brown silty clay loam about 40 inches thick underlain by basalt. Permeability is moderately rapid, runoff is slow, and the erosion hazard is slight.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The project area is situated entirely within the Hawaii Belt Road right-of-way, has been previously graded and is relatively flat. As such, the potential for soil erosion is negligible. In addition, all construction activities will comply with the applicable requirements of the State Department of Health and the Department of Public Works.

2.1.3 Climate

Environmental Setting

Hawaii's climate is generally characterized as mild with uniform temperatures, moderate humidity, and two identifiable seasons. The "summer" season, between May and October is generally warmer and drier. The "winter" season, between October and April is cooler and wetter. The project area is situated along the "windward" side of the Island of Hawaii which is exposed to northeasterly trade winds that causes relatively high rainfall (over 100 inches annually in the project area). The average monthly minimum temperature along the Hamakua Coast ranges from the mid 60's to 70 degrees Fahrenheit while the average monthly maximum temperature ranges from the mid 70's to the mid 80's. (University of Hawaii Press, 1983)

Impacts

The climatic conditions of the project area will not have a significant impact on the proposed project.

2.1.4 Hydrology and Drainage

Environmental Setting

The project area is within the Paauilo aquifer system which has a sustainable yield of approximately 60 million gallons per day. Daily water withdrawals from the Paauilo aquifer system are minimal at this time.

According to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency dated September 18, 1988, the project area is situated within Flood Zone "X" (areas determined to be outside the 500 year flood plain).

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed improvements will be required to adhere to State, County and Federal standards designed to avoid runoff and mitigate drainage concerns.

2.1.5 Water Quality

Environmental Setting

Three gulches including Aamanu, Kawalii and Kainehe are situated in the vicinity of the project site. The proposed alignment will cross Kawalii Gulch and the plan is to attach the 6-inch waterline to the Kawalii Bridge which crosses the gulch. The three gulches in the vicinity of the project area carry storm runoff but most of the time remain dry.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed project is not expected to have any direct impact on any streams or marine waters.

2.1.6 Flora and Fauna

The alignment for the proposed waterline replacement project is situated entirely within the Hawaii Belt Road right-of-way which has been previously disturbed during highway construction, waterline installation and repair and maintenance activities. As such, it is highly unlikely that any listed, candidate or proposed endangered plant species are present in the project area. Vegetation of the surrounding area consists principally of grasses and weeds found along the roadside.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, reviewing the proposed project, stated that they had "no objections or comments to offer as it does not impact any of our programs." The staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that the proposed project will not affect any endangered species or critical habitats.

Impacts

The proposed project will not have any significant impact on any protected or native species since the project area has been previously disturbed and does not serve as a habitat for any endangered plant or animal species.

2.1.7 Air Quality

Environmental Setting

Air pollution in the Hamakua district is generally minimal with occasional impacts caused by volcanic emissions from the ongoing Kilauea eruption. Other sources of air pollutants to a limited degree include vehicle emissions and dust from agricultural activities from adjacent property and vehicles utilizing the Hawaii Belt Road.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Short term impacts will result from the proposed construction activity including dust and exhaust from machinery involved in the installation of the new waterline. Given the relative short construction time period and the sparse development of surrounding properties, the potential impacts of these construction activities should be minimal. The contractor will be instructed to utilize best management practices to minimize all impacts and comply with State Department of Health regulations.

2.1.8 Noise

Environmental Setting

Existing noise levels are predominantly influenced by traffic on the Hawaii Belt Road. The rural-agricultural setting of the project area does not contain any other significant noise generator.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Temporary noise impacts will occur from construction activities of the pipeline and are unavoidable. Mitigation measures can be taken, however, to minimize noise impacts including the use of mufflers and implementing construction curfew periods. State Department of Health regulations must be adhered to during construction.

2.1.9 Scenic Resources

Environmental Setting

The Hamakua district is blessed with open space and scenic vistas in a rural-agricultural setting. The project area does not contain any site example of natural beauty included in the County General Plan.

Impacts

The open space and scenic vistas of the Hamakua district and the project area in particular will not be adversely affected by the proposed waterline replacement project.

