

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Waimea Water System Improvements

TMK (3rd) 6-5-001:021; 6-5-004:079 and County Roadways Within
TMK Plats 6-5-002, 6-5-004, 6-5-008 & 6-5-011
South Kohala District, Hawai‘i Island, State of Hawai‘i

April 2009

County of Hawai‘i
Department of Water Supply
345 Kekuanaoa Street, Suite 20
Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

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Waimea, South Kohala District, Hawai'i Island, State of Hawai'i

PROPOSING/ APPROVING AGENCY:

County of Hawai'i
Department of Water Supply
345 Kekuaaoa Street, Suite 20
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

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CLASS OF ACTION:

Use of County Land
Use of County Funds
Use of State Land

This document is prepared pursuant to:

The Hawai'i Environmental Protection Act,
Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), and
Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawai'i Department of Health Administrative Rules (HAR).

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SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply (DWS) proposes to construct a water line to relieve a water pressure deficiency in its Waimea system. The approximately 6,000-foot-long water line will improve the water system delivery pressure and fire flow to the upper parts of Laelae and Opelo Roads.

Because the line will parallel existing water lines from reservoirs in the DWS' Waimea Water Reservation and will be contained within the same existing road rights-of-way, no valuable biological, historic or cultural resources are present or will be affected. In order to minimize the potential to disrupt traffic and pose a hazard, contractors will utilize a "cut and cover" method, in which asphalt pavement will be saw cut, and base course and underlying material will be removed by a backhoe. This material will be hauled to a stockpile site. The contractor will coordinate trench excavation, delivery of material to the work site, and water line installation to minimize inconvenience to the public. Except for one location on Kawaihae Road, most construction is along local roads. Professional traffic control will be used to ensure access to properties and safe and efficient traffic flow.

**PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PURPOSE AND NEED
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

1.1 Project Location and Description

The Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply (DWS) proposes to construct a water relief line to relieve a water pressure deficiency in its Waimea system. The project consists of installing approximately 6,000 linear feet of 12-inch water line from the south side of Kawaihae Road along Opelo Road, Hoku'ula Road, Spencer Road and the access road to the reservoirs in the DWS' existing Waimea Water Reservation to the north of Spencer Road. The new water relief line is expected to improve the water system delivery pressure to the upper parts of Laelae and Opelo Roads. The new water line will parallel the existing water lines along those roadways, and will be contained within the road right-of-ways except near its terminus on an access road within two State of Hawai'i properties with no formal easement (TMKs 6-5-001:021 and 6-5-004:79) (Figures 1-4). An easement may be required within the State properties.

In order to minimize the potential to disrupt traffic and pose a hazard, contractors will utilize a "cut and cover" method, in which asphalt pavement will be saw cut, and base course and underlying material will be removed by a backhoe. This material will be hauled to a stockpile site. The water line will be placed in a nominal 24-inch wide trench at a nominal depth of four feet along its length. The contractor will coordinate trench excavation, delivery of material to the work site, and water line installation to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Solid waste generated from clearing the corridor will be hauled for disposal. Approximately one-half of the excavated material will be used for backfilling the trench. Any surplus material will become the property of the contractor for disposal as required by the County contract documents.

After a water line segment is installed, it will be pressure-tested and disinfected per DWS standards. Assuming there are no leaks, the line will then be drained, the hydro-testing water disposed of, and the trench backfilled with engineered fill. A minimum of 30 inches of cover consisting of engineered fill, base course, and asphalt paving will be used. This process will be repeated until the entire water line is installed and tested. The entire line will be disinfected with a chlorine solution prior to being brought on-line. Hydro-testing and disinfection water will be properly discharged along the roadside to percolate into the ground per the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) expected permit conditions (see Section 3.1.2). Excavated areas will then be restored to pre-construction conditions or better.

The estimated cost of the proposed water line is \$1,000,000, and construction is expected to last about ten months.

