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Deputy Director

County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8311

August 21, 2000

Nancy Heinrich
Office of Environmental Quality Control
State of Hawaii
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu, HI 96813

REC'D ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL
00 AUG 23 P 3:08
RECEIVED

Re: Final Environmental Assessment for W.H. Shipman Park Expansion, Keaau, Puna,
Hawaii

Dear Ms Heinrich:

Thank you for bringing to our attention the need to finalize the environmental assessment process for the W.H. Shipman Park expansion project.

The draft assessment was published in the July 8, 1994 OEQC Bulletin. A comment from the Office of Environmental Quality Control was received during the 30-day review period, relative to the need to consult with the Department of Health's Clean Water Branch in regards to necessary grading permits.

Relative to the OEQC comment, a grading permit (#003455) and Underground Injection Control permit (UH-1981) were issued for the project, which was completed on October 27, 1998. A copy of these permits is attached.

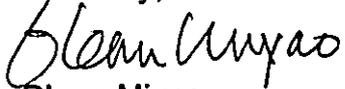
We apologize for the oversight in failing to issue a finding of no significant impact and request that you publish this determination in the next available issue of the Environmental Notice.

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If any additional information is needed regarding this after-the-fact notification, please contact me.

Thank you for your continued assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Glenn Miyao
Planner

encl-permits
publication form/four copies of final EA

SEP - 8 2000

FILE COPY

2000-09-08-HI-FEA -

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SOCCER FIELDS FOR HERBERT C. (SHIPMAN PARK)
KEAAU, PUNA, HAWAII
TMK: 1 - 6 - 03 : POR OF 07

Prepared for: Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Hawaii

Prepared by: P. Yoshimura, Inc.
290 Ainako Avenue
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

April, 1993

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SUMMARY:

The proposed project is a joint County, military, and community project to build soccer fields on lands now owned by W.H. Shipman, Limited, adjoining the Herbert C. Shipman Park in Keaau, Puna, Hawaii. The County have obtained a use permit from the owner to develop and use the area for recreational use.

Expected impacts are:

1. Providing a means for the recreational needs of the community.
2. Enhancement of an undeveloped area.
3. Temporary inconvenience of dust, noise, and increased traffic during construction.
4. Minor irritants of additional noise, traffic, glare from lights, the use of pesticides and herbicides in the maintenance of the field and landscaped areas.
5. Some irretrievable commitment of resources for the construction of the soccer fields and for the taking over of agricultural lands.

The positive impacts of providing a facility for the community outweigh the negative effects, much of which are either temporary in nature, negligible, or controllable by existing regulations and practices.

In view of the foregoing, we believe that filing of a negative declaration is deemed appropriate.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is construction of two soccer fields in a 6-acre area south of Herbert C. Shipman Park in Keaau, Puna, Hawaii. The land is now owned by W.H. Shipman, Ltd., who granted the County to use the area for expansion of the County park. Area is covered by Tax Map Key: 1 - 6 - 03: portion of parcel 7.

The proposed development call for the assistance of U.S. Army personnel and heavy equipment to grade the area for two soccer fields. Upon completion of the grading by the army, the County and community will complete the work so the fields can be utilized. The development of the soccer fields resulted from the community's desire to have adequate soccer fields for this fast growing sport in the area.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS:

The project site is presently vacant on slopes ranging from 10 percent to 2 percent. The steeper part of the site is located on the upper half with slopes ranging from 6 to 10 percent. The lower half is characterized with a more gradual slope and a ponding area where floodwaters drain into. Soil type is the Olaa series under Soil Conservation designation which is characterized by a shallow, stoney loam overlain over weathered volcanic aa subbase. The soil is suitable for agricultural use and were used for sugar cane growing for over 60 years until the demise of the sugar industry in Puna. Elevation of the land ranges from 395 feet above mean sea level to 360 feet.

The site is presently zoned as Agricultural with minimum allowable lot size of 20 acres (A-20a). The County General Plan's Land Use Allocation Map designates the area as Orchards. The General Plan also calls for a drainage channel fronting the site and along the highway.

