Reading file

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

December 21, 2007

Superintendent
Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
73-4786 Kanalani Street, #14
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Comprehensive Management Plan for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, County of Hawaii, Hawaii [CEQ #20070437]

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Draft EIS evaluates alternatives for administering, preserving, protecting, developing, managing, and maintaining the 175-mile Ala Kahakai trail over the next 15 years. EPA has no objections to this project and has, therefore, rated this Draft EIS as LO – Lack of Objections (see enclosed "Summary of Rating Definitions"). It appears from the Draft EIS that coordination between government agencies, Native Hawaiian groups, trail organizations, land owners, and other individuals has been ongoing and will continue throughout the life of this plan. In light of the sensitive nature of the watersheds and marine areas in the trail vicinity, we recommend the National Park Service work closely with State and County agencies to ensure protection of these areas during construction or maintenance projects and during operations. The Big Island Soil and Water Conservation District office, County of Hawaii, and Hawaii State Department of Health should be consulted regarding best management practices and appropriate permits for these activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Draft EIS and request a copy of the Final EIS when it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C., office. If you have any

questions, please call me at (415) 972-3846, or have your staff call Jeanne Geselbracht at (415) 972-3853.

Sincerely,

Nova Blazej, Manager
Environmental Review Office

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Enclosure: Summary of Rating Definitions