

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CONTROL



ROBERT J. KRONING, P.E.  
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712297

December 13, 2017

Mr. Scott Glenn, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
Department of Health  
State of Hawaii  
235 South Beretania Street, Room 702  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Glenn:

- Subject:** Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes and Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawai'i Administrative Rules Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice
- Project:** Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island Improvements
- Applicant:** City and County of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction (Elaine Morisato)
- Agent:** Belt Collins Hawaii LLC (Joanne Hiramatsu)
- Location:** Makai of Ala Moana Boulevard and Ala Moana Shopping Center between Kamakee Street and Atkinson Drive
- Tax Map Keys:** TMK: 2-3-37: 001, 002 022, 023 and 025
- Proposal:** The City is proposing to restore, revitalize, enhance, and improve the Ala Moana Regional Park (AMRP) and the Magic Island peninsula (Magic Island) grounds and facilities as a result of a recent master plan process that outlined both long-term and short-term improvement plans. The project area receives the most usage of any other park in the State and is also one of the oldest. Many park users visit daily or several times during the week. The City wishes to extend the Parks' longevity as a gradual increase in visits is forecasted for the foreseeable future. Some of the major improvements include sand replenishment, renovations to existing structures, improving pond edges, widening access over the drainage canal along Ala Moana Boulevard, creating a wider promenade along Ala Moana Park Drive and reconfiguring the parking.

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Scott Glenn  
December 13, 2017  
Page 2

We respectfully request publication of the Project Summary of the EISPN in the next edition of *The Environmental Notice* on December 23, 2017. Enclosed is one hard copy and one electronic copy on compact disc of the EISPN and forms. The Publication Form, including the Project Summary, was also sent via electronic mail to your office

Should you have any questions, please contact Elaine Morisato, Project Manager for the Department of Design and Construction, at 768-8406.

Very truly yours,



Robert J. Kroning, P.E.  
Director

RJK:li

Enclosures

## AGENCY PUBLICATION FORM

Project Name:	Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island Improvements
Project Short Name:	AMRP and Magic Island Improvements
HRS §343-5 Trigger(s):	Use of state or county land and funds
Island(s):	O'ahu
Judicial District(s):	Honolulu
TMK(s):	2-3-37: 001, 002 022, 023 and 025
Permit(s)/Approval(s):	U.S. Department of Army Permit; Section 401 Water Quality Certification; Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Certification; Conservation District Use Permit; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems Permit; Chapter 6E Review; Special Management Area Use Permit
Proposing/Determining Agency:	The City and County of Honolulu, the Department of Design and Construction
<i>Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address</i>	Robert Kroning, Director rkroning@honolulu.gov (808) 768-8480 650 S. King Street, 11 <sup>th</sup> Floor Honolulu, HI 96813
Accepting Authority:	The City and County of Honolulu, the Department of Design and Construction
<i>Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address</i>	Robert Kroning, Director rkroning@honolulu.gov (808) 768-8480 650 S. King Street, 11 <sup>th</sup> Floor Honolulu, HI 96813
Consultant:	Belt Collins Hawaii LLC
<i>Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address</i>	Joanne Hiramatsu, Director of Planning <a href="mailto:jhiramatsu@bchdesign.com">jhiramatsu@bchdesign.com</a> (808) 521-5361 2153 North King Street, Suite 200 Honolulu, HI 96819-4554

**Status (select one)** DEA-AFNSI**Submittal Requirements**

Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination/transmittal letter on agency letterhead, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the DEA, and 4) a searchable PDF of the DEA; a 30-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.

 FEA-FONSI

Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination/transmittal letter on agency letterhead, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the FEA, and 4) a searchable PDF of the FEA; no comment period follows from publication in the Notice.

 FEA-EISPN

Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination/transmittal letter on agency letterhead, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the FEA, and 4) a searchable PDF of the FEA; a 30-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.

 Act 172-12 EISPN  
("Direct to EIS")

Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination letter on agency letterhead and 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file; no EA is required and a 30-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.

 DEIS

Submit 1) a transmittal letter to the OEQC and to the accepting authority, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the DEIS, 4) a searchable PDF of the DEIS, and 5) a searchable PDF of the distribution list; a 45-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.

 FEIS

Submit 1) a transmittal letter to the OEQC and to the accepting authority, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the FEIS, 4) a searchable PDF of the FEIS, and 5) a searchable PDF of the distribution list; no comment period follows from publication in the Notice.

- FEIS Acceptance Determination      The accepting authority simultaneously transmits to both the OEQC and the proposing agency a letter of its determination of acceptance or nonacceptance (pursuant to Section 11-200-23, HAR) of the FEIS; no comment period ensues upon publication in the Notice.
- FEIS Statutory Acceptance      Timely statutory acceptance of the FEIS under Section 343-5(c), HRS, is not applicable to agency actions.
- Supplemental EIS Determination      The accepting authority simultaneously transmits its notice to both the proposing agency and the OEQC that it has reviewed (pursuant to Section 11-200-27, HAR) the previously accepted FEIS and determines that a supplemental EIS is or is not required; no EA is required and no comment period ensues upon publication in the Notice.
- Withdrawal      Identify the specific document(s) to withdraw and explain in the project summary section.
- Other      Contact the OEQC if your action is not one of the above items.

**Project Summary**

The City is proposing to restore, revitalize, enhance, and improve the Ala Moana Regional Park (AMRP) and the Magic Island peninsula (Magic Island) grounds and facilities as a result of a recent master plan process that outlined both long-term and short-term improvement plans. The project area receives the most usage of any other park in the State and is also one of the oldest. Many park users visit daily or several times during the week. The City wishes to extend the Parks' longevity as a gradual increase in visits is forecasted for the foreseeable future. Some of the major improvements include sand replenishment, renovations to existing structures, improving pond edges, widening access over the drainage canal along Ala Moana Boulevard, create a wider promenade along Ala Moana Park Drive and reconfiguring the parking.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PREPARATION NOTICE**

**ALA MOANA REGIONAL PARK AND MAGIC  
ISLAND IMPROVEMENTS  
Honolulu, HI**

**City and County of Honolulu  
Department of Design and Construction**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREPARATION NOTICE**

## **ALA MOANA REGIONAL PARK AND MAGIC ISLAND IMPROVEMENTS**

**Honolulu HI**

**December 2017**

**Prepared for:**

**City and County of Honolulu  
Department of Design and Construction**

**Prepared by:**

**Belt Collins Hawaii LLC  
Honolulu, Hawai'i**

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMRP	Ala Moana Regional Park
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BLNR	Board of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i
CIA	Cultural Impact Assessment
City	City and County of Honolulu
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWB	Clean Water Branch, Department of Health, State of Hawai'i
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
DA	Department of the Army
DBEDT	Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, State of Hawai'i
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DDC	Department of Design and Construction, City and County of Honolulu
DLNR	Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i
DOH	Department of Health, State of Hawai'i
DPP	Department of Planning and Permitting, City and County of Honolulu
DTS	Department of Transportation Services, City and County of Honolulu
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EISPN	Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment / Endangered Species Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FL	Fill Land
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
HAR	Hawai'i Administrative Rules
HFD	Honolulu Fire Department, City and County of Honolulu
HPD	Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu
HRHP	Hawai'i Register of Historic Places
HRS	Hawai'i Revised Statutes
LUO	Land Use Ordinance, City and County of Honolulu
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MGD	Million gallons per day
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OP	Office of Planning
Planning Act	Hawai'i State Planning Act
PUC DP	Primary Urban Center Development Plan, City and County of Honolulu
SCAP	Stream Channel Alternation Permit
SHPD	State Historic Preservation Division, Department of Land and Natural Resources

SIHP	State Inventory of Historic Places
SMA	Special Management Area
TMK	Tax Map Key
UH	University of Hawai'i
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U. S. Geological Survey
WQC	Water Quality Certification

## **1 Proposing Agency**

The City and County of Honolulu (City), Department of Design and Construction (DDC) is the proposing agencies for this action.

## **2 Accepting Authority**

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction is accepting authority for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

## **3 Purpose of Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN)**

This EISPN was prepared in accordance with the Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 11 Chapter 200, which implements Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343. The intent of this EISPN is to inform interested parties of the project, and to seek agency and public input on issues or resources of concern. Input received as a result of the EISPN that is relevant to the proposed action will be used in developing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). HRS Chapter 343 requirements are applicable to this project because the proposed action will use City land and funds. The City has determined that an EIS is required by a review of the proposed action's overall and cumulative effects pursuant of HAR §11-200-12, Environmental Impact Statement Rules, Significance Criteria.

## **4 Project Description**

The City is proposing to restore, revitalize, enhance, and improve the Ala Moana Regional Park (AMRP) and the Magic Island peninsula (Magic Island)<sup>1</sup> grounds and facilities as a result of a recent master plan process that outlined both long-term and short-term improvement plans. The project area receives the most usage of any other park in the State and is also one of the oldest. Many park users visit daily or several times during the week. The City wishes to extend the Parks' longevity as a gradual increase in visits is forecasted for the foreseeable future.

The approximate 119-acre project area is a man-made development bounded by Kewalo Basin on the west ('Ewa), Ala Moana Boulevard to the north (mauka), the Ala Wai Boat Harbor to the east (Diamond Head) and the Pacific Ocean to the south (makai) (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The project area is widely known for its ocean recreational activities and spacious open space for picnicking and land recreational activities. There are water features located within the AMRP property which include a mile-long drainage canal that borders the majority of the mauka park boundary, and empties into two ponds, one on the 'Ewa end ("Japanese Pond"), and the other on the Diamond Head end ("Hawaiian Pond") of the park. Recreational amenities on land include: ten tennis courts, a lawn bowling facility, exercise apparatuses, walk/run/jog paths, a canoe shelter, and large open lawn spaces (The Great Lawn) for field activities like soccer (Figure 3a and Figure 3b). There are over 1,000 trees scattered throughout the project area providing ample shade for picnicking and gatherings, many of which are considered exceptional trees. The McCoy Pavilion and its auditorium and Banyan Courtyard, located on the AMRP, are oftentimes used for larger festivals and gatherings. Two concession stands that serve local food are located in the AMRP. Other standard park amenities include seven showers along the AMRP beach, and six comfort stations. Two of the comfort stations are located adjacent to the concession stands and they include showers within the

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<sup>1</sup> The EISPN refers to Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island as project area or "Parks."

comfort station. The other comfort stations located on the AMRP beach and Magic Island have showers located outside of the buildings. A popular aspect of the project area is the mile-long beach that stretches from Magic Island to the Kewalo Basin. A lagoon surrounded by a seawall fronts Magic Island for more beach and water activities. The calm nearshore waters on the makai end of the Parks attract people from different levels of water experience making it suitable for ocean recreational activities, such as swimming and paddle boarding. Ocean waters beyond the reef that protects the nearshore waters are popular for surfing.

The project area has two main vehicular entrances from Ala Moana Boulevard. One, at the intersection of Kamakee Street and the other at Atkinson Drive. Magic Island is located along the Diamond Head end of the AMRP and is accessed from Ala Moana Park Drive. There are approximately 950 parking stalls for park users that are a mix of parallel stalls along Ala Moana Park Drive and parking lot stalls near Magic Island, the tennis courts, and the canoe hālau. Nine of these stalls are reserved for lifeguards, and five next to the existing maintenance area on the Diamond Head side of the Parks are reserved for DPR personnel. Pedestrian access is available at the two main entrances to the Parks and through four bridges spanning the drainage canal for additional pedestrian access along Ala Moana Boulevard.

The EIS will evaluate direct impacts associated with the proposed action, as well as indirect and cumulative impacts associated with the project.





