U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Bulletin

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Final Environmental Impact Statement and Habitat Conservation released for the Na Pua Makani Wind Project

HONOLULU, Hawaii –The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is announcing the availability of the final Environmental Impact Statement and Habitat Conservation Plan for the requested incidental take permit for the proposed Na Pua Makani Wind Project near Kahuku, Hawai‘i.

Na Pua Makani Power Partners applied for an incidental take permit that would, if approved by the Service, authorize the unintentional killing of listed species caused by the construction and operation of the applicant’s Na Pua Makani Wind Project for production of wind-generated electrical energy on approximately 707 acres of public and private lands near Kahuku on the island of Oahu. The proposed project would construct up to 9 wind turbines generating up to 25 megawatts of renewable wind-generated electrical energy. The 21-year permit would authorize take of the threatened Newell’s shearwater, and the endangered Hawaiian stilt, Hawaiian coot, Hawaiian moorhen, Hawaiian duck, Hawaiian goose, and Hawaiian hoary bat.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act requirements for an incidental take permit, Na Pua Makani Power Partners prepared a habitat conservation plan to minimize and mitigate the impacts of incidental take likely to be caused by the project. To offset anticipated take, potential mitigation measures on Oahu include:

- funding research to support effective management of Newell’s shearwaters;
- fencing and predator control to conserve the Hawaiian goose at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge;
- a combination of bat research and native forest restoration and management to increase Hawaiian hoary bat habitat;
- acoustic surveys to document occupancy of the affected area by the Hawaiian hoary bat; and
- fencing and public outreach at Hamakua Marsh to benefit conservation of the Hawaiian stilt, Hawaiian coot, Hawaiian moorhen and the Hawaiian duck.

This final habitat conservation plan incorporates adaptive management provisions to allow for modifications to the mitigation and monitoring measures as knowledge is gained during its implementation.

All associated documents may be viewed at www.fws.gov/pacificislands/ .