Rhonda Loh – NPS: For those of you who just joined us we’re just waiting another minute for a person to join us, and as noted, this session is being recorded. Alright.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Rhonda, Ken is on.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: I see that. We’ll begin. Aloha kākou and mahalo nui loa for joining us today. Um, before we begin, I just wanted to do a couple housekeeping um well first let me introduce myself. My name is Rhonda Loh, I am the superintendent at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Again, this meeting is being recorded and we’ll have a presentation followed by questions and comments. If you want to provide verbal comments, please put your name in the chat and you will be put on the list and you will be called when it is your turn. And we will be monitoring the chat for comments and questions, and they will be addressed verbally as time allows.

Alright so, again, mahalo for joining us. Since 2018, I know many of you have been following the park’s progress in repairing and reopening areas on Kilauea by impacted volcanic eruption and collapses of the caldera. The actions proposed by National Park Service and US Geological Survey to replace damaged buildings and relocate functions further back from the rim of Kilauea Caldera is the next phase in this recovery process. Many of you provided your mana’o, your input, in June 2020 when the two agencies first went out to the public with some preliminary comments. Again, mahalo nui loa. Your feedback helped guide us to where we are today. We look forward to sharing our proposed actions at this meeting and hearing further from you.

Joining me today is NPS and USGS, so National Park Service and US Geological Survey staff who have been working on this projects. And individuals from Otak and SWCA who are contracted to help us develop the design concepts and assist us throughout this planning process. And with that, I’d like to hand this over to Dr. Ken Hon, scientist at USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory to join me in a few words. Mahalo, Ken

Ken Hon – USGS: Yeah, I just wanted to echo what Rhonda has said, that we really appreciate uh everybody’s comments to date and certainly look forward to, ya know, involving people further as this develops. We’re excited about kind of opening a new chapter here and realize that all of this is important to every resident of the island of Hawaii and in a broader region as well and look forward to strengthening the collaboration between USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, the National Park Service, and the community. Thanks Rhonda.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: Thank you. Alright, uh next we have Chad Weiser from Otak who will be sharing the key changes being proposed in the Kilauea Summit Area. And Chad.
Chad Weiser – Otak: Aloha everyone. Yeah, my name is Chad Weiser. I’m a project manager with Otak; we’re the prime consultant supporting Hawaii Volcanoes National Park with both planning, early planning, and now moving into design of the disaster recovery project elements. Um, what I’d like to do is do a presentation for you, um… let’s see right here. Here we go. (*screen share begins*)

I’d like to present some graphics and documentation that we’ve prepared in association with our public outreach for the EA scoping period. What I’m going to be presenting to you is a story map, it’s available online through the National Park Service site. And it’ll provide you with some background information on all of the project as we’re going to describe it today. I just want to make sure everyone is seeing this okay, is this coming through? Amanda?

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Looks good Chad.

Chad Weiser – Otak: Alright. So I’ll work through this, just be aware when you have an opportunity, I suggest you go to the link to the story map and you can peruse this in maybe your own timeframe and take in more information.

As was described by Rhonda, this project is really about recovery from the 2018 eruption that had significant impacts on park operations and visitor access to various locations in the park. With this, we’ve got a public scoping period that’s uh currently in process and will close March 11th, so we’re really looking forward to further comment and we’ll talk more about how you can do that as we move forward.

So to start off, I wanted to give you a little bit of an overview of the elements of this recovery project. There’s really 4 different areas that we’re looking at that are significant components. Um, the first one is number 1, it’s at that Uēkahuna bluff area. This is the location where the primary impacts to facilities occurred during the eruption, that’s really triggering potential improvements at other locations. It was determined through this process that some of the damage that occurred to facilities at that location was requiring a re-thinking and an opportunity to kind of revisit where facilities should be with such a dynamic, changing landscape that we have. So, we’ll be looking at that area. Area number 2 on this map is a selected location for the USGS Field Station that is a replacement of the Hawaii Volcano Observatory functions that are at Uēkahuna bluff. The area number 3 is the Kīlauea Visitor Center Area where there’s a location identified for replacing some of the visitor center functions that were at Uēkahuna in the Jaggar Museum. And then number 4 are some transportation related improvements at the entrance are to solve, will solve some long-standing issues with safety and congestion.

