# Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects 24 CFR Part 58

#### **Project Information**

Project ID: PR-RGRW-00622

Project Name: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

**Grant Recipient** (if different than Responsible Entity):

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico/Ciales

Preparer: Angela L. Dahlgren

Certifying Officer Name and Title:

Permit and Compliance Officers:

Sally Acevedo Cosme
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Juan Carlos Perez Bofill

Consultant (if applicable): Tetra Tech, 251 Calle Recinto Sur, Ste. 202, San Juan, PR 00091

**Direct Comments to:** PRDOH (environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov)

Project Location: BO CORDILLERA CARR 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638

The property is a 0.54-acre site located at BO CORDILLERA CARR 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638 (Parcel ID: 137-071-171-14). The coordinates of the project site are 18.317556, -66.493570.

The proposed project is located in a rural, mountainous terrain with mature vegetation and grasslands surrounding the property. This land was previously used for a residential yard and is currently used for a residential yard.

**Description of the Proposed Project** [24 CFR 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

The proposed project area is approximately .007 acres. The proposed use of grant funds is for purchase and installation of a factory prepared container to be used for hydroponics production. The container will be located at 18.317556, -66.493570.

The applicant plans to install the 40 feet by 8 feet container on a new concrete base in the eastern yard adjacent to their residence. While an existing concrete pad is present, it is decayed and cracked, and a new concrete pad will be required to support the container. This container will be factory prepared for hydroponics production. The proposed container location has not been previously graded, save for that required at the time of the house construction and installation of the existing concrete pad; some leveling of the ground surface may be required for the construction of the concrete pad. Power and water to the container will be provided from the existing adjacent connection of the applicant's house through aboveground connections.

Site photos are included in **Appendix A**. A site map (**Figure 1**) is included in **Appendix B**.

#### Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

In September of 2017, Hurricanes Irma and María produced sustained winds and intense rainfall that impacted agricultural production throughout the island of Puerto Rico. These hurricanes caused the loss of eighty percent of crop value island wide, exacerbating challenges to food security and agricultural business development. The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA) estimated seven hundred and eighty million dollars (\$780 million) worth of damages from the hurricanes to the agricultural sector of the economy.

Many properties were damaged in Hurricane Maria, resulting in struggling businesses. The Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (Re-Grow Program) will develop greater agricultural capacity and address the needs created by Hurricanes Irma and María with a substantial investment of CDBG-DR funds for a wide variety of viable and sustainable agricultural activities.

The Re-grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program promotes and increases food security throughout the Island. It also improves and expands agricultural production related to economic revitalization and the development of activities.

The applicant does not have the resources to purchase faming equipment and materials for their agricultural operation. This farming business project is associated with the purchase and installation of a factory prepared container to be used for hydroponic production and will deliver with the overall objectives of the economic development program.

#### Existing Conditions and Trends [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:

The existing area for the proposed purchase and installation of a factory prepared container to be used for hydroponics production is used as a residential yard which is also used for storing farm equipment, the residence is associated with the Cabiyas Farm. There

is no change in land use associated with this project and some ground disturbance will be required.

#### Structure of this Environmental Review Report (ERR).

This ERR discusses the Funding Information immediately below. The environmental impacts of the proposed action are discussed in the Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities checklist and Environmental Factors checklist. The listing of Additional Studies Performed, and Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted follows the checklists. The discussions of Public Outreach, Cumulative Impacts, Alternatives, and Summary of Findings and Conclusions are presented at the end of the ERR, before the listing of Mitigation Measures and Determination signatures. The appendices contain detailed information.

Appendix A – Site Inspection

Appendix B - Maps

Appendix C – Additional Documentation

Appendix D – Endangered Species

Appendix E – SHPO Consultation

#### **Funding Information**

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD) / Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)	\$1,507,179,000
B-18-DP-72-0001	CPD / DBG-DR	\$8,222,783,000
B-19-DP-78-0002	CPD / DBG-DR	\$277,853,230
B-18-DE-72-0001	CPD / DBG-DR	\$1,932,347,000

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$100,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$100,000.00.

#### Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
Airport Hazards  24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	The proposed project consists of the construction of a concrete base and installation of a factory prepared container on the concrete base. The container will be used for hydroponics production. The nearest civil airport is approximately 114,342 feet from the proposed site. The nearest military airport is approximately 171,217 feet from the proposed site. The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The proposed project consists of the construction of a concrete base and installation of a factory prepared container on the concrete base. The project is in compliance with Airport.
		See Figure 2 in Appendix B.
Coastal Barrier Resources  Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No	This proposed project is not located in a CBRS Unit. The proposed project is located 51,288 feet southwest of the nearest CBRS (PR-83). Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.  See Figure 3 in Appendix B.

Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]		No 	The proposed project site is not located in a 100-year floodplain per FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) 72000C0655J, effective date 11/18/2009. The proposed project will not require flood insurance. The proposed project is in compliance with flood insurance.  See Figure 4 and Figure 5 in Appendix B.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REG	ULAII	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5
Clean Air  Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93		XO X	The proposed project site is not located in a county or air quality management district that is in non-attainment status for any criteria pollutants. The Municipio of Ciales is not listed in the EPA Green Book as being in non-attainment. The proposed construction of a concrete base and installation of a factory prepared container on the concrete base would have no impact on air quality. The project is in compliance with Clean Air Act.
			See EPA listing in <b>Appendix C</b> .
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)		NO M	The proposed project is located 47,642 feet from the nearest Coastal Zone Management area and does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the PR Coastal Zone Management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic			See <b>Figure 7</b> in <b>Appendix B.</b> A site visit conducted on May 12, 2023,
Substances  24 CFR Part 58.5(i) (2)		No X	noted no debris, rubbish, visible signs vegetative stress, contamination, or toxic substances at the project site.  Site contamination was evaluated through online data searches to determine if toxic sites are located within 3,000-feet of the proposed project. There are no sites of environmental concernidentified within 3,000 feet of the project

		site. The project is in compliance contamination and toxic substances.
Endangered Species  Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	See Figures 8 and 9 in Appendix B.  The proposed project will have No Effect on listed species. The proposed project is located 14,382 feet from the nearest endangered species critical habitat. The proposed construction of a concrete base and installation of a factory prepared container on the concrete base will not involve cutting down any trees. Additionally, there are no critical habitats in the proposed project area.
		A 'No Effect' determination has been made based on the lack of suitable habitat for the Puerto Rican Boa, as well as previous disturbance and current land use of the proposed project area.
		If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the Construction Manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the Boa.
		See Figures 10 and 11 in Appendix B and "No Effect" Determination Memo in Appendix D. The proposed project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act
Explosive and Flammable Hazards  24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No	The project does not include a hazardous facility, nor does it include development, construction, or rehabilitation that will increase residential density. The project is in compliance with Explosive and Flammable Hazard requirements.  Refer to site visit report in Appendix A.
Farmlands Protection	Yes No	The project site is designated as prime
Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly		farmland. The proposed project consists of the construction of a concrete base and installation of a factory prepared

sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658		container on the concrete base. The container will be used for hydroponics production. The project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to nonagricultural use.  Although the project includes new construction, the project is exempt
		form review under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FFPA) as the project is limited to construction of onfarm structures need for farm operations. No further review is required. This project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
		See Figure 12 in Appendix B.
Floodplain Management  Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24  CFR Part 55	Yes No	The project is located in a Zone X, FIRM Panel 72000C0655J, effective date 11/18/2009. The site is not located in a Preliminary Firm or an Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) special flood hazard area. The project is in compliance with Floodplain management requirements.
		See <b>Figure 5 and 6</b> in <b>Appendix B</b> .
Historic Preservation  National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	The project site was evaluated on June 16, 2023, by an SOI qualified Architect and on June 20, 2023, by a SOI Qualified Archaeologist. Documentation with maps was subsequently submitted to SHPO on July 28, 2023. SHPO concurred with a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" within the project's Area of Potential on Effects on August 3, 2023.
		See <b>Figure 13</b> in <b>Appendix B</b> and SHPO Submittal and Concurrence Documentation in <b>Appendix E</b> .
Noise Abatement and Control  Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet	Yes No	HUD's noise regulations protect residential properties from excessive noise exposure. The proposed project consists of the construction of a concrete base and installation of a factory prepared container on the concrete

Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B		base. The container will be used for hydroponics production.  HUD noise regulations do not apply as the project does not include new construction for residential use or rehabilitation of an existing residential property. The proposed project is in compliance with Noise Abatement and Control.
Sole Source Aquifers  Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No	There are no EPA sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection  Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No	NWI maps show no wetlands on the proposed project area or adjacent to the proposed project area. The nearest wetland is located approximately 536-feet east of the proposed project location. This proposed project will not impact any on or off-site wetlands and includes no activities that would require further evaluation under Executive Order 11990. The project is in compliance with wetland protections.  See Figure 14 in Appendix B.
Wild and Scenic Rivers  Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	This project is not within proximity of a National Wild and Scenic River (WSR). The distance to the nearest WSR is approximately 242,893 feet. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.  See <b>Figure 15</b> in <b>Appendix B</b> .
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice  Executive Order 12898	Yes No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in any other compliance review portion of this project that may disproportionately be high for low-income and/or minority communities.

