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Exhibit K

Biological Surveys Conducted on the Kapa`a Highlands Phase II Project Site TMK: (4)-3-003:001, Island of Kaua`i, Hawai`i

**Biological Surveys Conducted on the Kapa‘a Highlands
Phase II Project Site, TMK: (4)-3-003:001,
Island of Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i**

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May 24, 2012

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Executive Summary

Biological field surveys were conducted on an approximately 97-acre parcel of land identified as Tax Map Key (4) 3-8-003:001 located in Kapa'a, Island of Kaua'i. The owners are proposing to develop these lands as Phase II of the Kapa'a Highlands subdivision

The primary purpose of the surveys was to determine if there are any botanical, avian and terrestrial mammalian species currently listed, or proposed for listing under either federal or State of Hawai'i endangered species statutes within or adjacent to the study area. The avian and mammalian surveys were conducted May 21, 2012, and the botanical survey was conducted on April 19 and May 7, 2012.

No species currently proposed or listed as threatened or endangered under either the federal or state of Hawaii endangered species statutes was documented during the course of the biological surveys conducted on the subject property in April and May, 2012.

There is no federally delineated Critical Habitat for any species present on or adjacent to the project area. Thus the development and operation of the proposed project will not result in impacts to federally designated Critical Habitat. There is no equivalent statute under State law.

Potential Impacts to Protected Species

Botanical

As all of the plant species recorded are either naturalized species or common indigenous species it is not expected that the development and operation of the proposed subdivision will result in deleterious impacts to any botanical species currently listed or proposed for listing under either federal or State of Hawai'i endangered species statutes.

Seabirds

The principal potential impact that construction and operation of the Kapa'a Highlands Phase II project poses to protected seabirds is the increased threat that birds will be downed after becoming disoriented by lights associated with the project during the nesting season. The two main ways that outdoor lighting could pose a threat to these nocturnally flying seabirds is if, 1) during construction it is deemed expedient, or necessary to conduct nighttime construction activities, and 2) following build-out, the potential operation of streetlights and exterior safety and security lighting.

Hawaiian hoary bat

The principal potential impact that the development of the Kapa'a Highlands Phase II project poses to bats is during the clearing and grubbing phases of construction as vegetation is removed. The removal of vegetation within the project site may temporarily displace individual bats, which may use the vegetation as a roosting location. As bats use multiple roosts within their home territories, the potential disturbance resulting from the removal of the vegetation is likely to be minimal. During the pupping season, females

carrying their pups may be less able to rapidly vacate a roost site as the vegetation is cleared. Additionally, adult female bats sometimes leave their pups in the roost tree while they forage. Very small pups may be unable to flee a tree that is being felled. Potential adverse effects from such disturbance can be avoided or minimized by not clearing woody vegetation taller than 4.6 meters (15-feet), between June 15 and September 15, the period in which bats are potentially at risk from vegetation clearing.

Introduction and Background

An avian and mammalian survey was conducted on an approximately 97-acre parcel of land identified as Tax Map Key (4) 3-8-003:001 located in Kapa'a, Island of Kaua'i (Figure 1). The owners are proposing to develop these lands as Phase II of the Kapa'a Highlands subdivision.

This report describes the methods used and the results of the avian and terrestrial mammalian surveys conducted on the project site by this author and a summary of the results of the botanical surveys conducted on the site by Wood and Kirkpatrick (2012)¹. Both surveys were conducted as part of the environmental disclosure process associated with the proposed project.

The primary purpose of the surveys was to determine if there are any botanical, avian and terrestrial mammalian species currently listed, or proposed for listing under either federal or State of Hawai'i endangered species statutes within or adjacent to the study area. The federal and State of Hawai'i listed species status follows species identified in the following referenced documents, (Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) 1998; U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2005, 2012). The avian and mammalian surveys were conducted May 21, 2012, and the botanical survey was conducted on April 19 and May 7, 2012.

Hawaiian and scientific names are italicized in the text. A glossary of technical terms and acronyms used in the document, which may be unfamiliar to the reader, are included at the end of the narrative text.