Figure 1. Location Map

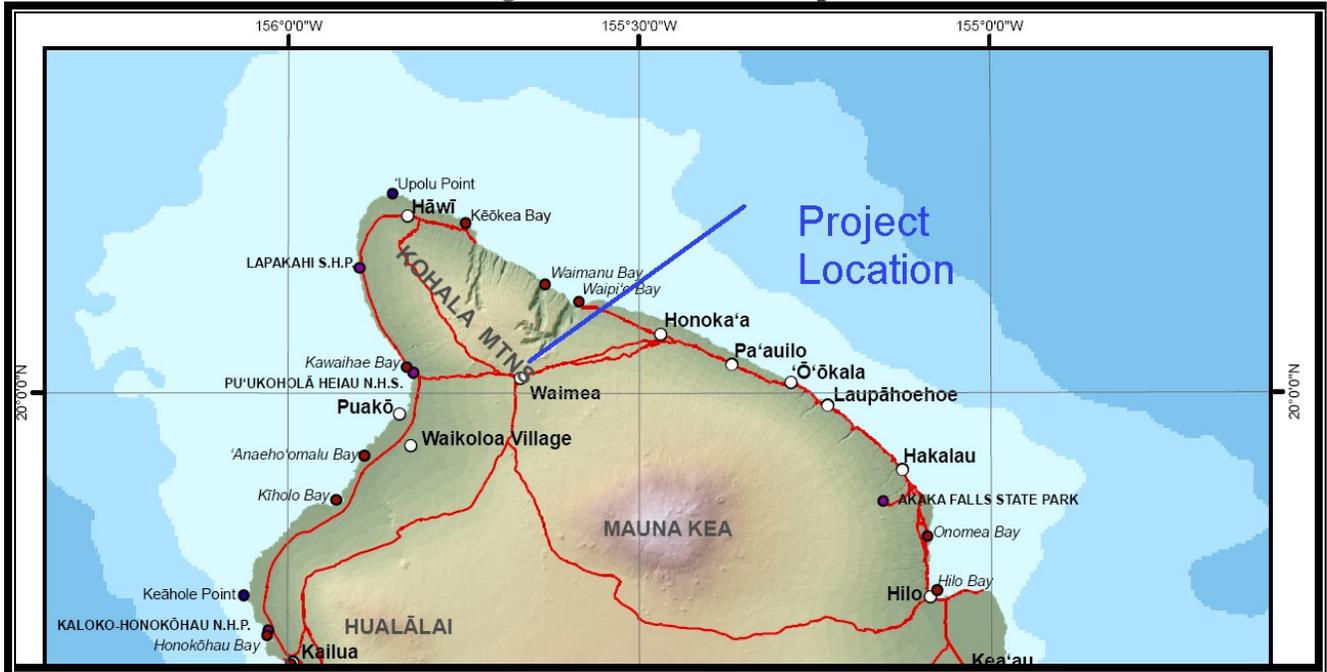


Figure 2. Airphoto with Project Corridor



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth ©

Figure 3. Project Site Photographs



3a. Opelu Road ▲ ▼ 3b. Hoku‘ula Road



Figure 3. Project Site Photographs, cont'd



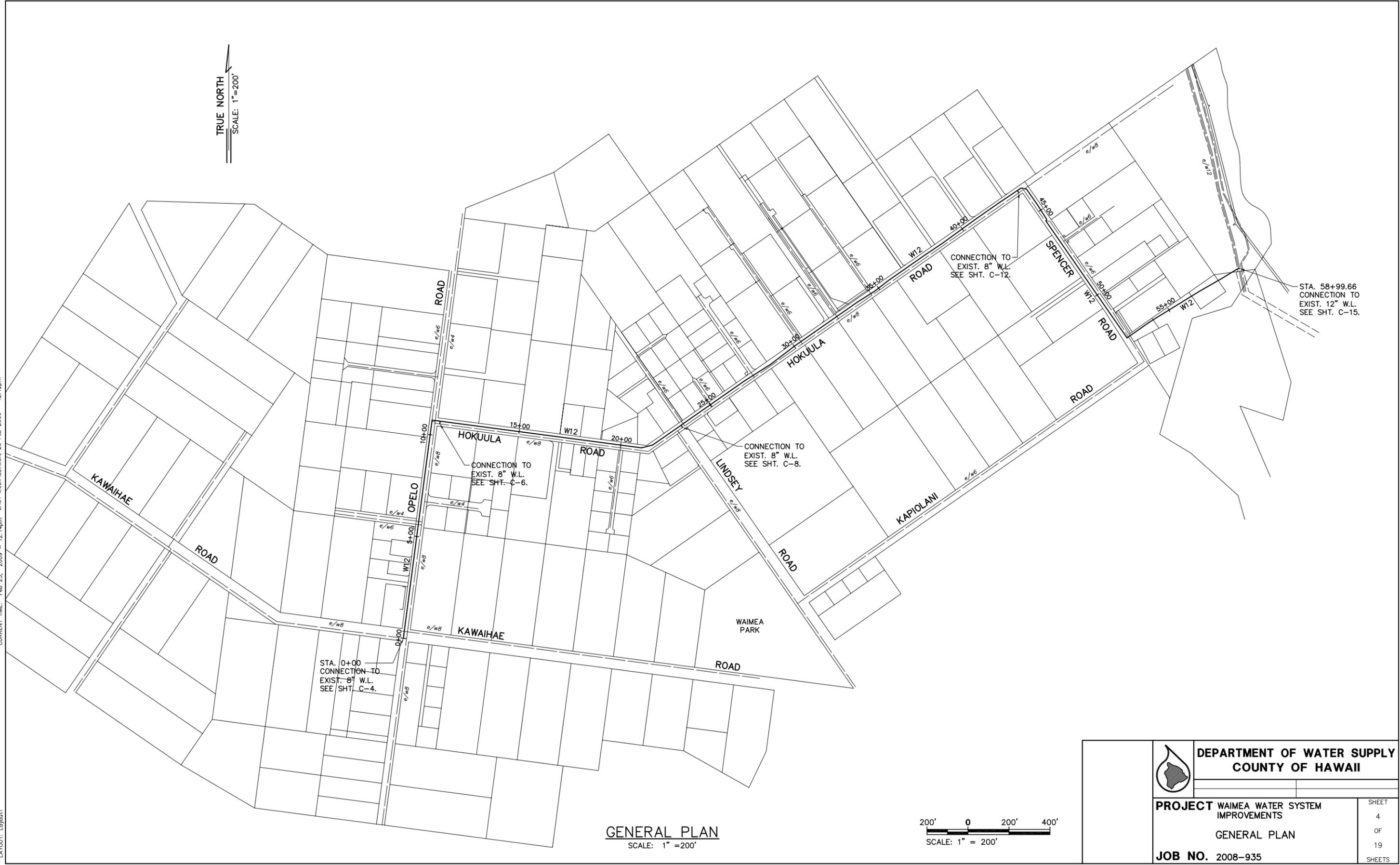
3c. Spencer Road ▲ ▼ 3d. DWS Access Road



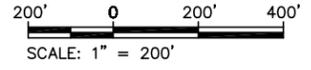
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PREF: C:\CPED005\Job_Task_3 (DWS Relief Line)\ACAD\
 LAYOUT: Layout1

TRUE NORTH
 SCALE: 1" = 200'



GENERAL PLAN
 SCALE: 1" = 200'



	DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY COUNTY OF HAWAII	
	PROJECT WAIMEA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS	
GENERAL PLAN		SHEET 4
JOB NO. 2008-935		OF 19
		SHEETS

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1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the water line is to improve the water system delivery pressure to the upper parts of Laelae and Opelo Roads, while at the same time providing additional water to areas going down Kawaihae Road. There are some low pressure areas mauka of Opelo Road along Konokohau and Lihipali Roads during peak demand. Should a fire emergency occur during the peak demand period, water pressure could be inadequate. The project will help ensure that residents have adequate water pressure and that adequate fire flow is available at hydrants for use during fire emergencies. Also, there is currently a moratorium on additional water services to properties along stretches of Kawaihae Road, due to the added stress these additional water services would place on the water system discussed above. By improving the transmission capacity of the water system, DWS may be able to lift the moratorium on these neighborhoods.

1.3 Environmental Assessment Process

This Environmental Assessment (EA) process is being conducted in accordance with Chapter 343 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). This law, along with its implementing regulations, Title 11, Chapter 200, of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), is the basis for the environmental impact process in the State of Hawai'i. According to Chapter 343, an EA is prepared to determine impacts associated with an action, to develop mitigation measures for adverse impacts, and to determine whether any of the impacts are significant according to thirteen specific criteria. Part 4 of this document states the finding (anticipated finding, in the Draft EA) that no significant impacts are expected to occur; Part 5 lists each criterion and presents the findings (preliminary, for the Draft EA) for each made by the Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply, the proposing/approving agency. If, after considering comments to the Draft EA, the agency concludes that, as anticipated, no significant impacts would be expected to occur, then the agency issues a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and the action is permitted to occur. If the agency concludes that significant impacts are expected to occur as a result of the proposed action, then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared.