	Therefore,	the	proposed	activity	
	complies wit	h Exec	utive Order 1	2898.	

**Environmental Assessment Factors** [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features, and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.** 

**Impact Codes**: Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact May require mitigation
- **(4)** Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOP	MENT	
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The proposed project is located on a private farm. The proposed project consists of the construction of a concrete base and installation of a factory prepared container on the concrete base. The container will be used for hydroponics production.  The project site is not zoned. The proposed action is compliant with the current rural residential/agricultural land use of the project area.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/		The proposed project is located in a rural, mountainous terrain with mature vegetation and

Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	grasslands surrounding the property. The soil is classified as Daguey Clay (DaD2), 12 to 20 percent slopes, surrounded by mature vegetation.
		Projects larger than 1 acre must comply with the CWA and develop a SWPPP with the NPDES. The proposed project area is approximately .007 acres.
		The project sites are in area is rated "low" for landslide susceptibility (see <b>Figure 16</b> in <b>Appendix B</b> ).
		No changes in drainage or erosion are expected from this project. There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	During implementation of the project, construction activities may result in temporary elevation of ambient noise levels in immediate areas around active construction areas.
		There is no access to the project area by the public. Standard BMPs, such as construction fencing, would be applied to protect the farm residents and public from typical construction hazards.
Energy Consumption	2	The project site has access to electricity from the existing home on site. There would be minor change in energy demand and will not require an expansion to existing power facilities.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONON	NIC	
Employment and Income Patterns	2	Temporary employment of workers related to construction activities would result, but no new permanent jobs would be created as a result of this project. These workers are expected to come from the local region. The proposed project would not negatively impact employment or income patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The proposed project would not result in demographic character changes or displacement. Given the nature of the project area, no relocations or demolition of residential structures or businesses would occur as part of this project.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation				
COMMUNITY FA	COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES					
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project would not result in any change to regional or local area educational and cultural facilities or increase demand for them.				
Commercial Facilities	2	The agricultural activity of the project property will improve. Other commercial facilities would not be impacted by the proposed project.				
Health Care and Social Services	2	Health care and social services facilities would not be impacted by the proposed project. The project would not increase demand for health care and social services facilities.				
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	Waste vegetation from any clearing activities will either be composted on site or at regional composting centers. Soil from any grading would be recycled on the farm as fill. Left over construction materials that could be reused on the farm (e.g., piping, structural materials) would be stored for later use. The remaining construction solid waste materials would be collected for transport to the local landfill. The amount of impact of solid waste resulting from the construction of the proposed project would be minor. During operations, the products and byproducts would be agricultural, which waste would be biodegradable.				
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The proposed project would not include any bathrooms, wastewater, or sewage facilities. Current farm conditions would remain unchanged.				
Water Supply	2	The proposed project will access water that is currently supplied to the existing home on the property. The proposed project will have minimal impact on the water supply.				
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The proposed project would not create any new demand for emergency or health services.				

Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The proposed project would not create or destroy any new parks, open space, or recreational activities. It also would not increase use of those facilities.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The proposed project would not involve the creation of new roads nor any increase in long-term traffic on existing roads. There would be some minor use of the existing road during construction. All residents and businesses would retain access to their properties during and after the project.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The proposed project will be situated on an existing agriculture property and will have no impact to unique natural features or water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The proposed project will occur in land previously used for residential/agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. The proposed project will have no impact on vegetation and wildlife.
Climate Change	2	This is a small project with no measurable impact on climate change factors. The proposed project considered the potential impacts of climate change on the short- and long-term suitability and resilience of the project. The project will have no change in foreseeable future conditions due to climate change

Additional Studies Performed: None Required

Field Inspection (Date and completed by): Carlos O. Medina, May 12, 2023.

List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

FAA, National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems:

<u>www.faa.gov/airports/planning\_capacity/npias/reports/NPIAS-Report-2017-2021-Appendix-B-Part6.pdf</u>

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, Puerto Rico <u>map.</u> <u>www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Locator/PR.pdf</u>

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: <a href="https://www.rivers.gov/puerto-rico.php">www.rivers.gov/puerto-rico.php</a>

Puerto Rico Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan, July 2018. www.cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/action-plan/

Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office and the Central Office for Recovery, Reconstruction and Resilience – amended to include the Puerto Rico Department of Housing.

US Environmental Protection Agency, National Ambient Air Quality Standards, Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants (Green Book): www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo pr.html

US EPA, Environmental Topics, Air Topics: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics">www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics</a>

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-state?stateAbbrev=PR&stateName=Puerto%20Rico&statusCategory=Listed">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-state?stateAbbrev=PR&stateName=Puerto%20Rico&statusCategory=Listed</a>

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Mapping Service: <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home">https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home</a> (compilation of numerous maps)

US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory:

<u>www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html</u> (compilation of numerous maps)

Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program Plan, September 2009.

US EPA, Sole Source Aquifers. Esri HERE, Garmin, NOAA, USGS, EPA.

US Geological Survey, Data Release of May Showing Concentration of Landslides Caused by Hurricane Maria,

www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/59de6459e4b05fe04ccd39d8

List of Permits Obtained: None Required

#### Public Outreach [24 CFR 58.43]:

The local community has been very proactive in the recovery process. Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the agricultural community. The project will include a FONSI / NOI-RROF in compliance with NEPA regulations for HUD.

#### Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]:

In accordance with 24 CFR 58.32 (Aggregation), there are no cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project. Agricultural activities would increase to a minor degree above current levels due to the implementation of the project. Water and electric usage would increase to a minor degree in the new hydroponic container.

#### **Alternatives** [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]

The RGRW Program's goal is to increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island wide. This Program seeks to enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. The applicant submitted a proposal to enhance and expand agricultural production on their property. The proposed use of grant funds will allow the applicant to expand the cultivation of agricultural products in the hydroponic container. The applicant plans to install the 40 feet by 8 feet container on a new concrete base in the eastern yard adjacent to their residence. Any alternative that would involve an off-property location would not enhance and expand agricultural production or allow for the economic development for this applicant. The actions are proposed in an area adjacent to their residence for optimal use of existing utilities. Alternative locations on the property would require extensive tree removal, land clearing, grading and access to utilities.

#### No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

Under the No Action Alternative, the applicant would not receive federal funding for the purchase and installation of a factory prepared container to be used for hydroponics production which would inhibit the economic growth opportunity that the applicant would not otherwise have under the PRDOH Re-Grow Puerto Rico program. As a result, these owners may not be able to experience the growth needed to recover and expand their agriculture activities. A provision of the grant allows for economic development for businesses. The No-Action alternative would not allow for the economic development for this applicant.

#### **Summary of Findings and Conclusions:**

The proposed activity has been found to not have any adverse effects on the environment nor is there the requirement for further consultation with federal agencies associated with the topics evaluated above. There are no environmental review topics addressed above that result in the need for additional formal compliance steps with federal agencies or the requirement for mitigations other than those listed below. There may be additional approvals or permits from local agencies.

### Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or

non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure

Deterr	mination:
$\boxtimes$	Finding of No Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The	project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.
	Finding of Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The	project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
Prepa	prer Signature: Date: 8/15/2023
Name	e/Title/Organization: Angela L. Dahlgren   CDBG-DR Program Manager   Tetra Tech
Certify	ying Officer Signature:Date: 9/29/2023

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).