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#### **4.1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

The Parks receive over 4 million visitors per year and serve as one of the few large beach parks in Honolulu. New urban residential developments mauka of the Parks, and redevelopment of Ala Moana Shopping Center's 'Ewa entrance and parking lot could result in more visitors. The Parks' resources and amenities have a significant amount of wear and tear from exposure to the coastal environment, a high volume of usage, unavailability of funding to replace deteriorated infrastructure, and vandalism over the last 80 years (Figure 4).

The City's commitment to improving park visitors' experience started with several public outreach venues including the 2015 public meetings, a website that regularly receives comments (<http://www.ouralamoanapark.com/>), and the media, and delivering surveys/questionnaires to park visitors by the master planning staff. Safety has been a growing concern over the years with an increased presence of homeless encampments scattered throughout the Parks. Approximately 300-350 homeless either pass through or stay at the Parks every day. Other issues raised by the community and focus groups were accessibility, night security lighting, ocean safety, sand erosion, canoe ramp steepness, repair of comfort stations, tree health, broken grass, local favorites concessions, inadequate amount of parking, lack of loading and unloading zones, and general maintenance and management concerns.

Some of these issues are currently being addressed by the "9-Point Community Action Plan" (See Section 4.4.1 for more detail) that was announced on July 15, 2015. Major improvements like Parks access ways, parking, park lighting, restoration of the canal and ponds, McCoy Pavilion renovation, and sand erosion will be addressed in the EIS.

Various plans and management policies have been proposed over the last few decades, and a plan to solidify the Parks' preservation for the future is now being implemented. The City continues its on-going efforts to keep the Parks at a functioning level. Basic repairs and improvements that could fulfill some short-term needs (some listed in the 9-Point Community Action Plan) were recommended, while keeping the Parks accessible, prior to any major renovations.

The community and current park users have expressed the preference to keep the park's character the same. There was no desire to upscale the Parks with modern motifs and added structures. The community and the City recognize the need to update and enhance certain aspects of the Parks. The master plan will have full details of the City's proposed actions over a period of several years once the EIS is completed. The long-term goal for the Parks' revitalization is to maintain and improve the grounds and facilities while remaining true to its local character as "The People's Park."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Named "The People's Park" by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1934; City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Service. Updated January 3, 2017. <http://www.honolulu.gov/cms-csd-menu/site-csd-sitearticles/982-site-csd-news-2016-cat/25596-11-01-16.html>



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**Figure 4**  
**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island Improvements EISPN  
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

## 4.2 BACKGROUND

The swampy marshlands of Waikīkī and Kaka‘ako gave the Territory of Hawai‘i an opportunity to develop large areas of open space that was needed during the Depression-era. This type of land reclamation was a historic change in land use, and played an intricate part of Waikīkī’s development into a world class tourist destination. An area for useable park space was needed to balance the new urban landscape. Construction to fill in the marshlands began in the late 1920s with dredging of the nearby channel leading to the Kewalo Basin. Structural construction at the AMRP began soon after in the 1930s on the new land with the Sports Pavilion and Banyan Court, a lawn bowling green, the Bridle Path Bridge, and the Roosevelt Portals. The two ponds and drainage canal were dredged around 1932 for both aesthetic and local run-off control purposes. These earlier structures remain today and most will be considered for preservation or restoration in the EIS. In 1988, the AMRP received historical recognition as a significant property on the State Register of Historic Places. The main goal for the AMRP during its conception in the 1920s was to have a place with lots of green open space that was accessible to all communities for recreational activities.

The AMRP carries a significant historical past through World War II as a battery and staging area for the United States (U.S.) military. The military constructed barracks, an armory, and temporary fortification on the AMRP property in order to support a heavier presence of personnel and weapons. The military relinquished their claim on the AMRP after the war was over, but left it in very poor condition. The park’s green landscape was destroyed and the roads and sidewalks needed repair. During post-war, the park’s restoration efforts served as a symbol of the growing tourism economy in Hawai‘i. The beach was a major post-war improvement even though the park was not meant to be a beach park.

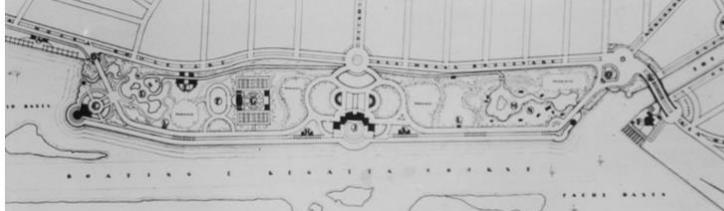
Today, the mile-long beach requires periodic sand replenishment due to erosion. A sand replenishment study will be conducted and the results of the study will be included in the EIS. Another post-war addition to the park was the 47-acre Magic Island Peninsula. The idea for Magic Island was first conceptualized as a major resort area in the late-1950s. Two parts of a three-part plan that included engineering and planning reports were completed in 1961.<sup>3</sup> The study goal was to weigh the possibilities for development of the resort area and offshore island through reef reclamation. The plans for the resort area and island did not develop due to overwhelming public opposition to the proposal. As a result, Magic Island was added to the AMRP as additional open space.

Figure 5 shows a chronological listing of construction events at the AMRP and Magic Island along with some historic photos of the project area. After the main components of the Parks were built or renovated, the City continued routine maintenance until today. Plans to do a full renovation of the Parks were considered over the recent decades, however, lack of funding and other needs took precedence.

Today, the Parks remain significant to history and the community. They have increased in importance over the years as the population continues to grow and as various forms of recreation evolved. They continue to serve as a host for large venues and events. There is a need to ensure the Parks’ sustainability while meeting the demands on them placed by community.

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<sup>3</sup> Belt Collins and Associates, Ltd. December 1960. Planning Studies and Economic Analysis. Part Three of the Comprehensive Plan for Ala Moana Reef, Honolulu, Hawai‘i. Prepared for State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources.

1930	AMRP site filled in with 400,000 cubic yards of fill			
1932	Canal and lagoons dredged			
1934	Bridle Bridge completed			
1934	Entrance portals dedicated and named Roosevelt Portals	<i>Ala Moana Park 1934</i>	<i>Banyan Court Construction 1935</i>	<i>Ala Wai Boat Harbor 1954</i>
1937	Sports Pavilion, Banyan Garden, Eskridge murals completed			
1939	Bowling green completed			
1941-1946	World War II and military constructs battery and staging areas			
1954	Children's Center opens in Pavilion			
1954-1955	Sandy beach fronting the AMRP constructed	<i>Atkinson Entrance 1934 Opening</i>	<i>Banyan Courtyard 1940s</i>	<i>Honolulu Harbor to Waikiki 1959</i>
1957	Diamond Head concession stand constructed			
1959	Diamond Head bathhouse constructed			
1961	'Ewa bathhouse and concession constructed			
1962	Magic Island constructed			
1966-1967	Bowling green renovated	<i>Ala Moana Bridge 1935-1940</i>	<i>Ala Moana Beach 1935-1939</i>	<i>Honolulu Harbor to Waikiki 1978</i>
1969	Lifeguard towers constructed			
1975	McCoy Pavilion completed			
				
<i>Ala Moana 1931-1933</i>		<i>Promenade 1934-1938</i>	<i>Thompson and Thompson Plan 1932</i>	

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**Figure 5**  
**TIMELINE AND HISTORIC PHOTOS**

Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island Improvements EISPN  
 Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii



Source: Weyeneth, Robert. 1987. *Ala Moana: The People's Park*. Prepared for the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation. Pg. 48

### **4.3 PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposed elements reviewed in the EIS include:

- Pi'ikoi Street entrance expansion and plaza;
- Widening the promenade along the makai side of Ala Moana Park Drive;
- Widening the promenade along the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor; with improvements to the existing canoe launch ramp;
- Rearranging the parking along the makai side of Ala Moana Park Drive to open views to the ocean and add loading and unloading zones;
- Configure parking stalls on the mauka side of Ala Moana Park Drive to perpendicular and parallel stalls;
- Keyhole parking lot expansion;
- Elongating Magic Island parking lot;
- Improve the pond edges;
- Improve McCoy Pavilion to include a dining facility;
- Redesign the elevated area in the middle of the park on the makai side of Ala Moana Park Drive for Americans with Disabilities Act access;
- Sand replenishment and long-term beach nourishment;
- Build a Playground;
- Relocate the Maintenance Yard;
- Drainage canal covering;
- Create a multiuse facility at the Lawn Bowling area;
- Relocate the Ocean Safety's Honolulu Headquarters;
- Improve the entrance at the Kamakee Street entrance.

### **4.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

#### **4.4.1 Restore Alternative**

The restore alternative was intended to maintain the Parks with a more aggressive approach to bring the Parks quickly up to standards by proposing repairs to the grounds and facilities. As mentioned in Section 4.1, the Mayor announced a proposal for a "9-Point Community Action Plan" over the next three years. Table 1 lists the nine points and the current progress of those actions. Some of the minor improvements listed in the plan have been completed, or are currently under construction.

The major improvements proposed in the master plan restore alternative are a remediation program for the beach erosion, parking management, drainage canal restoration, widening the pedestrian promenades within the Parks, and public accessibility to McCoy Pavilion.

The restore alternative is intended to improve the existing conditions without any additional facilities or changes. The repairs to the grounds and facilities will meet short-term needs, but may not sustain the longevity of the Parks and ensure its preservation. For these reasons, the restore alternative was not considered further.

**Table 1: Progression of the 9-Point Community Action Plan**

Actions	Progress	Media Source
Offer Local Favorites in Concession	Opened two L & L Barbeque locations in Summer 2015	L&L Barbeque concession stand: <a href="http://khon2.com/2015/07/03/ll-hawaiian-barbecue-opens-concession-stand-at-ala-moana-beach-park/">http://khon2.com/2015/07/03/ll-hawaiian-barbecue-opens-concession-stand-at-ala-moana-beach-park/</a>
Renovate Comfort Stations, not replace	Comfort stations at Magic Island were renovated. Improvements to the Diamond Head side bathhouse beginning on 12/11/17. Plans to renovate Ewa-side bathhouse with similar renovations.	<a href="http://khon2.com/2016/01/07/many-ala-moana-beach-park-improvements-could-take-years-to-complete-2/">khon2.com/2016/01/07/many-ala-moana-beach-park-improvements-could-take-years-to-complete-2/</a>
Hire More Park Staff	Hired 14 permanent staff including groundskeepers and park caretakers	<a href="http://khon2.com/2017/03/20/ala-moana-beach-park-improvement-work-continues/">khon2.com/2017/03/20/ala-moana-beach-park-improvement-work-continues/</a>
Repair Magic Island's Exercise Path	Repairs and repaving of the pathway completed in 2016	<a href="http://khon2.com/2016/02/02/new-path-staffing-in-the-works-as-ala-moana-park-upgrades-continue/">khon2.com/2016/02/02/new-path-staffing-in-the-works-as-ala-moana-park-upgrades-continue/</a>
Beautify the Park	44 trees installed Along Ala Moana Blvd. in September 2016. Added the island's first designated sand volleyball courts to the Ewa-side of the park in October 2017. Informed public about dangers and damage caused by improperly dumping cooking coals through media coverage.	Tree planting ceremony for phase 1: <a href="http://www.ouralamoanapark.com/blog/community-action-9-point-plan">www.ouralamoanapark.com/blog/community-action-9-point-plan</a>  <a href="http://khon2.com/2016/08/08/city-to-plant-dozens-of-trees-as-part-of-ala-moana-park-improvements/">http://khon2.com/2016/08/08/city-to-plant-dozens-of-trees-as-part-of-ala-moana-park-improvements/</a>  <a href="http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2006/Jan/14/In/FP601140337.html">http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2006/Jan/14/In/FP601140337.html</a>  <a href="http://khon2.com/2017/11/10/sand-volleyball-courts-open-at-ala-moana-regional-park/">http://khon2.com/2017/11/10/sand-volleyball-courts-open-at-ala-moana-regional-park/</a>
Fix Rocky Areas of the Beach	Volunteers and park staff relocated beach rocks/coral on two separate occasions in October 2016. Maintenance staff also conducted sand pushing following the relocation efforts.	Beach Rocks Cleanup by Volunteers: <a href="http://khon2.com/2016/10/08/city-tackles-beach-erosion-problem-driven-by-tourism-revenue/">khon2.com/2016/10/08/city-tackles-beach-erosion-problem-driven-by-tourism-revenue/</a>

