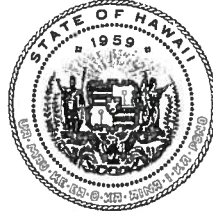


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LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



DEC 23 2010

LAURA H. THIELEN
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

REF:DBOR:PM:WA

December 3, 2010

Mr. Herman Tuiolosega
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Tuiolosega:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for Boat Storage Expansion
Honokohau Small Boat Harbor, Kealakehe, Hawaii

The State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the subject project, and anticipates a Finding of No Significant Impact. Please publish notice in the next available OEQC Environmental Notice.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Publication Form and one (1) copy of the document in PDF format on a CD; and one (1) hard copy of the Draft EA. Please call DOBOR at 587-1966 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

LAURA H. THIELEN

for

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

For Proposed
Boat Park Expansion
at Honokohau Harbor, Hawaii

Prepared for:

State of Hawai'i
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation

December, 2010

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Proposed Boat Park Expansion at Honokohau Harbor, North Kona, Hawai'i

Type of Document: Draft Environmental Assessment

Legal Authority: Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Agency Determination: Finding of No Significant Impact

Applicable Environmental Assessment Review "Trigger": Use of State Lands

Location: TMK: (3) 7-4-08:37 (previously lots 21-A, 21-B, 22)

Applicant: GKM Inc. dba Gentry's Kona Marina
74-425 Kealakehe Pkwy.
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
Contact: Tina Prettyman, General Manager
Phone: 808-329-7896

Approving Agency: State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation
333 Queen Street, Room 300
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Contact: William R. Andrews, Property Manager
Phone 808-587-1966

Project Summary: Expand current boat park facility from six to nine acres for additional boat park storage and employee parking.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Location, Existing Use, and Land Ownership

The property is located at Honokohau Small Boat Harbor on the west coast of Hawaii, approximately three miles south of the Kona International Airport. Six of the nine acres are already being used for dry land storage of vessels and an Environmental Assessment was completed (originally issued under Revocable Permit B-93-01) in January, 1994, with a negative declaration filed, and the Final Environmental Assessment was published in the OEQC Bulletin. Land Ownership is the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Proposed Action

To clear, level and add gravel to the additional three acres to the east of the existing boat park facility to expand boat storage and add an employee parking area. There would also be some perimeter fencing constructed. See Exhibit A.

Project Need

There is a very long wait list for wet slips with some waiting years before having an opportunity to moor a vessel within the harbor. As a result there is a high demand for dry land vessel storage space at Honokohau Small Boat Harbor.

Agencies Consulted

1. Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
2. DBEDT - Office of Planning
3. Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
4. Department of Health, Clean Water Branch
5. Department of Land and Natural Resources, Land Division
6. DLNR, Historic Preservation Division
7. DLNR, Historic Preservation Division, Hawai'i Island Office
8. Department of Transportation
9. Office of Hawaiian Affairs
10. Department of Environmental Management, County of Hawaii
11. Planning Department, County of Hawaii
12. Hawaii Fishing and Boating Association
13. State Representative, Denny Coffman, District 6
14. US National Park Service

Project Timeframe and Costs

Project costs are estimated at \$50,000 and the proposed project should not take more than 90 days to complete the minimal grading and leveling.

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

General

The proposed project will be done in accordance with the terms and conditions approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources in their July 8, 2010 meeting, Item J-1, and any other applicable State or County permitting requirements. See Exhibit B.

Technical

Six of the nine acres are already utilized as a boat storage facility. This project proposes to expand the existing facility by minimally grading and leveling an additional three acres to the east of the existing facility for additional boat storage and employee parking. Ingress and egress will be through existing entrances. Some additional perimeter fencing will be installed for security.

Social and Economic

There has been a high demand for boat storage facilities. There are no new harbors or wet slips being planned in the near future in the West Hawaii area. Some commercial operators and fishermen find economic benefit in having their vessels parked within close proximity to the launching ramps and other marine services within Honokohau Small Boat Harbor. Recreational ramp users also do not want to tow their vessels uphill to their homes along very congested roadways.

There is also a need to provide dry storage for larger non-trailerable vessels. Vessels using this service may store their vessel seasonally, in between long oceanic passages, paused in the middle of renovation or just find it necessary to store their vessel for a period of time. Storing a vessel on land for a period of time usually lessens maintenance costs.

Environmental

The area of the proposed improvements consists of dry land and will require minimal excavation to make it level. There will be an increase in noise and some dust generated by the construction; however they are temporary and lasting only for the duration of the construction. These increases are not expected to permanently lower air or water quality in the surrounding area. Also, the proposed project will not endanger any marine or other wildlife in the area.

SUMMARY OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Soil and Climate

The proposed site according to the Web Soil Survey, United States Department of Agricultural, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the landform is Pahoehoe lava field beds with a drainage class of Excessively Drained.

Climate is mild year-round with very low annual rain fall.

Flood and Tsunami Hazards

The property according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map, Federal Emergency Management Agency, is located within Zone X (areas outside the 500 year flood plain).

Archeological and Cultural

There are no known archeological or cultural sites on the property.

Flora and Fauna

Land is mostly covered in fountain grass (pennisetum setaceum) and other invasive plant species. No endangered species or flora or fauna are known to exist in the project site. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources has designated fountain grass (pennisetum setaceum) as one of Hawaii's Most Invasive Horticultural Plants.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR IMPACTS

Short Term

There would be some dust and noise during the construction.

Long Term

There would be no long-term impacts.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

A "reduced scope of work" alternative and the "no-action alternative were considered but deem unacceptable. Either of these alternatives would result in the continued existence of less efficient boating facilities.

PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Provisions will be made in the project specifications to control and minimize the temporary adverse effects during construction.

ANTICIPATED DETERMINATION

Since no major impacts are anticipated, costly detailed studies are considered inappropriate. Consequently, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

FINDINGS AND REASONS SUPPORTING ANTICIPATED DETERMINATION

Evaluation of the effects of the proposed project on the environment indicates that there will be no significant adverse effects on the environment. The project will not:

1. Affect any rare, threatened, or endangered species or animals, plants or habitats. No endangered species or flora or fauna are known to exist in the project site.
2. Involve irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources, except for the labor and materials related to the expansion of the project.
3. Permanently curtail the beneficial uses of the environment.
4. Conflict with the State's long-term environmental policy goals or guidelines.
5. Permanently degrade the environmental quality.
6. Cause the displacement of any persons;
7. Generate controversy.

For the reasons above, it is anticipated that the proposed project will not have any significant effect in the context of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Section 11-200-12 of the State Administrative Rules.

