

Public Notice Fact Sheet

The Corps is seeking your comments on the proposed beach nourishment at the Ala Moana Regional Park.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch (Corps) is reviewing an application from the City and County of Honolulu (CCH). CCH is proposing to add sand from offshore to the beach at Ala Moana Beach Park. The Corps is conducting a public notice (i.e. asking for comments from the public) about CCH's proposed project as part of Department of Army permitting review for conducting work and the placement of fill in navigable waters. This fact sheet was created with information provided by the applicant (CCH) to clarify information presented in the public notice.

Have a comment or question specifically about this project, but don't see it addressed on the fact sheet below? Please send an email to Vera.B.Koskelo@usace.army.mil on or before **December 16, 2019** and include this number in the email title: POH-2019-00194.

1. **The ONLY part of the overall Ala Moana Regional Park project that the Corps is reviewing for this project is the proposed beach nourishment and associated dredging.** The Corps regulates activities (e.g. work, the placement of fill) in waters of the United States. The limits of the Corps jurisdiction (i.e. where the Corps has authority) for the proposed beach nourishment is the High Tide Line along the shoreline (note: the Mean Higher High Water line may be used on the plans as analogous for the High Tide Line). Aspects of the larger Ala Moana Regional Park project that are located outside the Corps jurisdiction (i.e. in uplands) are not within the Corps permit application review scope for the proposed beach nourishment project. In other words, the Corps has no jurisdiction to issue or deny a permit for other parts of the Ala Moana Regional Park project located in uplands, such as changes to the parking or the addition of a dog park or playground.

The purpose of this public notice is to notify the public and seek comments about the Corps review solely for the proposed beach nourishment and associated dredging. See the text of the public notice (in the document after this fact sheet) for more details about the beach nourishment-specific permit application review of this proposed project.

2. **No anticipated noticeable change to Courts, Concessions, or Baby Haleiwa surf spots.** As stated in the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act Final Environmental Impact Statement Process (HEPA FEIS), the proposed beach nourishment (i.e., adding sand to the beach) and the temporary structures (e.g. turbidity curtains) isolating the construction area during the beach

nourishment would NOT be located in or near the Courts, Concessions, or Baby Haleiwa breaks. See the 2019-00194 project figure at the end of this document, which shows the beach nourishment and temporary construction isolation and staging areas relative to the surf breaks. The two proposed dredging locations would be located offshore of Ala Moana Regional Park. However, as described in Section 4.6.3 in Volume I of the HEPA FEIS (see link below), the results of modeling show that the proposed offshore dredging for sand for beach nourishment would cause a decrease in wave height at the Courts surf break by 0.5 - 0.8 inches and an increase in wave height at the Concessions and Baby Haleiwa surf breaks by 1 inch.

3. **Why add sand to the Ala Moana Park beach?** Since 1964 the beach at Ala Moana Regional Park has been eroding and receding in areas at average annual erosion rates of up to 2.9 feet per year. During higher water levels, some areas of the beach and the backshore amenities experience flooding. The central portion of the beach has experienced the most severe erosion; sometimes (e.g. at high tide) there is no dry beach in this area. The beach at Ala Moana Regional Park does not have a natural source of sand. Any sand that moves towards shore over the reef flat is blocked from reaching the beach by the deep swimming channel. Without adding sand (i.e. beach nourishment), coastal flooding through the beach would be expected to continue and could impact other resources in the Ala Moana Regional Park. The proposed project would raise the beach berm elevation to +6 feet Mean Sea Level and widen the beach an additional 10 to 80 feet, restoring the beach to its approximate 1957 shoreline configuration.
4. **The sand proposed for use in beach nourishment must meet DLNR guidelines for sand quality.**
The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) guidelines for what kind of sand can be used for beach nourishment include the following:
 - The sand added to the beach must NOT contain pollutants, grease, silt, clay, sludge, organic matter, turbidity, and other contaminants.
5. **Minimal impact to beach access during construction anticipated.** As stated in the HEPA FEIS, sand placement operations on the beach would require lengths of the beach to be closed during placement operations. Only the portions of the beach being actively nourished would be closed at any given time: approximately 50 to 100 feet of beach and shoreline closed on any given day. The work area would be clearly marked and barricaded with signage posted to direct people to avoid the construction area. Construction workers would be alerted to assist people to safely navigate past the construction area. People onshore wishing to navigate past the construction area would be required to pass on the mauka side of the beach. Crossing

guards may be placed intermittently along the shoreline to assist the public in transiting across the truck access route.

People would be able to enter the water on either side of the active sand placement area. Other than placement of turbidity curtains to contain the sand placement area, the proposed beach nourishment would not impact use of the swim channel.

6. **Minimal effect on people in the Ala Moana Regional Park anticipated.** As stated in the HEPA FEIS, while operating, the heavy machinery would emit noise and exhaust. The last nourishment-related project at the Ala Moana Regional Park was a sand pushing project performed in 2016, moving 1,500 cubic yards of sand to the heavily eroded central portion of the beach. The 2016 sand pushing project successfully operated during evening and nighttime hours to reduce overall project construction duration, reducing the overall impact on people in the park. The proposed scheduling for this 2019 proposed beach nourishment project to work longer days and continue working seven days a week would also be expected to limit the overall impact to people in the park by reducing overall project duration.