**Table 1: Progression of the 9-Point Community Action Plan**

Actions	Progress	Media Source
Irrigation Improvements	Work on the irrigation system began at the Great Lawn on November 1, 2016 and is expected to be completed by February 2018. Magic Island irrigation improvements scheduled to begin after current project.	<a href="http://khon2.com/2016/11/01/irrigation-system-upgrade-begins-at-ala-moana-regional-park/">khon2.com/2016/11/01/irrigation-system-upgrade-begins-at-ala-moana-regional-park/</a>
Make the Park Safer	Converted park lights to brighter, more efficient LED lights, added security staff to monitor the park during afternoon and evening hours, added security gates and screens to bathroom facilities, and added security cameras to two bathhouses. Following the installation of the cameras, staff have not noticed vandalism in these two facilities.	<a href="http://khon2.com/2016/11/21/security-cameras-to-begin-operating-at-ala-moana-regional-park-comfort-stations/">khon2.com/2016/11/21/security-cameras-to-begin-operating-at-ala-moana-regional-park-comfort-stations/</a>  <a href="http://www.civilbeat.org/2016/02/ala-moana-park/">http://www.civilbeat.org/2016/02/ala-moana-park/</a>
Build a playground	Not started	<a href="http://www.staradvertiser.com/2017/05/09/hawaii-news/playground-in-vision-for-ala-moana-park/?HSA=3cb75f3d5344fc1b633e164ad3987037f6f6c87f">http://www.staradvertiser.com/2017/05/09/hawaii-news/playground-in-vision-for-ala-moana-park/?HSA=3cb75f3d5344fc1b633e164ad3987037f6f6c87f</a>

**4.4.2 Enhance Alternative**

The enhance alternative includes all proposed improvements in the restore alternative with some changes to the existing conditions. This is the preferred alternative that was selected and the projects are identified in Section 4.3.

**4.4.3 Evolve Alternative**

The evolve alternative includes all proposed improvements in the restore and enhance alternatives and also conceptualizes a large-scale modernization of the Parks’ facilities. These additional improvements included:

- A large elevated curving promenade with steps and platforms down to the water’s edge on the Ala Wai Boat Harbor side of Magic Island.
- Modern sunbathing seating along the wall that separates the beach from the Ala Moana Park Drive.

- A multi-story parking structure where the outer shell would be designed to camouflage the concrete walls
- Decks and viewing areas over the ponds with access to the pond edge in some areas and wetland vegetation in other areas.
- Relocating the canoe hālau to Magic Island near the canoe launch ramp.
- Placing modern art features throughout the park.

These grandiose improvements were viewed as impacting the historic nature of the existing Parks. The art deco character of the Bridle Path Bridge, the Roosevelt portals and coral walls would not blend well with the modernized park features described above. Modernization of the Parks would attract more visitors and would not preserve the Parks' existing character. The community has expressed strong opinions to have the Parks remain as a local recreational resource. For these reasons, the evolve alternative was not considered further.

#### **4.4.4 No Action**

Under the "No Action" alternative, the City would continue to perform routine maintenance to the park grounds and facilities. The project area would continue to operate with existing facilities at their existing locations. Future increases in vehicular and foot traffic volume from population growth would create stress on facilities, grounds, and infrastructure. This intensified use could cause delays for parking spaces and prolonged closure of the Parks' amenities. A modest increase in routine maintenance may be possible, but not sufficient to meet future needs.

Environmentally, no improvement of the project area would result in no changes to the parks' physical and biological conditions and to the nearby waters. Existing land uses on the property would continue to operate as they do today.

Proceeding with the no action alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the project.

#### **4.5 TIMEFRAME**

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is expected to be completed by the end of 2018. Design of the park improvements will then begin. Once all land use, environmental, and construction permits and approvals, as well as financing, are secured, construction can commence.

#### **4.6 FUNDING SOURCE**

The proposed improvements will be paid for by the City's capital improvement project funds.

### **5 Summary of Affected Environment, Potential Impacts, and Proposed Mitigation Measures**

The EIS will discuss the relationship of the proposed action to land use plans, policies, and controls for the affected project area. It will identify and evaluate potential impacts of the proposed action and recommend mitigation measures to prevent or minimize any adverse impacts. Cumulative impacts will also be addressed in the EIS. Preliminary information about relevant resource areas is summarized below.

#### **5.1 EXISTING LAND USE**

The AMRP and Magic Island are public recreational parks used for various outdoor and community purposes. The two parks combined are equipped with six comfort stations that include showers either within the buildings or directly outside, seven standalone showers along the AMRP beach, a

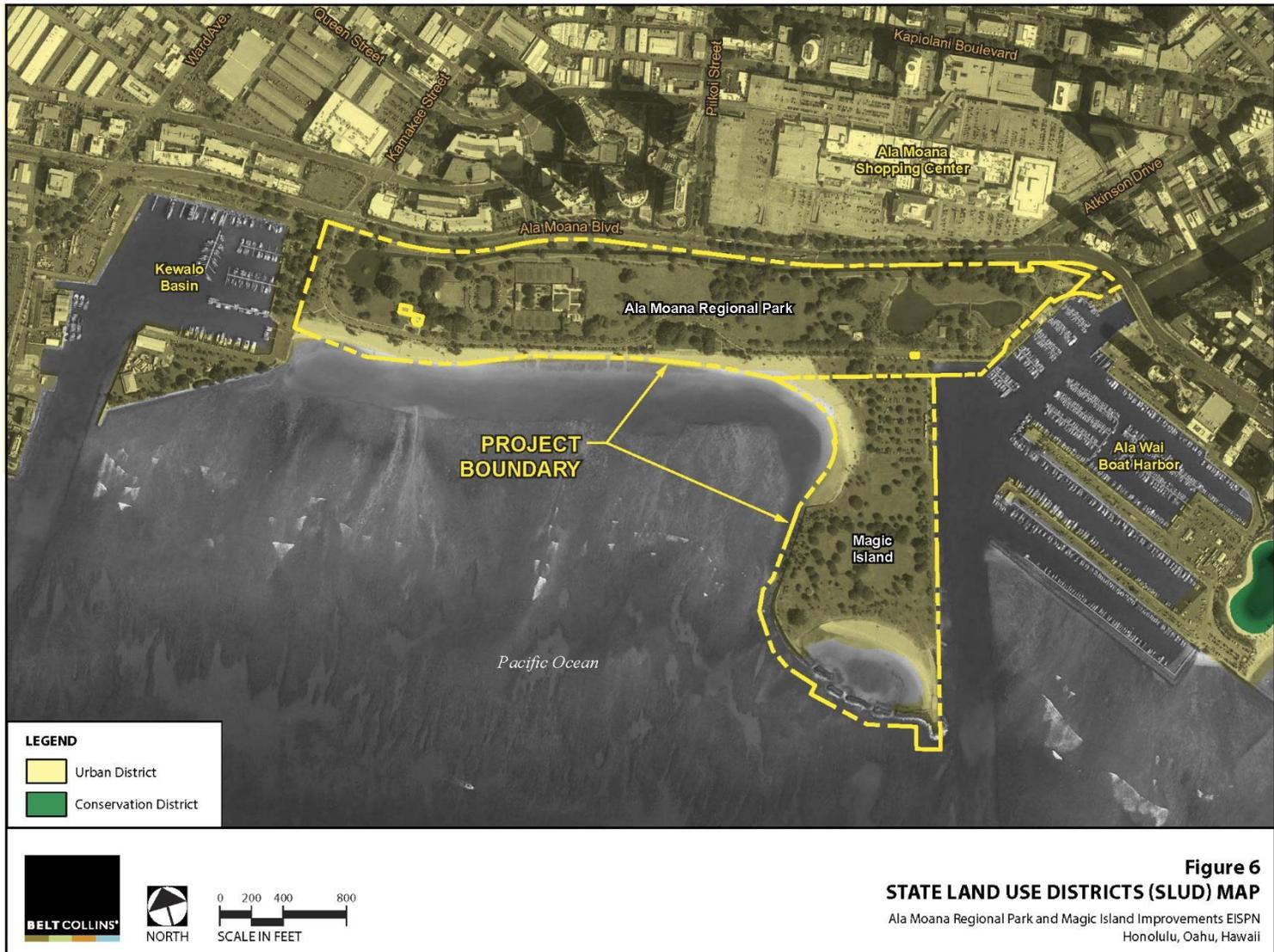
bowling lawn, ten tennis courts, large festival venue space at the Banyan Court and auditorium within McCoy Pavilion, exercise apparatus area, canoe storage, beach access, two concessions, pedestrian pathways, and free parking with approximately 950 stalls. Park users can use the open spaces on the lawn for picnicking, parties, gatherings, and other activities allowed by permits. The beach area of the Parks is available for sunbathing and water activities. The Parks also hosts annual events like the Fourth of July fireworks show, the Lantern Floating Festival, Greek Festival, and Dragon Boat Racing.

The entire project area is within the Urban State Land Use District and the City P-2, General Preservation District zone (Figure 6 and Figure 7). The intent of P-2 "...is to preserve and manage major open space and recreation lands and lands of scenic and other natural resource value. It is also the intent that lands designated urban by the state, but well-suited to the functions of providing visual relief and contrast to the city's built environment or serving as outdoor space for the public's use and enjoyment be zoned P-2 general preservation district. Areas unsuitable for other uses because of topographical considerations related to public health, safety and welfare concerns shall also be placed in this district."<sup>4</sup>