So I’ll move through these areas and start to explain the components of them. Let’s start at the Uēkahuna bluff. This area… let me get to where you can see the graphic a little bit better. This area is where, as mentioned, a lot of the impact occurred in so what you’re going to see as part of these improvements is really a drastic change in this location, part of the rethinking of what the National Park Service and USGS is looking at as far as their operations and functions. The areas in green here represent buildings that are being proposed to be removed, that were heavily impacted by the earthquake. Two of those buildings were USGS function, the geochemical building, and the Okamura building. And then
under this plaza area was also the Jaggar Museum. So with these improvements, what we’re looking to do is still maintain visitor access and improve the visitor experience at this location, but move certain facilities and functions out of the site. It really provides an opportunity to restore some of these areas to a more natural landscape where it’ll be a much less built environment at this site. This is a very sensitive site culturally and we think this is an opportunity to improve how this area is managed over time.

So, some additional elements with relation to the improvements on this site is related to the overlook area. What you can see in this graphic is the overlook, which right now wraps around the Jaggar Museum, will be expanded into the former footprint of the Jaggar Museum. There will be a respect to that historic building by integrating pavement makings and treatments to show where that footprint was, but an expanded area to accommodate some of the larger crowds that come to this site. There’ll be an addition of seating, improvements to utilities at this site as well as maintaining the comfort station restroom that supports the visitor activity in this location. In addition, there’ll be an optional consideration of a surface trail connection to the Crater Rim Trail at this site.

One of the things we’re doing through the Environmental Assessment is to look at viewsheds and changes to viewsheds associated with both the removal of facilities but also the improvements to different sites. So you’ll see throughout the story map what we’re calling slider views that shows the contrast between existing conditions and future conditions. This is a view from near the volcano house across the crater to Uēkahuna bluff, which is in this location. And if I slide, you can see the HVO Okamura building right here, if I slide this over, you can start to see the impact of removing that built environment from the natural landscape. It’s one of the major benefits we’re seeing out of this particular site with these changes being proposed. Again, each of these will have a map showing where the view is from. As you look at the story map, feel free to take a look at that in a little bit more detail.

This is another view from the Crater Rim Trail. Here’s the existing condition, um there’s a berm that was spoils from the basement of the Okamura building when it was built. If we remove that building, we are going to use some of those spoils to fill the basement. But you can see again, the dramatic change associated with the removal of that building.

Alright that covers the bluff area and we’re going to move on now to the USGS Field Station. The USGS operations has been considering what this means for them to lose certain functions up at the site and have been looking at a bit of a reorganization of how they operationally do their research and work out in the field. As part of that, they want to continue to maintain a field station facility. A site was identified and located right near the Kilauea Military Camp and is located here in yellow. In addition to the certain functions that were within the Okamura building, will also be relocated to a new facility they’re looking at in Hilo. So those two facilities will work in concert, again, this one is kind of a forward field station to really of help support them with field operations in their research. This particular site was located because of the potential to really nestle this facility into some existing vegetation and minimize impacts, both culturally and uh, from an environmental point of view.

So on this site, the facility is intended to be a two-story building. We’ll look at the design in a minute. In addition, there’s staff parking, very minimal parking for visitors that might be supporting USGS
functions, but again this is more of a back of the house facility for administrative purposes. So we move forward here.

00:14:36
They have a couple of renderings of the current status of design of this facility as you can see there is a two-story form. In addition, a lot of the design of this facility is very sensitive to kind of the form materials that you see at the Kilauea Military Camp, as well as other building within the park. Although it will be a new building, may have some newer types of materials, the aesthetic and design is intended to be very compatible with existing facilities that are out in the park.

