



11 January 2007

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Ala Wai Canal, Oahu, Hawaii

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

a. The feasibility study for the Ala Wai Canal Project was initiated upon execution of the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Hawaii (as represented by the DLNR Engineering Division) in January 2001. Amendment 1 to the FCSA was executed on 7 December 2006 and increases the feasibility study cost to \$5.1M. The State DLNR has already secured their share of the increased study cost. The FY06 Appropriation provides \$500,000 Federal contribution to the expanded study. Similar levels are required in FY07, FY08, and FY09. The study is now scheduled for completion in September 2009.

b. The Ala Wai Canal Project is a multiple purpose project being investigated under Section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-874). The feasibility study is investigating and evaluating solutions to environmental degradation and flood control problems throughout the Manoa, Palolo, and Makiki drainages, including the Ala Wai canal and Waikiki areas. The watershed analysis identified possible restoration alternatives in the upper watershed as well as flood mitigation needs. Pending analysis of alternatives in the study, the potential construction costs were not developed. In addition to the Ala Wai Canal Project (long-term solution to flooding), there are the NRCS' Manoa Watershed Project (intermediate-term) and FEMA's Manoa Stream Hazard Mitigation Project (short-term). These projects attempt to incrementally alleviate flooding from Manoa Stream. Coordination amongst all three project activities is necessary to avoid impacts.

c. The Ala Wai canal is a two-mile long man-made waterway constructed during the 1920's to create and protect the Waikiki area on the island of Oahu. The Ala Wai watershed encompasses more than 16 square miles. The carrying capacity of the canal has been significantly reduced by accumulation of silt and debris from the Manoa, Palolo, and Makiki streams. During the November 1965 and December 1967 storms and passage of Hurricane Iniki in 1992, the Ala Wai Canal was overtopped causing flooding in the Waikiki district. The 30 October 2004 storm in Manoa is estimated to have caused over \$100M in damages to property and irreplaceable documents in the University of Hawaii's library, causing the community and agencies to seek the expansion of the Ala Wai Canal project for flood mitigation measures in the upper stream areas.