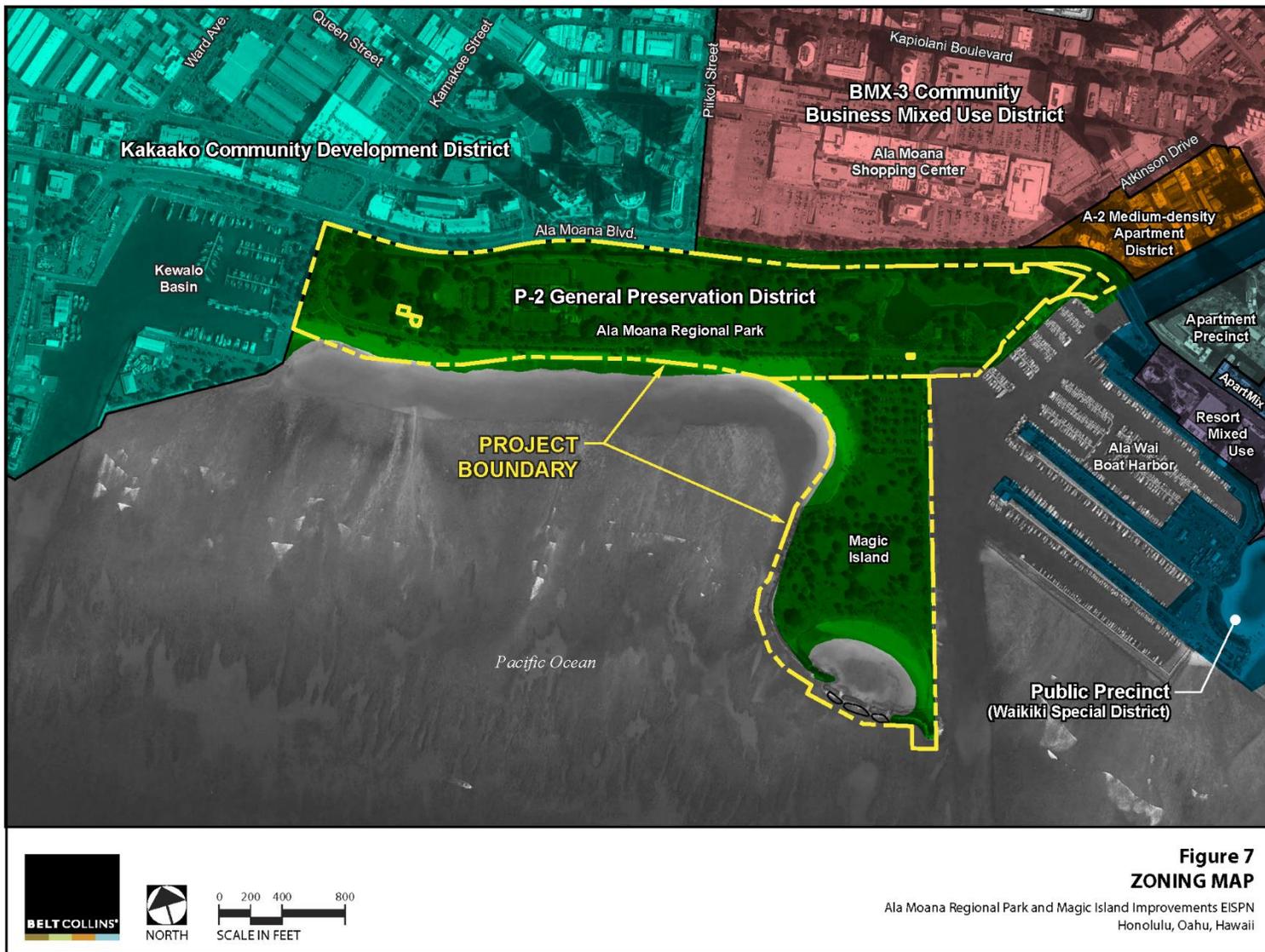
The proposed action is meant to improve land usage of the project area. There may be some short-term impacts during construction like temporary closures of sections of the project area, but the closures are expected to be phased over a period of time. Adverse direct impacts to the current land use resulting from the proposed action are not expected to be significant.

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<sup>4</sup> City and County of Honolulu. Chapter 21 Land Use Ordinance [LUO] 99-12. Section 21-3.40. Preservation districts – Purpose and intent.



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## 5.2 LAND OWNERSHIP

The project area consists of approximately 119 acres and is bounded by Kewalo Basin on the west, Ala Moana Boulevard to the north, the Ala Wai Boat Harbor to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the south. (Figure 1). The City is the primary owner of the majority of the project area and related structures (about 118 acres). The 119-acre project is divided into five parcels (see Table 2 for the land use and ownership breakdown) identified by Tax Map Key (TMK) (Figure 8).

**Table 2: Land Use and Ownership**

Property Name	Parcel Number	Address	Land Usage	Land Acreage
Ala Moana Regional Park, City and County of Honolulu, fee owner	(1) 2-3-037:001	1201 Ala Moana Boulevard	Public Park	75.21
State of Hawai'i, fee owner, under the control and management of the City and County of Honolulu (E.O. 1348)	(1)-2-3-037:002	1605 Ala Moana Boulevard	Maintenance Building and lot	0.857
Tasty Foods of Hawai'i, LTD lessee, City and County of Honolulu, fee owner	(1) 2-3-037:022	1401 Ala Moana Boulevard	Concession Stand	0.11
Tasty Foods of Hawai'i, LTD lessee, City and County of Honolulu, fee owner	(1) 2-3-037:023	1141 Ala Moana Boulevard	Concession Stand	0.17
Magic Island, City and County of Honolulu, fee owner	(1) 2-3-037:025	1365 Ala Moana Boulevard	Public Park	42.67
<b>Total land acreage (approximately)</b>				<b>119</b>

Source: City and County of Honolulu, Department of Budget and Fiscal Services Real Property Assessment Division, property records search at:

[http://qpublic9.qpublic.net/hi\\_honolulu\\_display.php?county=hi\\_honolulu&KEY=230370010000](http://qpublic9.qpublic.net/hi_honolulu_display.php?county=hi_honolulu&KEY=230370010000)

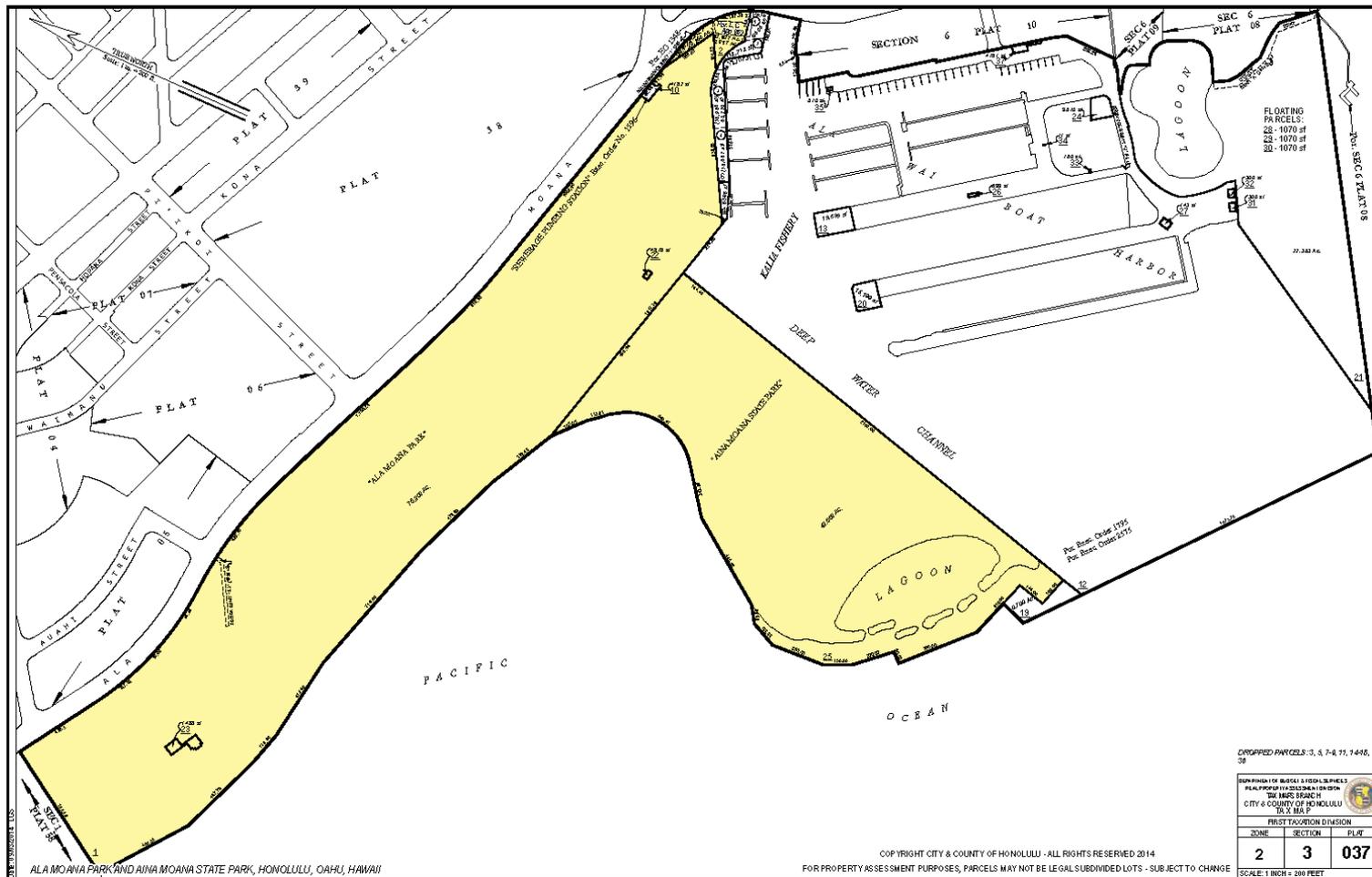
[http://qpublic9.qpublic.net/hi\\_honolulu\\_display.php?county=hi\\_honolulu&KEY=230370020000](http://qpublic9.qpublic.net/hi_honolulu_display.php?county=hi_honolulu&KEY=230370020000)

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[http://qpublic9.qpublic.net/hi\\_honolulu\\_display.php?county=hi\\_honolulu&KEY=230370250000](http://qpublic9.qpublic.net/hi_honolulu_display.php?county=hi_honolulu&KEY=230370250000)

Use of City funds and land, as well as the anticipated probable impacts from the proposed action are reasons an EIS is being prepared for this project. Adverse direct impacts to the land ownership resulting from the proposed action are not expected to be significant. The City is expected to retain ownership of the project area.



Source: City and County of Honolulu

**Figure 8**  
**TMK 2-3-037**

Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island Improvements EISP  
 Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

### **5.3 CLIMATE**

The climate for the project area is relatively consistent year-round. The Island of O‘ahu’s average temperatures range from 71° to 84° Fahrenheit.<sup>5</sup> Rainfall along the coastal areas of O‘ahu averages about 22 inches per year with a year-average humidity of 68 percent. The coldest month at the Parks is January and the warmest month is July. The winds in Hawai‘i are predominately trade winds that blow from the northeast to the southwest direction. The trade winds are most prominent during the summer months and are milder during the winter months. Trade winds occur when a North Pacific high-pressure system is in the area. The opposite of the trade winds are the Kona winds which come from the southeast to northwest. Kona winds usually bring rain and humid weather. The islands may also experience a heavier presence of vog in the air during Kona winds from volcanic activity on Hawai‘i island. These winds usually occur when a low-pressure center is northwest of the islands.

The proposed action is not expected to adversely affect the existing climate at the project area. The proposed action may improve the existing climate conditions by installing an upgraded irrigation system for the lawn and replacing the diseased trees and planting healthy trees.

### **5.4 GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND TOPOGRAPHY**

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the sediment within the project area consists primarily of Fill land (FL) (Figure 9). In the early 1920s, the shoreline in lower Honolulu, which included fishponds, saltpans, and swampland, was located just makai of Ala Moana Boulevard, and the AMRP was a shallow reef flat. In subsequent years, the fishponds, saltpans, and swampland were filled from the dredging of a channel near Kewalo Basin. Beach sand and Magic Island were later added creating the new shoreline in the 1960s.

Adverse direct impacts to the soils and topography resulting from the proposed action are not expected to be significant.

