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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Brian J.J. Choy, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control

FROM: *John P. Keppeler II*  
William W. Paty, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR A TELECOMMUNICATION HUT AT WAINIHA, KAUAI

The Department of Land and Natural Resources has reviewed the comments received on the subject project since publication of the project description in the OEQC Bulletin two months ago. We have determined that this project will not have significant environmental impact and have issued a negative declaration. Please publish this notice as soon as possible in the OEQC Bulletin.

Four copies of the environmental assessment and the OEQC Bulletin publication form are enclosed with this memorandum.

Enclosures

1991-12-08-<sup>KA</sup>~~HA~~-FEA-Wainiha Telecommunications Hut in the  
Mauwahi District

DEC 8 1992

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AND  
NOTICE OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR  
GTE HAWAIIAN TELEPHONE COMPANY  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS HUT INSTALLATION  
WAINIHA POWERHOUSE ROAD  
WAINIHA, KAUAI  
TAX MAP KEY: 5-8-02:3

Submitted pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Applicant:

GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company  
P.O. Box 591  
Lihue, HI 96766

Accepting Authority:  
State Of Hawaii  
Department of Land and Natural Resources

March 1992

1. APPLICANT:

GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company Incorporated

2. APPROVING AGENCY:

State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, HI 96809

3. AGENCIES CONSULTED:

State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Land Management

State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of State Parks

State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

County of Kauai  
Planning Department

4. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION'S CHARACTERISTICS

4.1 Introduction

GTE Hawaiian Tel is requesting approval to design and install a telecommunications hut with associated conduits on private land. The land is owned by the family of Lester Robinson and an easement will be granted from the land owners to use an area of approximately 2500 square feet adjacent to Wainiha Powerhouse Road.

The proposed installation involves installation of an 8' wide by 14' long by 11' pre-fabricated hut in the easement. The hut will sit on concrete piers and have underground conduits for telephone cables associated with the hut.

The underground conduits would be excavated and covered after line connections had been completed to existing poles. All installation work will be done to applicable County Building Code standards, and maintenance will be by GTE Hawaiian Tel.

There are no requirements for wastewater management, drinking water, or refuse disposal due to the installation of this hut. Upon completion of the preliminary site clearing work, the installation would be completed in one phase.

The planned installation is identified on Tax Map Key: 5-8-02:3 and the State Land Use Boundary designation is Conservation, Limited (L) subzone.

The purpose of the planned installation is to provide improved service for the Wainiha and Haena area residents. At the present time, the service available is considered up to existing design capacity and this proposed project will increase service capacity.

#### 4.2 Technical Characteristics

GTE Hawaiian Tel provides tele-communications facilities and services to the State of Hawaii. These services are provided to both the private sector and governmental agencies in many forms. Administered by the Public Utilities Commission, GTE Hawaiian Tel is mandated to maintain and keep abreast of the total community's needs.

This hut will provide additional and more current state of the art telecommunication facilities as well as increase telephone line capacity to the residents of Wainiha and Haena.

The hut is built of heavy gauge steel. GTE Hawaiian Tel has deployed five huts of similar construction around the Kapaa and Anahola areas of Kauai in the last 10 years.

All site work will be done in accordance with applicable government building, grading, and electrical codes/standards. No significant environmental impacts are anticipated from the design and construction of this hut.

#### 4.3 Socio-Economic Characteristics

As previously stated, the purpose for this installation is to improve current telecommunication capacity and service to the Wainiha and Haena area residents.

#### 4.4 Environmental Characteristics

There will be minimal, if any, environmental impacts resulting from this proposed project. Limited clearing and grubbing will result in temporary soil exposure, but mitigating controls will be maintained by the contractor.

#### 4.5 Funding and Phasing

All improvement costs will be borne by the applicant, GTE Hawaiian Tel. Estimated costs are \$60,000 excluding the telecommunication equipment costs which will be housed by the hut.

## 5. THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

### 5.1 Geographic Characteristics

The proposed site is located on Wainiha Powerhouse Road, adjacent to and makai of the Department of Water Pump Site approximately 1000' mauka of the Wainiha Powerhouse Road, Kuhio Highway junction.