00:15:13
This is a view from within the parking area that I just showed. This would be the entrance area into the facility. You can see there is some reference to even using potentially some of the salvaged Ohia trees that might be impacted during construction as part of some of the entry sequence.

00:15:38
Again there is a slider view reflecting how this may fit into the landscape. This is from a road that’s just within the Kilauea Military Camp. The vegetation on the left is in between the proposed building site and Crater Rim Drive which would see most of the visitor activity. As you can see it’s very secluded and primarily out of view from visitors coming along Crater Rim Drive. Alright

00:16:16
Jessica Ferracane – NPS: Hi Chad, hey, there is a comment in the comments. Maybe Ken wants to jump in. I didn’t hear PIERs mentioned in this and this Nick A has a question in here about this new USGS facility compared to what’s happening in Hilo. Can maybe Ken jump in just real quick and answer that.

00:16:36
Ken Hon – USGS: Would you like me to address that, Jessica?

00:16:40
Jessica Ferracane – NPS: Yes please.

00:16:41
Ken Hon – USGS: Yeah so the goal here is to still have a facility that we can work on, we’ll have a lot of instruments up in here, pulling instrument in and out the field, so a lot of the field gear. This facility will be shared with PIERs, the Pacific Island Ecosystem Research group, of the USGS, and so it’s not going to be anywhere near as big as the Okamura HVO Building, but it will be adequate for us to work with the park service. We’ll have an area for an emergency operations center there. Our main public facing building will be down in Hilo and right now we’re in negotiations with the UH Hilo Campus to be in the Komahano area just above the main campus in a very public spot. And that’s where we’ll be able to do visitations from school groups and the public and things, and that’s where we’ll have all of our research facilities down there and most people will have offices down there. There won’t be any staff really assigned to field station, but there will be a lot of people going in and out of the field station in the normal course of their work.

00:17:58
Chad Weiser – Otak: Great, thank you Ken. Alright, we’ll move on from this. Again, if you have questions, feel free to put your name in the chat and as we finish this presentation, we’ll also have opportunities to address those with all of the various staff that are here to support this presentation.
The next area that I referenced was the Kilauea Visitor Center area. And one of the main functions at Uēkahuna bluff that was affected was the Jaggar Museum. The Jaggar Museum provided both exhibits as well as sales areas for the Hawaii Pacific Parks Association. So there’s some critical functions that were part of that that we want to be sure are replaced in another location. And the location that was identified through the planning work was a site just east, in yellow here, of the Kilauea Visitors Center. So as we move forward, we can talk a little bit more about how those will function together. They’re definitely supporting each other, but the primary visitor’s center will be this new building that we’re proposing. The Kilauea Visitor’s Center, actually part of the building has an administrative function and will continue in that manner. Part of it that was for visitor use will be reprogrammed for special events, for when there’s high visitation, as well as K-12 educational programming.

So the site we identified, at least the western edge, of it, is really adjacent to the KVC and a portion of the existing parking lot. As we went to site this building there was a lot of consideration of the size and scale, materials and design aesthetic, not unlike I described for the USGS facility. This is within a historic district of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. There are significant buildings that have historic significance, one is the volcano house, that is just off this graphic, the current volcano house. This is the 1877 volcano house and then this is the Kilauea Visitor Center. With that in mind, the design responds to that. And as we move forward here, I’ll describe it in a little more detail.

From a site plan point of view, again, it’s located just to the east of the existing KVC and associated with that there was an effort to look at things that maybe we could improve on with how the KVC functions. One of those is extensive desire for more covered lanai. We have a very temperate climate obviously and the opportunity to use outdoor space, although covered from the elements, was very desirable to the team. We’ll get into in a little bit the transportation changes but one of the things you’ll see is a new access point to service this new parking lot. There’s parking for over 250 vehicles. We expect a little bit more concentration of visitors at this location because of the move from the Jaggar Museum in another location to placing a lot of that function here. So we wanted to create more capacity for parking but also improve some of the transportation and access to the site. A couple things to mention is there would be a bus drop off area right in front of the visitor’s center and bus parking would be in a similar location to where it is currently which is just on the other side of the KVC. The circulation patterns would allow for kind of a circulation back to pick up visitors but lots of flexibility with regard to parking and access to the site.