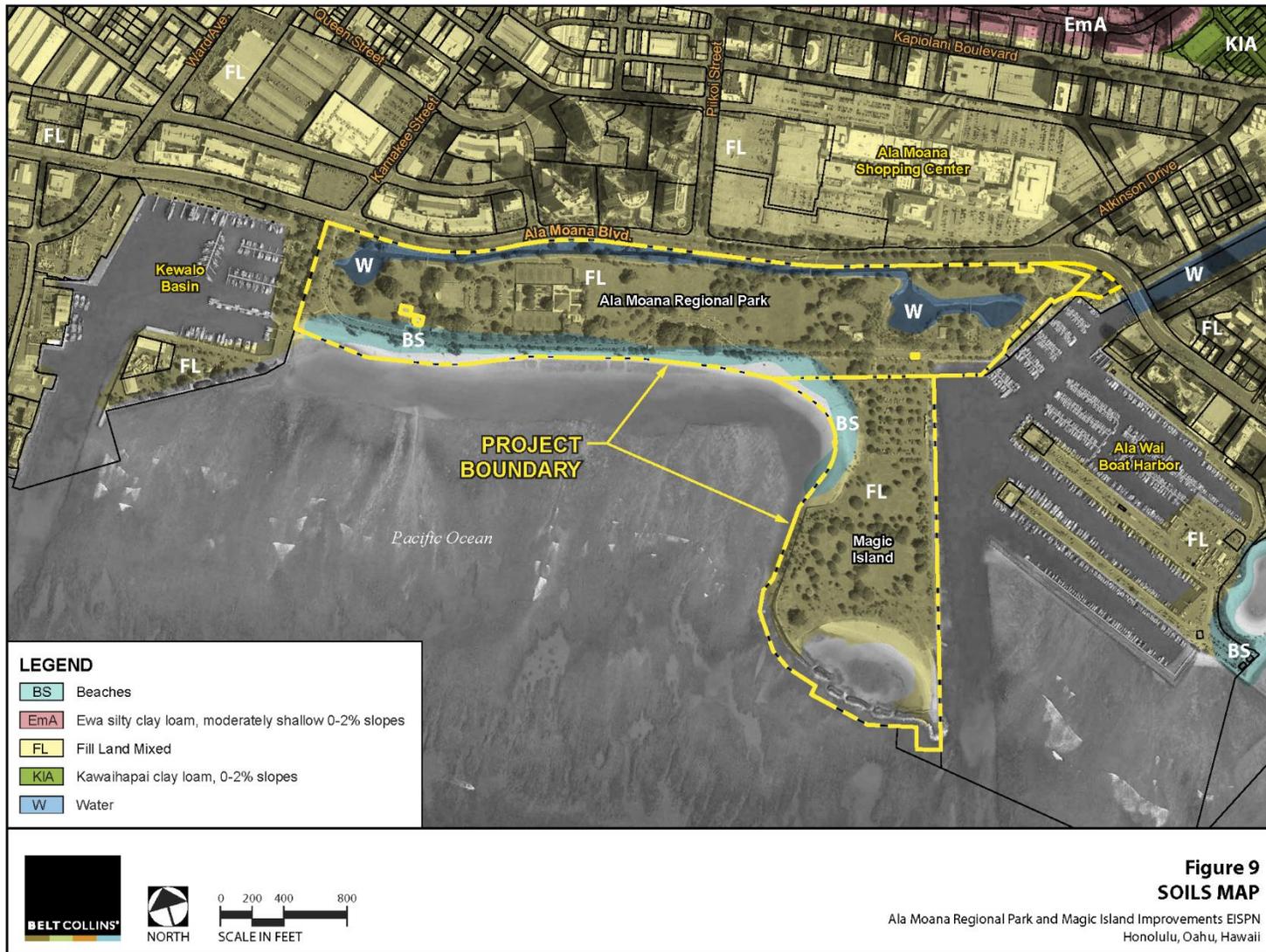
### **5.5 TERRESTRIAL BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The presence of terrestrial flora and fauna is abundant at the project area. Existing flora includes managed landscape with open grass fields and over 1,000 trees. Existing fauna generally consists of stray domestic animals and low-land urban birds. If there are threatened and endangered terrestrial species present in the project area, the results will be included in the biological survey that is in progress. An arborist tree inventory will also be finalized for the EIS. The full reports for both will accompany the EIS in the appendix.

Adverse direct impacts to terrestrial biota resulting from the proposed action are not expected to be significant.

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<sup>5</sup> State of Hawai‘i, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. November 2016. *Hawai‘i Facts & Figures*. Available at: [http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/library/facts/Facts\\_Figures\\_browsable.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/library/facts/Facts_Figures_browsable.pdf). Accessed 3.17.17.



## 5.6 MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Ala Moana Beach is a man-made shoreline that requires periodic sand replenishment. Wave action along the shore break especially during winter months has eroded the sand at an alarming rate. Sharp coral and slippery rocks are normally exposed during low tide making it hazardous for beach users entering and exiting the water. Sand replenishment work is proposed for the beach and will require offshore dredging in the nearby ocean. Sand replenishment was done recently for two projects at Waikīkī Beach and Kūhiō Beach. Both projects recovered sand directly offshore or adjacent to the project areas. A sand source investigation will be done to determine a suitable site to dredge the sand for Ala Moana Beach. Any sand placed on the shoreline will be tested to ensure that the material is not contaminated.

Marine biota within the offshore waters of Ala Moana beach is most likely in abundance and diversity. Threatened and endangered marine species may occasionally occur in or near the park water (e.g., threatened green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas* and endangered Hawaiian monk seal, *Monachus schauinslandi*). Other protected marine species are also present in the open ocean.

A marine biological survey will be conducted, and its findings and recommended mitigative measures will be included in the EIS. The study will include a biota survey, water quality assessment, and sediment testing. It is noted that sediments in the water come not only from runoffs from the nearby stormwater drains but also from flows from the Ala Wai Canal that discharge into the nearby Ala Wai Boat Harbor. Of particular focus, the study will determine whether any threatened or endangered marine species will be negatively affected; if that is the case, a quantitative analysis will be performed to determine the type, size, and number of such species in the area. Mitigation measures to minimize any impacts on species of concern will be discussed in the EIS.

Machines used for underwater dredging may be used to excavate sand from areas located offshore. As a result, marine or underwater noise is expected to be generated and could adversely affect possible threatened or endangered marine life in the area. Construction methodology for the project will be evaluated to determine mitigative measures to minimize underwater noise impacts.

Adverse direct impacts to surface water quality resulting from the proposed action are not expected to be significant. Any generation of sediment plumes is expected to be controlled by Best Management Practices (BMPs) and turbidity control devices, such as silt curtains, cofferdams, etc., to prevent widespread effects in the neighboring harbor and drifts to the open ocean.

## 5.7 WATER RESOURCES

The project area is located within the Ala Wai watershed. Mānoa and Pālolo valley watersheds drain into the Ala Wai Canal. Streams carry surface water from upland areas to the Ala Wai Canal, eventually discharging into the Ala Wai Boat Harbor that is adjacent to the Parks. There are three surface water features located within the project area that function as the Parks' drainage features. The Parks are covered with mostly landscaped grass, beach sand and asphalt that usually absorb stormwater during occasional to normal rain. However, during heavier storms, stormwater sheet flows to the nearby open waters (Kewalo Basin, Ala Wai Boat Harbor, Pacific Ocean) or the surface water features within the project area (drainage canal and the two ponds). Several drainage inlets are located throughout the Parks.

Groundwater accounts for almost 99 percent of Hawai'i's domestic water and about 50 percent of all freshwater used in the state.<sup>6</sup> The Ala Wai watershed area contributes to both the Nu'uano

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<sup>6</sup> Gingerich, Stephen B. and Delwyn S. Oki. 2000. Ground Water in Hawai'i. Obtained from [www.higp.hawaii.edu/~scott/GG104/Readings/Gingerich\\_Oki\\_2000.pdf](http://www.higp.hawaii.edu/~scott/GG104/Readings/Gingerich_Oki_2000.pdf)

Aquifer and the Pālolo Aquifer. According to the State of Hawai'i Commission on Water Resource Management, the Pālolo Aquifer generates a groundwater sustainable yield of five million gallons per day (MGD) and Nu'uano Aquifer generates 14 MGD. The larger Honolulu groundwater system generates a sustainable yield of 50 MGD.<sup>7</sup>

The BWS has established a No-Pass Line on O'ahu to demarcate the boundary between non-potable brackish and potable fresh groundwater. Groundwater beneath areas that are seaward of the line are considered to be of lower value as a drinking water source. After the Department of Health (DOH) was assigned primacy by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Underground Injection Control regulations, DOH also accepted responsibility to control activities that could impact potable aquifers landward of the No Pass Line. The project area is seaward of the No Pass Line which is seaward of Kapi'olani Boulevard.

The proposed action may cause direct impact to the surface waters located in the project area. Various concepts and alternatives are being considered for these features that includes partially covering the drainage canal. These alternatives will be discussed in the DEIS, and will include consultation with agencies and interested stakeholders.

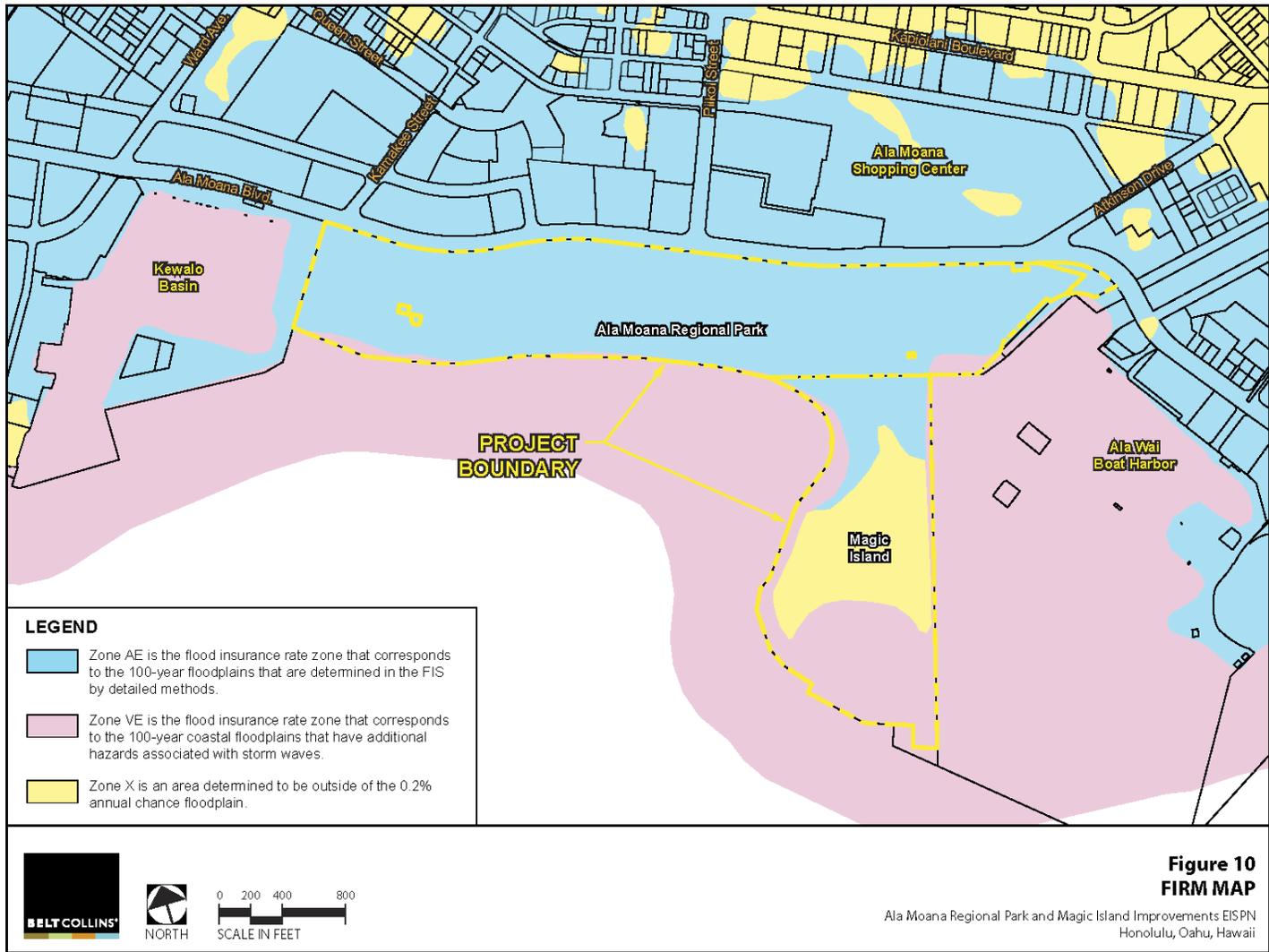
Adverse direct impacts to groundwater quality resulting from the proposed action are not expected to be significant because the project area is below the No Pass Line.