The Soil Survey of Islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai, State of Hawaii, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service in August 1972 describes the soils in the area as (MtA) Mokuleia clay loam, poorly drained variant, and (HnA) Hanalei Silty Clay.

"MOKULEIA SERIES - This series consists of well drained soils along the coastal plains on the islands of Oahu and Kauai. These soils formed in recent alluvium deposited over coral sand. They are shallow and nearly level. Elevations range from nearly sea level to 100 feet. The annual rainfall amounts to 15 to 40 inches on Oahu and 50 to 100 inches on Kauai. The mean annual soil temperature is 74 degrees F. Mokuleia soils are geographically associated with Hanalei, Jaucas, and Keaau soils.

Mokuleia clay loam, poorly drained variant (MtA). This soil occurs on Kauai. It is nearly level. The soil is poorly drained, and in this way, it differs from other soils of the Mokuleia series. The surface layer is dark brown to black and is mottled.

This soil is used for sugarcane, taro, and pasture."

"HANALEI SERIES - This series consists of somewhat poorly drained to poorly drained soils on bottom lands on the islands of Kauai and Oahu. These soils developed in alluvium derived from basic igneous rock. They are level to gently sloping. Elevations range from nearly sea level to 300 feet. The annual rainfall amounts to 20 to 120 inches. The mean annual soil temperature is 74 degrees F. Hanalei soils are geographically associated with Haleiwa, Hihimanu, Mokuleia, Pearl Harbor soils.

Hanalei silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes (HnA). This soil is on stream bottoms and flood plains. In a representative profile the surface layer, about 10 inches thick, is dark gray and very dark gray silty clay that has dark brown and reddish mottles. The subsurface layer is very dark gray and dark gray silty clay about 3 inches thick. The subsoil, about 13 inches thick, is mottled, dark gray and dark grayish brown silty clay loam that has angular blocky structure. The substratum is stratified alluvium. The soil is strongly acid to very strongly acid in the surface layer and neutral in the subsoil.

Permeability is moderate. Runoff is very slow, and the erosion hazard is no more than slight. The available moisture capacity is about 2.1 inches per foot of soil. Flooding is a hazard.

This soil is used for taro, pasture, and sugarcane. (Capability classification IIw, irrigated or nonirrigated; sugarcane group 3; pasture group 7; woodland group 4)."

### 5.2 Hydrological Characteristics

There is no onsite flooding at the project site and no major excavation work will be necessary to affect existing drainage patterns. The project site is presently natural slope drained.

According to the FIRM Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel 30 of 225, Community-Panel Number 150002 0030 C, Revised March 4, 1987, the project site is located in zone X. Zone X is classified as "Areas determined to be outside 500 year plain."

The limited size of the site would not significantly alter or affect existing drainage patterns.

### 5.3 Biological Characteristics

The site is not known to contain any endangered or threatened species of flora or fauna.

A vegetational survey of the proposed project site indicates that the vegetation consists almost entirely of introduced or weedy plant species, dominated by guava, hau, and java plum. There were no observed species of native plants. The proposed hut will not displace any botanical species other than some guava, hau, and java plum.

Native endangered birds such as the Hawaiian Stilt, Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Gallinule and Hawaiian Duck may inhabit taro fields and low-lying wet areas, but are not expected to live in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Other native birds that may exist in Wainiha Valley include the amakihi, apapane, and Hawaiian owl (pueo). None of these birds are on the Federal list of endangered species. The amakihi and apapane typically nest in ohia trees. None of the vegetation proposed to be removed include nesting habitats for these birds.

Occasionally, migratory birds such as Pintails, Canvasbacks and Petrels stray into the area; as well as the wandering tattler and the Pacific golden plover. The proposed hut will not pose any threat to endangered, introduced, or migratory birds in the area.

Animals inhabiting the valley include feral dogs, feral cats, rats, feral pigs, and feral chickens. Also, domestic dogs and domestic cats are owned by residents along the road.