7. **Minimal effect on marine life anticipated.** As stated in the HEPA FEIS, the proposed beach nourishment (sand placement) along both the swim channel and the west side of Magic Island would be contained by turbidity curtains which would contain nearly all the turbidity resulting from the activity. The applicant proposes to use grading stakes and survey levels to ensure sand placed for beach nourishment is limited to design grades and limits and avoids seagrass beds. The turbidity curtains (and their anchors) surrounding the area of active sand placement are proposed to remain in close (within six feet) of the extent of sand fill. No seagrass or coral colonies were observed in a survey of the proposed beach nourishment footprint along the west side of Magic Island.

Small (less than 15 centimeters across) species of coral (*Leptastrea purpurea* and *Pocillopora damicornis*) attached to rubble were observed in the proposed beach nourishment footprint along the swim channel. Coral coverage in the proposed beach nourishment area along the swim channel is less than one percent. Although coral and fish live in the rubble, the area is not considered a coral reef because it is composed of dredged materials produced during the modification to the swim channel and shoreline. The applicant is investigating whether it would be possible for the DLNR Coral Nursery to take the corals found within the Swim Channel Footprint. If the DLNR Coral Nursery is unable to take the corals, the applicant could move the corals outside the Swim Channel Footprint.

The rubble in the proposed beach nourishment footprint along the swim channel is also used as habitat for juvenile (young) fish. Covering the nearshore rubble with sand would result in a loss of habitat. However, the shallow reef on the offshore side of the swim channel (opposite side of the swim channel from the beach) also serves as habitat for juvenile fish and other organisms. If considering the nearshore rubble and offshore shallow reef together as a total, the loss of the rubble habitat resulting from the proposed beach nourishment would be approximately 4% of the overall habitat for juvenile fish.

8. **What about the public comments already submitted in the HEPA EIS process?** The Corps has reviewed the public comments provided in Volume II of the HEPA FEIS (in the link below). The HEPA FEIS for park-wide improvements was accepted by the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu on August 12, 2019. The CCH is working with Federal, State, and City agencies to obtain local permits for the project. Coastal Zone Management Consistency, Conservation District Use, Water Quality Certification, Special Management Area, Shoreline Setback, and Historic District applications are also currently under review for the project.

Want to learn more about CCH's HEPA FEIS? Read the HEPA FEIS online at the Office of Environmental Quality's online EA/EIS Library:

http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/EA_EIS_Library/2019-08-23-OA-FEIS-Ala-Moana-Regional-Park-Improvements-Vol-1.pdf

http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/EA_EIS_Library/2019-08-23-OA-FEIS-Ala-Moana-Regional-Park-Improvements-Vol-2.pdf

http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/EA_EIS_Library/2019-08-23-OA-FEIS-Ala-Moana-Regional-Park-Improvements-Vol-3.pdf



PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District

Regulatory Office (CEPOH-RO)
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Public Notice Date: **December 2, 2019**
Expiration Date: December 16, 2019
Permit File Number: POH-2019-00194

FEDERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached drawings.

APPLICANT:

Mr. Mark Yonamine
Deputy Director
Department of Design and Construction
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: At the "Ala Moana" sand recovery site A located at 21.279356, -157.856324, the "Ala Wai" sand recovery site B located at 21.275649, -157.844639, and along the shoreline of Ala Moana Beach Park at 21.290763, -157.852046 at TMK (1)2-3-037:001 and 025 at 1201 Ala Moana Boulevard, Honolulu, Island of Oahu, Hawaii.

PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:

The project description, to be conducted in accordance with the project drawings (enclosed), is as follows:

The proposed project is the nourishment of the shoreline at Ala Moana Regional Park discharging approximately 70,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand, 13,600 cubic yards of which would be placed below the Mean Higher High Water Mark (MHHW) in a 5.3-acre area. A dredge crane with a clamshell bucket on a barge would dredge two sand sources: the 8.2-acre Ala Moana sand recovery area A located at 21.279356, -157.856324 and the 5.1-acre Ala Wai sand recovery area B located at 21.275649, -157.844639. The dredged sand would be loaded into a hopper barge and transported to the marine staging barge, moored for the duration of the project in the corner of the Ala Wai Boat Harbor turning basin on the east side of Magic Island in Ala Moana Regional Park. The sand would be offloaded using a conveyer belt system or similar from the barge to dump trucks. Large rocks and debris would be screened out of the dredged material during unloading of the material on to land and would be permanently disposed

of at an approved upland disposal site. The dump trucks would transport sand from the barge to an approximately 5,000 square foot dewatering basin constructed on the beach at the west side of Magic Island. The dewatered sand would then be placed with front-end bucket loaders and bulldozers, or similar equipment, throughout the beach nourishment footprint.