Tradewinds are from an easterly to southwesterly direction, with average wind speeds of 4 to 12 miles per hour. Trades occur about 60 percent of the time with calms about 5 percent. In general, trades are more during the summer, with southerly "Kona" winds occurring between October and April.

Surrounding land use include the following. To the north and west, abandoned sugar cane fields are now left vacant or used as papaya fields. A National Guard building and telephone microwave station are above the park. Four plantation-type homes are located on the west side of the site with vehicular access to two homes going through the lower part of the site.

The Keaau village is located across the highway from the site. The village has a shopping center, anchored by a super market and flanked by other shops. Other uses in the village include offices, stores, restaurants, credit union, court house, police and fire stations, school, service stations, churches, post office, gym, community center and about 220 dwelling units within a half mile radius of the park. All told, the Keaau village proper contains about 370 dwelling units. The old sugar mill site is now used for warehousing and co-op buildings for anthuriums and papaya.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

Immediate impact on the environment would result during construction of the project. Noise and dust during construction may affect the neighboring areas. These impacts are temporary and minimized through existing regulations and construction practices. Increased traffic also results during construction as men, equipment and materials are hauled to the job site, thus affecting the surrounding park, National Guard site, and neighboring homes. Mitigating measures to lower the traffic impact are to keep construction hours during the day and to minimize hauling.

Wildlife, such as birds, mongooses, mice, and rats are presumed to be living or are feeding in the area. Removal of the site for a habitat of wildlife is minimized by its small size and that alternate sites for habitat are readily available in adjacent open areas.

No endemic plants or trees are located on the site. The site were cleared for cane planting in the past and have been plowed over many times during the cane harvesting periods. Site is presently overgrown with grassy weeds and plants.

The impact of the proposed development of the site into soccer fields would essentially be a positive social one of meeting a recreational need of the community. The development will also replace a vacant area into a well-maintained open field.

4. ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED:

Adverse effects on the environment include dust and noise created during construction. These adverse effects are temporary and cannot be avoided. However, the adverse effects are minimized by existing regulations and good construction practices.

No long term adverse effect are foreseen as a result of this project. Noise created by the players and spectators are minimized by not allowing sport activities during the nights. No lights are planned to be installed in the ballfield. Adverse effect created by the added traffic will be minimized by providing adequate parking within the site and existing roadway with its traffic signal lights at the highway is adequate for the safe egress and ingress to the site.

Use of herbicides and pesticides for the maintenance of the fields and landscaped areas do have an adverse effect on the environment. These impacts are minimized by judicious use of such maintenance practices or using alternate means of maintaining the planted areas.

5. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The alternatives to not developing the site into soccer fields are to leave the area vacant or to develop it into some other use. To leave the area vacant means that the area will be encouraged to be used as a dumping ground for junks and habitat for rodents and weeds. To deve-

lop the area into other uses would mean that another site for the soccer fields need to be selected. Other sites in the immediate vicinity were already looked into as possible sites for the soccer fields. The use of the existing field in Shipman Park were also looked into. However, size, availability, access to existing utilities, and topographical conditions make other alternate sites undesirable for soccer use.

6. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROJECT'S OBJECTIVE AND LONG TERM PRODUCTIVITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT:

The objective of the project is to satisfy a need for soccer fields within the immediate area of Keaau village. Being part of the prime urban center of the Puna district, the park serves as the hub for Puna residents to gather for sports activities. The objective of satisfying a need will continue as long as the community uses the soccer fields for its intended use.

7. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED:

There will be some irretrievable commitments of resources when the complex is constructed. Materials such as transported gravel, soil, fencing, asphalt and cement will be utilized. The small use of these resources will not deplete any existing resources.

Other resources to be utilized during the operation and maintenance of the soccer fields include water, replenishing of soil and additives

in the fields, to replace or repair constructed improvements, and electricity.