So the building itself, I want to just highlight some basic functions to the building. As was mentioned, there would be interpretive and orientation exhibits that could be outside and part of the covered lanai. There’s a desire if funding allows to even have a more expanded outdoor covered area and we’ll see how that pans out as we go into the market for construction bidding. As far as the interior of the facility, visitors would come either from the east from the parking lot or via the bus drop or parking off to the west and they would enter through the lanai to the orientation area where there will be a ranger desk for interaction with the public. In addition from that location, there’ll be a large exhibit space primarily replacing what’s at the Jaggar Museum, but also there are exhibits in the KVC that would be replicated and designed into this space. Adjacent to the orientation area, with a separate access as well, would be a sales area for HPPA to continue their operations of selling retail elements that support the park and
that visitors have interest in purchasing on their visits to the park. And then last, there’s very small administrative area, but lastly is the public restrooms to expand access to restrooms associated with increased visitation at this location.

00:24:06
Here are some graphics of the exterior, this is a view from the bus drop off area to the front of the building. This would be the front door. Here’s the door to sales. Off to the right, this would be the additional potential covered lanai area. We are proposing photovoltaics to support the energy use associated with this building. And then again the materials very consistent with existing buildings and the historic context that we’re working within.

00:24:43
Another graphic that illustrates the view coming from the parking lot. This is the covered lanai that’ll take you around to the entrance. Off to the right is the restroom area. And then within here there’ll be exhibits and orientation materials but also the potential for more expanded in that additional area.

00:25:06
Another slider view, as I mentioned off to the left would be the existing KVC just off this image. I mentioned that this facility would be located in part of the parking lot. Here’s the parking lot that we’re speaking of and so that building would be placed right in that location and additional parking added further to the east.

00:25:34
Another slider view, this kind of gives you an idea of farther west on Crater Rim drive. Actually, the building’s very subtle in the background. You can see if kind of appearing and fitting yet again into the context of the site. So that is the visitor center component.

00:25:55
Lastly we wanted to talk about the entrance, some of the challenges that were triggering desires for improvements at the entrance, and then the solutions that we’re proposing as part of our proposed action. At this particular location there are a number of challenges that were triggering the need for new circulation patterns. One of them was basically there are two entrance lanes through the entrance kiosks. And there are times in peak visitation where the queueing for vehicles extends all the way to Highway 11 and creates a safety hazard, both for those visitors waiting and traveling public along Highway 11. In addition to that, once you get through the kiosk, more and more there’s more desire for visitors to take a left to Crater Rim Drive as it heads south, and that is to go to the chain of crater’s area. That movement because of the location of this intersection and proximity to the entrance station is actually restricted from one of the entry lanes and difficult to navigate from the other. So there’s continued safety issue with regard to the turning movements for that intersection. Once you get past that if you’re coming in the site on Crater Rim Drive, the next challenge in peak visitation periods is just how circulation is managed through this section. And there’s often a lot of congestions because it’s simply a small two-lane road and a lot of pedestrian activity going back and forth between the Volcano House.