General Site Description

The approximately 97 acre project site is bound to the north by Olohena Road (SR 581) and Kapa'a Middle School, to the east and south by the Kapa'a Bypass Road and to the west by undeveloped land and a new solar power generating facility (Figure 1). The site is made up of gently rolling hills that attain a maximum elevation of ~ 45 meters above mean sea level in the northwestern corner, sloping *makai* in an east-southeast direction down to an elevation of approximately ~ 6 meters ASL at the intersection of Olohena Road and the Kapa'a Bypass Road.

The site has a long history of sugar cultivation, followed by use as cattle pasturage. The vegetation currently on the site is dominated almost to the exclusion of native species by Guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*), koa haole (*Leucaena leucocephala*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), with Java plum trees (*Syzygium cumini*), dotted across the landscape (Figure 2). The southwestern boundary of the site has fairly dense stands of *hau* (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) along the boundary (Figure 3).

¹ Wood, K.R., and M. Kirkpatrick. 2012. Botanical Survey Kapa'a Highlands Phase II TMK (4) 4-3-003:001 Kaua'i, Hawai'i April-May 2012, is appended to this document as Appendix A.





Figure 2 – Typical Guinea grass/koa haole shrub vegetation looking northwest



Figure 3 – Hau bushes along southwestern boundary

Methods

Plant names mostly follow *Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawai'i* (Wagner et al., 1990, 1999). The avian phylogenetic order and nomenclature used in this report follows the *AOU Check-List of North American Birds* (American Ornithologists' Union, 1998), and the 42nd through the 52nd supplements to the Check-List (American Ornithologists' Union, 2000; Banks et al., 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008; Chesser et al., 2009, 2010, 2011). Mammalian species scientific names follow (Tomich, 1986). Place names follow (Pukui et al., 1974).

Botanical Survey Methods

The botanical survey was conducted using a pedestrian (walking) transect methodology to cover the project area. Wood and Kirkpatrick's methodologies are detailed in Appendix A.

Avian Survey Methods

A total of six avian point count stations were sited roughly equidistant from each other within the project site. Six-minute point counts were made at each of the count stations. Each station was counted once. Field observations were made with the aid of Leica 8 X 42 binoculars and by listening for vocalizations. Point counts were concentrated during the early morning hours, the peak of daily bird activity. Time not spent counting was used to search the remainder of the project site for species and habitats that were not detected during count sessions.

Mammalian Survey Methods

With the exception of the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*), or 'ōpe'ōpe'a as it is known locally, all terrestrial mammals currently found on the Island of Kaua'i are alien species, and most are ubiquitous. The survey for terrestrial mammalian species was limited to visual and auditory detection, coupled with visual observation of scat, tracks, and other animal sign. No trapping program or heterodyne bat detection survey methods were used during the course of this survey. A running tally was kept of all terrestrial vertebrate mammalian species detected within the project area during time spent within the project site.

Results

Botanical Survey

A total of 44 species of vascular plants were identified from the survey area. Three of the species detected *moa* (*Psilotum nudum*), *hau* (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) and '*uhaloa* (*Waltheria indica*) are common indigenous species in the Islands. One species *kukui* (*Aleurites moluccana*) is a Polynesian introduction (Wood and Kirkpatrick, 2012).

Wood and Kirkpatrick did not detect any botanical species currently listed as endangered or threatened under either federal or State of Hawai'i endangered species statutes. For a detailed description of their findings please see Appendix A.

Avian Survey Results

A total of 193 individual birds of 17 species, representing 13 separate families, were recorded during station counts (Table 1). All 17 species recorded are alien to the Hawaiian Islands (Table 1).

Avian diversity and densities were in keeping with the location of the property and the habitat presently on the site. Four species, House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), Nutmeg Mannikin (*Lonchura punctulata*), Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) and Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*) accounted for slightly more than 45 percent of all birds recorded during station counts. The most commonly recorded species was House Finch, which accounted for 14 percent of the total number of individual birds recorded. An average of 32 individual birds was recorded per station count; a number that is about average for point counts in this area on the Island of Kaua'i.

No avian species currently proposed or listed under either the State of Hawai'i or federal endangered species statutes was detected during the course of this survey, nor would they be expected given the habitat currently present on the site.

Mammalian Survey Results

Four terrestrial mammalian species were detected while on the site. Numerous dogs (*Canis f. familiaris*) were heard barking from areas adjacent to the site. Tracks and scat of pig (*Sus s. scrofa*) were encountered within the site. Tracks, and scat of both horse (*Equus c. caballus*) and cow (*Bos taurus*), were also encountered within the site.