1.4 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

The following agencies and organizations were consulted in development of the environmental assessment:

State:

Department of Health
Office of Hawaiian Affairs

County:

Police Department
Planning Department
Public Works Department
County Council

Private:

Sierra Club
South Kohala Traffic Safety Committee
Waimea Community Association
Neighboring property owners

Copies of communications received during early consultation are contained in Appendix 1a.

PART 2: ALTERNATIVES

2.1 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the Waimea Water System Improvements would not be undertaken. The public would not benefit from the improved water pressure and service by the DWS. Because of safety and other concerns associated with insufficient water pressure, the department considers the No Action Alternative undesirable.

2.2 Alternative Locations or Strategies

The area proposed for the relief line is already being served by the DWS, and other water lines are already present in the rights-of-way, although those rights-of-way are not fully utilized. Other than establishing a new route for the water line, there is no other way to provide improved service to the area, and splitting water lines among different routes would be inefficient, costly and an inconvenience to the public. As there do not appear to be any environmental or other disadvantages associated with the particular proposed route, and the road right-of-ways are well suited to the proposed use and have been dedicated for utilities, no alternative routes have been advanced in this Environmental Assessment.

PART 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Basic Geographic Setting

The road rights-of-way in which the additional water line would be developed are referred to throughout this EA as the *project site*. The term *project area* is used to describe the general environs of this part of Waimea.

The project site consists of County road rights-of-way along Opelo Road, Hoku‘ula Road, Spencer Road and about 500 feet of an access road within State land that leads to the existing Waimea Clearwater Reservoir. The reservoir already provides the water source for the water line that the project’s additional line will parallel and will also be the water source for the relief line. Adjacent land use in the project area is primarily residential.

3.1 Physical Environment

3.1.1 Climate, Geology, Soils and Geologic Hazards

Environmental Setting

The climate in the area is cool, with an average annual rainfall of about 50 inches (U.H. Hilo-Geography 1998:57). The project site is located at an elevation ranging from 2,650 to 2,740 feet above sea level on the flanks of the Kohala volcano. The surface consists of ash-covered lava flows from 120,000 to 230,000 years before the present (Wolfe and Morris 1996). Nearly all of the soil on the project site is classified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) as Palapalai silt loam (PLC), a well-drained soil usually found on slopes of 6 to 12 percent. Palapalai soil is formed from volcanic ash and tends to be slightly acid in the upper part of the surface layer and neutral in the subsoil. Permeability is moderately rapid, runoff is slow and erosion hazard slight. The capability subclass is IIIe, which means such soils are typically used for pasture. A small portion of the project site soil, involving the area where Opelo Road meets the Kawaihae Road, is Waimea very fine sandy loam (WMC), a soil with similar characteristics.

The entire Big Island is subject to geologic hazards, especially lava flows and earthquakes. Volcanic hazard as assessed by the United States Geological Survey in this area of Waimea is zone 9, on a scale of ascending risk from 9 to 1 (Heliker 1990:23). The low hazard risk is based on the fact that the Kohala mountain is an extinct volcano, and zone 9 areas have had no eruptions in the past 60,000 years. As such, there is negligible risk of lava inundation over relatively short time scales in the project area.

In terms of seismic risk, the entire Island of Hawai‘i is rated Zone 4 Seismic Hazard (*Uniform Building Code, 1997 Edition, Figure 16-2*). Zone 4 areas are at risk from major earthquake

damage, especially to structures that are poorly designed or built, as the 6.7-magnitude quake of October 15, 2006, demonstrated. The project site does not appear to be subject to subsidence, landslides or other forms of mass wasting.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

In general, geologic conditions impose no constraints on the proposed action, and the proposed project is not imprudent to construct. All design will take into account the soil's physical and chemical characteristics, and the water lines will be designed in accordance with regulations related to its seismic setting.

3.1.2 Drainage, Water Features and Water Quality

Existing Environment

The project area has no perennial surface water bodies and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) FM1551660168E (5/16/1994) (Figure 5) shows that the project site is in Flood Zone X, outside the 500-year floodplain. Waikoloa Stream runs within a deep ravine north and east of the project site. Occasional local (non-stream related) flooding occurs on Hoku'ula Street during very heavy rains, according to residents.