00:27:47
So we studied, here’s a picture of the two-lane road as you come in, we studied various alternatives...
... and have come up with a proposed action to resolve a lot of those challenges that the park is experiencing right now. I’ll mention a few key features. One was to address the queueing and safety on Highway 11, one was to add a third lane, which at this point would be considered primarily for administrative use. There’s a lot of administrative traffic that comes through the entrance related to USGS activity, Kilauea Military Camp, commercial vendors that support the Volcano House and other retail sales on site as well as NPS staff. And those particular vehicles get caught up in all of the visitor traffic at this point. So this is an opportunity to potentially get that traffic through more quickly and create an additional lane for additional queueing capacity. Once you exit the entry booth, we wanted to address this intersection challenge. This is the old alignment, and this is where there is a difficult left turn, here, as well as a difficult left turn from the south. To address that, as well as the need for an additional access point to the new parking lot, we are proposing a roundabout. This roundabout creates more free flowing activity and choices for the visitor to make as far as where they want to go within the park, and it provides a much safer to make turning movements in this constrained area that we have to work with. We’ll have some more graphics of that to illustrate it. Part of it would also be to add some parking that new configured parking to support the staff that work at the fee booth. There’s some unsafe arrangement on how parking is situated as well as access to the fee both, so we want to resolve that as well. These areas that would be removed would be revegetated as part of the improvements.

If you want a little more detailed, I guess, review of these improvements, you can click on this graphic to the left if you review this yourself.

So here’s some graphics that show specific still images of the changes at the entry. A little bit wider as you come in. Here’s where the additional lane would be, as you come from Highway 11. We also included a small pull out on the way out in case someone realizes, they’re not sure, they’re a visitor and they’re not sure whether to take a right or a left, they can get situated.

And then this is a view of the proposed round about. In the distance is the entry station. So this is on the opposite side of the roundabout. Crater Rim Drive heading west is down at the lower section. Crater Rim Drive going south is to the right. Our new access to the parking is to the left.

And then lastly, we’d just like to show you a video simulation that we created just to better illustrate these changes at the entrance. Again, you can see off to the right, and I apologize by the way if this is a little choppy for anyone, ya know we’re working online and working with everyone’s capacity for the internet. I think if you go on to the story map yourself, you’ll be able to see this directly with your internet connection and might flow a little better, but it basically illustrates how that will function and gives a better idea of how it’ll look and feel.

Last couple of things, there’s another slider here. This is the existing roadway and where it would connect to the new parking lot. And you can see some of the changes here from that view. Off to the right is the connection to the new parking lot to the visitor’s center.
And that concludes our presentation of the proposed improvements. Again, reminders about other ways to comment and I think at this point what we’d like to do is open it up to those who have asked to verbally ask questions. So...

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: So we don’t have anyone that’s signed up yet but there is an additional question in the chat: Will the old KVC still be utilized in the theater? Rhonda?...

You’re on mute.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: Yes, the plan is to continue to use that theater for park programs.

Chad Weiser – Otak: And I think it describes here what some of those things might be: indoor park programs, special events, and K-12 educational programming. And if anyone has a question about and wants to use a graphic to better communicate what their question might be, I’m happy to pull up wherever that is on our story map.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Ok so let’s summarize here, there’s still no requests for verbal comments in the chat and no additional questions Rhonda.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: alright. Any additional comments or questions from this group?

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: ok, well thank you and a great presentation, we’ll stay on for the remainder of the time if anybody has anything. Question in the chat: “Where is the story board accessible?” I will put the link in right now in the chat. That link is also where you can submit comments if you have any.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: there’s a question for Summer Roper.

Kalena Blakemore: Hi, yeah this is Kalena Blakemore, I used to work in cultural resource management division, and I was just curious about the location of the new visitor center. It seems like in the back of my mind there was an old house that was built there, probably in the early, I don’t know, 1900s. It was a post office and some Japanese family lived there and one of their children was born in the park and is named, I think they named him National. Anyway, I just feel like I have been in the bushes there looking to do a –word lost to audio cut out– assessment of the house platform. And I know it’s an old house platform probably, and when you weigh the importance of having to accommodate and move things around, that you have to sacrifice some things. But I was just curious, is that footprint of that house going to be impacted by the new visitor center? Thank you.