Name/Title: Janette Cambrelén, Permit and Environmental Compliance Specialist

## **APPENDIX A**

Site Inspection and Photos





#### **Environmental Field Observation - Puerto Rico Department of Housing**

APPLICANT INFORMATION					
Application ID	Application ID PR-RGRW-00622				
Applicant Name	CABIYAS FARM, LLC				
Property Address	Bo Cordiller	a Carr 146 Ki	W 24.1		
Parcel ID	137-071-171-14				
Coordinates					
Inspector Name					
Inspection Date					
Building Type					
Number of Units	0				
Number of Stories	0				
Year Built; Data Source	N/A				
ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS (attach		otes, as nece	essary, for any YES answers)		
OBSERVATION ITEMS	YES	NO	COMMENTS		
A. Is the structure in use?			N/A		
B. is structure a greenhouse?		Ø			
C. Is Electricity connected?	$\square$		Power connection to the container will be provide from the adjacent connection from the applicant house, above ground.		
D. Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	Ø		Water connection to the container will be provide from the adjacent connection of the applicant house, above ground.		
1. Are there signs of <b>poor housekeeping</b> on site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, storm debris, solid waste, petroleum products, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, vehicle batteries, abandoned vehicles, pits, pools, ponds of hazardous substances, etc.)		Ø			
2. Are there any <b>55-gallon drums</b> visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?		Ø			
<b>3</b> . Are there any (or signs of any) <b>underground storage tanks</b> on the property?		Ø			
<b>4</b> . Are there signs of <b>ASTs</b> on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.		Ø			
5. Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?		Ø			
6. Is a water <b>drainage system</b> in use?		Ø			
7. Is a warehouse in use for storage of <b>Fertilizer or Pesticides</b> ?		Ø			
8. Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?		Ø			
9. Is there evidence of a faulty septic system?					
10. Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?		Ø			
11. Is there any visible indication of MOLD?		$\overline{\checkmark}$			







12. Is there any visible evidence of asbestos, chipping, flaking or peeling paint, or hazardous materials present in or on the structure?	V	
13. Are any additional site hazards observed?	Ø	
<b>14</b> . Is there any <b>permanent standing water</b> , such as a pond or stream, located on the site (do not include ponding from recent rain / weather events)?	V	
<b>15</b> . Does the subject property have <b>water frontage</b> ?	V	
<b>16</b> . Is there any indication of the presence of <b>Wetlands</b> ?	Ø	
<b>17</b> . Are there any obvious signs of <b>animals or birds nesting</b> on or near the site?	Ø	
<b>18</b> . Is the applicant aware of any <b>significant historical event or persons</b> associated with the structure, or of it being located in a historic district/area?	V	
19. Is a historic marker present?	V	

#### **Additional Notes:**

Re Grow Additional Notes: Case: PR-RGRW-00622

Project Name: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.493570

Is the field graded? For what purpose the field was graded? Month, Year: the field is not graded.

Scope of Work: Construction of a concrete base and installation of a factory prepared container used for hydroponics production.

Land current in use for: housing yard

Past Land use was: housing yard

The applicant plans to do: installation of a container 40' x 8' with a concrete base.

Scope of work: Installation of a container with measurements of 40' x 8' in a concrete pad. This container will be factory prepared for hydroponics production. Area available in a terrace of 40'x40'.

Any new water connection or power connection?

Power and water connection to the container will be provide from the adjacent connection of the applicant house, above ground.







#### Site Sketch





State road



Photo Direction: Southeast

Front of Structure



Facing Away From Front

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Direction: Southwest



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction: Northeast





Photo Direction: Southeast



Facing Away From Back

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Direction: North

Side #2 of Structure



Facing Away From Side #2

Photo Direction: South





Photo Direction: Southeast

Streetscape #1



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction: Northeast









Photo Description: Applicant house
Photo Direction: East

The state of the state o



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: West



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: South





Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North





Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

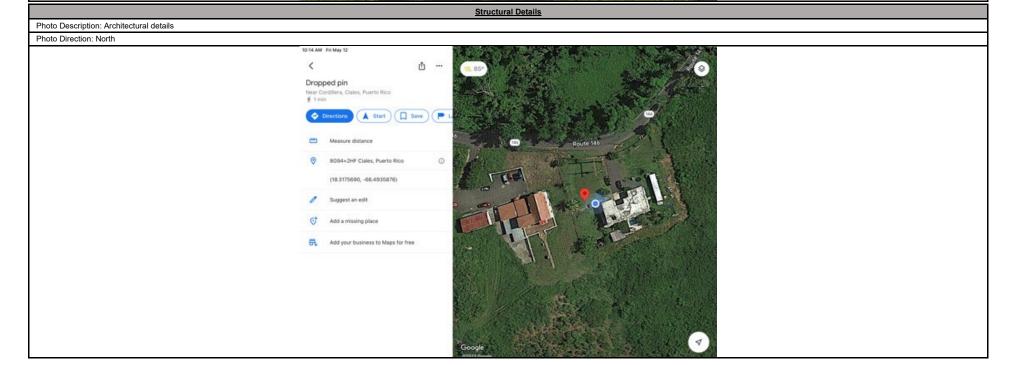
Photo Direction: Northeast





Photo Description: Architectural details
Photo Direction: Northeast

Structural Details





Electricity Connected
Photo Description: Power connected
Photo Direction: South



Water Connected

Photo Direction: East

Photo Description: Water connected





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Container with a concrete pad

Photo Direction: South



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Container with a concrete pad

Photo Direction: Northwest





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Container with a concrete pad

Photo Direction: Southwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Container with a concrete pad