2.2 Social, Cultural and Economic Setting

2.2.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics

Setting

The Hamakua district has experienced low population growth rate in comparison to the other districts on the island. Between 1980 and 1990 the district population increased by 8% while the County of Hawaii expanded by 31% over the same time period. Most of the district population growth occurred in and around the town of Honokaa (Census Tract 219), the primary economic and social center in the district. The resident population of the entire Hamakua district was 5,545 in 1990 with 3,681 residing in Census Tract 219.

The Hamakua district lost its primary employment generator when Hamakua Sugar Company shut down in 1994. A total of 700 direct jobs were lost and approximately 20,000 acres of land were removed from production with the closure of the sugar company. Although a substantial portion of the acreage has been planted with eucalyptus trees, the number of jobs

that were lost have yet to be replaced. Agricultural activities that continue in the district include ranching, macadamia nuts, and other diversified agricultural crops. In addition to agriculture, the three major destination resort complexes in the neighboring South Kohala district provides a significant number of jobs for the residents of Hamakua.

Impacts

The proposed project will not have a substantial impact on the socio-economic character of the region. The proposed improvements will primarily benefit fifteen existing lots of record. Any additional requests for water service will be evaluated by the Department of Water Supply at the time of the request.

2.2.2 Adjacent Land Uses

Setting

The project area is situated in a sparsely populated section at the eastern end of the Hamakua district. There are scattered single family residences situated in the vicinity, however, those parcels immediately adjacent to the waterline alignment are either vacant former sugar cane fields or planted in eucalyptus trees. The project area is typical of the rural-agricultural setting of the Hamakua district which was once dominated by the sugar industry.

Several families within the Kaohe Subdivision including, the Saito family (Tax Map Key No.s (3) 4-3-16: 1 & 2), the Maekawa family (Tax Map Key No. (3) 4-3-16: 3) and the Matsumoto family (Tax Map Key No. (3) 4-3-16: 5) were interviewed on March 8, 2001, to solicit comments regarding the proposed project. None of the families had any specific comments about the project itself. However, the Matsumoto family inquired about the possibility of having a fire hydrant constructed to service their subdivision.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Short term impacts will result from the proposed construction activity including increased noise levels, dust and exhaust from machinery involved in the installation of the pipeline. Other temporary impacts include traffic disruption, the storage/stockpiling of material and equipment during the time of construction. Given the relative short construction period and the sparse development of surrounding properties, the potential impacts of these construction activities should be minimal.

The contractor will be instructed to utilize best management practices to minimize all impacts including the use of mufflers and implementing construction curfew periods. In addition, State Department of Health regulations will be adhered to during construction. Provisions will also be made to handle traffic control as well as the storage of equipment and supplies in compliance with all regulatory requirements.

2.3 Public Facilities and Services

2.3.1 Roads

Setting

The Hawaii Belt Road has a pavement width of 24 feet within a 80 feet wide road right-of-way. It is the primary roadway link between Hilo and Honokaa and beyond to Waimea. The posted speed limit for the Hawaii Belt Road along the waterline alignment is 55 miles per hour.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed waterline improvement project will have a temporary impact on the Hawaii Belt Road with traffic disruptions during construction. Provisions will be made to handle traffic control during periods of disruption.

2.3.2 Water System

Setting

The proposed project is part of the County's Paauilo to Kukaiau system which currently services approximately 240 lots/residences.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The existing 2½ inch waterline will remain in service during the construction of the new 6 inch waterline which will minimize any service disruptions. Once in place, the new waterline will improve water pressure for the users at the Kukaiau end of the system.

2.3.3 Protective Services

Setting

The closest County fire station and police station are situated in Honokaa, approximately eight miles northwest of the project area.

Impacts

The proposed project is not likely to create an additional burden on the existing service providers.

2.4 Archaeology, Historic and Cultural Resources

Setting

The project area is situated entirely within the previously disturbed Hawaii Belt Road right-of-way. Property in the general vicinity were previously utilized for sugar cane and is either vacant or planted in eucalyptus.

Preliminary comments submitted by the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division stated in part, the following:

“It is highly unlikely that significant historic sites would be found within the right-of-way because of previous disturbances related to road construction. We thus believe that the proposed project will have ‘no effect’ on significant historic sites.”

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed project is anticipated to have “no effect” on significant historic sites. In addition, should there be any inadvertent discoveries of archaeological resources during construction work, work which would affect the archaeological resources must stop immediately and the State Historic Preservation Division must be notified.