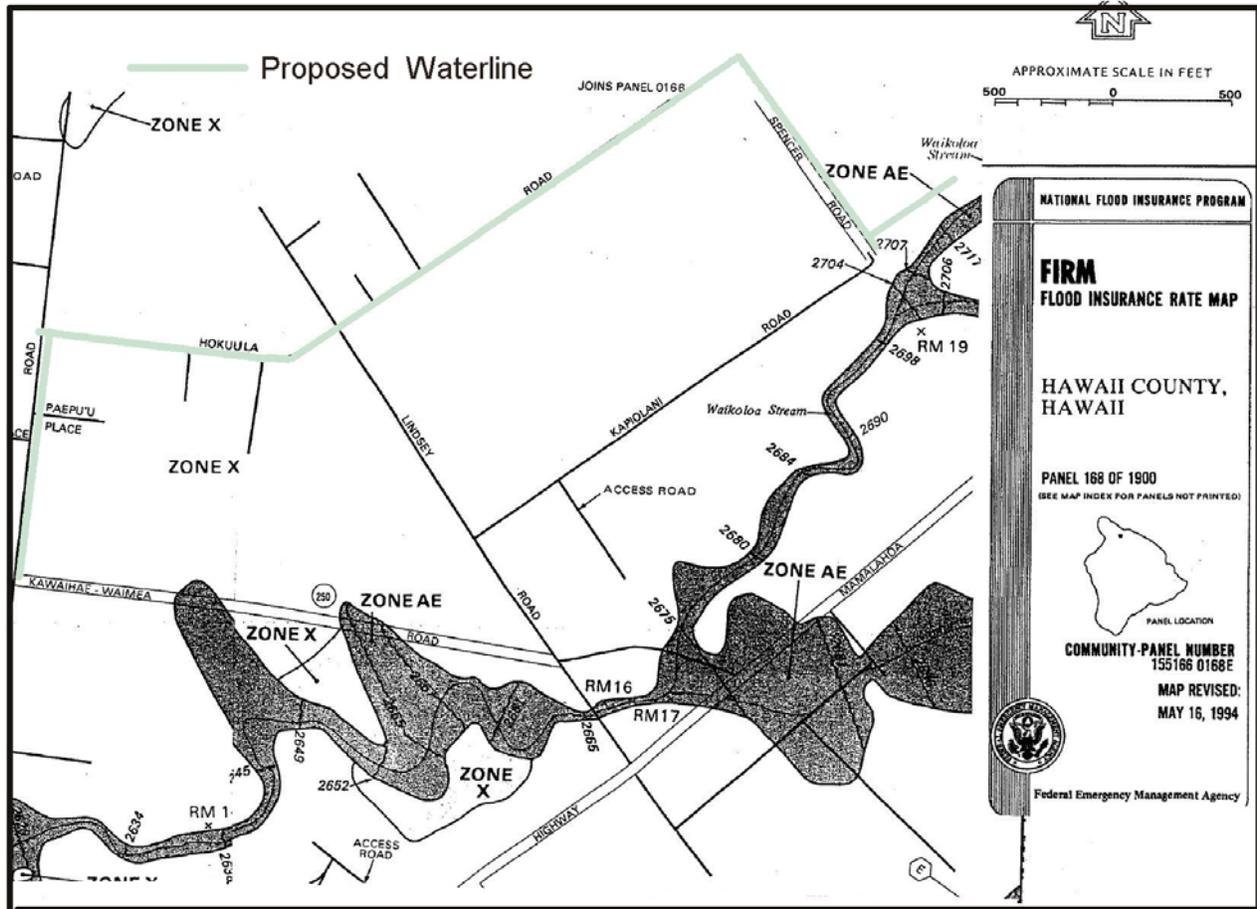
Impacts and Mitigation Measure

Because of the limited scale of construction on rights-of-way containing existing water lines, and because the property is not within a FIRM flood zone and no sensitive water resources are located nearby, additional risks for flooding or impacts to water quality associated with the proposed action are minor. The project will not be increasing pavement, and there will no increase in runoff. The project will conform to Chapter 27 of the Hawai'i County Code, which is related to drainage

Because the project will disturb more than one acre of soil and will involve discharge of hydrotesting and disinfection water (see below), a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit must be obtained by the contractor before the project commences. This permit requires the completion of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and will include consideration of flooding potential during construction. In order to properly manage storm water runoff, the SWPPP will describe the emplacement of a number of best management practices (BMPs) for the project. These BMPs may include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- For any work off paved surface, minimization of soil loss and erosion by revegetation and stabilization of slopes and disturbed areas of soil, possibly using hydromulch, geotextiles, or binding substances, as soon as possible after working;
- Minimization of sediment loss by emplacement of structural controls possibly including silt fences, gravel bags, sediment ponds, check dams, and other barriers in order to retard and prevent the loss of sediment from the site;

**Figure 5
Flood Insurance Rate Map**



- Minimizing disturbance of soil during periods of heavy rain;
- Phasing of the project in order to disturb a minimum necessary area of soil at a particular time;
- Application of protective covers to soil and material stockpiles;
- Use of drip pans beneath vehicles not in use in order to trap vehicle fluids;
- Routine maintenance of BMPs by adequately trained personnel; and
- Cleanup of significant leaks or spills and disposal at an approved site, if they occur.

The water line will be tested under DWS supervision following State of Hawai'i Water System Standards. The line will be disinfected with a chlorine solution before being put into service. Water system standards for disinfecting water lines require flushing the system adequately with chlorinated water with a concentration of at least 50 milligrams (mg) of chlorine/liter (l) of water and leaving the water inside the pipe overnight, or exposing interior surfaces of the pipe with chlorinated water (300 mg/l) for three hours. Because the project involves discharging of water, the NPDES permit will also specify conditions to minimize the possibility of adverse impacts to adjacent areas, surface waters

or groundwater. Conditions of the permit will include specifications on the non-sensitive locations along the project corridor where hydrotesting and chlorinated water will be discharged. If no suitable location for discharge is available, the water will be discharged into water trucks for appropriate off-site disposal.

These measures will help minimize water quality impacts.

3.1.3 Flora, Fauna and Ecosystems

Existing Environment, Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The project site, which consists of right-of-ways associated with several residential roadways and a paved access road on State land, is mainly paved, and where not, it is covered by introduced grasses and shrubs (Figure 3a-d provides photos of typical segments). Because of the lack of native ecosystems, threatened or endangered plant species, and native animal habitat, no adverse impacts to biological resources would occur as a result of building the parallel water line.

3.1.4 Air Quality, Noise and Scenic Resources

Environmental Setting

The strong and steady winds of this part of Kohala contribute to excellent air quality by generally dispersing human-derived pollutants as well as volcano-induced vog. In areas with bare surfaces, however, the strong winds may also exacerbate dust problems.

Noise on the project site is moderate and derived mainly from nearby residential activities and motor vehicles, with occasional noise from road use and maintenance activities.

The project area is one of the highly scenic old residential areas of Waimea. It has backdrop views of the Kohala Mountains that are noted for their scenic character in the Hawai'i County General Plan.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed action will not measurably affect air quality or noise levels except minimally during construction activities. In order to minimize impacts from dust, the contractor will consult with the Department of Health (DOH) and, if required, will prepare a dust control plan compliant with provisions of Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Chapter 11-60.1, "Air Pollution Control," Section 11-60.1-33, "Fugitive Dust."

Development would entail limited excavation, compressors and jackhammers, and vehicle and equipment engine operation. These activities may generate noise exceeding 95 decibels at times. In

cases where construction noise is expected to exceed the DOH “maximum permissible” property-line noise levels, contractors must obtain a permit per Title 11, Chapter 46, HAR (Community Noise Control) prior to construction. DOH reviews the proposed activity, location, equipment, project purpose, and timetable in order to decide upon conditions and mitigation measures, such as restriction of equipment type, maintenance requirements, restricted hours and portable noise barriers.

No important viewplanes or scenic sites recognized in the Hawai‘i County General Plan would be permanently affected by the project, which involves no above-ground structures.

3.1.5 Hazardous Materials, Toxic Substances and Hazardous Conditions

Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures

No professional evaluation such as a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was performed for the project site. To DWS officials’ knowledge, there have been no spills or other incidents involving hazardous or toxic substances, and no such materials are stored within the road rights-of-way where the water line will be installed. The installation of an additional water line does not appear to pose any unreasonable risk in terms of worker or public exposure to hazardous materials or toxic substances.