Photo Direction: Southeast





Photo Description: Scope of work map reference
Photo Direction: North

Scope of work:
Container with concrete pad
18.317556, -66.493570



# **APPENDIX B**

Maps

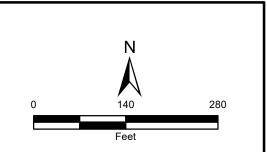




# Figure 1: PROJECT LOCATION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622**

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638

Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357



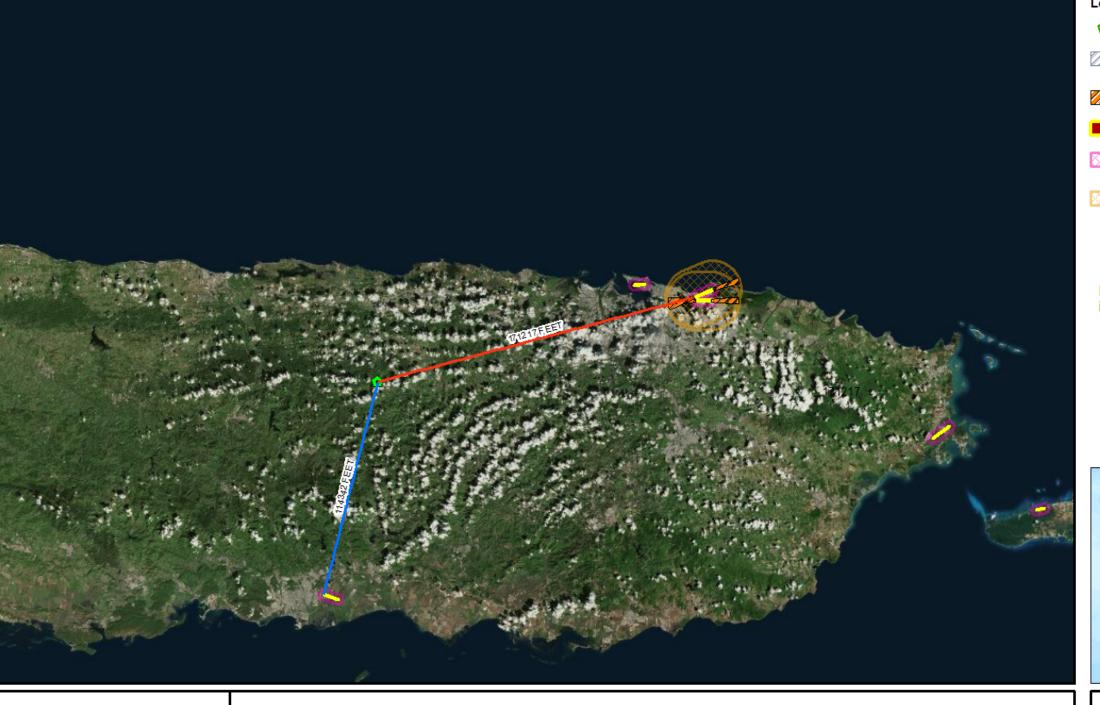
**PUERTO RICO** 

PUERTO RICO

o Ponce

San Juan

Parcels



#### Legend

Project Parcel

Civilian Runway Protection Zones

Military Accident Potential Zones

Airport Runways

Civilian Airport 2,500 Feet Buffer

Military Airport 15,000 Feet Buffer

Distance to Nearest Airport in Feet: 114342 FEET

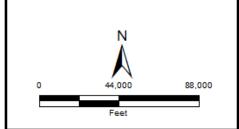
#### **PUERTO RICO**

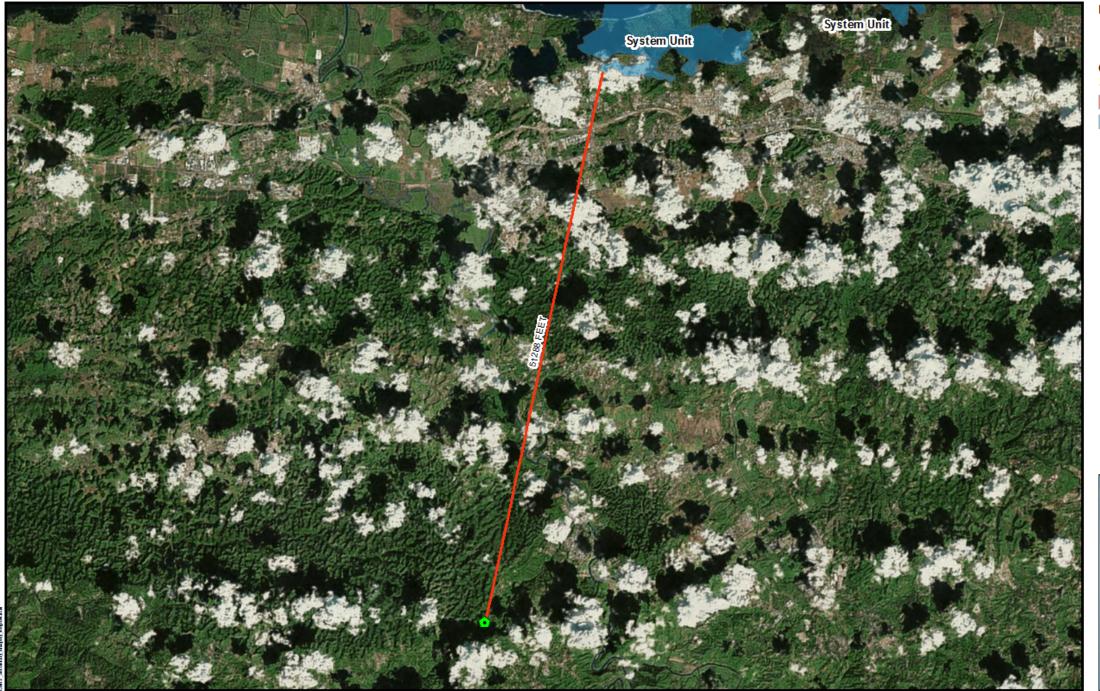


# Figure 2: AIRPORT ZONES APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638 Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357







Legend

Project Parcel

Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit Type

Otherwise Protected

System Unit

Distance to Nearest Coastal Barrier Resources System in Feet: 51288 FEET

#### **PUERTO RICO**





Source: U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service https://www.fws.gov

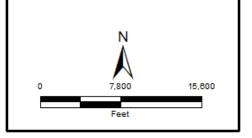
Author:

Date: 6/5/2023

# Figure 3: COASTAL BARRIERS IMPROVEMENT ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638

Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357







#### **PUERTO RICO**

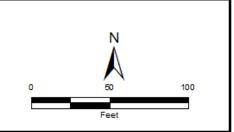




# Figure 4: FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638

Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357

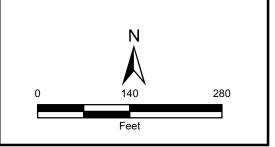






ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638 Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357



Legend

Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99 With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR

0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X

Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D

Regulatory Floodway

Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to

Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D

NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X

(B) 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance

Mase Flood Elevation Line (BFE) Limit of Study Jurisdiction Boundary - -- Coastal Transect Baseline Profile Baseline Hydrographic Feature

Digital Data Available

an authoritative property location.

**PUERTO RICO** 

PUERTO RICO Ponce

No Digital Data Available

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate

point selected by the user and does not represent

Effective LOMRs

17.5 Water Surface Elevation s — — — Coastal Transect

Levee. See Notes, Zone X

# **TETRA TECH** Source: FEMA

https://www.msc.fema.gov

Date: 5/31/2023

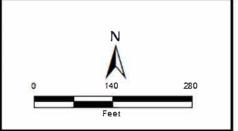




Figure 6: ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638

Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357





Lenen

Project Parcel

Coastal Zone Management Boundary

Distance to Nearest Coastal Zone: 47642 FEET

#### **PUERTO RICO**



# Figure 7: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT APPLICANT ID:PR-RGRW-00622

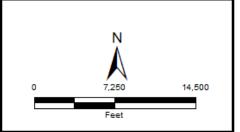
ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638

Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357

TETRA TECH

Source: NOAA's Ocean Service https://data.noaa.gov





**TETRA TECH** 

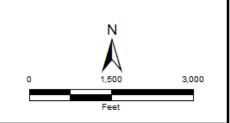
Date: 6/1/2023

Source: E.P.A. https://www.epa.gov/fis/geospatial-data-download-service

Author: JB/AK

# Figure 8: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND GASES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, CONTAMINATION, AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638 Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357



