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

Project Information

Project ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Project Name: Hector R. Nieves Hernandez

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): Same as above

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico / Morovis, PR

Preparer: Patricia Carmenatty

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Permit and Environmental Compliance Officers: Sally Acevedo Cosme, Pedro de León Rodriguez, Ivelisse Lorenzo, Janette Cambrelen, Santa Ramirez, Limary Vélez Marrero, Mónica M. Machuca Ríos, Javier Mercado-Barrera, Abdul Feliciano Plaza and Priscilla Toro Rivera. María T. Torres Bregón - Environmental Manager, Angel G. Lopez Guzman - Deputy Director, Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez – Director for Program Management, and Juan Carlos Perez Bofill - Director for Disaster Recovery CDBG Program.

Consultant: Behar Ybarra & Associates LLC

Direct Comments to: Puerto Rico Department of Housing:

(environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov)

Project Location:

Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 Km 10.2, Morovis, Puerto Rico 00687

Water pump and cistern location: latitude 18.300694 longitude -66.459284

Fence location: latitude 18.300418 longitude -66.460847

Parcel cadastral #: 165-000-004-08-901

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01608 consist of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fencing materials. The fencing materials includes: treated wooden spikes and rolls of fine barbed wire. The fence will be anchored to the ground with wooden spikes and will require ground disturbance. The spikes will be driven

approximately 2' below the ground surface to ensure the fence is secure. The fence will measure approximately 9,500 linear feet. All fences will be new due to the majority being destroyed during Hurricane Maria and Fiona. The purpose of the fence will be to keep the cattle grazing by areas. The water cistern and the pump will be placed on bare soil. The soil will be slightly leveled to accommodate the cistern and pump. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that will be provided by the applicant. A transfer switch will not be necessary. Water destined for the cistern will be drawn from a river located in the property, facilitated by a sleeve running above ground from the river to the cistern. A franchise from the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) is required to obtained water from a river. Currently the land is used for plantain cultivation and the applicant started with the beef cattle business.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined as the area potentially impacted by ground disturbing activities related to the construction of the new fence and the installation of the cistern and pump. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the fence, cistern, and pump plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

A site Map is included in Figure 1, illustrating the location of the fence, cistern, and pump on the property. Photos of the location are included in Section 106 documentation, Appendix 1. Refer to Appendix 3 for Site Inspection Report.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]: The Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (RGRW) will increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island wide. This Program will enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. This agricultural project associated with the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence are in keeping with the overall objectives of the Economic Development Program.

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

The project area is located in the mountainous area of Morovis with irregular topography. The new fence and cistern will be installed in areas covered with grass and shrubs, mostly on paths on the perimeter of the parcel. In certain areas where the fence will be installed there are some small shrubs and plantain trees, but none will be removed. Currently the land is used for plantain cultivation and the applicant started the beef cattle business. Therefore, there is little to no change in land use associated with these placements.

Funding Information

Grant Number HUD Program	Funding Amount
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B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and	\$11,938,162,230.00
B-17-DM-72-0001	Development (CPD) /	
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Development	
B-18-DE-72-0001	Block Grant - Disaster	
	Recovery (CDBG-DR)	

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$8,771.83

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$8,771.83.

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 REGULATION	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	This project is the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and will have no impact on any Airports. The site is located 111,517 feet from the nearest major civil airport (Mercedita airport in Ponce) and 166,936 feet from the nearest military airport (Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan). This topic is in compliance with the HUD's Airport Hazard regulations without further evaluation. See the attached Airport map Runway Protection Zone, Figure 2.
Coastal Barrier Resources	Yes No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. The project is located 54,890 feet south of

Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]			the nearest Coastal Barrier Resource System, PR-83. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. See the attached CBRS map, Figure 3.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes	No 	The installation of the fence is within Zone A and the installation of the cistern is within Zone X, Panel 72000C0665J, 11/18/2009 on the FEMA FIRM. This project is the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and floodplain impacts are expected to be minimal as a result of this action. Additionally, the installation of a fence is not covered under the NFIP; therefore, flood insurance is not required for the installation of the cistern, water pump and fence. The project is in compliance with the Flood Disaster Protection regulations without further evaluation. See attached Flood Map, Figure 4.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND RE	GULATI	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	Yes	No 	This project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence for an agricultural site located in the Municipio of Morovis. The project is not located in a nonattainment municipality of Puerto Rico (Arecibo, Bayamón, Cataño, Guaynabo, Salinas, San Juan, Toa Baja). The installation and operation of this project will have no impact and is in compliance with the Clean Air Act without further evaluation. See attached published list of Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for each country by year for all criteria pollutants in Appendix 2.