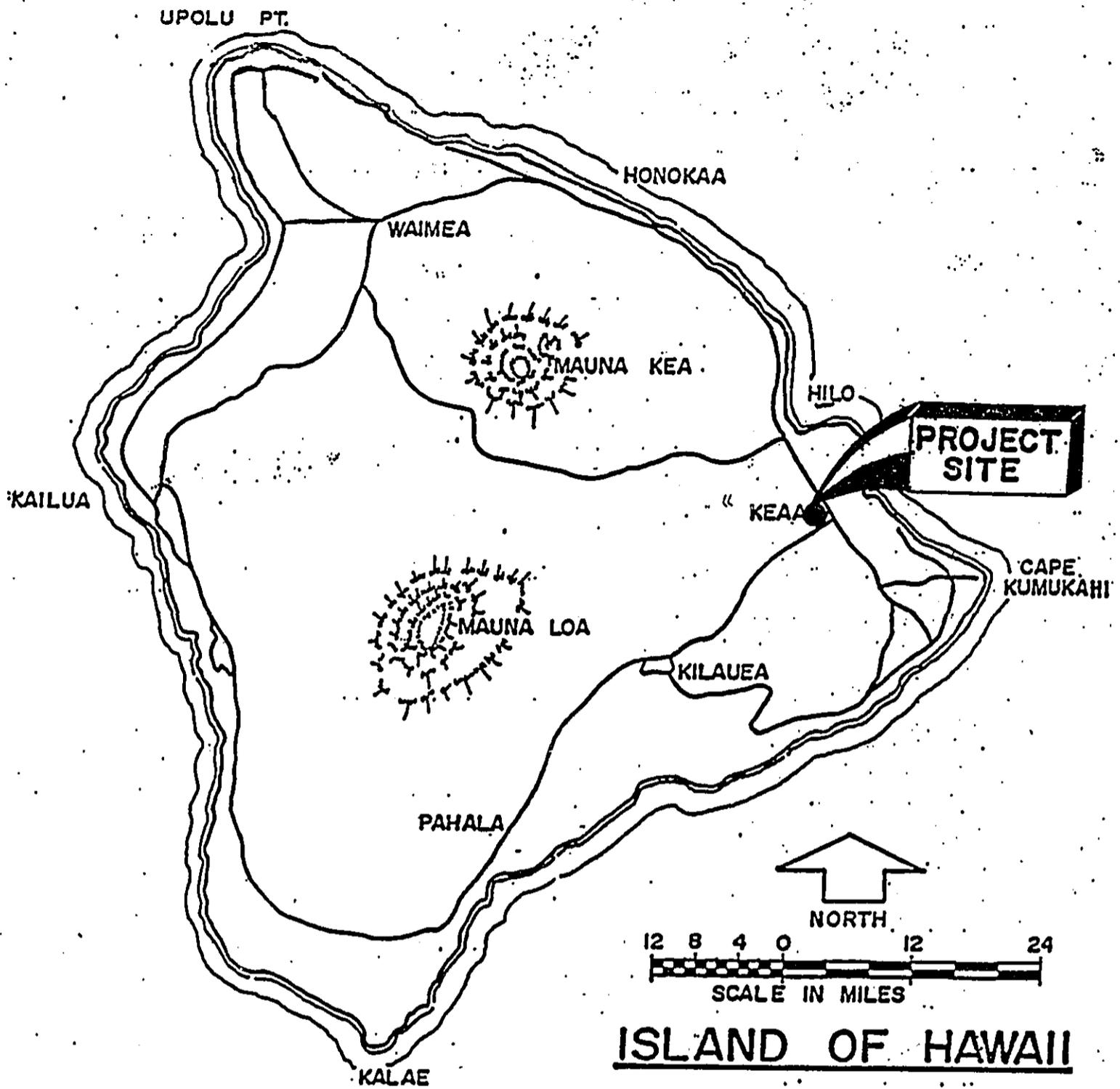
The resources are readily available in and around the area. The actual amount is minimal when compared to the total amount available. Most of these resources are deemed recyclable and therefore cannot be termed irretrievable or irreversible.

8. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS IMPACTS AND BENEFITS:

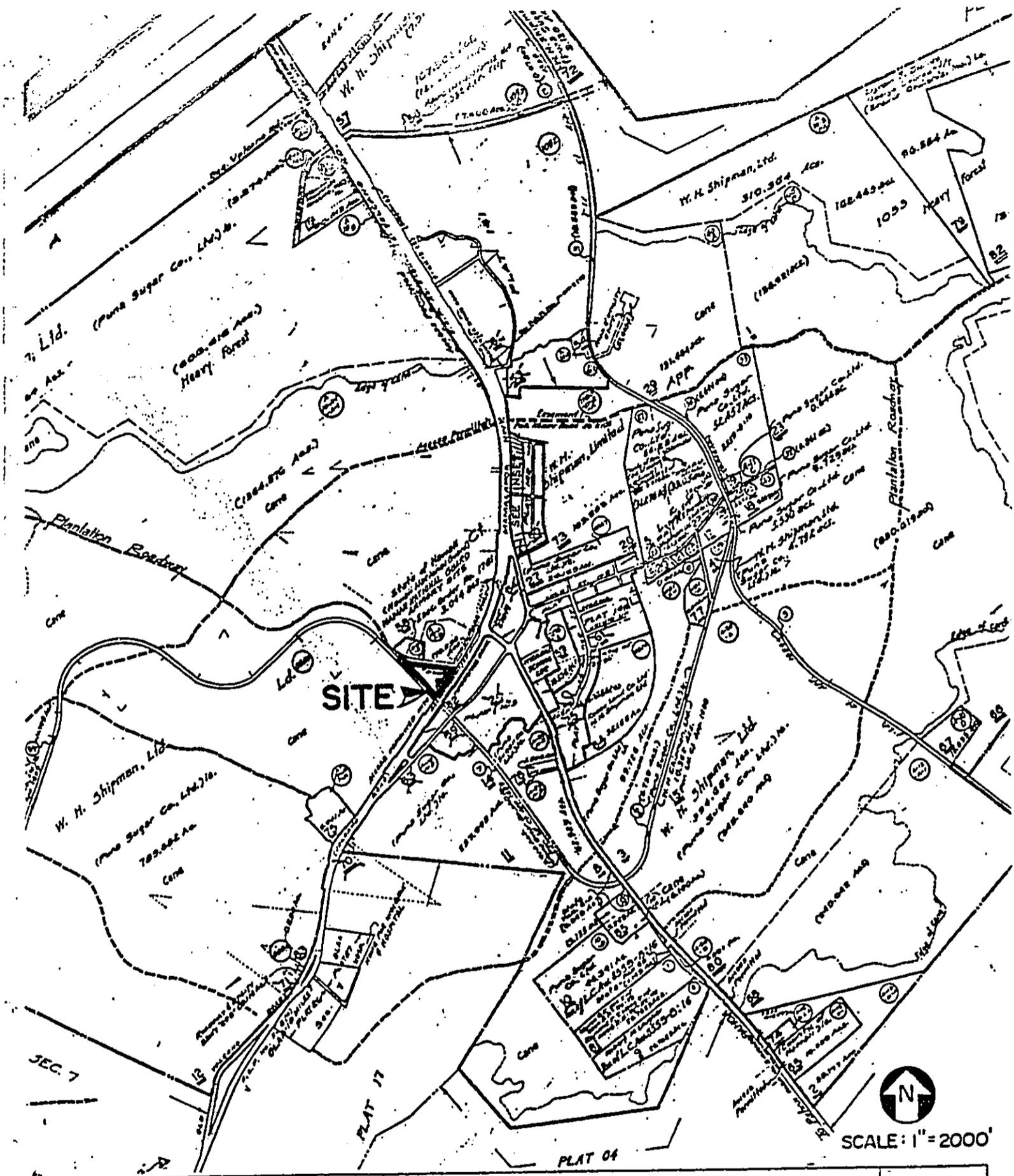
There will be some social impact of the soccer complex to the adjoining area as traffic increases and noise created by the players and spectators also increases. Also, the existing access crossing the soccer fields to two homes on the southwest side of the fields will be eliminated. An alternate access to these homes will be made by Shipman across from the National Guard building. All of the intrusions are minimized by design and by regulating play only during the daytime.