3.2 Socioeconomic and Cultural

3.2.1 Socioeconomic Characteristics

By improving the services of the Department of Water Supply, the proposed project would benefit public welfare in the Waimea area. Table 1 provides information on the socioeconomic characteristics of Waimea along with those of Hawai‘i County as a whole for comparison, from the United States 2000 Census of Population. Waimea has a diverse population of about 7,000, and Hawai‘i County is among the 100 fastest-growing counties in the U.S.

Impacts

The proposed project action would provide a public benefit by alleviating a water pressure deficiency in a portion of the Waimea water system and improving a supply issue in another portion of the system. No relocation of businesses or homes or any other social impacts are involved in the proposed action. Except for temporary construction impacts of the installation of an additional water line, there would be no disruption of local traffic patterns or effects to neighborhood character or integrity. After the water line is built and the system evaluated, the current moratorium on additional water services to properties along stretches of Kawaihae Road may be relieved, allowing at least some new services for properties that request additional meters. Each case would require individual consideration based on system characteristics as they develop, and it is not yet known where or when new services could be granted. As a rough estimate, the demand for additional water services in the existing neighborhoods currently affected by the moratorium is likely to be less than 100 new services over the next 20 years.

Table 1
Selected Socioeconomic Characteristics

CHARACTERISTIC	ISLAND OF HAWAI'I	WAIMEA
Total Population	148,677	7,028
Percent Caucasian	31.5	30.6
Percent Asian	26.7	20.3
Percent Hawaiian	9.7	15.0
Percent Two or More Races	28.4	32.3
Median Age (Years)	38.6	36.5
Percent Under 18 Years	26.1	29.7
Percent Over 65 Years	13.5	10.1
Percent Households with Children	21.3	44.3
Average Household Size	2.75	2.95
Median Family Income	\$39,805	\$51,150
Percentage of Population Below 100% of Federal Poverty Level	15.7	6.0
Percent Housing Vacant	15.5	8.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. May 2001. *Profiles of General Demographic Characteristics, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Hawai'i*. (U.S. Census Bureau Web Page).

3.2.2 Cultural and Historic Resources

Existing Environment

The project site is located in the Kohala moku (district) of Hawai'i Island, within Waimea, in the *ahupua'a* (traditional Hawaiian land area) of Waikoloa. Pukui et al. (1974:226) indicate that the name Waimea refers to "reddish water." According to an archaeological study by IARII (1997), there is little information on traditional Hawaiian settlement patterns and land use in Waimea prior to the major changes wrought by Western introduction of goods, diseases, animals and cultigens. Kamehameha I gave management rights of much of Waimea to Isaac Davis, who later passed it to his son Hueue Davis. Early historical sources chronicle scattered settlement along lower parts of Waikoloa Stream. Even as late as 1823, after disease had likely decimated the population, as many as 1,200 people lived in the three miles between 'Ouli and Pu'u Kapu, with perhaps 300 in Waimea town itself (Ibid: 11). With a network of irrigation canals ('auwai) and relatively good soil, irrigated agriculture of taro, sweet potatoes and sugar cane was successfully practiced. Hundreds of parcels

were claimed in Waimea as part of the Land Commission Awards (LCAs) associated with the Mahele in the mid-19th century, many near Waikoloa Stream.

Although there were evidently many Hawaiian residents of Waimea who possessed land capable of supporting traditional Hawaiian land use, the institution of a Western monetary system undermined the traditional economic basis and dramatically altered society. The harvest of wild sandalwood in the early 19th century and of pulu (the fluffy orange coating around tree fern shoots, which served as a stuffing for mattresses and pillows) later in the century were both economically and environmentally disastrous. Chinese immigrants began growing and milling sugar cane in Waimea in the early 1830s. This production tapped into the existing 'auwai system. Plantation leases and mills were bought and sold, and the net result was to displace many Hawaiians who had lived in areas desired for fields. Cotton farming and ginning, sawmills, and various other economic ventures had their day on the landscape of Waimea, but the venture that brought lasting change was cattle.

The cattle brought by Captain Vancouver in 1793 and 1794, protected by a kapu placed on them by Kamehameha, multiplied rapidly. By the time the kapu was lifted a few years later, wild cattle had become rampant throughout the island, disturbing native gardens and damaging streams, grasslands and forests. Foreign bullock hunters were then employed to keep the herds under control. Although the meat was eaten, the main economic products were the hides. John Parker worked for Governor Kuakini as a bullock hunter in 1831, and before long had founded the famous ranch that still bears his name. By 1847, as Reverend Lorenzo Lyons noted, “two thirds of Waimea has been converted into a government pasture land” (quoted from Doyle 1945:48 in IARII 1997:19). Cattle ranching profoundly changed life in Waimea by displacing native agriculture, firmly establishing a monetary economy, altering the landscape and forests through direct and indirect means, and bringing in foreigners. During the 19th and 20th centuries, the project area was likely used for cattle ranching and harvesting wood for fuel. At least 50 years ago, streets were graded and paved, and the area was subdivided for homes, which fully line all the County roads on the project site, leaving no natural or cultural resources.

As part of the early consultation process, various agencies, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Waimea Community Association, as well as about 60 residents along the water line route, were contacted about the project. No information was received about natural, cultural or historical resources of concern in the rights-of-way of the project site, all of which were previously disturbed during installation of infrastructure including roads and water lines.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

As the previously cleared and excavated rights-of-way in a residential neighborhood appear to contain no resources of a potential traditional cultural nature (i.e., landform, vegetation, etc.), and no evidence of any traditional gathering uses or other cultural practices, the proposed additional installation of a parallel water line would not likely impact any historic sites or culturally valued resources or cultural practices. The State Historic Preservation Division was consulted by letter on the project and concurred by letter of February 12, 2009 (see Appendix 1a), that the project would not

appear to affect historic properties because of the existing level of disturbance.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Waimea Community Association have been supplied a copy of the Draft EA for their comment.

As a further precaution, in the unlikely event that human skeletal remains, undocumented archaeological resources, or cultural or traditional remains are encountered during future development activities within the current study area, work in the immediate area of the discovery shall be halted and the State Historic Preservation Division contacted as outlined in Hawai'i Administrative Rules 13§13-275-12.

3.3 Infrastructure

3.3.1 Utilities

Existing Facilities and Services, Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The new relief water line will be installed parallel to existing water lines and will share the same rights-of-way. It will begin at the DWS' Waimea Water Reservation and end on Opelo Road, will be entirely within DWS service areas and will enable no more than negligible geographic expansion of the service areas. The project involves no private property or undisturbed areas.