Coastal Zone Management Yes No	<u> </u>
Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	The project is located 52,301 feet from the nearest Coastal Zone Management Area and does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. See the attached CZMA map, Figure 5.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)	This project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence for an agricultural project. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. There are no sites of environmental concern identified within 3,000 feet near the proposed cistern, water pump and fence location. After conducting an aerial review history of the project site over the past 20 years, the use of the area has always been for agricultural purposes. It continues to be rural, with no significant changes during this period that raise any contamination concerns. HUD's environmental regulations at 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2)(i) and (ii)4 state that, [i]t is HUD's policy that all properties that are being proposed for use in HUD programs be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gases, and radioactive substances, where a hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property. For the proposed project, which involves the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence, radon analysis will not be required. This is because the proposed project qualifies for an exemption, as it does not involve any

		buildings with no enclosed areas having ground contact. The project is in compliance with Contamination and Toxic Substances requirements. See attached Toxics Map, Figure 6. Refer to Appendix 3 for Site Inspection Report.
Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	After reviewing data from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information and Planning Consultation (IPaC) and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) database, the Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus) and the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (Atlantea tulita) could be found in the project area. The scope of work includes continued agricultural use of the property with no intention of cutting down trees where the fence and water pump and cistern will be installed, and it has been maintained that way for agricultural purposes. The nature of the project, scope of work, information available, a careful analysis of the IpaC, the Puerto Rico Boa conservation measures, the Caribbean Dkey in the US Fish and Wildlife Service's online IPaC application, and the observations during the field visit on August 4, 2023, were used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on that information and the answer inputted into the Dkey, it was determined that the proposed action will have "No Effect" determination on the Puerto Rican Boa. An Informal Consultation was submitted to USFWS on 3/14/2024 and concurrence was received on 4/11/2024. PRDOH determined and USFWS concurred that the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly since its

Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy	Yes No Yes No Yes No	e/design/population/156/office/41430.p df This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. See attached USWFS Concurrence letter and supporting documents in Appendix 4. See attached Endangered Species map, Figure 7. This project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and does not include development, construction or rehabilitation that will increase residential density. This project is in compliance with Explosive and Flammable hazards without further evaluation. This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use.
		used for agricultural purposes for more than 30 years. Conservation measures for the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly are in the USFWS Concurrence Letter in Appendix 4. 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. As established by the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures Guideline. https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/guidelin

		fence, and this is a construction limited to on-farm structures needed for farm operations. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act. See the attached Farmlands map, Figure 8.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes No	An Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) map was developed by FEMA for this FIRM, which shows parts of the fence fall on the Advisory Base Flood Elevation special flood hazard area. Therefore, the 8-step process was carried out. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Morovis; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review. For this case, an 8-step process was carried out and published before the New Standard went into effect. In accordance with the Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines, practical alternatives to locating the proposed action in a floodplain were identified and evaluated. These included the following alternatives: moving the project away from or around the floodplain, moving the project to another site and impact of taking no action. For each of these alternatives, various factors were considered including cost, feasibility, technology, hazard reduction, and environmental impacts. The following mitigation measures will be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural values: Follow best soil erosion management practices and a water pollution prevention plan. Take

