OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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FILE COPY
JUL 23 2020

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

July 13, 2020

Mr. Keith Kawaoka, Acting Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Department of Health
State of Hawaii
235 South Beretania Street, Room 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Ms. Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Kawaoka and Ms. Case:

SUBJECT: Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343
Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Acceptance
Ala Wai Canal Flood Risk Management Study, Oahu, Hawaii
Feasibility Study with Integrated Environmental Impact Statement
Island of Oahu, Hawaii, Various Tax Map Keys (TMKs)

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement between the State and the City dated September 19, 2019, and a letter dated September 20, 2019, Governor David Y. Ige delegated the authority for acceptance of the subject Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to me as his authorized representative for reviewing and processing the subject project. The subject FEIS was prepared by the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

I hereby accept the FEIS transmitted to us on June 30, 2020, for the Ala Wai Canal Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study, as satisfactory fulfillment of the requirements of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was also prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The DEIS was published in *the Federal Register* on August 21, 2015, and OEQC's *The Environmental Notice* on August 23, 2015. Written comments were accepted during an extended comment period which ended November 9, 2015, exceeding the requirement for a 45-day public comment period. DLNR and USACE responded to written comments received during this extended comment period. A federal Record of Decision (ROD) authorizing the NEPA FEIS was signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army Civil Works on September 13, 2018.

This HRS Chapter 343 FEIS has been further modified to provide additional information regarding the proposed action, potential impacts, proposed mitigation measures, unresolved issues, and additional responses to the comments received during the comment period, including the potential for subsequent additional environmental review. With these modifications, this FEIS meets the requirements of HRS 343 and its implementing rules in Chapter 11-200, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), with respect to procedure and content.

Please find enclosed a completed OEQC publication form, in hard copy. An electronic Word file will be emailed separately to your office.

Should you have any questions regarding this request for concurrence, please contact Mark Yonamine, P.E., Director of the Department of Design and Construction, at myonamine@honolulu.gov or 808-768-8480.

Sincerely,

Kirk Caldwell
Mayor

Enclosure: OEQC Agency Publication Form

cc: Office of the Governor, State of Hawaii (w/enclosure)
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Engineering Division (w/enclosure)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (w/enclosure)
Department of Design and Construction (w/enclosure)

AGENCY
PUBLICATION FORM

Project Name:	Ala Wai Canal Flood Risk Management Study, Oahu, Hawaii Feasibility Study with Integrated Environmental Impact Statement
Project Short Name:	Ala Wai Canal FRM Study
HRS §343-5 Trigger(s):	Use of State and County lands and funds; Use of Conservation District lands; Use within historic site as designated in the National Register or Hawaii Register; Use within Waikiki Special District
Island(s):	Oahu
Judicial District(s):	Honolulu
TMK(s):	2-3-034:000, 033, 036; 2-3-036:000, 036; 2-5-020:001, 003, 005, 008; 2-7-036:000, 001, 002, 005, 006; 2-8-029:004, 011; 2-9-029:053; 2-9-036:003; 2-9-043:002; 2-9-054:002, 004, 006, 010, 013, 017, 019, 021, 029, 034; 2-9-055:001, 009; 2-9-067:008 through 012, 015 through 023; 2-9-075:043; 3-4-016:037, 058, 059; 3-4-019:001 through 012, 056; 3-4-034:001, 008, 009, 010, 018
Permit(s)/Approval(s):	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, Clean Water Act Section 404 compliance, Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 compliance, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) compliance, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act compliance, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 compliance, Hawai`i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 compliance, Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Federal Consistency Determination, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, Conservation District Use Permit, Forest Reserve Special Use Permit, Stream Channel Alteration Permit, HRS Chapter 6E Historic Preservation (State Historic Preservation Division [SHPD]) Review, Special Management Area (SMA) Use Permit, Waikīkī Special District permit, Community Noise Permit, Building and Grading Permits
Proposing/Determining Agency:	State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address	Gayson Ching gayson.y.ching@hawaii.gov (808) 587-0232 P.O. Box 373 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809
Accepting Authority:	Mayor, City and County of Honolulu
Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address	Mark Yonamine myonamine@honolulu.gov (808) 768-8480 City and County of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction 530 South King Street Rm. 300 Honolulu, HI 96813
Consultant:	
Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address	

Status (select one)	**Submittal Requirements**
____ DEA-AFNSI	Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination/transmittal letter on agency letterhead, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the DEA, and 4) a searchable PDF of the DEA; a 30-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.
____ FEA-FONSI	Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination/transmittal letter on agency letterhead, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the FEA, and 4) a searchable PDF of the FEA; no comment period follows from publication in the Notice.
____ FEA-EISPN	Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination/transmittal letter on agency letterhead, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the FEA, and 4) a searchable PDF of the FEA; a 30-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.