3.3.2 Roadways and Traffic

Existing Facilities, Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed water line will be enclosed underground in the affected roadways' rights-of-ways. The surface of those areas will be restored to the existing condition once installation is complete, and no permanent adverse effects are expected.

As discussed in Section 1, in order to minimize the potential to disrupt traffic and pose a hazard, contractors will utilize a "cut and cover" method, in which asphalt pavement will be saw cut and base course and underlying material removed by a backhoe. This material will be hauled to a stockpile site. The contractor will coordinate trench excavation, delivery of material to the work site, and water line installation to minimize inconvenience to the public. The water line will be placed in a maximum 24-inch wide trench at a minimum depth of four feet along its length.

In general the project is on local roads, but as the waterline connects to the south side of Kawaihae Road at the Opelu Street intersection, a small amount of construction will occur on this busy road. Traffic control personnel will be used where and when necessary to ensure adequate access and safe and efficient traffic flow. Access to properties will be maintained at all times, although brief waits may be necessary. The South Kohala Traffic Safety Committee is being consulted to determine if any additional mitigation measures are necessary.

3.4 Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

Because the purpose of the project is improvement in water pressure rather than substantial expansion of existing water service, the proposed project would not involve major secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities. Although the project would provide a few short-term construction jobs, these would largely be filled by local residents and would not induce in-migration. As discussed in Section 3.2.1, the demand for additional water services in the neighborhoods currently affected by the moratorium is likely to be less than 100 new services over the next 20 years. This level of change is not substantial in a community of almost 10,000 residents. Where these additional meters would service lots created as a result of changes of zone and/or subdivisions, the applications would be evaluated by the County Council, Planning Commission and/or the Planning Department, ensuring consideration of impacts to infrastructure, natural and cultural resources, and neighboring uses.

Cumulative impacts result when implementation of several projects that individually have limited impacts combine to produce more severe impacts or conflicts in mitigation measures. The adverse effects of the project – minor and temporary disturbance to air quality, noise or visual quality during construction – are very limited in severity, nature and geographic scale.

3.5 Required Permits and Approvals

The following permits and approvals are expected to be required:

- County of Hawai‘i, Department of Public Works, Permit for Work in County Right-of-Way
- State of Hawai‘i, Department of Health, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit
- State of Hawai‘i, Board of Land and Natural Resources, Utility/Access Easement on State Land

3.6 Consistency With Government Plans and Policies

3.6.1 Hawai‘i State Plan

Adopted in 1978 and last revised in 1991 (Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, Chapter 226, as amended), the Plan establishes a set of themes, goals, objectives and policies that are meant to guide the State’s long-run growth and development activities. The three themes that express the basic purpose of the *Hawai‘i State Plan* are individual and family self-sufficiency, social and economic mobility and community or social well-being. The project would promote these goals by enhancing water service on the Island of Hawai‘i, improving quality-of-life and community and social well-being.

3.6.2 Hawai‘i State Land Use Law

All land in the State of Hawai‘i is classified into one of four land use categories – Urban, Rural, Agricultural, or Conservation – by the State Land Use Commission, pursuant to Chapter 205, HRS. The property is in the State Land Use Urban District. The proposed use is consistent with intended uses for this Land Use District.

3.6.3 Hawai‘i County Zoning and General Plan

Hawai‘i County General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG). The LUPAG map component of the *General Plan* is a graphic representation of the Plan’s goals, policies, and standards as well as of the physical relationship between land uses. It also establishes the basic urban and non-urban form for areas within the planned public and cultural facilities, public utilities and safety features, and transportation corridors. The General Plan LUPAG designation for the properties surrounding the water line is Medium Density Urban and Low Density Urban. The project is consistent with these designations.

Hawai‘i County Zoning and SMA. Zoning for the properties that surround the water line vary from CV 7.5 (Village Commercial) to RS 7.5 or RS-10 (Residential, 7,500 and 10,000 square foot minimum lot size, respectively), to A-1a (Agricultural, minimum lot size 1-acre). Water lines are allowed, according to Section 25-4-11(a) of the Hawai‘i County Zoning Code, which states: “Communication, transmission, and power lines of public and private utilities and governmental agencies are permitted uses within any district.” The property is not situated within the County’s Special Management Area (SMA).

The *General Plan* for the County of Hawai‘i is a policy document expressing the broad goals and policies for the long-range development of the Island of Hawai‘i. The plan was adopted by ordinance in 1989 and revised in 2005 (Hawai‘i County Planning Department). The *General Plan* itself is organized into thirteen elements, with policies, objectives, standards, and principles for each. There are also discussions of the specific applicability of each element to the nine judicial districts comprising the County of Hawai‘i. Most relevant to the proposed project are the following Goals, Policies, and Standards:

PUBLIC UTILITIES – GOALS

- Ensure that properly regulated, adequate, efficient and dependable public and private utility services are available to users.
- Maximize efficiency and economy in the provision of public utility services.
- Design public utility facilities to fit into their surroundings or concealed from public view.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – POLICIES

- Public utility facilities shall be designed to complement adjacent land uses and shall be operated to minimize pollution or disturbance.
- Provide utilities and service facilities that minimize total cost to the public and effectively service the needs of the community.
- Utility facilities shall be designed to minimize conflict with the natural environment and natural resources.

- Improvement of existing utility services shall be encouraged to meet the needs of users.
- Develop short and long range capital improvement programs and plans for public utilities within its jurisdiction that are consistent with the General Plan.

WATER – POLICIES

- Water system improvements shall correlate with the County’s desired land use development pattern.
- All water systems shall be designed and built to Department of Water Supply standards.
- Improve and replace inadequate systems.
- Water system improvements should first be installed in areas that have established needs and characteristics, such as occupied dwellings, agricultural operations and other uses, or in areas adjacent to them if there is need for urban expansion.

WATER – STANDARDS

- Public and private water systems shall meet the requirements of the Department of Water Supply and the Subdivision Control Code.

PUBLIC LANDS – GOALS

- Utilize publicly owned lands in the best public interest and to the maximum benefit.

PUBLIC LANDS – POLICIES

- Encourage uses of public lands that will satisfy specific public needs.

Discussion: The General Plan notes that properly regulated, adequate, efficient and dependable water supply is vital to well-being of the public. It notes that changes in land use, population density and development usually generate changes in the demand and supply of utilities and the proposed action is designed to alleviate a shortage of water pressure for existing development. The General Plan also notes that rights-of-way are acquired by the County for public uses; the proposed action will benefit the public.

