Honolulu On The Move

Meeting Notes

Meeting Name: Endangered Species Agency Coordination Meeting
Date: Thurs, January 8, 2009 Time: 10:00
Location: Alii Tower large conference room
Organizer: Jan Reichelderfer and Amy Zaref
Attendees: F&W, DOFAW, SDOT (complete list attached)
Notes prepared by: Jan Approved by:

Meeting Summary: <u>The meeting focused on Abutilon menezeii, an endangered plant that occurs in Segment B, and what steps we need to take to comply with the Habitat Conservation Plan.</u>

The following summarizes items discussed:

The SDOT helped develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Abutilon when Kapolei Parkway and North South Road were being planned. There is an 18 acre fenced Contingency Reserve Area for Abutilon and 3 sites where it is being planted off site. The recovery is not going that well and the plan is currently being evaluated. Fire is the main threat to Abutilon. Measures to protect the plant are detailed in the HCP and anyone who obtains a Certificate of Inclusion from SDOT must adhere to these controls.

Most of the project in the undeveloped Ewa area is covered by the HCP – only a small portion near and north of the West Oahu Station is not included. Our project near the East Kapolei Station is clearly in an area where Abutilon occurs and in the HCP. The 18 acre Contingency Reserve Area is very close to the alignment (less than 200ft) and the fence is in poor condition. There is a 10 ft wide fire buffer. Abutilon likes to grow in disturbed areas and appears after heavy rainfalls so it is hard to tell its exact distribution. It is also hard to distinguish as a young plant and can be confused with non endangered hibiscus. To determine if it is in an area, an optimum plan would be to survey for at least 3 months after the wet season.

The following summaries conclusions/decisions:

In order to be included in the existing HCP, the City has to ask for a Certificate of Inclusion from DOT. There will be a monetary contribution needed to help with the work of caring for this plant.

We will find out from Greg (field person with DOFAW) where Abutilon plants are now mapped to help determine if there is a substantial possibility of finding them in our project area outside the current HCP. If we decide there is a real chance they will be there, we may have to develop a new HCP (this would take a year or more).

Thirty days prior to construction, the area will have to be surveyed and any individuals relocated as described in the HCP. Fire, contractor education, and other controls must be included in the EIS and contractors specifications. Access to the Contingency Reserve Area must be maintained for emergency vehicles. We must also consider if a species planted for landscaping purposes might spread and invade the Contingency Reserve Area.

The ROD for the Final EIS can be issued prior to receiving the Certificate of Inclusion. The C&C need not own the land for a Certificate of Inclusion but needs to have direct control of that land.

The following summarizes action items:
Jan will get from Vicki the contact information for Greg Mansken (Sp?). She will visit to the area.

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Jan will get the map revised.
Clyde and Martin will incorporate the requirements of the HCP, mainly dealing with fire prevention and contractor education, into the contractor specifications. Clyde will get the Fire Control Plan for N-S Road from HWY-O to help with this task.
Martin will update the planners on the P&R location since the current mapping is just a place holder.
Lawrence, Amy and Faith will consider how the City and County would like to determine the monetary amount to offer to be included in the current HCP.

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