

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP)
Minutes of Meeting with Department of Planning & Permitting (DPP)
Compliance with Flood Hazard District Regulations
August 19, 2008

Attendees: Bob Sumitomo, Site Development Division (SDD), DPP
Mario Siu-Li, SDD, Subdivision Branch, DPP
Mel Takakura, SDD, Civil Engineering Branch, DPP
Faith Miyamoto, DTS
Jim Dunn, PB
Kevin Wong, PB
Jim Lyon, Lyon Associates
Jeff Johnson, NHC
Bob MacArthur, NHC

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Frank F. Fasi Municipal Building
650 S. King Street, 8th Floor

Discussion Topics:

- Jim Dunn introduced the PB and Lyon study team members; he briefly summarized the purpose for the meeting, PB's role in HHCTCP, and the study team's needs to know how best to coordinate technical issues related to floodplains and permits with Bob Sumitomo and his staff.
- Bob Sumitomo emphasized that this is a City Project and that DPP is responsible for floodplain management on O'ahu. Technical questions and permits need to be closely coordinated with his staff.
- Bob Sumitomo indicated that the City and County of Honolulu (CCH) adopted FEMA regulations in 1980 and that the CCH Land Use Ordinance established Flood Hazard Districts that correspond to FEMA flood hazard zones as delineated on the flood insurance rate maps.
- Mario Siu-Li will be the primary contact person for all aspects of this project as they relate to Site Development Division authorities.
- DPP needs a clear definition of specific project features from PB (including alignments, location of facilities, touch downs, piers, and what portions of the project are in mapped flood zones).
- All floodplain-related submittals should be routed through DPP. As necessary, the City would then submit pertinent information to DLNR.
- Bob Sumitomo stated that DLNR's State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator acts as FEMA's representative in the State of Hawai'i and is responsible for assisting the coordination of the NFIP between the FEMA and County agencies in Hawaii.

- Mario's DPP group is very busy, so PB needs to give them sufficient lead time on review requests.
- Jeff Johnson discussed potential floodplain issues at three example sites including the following: (1) Waipahu Transit Center Station; (2) the Pearl Highlands Station & Park-and-Ride Facility; and (3) Nuuanu Stream for proposed in-stream construction of support piers. These three cases were discussed among the meeting participants. Jeff outlined a general approach for assessing possible effects to water surface profiles at these sites.
- A Zero-Rise criterion is always required for uses within the City's floodway district.
- Flood hazard variances will be required for non-permitted uses within the City's flood hazard districts. Requirements for flood hazard variances are specified in the Land Use Ordinance. Those tasks and results should all be coordinated with Mario.
- Bob Sumitomo stated that the Waiawa Stream FEMA study was updated in 2000 and the Waipahu (Waikele Stream) FEMA study was updated in the mid-1990s.
- Kevin Wong inquired whether substantial upstream development would trigger the need for updated hydrology studies to be performed. Bob Sumitomo responded that FEMA has not routinely been requiring updated hydrology studies to be performed based on upstream development activities.
- All planned waterway grading or stream modifications will require grading permits through DPP and Stream Channel Alteration Permits (SCAP) through DLNR.
- Mel Takakura will be the person checking the computations and technical materials on behalf of DPP. Technical hydraulic issues and possible setback requirements along streams should be coordinated with Mel, but Mario would be the first point-of-contact.
- The City is aware that a Hurricane Flood Hazard Assessment Study is being completed for Honolulu. Mario has draft maps and the final maps should be available by the end of the year. Mario agreed to show PB the draft maps and Bob Sumitomo will allow PB to use the draft information as "best available information" for their on-going initial engineering analyses and DEIS documents.
- Bob Sumitomo encouraged PB to introduce the project to DLNR and provide a "global project summary" to division heads at DLNR so PB can coordinate DEIS topics with them such as environmental compliance issues and possible historic preservation and archeology topics.
- Bob Sumitomo and Mario thanked PB for setting up the meeting and asked that PB continue to coordinate all floodplain and floodway related activities with Mario first.

Distribution:
Attendees
File
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