**PUERTO RICO** 

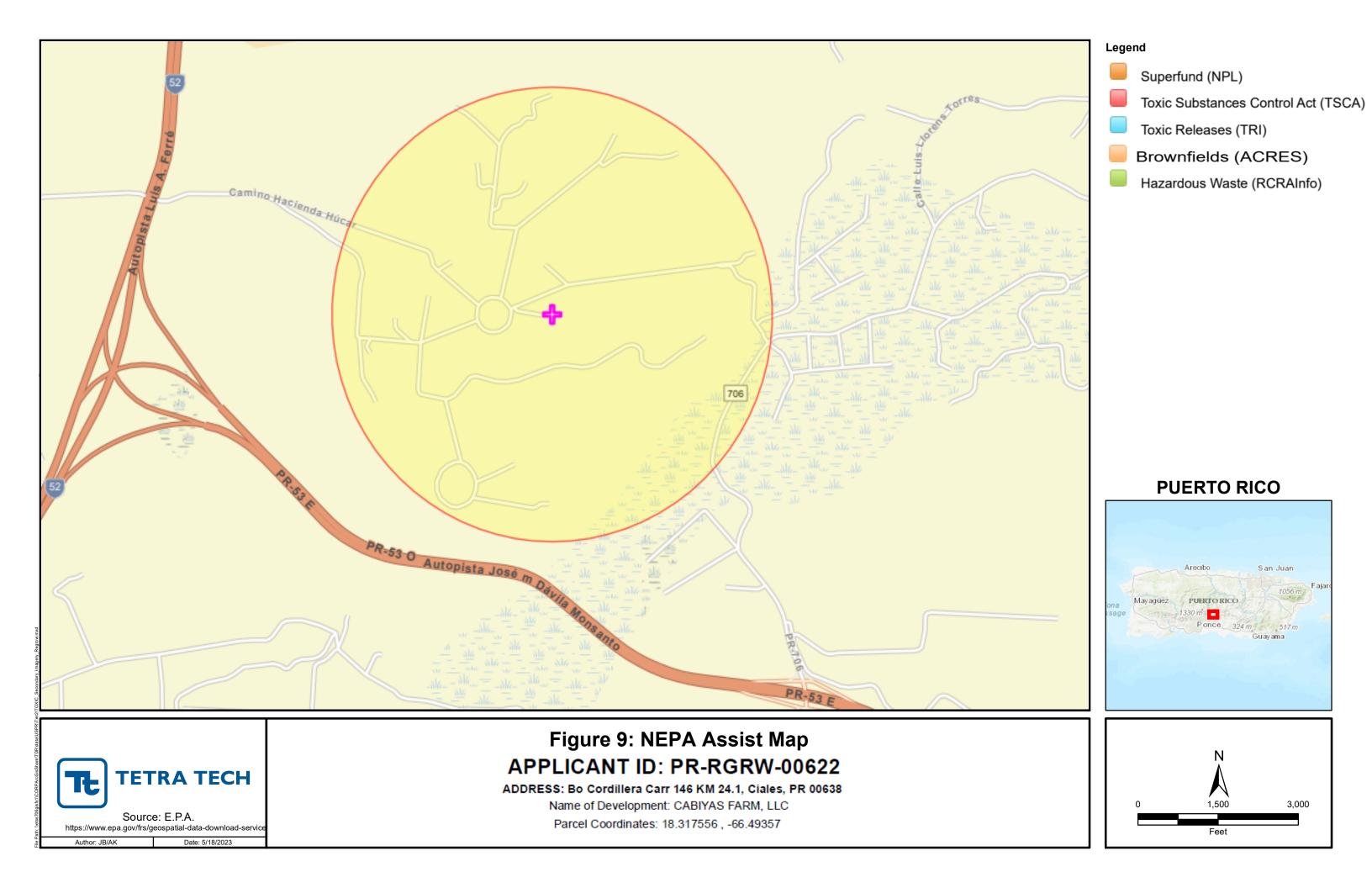
Project Parcel

Superfund Site Brownfield Sites

Toxic Release Inventory Site

3000 Ft Buffer Superfund

3000 Ft Buffer Brownfield





Project Parcel

### **PUERTO RICO**

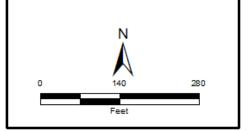


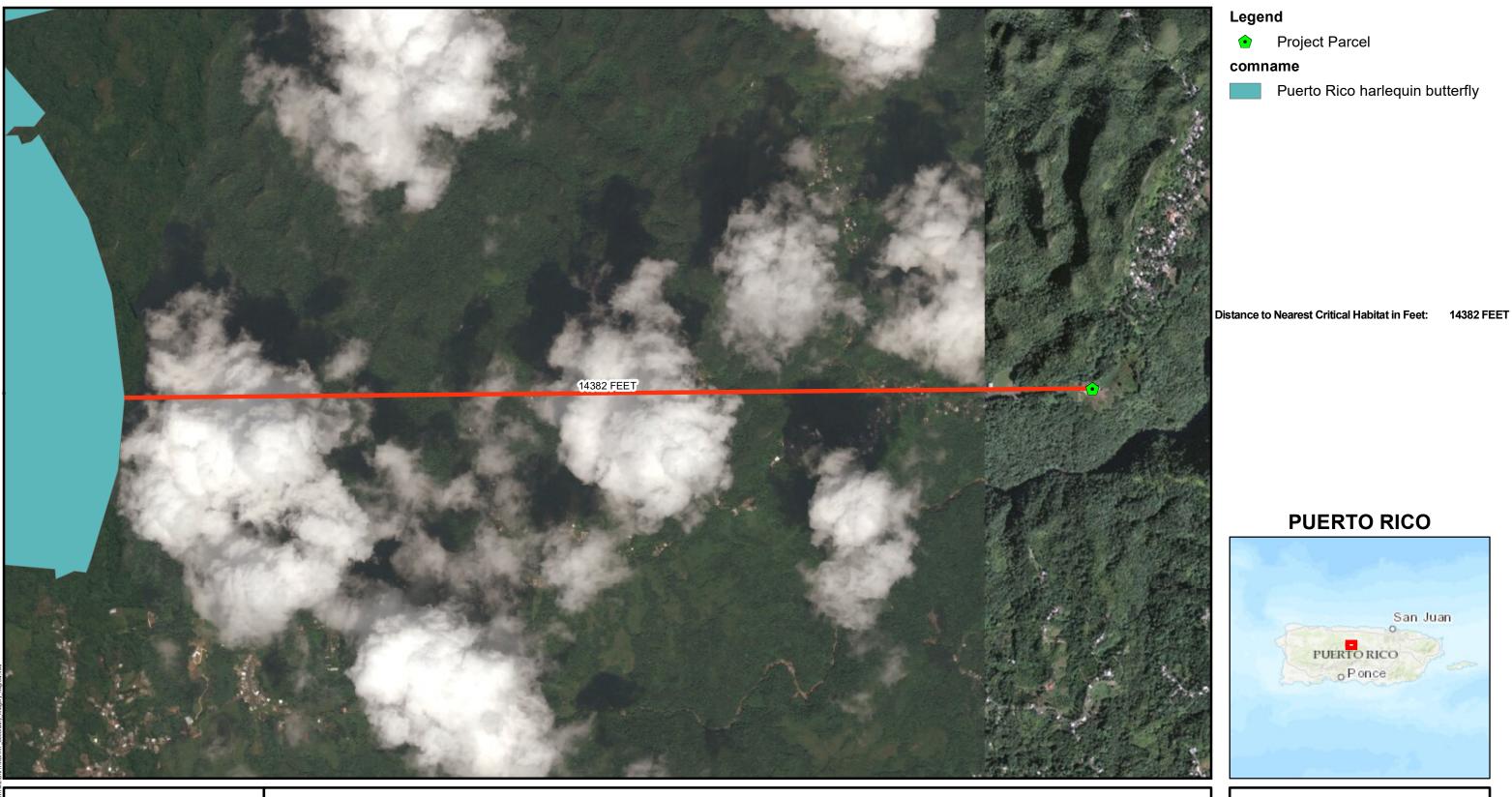


https://ecos.fws.gov

# Figure 10: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638
Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC
Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357

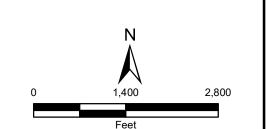






ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638

Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357



**PUERTO RICO** 

PUERTO RICO

o Ponce

San Juan

Puerto Rico harlequin butterfly

Source: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

https://ecos.fws.gov

Date: 6/1/2023

**TETRA TECH** 





All areas are prime farmland Farmland of statewide importance Farmland of statewide importance, if

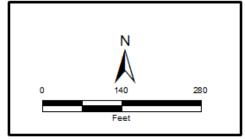
Prime farmland if drained Prime farmland if irrigated Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

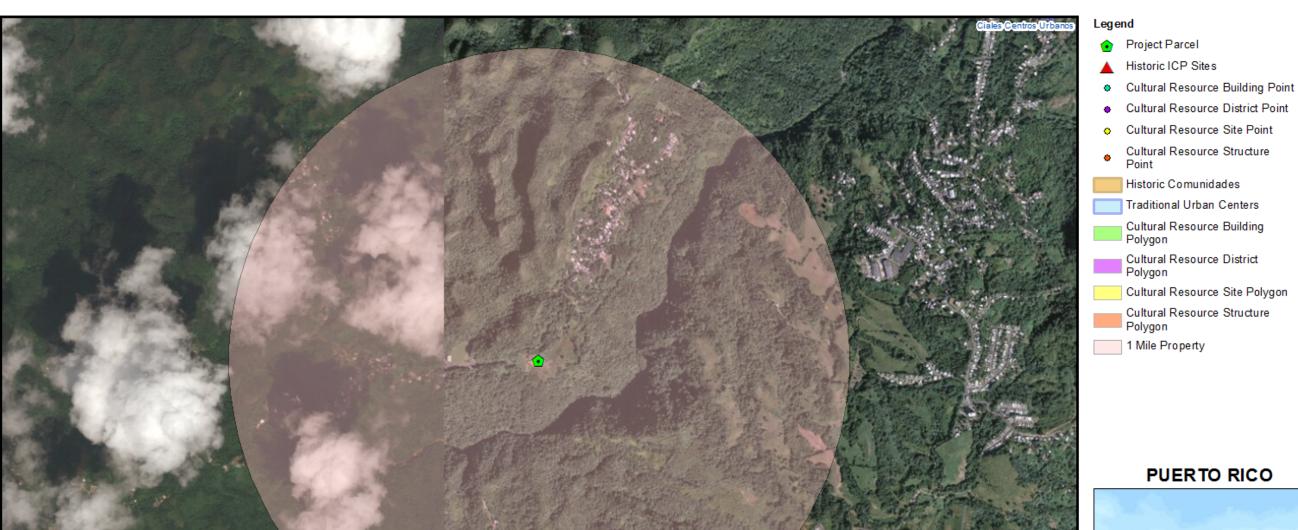
irrigated

### Figure 12: FARMLAND PROTECTION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622**

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638 Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357







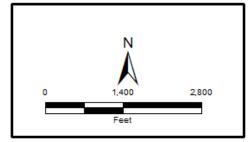




# Figure 13: HISTORIC PRESERVATION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638

Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357





#### **PUERTO RICO**

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater Estuarine and Marine Wetland Freshwater Emergent Wetland Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Freshwater Pond

Lake Riverine



### Figure 14: WETLANDS **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622**

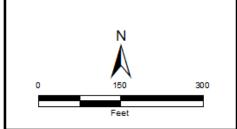
ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638