The construction duration of the proposed project would be approximately three to six months. Silt curtains would be installed around the beach nourishment area in sections during construction and would remain in place until construction is completed and turbidity within the containment area has dissipated. Equipment would be staged in uplands in the Magic Island parking lot and access the beach from Ala Moana Park Drive.

Basic Project Purpose: to improve beach recreation, aesthetic, and flood risk management functions

Overall Project Purpose: To enhance and repair Ala Moana Regional Park by improving beach recreation, aesthetic, and flood risk management functions

Avoidance and Minimization: The applicant has informed the Corps that it would not be possible to avoid the impacts associated with the proposed activities as avoidance would not allow the project purpose to be met. The applicant has informed the Corps that project impact minimization efforts include sourcing nourishment sand from two areas devoid of corals or seagrass which are located approximately 4,500 feet and 5,000 feet offshore, respectively. Additionally, the proposed beach nourishment area would be isolated by turbidity curtains during construction. Furthermore, the proposed project construction would comply with the project Best Management Practices Plan.

Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has not proposed compensatory mitigation for the project.

AUTHORITY: A Department of the Army permit is required pursuant to:

- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - To perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States.
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) - Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. The Corps' public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).
- Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport dredged material for the purpose of dumping it into ocean waters. The Corps' public interest review will consider the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended (40 CFR Parts 220 to 229), as appropriate.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The proposed action would result in a discharge of dredged or fill material into a water of the U.S. and will require

authorization from the Corps in accordance to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (CWA). Under Section 401 of the CWA (Public Law 95-217), the Corps may not issue a permit for the described work until the applicant obtains a certification, or waiver of certification, from the State of Hawaii, Department of Health – Clean Water Branch (DOH-CWB).

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: **The proposed activity may affect land or water uses in the Coastal Zone.** Under Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), the Corps may not issue a permit for the described work until the applicant obtains a Federal Consistency Concurrence from the State of Hawaii, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism – Office of Planning.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: The proposed project undertaking is described in the “PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE” section above. The proposed permit area consists of the beach nourishment footprint, the marine staging barge in the Ala Wai boat harbor turning basin, the in-water work areas for dredging, and all upland areas necessary for staging and site access, including the Magic Island parking lot and the Ala Moana Regional Park main road. We have determined that the Ala Moana Regional Park is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), our assessment of the project leads us to a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties within the project area. Therefore, consultation with the State of Hawaii, Department of Land & Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) will be conducted independent of this public notice.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), federal agencies must consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on any action that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. Based on the project location, the following protected species may have the potential to occur near the project location:

Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Threatened
Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Endangered
Hawaiian Monk Seal, (*Monachus schauinslandi*), Endangered
Hawaiian Monk Seal critical habitat
Hawaiian False Insular Killer Whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*), Endangered
Band-rumped storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*), Endangered
Hawaiian petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*), Endangered
Newell’s shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*), Threatened

We have determined the described activity may affect, but would not adversely affect the endangered or threatened species or critical habitat listed above. Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844) was initiated with the National Marine Fisheries Service on November 18, 2019 and will be initiated with

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A permit decision for the proposed activity will not be issued until the consultation process is completed.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), which requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect EFH. The Honolulu District includes areas of EFH as identified in the Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by NMFS. The project area is within the known range of Bottomfish, Pelagics, and the Lobsters/crab section of the Crustaceans Management Unit Species (for all life stages).

We have determined the project may adversely affect EFH, but would not substantially adversely affect EFH. Consultation under MSA for the described activity was initiated with NMFS on November 07, 2019.

FEDERAL EVALUATION OF APPLICATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native Hawaiian Organizations; and other interested parties in order to evaluate the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of this proposed activity. The Corps is soliciting comments about the proposed project overall and about historic properties in compliance with the Section 106 process under 36 CFR 800.3(e). Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above.

PUBLIC HEARING: Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Any person

may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state clearly and concisely, the reasons and rationale for holding a public hearing. The District Commander will then decide if a hearing should be held.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Comments on this public notice should be made in writing via conventional mail or e-mail. Comments will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to authorize this proposal. Conventional mail comments should be sent to

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District
Regulatory Office, Attn: Ms. Vera Koskelo
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440.

Alternatively, comments may be emailed to Vera.B.Koskelo@usace.army.mil. Reference POH-2019-00194 in the subject heading of the email. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account. All e-mail comments should be sent to Vera.B.Koskelo@usace.army.mil

