

November 15, 2017 Parks, Water & Roads Group

Pratt Rd./Emergency by-pass: The most recent CIP document lists this as a Dept. of Public Works project that is estimated to cost \$3.5 million. There is an assumption in that projection that the County would acquire and maintain the road. In our conversations with property owners they have made it clear that they would be willing to allow emergency access, but they are not in agreement to relinquish their property. Nor do most want maintenance beyond a rudimentary level that preserves the rustic nature of the road. John and Toni have agreed to go to Hilo or Kona to meet with the Acting Director of Public Works to further discuss how to best address the problem of the emergency by-pass.

Camping Permits: We continued our discussion regarding the apparent discrepancy in allowing overnight camping at Keokea Beach Park for some groups while not allowing others the same access. Sarah has agreed to contact the current Director of Parks & Rec. (Roxy Waltjen) to discuss options for camping regulations.

Meeting with Mr. Rocha and Friends of the Parks: Lisa reported on the most recent meeting (Nov. 14th) between Mr. Rocha and the various Friends of the Parks. Mr. Rocha agreed to continue working with the Friends re: improvements and maintenance at the parks such as lighting, water pressure and bolts missing from the ladder at Mahukona.

Akoni Pule Highway. Following our regular meeting we hosted a community forum. Representative Cindy Evans brought Dan Smith, the Big Island District Engineer for the State Dept. of Transportation here to discuss DOT's plans for maintaining the Akoni Pule Highway. Residents were able to express their concerns, which centered on the dangerous conditions at Aamakao gulch, the Pratt Road bypass, and the yield sign at Walaohia gulch.

Next meeting, Wed., Dec. 20th, 5pm at the Judiciary Building.