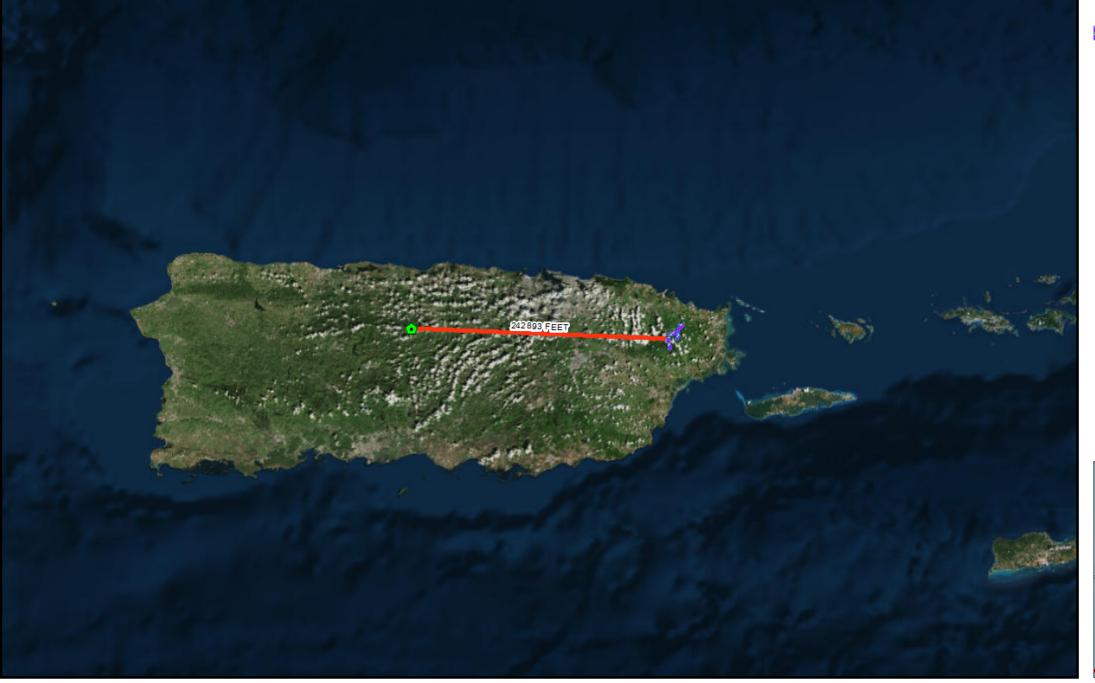
Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357



Date: 6/1/2023





Legend

◆ Project Parcel

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Distance to Nearest Wild and Scenic River in Feet: 242893 FEET

#### **PUERTO RICO**

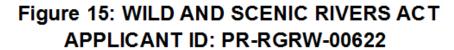




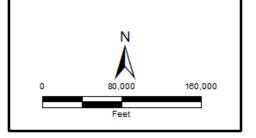
Source: U. S. Forest Service https://www.fs.usda.gov

Author: 1

Date: 6/1/2023



ADDRESS:Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638
Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC
Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357





#### **PUERTO RICO**

Extremely High Very High High Moderate

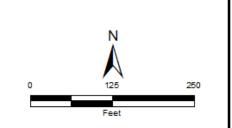




Date: 6/1/2023

### Figure 16: SLOPE AND EROSION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00622**

ADDRESS: Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1, Ciales, PR 00638 Name of Development: CABIYAS FARM, LLC Parcel Coordinates: 18.317556, -66.49357



# **APPENDIX C**

Additional Information



You are here: EPA Home > Green Book > National Area and County-Level Multi-Pollutant Information > Puerto Rico Whole or Part County Nonattainment Status by Year Since 1992 for all Criteria Pollutants

# Puerto Rico Whole or Part County Nonattainment Status by Year Since 1992 for all Criteria Pollutants

Data is current as of April 30, 2023

✓ GO

Change the State:

PHERTO RICO

Listed by State, County, NAAQS (W=Whole County,P=Partial County designated nonattainment as of report date)
The 8-hour Ozone (1997) standard was revoked on April 6, 2015 and the 1-hour Ozone (1979) standard was revoked on June 15, 2005.

The 1997 Primary Annual PM-2.5 NAAQS (level of 15  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>) is revoked in attainment and maintenance areas for that NAAQS. For additional information see the PM-2.5 NAAQS SIP Requirements Final Rule, effective October 24, 2016. (81 FR 58009)

T SERT S TEES																																	
Important Notes												[	Dov	vnlo	oad	l Na	atio	nal	Da	tas	et:	dbf	f	X	ls	1	Da	ta c	dicti	iona	ary	(PI	)F)
PUERTO RICO	NAAQS	02	93	04	05	06	07	no	۵۵	ΛΛ	Λ1	ln2	<b>N2</b>	Ω4	N5	N6	07	ΛO	ΛΩ	10	11	12	12	1.4	15	16	17	10	10	20	21	22	72
County	•	94	193	94	93	90	91	20	99	υυ	UI	UZ	US	V4	US	UU	υ/	UO	US	10	_			-									
Arecibo Municipio	Lead (2008)	$\perp$															Ш	Ш			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Bayamon Co	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)																											P	P	P	P	P	P
Catano Co	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)																											W	W	W	W	W	W
Guaynabo Co	PM-10 (1987)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P													$\Box$	
Guaynabo Co	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)																											P	P	P	P	P	P
Salinas Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)																											P	P	P	P	P	P
San Juan Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)																											P	P	P	P	P	
Toa Baja Co	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)																											P	P	P	P	P	P
Important Notes																																	
·																																	
Discover.	er. Connect.					Ask.																											
							Follow.																										

2023-04-30

# **APPENDIX D**

"No Effect" Determination and IPaC Report



\_\_\_\_\_

Date: August 11, 2023

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-00622

Street Address: BO CORDILLERA CARR 146 KM 24.1, PR 00638

Municipality: Ciales

#### Subject – Endangered Species No Effect Determination for PR-RGRW-00622

TetraTech conducted a site-specific review of endangered species in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project located at BO CORDILLERA CARR 146 KM 24.1 in the Municipality of Ciales, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 137-071-171-14).

The proposed project is for the purchase and installation of a factory prepared container to be used for hydroponics production. The applicant plans to install a 40 feet by 8 feet container with a concrete base. Currently, the land is a cleared and maintained lot with a residence to the immediate southeast of the proposed project area. Current ariel imagery shows the proposed project area as a maintained plot. Site inspection photos indicate a maintained grass lawn at the proposed project area (Appendix A).

The scope of work consists of the installation of a container with measurements of 40 feet by 8 feet in a concrete pad located at 18.317556, -66.493570. Surrounding landscape includes previously disturbed land to the west, with pastureland to the east and dense forest to the south and north, outside of the proposed project area. No trees are located within the proposed project area.

The National Wetlands Inventory indicated that no wetlands are located within the proposed project area (Figure 14).

Using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, we have determined that the proposed project lies within the range of the following federally listed species:

Species	Status
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered

No Critical Habitats were noted within the project area (Figure 10). Based on site review and site photos, no suitable habitat was found within the proposed project area for the Puerto Rican Boa. Based on the nature of the project, previous site disturbance, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the Project Site, and IPaC species list, we have made the following effects determinations:

Species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures to be implemented (if needed)
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	No Effect	No Conservation Measures

A 'No Effect' determination has been made based on the lack of suitable habitat for the Puerto Rican Boa, as well as previous disturbance and current land use of the proposed project area.

If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the Construction Manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the Boa.

#### **Attachments:**

IPaC Resource List

Shelby McDowell

B.S. Biologist, TetraTech

Shelby McDowell

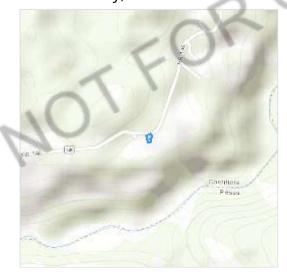
# IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

### Location

Ciales County, Puerto Rico



### Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

- **\( (787) 834-1600**
- **(787) 851-7440**
- CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV

NOT FOR CONSULTATIO

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Office Park I State Road #2 Km 156.5, Suite 303} Mayaguez, PR 00680

# Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

- 1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
- 2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
- 3. Log in (if directed to do so).
- 4. Provide a name and description for your project.
- 5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species<sup>1</sup> and their critical habitats are managed by the <u>Ecological Services Program</u> of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries<sup>2</sup>).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact <u>NOAA Fisheries</u> for <u>species under their jurisdiction</u>.

1. Species listed under the <u>Endangered Species Act</u> are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the <u>listing status page</u> for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).

2. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

### Reptiles

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

**Endangered** 

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628

### Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

# Bald & Golden Eagles

There are no documented cases of eagles being present at this location. However, if you believe eagles may be using your site, please reach out to the local Fish and Wildlife Service office.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Managment <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management">https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management</a>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
   <a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</a>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</a>

# What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u> and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (<u>Eagle Act</u> requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the <u>Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool</u>.

# What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS <u>Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC)</u> and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey, banding, and citizen science datasets</u> and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (<u>Eagle Act</u> requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the <u>Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool</u>.

#### What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the <u>Eagle Act</u> should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

# Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

- 1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species">https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species</a>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
   <a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</a>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</a>

The <u>data</u> in this location indicates there are no migratory <u>birds of</u> <u>conservation concern</u> expected to occur in this area.

There may be migratory birds in your project area, but we don �� thave any survey data available to provide further direction. For additional information, please refer to the links above for recommendations to minimize impacts to migratory birds or contact your local FWS office.

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS <u>Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC)</u> and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey, banding, and citizen science datasets</u> and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (<u>Eagle Act</u> requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the <u>Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool</u>.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. This data is derived from a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u>.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

#### How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

#### What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

- 1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
- 2. "BCC BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
- 3. "Non-BCC Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the <u>Eagle Act</u> requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

#### Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the <u>Diving Bird Study</u> and the <u>nanotag studies</u> or contact <u>Caleb Spiegel</u> or <u>Pam Loring</u>.

#### What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to <u>obtain a permit</u> to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

#### Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

# **Facilities**

# National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the <u>National Wildlife Refuge</u> system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

### Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

# Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to <u>NWI wetlands</u> and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local <u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District</u>.

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

**NOTE:** This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

#### **Data limitations**

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

#### **Data exclusions**

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

#### **Data precautions**

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies.

Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

OT FOR CONSULTATIO

# **APPENDIX E**

Section 106 Consultation



#### **GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Executive Director I Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela I carubio@prshpo.pr.gov

August 3, 2023

#### Lauren Bair Poche

HORNE 10000 Perkins Rowe, Suite 610, Bldg G Baton Rouge, LA 70810

SHPO 07-28-23-02 SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL: PR-RGRW-00622- CABIYAS FARM, LLC - CARR 146 KM 24.1 BARRIO CORDILLERA, CIALES, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Bair,

Our Office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with 54 U.S.C. 306108 (commonly known as Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*) and 36 CFR Part 800: *Protection of Historic Properties*.

Our records support your finding of **no historic properties affected** for this undertaking.

Please note that should you discover other historic properties at any point during project implementation, you should notify the SHPO immediately. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact our Office.

Sincerely,

Por:

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB





July 28, 2023

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office Cuartel de Ballajá (Tercer Piso) San Juan, PR 00902-3935

Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agricultural (Re-Grow PR) Program

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-00622 – Cabiyas Farm, LLC – Carr 146 KM 24.1 Barrio Cordillera, Ciales, Puerto Rico – No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, HORNE is providing information for your review and requesting your concurrence regarding the above-referenced projects on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) and the Home Repair, Reconstruction, or Relocation (R3) Program. On February 9, 2018, an allocation of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds was approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 28, 83 FR 5844, to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in meeting unmet needs in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. On August 14, 2018, an additional \$8.22 billion recovery allocation was allocated to Puerto Rico under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 157, 83 FR 40314. With these funding allocations, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (Housing) aims to lead a comprehensive and transparent recovery for the benefit of Puerto Rico residents.

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, we are submitting documentation for activities proposed by Cabiyas Farm, LLC. in Bo. Cordillera at Carr. 146 KM 24.1 in the municipality of Ciales. The proposed activities consist of the acquisition and installation of a Farm in the City hydroponic container, including the construction of a new concrete pad to support the container.

Based on the submitted documentation, the Program requests a concurrence that a determination of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for this proposed project.

Please contact me by email at <a href="mailto:lauren.poche@horne.com">lauren.poche@horne.com</a> or phone at 225-405-7676 with any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards,

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Senior Manager

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC	, ,
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622	City: Ciales

<b>Project Location:</b> Bo Cordillera Carr 146 KM 24.1	
<b>Project Coordinates:</b> 18.317556, -66.493570	
<b>TPID</b> (Número de Catastro): 137-071-171-14	
Type of Undertaking:	
□ Substantial Repair	
Construction Date (AH est.): ca. 1975	Property Size (acres): 0.54

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Maria Schmid
Date Reviewed: June 16, 2023.
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Roberto G. Muñoz-Pando, Ph D
Date Reviewed: June 20, 2023

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Program is responsible for identifying historic properties listed in the NRHP and any properties not listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project and assessing the potential effects of its undertakings on these historic properties.

# **Project Description (Undertaking)**

Scope of Work for this undertaking is the acquisition and installation of a Farm in the City hydroponic container, including the construction of a new concrete pad to support the container.

The current and previous primary land use for the property is residential. The applicant plans to install the 40 feet by 8 feet container on a new concrete base in the eastern yard adjacent to their residence. While an existing concrete pad is present, it is decayed and cracked, and a new concrete pad will be required to support the container. This container will be factory prepared for hydroponics production. The proposed container location has not been previously graded, save for that required at the time of the house construction and installation of the existing concrete pad; some leveling of the ground surface may be required for the construction of the concrete pad. Power and water to the container will be provided from the existing adjacent connection of the applicant's house through aboveground connections.

### **Area of Potential Effects**

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC	, ,
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622	City: Ciales

project is the area is the proposed concrete pad location with a 15-meter buffer to allow for adjustment to location if required and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

# Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the project area has one previously identified archaeological site within 0.5 miles radios of the project area. This archaeological site is called "Yacimiento del Toro" (or "El Mural"). The "Yacimiento del Toro" is located 0.16 miles northeast of the project area. It consists of a precolonial, residuary petroglyph and cave site. The site number is Cl0100022; the object ID is 1502, and the code is CL-22. There are no previous recorded cultural resource surveys in the area. Besides the presence of this archaeological site, the potential for finding culturally significant materials within or near the APE is low to moderate.

Archaeological Site Name: "Yacimiento del Toro" (or "El Mural"). / Located 0.16 miles northeast of the project area. / Description: It consists of a precolonial, residuary petroglyph and cave site/ Site number: Cl0100022/ Object ID: 1502/ Code: CL-22.

Cultural Resource Surveys: N/A

# Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the project area is **not** within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. Additionally, there are **no** NRHP-listed historic properties within the quarter mile buffer zone from the APE.

The proposed project is located in a rural, mountainous terrain with mature vegetation and grasslands surrounding the property. The property lies just south of Route 146 in Ciales. A circa 1975 building is located in the front yard of the APE geocoordinates. The building appears on a 1977 aerial image, the earliest available for the area. This building is a house is a two-story single-family concrete house with open terraces on the second level. The house has slab on grade foundation, flat concrete roofs, and is supported by concrete walls. This building shown

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC	,
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622	City: Ciales

below is older than 45 years, but it **does not** meet the requirements to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.





**Figures 1& 2.** Applicant's house, view to the east; and detail of the 1977 aerial photograph indicating location of the house.

### **Determination**

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

Direct Effect:

N/A

• Indirect Effect:

N/A

The project area is not located within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that no previously identified historic properties are located within or adjacent to the parcel that contains the proposed Area of Potential Effect. The nearest previously identified archaeological site is a petroglyph/cave site located 0.16 miles northeast of the project area; the proposed project activities will have no impact on this resource. The project location has been previously impacted by the construction of the current residence and the existing concrete pad located in the APE. The potential for encountering intact cultural deposits is low. Therefore, no impact to historic properties is anticipated for this project.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARIMENT OF HOUSING
Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC	'
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622	City: Ciales

Recommendation (Please keep on same page as SHPO Staff S	ection)
The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the Puer following determination is appropriate for the undertaking (Ch	
☑ No Historic Properties Affected	
□ No Adverse Effect	
Condition (if applicable):	
□ Adverse Effect	
Proposed Resolution (if appliable)	
This Section is to be Completed by SHPO	Staff Only
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has review and:	ved the above information
☐ Concurs with the information provided.	
□ <b>Does not concur</b> with the information provided.	
Comments:	
Comments:	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela	
State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:

