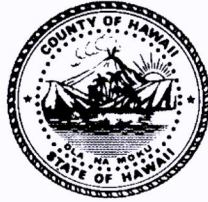


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director

West Hawai'i Office
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone (808) 323-4770
Fax (808) 327-3563



County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Zendo Kern
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow
Deputy Director

East Hawai'i Office
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone (808) 961-8288
Fax (808) 961-8742

October 02, 2024

Alexander Kalawe
County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works
101 Pauahi St., Ste. 7
Hilo, HI 96720
VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Kalawe:

**SUBJECT: Special Management Area (SMA) Use Permit Assessment Application (PL-SAA-2024-000247)
Special Management Area (SMA) Minor Permit (PL-SMM-2024-000066)**

Applicant: County of Hawai'i – Department of Public Works (Engineering)

Landowner: County of Hawai'i

Request: County of Hawai'i Reconstruction of Lava Inundated Roads

Tax Map Keys: (3) 1-3-008:016; 1-4-093:001, 039, 041, Puna, Island of Hawai'i

We have reviewed the subject Special Management Area Use Permit Assessment Application (PL-SAA-2024-000247) received by this office on September 30, 2024. The subject parcels span a variety of areas but are predominately zoned within the Agricultural zoning district (A-1a, A-10a) by the County and designated as Agricultural by the State Land Use Commission (LUC). The subject parcels are designated as "open" (ope) by the Hawai'i County General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) map. While the proposed project will cover work within the existing rights-of-way (ROWs) for the roads, the subject parcels are areas for staging that occur outside the ROWs and are within the SMA. None of the project parcels are shoreline parcels.

Proposed Project:

The applicant is proposing to conduct reconstruction of existing roadways that were inundated during the 2018 eruption. This portion of the project includes only staging areas located outside

the existing ROWs and is part of the *Reconstruction of Lava Inundated Roads* project being completed by the County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works – Engineering Division.

Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Ch. 6E-8 review:

The applicant submitted the proposed project to the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) for a HRS Ch. 6E-8 review. By letter dated December 15, 2023, SHPD has concurred with the DPW determination of “no historic properties affected” and that archeological monitoring will be in place during construction activities.

Special Management Area Determination:

According to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 205A-44 and Planning Commission (PC) Rule No. 9-4(e)(1)(A), “development” includes “*Placement or erection of any solid material or any gaseous, liquid, solid, or thermal waste*” Therefore, the proposed staging areas for road reconstruction are considered to be development and will require a review against the Special Management Area rules and regulations.

We find that the proposed project is not exempt from the definition of “development;” however, the project will not have a cumulative impact or a significant adverse environmental or ecological effect on the SMA. Therefore, pursuant to Planning Commission Rule Section 9-10(e), Special Management Area Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000066 is hereby issued for the project as described above. It is the applicant’s responsibility to read and comply with the conditions listed in the enclosed permit.

While further review of the proposed project against the Special Management Area rules and regulations will not be required, all other applicable Zoning Code and Building Code requirements must be satisfied. Additionally, any future development or activities not included in this approval shall require further review and approval as provided under Chapter 205A, HRS and Rule 9, Planning Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure.

If you have questions regarding this document, please contact Alex J. Roy of this office at (808) 961-8140 or via email at alex.roy@hawaiicounty.gov

Sincerely,


[Zendo Kern \(Oct 2, 2024 14:19 HST\)](#)

ZENDO KERN
Planning Director

Alexander Kalawe
County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works
October 02, 2024
Page 3

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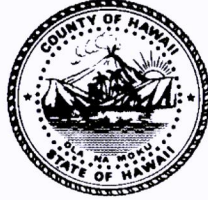
Enclosure: SMA Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000066

cc via email w/enclosure: Shichao Li, State-OPSD
Lisa E. Webster, State-OPSD
GIS Section

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director

West Hawai'i Office
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone (808) 323-4770
Fax (808) 327-3563



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Zendo Kern
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow
Deputy Director

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101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
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Fax (808) 961-8742

Special Management Area Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000066

Project: County of Hawai'i Reconstruction of Lava Inundated Roads
Applicant(s): County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works
Landowner(s): County of Hawai'i
TMK(s): (3) 1-3-008:016; 1-4-093:001, 039, 041
Location: Puna District, Island of Hawai'i
Land Area: Various (Depending on Need)

Applicant's Request

- 1. Project Description:** This Special Management Area (SMA) Minor Use Permit is being pursued to allow the DPW to establish staging areas to support road reconstruction under the County of Hawai'i *Reconstruction of Lava Inundated Roads* project.
- 2. Project Valuation:** \$0.
- 3. Determination:** According to Chapter 205A-22, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), and Planning Commission (PC) Rule No. 9-4(e)(1) relating to Special Management Area (SMA): "Placement or erection of any solid material or any gaseous, liquid, solid, or thermal waste" is defined as "development." Therefore, the proposed staging areas for road reconstruction are considered "development" and require a review against the Special Management Area rules and regulations. Our review has resulted in the issuance of a SMA Minor Permit.

State and County Plans

- 4. State Land Use District:** The subject parcels are within the State Land Use Agricultural District.
- 5. General Plan:** The parcels are designated as "open" (ope) by the Hawai'i County General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) Map.
- 6. County Zoning:** The parcels are currently zoned as Agricultural-1 acres (A-1a) and Agricultural-10 acres (A-10a).