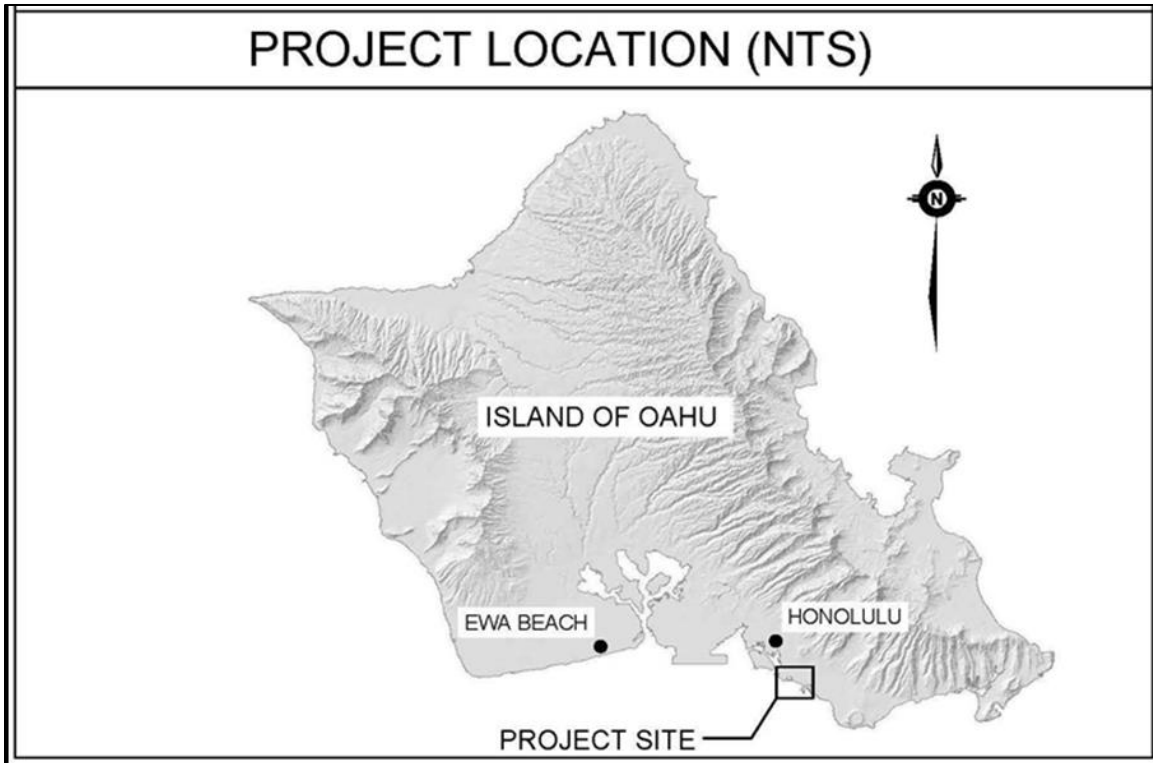
Both conventional mail and e-mail comments must include the DA permit number **POH-2019-00194**, and the commentor's name, address, and phone number. **All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail should be received by the close of business on December 16, 2019.**

PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY: It should be noted that materials submitted as part of the permit application become part of the public record and are thus available to the general public under the procedures of the FOIA.

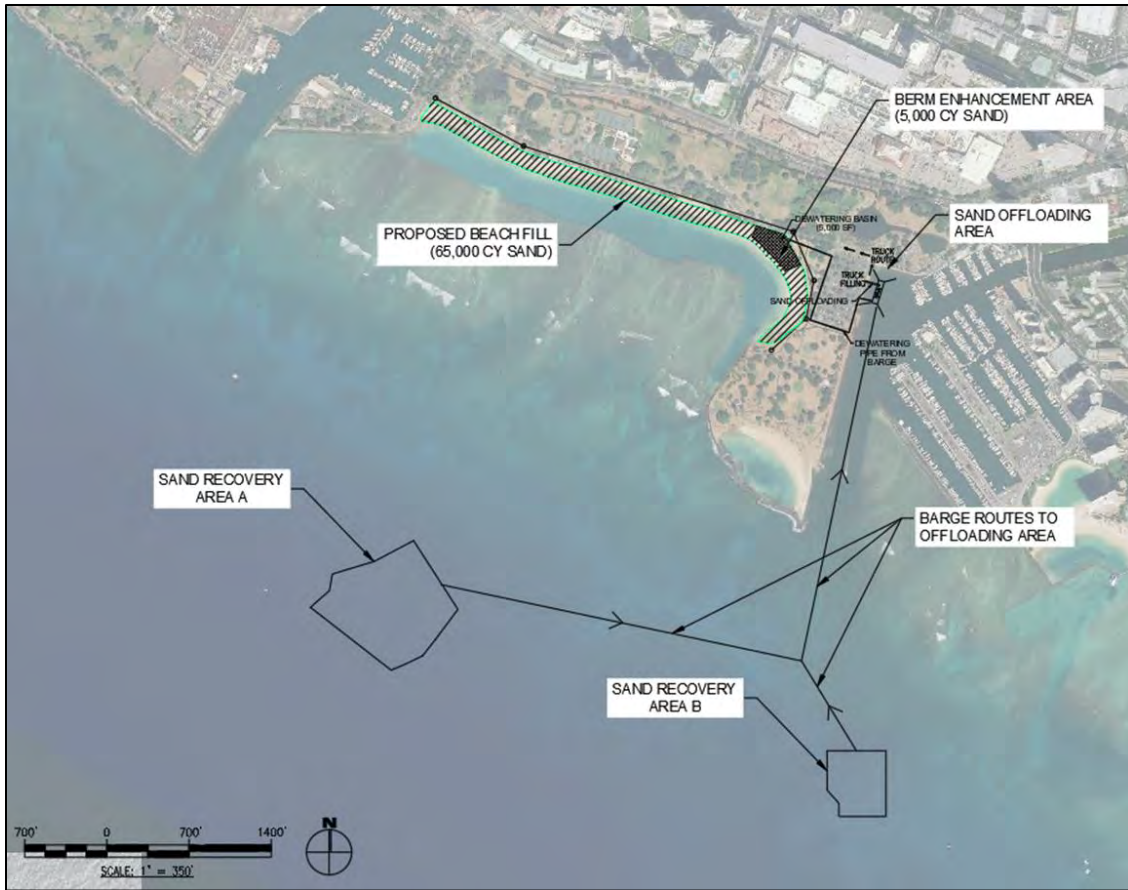
Submissions should not include any information that the submitter seeks to preserve as confidential.

