



1 March 2004

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Kahuku Watershed, Oahu, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. Based on strong community support, local interests lobbied the Hawaii Congressional delegation for an “add” in the FY01 Energy and Water Appropriations Act. Funds totaling \$100,000 in FY01 were allocated for a 905(b) analysis.

b. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved a 905(b) analysis recommending Federal participation in a feasibility level Ecosystem Restoration Study by letter dated 23 September 2002. A Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement was executed on 30 December 2002, local matching funds were received in July 2003. The study is co-sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction and the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources. FY04 funds totaling \$100,000 were appropriated for the feasibility study.

c. The 905(b) analysis identified opportunities to expand, enhance and protect wetland habitat within the James Campbell Wildlife Refuge located on the northeast coast of Oahu, and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This leased area, which is utilized by threatened and endangered bird species, is being considered for expansion by the USFWS.

d. In addition to the ecosystem function, the area historically has been subject to repeated flooding and drainage problems that impact the entire community, including residences, commercial establishments and the Kahuku High School. The flood control features necessary to protect the habitat will collaterally benefit the surrounding community.

e. After much discussion and consultation with the Kahuku community, the project sponsors have decided that shifting the primary focus of the study to flood control as a primary objective would better serve the community's interests. Further, since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will comply with their Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies, the environment will not be jeopardized and may even be enhanced by a flood control project. Project sponsors are in the process of requesting the reformulation of the project by letter request.

f. The total cost for the feasibility study is estimated to be \$1,000,000 cost shared 50% by the Federal government, 25% each by the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii, respectively.

3. Congressional Interest. The project is strongly supported by Senator Inouye.