3 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

3.1 Short Term Impacts

Construction Activity:

Impacts: Short term impacts will result from the proposed construction activity including increased noise levels, dust and exhaust from machinery involved in the installation of the pipeline. Other temporary impacts include traffic disruption, the storage/stockpiling of material and equipment during the time of construction. Given the relative short construction period and the sparse development of surrounding properties, the potential impacts of these construction activities should be minimal.

Mitigation: The contractor will be instructed to utilize best management practices to minimize all impacts including the use of mufflers and implementing construction curfew periods. In addition, State Department of Health regulations will be adhered to during construction. Provisions will also be made to handle traffic control as well as the storage of equipment and supplies in compliance with all regulatory requirements.

In addition, should there be any inadvertent discoveries of archaeological resources during construction work, work which would affect the archaeological resources must stop immediately and the State Historic Preservation Division must be notified.

4 ALTERNATIVES

4.1 No Action

If the proposed 6 inch waterline replacement project is not implemented, the 2½ inch waterline will continue to provide substandard service to the service area. The settlement agreement in the *Kozy, et al, v. John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, et al*, Civil No. 93-021, a "COUNTY AGREEMENT FOR WATER USAGE IN THE VICINITY OF MAUNA KEA RANCH", will not be implemented. The system will lack sufficient pressure to adequately serve the 15 lots of record that have entered into the agreement with the County.

4.2 Alternative Alignment

The Paauilo Water Association could utilize alternative alignments for the new 6 inch waterline. The impacts generated by using a completely new alignment, beyond the confines of the Hawaii Belt Road right-of-way, would certainly be more severe. Any new alignment would likely involve areas that have not experienced the intrusion of major highway construction.

5 DETERMINATION, FINDINGS AND REASONS FOR SUPPORTING DETERMINATION

5.1 Significance Criteria

According to the Department of Health Rules (11-200-12), an applicant or agency must determine whether an action may have a significant impact on the environment, including all phases of the project, its expected consequences both primary and secondary, its cumulative impact with other projects, and its short and long-term effects. In making the determination, the Rules establish "Significance Criteria" to be used as a basis for identifying whether significant environmental impact on the environment if it meets any one of the following thirteen criteria.

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

The proposed project involves the installation of an underground waterline. As such, the proposed project will not have any impact on the visual character or scenic views of the area. In addition, prior disturbances within the Hawaii Belt Road right-of-way including the construction of the highway, installation of waterlines, utility poles, culverts, bridges and guardrails makes it highly unlikely that any natural or cultural resources remain intact within the right-of-way.

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

The proposed waterline improvement project is situated entirely within the Hawaii Belt Road right-of-way. The waterline improvement project will not adversely affect the environment of the right-of-way or the surrounding area.

3. Conflicts with the State's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, HRS; and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, court decisions, or executive orders.

The proposed development is consistent with the Environmental Policies established in Chapter 344, HRS, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

4. Substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community or state.

The proposed project will have a substantial impact on the economic and social welfare of the community. The proposed project is privately funded to benefit those that have contributed to the improvement.

5. Substantially affects public health

The proposed project will have a positive impact on public health by upgrading the public water system to improve the safety and reliability of the water delivery system.

6. Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.

The proposed project will not have any substantial secondary impacts because it is primarily an upgrade to improve the water service to 15 existing parcels of record. There is no additional water source capacity being developed or provided with the proposed project.

7. Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality.

The proposed project is situated entirely within the previously disturbed Hawaii Belt Road right-of-way. As such, the waterline replacement project will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.

8. Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect on the environment, or involves a commitment for larger actions.

As stated previously, the proposed project will not have any substantial secondary impacts because it is primarily an upgrade to improve the water service to 15 existing lots of record. The proposed project does not involve a commitment for larger actions and will not induce other actions having a cumulative effect on the environment.

9. Substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species or its habitat.

The proposed project will not have any substantial adverse effect on any rare, threatened or endangered species or its habitat.

10. Detrimently affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels.

Short term impacts will result from the proposed construction activity including increased noise levels, dust and exhaust from machinery involved in the installation of the pipeline. Given the relative short construction time period and the sparse development of surrounding properties, the potential impacts of these construction activities should be minimal.

11. Affects or is likely to suffer damage by being located in an environmentally sensitive area, such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, beach, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, freshwater, or coastal waters.