		necessary safety precautions during construction. The project will comply with state and local floodplain protection procedures. Based on a review of the practical alternatives and their implementation wherever possible, the proposed action of the PR-RGRW-01608 project is deemed to be the most appropriate and is selected as the final action. This determination is made on the basis of feasibility, cost, enhancement of quality of life, features for the community, land availability, and lack of impacts to wetlands.
		The Step 2- Early Notice was published on November 16, 2023 and the Step 7-Final Notice was published February 9, 2024. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988 Amended by 13690 of June 2024. See attached Flood Map (Figure 9). Refer
		to Appendix 5 for the Procedure for Making Determination on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Eight Step Process and Proof of publication.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	The site was visited on August 26, 2023, by SOI-qualified archaeologist. Based on the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE has been defined as the area potentially affected by ground-disturbing activities related to the construction of the new fence and the installation of the water pump and cistern. Documentation with photographs and maps was subsequently submitted to SHPO (attached Appendix 1). In a response from PR SHPO dated September 27, 2023, SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected within the project's Area of Potential Effects (see

		attached Appendix 1). The property is not considered historic or contributing to an historic district (See attached Historic map, Figure 10). Therefore, this activity is in compliance with National Historic Preservation Act.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No	This project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence for an agricultural site. The project does not include new construction for residential use or rehabilitation of an existing residential property. The site is rural in nature and there will be no impact to or from the surrounding area from a noise perspective. This topic is in compliance with Noise abatement and Control without further evaluation.
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 aquifers without further evaluation. See attached Sole Source Aquifers maps, Figure 11.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No	Parts of where the fence will be constructed are bordered by the Bauta River, however, impacts on the wetland are expected to be minimal since BMPs will be followed in those areas where the wooden spikes will be installed. The installation of the water cistern and pump will not be in or near any wetland. Standard BMPs should be applied to mitigate impact on wetlands, like installing erosion controls or diverting runoff (in any) around the areas of ground disturbance. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. See the attached Wetlands map, Figure 12.
Wild and Scenic Rivers		This project is not within proximity of the NWSRS river. The project is located

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	232,008 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. See Map, Figure 13.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes No	Based on the scope of work for this project, there will be no additional impact on low-income or minority residents. This proposed activity will not have a negative impact on Environmental Justice. Therefore, the proposed activity complies with this section.

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 Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOPMENT		

Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and continued agricultural use of property which is compatible with a zoning code of UR (Urban land) and CR-C (watershed conservation) and existing land use of SREP-AH (Specially protected rustic soil - Agricultural). There is no urban design associated with this rural, agricultural site.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	This project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and the soil are currently being used for agriculture purposes. There is no change in land use since the land will continue to be used to agriculture purposes. The project area is located in the mountainous area of Morovis. In the project area we have mainly 4 types of soils. These are: Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded (DaD2); Humatas clay 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded (DaD); Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes (MuF).
		The landslide data indicates low to high landslide susceptibility; however, no erosion is expected to occur from this project. The project will not affect the drainage in the area. There will be no runoff associated with the project. Contractors will be required to use BMPs during construction if erosion impacts occur. The construction manager should investigate if a DNER authorization is required for any land alteration associated with the proposed project activities. See Landslide Susceptibility Map, Figure 14.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence. There are no specific environmental hazards that have been identified for this site. The site is not in a high Noise Level area. Additionally, the project does not include housing or such to where inhabitants would be affected.
Energy Consumption	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence on an existing agricultural farm. Electricity connection will not be necessary for the proposed project. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that will be provided by the applicant. A transfer switch