The proposed project will not significantly impact the flora and fauna of the area.

#### 5.4 Service Facilities and Public Utilities

This project will require only electrical power and this will be obtained from existing power lines. There will be no sewer, water, or other utilities needed. The proposed use would not burden public agencies to provide roads, sewers, water, drainage, and school improvements.

#### 5.5 Archaeological Sites

Archaeology of Kauai written by Wendell Clark Bennett shows six archaeological sites along Wainiha River. None of the sites are closer than 2000 feet to the project site.

Although, there has been no on site archaeological inspection conducted, there has been known alteration in the near vicinity of the proposed project with the construction of the water pump site just mauka of the proposed site, and the residential dwelling just makai of the proposed site.

In the event that during the installation phase, sites are uncovered, the applicant will instruct the contractor to halt work and advise the Historic Preservation Division (587-0045) immediately.

#### 5.6 Aesthetics and Visual Characteristics

The hut is relatively small in relation to the houses in the nearby area. Its overall dimensions are 8' wide by 14' long by 11' high. It will be painted in earth tones, and will be secured to concrete piers. The underground lines will be trenched, lines installed, backfilled and compacted.

The facility will be placed on vacant land. There will be no offices, cooking facilities, standby generators, fuel storage tanks, or restrooms.

The hut will be non-reflective. No view corridors will be affected by this hut. The hut will be screened with landscaping to soften any visual impact the hut will have.

6. SUMMARY OF MAJOR IMPACTS AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

6.1 Major Impacts

The proposed action is not expected to have any significant environmental impacts. The proposed site already has a residential home makai of the proposed site, and a Department of Water pump mauka of it adjacent to Wainiha Powerhouse Road.

The proposed communication facility is not detrimental to the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort and general welfare of the surrounding neighborhood.

Any impacts resulting from the subject action will be temporary in nature and construction related. These construction impacts will be minor and should not have any long term effect on the site or adjacent properties.

6.2 Alternatives Considered

1. ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

Other sites in the Wainiha to Haena area were considered, but were rejected because of flood considerations and their respective locations in relation to existing telephone facilities. Most sites were rejected because of their location in flood or tsunami inundation areas. Other sites outside of this were rejected because of their relatively distant locale in relation to existing telephone facilities.

2. DO NOTHING ALTERNATIVE

The "do nothing" alternative was not a viable one in view of the increased demand for expanded services.

7. Proposed Mitigation Measures

Adherence to applicable State Department of Health rules and regulations on Air and Noise Quality will be observed under the contractor's conditions of construction. Appropriate noise abatement measures will be taken and dust control measures will also be employed if appropriate.

It is very likely that the bulk of the site improvements will be done by portable machinery rather than heavy construction equipment since crossing the bridges from Princeville to Haena are restricted by weight loads, and height and width restrictions.

8. DETERMINATION

In accordance with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, it has been determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the proposed GTE Hawaiian Tel telecommunications hut. Therefore, this document constitutes a Notice of Negative Declaration.

1. The proposed action consists entirely of the design and installation of the hut, concrete piers, and underground conduit connection lines to existing telephone facilities along Wainiha Powerhouse Road.
2. There will be no permanent degradation of existing ambient air and noise levels. During construction operations, air quality and noise levels are expected to be affected, but these will be minor and temporary in magnitude and duration.
3. There are no known endangered species of flora or fauna within the project site.
4. There are no natural, historic or archaeological sites within the project limits.
5. There are no secondary adverse effects on future development, population and public facilities.

The proposed project is found to have no "significant effect" in the context of the EIS regulations. However, the benefits to the area in improved telecommunications service and increased service capacity are significant.

Any adverse impacts have been determined to be insignificant and the applicant will comply with all applicable statutes, ordinances, and rules and regulations of the Federal, State, and City governments.