The proposed project is not situated in an environmentally sensitive area and will not expose the DWS waterline to any additional hazard than already exists

12. Substantially affects scenic vistas and view planes identified in county or state plans or studies.

The proposed project involves the installation of an underground waterline. As such, the proposed project will not have any impact on scenic vistas and view planes of the area.

13. Requires substantial energy consumption.

The proposed project will not require substantial energy consumption.

5.2 Findings

Based on the foregoing information presented, it is determined that the proposed waterline replacement project will not have a significant effect. As such, a determination of a Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed action is appropriate.

5.3 Reasons Supporting Determination

The nature and scale of the proposed action within the previously disturbed road right-of-way is such that no significant environmental effects are anticipated. Potential impacts, if any, can be mitigated through careful construction management practices and compliance with all governmental requirements including those of the State Department of Health, State Department of Transportation and the County Department of Public Works.

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A - REPRODUCTION OF COMMENTS MADE DURING THE PRE-ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION PERIOD

1. State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, April 28, 2000.
2. State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, May 11, 2000.
3. State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, May 16, 2000.
4. County of Hawaii, Planning Department, May 22, 2000.
5. County of Hawaii, Police Department, May 11, 2000.

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 28, 2000

TIMOTHY E. JOHNS
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JANET E. KAWELO
DEPUTY

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
CONSERVATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
CONSERVATION AND
RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
CONSERVATION
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura
Planning Consultant
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

Subject: Request for Comments: Pre-Environmental Assessment Consultation
Paauilo Waterline Replacement, Hamakua District, Island of Hawaii.

We have reviewed your cover letter to us dated April 26, 2000 for the subject project description along Mamalahoa Highway right-of-way about 3,540 lineal feet situated between the Kaohe subdivision and the Kukaiau subdivision, Hamakua, Hawaii. The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife has no objections nor comments to offer as it does not impact any of our programs. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MGB".

Michael G. Buck
Administrator

Copy: DOFAW, Hawaii Branch

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
Kakuhihewa Building, Room 555
501 Kamohala Boulevard
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

TIMOTHY E. JOHNS, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
LAND
STATE PARKS
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

May 11, 2000

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura, Planning Consultant
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

LOG NO: 25413 ✓
DOC NO: 0005PM05

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

**SUBJECT: Pre-Environmental Assessment Consultation for Paauilo Water Association
Water System Improvements Koholale, Hamakua, Hawaii Island
TMK: 4-2-2; 4-2-3; 4-2-5; 4-3-1**

Thank you for your letter of April 26, 2000 and the opportunity to comment on the proposed project, which is located between the Ka'ohe Subdivision and Kukaiau Subdivision.

The proposed project will involve the replacement of approximately 3,540 lineal feet of 21/2 inch water line with a new 6 inch water line within the Mamalahoa Highway right-of-way. It is highly unlikely that significant historic sites would be found within the right-of-way because of previous disturbances related to road construction. We thus believe that the proposed project will have "no effect" on significant historic sites.

If you have any questions please contact Patrick McCoy (692-8029).

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Hibbard".

DON HIBBARD, Administrator
State Historic Preservation Division

PM:amk

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR



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



KAZU HAYASHIDA
DIRECTOR

DEPUTY DIRECTORS
BRIAN K. MINAII
GLENN M. OKIMOTO

May 16, 2000

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STP 8.9551

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura
Planning Consultant
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

Subject: Paauilo Water Association Waterline Replacement along Mamalahoa Highway
Pre-Environmental Assessment (EA) Consultation

Thank you for your transmittal requesting our review of the proposed project.

Plans for construction work within the State highway right-of-way must be submitted for our review and approval.

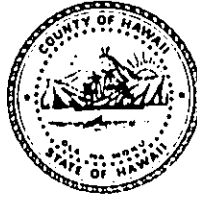
We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kazu Hayashida".

KAZU HAYASHIDA
Director of Transportation

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



Virginia Goldstein
Director

Russell Kokubun
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

May 22, 2000

Mr. Brian Nishimura
Planning Consultant
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

**Your Request for Comments (April 26, 2000) for
Pre-Environmental Assessment (EA) Consultation:
Waterline Replacement to Hawaii County Department of Water Supply
(DWS) System within Mamalahoa Highway Right-of-Way between Kaohe
Subd. (West) to Kukaiau Subd. (East)
TMK: 4-2-02, por. of Kukaiau & Kaa, Hamakua, Hawaii Island**

Thank you for requesting our participation to review and submit comments for the pending draft EA on the proposed waterline replacement. Generally, our comments pertain to the project's consistency with the state or county land use law that apply to this project.