If you have any questions about this project or the permit process, please contact Ms. Vera Koskelo via telephone at (808) 835-4310 or via email at Vera.B.Koskelo@usace.army.mil.

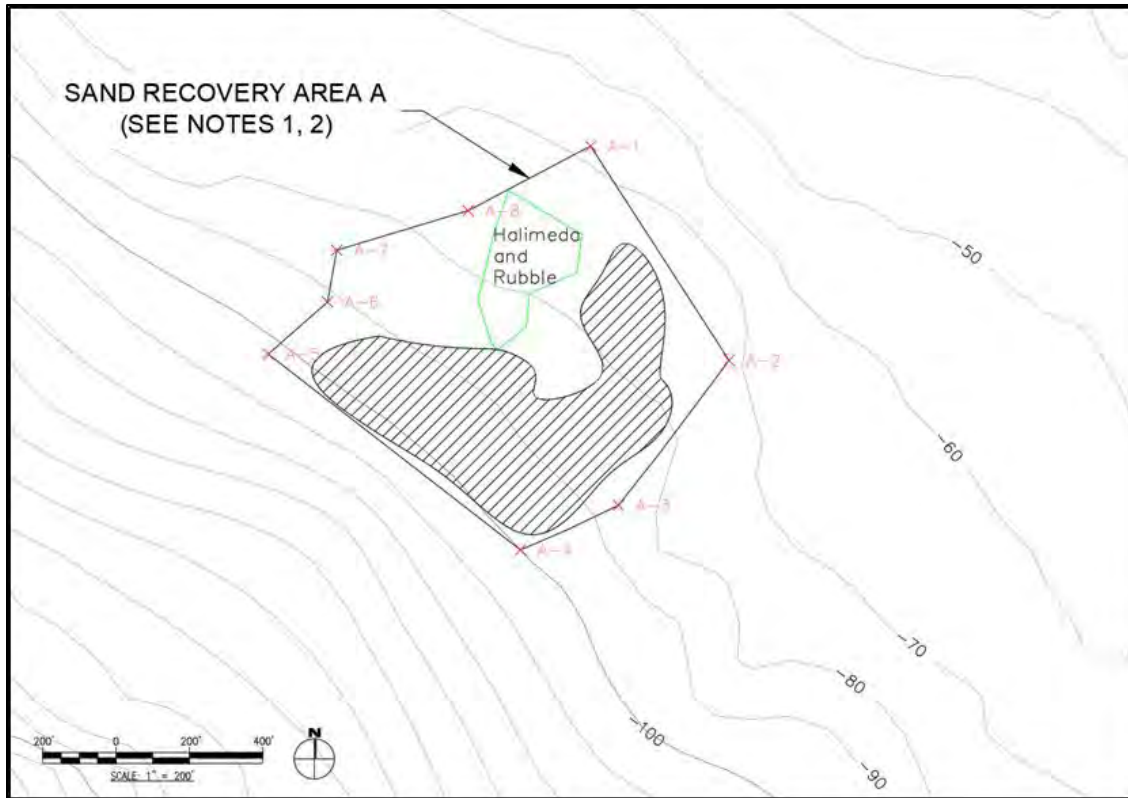
Linda Speerstra
Chief, Regulatory Office