Summer Roper – NPS: So we have to conduct surveys in that area, and that will be preserved. And then we have an inventory report, it’s almost finalized so yeah, we’re going to be flagging that area off and preserving that intact. And hopefully completing the reports soon, so yeah, because we found that old milk bottle by there that one time.
Kalena Blakemore: I know it’s kinda weird and obscure but I kept thinking about that house.

Summer Roper – NPS: Yeah we have definitely made efforts to work around that site and it will be preserved.

Kalena Blakemore: Great, thank you.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: And Summer, thank you for responding to that. Summer is our archeologist for the park.

Summer Roper – NPS: Sorry I forgot to introduce myself, thank you.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Thank you Rhonda. Patti has a question to ask.

Patti Pinto: Hi, as it is there are so few picnic areas in the park now. Are there plans to increase that to make it more hospitable for visitor’s and visitor groups to picnic?

Rhonda Loh – NPS: That sounds like a suggestion for something to consider, is that, is, uh, definitely an opportunity to weigh in on that. Your thoughts, Patti?

Patti Pinto: Um, there are those tables at the ball park which I think are going to be under the new building. And um, so then there’s just the one other place, it’s very limited. And it’s hard for visitors to find a place to sit down and eat lunch without ya know damaging the flora and fauna.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: That’s definitely a comment that we welcome and we can consider as part of this planning process going forward.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Ok, captured those comments. MJ has a question in regard to Kalena’s comment: “Is the house related to the photographer’s studio?”

Rhonda Loh – NPS: Summer, do you want to answer that?

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: You’re on mute, Summer.

Summer Roper – NPS: Hi Myra, um, the photographer’s studio, the Meyhara Studio, is actually in a different location further away from there. This is related to a family with the last name Tahara, so it’s a different location.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: OK, thank you. Another question in the chat. Timothy says: “Thank you for the incorporation of sustainable energy with the panels. Will there be any
further opportunity for contributing to design considerations to expand sustainable energy infrastructure?"

00:39:36
Rhonda Loh – NPS: Yeah, this is the opportunity to weigh in. So if there’s things we may not have thought of that you’d like to suggest, we’d definitely like to hear during this public scoping sessions, period. And I don’t know if Chad or Martin have anything to add to that.

00:40:07
Chad Weiser – Otak: I’ll add one thing and then Martin might have more commentary on it. In general, all federal facilities are to be designed to a certain level of sustainability and the threshold, minimum threshold, is comparable to a LEED Silver rating. And so that will be part of all our design elements associated with the new visitor’s center. And then Martin is, of course, managing the design of the USGS facility.

00:40:45
Martin Smith – USGS: Yes, hello, Martin Smith here as an architect with USGS. We are pursuing renewable energy strategies with a solar array on the roof of the new field station.

00:41:05
Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Thank you, um, an agreement about more picnic areas and suggestion for more of those. Paulette asks, “Is the meeting this afternoon a repeat or something different?” Paulette, it will be the same format. It’s just two meetings for people who may have different schedules, but it will be the exact same thing.

00:42:16
Rhonda Loh – NPS: Any other questions or comments? And they’ve been great questions and comments so far, so keep ‘em coming. Ya know, some of you may have questions right off the top and others may think about things over night and wish you had commented, and you can definitely write in your comments online. I think the entire public scoping period is through March 11, so any additional questions or comments, you’ll definitely have opportunities to weigh in.

00:43:51
Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Here’s a question, “Can Martin Smith, et al. share contact information regarding design input?” Martin?

00:44:08
Martin Smith – USGS: Hello, Martin Smith here, USGS. Not sure I understand the question contact information.

00:44:15
Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Are you asking where you can provide some suggestions, Timothy?

00:44:24
Rhonda Loh – NPS: I think for suggestions they can go straight, uh, you can either provide them now, or you can send them online through the public online site, comment site.

00:44:40
Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Yeah, any suggestions like that can be captured that way.
Jessica Ferracane – NPS: There’s also another question in the chat, by Uilani Kualii, she has a question regarding the proposed third lane at the park entrance, “How many commercial vehicles does the park see in a given day to be considered high traffic?”

