

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Critical Fuel Break Management and Dip Tank Project
FEMA-1640-DR-HI, HMGP 1640-07

The Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) has applied, through the State of Hawai'i State Civil Defense (SCD), to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to (1) implement fuel break management measures in two locations to reduce hazardous vegetative fuel for wildfires and (2) install three new dip tanks to provide water resources for aerial wildfire suppression activities. The proposed activities would be implemented to reduce wildfire hazards for several communities on the west side of Hawai'i Island.

The fuel break management measures would involve reducing hazardous vegetation in designated wildland-urban interface areas to mitigate the spread of wildfire toward the communities of Puako and Waikoloa. The dip tank measures would involve installation of three new dip tanks near Waikoloa, and Pu'u Anahulu to provide readily available sources of water for use in wildfire suppression activities in these areas. Each measure would be implemented by HWMO in coordination and with ongoing maintenance performed by a local partner (generally the landowner or lessee). For each site, a Memorandum of Agreement detailing the maintenance responsibility would be signed before work commences. In the event of a wildfire, the dip tanks would be used, as appropriate, by responders from the Hawai'i County Fire Department and the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife Fire Management Program.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), FEMA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Critical Fuel Break Management and Dip Tank Project to evaluate the impacts of the proposed project and alternatives on the quality of the human environment. The EA includes measures that will be implemented to mitigate, minimize, and avoid impacts on the quality of the human environment. FEMA prepared a Final EA after making the Draft EA available for public review and comment. FEMA received four comments during the Draft EA public review and comment period, each in support of the project. The Final EA, is available on FEMA's Library website, at the following hyperlink <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/97568>, and at the following locations: HWMO, 65-1279 Kawaihae Road, Suite #211, Kamuela (call 808-885-6534 for location information) and Thelma Parker Public Library, 67-1209 Mamalahoa Highway, Kamuela.

Based on the information contained in the Final EA, a review of applicable environmental laws and orders, and in compliance with FEMA's regulations at 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027 or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov. In accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 (Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands), no action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after the publication of this Finding of No Significant Impact.

SIGNED

Alessandro Amaglio
Environmental Officer
FEMA Region IX

8/12/2014

Date