____	Act 172-12 EISPN ("Direct to EIS")	Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination letter on agency letterhead and 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file; no EA is required and a 30-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.
____	DEIS	Submit 1) a transmittal letter to the OEQC and to the accepting authority, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the DEIS, 4) a searchable PDF of the DEIS, and 5) a searchable PDF of the distribution list; a 45-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.
____	FEIS	Submit 1) a transmittal letter to the OEQC and to the accepting authority, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the FEIS, 4) a searchable PDF of the FEIS, and 5) a searchable PDF of the distribution list; no comment period follows from publication in the Notice.
_X_	FEIS Acceptance Determination	The accepting authority simultaneously transmits to both the OEQC and the proposing agency a letter of its determination of acceptance or nonacceptance (pursuant to Section 11-200-23, HAR) of the FEIS; no comment period ensues upon publication in the Notice.
	FEIS Statutory Acceptance	Timely statutory acceptance of the FEIS under Section 343-5(c), HRS, is not applicable to agency actions.
____	Supplemental EIS Determination	The accepting authority simultaneously transmits its notice to both the proposing agency and the OEQC that it has reviewed (pursuant to Section 11-200-27, HAR) the previously accepted FEIS and determines that a supplemental EIS is or is not required; no EA is required and no comment period ensues upon publication in the Notice.
____	Withdrawal	Identify the specific document(s) to withdraw and explain in the project summary section.
____	Other	Contact the OEQC if your action is not one of the above items.

Project Summary

The State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted a feasibility study to address flood risk associated with the Ala Wai Canal and its contributing watershed, including Makiki, Manoa and Palolo Streams. The Ala Wai watershed is the most densely populated watershed in Hawaii; in addition to residential, commercial, and institutional development, the watershed also includes the Waikiki District, a prime tourist destination and economic engine of the State. It is estimated that the Canal has the capacity to contain about a 20- to 10-percent chance (5- to 10-year) flood before overtopping the banks; overtopping of the Canal has previously caused flooding in Waikiki multiple times. Upstream areas are also at risk of flooding, as demonstrated by an October 2004 storm in Manoa, which caused an estimated $85 million in damages. Flooding associated with a 1-percent annual chance exceedance (100-year) rainfall event would affect approximately 1,358 acres within the Ala Wai Watershed, including over 3,000 properties with an estimated $1.14 billion in structural damages alone (at 2016 price levels).

The objective of the project is to reduce riverine flood hazards to property and life safety in the Ala Wai watershed. In response to identified flood-related problems and opportunities, a variety of measures were identified. These measures were combined into a range of alternatives, which were evaluated through an iterative screening and reformulation process, resulting in identification of a Recommended Plan based on information gathered from 2001-2017. The recommended plan presented includes construction of (1) a series of in-stream detention basins in the upper reaches of Makiki, Manoa and Palolo streams, (2) additional detention basins adjacent to the Ala Wai Canal, (3) debris catchment in portions of the developed watershed, (4) floodwalls along the Ala Wai Canal and (5) various non-structural measures (e.g., early flood warning system). Given the scope and scale of the measures being considered, it is expected that implementation of the recommended plan will result in unavoidable adverse impacts. As such, it has been determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is be required. The EIS describes the recommended plan (proposed action) and the range of reasonable alternatives, and addresses the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on the human, natural, and cultural environment; mitigation measures that avoid or minimize the potential adverse effects were also identified. The EIS identifies unresolved issues and the steps to be taken during the design phase to resolve or mitigate unresolved issues (e.g., real estate requirements). Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343, a public meeting was held in September 2015 during a public review period for the Ala Wai Canal Flood Risk Management Draft Feasibility Study and Integrated Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which started on August 21, 2015 (Federal) and August 23, 2015 (State) and ended November 9, 2015.