

PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Department
County of Hawaii
Hilo, Hawaii

Application for)
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA)
USE PERMIT)
by)
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF)
TRANSPORTATION, LAND TRANSPORTATION) SMA USE PERMIT NO. 66
FACILITIES DIVISION)
for)
REALIGNMENT OF KAIMU-CHAIN OF)
CRATERS' ROAD)
from)
Kaimu-Makena Homesteads to)
Kaunaloa, Puna, Hawaii)

SPECIAL MANAGMENT AREA USE PERMIT

The County Planning Commission at a duly held public hearing on July 19, 1978, considered the application of the STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, LAND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES DIVISION for a Special Management Area Use Permit in accordance with Rule No. 9, Rules and Regulations Relating to Environmental Shoreline Protection, to allow the construction of a new realignment of the Kaimu-Chain of Craters Road from the Kaimu-Makena Homesteads to Kaunaloa, Puna, Hawaii, Tax Map Keys 1-2-06:1, 5, 6, 73; 1-2-05:3, 6-8, 17, 18, 21, 24; 1-2-04:51; 1-2-32:2, 17, 18, 22; 1-2-16:5-7, 52-60; 1-2-02:3, 7, 18, 27, and 28.

The Commission has found:

That approval of the proposed realignment would be in keeping with Chapter 205-A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Environmental Shoreline Protection Act, and Rule 9 of the Planning Commission. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide an alternative roadway connection between the Kaimu-Pahoehoe Road and the Chain of Craters Road which would be located away from the shoreline. The existing roadway basically follows the coastline in the Kaimu-Kalapana area. This area has been subject to earthquake activity and is subsiding. The proposed realignment would provide a relatively safer and a more efficient highway than now exists.

The proposed realignment does not interfere with any known unique or fragile ecosystems which provide habitat for rare or endangered species of plants or animals. An archaeological survey of the roadway corridor has been conducted. None of the sites found were determined to be of significant archaeological or historical value. One of the sites, a stepping stone trail, will be integrated into the roadway design during construction.

Implementation of the proposed project is expected to have positive impacts upon the coastal area. The alternative roadway will alleviate some of the traffic volume on the present roadway. By providing a roadway further inland, the focus of activity is somewhat shifted away from the coastal area. Considerations of view planes and land development will have to be expanded in that the realignment will be creating a new mauka boundary for the subject area. This new boundary is expected to increase rather than foreclose management options.

Approval of the subject request will also be in the interest of the public welfare and safety. The realignment will provide a safer access, as well as an alternative access, for the residents of the area. It will also provide improved access to recreational facilities, including the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

The proposed realignment is also in keeping with the County General Plan. The Facilities Map for the Puna District shows a realignment of the existing roadway mauka of the Kaimu community. The subject request would implement that depiction.

Based on the above, it is determined that the subject request is consistent with the policies and guidelines of the Planning Commission's Rule 9.

Therefore, the Commission hereby grants to the petitioner a Special Management Area Use Permit to allow the construction of a new realignment of the Kaimu-Chain of Craters Road from the Kaimu-Makena Homesteads to Kaunaloa, Puna, Hawaii pursuant to the authority vested in it by Rule No. 9, Rules and Regulations Relating to Environmental Shoreline Protection, subject to the following conditions:

1. That the proposed realignment shall conform to the representations made by the petitioner and the plans submitted with the application.
2. That construction of the proposed project shall commence within two (2) years of the effective date of approval of the Special Management Area Use Permit and be completed within two (2) years thereafter.
3. That should any archaeological sites or remains not described in the report "Archaeological Surface Survey of the Proposed Kaimu-Chain of Craters Road, Alignment 'B', Puna, Hawaii Island" be found, the petitioner or its authorized representative shall immediately notify the Planning Department. The site or remains shall not be disturbed until clearance has been obtained from the Planning Department.
4. That all other applicable rules, regulations and requirements shall be complied with.

Should any of the foregoing conditions not be met, the Special Management Area Use Permit may be deemed null and void by the Planning Commission.

The effective date of the permit shall be July 19, 1978.

Dated at Hilo, Hawaii, this 3rd day of August, 1978.



WILLIAM F. MIELCKE, CHAIRMAN
Planning Commission