		will not be necessary. The proposed project will have no impact on the energy consumption.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONOMI	С	
Employment and Income Patterns	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and will result in short-term benefit to employment when contractors are hired for the construction of the storage structure. After construction, there may be a net positive benefit for the farm, a small business receiving this funding for economic development recovery purposes, which will aid in the continued operations of the intended use of the farm which products will be used by Puerto Rico population. The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on Employment and Income Patterns, however, the project may help restore employment opportunities and income patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and will not alter the demographic characteristics of Morovis, PR. The applicant is already located at this location and the project will provide opportunities for the continuous agricultural growth of the business.
Environmental Justice		The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence. In the project area within a one-mile radius:
	2	 The people of color are 100% compared to PR average of 96%. 85 % of the people are low income compared to PR average of 70%. 21% of the people are unemployed compared to PR average of 15%.
		The proposed activities of the installation of a fence, water pump and cistern will have a positive impact on creating jobs for local people. Therefore, the proposed activity complies with this section. See EJScreen Report in Appendix 3.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FAC	CILITIES AI	ND SERVICES
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence for an agricultural site and will have no impact on educational and cultural facilities.
Commercial Facilities	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and may aid in restoring the demand for local commercial services providing local products; however, not to the point of putting undue pressure on commercial facilities.
Health Care and Social Services	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Health Care and Social Services.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and will have no impact on Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling services. The products and by-products are agricultural, and any waste would be biodegradable. The remaining construction solid waste materials would be collected for transport to the local landfill.
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and this activity will not produce any wastewater. Based on the scope of work is not expected to result in any changes in wastewater or sanitary sewer generation. The proposed project will have no impact on Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers.
Water Supply	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence. No local water connection is needed for the water cistern and pump. Water destined for the cistern will be drawn from a river located in the property, facilitated by a sleeve running above ground from the river to the cistern. A franchise from the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and

		Environmental Resources (DNER) is required to be obtained to pull water from a spring. The proposed project will have no impact on the water supply.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Public Safety.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and will have no impact on Parks, Open Space and Recreation. The property being used is agricultural and it will continue as agricultural use.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence for an agricultural site and will have no impact on transportation and accessibility.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence. The proposed project will be situated on previous agriculture property. Parts of where the fence will be constructed are bordered by the Bauta River, however, impacts on the wetland are expected to be minimal. This property is located in a mountainous area with a steep slope towards the river. Therefore, the significant elevation acts as a protective measure, allowing the project to exist in relative proximity to the wetland while minimizing any adverse consequences on it.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence and will occur on land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. There may be wildlife attracted to the fence or water pump and cistern but no negative impact on wildlife.

Climate Change	2	The project consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence. The Re-Grow Program proposed project aims to increase resiliency in the agricultural industry to prepare for future climate related disasters. The project will not contribute to climate change and will provide a minor net benefit by allowing for increased food production.
		In terms of the project's susceptibility to climate change, the agricultural components may encounter challenges due to the potential impact of drought conditions, However, the applicant has water from PRASA on their property in case of need.

Additional Studies Performed: Not applicable.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by): August 26, 2023, Jaqueline Lopez, SOI-Qualified Archaeologist. Site Inspection performed by Egon Gonzalez on 8/4/2023.

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

FAA, National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems: www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/npias/reports/NPIAS-Report-2017-2021-Appendix-B-Part6.pdf

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

National Park Service, National Registry of Natural Landmarks. www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/docs/NNLRegistry.pdf

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wild and Scenic Rivers – correspondence to Agency on October 16, 2018

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: www.rivers.gov/puerto-rico.php

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.

Sierra Research for Office of Mobile Sources. US Environmental Protection Agency. Report No. SR93-03-02, Evaluation of Methodologies to Estimate Nonroad Mobile Source Usage, March 19, 1993: http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=9100UR51.txt

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: www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/reports/species-listed-by-state-report?state=PR&status=listed

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Mapping Service: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home (compilation of numerous maps)

Puerto Rico Planning Board, Communication regarding Floodplain Management, November 29, 2018.

US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory: www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html (compilation of numerous maps)

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Antilles Section, Communication regarding Wetlands Management, November 13, 2018.

Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program Plan, September 2009.

Puerto Rico Planning Board, Communication regarding Coastal Zone Management, November 16, 2018 (No response).

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

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office. E-mail communication regarding October 23, 2018 letter on Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitats.

NOAA Fisheries / National Marine Fisheries Service, NEPA Coordinator Southeast Regional Office. Communication on October 16, 2018 regarding designated critical habitat. (No response).

US Geological Survey, Data Release of May Showing Concentration of Landslides Caused by Hurricane Maria, https://doi:10.5066/F7JD4VRF

List of Permits Obtained: None.