Project Location. Although a private party is initiating the replacement project, the new waterline will be designed to state and county standards and dedicated to the Department of Water Supply (DWS). The scope of the waterline replacement project covers an existing waterline owned by DWS within the highway right-of-way and between the subdivisions noted above, according to the provided project description. DWS engineers described the project location approximately between Mile Post (MP) 33.74, near the vicinity of Mohuna Bridge, and MP 34.41, near Kalapahapuu Bridge.

Mr. Brian Nishimura
Planning Consultant
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May 22, 2000

Land Use Zonings & Designations. No parcels are involved in this project because the replacement work will occur within the existing highway right-of-way. There are adjacent land use zonings and designations, however, and these are listed below.

County Zoning Code:	- Agriculture (A-40 acs.)
Special Management Area (SMA):	- NA – this project is not in the SMA; therefore, SMA review is not required.
Shoreline Parcel:	- NA – this project is not on the shoreline.
County General Plan (GP) Land Use Designation:	- Agricultural, Intensive or Extensive. None of the plats of the project location is a site example of natural beauty, according to the GP Support Document at 34.
State Land Use (SLU):	Agricultural

Hawaii County Zoning Code Requirements: Permitted Use. The proposed water system improvements are a *permitted use within any district* consistent with County Zoning Code secs. 25-4-11(b) & (c). Uses permitted within any district include water transmission lines and substations of public and governmental agencies as well as public uses, structures and buildings. Although under the County's public use standards a project is subject to the Zoning Code's plan approval criteria these procedures do not apply to the County agricultural district, according to secs. 25-2-71(a) & (c)(2).

Consistent with SLU Agricultural District. The proposed improvements are permitted uses consistent with Haw. Rev. Stat. sec. 205-4.5(a)(7) & (10). Permitted uses include public, private, and quasi - public utility lines, transformer stations, major water storage tanks and appurtenant small buildings, e.g., booster pumping stations, and accessory uses. Permitted uses do not require a special permit, according to sec. 205-6. A special permit is required, however, for offices or yards for equipment, material, vehicle storage, repair or maintenance, treatment plants, corporation yards, or other like structures. These uses are specifically excluded by the preceding state law and

Mr. Brian Nishimura
Planning Consultant
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May 22, 2000

are, therefore, not permitted in the State "Agricultural" district. A special permit requires an application to the County Planning Commission, subject to public notice and hearing requirements.

Consistent with Hawaii County General Plan (GP). The project site is in a GP designation of either intensive or extensive agriculture, according to the LUPAG (Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide) Map – HI County GP, No. 89-142 (effective: November 4, 1989). An intensive designation is for sugar, orchard, diversified agriculture and floriculture; an extensive designation is for pasturage and range lands.

Because the proposed improvements are to the County's public water system the GP's elements on Land Use Standards, Public Utilities Goals & Policies, and Water Policies apply to the project's consistency or compliance with the County GP.

GP Land Use Standards. According to the GP's land use standards, the GP at 14, the LUPAG Map designation is a land use policy and a guide *subject to existing zoning*; in addition, *where land is required for governmental services and programs these may be accommodated within the allocated acreages of the map.*

Because the GP designation is *subject to the existing zoning* and the public water system improvements are determined to be consistent with the existing state and county agriculture zoning, these improvements are therefore consistent or in compliance with the GP. According to the above GP land use standards, the replacement waterline improvements within the existing highway right-of-way can be accommodated because the right-of-way is used for the *governmental service* of delivering public water, the DWS water service system.

GP Public Utility Goals & Policies. According to the GP at 9, the improvement project is consistent with the goal to ensure adequate, efficient and dependable public utility service is available to users. In addition, the improvements are also consistent with the goal to maximize efficiency and economy in providing utility services. Finally, this improvement project is deemed consistent with the public utilities policy that encourages the improvement of existing utility services to meet the needs of users.

Mr. Brian Nishimura
Planning Consultant
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May 22, 2000

Stated below are the GP design criteria in the public utilities goals and policies that apply to county projects. A below-grade waterline within an existing right-of-way is deemed consistent with the following criteria.