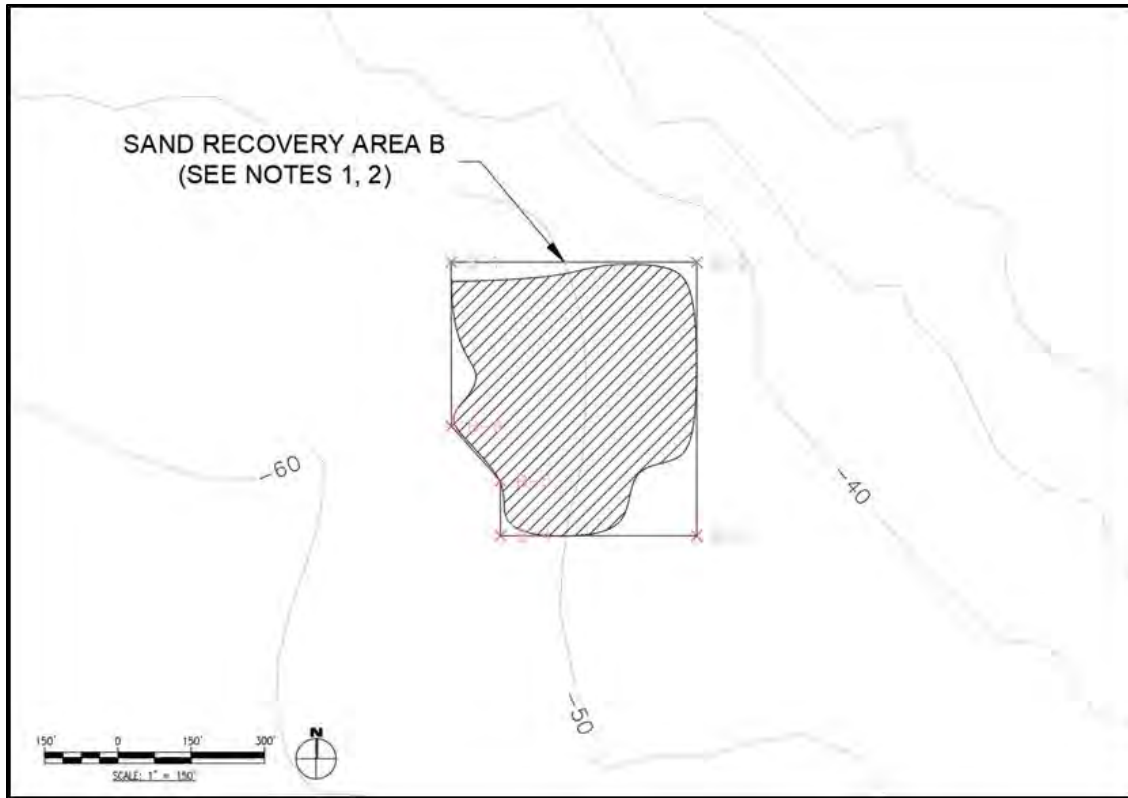
<p>PURPOSE: Ala Moana Park Beach Nourishment DATUM: MSL ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS: State of Hawaii Kewalo Harbor LLC</p>	<p>APPLICANT: Robert Kroning, City & County of Honolulu LOCATION ADDRESS: 1201 Ala Moana Blvd. Honolulu, HI 96814 TAX MAP KEYS: (1) 2-3-037:001 (1) 2-3-037:025</p>	<p>PROPOSED: Ala Moana Park Beach Nourishment IN: Honolulu NEAR/AT: Ala Moana Regional Park COUNTY: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii SHEET 1 OF 32 DATE: June 17, 2019</p>
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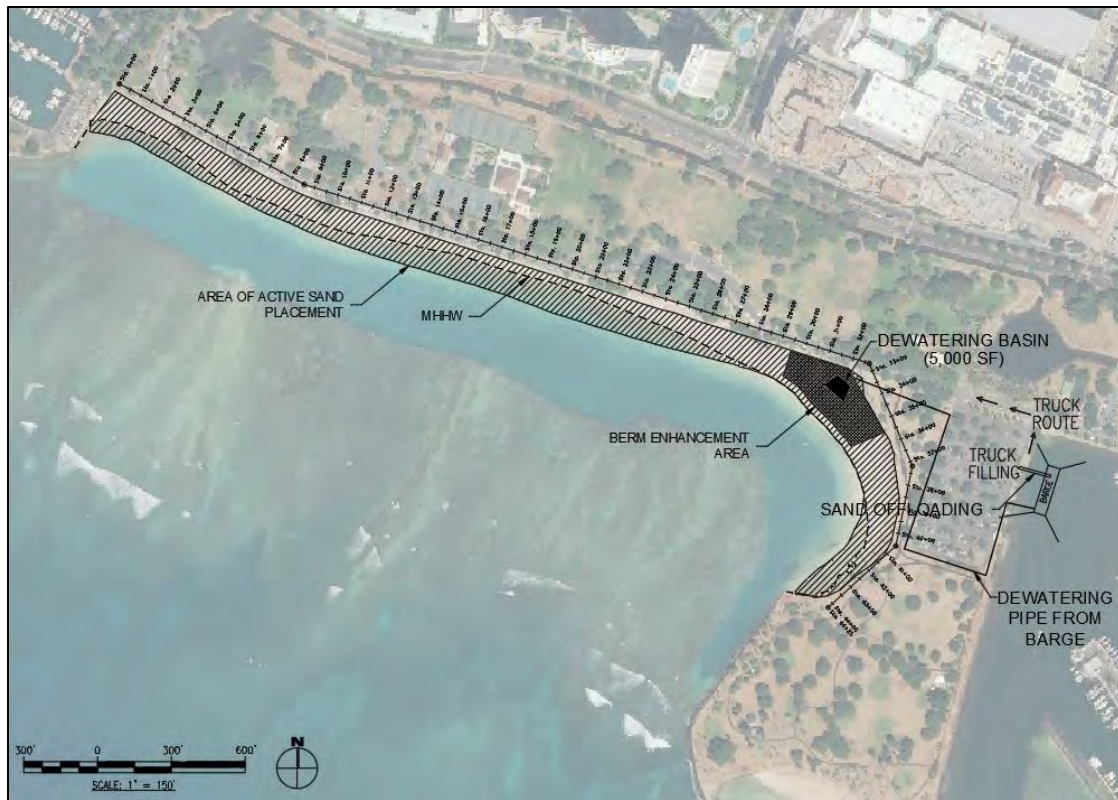
Overall project plan
APPLICANT: Robert Kroning, City & County of Honolulu
PROPOSED: Ala Moana Park Beach Nourishment
AT: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii
SHEET: 20 of 32 DATE: 6/17/2019