3.6.4 South Kohala Community Development Plan

The South Kohala Community Development Plan (CDP) encompasses the judicial district of South Kohala, and was developed under the framework of the February 2005 County of Hawai‘i General Plan. Community Development Plans are intended to translate broad General Plan Goals, Policies, and Standards into implementation actions as they apply to specific geographical regions around the County. CDPs are also intended to serve as a forum for community input into land-use, delivery of

government services and any other matters relating to the planning area. The General Plan now requires that a Community Development Plan shall be adopted by the County Council as an “ordinance,” giving the CDP the force of law. This is in contrast to plans created over past years, adopted by “resolution” that served only as guidelines or reference documents to decision-makers. In November 2008, the South Kohala CDP was adopted by the County Council. The version referenced in this Environmental Assessment is at: <http://www.hcrc.info/community-planning/community-development-plans/south-kohala/skcdpfinaldraft11.18.08.pdf>.

The Plan has many elements and wide-ranging implications, but there are several major strategies that embody the guiding principles related to land use, housing, public facilities, infrastructure and services, and transportation.

The water relief line is generally consistent with all aspects of the South Kohala CDP. Under Section 2.4.1, Economic Characteristics, the plan notes that “Services such as schools, fire, police, medical, and various social services as well as more infrastructure, including roads, sewer, water, and electricity will need to be provided.” In particular, in Appendix D, under General Plan Courses of Action for Water under Public Utilities, subsection “b” specifies the need to “improve and replace inadequate distribution mains and steel tanks.” Under General Policy No. 5, the plan states that government agencies shall evaluate uses of natural resources to ensure they are consistent with the sustainable long-term health of the eco-system.

The plan also states in Section 2.5.5 (Water Delivery Systems) that improvements to the Waimea Water System have increased water capacity and enlarged distribution water lines. It notes further that repairs are planned for the two reservoirs damaged in the October 2006 earthquake which have reduced the storage capacity of the Waimea system, the source for the new water relief line. That \$1.9 million repair project has begun (*West Hawai‘i Today*, Feb. 10, 2009).

The project is also consistent and/or not inconsistent with other goals, objectives and policies of the South Kohala CDP, and in particular with the policies that seek to guide planning for the district as a whole and for the four communities of Waimea, Waikoloa Village, Kawaihae and Puako. Those policies include preserving South Kohala’s culture and “sense of place,” providing for transportation and circulation needs, protecting the community from natural hazards, providing affordable and workforce housing and promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability.

PART 4: DETERMINATION

The Hawai‘i County Department of Water Supply expects to determine that the proposed project will not significantly alter the environment, as impacts will be minimal, and intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This determination will be reviewed based on comments to the Draft EA, and the Final EA will present the final determination.

PART 5: FINDINGS AND REASONS

Chapter 11-200-12, Hawai‘i Administrative Rules, outlines those factors agencies must consider when determining whether an Action has significant effects:

1. *The proposed project will not involve an irrevocable commitment or loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources.* No valuable natural or cultural resources would be committed or lost. The project site, rights-of-way along residential streets, is designed for and already contains water lines. The surrounding area supports residential development and will not be negatively affected by the installation of a parallel water line.
2. *The proposed project will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.* The proposed project expands and in no way curtails beneficial uses of the environment.
3. *The proposed project will not conflict with the State's long-term environmental policies.* The State’s long-term environmental policies are set forth in Chapter 344, HRS. The broad goals of this policy are to conserve natural resources and enhance the quality of life. The project is minor and fulfills aspects of these policies calling for an improved social and economic environment. It is thus consistent with all elements of the State’s long-term environmental policies.
4. *The proposed project will not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or State.* The project will benefit the economic and social welfare of the community by enhancing the County’s water supply and therefore improving its public utilities system.
5. *The proposed project does not substantially affect public health in any detrimental way.* The proposed project will benefit public health by improving the supply of water.
6. *The proposed project will not involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.* No adverse secondary effects are expected to result from the proposed action. This project, in and of itself, will not enable any substantial level of development, but will instead primarily ensure improved and safer public utilities.
7. *The proposed project will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.* The implementation of best management practices for construction will ensure that the project will not degrade the environment in any substantial way.
8. *The proposed project will not substantially affect any rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna or habitat.* No endangered species of flora or fauna are present on the project site or would be affected in any way by the project.
9. *The proposed project is not one which is individually limited but cumulatively may have considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions.* The project is not related to additional activities in the region in such a way as to produce adverse cumulative effects or involve a commitment for larger actions.
10. *The proposed project will not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels.* No adverse effects on these resources would occur. Mitigation of construction-phase impacts will preserve water quality. Ambient noise impacts due to construction will be temporary and restricted to reasonable daytime hours.

11. *The project does not affect nor would it likely to be damaged as a result of being located in environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal area.* Although the project is located in an area with volcanic and seismic risk, the entire Island of Hawai‘i shares this risk, and the project is not imprudent to construct, and employs design and construction standards appropriate to the seismic zone.
12. *The project will not substantially affect scenic vistas and viewplanes identified in county or state plans or studies.* No scenic vistas or viewplanes identified in the Hawai‘i County General Plan will be adversely affected by the project.
13. *The project will not require substantial energy consumption.* The project involves only minor energy use and no adverse effects are expected.

For the reasons above, the proposed action is not expected to have any significant effect in the context of Chapter 343, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes and section 11-200-12 of the State Administrative Rules.

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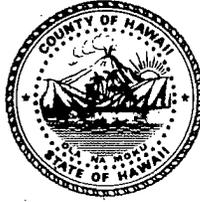
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Waimea Water System Improvements

**County of Hawai‘i
Department of Water Supply**

**Appendix 1a
Comments in Response to Early Consultation**

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



BJ Leithead Todd
Acting Deputy Planning Director

County of Hawaii

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Aupuni Center • 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone (808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

February 3, 2009

Mr. Ron Terry
Geometrician Associates, LLC
P.O. Box 396
Hilo, HI 96721

Dear Mr. Terry:

**Pre-Consultation for Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)
Lalamilo Water Relief Line
Tax Map Key: 6-5 various plats and parcels,
Waimea, South Kohala District, Hawai'i**

This is in response to your letter dated January 8, 2009, requesting our comments as part of the pre-consultation process for the Draft EA for the above-referenced proposed project. We provide you with the following comments:

1. The goals, policies, standards and course of action of the General Plan and the applicability to the proposed project should be discussed in the Draft Environmental Assessment. The document should also include discussion on the project in relation to the South Kohala Community Development Plan, DHHL plans, and other area development plans.
2. The Draft EA should discuss the land use designations, including the General Plan, State Land Use District, and County Zoning District. For your information, the project site is designated as Low Density Urban and Medium Density Urban by the General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) Map. It is situated within the State Land Use Urban District and has various residential, agricultural, and commercial County zoning designations. The Draft EA should also include discussions on the surrounding land use designations and uses.