Public Outreach [24 CFR 58.43]: The recovery process has seen significant proactive involvement from the local community. Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the agricultural community. This 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 installation of a

water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence for an agricultural site. The installation of water pumps, cisterns, and fencing for agricultural purposes can have potential impacts on floodplains and wetland. To mitigate these impacts, careful planning is essential, including erosion control during construction, maintaining natural buffers, and designing wildlife-friendly fencing. Consulting with environmental experts and regulatory agencies helps ensure environmentally responsible practices, preserving the integrity of these ecosystems while meeting agricultural needs.

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

The Regrow Program purpose is to enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities while promoting and increasing food security island wide. The "Alternative" action would mean that the applicant would consider other locations for the fence or the water pump and cistern. However, other locations may result in tree clearing prior to construction and/or need to fill in some steep area and an added cost to the applicant. Any option that requires going off-site would not contribute to the improvement and growth of agricultural production or enable economic development for this applicant.

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

The 'No-Action' alternative would mean that the applicant would not receive federal funding to provide the purchase and installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and fence for an agricultural site 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 economic development for this applicant.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions: The proposed activity has been found to not have any adverse effects on the environmental nor is there the requirement for further consultation with any agency. There are no environmental review topics addressed that result in the need for formal compliance steps or the requirement for mitigation.

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
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	Soil suitability will be assessed prior to construction. Contractors will be required to use BMPs during construction if erosion impacts occur. The construction manager should investigate if a DNER authorization is required for any land alteration associated with the proposed project activities.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	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. Conservation measures for the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly are in the USFWS Concurrence Letter in Appendix 4.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Standard BMPs should be applied to mitigate impact on wetlands, like installing erosion controls or diverting runoff (in any) around the areas of ground disturbance.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	The regulation in Puerto Rico establishes that for access and use of water resources in PR a franchise must be obtained. The Applicant must obtain a franchise granted by the DNER prior the proposed activities. The following mitigation measures will be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural values: Follow best soil erosion management practices and a water pollution prevention plan. Take necessary safety precautions during construction. The project will comply with state and local floodplain protection procedures.

Determination:
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.
Preparer Signature:
Name/Title/Organization: <u>Patricia Carmenatty / Environmental Specialist/ Behar Ybarra</u> & Associates LLC_
Certifying Officer Signature:
Name/Title:Sally Z. Acevedo Cosme- Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

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).



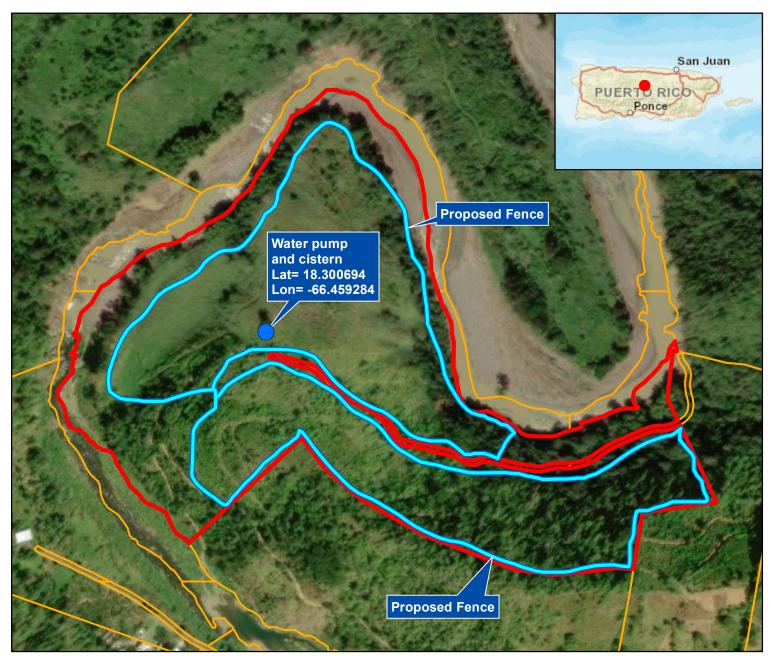
Figures



Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

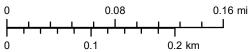
Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284