REFERENCES

1. United States Geological Survey. 1959-1974. Hawaii. Washington, D.C. (Topographic Maps)
2. United States, Soil Conservation Service. 1972. Soil Survey of Islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai and Lanai, State of Hawaii, by D. E. Foote and others. Washington, D.C.
3. Hawaii Audobon Society. 1981. Hawaii's Birds. 3rd ed. Honolulu: The Hawaii Audobon Society.
4. Bennett, W.C. 1931. Archaeology of Kauai, Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulletin 80. Honolulu.

List of Figures

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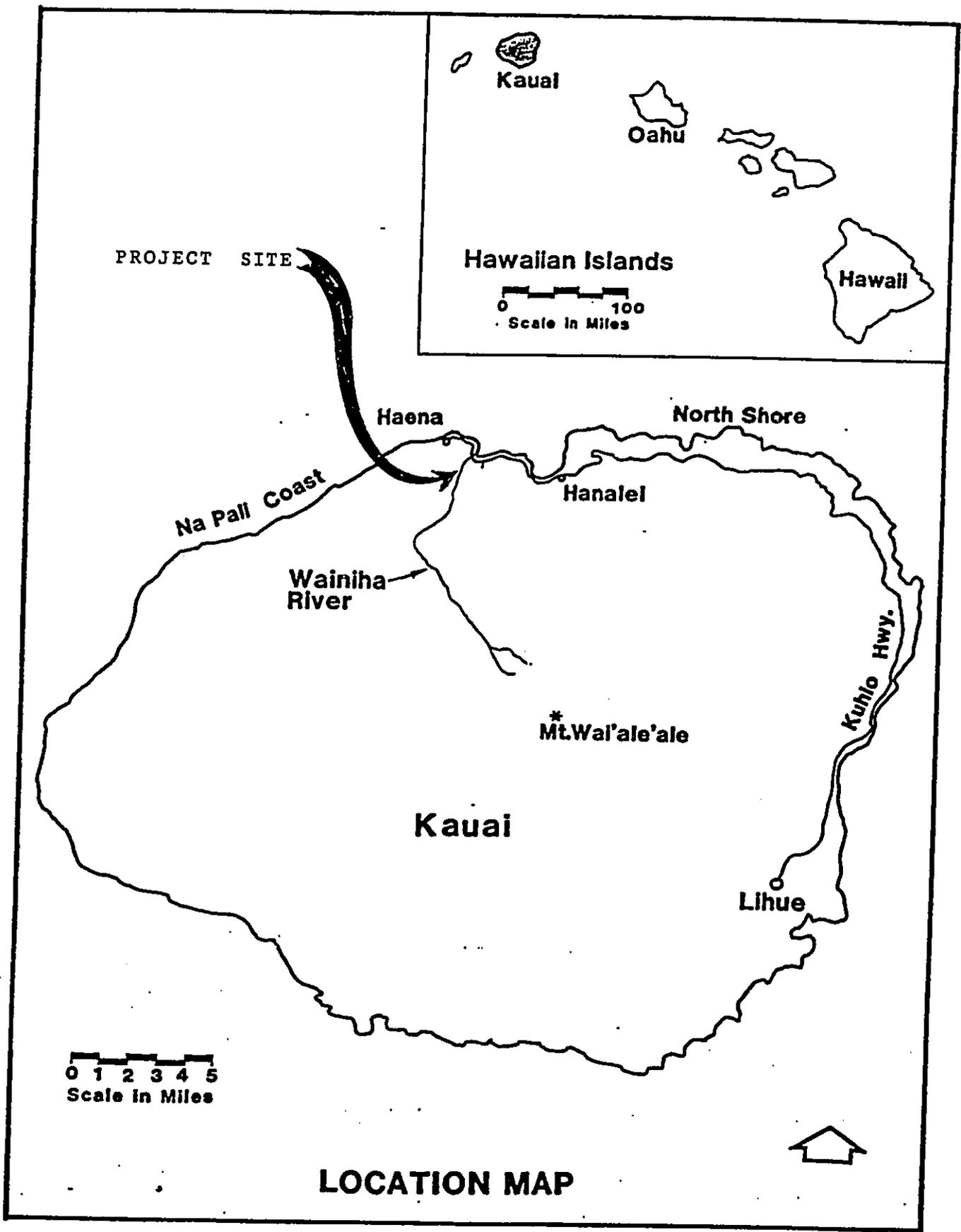
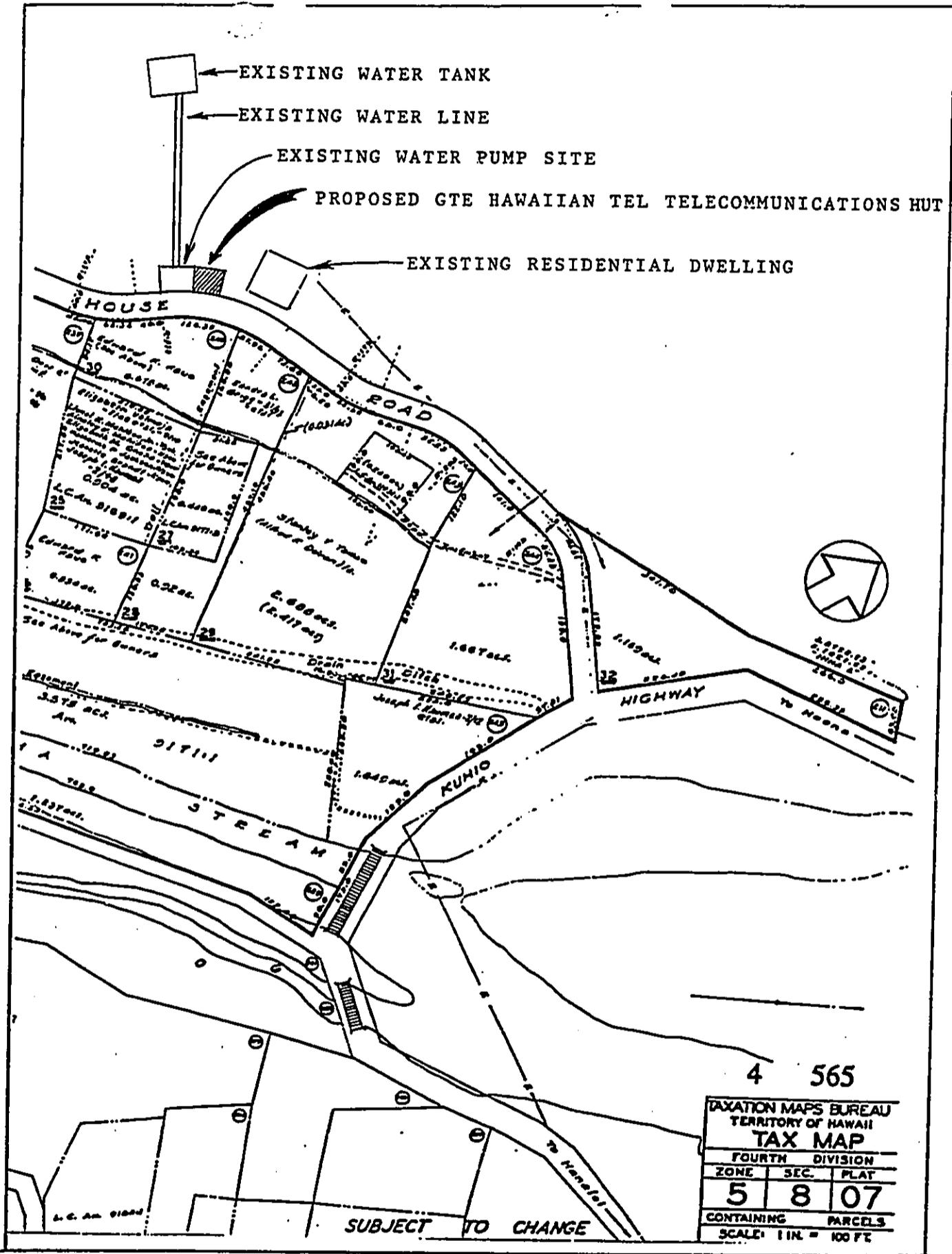


