

2. BACKGROUND: KA'U TO SOUTH KONA WATER MASTER PLAN

In 1997, Waimea Water Services completed *A Water Development Plan – Phase I*. The Plan was funded by the Ocean View Community Association (OVCA), Tel Hawai'i, and the County of Hawai'i (County) through the Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Council. This Plan recommended the following:

- Form organization(s) to secure funding
- Construct well at OVCA Community Center
- Estimated Cost - \$3,900,000

As a result, the Ocean View Community Development Corporation (OVCDC) was formed in 1997, comprised of the following communities/organizations:

- Ocean View Community Association
- Hale Ola Ka'u (a.k.a. Tempura House)
- Ranchos Road Corporation
- Ranchos Community Association
- HOVE Road Corporation
- Kula Kai Road Corporation
- Ocean View Fire Department
- Kahuku Country Estates
- Ocean View Chamber of Commerce
- Kona Garden Estates

In 1998, the Hawai'i State Legislature appropriated \$1,350,000 for planning, design, and construction of a well at Ocean View (Act 116, 49A/B). This bill was passed with the support of the OVCDC and State legislators. Despite the allocation of funds, funding was not released and the appropriation lapsed in 2000.

In 2000 and 2001, the OVCDC met with the County administration to continue efforts to develop a water system for the area. The community expressed interest in forming a Community Facilities District (CFD) for funding purposes. In order for a CFD to be established, this mechanism requires 25 percent of resident signatures. At that time, the County administration pledged to support a CFD proposal to the County Council. The County also offered to provide technical assistance through its DWS. This position was re-affirmed in subsequent meetings with the Mayor.

In 2001, the Mayor met with the Governor and obtained a commitment for \$500,000. This funding was contingent upon approval of the CFD. The County informed the State Legislature and \$500,000 was allocated in the budget (Act 259, 19). Unfortunately, in May 2001, the OVCDL was not able to obtain 25 percent of the signatures needed to form a CFD.

In January 2002, a community meeting was held in Ocean View. The community expressed that they wanted the State to fund drilling of a test well. The community discussed initiating a CFD and committing funds if the State of Hawai'i would fund a test well.

In April 2002, the OVCDL again met with the Mayor. As the original request for funds could not be pursued without a CFD, the Mayor suggested requesting that the Governor appropriate funds to develop a plan for the region. Representatives of the OVCDL agreed with the strategy. The Governor committed to this partnership with the County and community by approving \$500,000. The Governor approved the County's request for release of funds in August of 2002.

Thereafter, a County planning group was formed and a Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out to prospective consultants. In October of 2002, the County established a committee of community members to review consultant proposals. Consultants' proposals were received in November. The committee interviewed several consultants and made a recommendation to the Mayor. In December of 2002, the Mayor announced the selection of Townscape, Inc. Townscape was contracted and began the master planning process at the end of February 2003.