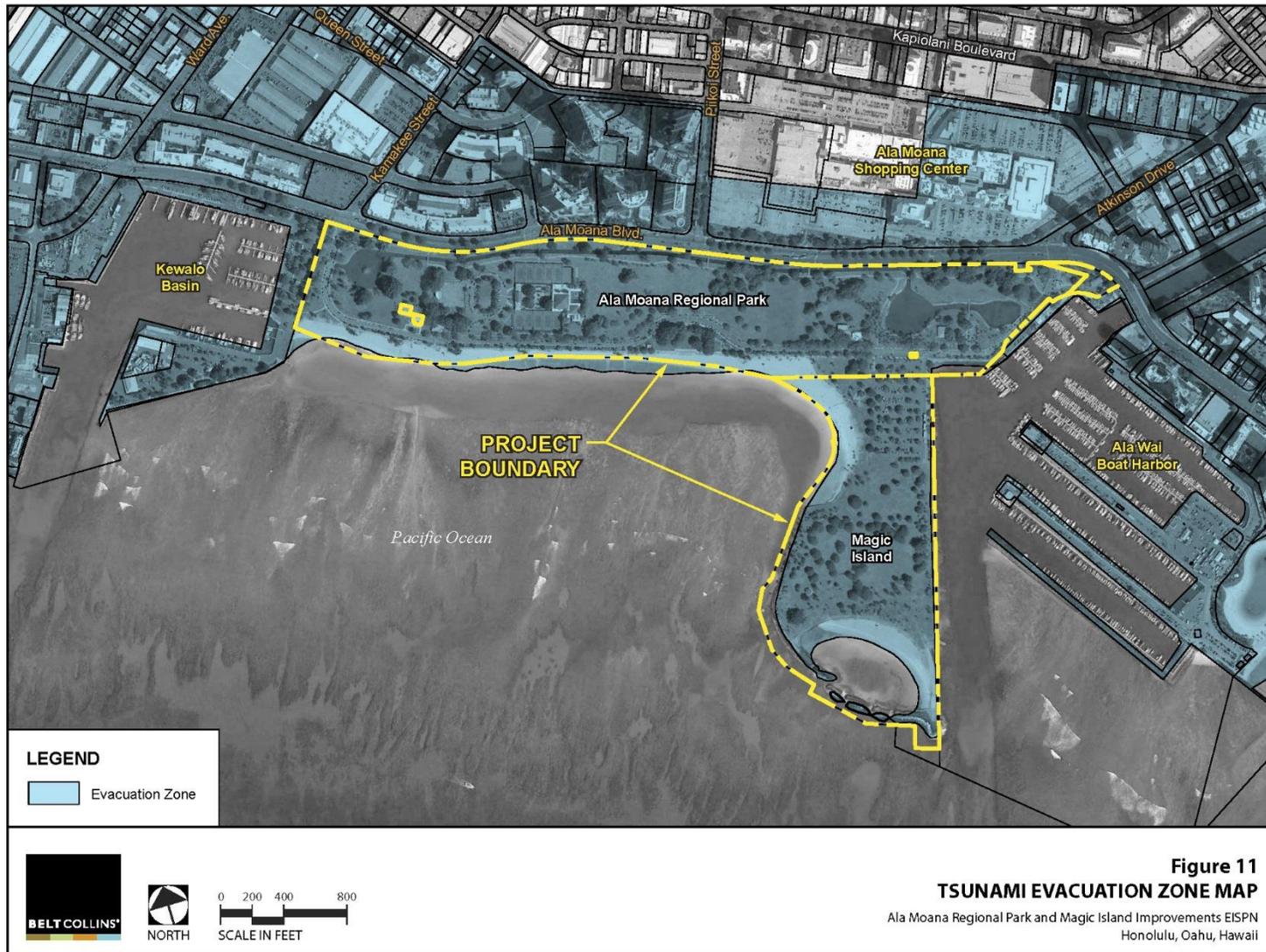
## **5.8 NATURAL HAZARDS**

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Honolulu, the AMRP is located within the Zone AE floodway (Figure 10). Zone AE is the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the 100-year floodplains that are determined in the flood insurance study (FIS) by detailed methods. The lagoon area fronting Magic Island is in Zone VE. Zone VE is the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the 100-year coastal floodplains that have additional hazards associated with storm waves. The project area is also located within the tsunami evacuation zone, as identified by the Hawai'i Civil Defense (Figure 11).

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<sup>7</sup> State of Hawai'i, Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). 2016. [dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrm/groundwater/](http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrm/groundwater/)





Earthquakes could occur and cause damage to the project area depending on the earthquake's epicenter location and magnitude. Most of the earthquakes in the islands occur at the far eastern end of the Hawaiian island chain where rift zones and volcanoes are still active. Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with site-specific geotechnical and structural engineering investigations and would comply with applicable seismic and flood design criteria.

## **5.9 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Cultural resources include historic archaeological sites/features and buildings listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), or the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places (HRHP), and possible cultural practices related to fishing. The "Ala Moana Park" is listed on the HRHP as State Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP) # 50-80-14-1388 (part of the County of Honolulu's Art Deco Parks Thematic Group). This list includes all original structural features of the park, like the Sports Pavilion, the Ala Wai Equestrian Bridge, the Roosevelt Portals and the Lawn Bowling Green that are over 50 years old. The five concrete base and metal railing bridges that span the canal and Hawaiian Pond are not considered historic and were built in the 1980s and 1990s. A nomination to the NRHP for the Ala Moana Park was filed in 1988, but was never listed. Magic Island is not considered part of the historic Ala Moana Park.

An architectural study of the project area's structural features is currently in progress and results of the study will be part of the EIS. Some of the features will be considered for restoration.

Archaeological literature will be researched for additional cultural resources related to the development of the AMRP and the immediate areas around it. The proposed action may impact some of the historic features of the AMRP, and those impacts will be reviewed in the DEIS. Short-term mitigation measures are expected during the construction phase.

## **5.10 VISUAL AND AESTHETIC RESOURCES**

Visual resources include scenic vistas, scenic overlooks, unique topography, or visual landmarks having scenic value. Improvements to the Parks' visual and aesthetic resources are not expected to be impacted by the proposed action. The City proposes to remove diseased trees and plant more trees, as well as improve the irrigation system. The City also proposes to reconfigure the parking along the Ala Moana Park Drive to improve the view of the ocean.

Adverse impacts to visual and aesthetic resources are not anticipated as a result of the proposed action. Construction-related equipment and structures are expected to be temporarily on the property during implementation of the improvements.

## **5.11 RECREATION**

The main recreational amenities at the Parks are the large open spaces and beaches. According to recent public outreach meetings, the highest recreational use of the Parks is water related. The water recreation focus groups suggested better management of suitable areas for calm water activities like paddle boarding and swimming. The buoyed areas may need updating as safety has been an issue near the reef.

Figure 12 shows some of the typical recreational uses of the project area. Park users mentioned that they would like to have more land recreation at the Parks like beach volleyball, kickball, softball, dodge ball, flag football etc. Proposed improvements to the Parks include better lighting for night time use and an upgraded irrigation system to maintain the Great Lawn. These improvements are intended to endure heavy usage, increase accessibility, and update the Parks for evolving recreational use.



**Figure 12**  
**RECREATIONAL USES**

Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island Improvements EISP  
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

Adverse impacts to recreation resulting from the park improvements are not expected to be significant. There may be some short-term impacts during construction like closures of certain areas of the Parks and beach. Overall, components of the proposed action are meant to improve the recreational conditions at the Parks and beach. The EIS will assess impacts on recreation for both ocean and land. The various recreational groups that use the Parks will be consulted as part of the EIS process.

### **5.12 SOCIO-ECONOMIC SETTING**

The socio-economic environment is a reflection of economic and social factors on the island. The existing socio-economic environment of Waikīkī, the Island of Oʻahu, and state, including population, and economy will be assessed in the EIS.

### **5.13 PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND SERVICE**

Public health and safety have been identified as concerns at the project area. Current concerns at the Parks are the noticeable presence of homeless, vandalism, bridges in need of repairs, minor theft crimes, and low-lite areas along pathways. The City plans to minimize some of these concerns immediately with the 9-Point Community Action Plan. Surveillance cameras were installed at the park bathrooms to deter further vandalism from happening.<sup>8</sup> There are two Ocean Safety offices and five lifeguard stations, one at the Magic Island lagoon and four along the AMRP beach. Plans to move one of the Ocean Safety offices to a more strategic location is being considered.

The AMRP is currently closed to the public at night between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Magic Island and parking lot closes two hours earlier at 8 p.m. Park closure during the night is meant to deter homeless from staying in the Parks, and to prevent crime. The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) may monitor the Parks during closed hours. Response from the HPD would come from District 1 (Honolulu) police stations. There are at least five fire stations within a mile radius of the project area. The Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) would normally provide emergency response and rescue relating to water accidents or distress. Straub Clinic and Hospital and Kaiser Permanente are the two emergency medical facilities within a mile radius of the Parks.

Adverse impacts to public health and safety resulting from the Parks' improvements are not expected to be significant. Components of the proposed action are meant to improve the safety conditions at the Parks and to provide better access for emergency vehicles and personnel. The EIS will assess impacts on public services, including police and fire protection, civil defense, and health care. The various public agencies providing these services will be consulted as part of the EIS process.

### **5.14 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE**

Direct adverse impacts to air quality resulting from the construction activities at the Parks are not expected to be significant. BMPs will be identified to control air quality impacts during construction. Emissions associated with construction of the proposed improvements would be minimal and temporary. Stationary source emissions large enough to be of any concern are regulated by DOH, as required by HAR 11-60.1. There are no stationary sources generating emissions in the Parks. Fugitive dust and earth-moving activities would be minimized in accordance with HAR 11-60.1-33. Potential indirect air quality impacts at the Parks will be evaluated in the EIS.

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<sup>8</sup> Web Staff. "Security cameras installed at Ala Moana Regional Park comfort stations." *KHON2 News*. November 21, 2016. <http://khon2.com/2016/11/21/security-cameras-to-begin-operating-at-ala-moana-regional-park-comfort-stations/>

Some of the ambient noise related to normal park activities are expected to be sounds of traffic, water movement, birds, wind through trees, and voices.

Adverse impacts to the noise environment resulting from the improvements are not expected to be significant. Construction-related noise will be temporary, and activities will be conducted in compliance with state regulations (i.e., noise permit or variance would be obtained, as required). Potential underwater noise associated with the offshore dredging is discussed in Section 5.6 of this document.

### **5.15 CIRCULATION, TRAFFIC, AND PARKING**

The project area receives a regular amount of vehicular and foot traffic every day. Figure 13 shows the parking locations that are considered for improvements. The weekends, school breaks, and big surf days usually attract more visitors to the Parks. A parking study was completed and it was used to substantiate the need for additional parking and propose options for areas where additional parking is possible. A traffic study will assess baseline traffic condition in and around the project area. It will evaluate the parking reconfiguration and lane options and its impact to the current ambient traffic. Results of both studies will be presented in the EIS along with any needed mitigation to avoid or minimize associated impacts.