FIGURE 1

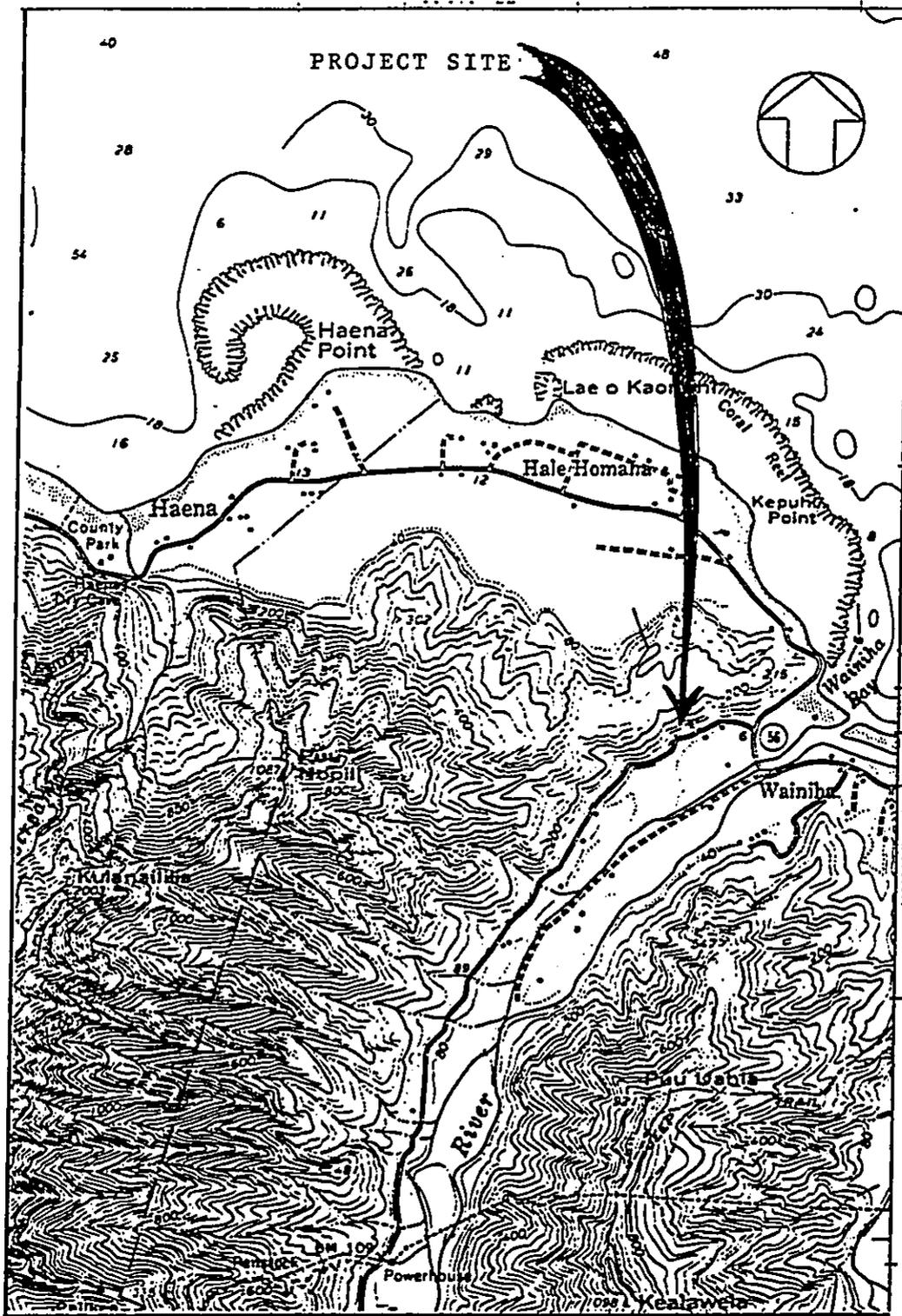




Scale: 1"=200'