Rhonda Loh – NPS: That’s a good question, I don’t have it right off the top. Does Danielle or Chad have those numbers?

Danielle Foster – NPS: It’s not just commercial vehicles, it’s all administrative traffic and in a given day, it amounts to 50% of the vehicles coming through the entrance station, including through our peak times, peak visitor use times where it’s really busy.

Jessica Ferracane – NPS: Thank you, Kalena has another question about how many parking spots are currently available Kilauea Visitor’s Center. That information is on our website also, it’s 125 total with 9 oversized for that, Danielle, correct me if that information needs to be updated.

Danielle Foster – NPS: That’s accurate, except I think we took out 2 to put in additional accessible spot, but it’s pretty close.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: from Kalena, “Oh good, this will be an improvement.” Yes. Chad has put to the screen on what the proposed parking would look like.

Chad Weiser – Otak: Sorry about that I was explaining a little bit, much of the existing parking is in this zone. There is some parking that we would be removing based on the visitor center location, and then we would be adding and replacing some of that lost parking here, for the total that’s around 250 parking spaces.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Additional question, “Will the hulapa be affected by these developments as it sits right next to the bus parking stalls?”

Rhonda Loh – NPS: No, there’s no changes proposed east of the current parking, I’m sorry, west of that parking lot, is my understanding. And I don’t if Danielle has anything to add to that.

Danielle Foster – NPS: That’s accurate. Yeah, no affects over there.

Chad Weiser – Otak: Correct, all of this is basically existing, no significant changes.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: I want to remind folks that I am on occasion putting the link to where you can submit comments in the chat.
Rhonda Loh – NPS: I appreciate the knowledge the commenters have of the park. They are very familiar, so these are very insightful comments. Thank you.

And I don’t know if anyone joined us recently and missed the first part of the presentation, or had any additional comments and where to go, where to find the story map presentation. But I believe we put the link in the chat.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Yes, the same place you can go to provide any written comments is also where you can find the story map and other information about the project and that link is in the chat.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: I have two screens, so pardon if I look like I’m going sideways.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: A comments says, “Your story map is amazingly informative, hence the silence. Great job you guys, this is exciting for the big island.” Thank you!

Rhonda Loh – NPS: Yeah thank you Otak, you guys set the bar for visual aids.

Chad Weiser – Otak: This works very well for online presentation, definitely.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: The silence is ok, we’ll just stay here til the top of the hour as planned in case anyone comes on, or in case anyone comes up with a question. Rhonda, if you had to pick, what’s the one thing you’re most excited about?

Rhonda Loh – NPS: I think, I’m looking, the changes up at Uēkahuna, I think those I find pretty exciting.

Jessica Ferracane – NPS: Speaking of Uēkahuna, we have a question from Kepa Maly about the place name Uēkahuna, or Uēkahuna with the ‘W’ in it, that’s the most common Hawaiian language literature, is there time for a discussion on this? Maybe Rhonda, I’ll let you take who answers that question.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: Ya know, Kepa, you might want to go direct with Danielle, we definitely had some discussions on this one. I don’t know, Danielle if you want to answer this here.

Danielle Foster – NPS: Um, I will need to go back to the spreadsheet, it has to do with um, there’s a document that describes the standard use of vowels and consonants in Hawaiian language. In there, it recommends it be ‘u-ē’, with the macron rather than ‘uwe’. But I can send you the information, Kepa.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Alright there’s no more in the chat, so I think this would be an appropriate time Rhonda for you to go ahead and close out the meeting.
Rhonda Loh – NPS: Alright well the close-out’s quick.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Oh, hang on, there’s one more question, “Will park entry fee go up as a result for residents?”