Mr. Ron Terry
Geometrician Associates, LLC
Page 2
February 3, 2009

3. The project site is not located within the County's Special Management Area (SMA).
4. The Draft EA should clearly discuss the proposed project, the needs for the project, a project construction timeline, and include detailed maps of the proposed structures and improvements of the proposed project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for the Pre-Consultation. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christian Kay of this department at 961-8288, ext. 203.

Sincerely,

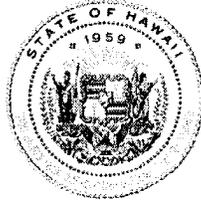
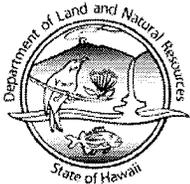


BJ LEITHEAD TODD
Acting Deputy Planning Director

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LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
601 KAMOKILA BOULEVARD, ROOM 555
KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707

Laura H. Thiele
Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Commission on Water Resource Management

Russell Y. Tsuji
First Deputy

Ken C. Kawahara
Deputy Director - Water

Aquatic Resources
Boating and Ocean Recreation
Bureau of Conveyances
Commission on Water Resource Management
Conservation and Coastal Lands
Conservation and Resources Enforcement
Engineering
Forestry and Wildlife
Historic Preservation
Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission
Land
State Parks

February 12, 2009

Ron Terry
Geometrician Associates, LLP
PO Box 396
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

LOG NO: 2009.0080
DOC NO: 0902MD20
Archaeology

Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT: Chapter 6E-8 Historic Preservation Review –
Request for Consultation for an Environmental Assessment for the
Lalamilo Water Relief Line
Waimea Ahupua`a, South Kohala District, Island of Hawaii
TMKs: (3) ROW within 6-5-002; 6-5-004; 6-5-007; 6-5-008 & 6-5-011**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the aforementioned project, which we received on January 29, 2009. The replacement parallel relief water line will be placed along currently existing/used water lines. All work will occur within previously disturbed/graded areas along Opelo, Hoku`ula and Spencer Roads, as well as the DWS reservoir access road.

We determine that **no historic properties will be affected** by this project because:

- Intensive cultivation has altered the land
- Residential development/urbanization has altered the land
- Previous grubbing/grading has altered the land
- An accepted archaeological inventory survey (AIS) found no historic properties
- SHPD previously reviewed this project and mitigation has been completed
- Other: *Based on the photographs submitted to us the ground has already been grubbed/graded in the past.*

In the event that historic resources, including human skeletal remains, cultural materials, lava tubes, and lava blisters/bubbles are identified during the construction activities, all work needs to cease in the immediate vicinity of the find, the find needs to be protected from additional disturbance, and the State Historic Preservation Division, Hawaii Island Section, needs to be contacted immediately at (808) 933-7653. If you have questions about this letter please contact Morgan Davis at (808) 933-7650.

Aloha,

Handwritten signature of Nancy A. McMahon in cursive.

Nancy McMahon, Deputy SHPO/State Archaeologist
and Historic Preservation Manager
State Historic Preservation Division

South Kohala Traffic Safety Committee
P.O. Box 383375
Waikoloa, HI 96738

Mr. R. Terry
Geometrician Associates, LLC
P. O. Box 396
Hilo, HI 96721
866 316-6988 Fax
rterry@hawaii.rr.com

February 11, 2009

Ref: Comment on EA for Lalamilo Water Relief Line Waimea, HI

At the regular meeting of the committee on February 11, 2009 the membership (30 attendees) approved the following comments for your consideration in drafting the EA;

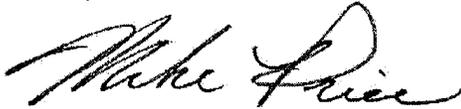
The ultimate destination of the increased water line capacity is the DHHL Lalamilo Homestead Development on Kawaihae Road. The section of Kawaihae Road from the DHHL property to Opelo Road is part State Highway, recently re-paved, and County, with asphalt overlaid approximately one year ago. At the time prior to the start of the State re-paving project, DHHL was asked to coordinate installation of the new water line prior to repaving. DHHL was unable to accelerate their schedule and accomplish this task. The Committee is concerned that trenching for the water line will result in an uneven surface along Kawaihae Road due to patching the pipe line trench and settling of the backfill material. The Committee requests measures to assure the repaired road is brought to the new level, smooth existing condition meeting State Highway Specifications.

Also the Committee requests more details and design to understand how the project will impact users of Opelu, Hoku'ula and Spencer Roads and adjacent homeowners. These roads are very narrow and steep in places, what mitigation is planned to enable continual access and prevent water runoff and erosion during construction?

Please provide data and details at one of our future meetings (2nd Tuesday every month, 4:00 PM at the Waimea Civic Center conference Room) or by mail. I can be contacted at 883-2918 or whao@hawaii.rr.com.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and a copy of the draft EA upon report completion.

Sincerely,



Mike Price-Chair South Kohala Traffic Safety Committee

CC: SKTSC
Stanley Tamura – District Engineer HDOT
Linda Chinn – DHHL Lands Management Division Administrator
James W. Du Pont – DHHL Homestead District Supervisor
Warren Lee – Director Hawaii County Department of Public Works
Councilman Pete Hoffmann – Hawaii County Council

Dear Mr. Terry:

I would like to obtain more information about this proposed water line to Lalamilo. When the proposal came up to resurface Kawaihae Road in this area --- I asked for clarification to be sure the Lalamilo water project would not later disturb this resurfacing. The response we got back was NO the resurfacing would not be disturbed. I want to know for sure this is the case...

Your project looks like a portion of a project... so are we to assume that there is already water pipe in place from Opelo to the development -- or is there another route for this water pipe to run, other than along Kawaihae Road.

If you do not have this information available, please advise. Thank you.

Margaret Wille