Table 1 – Avian Species Kapa'a Highlands Phase II Point Counts

Common Name	Scientific Name	ST	RA
	GALLIFORMES		
	PHASIANIDAE – Pheasants & Partridges		
	Phasianinae – Pheasants & Allies		
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	A	1.50
	PELECANIFORMES		
	ARDEIDAE - Herons, Bitterns & Allies		
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	A	0.83
	COLUMBIDAE - Pigeons & Doves		
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	A	2.00
Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>	A	2.67
	PASSERIFORMES		
	CETTIDAE - Cettia Warblers & Allies		
Japanese Bush-Warbler	<i>Cettia diphone</i>	A	1.17
	ZOSTEROPIDAE - White-eyes		
Japanese White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	A	1.17
	TIMALIIDAE - Babblers		
Chinese Hwamei	<i>Garrulax canorus</i>	A	0.50
	TURDIDAE - Thrushes		
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	A	1.17
	STURNIDAE - Starlings		
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	A	2.50
	EMBERIZIDAE - Emberizids		
Red-crested Cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>	A	1.00
	CARDINALIDAE - Cardinals Saltators & Allies		
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	A	1.67
	ICTERIDAE - Blackbirds		
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	A	0.67
	FRINGILLIDAE - Fringilline and Cardueline Finches & Allies		
	Carduelinae - Cardueline Finches		
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	A	4.50
	ESTRILDIDAE - Estrildid Finches		
	Estrildinae - Estrildine Finches		
Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	A	0.56
Nutmeg Mannikin	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	A	4.33
Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	A	2.17
Java Sparrow	<i>Padda oryzivora</i>	A	1.33

Key to Table 1

ST Status

A Alien - Introduced to the Hawaiian Islands by humans

RA Relative Abundance - Number of birds detected divided by the number of count stations (6)

Discussion

Botanical Resources

Only nine percent of the plant species (~4/~44) detected on the subject property were either indigenous or early Polynesian introductions. This proportion is remarkably low for lowland areas on Kaua'i, and graphically illustrates the highly disturbed and depauperate nature of the native vegetation present on this site. Please see Appendix A for a more detailed discussion of the botanical resources present on the site.

Avian Resources

The findings of the avian survey are consistent with the location of the property, and the habitat present on the site. As previously stated all of the avian species detected during the course of this survey are alien to the Hawaiian Islands.

Although not detected during this survey, the endangered Hawaiian Petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*), and the threatened endemic sub-species of the Newell's Shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*) have been recorded over-flying the project site between April and the end of November each year (David, 1995; Morgan *et al.*, 2003, 2004; David and Planning Solutions 2008). Additionally, the Save Our Shearwaters Program has recovered both species from the general project area on an annual basis over the past three decades (Morgan *et al.*, 2003, 2004; David and Planning Solutions, 2008; Save our Shearwater Program, 2012).

The petrel is listed as endangered, and the shearwater as threatened under both Federal and State of Hawai'i endangered species statutes. The primary cause of mortality in both Hawaiian Petrels and Newell's Shearwaters is thought to be predation by alien mammalian species at the nesting colonies (USFWS 1983, Simons and Hodges 1998, Ainley *et al.*, 2001). Collision with man-made structures is considered to be the second most significant cause of mortality of these seabird species in Hawai'i. Nocturnally flying seabirds, especially fledglings on their way to sea in the summer and fall, can become disoriented by exterior lighting. When disoriented, seabirds can collide with manmade structures, and if they are not killed outright, the dazed or injured birds are easy targets of opportunity for feral mammals (Hadley 1961; Telfer 1979; Sincock 1981; Reed *et al.*, 1985; Telfer *et al.*, 1987; Cooper and Day, 1998; Podolsky *et al.* 1998; Ainley *et al.*, 2001; Hue *et al.*, 2001; Day *et al.* 2003). There are no nesting colonies nor appropriate nesting habitat for either of these listed seabird species within the current study site.