Adverse impacts to the circulation and traffic environment resulting from the improvements are not expected to be significant. Construction-related activity to improve parking management will be temporary, and activities will be conducted in compliance with state regulations and the Department of Transportation Services (DTS).

### **5.16 INFRASTRUCTURE**

The majority of the project area is open space that is heavily used for recreational purposes. Infrastructure at the Parks, includes water supply for irrigation and drinking water, wastewater collection system, drainage, electricity, communications, and solid waste collection. Adverse impacts to infrastructure are not anticipated as a result of the proposed action. The improvements will not significantly increase demand on the existing utilities.



**Figure 13  
PARKING**

Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island Improvements EISPN  
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

## **6 Federal, State and County Land Use, and Environmental Polices**

### **6.1 FEDERAL LAWS**

While the EIS is written according to HRS Chapter 343 and its implementing rules, it is also intended to provide preliminary information to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a Department of the Army (DA) permit. For the AMRP and Magic Island project, the Chapter 343 law is triggered by the use of City land and funds.

In-water construction for sand replenishment will require a USACE Permit in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 404; the State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Water Quality Certification (WQC), Section 401; and compliance with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT), Office of Planning (OP), Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Act, Endangered Species Act, and other applicable laws and regulations. A major part of the in-water construction will involve offshore dredging to restore the shoreline. Improvements to the canal along the northern border of the AMRP will also require these permits, including review by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD).

#### **6.1.1 Rivers and Harbors Act Of 1899, Section 10**

The Rivers and Harbors Act is the oldest federal environmental law in the U.S. This Act makes it illegal to discharge refuse matter of any kind into the navigable waters of the U.S. without a permit. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act makes it illegal to excavate, fill, or alter the course, condition, or capacity of any port, harbor, channel, or other navigable water without a permit. Although many activities covered by the Rivers and Harbor Act are regulated under the CWA, the Rivers and Harbors Act retains independent vitality. The Act is administered by USACE.

The proposed project will involve activities within navigable waters of the U.S., namely the AMRP ponds and canal, and the neighboring water bodies. Section 5.6 and 5.7 of this EISPN describes the water resources at the project area. A DA Permit from the USACE will be required for this project to adhere to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

#### **6.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) Of 1918**

The purpose of the MBTA is to protect migratory birds and birds native to the U.S. The MBTA prohibits the unregulated "taking" of covered species, which is defined as "hunting, pursuing, killing, possessing or transporting any migratory bird, nest, egg or part thereof." The MBTA extends to all bird species native to the U.S., even those that are not migratory. Over 1,000 species are currently protected. The MBTA is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

A biological resource survey will be conducted for the EIS, which will include terrestrial flora and fauna surveys as well as aquatic surveys in the project area that are protected under the MBTA. As outlined in Section 5.5, the project is unlikely to have any adverse impact on the protected species.

#### **6.1.3 Coastal Zone Management Act Of 1972**

The federal CZM Act of 1972 establishes a program for management, development, and protection of the nation's coastal zone. The program is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. States are authorized to develop and implement their own CZM Programs.

The Hawai'i CZM Program is administered by the Office of Planning, under DBEDT. HRS Chapter 205A-1 establishes that all lands within the State are within the CZM area. The individual counties of the State are responsible for identifying and establishing the Special Management Areas (SMA) and shoreline setback areas of their jurisdiction.

#### **6.1.4 Endangered Species Act Of 1973**

USFWS enacted the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 to protect critically imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend from extinction. The ESA's provisions encompass plants and invertebrates as well as vertebrates. The USFWS and the NOAA administer the ESA.

Section 7 of the ESA requires that federally-funded projects not jeopardize species listed as threatened or endangered, or adversely modify designated critical habitats. While this project is not federally funded, State regulations protecting endangered and threatened species (HRS Chapter 195D) do apply. A biological resource survey will be conducted for the EIS, which will include terrestrial flora and fauna surveys as well as aquatic surveys. As outlined in Section 5.5, the project is unlikely to have any adverse impact on the protected species.

### **6.2 STATE POLICIES AND STATUTES**

The following is a brief summary of the various state polices and statutes that exist in Hawai'i. Compatibility with components of these policies and statutes will be addressed in more detail in the DEIS.

#### **6.2.1 State Land Use Law**

The State Legislature adopted the State Land Use Law in 1961 to protect Hawai'i's valuable lands from development that resulted in only short-term gains for a few and long-term losses to the income and growth potential of the State's economy. The State Land Use Law (HRS Chapter 205) established the Land Use Commission and placed all lands in one of four land use districts: Urban, Agricultural, Conservation, or Rural. The AMRP is in the Urban district. According to HRS Chapter 205-2(b),<sup>9</sup> "Urban districts shall include activities or uses as provided by the ordinances or regulations of the county within which the urban district is situated." The parks in Hawai'i are both State and County operated. For the circumstance of the AMRP, the City has jurisdiction. The existing and proposed uses for the project area are permitted in the designated Urban District. As such, the proposed action would take place in an urban environment where development and foreseeable growth are anticipated and planned.

#### **6.2.2 Hawai'i State Plan**

In 1978, the State Legislature adopted the Hawai'i State Planning Act (Planning Act) as HRS Chapter 226 to establish direction and provide long-range planning for the State. The Planning Act consists of a series of broad goals, objectives, and policies that serve as guidelines for the State's future long-term growth and development. The Planning Act provides a basis for determining priorities and allocating limited resources. It also seeks to improve coordination of federal, state, and county plans, policies, programs, projects, and regulatory activities. Furthermore, the Planning Act establishes a system for plan formulation and program coordination to provide for an integration of all major State and County activities.

The Planning Act is divided into three sections: Part I—Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives and Policies; Part II—Planning Coordination and Implementation; and Part III—Priority Guidelines. Part I of the Planning Act consists of three overall themes: (1) individual and family self-sufficiency; (2) social and economic mobility; and (3) community or social well-being. These themes are considered "basic functions of society" and goals toward which government must strive (HRS §226-3). Objectives and policies focus on general topic areas, including population, economy, physical environment, facility systems, and socio-cultural advancement.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> State of Hawai'i. 2007. *Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 205-2(b), Districting and classification of lands.*

<sup>10</sup> Objectives and policies of the State Plan are listed in HRS Chapter 226-5 through 226-27.

Part II of the Planning Act primarily addresses internal government policies to help streamline, coordinate, and implement various plans and processes between governmental agencies. It seeks to eliminate or consolidate burdensome or duplicative governmental requirements imposed on business, where public health, safety, and welfare would not be adversely affected.

Part III of the Planning Act establishes overall priority guidelines to address areas of statewide concern (HRS §226-101). The overall direction and focus are on improving the quality of life for Hawai'i's present and future population through the pursuit of desirable courses of action (HRS §226-102).

### **6.2.3 Hawai'i Climate Change Initiative: Act 286 Of 2012**

The State of Hawai'i recognizes the importance of climate change. Act 286 of 2012 amended the State Planning Law (HRS Chapter 226) to include climate change adaptation as one of seven areas of statewide concern crucial to the quality of life. Ten priority guidelines were adopted. The guidelines oversee outreach, stewardship, monitoring and the development of knowledge and strategies that integrate climate change adaptation into state activities.

### **6.2.4 State Functional Plans**

The purpose of the State Functional Plans is to supplement the policies and procedures of the Hawai'i State Plan in further detail. The State Functional Plans were designed in the early 1980s and adopted by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Committees were developed for each functional plan that involve community leaders who are appointed by the governor. These committees hold a forum to discuss the matters within their functional plan that relates to budget, executing actions and implementing a timeframe. The functional plans include: Agriculture, Conservation Lands, Employment, Energy, Health, Higher Education, Historic Preservation, Housing, Recreation, Tourism, Transportation, and Human Services. This project coincides with the policies of the State Functional Plans. The project will revitalize one of the few large open park spaces on O'ahu and ensure its reliability for recreational use.

### **6.2.5 State Environmental Policy**

The State Environmental Policy under HRS Chapter 344 establishes an environmental policy that: (1) encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between people and their environment; (2) promotes efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere; (3) stimulates the health and welfare of humanity; and (4) enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the people of Hawai'i.

### **6.2.6 Section 401 Water Quality Certification**

A Section 401 WQC is a statement which asserts that a proposed discharge resulting from an activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. Under Section 401 of the CWA, the DOH Clean Water Branch (CWB) is responsible for issuing or denying Section 401 WQCs for any project that requires a federal license or permit that may result in a water pollutant discharge to State surface waters. Since the proposed project will involve navigable waters of the U.S. and requires a DA permit from USACE, a Section 401 WQC will also be required. Section 401 WQC is regulated under HAR Chapter 11-54, Water Quality Standards.

### **6.2.7 Stream Channel Alteration Permit**

The Stream Channel Alteration Permit (SCAP) is administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Commission on Water Resource Management. As outlined in HAR Chapter 13-169-50, no stream channel shall be altered until a SCAP is issued by the commission. In this context, channel alteration means to "obstruct, diminish, destroy, modify, or relocate a stream

channel; to change the direction of flow of water in a stream channel; to place any material or structures in a stream channel; or to remove any material or structures from a stream channel.”<sup>11</sup>

### **6.2.8 Hawai'i Water Pollution Law**

The Hawai'i Water Pollution Law,<sup>12</sup> which provides a comprehensive regulatory program for discharges<sup>13</sup> of pollution to the waters of Hawai'i, establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program required under the CWA, as amended. Permits covered under this program are issued by CWB. The CWB is responsible for reviewing and approving project compliance with HRS Chapter 342D (Water Pollution), HAR Chapter 11-55 (Water Pollution Control), and HAR Chapter 11-54 (Water Quality Standards). Noncompliance with water quality requirements contained in HAR, Chapter 11-54, and/or permitting requirements, specified in HAR, Chapter 11-55, may be subject to penalties of \$25,000 per day per violation.

The proposed project could generate discharges of stormwater runoff from its construction site to State surface waters and as a result would require a NPDES permit for construction activity.

### **6.2.9 HRS Chapter 6E, Historic Preservation**

The Ala Moana Park (SIHP # 50-80-14-1388) was listed on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places in 1988 and is designated as a “significant historic property” under HAR Title 13. The project is required to comply with a review and consultation with the SHPD pursuant of HRS Chapter 6E. Specifically, Chapter 6E-42<sup>14</sup> (Review of proposed projects) states “Before any agency or officer of the State or its political subdivisions approves any project involving a permit, license, certificate, land use change, subdivision, or other entitlement for use, which may affect historic property, aviation artifacts, or a burial site, the agency or office shall advise the department and prior to any approval allow the department an opportunity for review and comment on the effect of the proposed project on historic properties, aviation artifacts, or burial sites, consistent with section 6E-43, including those listed in the Hawai'i register of historic places.”

## **6.3 COUNTY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

County polices and statutes are summarized below and the compatibility with the components will be addressed in the DEIS.

### **6.3.1 O'ahu General Plan**

The City's General Plan, which was last amended in 2002, is comprised of 11 sections relating to: Population; Economic Activity; Natural Environment; Housing; Transportation and Utilities; Energy; Physical Development and Urban Design; Public Safety; Health and Education; Culture and Recreation; and Government Operations and Fiscal Management. In regards to energy, Objective A is “to maintain an adequate, dependable, and economical supply of energy for O'ahu residents.”