7. **Special Management Area:** The project parcels are located within the Special Management Area (SMA); however, they are not located within the “shoreline area” as defined by section 205A-41, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) and as such, no shoreline certification is required.
8. **Flood Zone:** The subject parcels are designated as Flood Zones AE, VE, and X; however, due to the altered topography from lava inundation the currently mapped flood zones are considered inaccurate.

Compliance with Objectives and Policies of Chapter 205A, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), Regarding the Special Management Area

Check all objectives and policies found to be consistent with proposed development. Issuance of SMA Minor Permit requires that activity be consistent with all objectives & policies.

The proposed development is consistent with the following objectives and policies:

- Development will not have any significant adverse environmental or ecological effect, except as any adverse effect is minimized to the extent practicable and clearly outweighed by public health, safety, or compelling public interest. Those adverse effects shall include but not be limited to the potential cumulative impact of individual developments, each of which taken by itself might not have a significant adverse effect and the elimination of planning options.
- The proposed development is consistent with the Hawai'i County General Plan, community plan, and zoning; provided that a finding of consistency shall not preclude concurrent processing where a general plan, community plan, or zoning amendment may also be required.
- The proposed development does not conflict with the following objectives of Chapter 205A, HRS (as amended), to:
 - Provide coastal recreational opportunities accessible to the public.
 - Protect, preserve, and where desirable, restore those natural and man-made historic and pre-historic resources in the coastal zone management area that are significant in Hawaiian and American history and culture.
 - Protect, preserve, and where desirable, restore or improve the quality of coastal scenic and open space resources.
 - Protect valuable coastal ecosystems, including reefs, beaches, and coastal dunes, from disruption and minimize adverse impacts on all coastal ecosystems.

- Provide public or private facilities and improvements important to the State's economy in suitable locations.
- Reduce hazard to life and property from coastal hazards.
- Improve the development review process, communication, and public participation in the management of coastal resources and hazards.
- Stimulate public awareness, education, and participation in coastal management.
- Protect beaches and coastal dunes for: Public use and recreation; The benefit of coastal ecosystems; Use as natural buffers against coastal hazards; and Coordinate and fund beach management and protection.
- Promote the protection, use, and development of marine and coastal resources to assure their sustainability.
- The proposed development is consistent with the following policies of Chapter 205A, HRS, relating to:
 - Recreational Resources
 - Historic Resources
 - Scenic and Open Space Resources
 - Coastal Ecosystems
 - Economic Uses
 - Coastal Hazards
 - Managing Development
 - Public Participation
 - Beach and Coastal Dune Protection
 - Marine and Coastal Resources
- The proposed development conforms to the requirements of Chapter 343, HRS, regarding Environmental Impact Statements.

Findings

1. As discussed above, the conducted activities will not have any significant adverse environmental or ecological effect, except as such adverse effect is minimized to the extent practicable and clearly outweighed by public health, safety, or compelling public interest.
2. The proposed development is consistent with the objectives, policies, and SMA guidelines of Chapter 205A, HRS.
3. The estimated project cost of \$0 is not in excess of \$500,000.

Approved Uses, Activities and Operations

Pursuant to Planning Commission Rule Section 9-10(e), **Special Management Area Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000066** is hereby approved for the proposed staging areas for road reconstruction, subject to the applicants' compliance with the conditions of approval as specified below.

Conditions of Approval

The Planning Director has approved **SMA Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000066**, **subject to the following conditions:**

1. The applicant(s), its successor(s), or assign(s) (Applicant) shall be responsible for complying with all stated conditions of approval.
2. The applicant shall secure all necessary approvals and permits from other affected federal, state, and county agencies as necessary to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
3. All earthwork and grading activity shall conform to Chapter 10, Erosion and Sedimentation Control of the Hawai'i County Code.
4. All construction and maintenance activities on the subject parcel shall comply with Chapter 27, Floodplain Management, of the Hawai'i County Code.
5. In the event that surface or subsurface historic resources, including human skeletal remains, structural remains (e.g., rock walls, terraces, platforms, etc.), cultural deposits, marine shell concentrations, sand deposits, or sink holes are identified during the demolition and/or construction work, the Applicant shall cease work in the immediate vicinity of the find, protect the find from additional disturbance and contact the State Historic Preservation Division at (808) 933-7651. Subsequent work shall proceed upon

an archaeological clearance from DLNR-SHPD when it finds that sufficient mitigation measures have been taken.

6. Any further development, including but not limited to, the construction of structures or improvements not included in this determination shall require further review and approval as provided under Chapter 205A, HRS, and Rule 9, Planning Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure.
7. That in issuing this permit, the Department has relied on the information and data that the applicant has provided in connection with this permit. If, subsequent to issuance of this permit, such information and data prove to be false, incomplete or inaccurate, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, and/or the Department may, in addition, institute appropriate legal proceedings.
8. The Planning Director shall initiate procedures to revoke this permit should any of the conditions not be met or substantially complied with in a timely fashion.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Alex Roy at (808) 961-8140 or via email at alex.roy@hawaiicounty.gov

APPROVED:

Zendo Kern
Zendo Kern (Oct 2, 2024 14:19 HST)

ZENDO KERN
Planning Director

October 02, 2024

Date

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