Following build out it is probable that cleared areas, especially those that are landscaped as lawns, and or parking lots will provide loafing habitat for Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*). The plover is an indigenous migratory shorebird species which nests in the high Arctic during the late spring and summer months, returning to Hawai'i and the Tropical Pacific to spend the fall and winter months each year. They usually leave Hawai'i for their

trip back to the Arctic in late April or the very early part of May each year. This species is a common site around the state during the late fall and winter months.

Mammalian Resources

The findings of the mammalian survey are consistent with the location of the property and the habitat currently present on the site. We did not record Hawaiian hoary bats overflying the site. Hawaiian hoary bats are widely distributed in the lowland areas on the Island of Kaua'i, and have been documented in and around almost all areas that still have some dense vegetation (Tomich, 1986; USFWS 1998, David, 2012).

Although no rodents were detected during the course of this survey, it is virtually certain one or more of the four established alien muridae found on Kaua'i, roof rat (*Rattus r. rattus*), Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), European house mouse (*Mus musculus domesticus*) and possibly Polynesian rats (*Rattus exulans hawaiiensis*) use various resources found within the general project area. All of these introduced rodents are deleterious to native ecosystems and the native faunal species dependant on them.

Potential Impacts to Protected Species

Botanical

As all of the plant species recorded are either naturalized species or common indigenous species it is not expected that the development and operation of the proposed subdivision will result in deleterious impacts to any botanical species currently listed or proposed for listing under either federal or State of Hawai'i endangered species statutes.

Seabirds

The principal potential impact that construction and operation of the Kapa'a Highlands Phase II project poses to protected seabirds is the increased threat that birds will be downed after becoming disoriented by lights associated with the project during the nesting season. The two main ways that outdoor lighting could pose a threat to these nocturnally flying seabirds is if, 1) during construction it is deemed expedient, or necessary to conduct nighttime construction activities, and 2) following build-out, the potential operation of streetlights and exterior safety and security lighting.

Hawaiian hoary bat

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adverse effects from such disturbance can be avoided or minimized by not clearing woody vegetation taller than 4.6 meters (15-feet), between June 15 and September 15, the period in which bats are potentially at risk from vegetation clearing.

Critical Habitat

There is no federally delineated Critical Habitat for any species present on or adjacent to the project area. Thus the development and operation of the proposed project will not result in impacts to federally designated Critical Habitat. There is no equivalent statute under State law.

Recommendations

- All exterior lights installed in conjunction with the proposed project should be shielded to reduce the potential for interactions of nocturnally flying seabirds with external lights and man-made structures (Reed *et al.*, 1985; Telfer *et al.*, 1987). Any lighting fixtures that meet the "Dark Skies" guidelines are appropriate.
- It is recommended that woody vegetation taller than 4.6 meters (15-feet), not be cleared between June 1 and September 15, the period in which bats are potentially at risk from vegetation clearing.
- It is recommended that, where appropriate and practicable, native plant species be used in landscaping efforts. Not only is this ecologically prudent, but also if the appropriate plants are used, it will also likely save maintenance and water costs over the long term.

Glossary

Alien – Introduced to Hawai'i by humans
Commensal – Animals that share human food and lodgings, such as rats, mice cats and dogs.
Crepuscular – Twilight hours
Endangered – Listed and protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) as an endangered species
Endemic – Native to the Hawaiian Islands and unique to Hawai'i
Indigenous – Native to the Hawaiian Islands, but also found elsewhere naturally
makai – Down-slope, towards the ocean
Muridae – Rodents, including rats, mice and voles, one of the most diverse families of mammals
Naturalized – A plant or animal that has become established in an area that it is not indigenous to
Nocturnal – Night-time, after dark
Ōpe'ape'a – Endemic endangered Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*)
Pelagic – An animal that spends its life at sea – in this case seabirds that only return to land to nest and rear their young
Phylogenetic – The evolutionary order that organisms are arranged by
Ruderal – Disturbed, rocky, rubbishy areas, such as old agricultural fields and rock piles
Sign – Biological term referring to tracks, scat, rubbing, odor, marks, nests, and other signs created by animals by which their presence may be detected
Threatened – Listed and protected under the ESA as a threatened species.

ASL – Above mean sea level
DLNR – Hawai'i State Department of Land & Natural Resources
DOFAW – Division of Forestry and Wildlife
ESA – Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
TMK – Tax Map Key
USFWS – United State Fish & Wildlife Service

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