### **6.3.2 Primary Urban Center Development Plan (PUC DP)**

The PUC DP (2004), which encompasses the proposed project area, is one of eight regional plans based on the O'ahu General Plan that establish more detailed policies to shape growth in the urban core of the island. The Development Plan identifies five major vision elements:

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<sup>11</sup> State of Hawai'i. 1988. *Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Title 13, Chapter 169, Protection of Instream Uses of Water.*

<sup>12</sup> State of Hawai'i. 2010. *Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 342D, Water Pollution.*

<sup>13</sup> Discharge definition: It includes, but is not limited to, allowing the following pollutants to enter State waters: solid waste, sewage, chemicals, biological material, rock/sand/dirt, construction debris, fugitive dust, spray paint, industrial wastes, concrete, sealant, epoxy, heat, agricultural waste, and washing/cleaning effluent.

<sup>14</sup> State of Hawai'i. 1998. *Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 6E-42, Review of proposed projects.*

1. Honolulu's natural, cultural, and scenic resources are protected and enhanced.
2. Livable neighborhoods have business districts, parks and plazas, and walkable streets.
3. The PUC offers in-town housing choices for people of all ages and incomes.
4. Honolulu is the Pacific's leading city and travel destination.
5. A balanced transportation system provides excellent mobility.

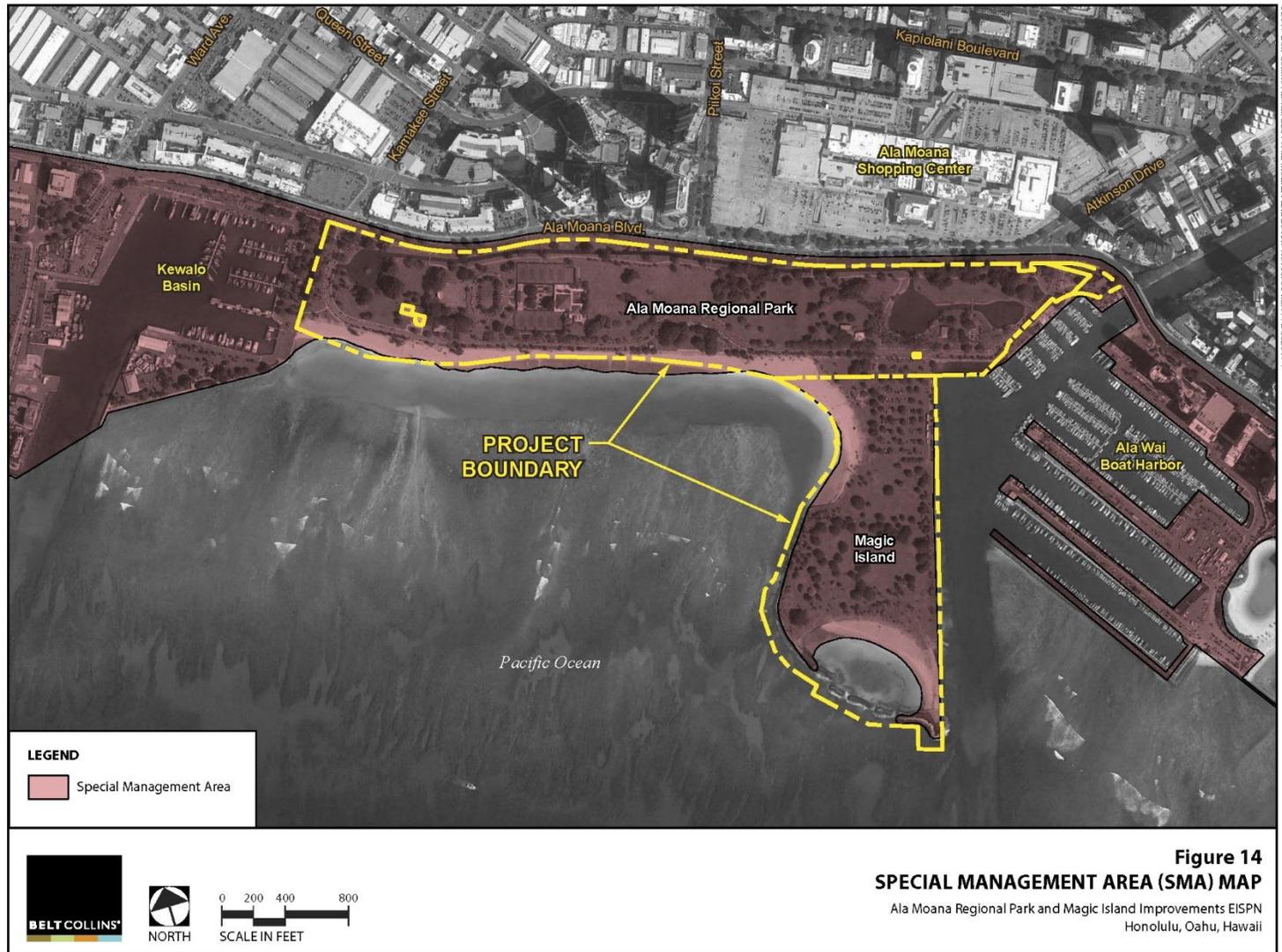
### **6.3.3 City Land Use Ordinance**

The City's *Land Use Ordinance (LUO)* establishes zoning regulations, which regulate the use of land and provide for appropriate controls and review of proposed land uses. The LUO is designed to accomplish the goals and objectives in the O'ahu General Plan and PUC DP.

The project area involves work in public lands in zone P-2 General Preservation District. Preservation districts are intended to preserve and manage major open space lands and lands of scenic and other natural resource value.

### **6.3.4 Special Management Area (SMA)**

Although the SMAs originated under the federal CZM and Hawai'i CZM Programs, the counties in Hawai'i regulate and administer the SMAs in their respective jurisdictions. On O'ahu, the SMA is administered by Department of Planning and Permitting, City and County of Honolulu (DPP). The proposed project area is within the SMA boundary (Figure 14) and would be subject to the City's SMA rules and regulations.



## 7 Required Permits and Approvals

Improvements at the Parks will be consistent with applicable federal, state, and county land use plans and policies, which will be specifically addressed in the EIS.

DOH-established Water Quality Standards are set forth in HAR 11-54. Ala Moana Beach is classified as Class A marine waters. The objective of Class A waters is that their use for recreational purposes and aesthetic enjoyment be protected. Other uses are permitted if they are compatible with the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and with recreation in and on these waters.

A Conservation District Use Permit from the State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) is expected to be required for the shoreline replenishment activities.

In summary, the following permits and approvals will be required before construction on the project can begin.

**Table 3: List of Entitlements**

Permits or Approvals	Regulatory Agency
<b>Federal</b>	
U.S. Department of Army Permit	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
<b>State</b>	
Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Department of Health
Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Federal Consistency Certification	Office of Planning
Conservation District Use Permit	Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, Board of Land and Natural Resources
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Permit	Department of Health
Chapter 6E Review	State Historic Preservation Division, Department of Land and Natural Resources
<b>City</b>	
Special Management Area Use Permit	Department of Planning and Permitting

## 8 EIS Determination

The anticipated probable impacts from the proposed AMRP and Magic Island improvements call for the preparation of an EIS instead of an environmental assessment. The parks are considered to be public facilities and some of these proposed improvements could attract potentially more visitation thus increasing effects on public facilities. This EISPN has been prepared in accordance with Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, Chapter 200, HAR (Environmental Impact Statement Rules).

## 9 Public Outreach

Early consultation on the project has been carried out with various agencies and stakeholder groups as part of the scoping process for the AMRP Master Plan. The first public informational meeting was held on March 10, 2015 to provide opportunities for the community to obtain information on the proposed action and to provide their concerns about changes to the Parks. A

second public meeting was held on April 28, 2016 to show the community some of the improvements being considered at the Parks, based on what the development team heard at the first meeting. As a result of these public interactions, substantial input from agencies and the public was obtained. With the information received through this outreach, the distribution of this EISPN, and subsequent consultations, environmental concerns should be sufficiently identified prior to finalization of the EIS.

Consulted parties, the City's public informational meetings, and the parties to be consulted with distribution of this EISPN are identified in the following section.

## **9.1 EISPN DISTRIBUTION LIST**

Governmental agencies, elected officials, media, and special interest/stakeholder groups who will be provided a copy of this preparation notice are listed below.

### **Federal Agencies**

- Department of Agriculture National Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Homeland Security Coast Guard
- Department of Interior National Parks Service
- Department of the Navy
- Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration
- Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration
- Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### **State Agencies**

- Department of Accounting and General Services
- Department of Accounting and General Services, Archives Division
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Budget & Finance
- Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Office of Planning
- Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Hawaiian Homelands
- Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division
- Department of Land and Natural Resources, Land Division
- Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
- Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Parks
- Department of Transportation, Airports Division
- Department of Transportation, Highways Division
- Department of Transportation, Statewide Transportation Office
- Governor's Office

Land Use Commission  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Environmental Center  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Marine Program  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Water Resources Research Center

**City and County of Honolulu**

Board of Water Supply  
Department of Community Services  
Department of Customer Service  
Department of Design and Construction  
Department of Environmental Services  
Department of Facility Maintenance  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Department of Planning and Permitting  
Department of Transportation Services  
Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation  
Honolulu Emergency Services Department  
Honolulu Fire Department  
Honolulu Police Department  
Mayor's Office  
Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services  
Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency  
Satellite City Hall No. 1, Ala Moana  
Neighborhood Board No. 8, McCully/Mō'ili'ili  
Neighborhood Board No. 9, Waikīkī  
Neighborhood Board No. 10, Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus  
Neighborhood Board No. 11, Ala Moana-Kaka'ako

**Libraries**

Hawai'i State Library  
McCully-Mō'ili'ili Public Library  
Waikīkī Public Library  
University of Hawai'i – Thomas H. Hamilton Library

**News Media**

Hawai'i Midweek  
Hawai'i Public Radio  
Honolulu Star Advertiser

**Elected Officials**

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono  
U.S. Senator Brian Schatz  
U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard

U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa  
State Senator Les Ihara, Jr.  
State Senator Brickwood Galuteria  
State Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
State Representative Della Au Belatti  
State Representative Tom Brower  
State Representative Issac W. Choy  
State Representative Sylvia Luke  
State Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto  
State Representative Scott K. Saiki  
Councilmember Ann Kobayashi  
Councilmember Trevor Ozawa

**Special Interest and Stakeholders Groups**

808 Adult Recreation Sports  
808 Clean Ups  
Ala Wai Watershed Association  
Beach Workout  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai'i  
Boy Scouts of Honolulu  
Boys and Girls Club of America  
Cycle on Hawai'i  
Cycle Mānoa  
Dragon Boat Races  
HCRA  
Greek Festival  
Hawai'i Amateur Surfing Association  
Hawai'i Architectural Foundation  
Hawai'i Bicycling League  
Hawai'i Bikeshare  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association  
Hawai'i Paddleboard Association  
Hawai'i Tennis League  
Hawai'i Tourism Association  
Hawai'i Surfing Association  
Hawaiian Electric Company  
Historic Hawaii Foundation  
Honolulu Hawaiian Civic Club  
Honolulu Lawn Bowls Club  
Lantern Floating Hawai'i  
No 'Ohana O Nā Hui Wa'a  
O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association  
O'ahu Island Burial Council  
Outdoor Circle

Paddle Surf Hawai'i  
Purple Lotus Yoga, Surf n Wellness  
Regatta Racing  
Scottish Festival  
Soccer Club  
Standup Paddle Association of Hawai'i  
U.S. Tennis Association, Hawai'i Pacific Section  
Waikiki Community Center  
Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club  
Waikiki Improvement Association  
Waikiki Surf Club  
Waikiki Yacht Club  
Yoga Kai Hawai'i  
Young Men Christian's Association

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