SITE MAP

FIGURE 3

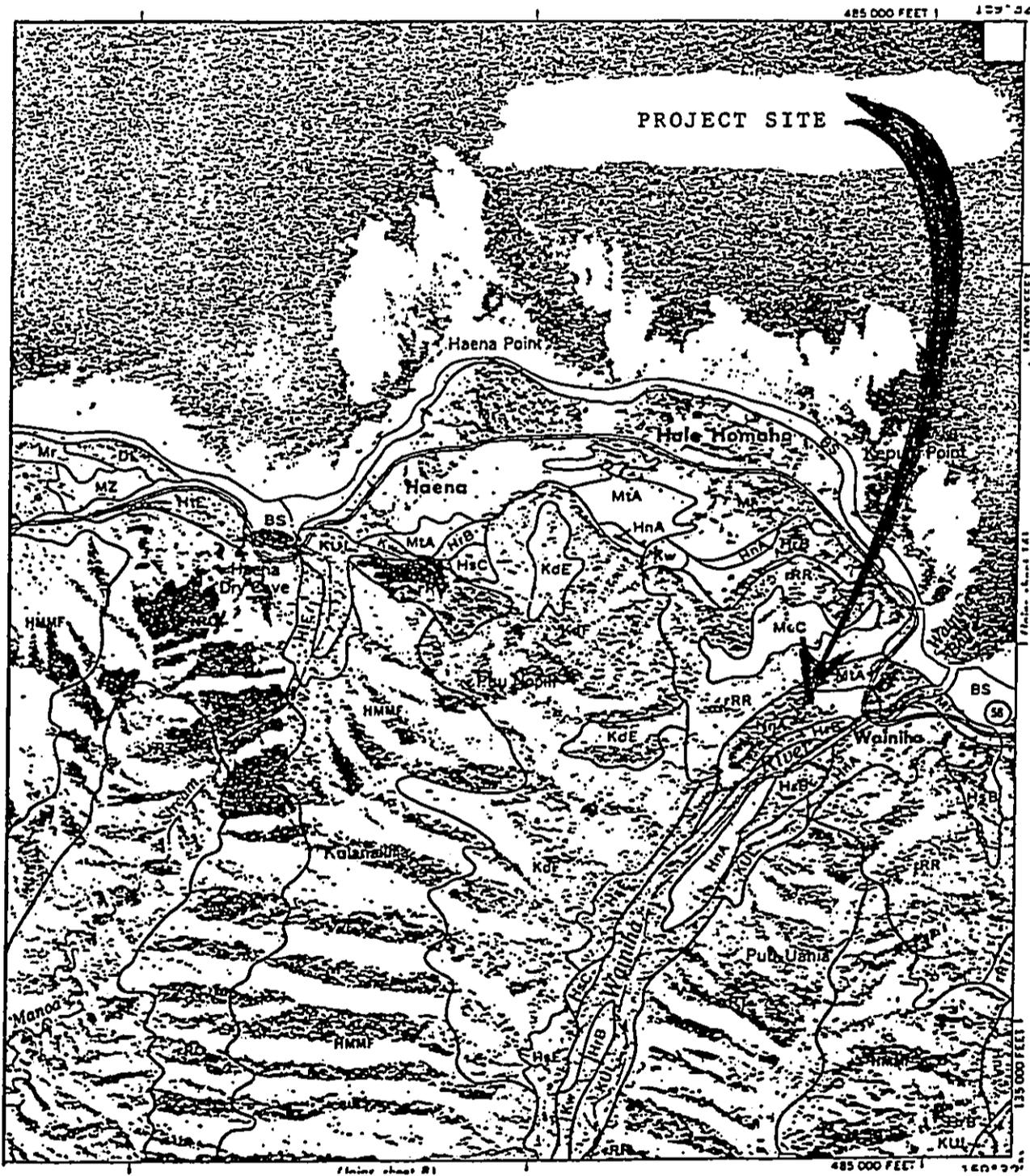


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1"=2000'

USGS TOPO MAP

FIGURE 4:

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Scale 1:24000  
1"=2000'

SOIL SURVEY MAP

FIGURE 5