- According to the GP at 9, the GP public utilities goal require public facilities be designed to fit into their surroundings or concealed from public view; in addition, the GP's public utilities policy requires utility facilities be designed to minimize conflict with the natural environment and natural resources.
- According to the GP at 9, the GP's public utilities policy requires that facilities shall be designed to complement adjacent land uses (in this case county and state agricultural land uses). And it shall be operated so as to minimize pollution or disturbance.

GP Water Policies, the GP at 9-10. The location of the proposed improvements between the existing subdivisions, Kaohe and Kukaiau, is consistent with three GP water policies. The improvements are consistent with promoting the County's desired land use development patterns; and, these improvements are also consistent with the policy to install water system improvements in an area of established need and characteristics. The existing subdivisions of this project are determined to be the GP's desired land use development pattern and the area of established need and characteristics. Finally, improving the public water system by replacing the existing 2½-inch line with a new 6-inch waterline is also consistent with the policy to improve and replace inadequate systems.

- GP water policy also requires all water systems to be designed and built to DWS standards; and, GP water standards mandate that water systems shall meet requirements of the DWS and the County Subdivision Control Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the pre-consultation and to offer comments for the draft EA. Further notification or consultation is not required; however, for the department's file record please supply us with a copy of the final EA, only.

Mr. Brian Nishimura
Planning Consultant
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May 22, 2000

Any follow-up to these comments may be made with staff planner, Earl Lucero.
Ph: 961-8288.

Sincerely,


VIRGINIA GOLDSTEIN
Planning Director

EML:NH:gp
P:\wp60\earl\letters\bnishi3.doc

c: Mr. Robert Yanabu, Chief Engineer
SMA Section
Department of Water Supply

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



Wayne G. Carvalho
Police Chief

James S. Correa
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawaii

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2702

May 11, 2000

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura
Planning Consultant
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

SUBJECT : REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
PRE-ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION FOR PAAUILO
WATER ASSOCIATION


This acknowledges your letter of April 26, 2000, requesting our comments on the proposed project.

Staff has reviewed your request and does not foresee any adverse effect should the replacement of an existing 2½-inch water line and related improvements be granted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

WAYNE G. CARVALHO
POLICE CHIEF


THOMAS J. HICKCOX
ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF
FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

EWR:lk

**APPENDIX B - REPRODUCTION OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES MADE
DURING THE 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD**

1. State of Hawaii, Office of Environmental Quality Control, February 22, 2001.
RESPONSE: State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, March 23, 2001.

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR



GENEVIEVE SALMONSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
SUITE 702
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 586-4185
FACSIMILE (808) 586-4186

February 22, 2001

Mr. Brian K. Minaai, Director
Department of Transportation
869 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5097

Dear Mr. Minaai:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Paauilo Water Association Waterline Replacement Project, Hamakua, Hawai'i

Thank you for the opportunity to review the subject document. We have the following questions and comments.

1. Please consult with the neighboring residents who may be affected by this project and include their comments in the Final Environmental Assessment.
2. Please add the following mitigation measure for the project, "Should there be any inadvertent discoveries of archaeological resources during construction work, work which would affect the archaeological resources must stop immediately and the State Historic Preservation Division must be notified."

Should you have any questions, please call Jeyan Thirugnanam at 586-4185.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Genevieve Salmonson".

Genevieve Salmonson
Director

c: Paauilo Water Association
Brian Nishimura, Planning Consultant

17.
 01 MAR 2001 12:52
 MR. SALMONSON
 PHOENIX DISTRICT

HWY-H 01-2.0169

March 23, 2001

TO: GENEVIEVE SALMONSON, DIRECTOR
 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

FROM: BRIAN K. MINAAI *[Signature]*
 DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
 PAAUJO WATER ASSOCIATION WATERLINE REPLACEMENT
 PROJECT, TMK: (3) 4-4-2

This is in response to your letter dated February 22, 2001, regarding the subject draft environmental assessment. Your comments have been reviewed and will be addressed in the Final Environmental Assessment as follows:

- Consultation With Neighboring Residents
 Neighboring residents have been consulted and their comments will be in the Final Environmental Assessment.
- Mitigation Measure
 As requested, the following mitigation measure will be added, "Should there be any inadvertent discoveries of archaeological resources during construction work, work which would affect the archaeological resources must stop immediately and the State Historic Preservation Division must be notified."

Thank you for taking the time to comment on the subject draft environmental assessment. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Mr. Robert Taira at (808) 933-8866.

ST:lkc

Bc: HWY-II