Sand recovery area A (contours in feet, MSL)
APPLICANT: Robert Kroning, City & County of Honolulu
PROPOSED: Ala Moana Park Beach Nourishment
AT: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii
SHEET: 21 of 32 DATE: 6/17/2019



Sand recovery area B (contours in feet, MSL)
APPLICANT: Robert Kroning, City & County of Honolulu
PROPOSED: Ala Moana Park Beach Nourishment
AT: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii
SHEET: 22 of 32 DATE: 6/17/2019



Sand offloading area and placement plan

APPLICANT: Robert Kroning, City & County of Honolulu

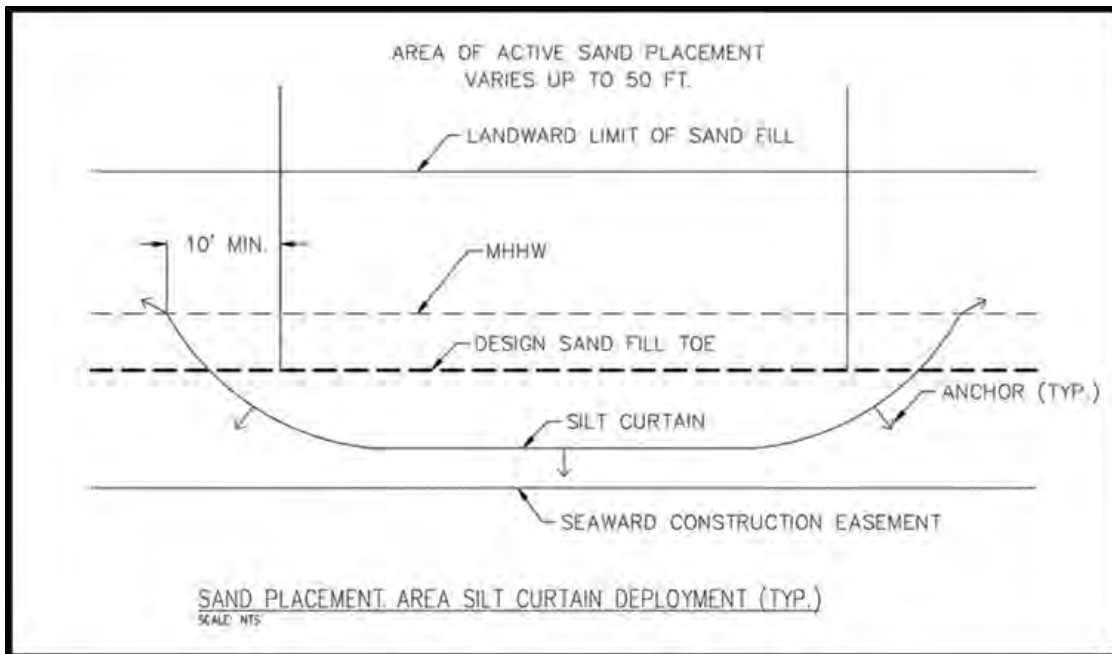
PROPOSED: Ala Moana Park Beach Nourishment

AT: Honolulu

STATE: Hawaii

SHEET: 23 of 32

DATE: 6/17/2019



Silt curtain typical plan view

APPLICANT: Robert Kroning, City & County of Honolulu

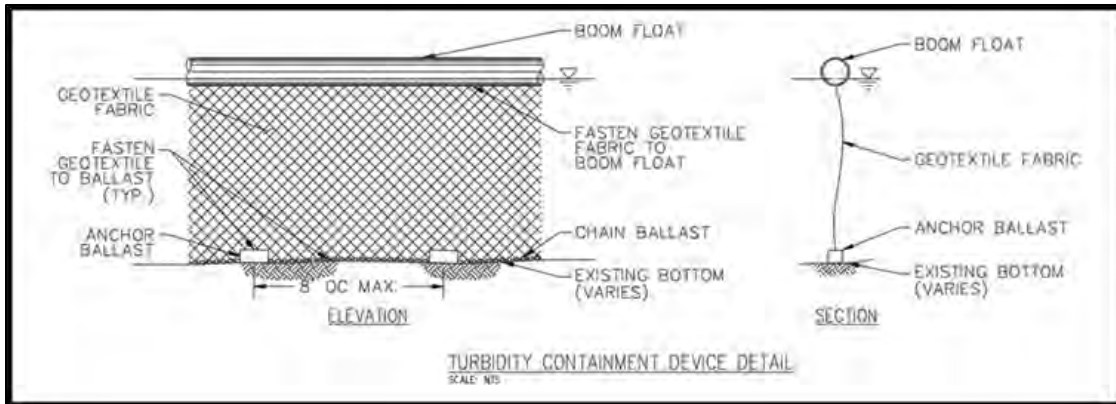
PROPOSED: Ala Moana Park Beach Nourishment