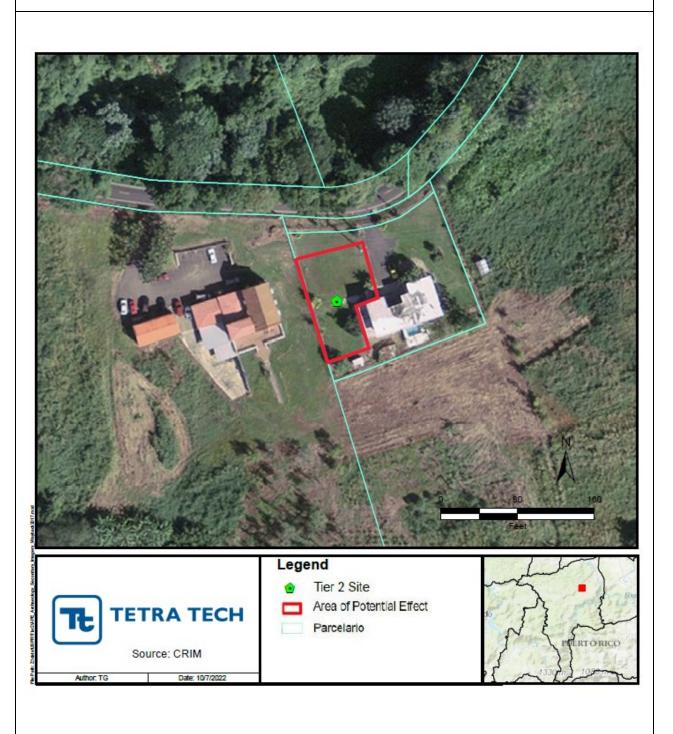


Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622 City: Ciales

# Project (Parcel) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)

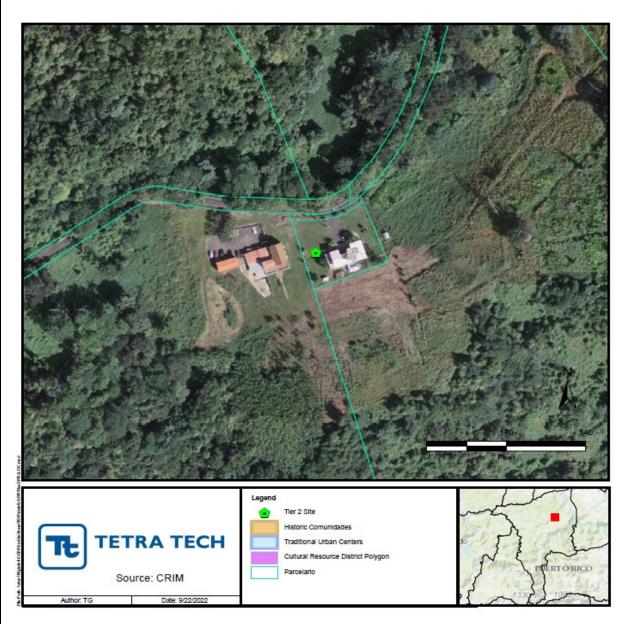




Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622 City: Ciales

# Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map





Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622 City: Ciales

# Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map Quadrangle: Ciales, Date: 3/25/1994





Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622 City: Ciales

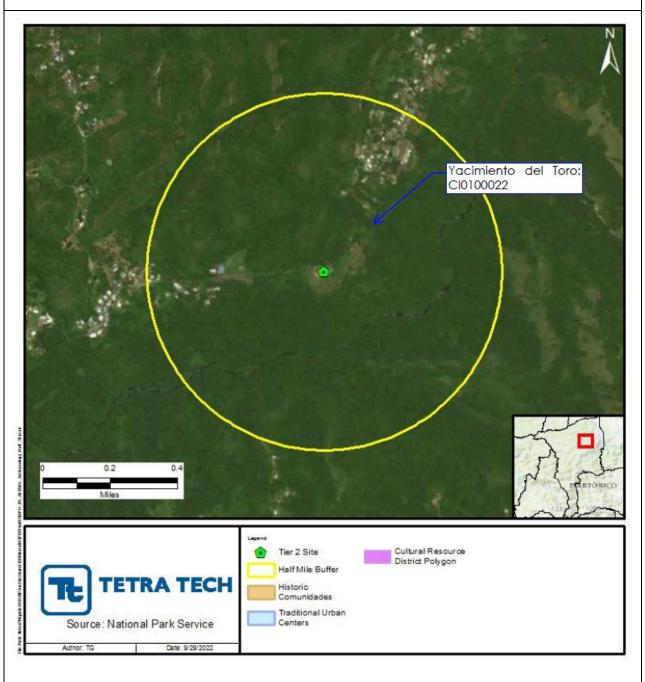
# Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map MoE2 SrF DaD2 MoD2 MpF2 **TETRA TECH** DaD2;Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded MoD2; Moce clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded MoE2;Moce clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded Source:USDA MpF2;Morado clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes SrF, Saller-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 60 percent slopes



Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622 City: Ciales

# Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map



**REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM** 

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Source: National Park Service

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622 City: Ciales

# Project (Parcel) Location with Previously Recorded Cultural Resources **USGS Topographic Map** Quebrada Maquina Quadrangle: Florida, Date: 3/25/1994 corulliera. Quadrangle: Ciales, Date: 3/25/1994 Yacimiento del Toro: CI0100022 Rio cialitos 0.2 0.4 Tier 2 Site **TETRA TECH**

Tradtional Utban Centers

Resource District Polygon PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622 City: Ciales

# Photograph Key



Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program

**REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM** 

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622 City: Ciales



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Photo #: 1 Description (include direction): View to the South

Date: 5/12/2023 Scope Of Work: Installation of a container over concrete pad



Photo #: 2 Description (include direction): View to the Northwest

Date: 5/12/2023 Scope Of Work: Installation of a container over a concrete pad

# PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

**Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination** 

Subrecipient: CABIYAS FARM, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00622 City: Ciales



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Photo #: 3 Description (include direction): View to the Southwest

Date: 5/12/2023 Scope Of Work: Installation of a container over a concrete pad



Photo #: 4	<b>Description (include direction):</b> View to the Southeast
<b>Date:</b> 5/12/2023	Scope Of Work: Installation of a container over a concrete pad



October 20, 2022

# Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

Executive Director State Historic Preservation Officer Cuartel de Ballajá Bldg. San Juan, Puerto Rico

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela:

The U.S. Department of Housing (HUD) approved the allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) funds on February 9, 2018. It also approved the allocation of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds on January 27, 2020. The purpose of these allocations is to address unsatisfied needs as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017; and to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to mitigate disaster risks and reduce future losses.

To comply with the environmental requirements established by HUD, the Department of Housing of Puerto Rico (PRDOH) contracted Horne Federal LLC to provide environmental registry review services, among others, that will support the objectives of the agenda for both CDBG-DR and CDBG -MIT Programs.

In line to expedite the processes, Horne Federal LLC, is authorized to submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer, documentation of projects related to both the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT on behalf of PRDOH.

Cordially,

Juan C Pérez Bofill, P.E. M.Eng Director of Disaster Recovery CDBG DR-MIT



# United States Department of the Interior

# FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Bayamón | Mayagüez | Maricao | Rio Grande | St Croix P.O. Box 491 Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622



In Reply Refer to: FWS/R4/CESFO/72039-Gen

Via Electronic Mail (jcperez@vivienda.pr.gov)

Juan Carlos Pérez-Bofill, PE, MEng. Director – Disaster Recovery CDBG-DR Program Puerto Rico Department of Housing P.O. Box 21365 San Juan, P.R 00928-1365

Re: CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-00622 Cabiyas Farm LLC., Ciales, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated September 20, 2023, requesting comments on the above referenced project. As per your request, our comments are provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) on behalf of Cabiyas Farm LLC (the Applicant) is proposing the purchase and installation of a factory prepared container (40 feet by 8 feet) in a concrete pad to be used for hydroponic production. The proposed project will be located on PR-146 Km.24.1, Barrio Cordillera (18°19'03.2"N 66°29'36.9"W) in the municipality of Ciales, Puerto Rico.

Using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system the proponent has determined that the proposed project lies within the range of Puerto Rican boa (*Epicrates inornatus* now known as *Chilabothrus inornatus*).

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available and analysis of the existing habitat (cleared and maintained lot with a residence), the proponent has determined that the proposed project will have no effect (NE) on the Puerto Rican boa.

We acknowledge receipt of your NE determination for the Puerto Rican boa. Currently we do not have any information to refute your determination. Because you made a NE determination, you are

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

not required to conduct formal or informal section 7 consultation with the Service, and the Service is not required to concur with your NE determination.

We appreciate your interest in protecting endangered species and their habitats. It is the Service's mission to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of our people.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact us via email at <u>caribbean\_es@fws.gov</u> or by phone at (786) 244-0081.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin E. Muñiz Field Supervisor

drr