

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

SUITE 100

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May 2, 1977

*25 Meter Millimeter Wave Telescope
Memo #90*

Dr. John T. Jefferies, Director
Institute for Astronomy
2680 Woodlawn Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear John:

Short of construction drawings and selection of "sea-level" facilities, we have now completed all major aspects of the design for our 25-m millimeter-wave telescope. Last week at the VLA site, a special ad hoc committee of non-NRAO astronomers unanimously endorsed our design and our recommendation of Mauna Kea as the site for this instrument. There is no alternate site. We (AUI) plan to submit a second volume of our 1975 proposal to the NSF this summer which will describe the site choice in detail.

After listening to various comments from the astronomers and from representatives of the NSF, I personally feel that the funding of this project is a certainty. The only question is when. To minimize any delay, I'm eager to complete as much administrative groundwork as possible prior to actual funding. Specific items would include preparation of the environmental impact statement and our application for telescope construction on Mauna Kea as required by the Master Plan. There may be other requirements of which I'm unaware.

Could you supply me with a copy of the MK Master Plan and the name of the person or agency we should contact. Could you also suggest the necessary administrative steps and their sequence which must be taken to secure approval.

If at all possible, I'd like to avoid using a local agency such as Inter-Island Consultants. It seems to me that, with passage of the Master Plan, Mauna Kea is now well-established as an observatory site. It should be possible for us to deal directly with our own application, using the local contacts which we've made over the last two years.

Finally, we've talked with Bennet McInnes of the Royal Observatory regarding a common location for a "sea-level" facility. I very much share his concern, and the NRAO will work closely with him.

Sincerely yours,

Mark A. Gordon

MAG:mt

c: D. S. Heeschen
25-m Working Group