The social benefit of the soccer fields to the community's well being is more positive than the adverse effects. Providing these fields will provide as added recreational facility for the use of Puna residents as well as the general public. It will give youths and young adults another outlet to spend their idle time in a healthy and supervised environment.

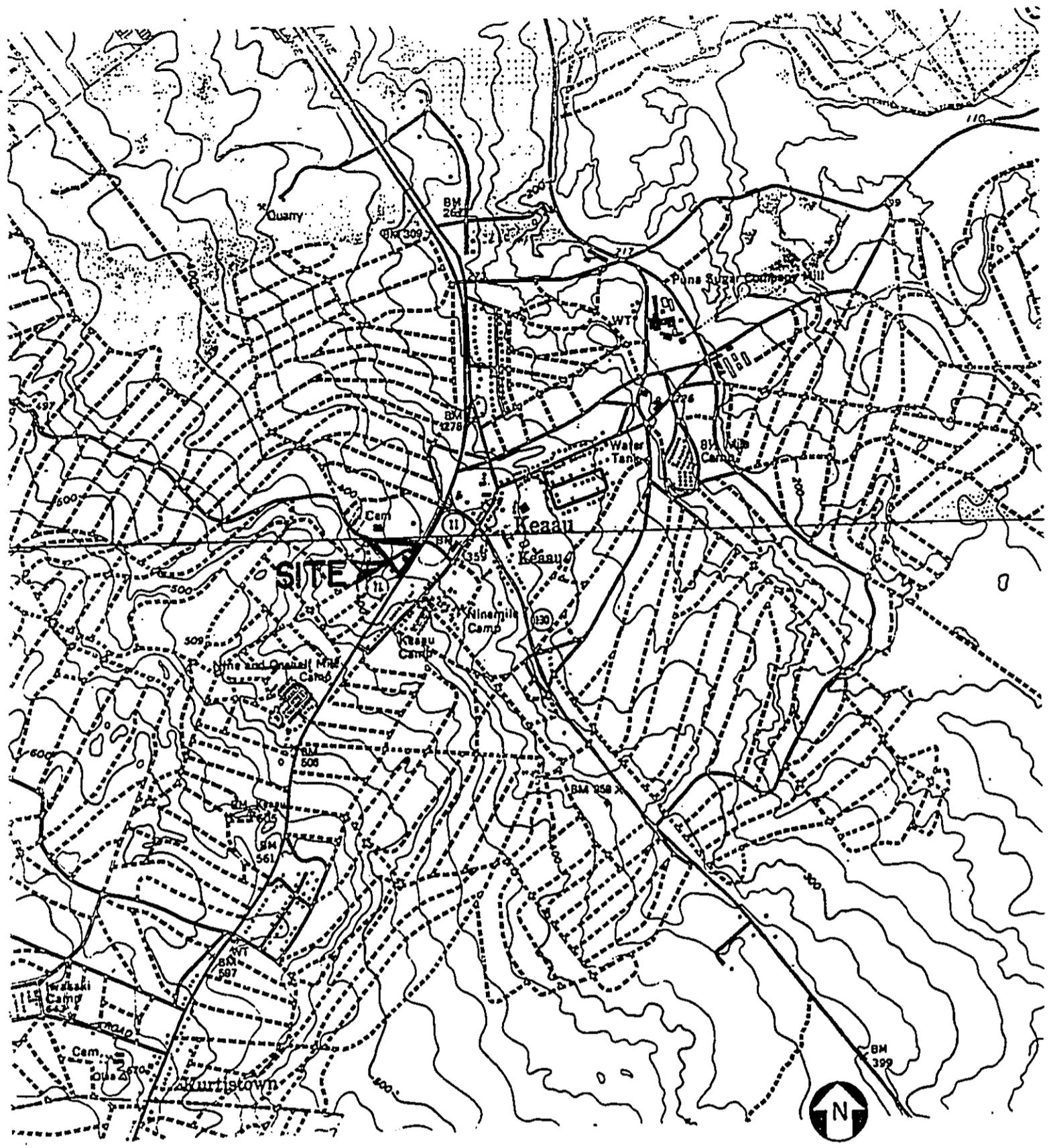
LIST OF EXHIBITS:



Prepared by: P YOSHIMURA, INC 290 Ainako Avenue Hilo, Hawaii 96720	LOCATION MAP SOCCER FIELDS FOR HERBERT C. SHIPMAN PARK KEAUA, PUNA, HAWAII TWK : 1 - 5 - 03 : POR OF 07	EXHIBIT <u> A </u>
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<p>Prepared by: P YOSHIMURA, INC 290 Ainako Avenue Hilo, Hawaii 96720</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TAX KEY MAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SOCCER FIELDS FOR HERBERT C. SHIPMAN PARK KEAUA, PUNA, HAWAII</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TMK : 1 - 6 - 03 : POR OF 07</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EXHIBIT <u> </u> B</p>
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SCALE : 1" = 2000'

<p>Prepared by: P YOSHIMURA, INC 290 Ainako Avenue Hilo, Hawaii 96720</p>	<p>USGS TOPO MAP</p> <p>SOCCER FIELDS FOR HERBERT C. SHIPMAN PARK</p> <p>KEAUU, PUNA, HAWAII</p> <p>TMK : 1 - 6 - 03 : POR OF 07</p>	<p>EXHIBIT</p> <p>C</p>
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**HERBERT C. SHIPMAN PARK
SOCCER FIELDS**

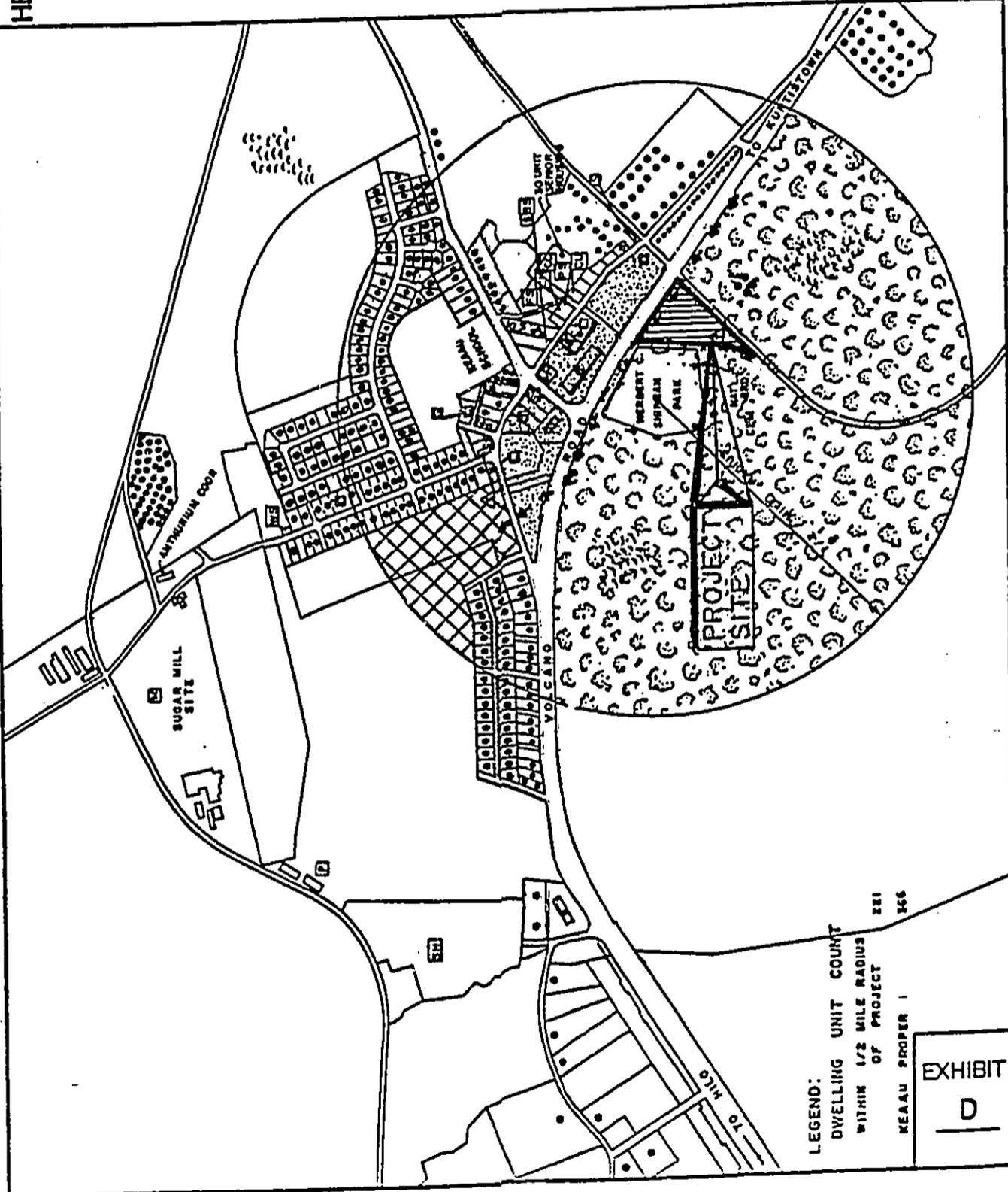
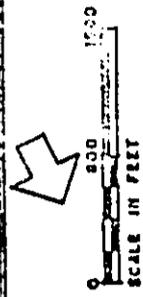
EXISTING LAND USE

- RESIDENCE - SINGLE FAMILY
 - COMMUNITY CENTER
 - CHURCH
 - COURT HOUSE
 - CREDIT UNION
 - DOCTOR'S OFFICE
 - DRIVE IN
 - FIRE STATION
 - GYM
 - OFFICE
 - POLICE STATION
 - POST OFFICE
 - SCHOOL
 - SERVICE STATION
 - PACKING PLANT
 - STORE
 - TELEPHONE SWITCHING STATION
 - WATER SUPPLY
 - RESTAURANT
 - BARBER SHOP
 - PUNA SUGAR MILL (OLD)
 - SLAUGHTER HOUSE (O.L.C.)
 - GAME FIELDS (ABANDONED)
 - CEM CEMETERY
- COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**
- SITE: ORCHARDS
 - W/IN 1/2 MILE RADIUS
 - MEDIUM DENSITY
 - LOW DENSITY
 - INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE
 - ORCHARDS
 - ALTERNATE CHANNEL (E.F.-OF-2002)
 - URBAN EXPANSION
 - DRAINAGE CHANNEL (E.F.-OF-2002)