Rhonda Loh – NPS: No.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Ok, alright how about we say last chance before we close out the meeting, if there is anything please go ahead and put it in the chat.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: and as a reminder we’ll have this same presentation and opportunity to you to provide input later this evening at 7pm and also again, you can provide written comment on our online site, which I believe is posted on the chat. And just to close out, again a big mahalo for everyone taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend this meeting. We really appreciate your comments, your input, and your care for what happens to this really special area of Hawaii that we all care about. So mahalo nui loa to all of the presenters as well, for sharing what’s gone into this planning process. Oh, one more question.

Amanda Childs – SWCA Environmental Consultants: Yes I was just going to say, there is one additional, going off of Kepa’s questions, “Will there be time for discussion of traditional names and spellings?” And suggestion that should Summer address this question.

Summer Roper – NPS: I would punt it maybe, more to Danielle, they worked on more of the place names recently, if that’s ok. Danielle?

Danielle Foster – NPS: Uh sure, we do look at the place names in the park and try to update them, like with the concatenation by Mauna Loa, instead of it being two words, being one word; removing Crater as a feature class from the actual place name, things like that. There are some recommendations from, we get recommendations from our Hāpuna consultation group on other changes and we provide these lists to them. But we always welcome additional input if there are thoughts that certain places should be called something different or spelled differently. Definitely please let us know, and we also have a project that is going to be worked that will also do some more deeper research into that, which is why I suggested Summer, but hopefully in a few years when that project is done we’ll have even more information on stories behind places as well as the traditional spellings, how we should be spelling it or calling it, and then any variants that there may be because some places have more than one name. We try to capture that and get it updated in the Board of Geographic Names Database.

Jessica Ferracane – NPS: I wanted to point out also that if you get a copy of the new park map at the entrance, you’ll notice there’s a lot of western names, like Thurston Lava Tube have, we’ve gone back to Nahuku, Kūpinaʻi Pali for Waldron Ledge, Uēaloha for Byron Ledge, etc. So we’ve made quite a bit of progress in that area already that you can see reflected on the map.
Kepa Maly: Mahalo, if I may just real quick, I realize you’re running out of time. On the place names, Danielle and Summer, particularly with this, a critical part of it is that there’s a modern speak and then there’s a traditional speak, and in the Hawaiian language you’ll find that native speakers who are the foremost leaders and writers from sorta 1830 period, even a little earlier, up through the 1940s, in native language newspapers, were standardly writing a particular way, so when historical documentary research is being done, the author’s would not change it to the modern speak, but would rely on as it was originally written. So I think that this is a good opportunity for discussion. Of course, as you said though, things are being developed now, and three years from now to revisit it would be hard. Ya know, when I was at Hawaii Volcanoes with David Ames, I remember our discussion regarding Pu’uhonua - City of Refuge and what do you do, and my suggestions was, ya know, you put the Hawaiian prominent first, and then put a secondary spelling or name below that at least to allow it for a time of transition. Otherwise, at the visitor center, back in the 70s and early 80s, we ended up with people who arrived at Hawaii Volcanoes saying “where was the City of Refuge”, so they needed time to learn of the differences as well, so just my small two-cents but since you’re busy working on all kinds of collateral that will be printed and developed as way-signs, exhibits, and signage, a discussion worth having sometime in the near future.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: Point well taken. And I think we still do what you originally suggested with David Ames, we do try to do that transition where we’ll put both names, and eventually try and fade out the western name in our speech.

Kepa Maly: Mahalo.

Rhonda Loh – NPS: And getting back to Uilani’s comment, while it may not be the focus, while names may not be the particular focus of this planning meeting, if you share that knowledge in your comment, we will make sure that in future planning, when we get to signs and things like that, that your knowledge is shared and considered and we may get back to you to further that discussion, but no necessarily part of this planning process.

Alright we’re three past the hour, so any last words? Any mana’o, parting words to share with us? And again, we have another meeting later this evening and opportunities to comment online, or even by mail, and I think there is even a phone option. Alright, with that, mahalo nui loa everyone, have a great rest of the day and a hui ho.