

DRAFT
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
Environmental Assessment
Addressing the Demolition of Nine Buildings and Construction of a
Civil Engineering Storage Building at Ka‘ena Point Satellite Tracking
Station, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i

Introduction

Federal actions that potentially involve significant impacts on the environment must be reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other applicable laws. The U.S. Air Force (USAF) has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed demolition of nine buildings and construction of a Civil Engineering (CE) storage facility (“CE Storage Building”) at Ka‘ena Point Satellite Tracking Station (KPSTS), on the Island of O‘ahu, Hawai‘i. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) incorporates the EA by reference and summarizes the results of the analysis in the EA.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to demolish underused facilities that are in poor condition at KPSTS, which would, thereby, alleviate the burden associated with maintaining these buildings. In addition, the purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide KPSTS with a new CE Storage Building. The Proposed Action is needed to consolidate the storage facilities and lessen the burden associated with maintaining underused facilities that are in poor condition at KPSTS.

Description of the Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

Under the Proposed Action, the USAF would demolish nine existing buildings (i.e., Buildings 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 32, 33, 37, and 39) and construct a new CE Storage Building at KPSTS. Demolition of the existing facilities and construction of a new CE Storage Building would be completed in phases during a 12-month period. Upon completion of demolition activities, the land areas associated with the demolished facilities would be restored (i.e., revegetated), as appropriate. All of the existing buildings proposed for demolition are currently underused, in poor condition, and some potentially contain lead-based paint and asbestos-containing materials.

A number of construction vehicles would be required for the Proposed Action. Temporary staging areas for construction machinery and temporary parking areas for construction vehicles would be used during the Proposed Action. It is not anticipated that the Proposed Action would require the removal of trees at KPSTS. However, minimal trimming of trees could be required prior to commencement of demolition activities to provide space for vehicles in the demolition and construction areas. Due to the proximity of several federally listed plant species and designated critical habitat, a qualified biologist would survey these areas prior to any tree trimming or vegetation removal. If it is determined that any federally listed

species are observed within any of the projected footprints, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be contacted for their guidance pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Any additional areas disturbed as a result of the Proposed Action would be replanted with approved grass mixtures and vegetation upon completion of demolition and construction activities.

The new CE Storage Building would be approximately 2,600 square feet (ft²). The new building would be constructed in the area where Buildings 16, 17, and 18 were previously located. The new CE Storage Building would replace Buildings 14, 16, 17, and 18 and would be used as a consolidated storage and maintenance facility. Construction activities and materials would promote as many Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design points as possible to demonstrate good environmental stewardship.

Upon completion of the Proposed Action, there would be an overall decrease in impervious surface area at KPSTS (approximately 5,392 ft²). The decrease in impervious surfaces would provide more surface area for storm water permeation into the ground and would, thereby, permanently decrease sheet flow runoff into the storm water drainage system.

Description of the No Action Alternative

CEQ regulations require consideration of the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative serves as a baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Action and other potential action alternatives can be evaluated. Under the No Action Alternative, the USAF would not demolish nine existing buildings or construct a new CE Storage Building at KPSTS. The burden and cost associated with maintaining the existing underused facilities that are in poor condition would not be alleviated, the amount of impervious surfaces at KPSTS would not be decreased, and the storage and maintenance facilities would not be consolidated. The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose of and need for the action.

Summary of Anticipated Environmental Impacts

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative have been reviewed in accordance with NEPA as implemented by the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 989 (*Environmental Impact Analysis Process [EIAP]*). The public and regulatory agency scoping process focused the analyses on the following environmental resources: noise, air quality, land use and recreation, geological resources, water resources, coastal zone management, biological resources, human health and safety, utilities and infrastructure, hazardous materials and wastes, socioeconomic resources and environmental justice, and cultural and visual resources. Details of the environmental consequences can be found in the EA, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Cumulative Effects. An analysis of the Proposed Action, in conjunction with other present and proposed activities, concluded that no significant cumulative environmental impacts would occur.

Public Review

Based on the description of the Proposed Action as set forth in the EA, all activities were found to comply with the criteria or standards of environmental quality and coordinated with the appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies. The Draft EA and FONSI will be made available to the public for a 30-day review period. Agencies will be coordinated with throughout the EA process and their comments will be considered for the analysis of potential environmental impacts performed as part of the Final EA.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the information and analysis presented in the EA conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEPA; CEQ Regulations implementing regulations set forth in 32 CFR 989 (*EIAP*), as amended; and review of the agency comments submitted during the 30-day public comment period, I conclude that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts on the quality of the human or natural environment. For these reasons, a FONSI is approved and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted. This decision has been made after taking into account all submitted information, and considering a full range of practical alternatives that would meet project requirements and are within the legal authority of the USAF.

[[Preparer's Note: Please provide name for signature block.]]

Date

Attachment: *Environmental Assessment Addressing the Demolition of Nine Buildings and Construction of a Civil Engineering Storage Building at Ka'ena Point Satellite Tracking Station, O'ahu, Hawai'i*