EXISTING LAND USE

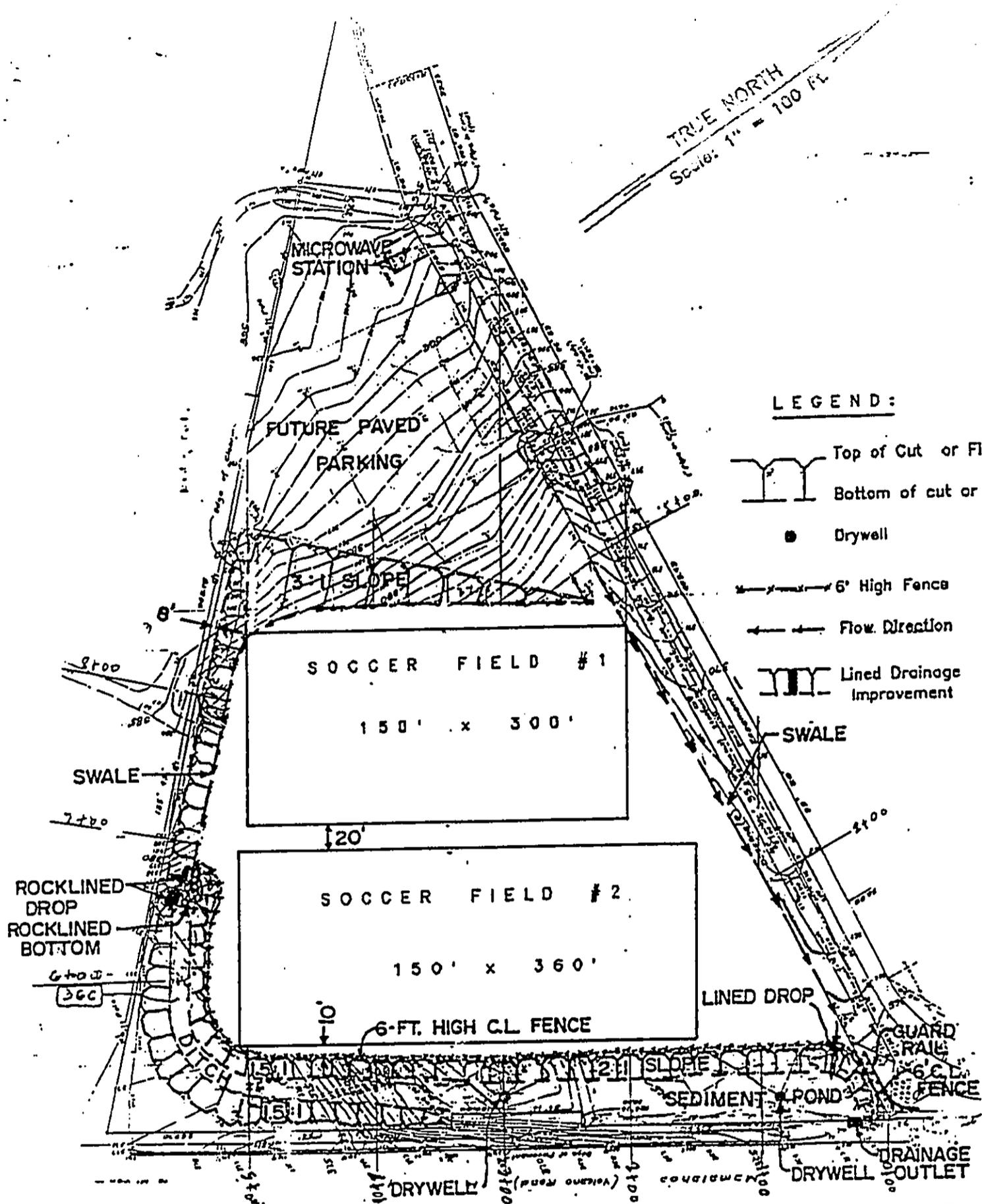
B

COUNTY GENERAL PLAN



LEGEND:
DWELLING UNIT COUNT
WITHIN 1/2 MILE RADIUS
OF PROJECT
221
366
KEAAU PROPER I

EXHIBIT
D



TRUE NORTH
Scale: 1" = 100 Ft.

LEGEND:

- Top of Cut or Fill
- Bottom of cut or Fill
- Drywell
- 6' High Fence
- Flow Direction
- Lined Drainage Improvement

Prepared by: P YOSHIMURA, INC 290 Ainako Avenue Hilo, Hawaii 96720	MASTER PLAN SOCCER FIELDS FOR HERBERT C. SHIPMAN PARK KEAAU, PUNA, HAWAII TMK: 1 - 6 - 03 : POR. OF 07	EXHIBIT <u>E</u>
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