

Legislative Federal Economic Stimulus Program Oversight Commission

9/14/10

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I. Meeting called to order- 10:06 AM

Members present-

Kate Stanley- appointee of the Speaker of the House

Ed Kemp- appointee of Senator Hemmings

Aaron Johanson- appointee of the House Minority Leader

Jennifer Sabas- appointee of Senator Inouye

Kyle Chock- appointee of the Senate President

Members not present-

Senator Shan Tsutsui- Senate member

Representative Michael Magaoay- House of Representatives member

Michael Kitamura- appointee of Senator Akaka

Mark Anderson- appointee of the Governor

Kehau Yap- appointee of Congresswoman Hirono

Others present- Keira Kamiya- office of Senator Tsutsui; Ted Baker- Legislative Reference Bureau; members of the public

II. Adoption of Minutes

Adoption of minutes was deferred

III. General Business

There was no General Business conducted

IV. Overview of Federal Stimulus Funds

A. Presentation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration by Jeff LaDouce, Director, NOAA/NWS, Pacific Region, Eric Ho, NOAA HI, and Tom Berry, NOAA, MD

1. Highlights

- Using the slide presentation to be posted on the Commission's webpage and answers to the Commission's questionnaire already posted, NOAA described three ARRA-funded projects being administering in Hawaii: the NOAA Pacific Regional Center, the Pelekane Bay Restoration Project, and the Maunalua Bay Restoration Project; the restoration projects were 2 of 50 selected from 800 competitive grant applications
- The Pacific Regional Center is a partnership with the Navy to redevelop Ford Island facilities that will consolidate and modernize NOAA programs; the 300,000 square foot office and lab facility will cost \$131.9 million and will be

completed in Fall 2013; the project will bring 1,420 construction jobs to Hawaii and employ 600 people on completion

- The Pelekane Bay Project will reduce the amount of sediment being washed into the bay from the upland watershed by fencing/controlling feral goats, constructing sediment check dams, applying erosion control fabric, and re-establishing grass cover, and restoring native plants along three stream corridors; the project is funded \$2.9 million ARRA award and a \$134,000 State match; 18 new jobs will be created
- The Maunalua Bay Restoration Project will remove invasive algae from 22 acres of near shore water; the project is funded by a \$3.4 million ARRA grant; 35 jobs have been created and approximately 12 acres have been cleared to date

2. Discussion

- A Chicago firm won the bid for the NOAA/Ford Island project but it is required to local labor and suppliers to the extent possible
- The benefits of the algae removal project will be preserved because the algae is slow-growing, spreading to this extent only because of neglect, and because IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit Malama Maunalua has committed to do the necessary maintenance once the project is complete
- The Pelekane Bay project is a rare mauka-to-makai project involving seedling planting and ungulate exclusion/control measures to keep sediment out of the ocean; this will allow the bay ecosystem to reestablish itself; a non-profit will oversee restoration efforts once the project is complete; other entities are looking to replicate it

B. Presentation of the National Solar Observatory on the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope by Jeremy Wagner, Project Manager

1. Highlights

- The ATST is designed to study how space weather affects communication to/from satellites and the safety of space/air travelers, and how solar activity, specifically large coronal mass ejections, affect terrestrial communications, power systems, and climate
- A site on Haleakala was chosen from among 72 candidates following 2-4 years of observation to assess weather, atmospheric turbulence, and sky clarity; it was preferred to, for example, Mauna Kea because it is dust-free

compared to the younger Mauna Kea, the sky is darker, and there are few seasonal variations

- ARRA funds account for \$146 million of the total \$298 million allocated to the ATST project; construction will begin as early as late 2010, and \$38 million will be paid for local labor/materials during the first four years of the seven year construction project and up to 100 jobs per year, on and off site, would be supported during that period; approximately 35, mostly local newly hired personnel would work on Maui after completion and \$18 million per year would be expended in the local economy during the 50 year life span of the project
- Three major concerns were addressed during the EIS process: cultural sensitivity, endangered species, and habitat conservation; a Conservation District Use Application is pending ; mitigation plans include ongoing ATST Native Hawaiian working group, decommissioning after 50 years (2 full sets of solar magnetic activity cycles\$20 million over 10 years for UH Maui College initiatives, and endangered species protection measures

2. Discussion

- Project is unlike other telescopes because, as a solar telescope, its observations are conducted during the day
- The telescope will not attract others to Haleakala because it is dedicated to study of a single object, uses different systems, and is a very specialized facility
- Telescope could be in space or on the moon but there is no facility like it and it will answer questions otherwise unanswerable

C. Presentation of the General Services Administration by Matthew Jear, Regional Recovery Executive, Region 9

1. Highlights

- GSA is administering two ARRA-funded renovation projects in Hawaii, the Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Federal Building and the Hilo Federal Building
- \$117.6 million in FFY 2009 and 2010 has been allocated to the PJKK project for a full modernization and renovation design for both the nine and five story components of the facility and construction funding for Phase 1 which will consist of HVAC and electrical upgrades, water efficient plumbing

fixtures, elevator and life safety system improvements, lighting replacement, and hazardous material abatement

- Approximately 150 jobs were saved or created during the PJKK design phase, 50 were saved during current construction (commenced 6/10, 3% complete), and 775 will be saved or created over the course of construction, 250 at any one time (project completion scheduled for 2014)
- 50% of jobs went to small businesses, 90-100% to local firms; energy savings will be 30%, half from lighting fixture changes, half from HVAC upgrade
- Some tenants have been moved (IRS and part of FBI); money saved from lower bids than expected has been reallocated to other region projects
- \$6.7 million has been allocated in FFY 2009 and 2010 to the Hilo Federal Building for a full modernization and renovation including seismic upgrade, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical system upgrade, improvements to security and life safety systems, and abatement of hazardous materials; energy improvements include highly reflective roof coating, restoration of natural lighting, and high efficiency HVAC
- Construction on the Hilo Federal Building project is 38% complete (estimated May 2011 completion) and \$2 million of \$5.8 million contract has been paid, saving or creating an estimated 72 jobs, with 25 on the job at any one time

2. Discussion

- ARRA funding covers courthouse portion of PJKK construction; construction funds for federal building portion of complex will be included in FFY 2012 budget request
- It would have cost more to replace the Hilo Federal building or to move because of the lack of available commercial space
- The Hilo Federal Building project was originally planned for 2002 but, at \$15 million, the bids were higher than expected so the project was postponed

V. Public Comments

There were no comments or questions from members of the public present at the meeting.

VI. Adjournment

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With a reminder that the next meeting would be held on September 28, 2010, with presentations from the National Park Service and the Hawaii Primary Care Association, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

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