AT: Honolulu

STATE: Hawaii

SHEET: 24 of 32

DATE: 6/17/2019



Silt curtain typical detail

APPLICANT: Robert Kroning, City & County of Honolulu

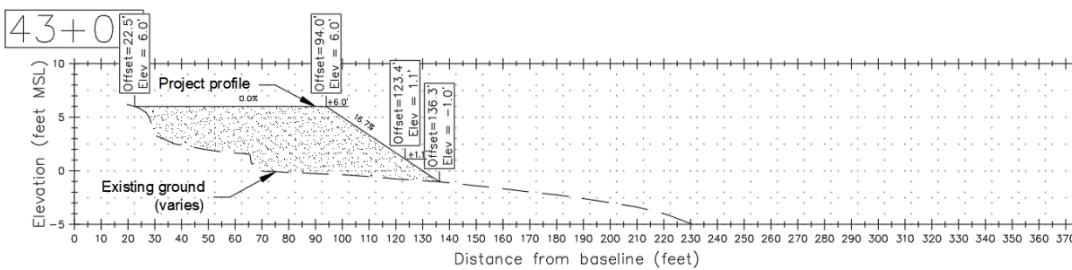
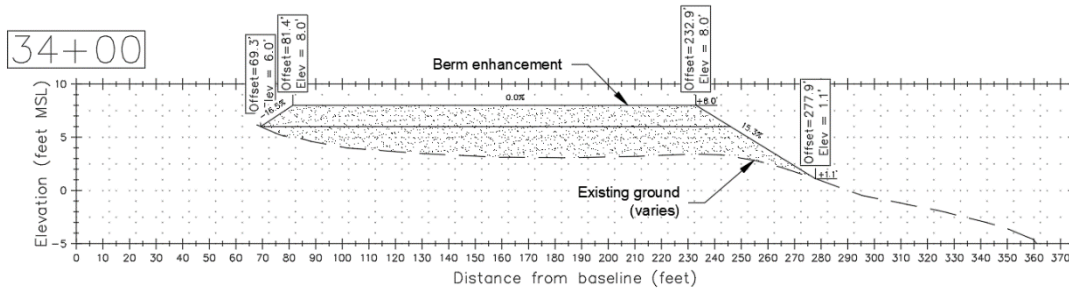
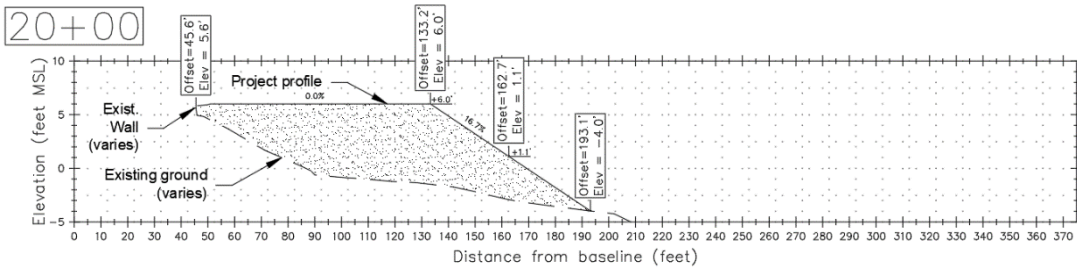
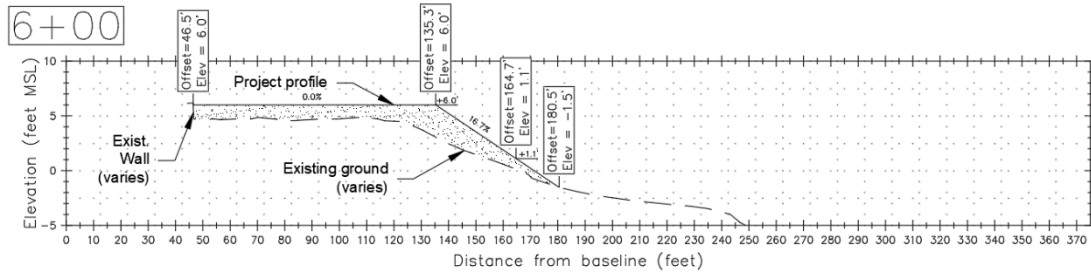
PROPOSED: Ala Moana Park Beach Nourishment

AT: Honolulu

STATE: Hawaii

SHEET: 25 of 32

DATE: 6/17/2019



Typical cross-section views of snad placement along shoreline (Sta. 6+00, 20+00, 34+00, and 43+00)

APPLICANT: Robert Kroning, City & County of Honolulu

PROPOSED: Ala Moana Park Beach Nourishment

AT: Honolulu

STATE: Hawaii

SHEET: 26 of 32

DATE: 6/17/2019