Figure 1: Location Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow









Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth

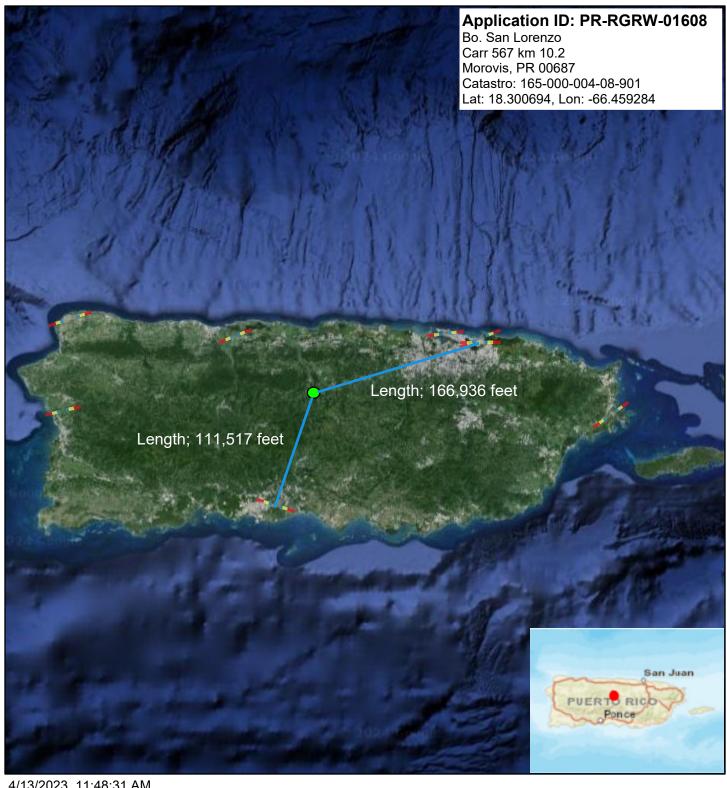


Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/



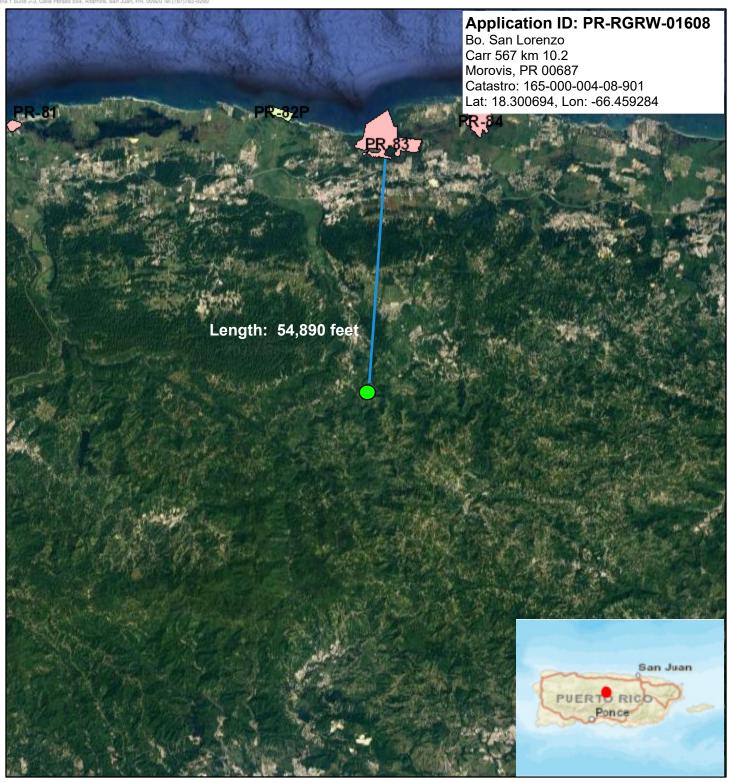
Figure 2 PR-RGRW-01608 Airports



4/13/2023, 11:48:31 AM 1:1,155,581 Accident Potential Zone 20 mi 10 PR-RGRW-01608 Override 1 15 30 60 km Override 2 Runway Protection Zones Major Civil and Military Airports Override 3 **USA Military Airports** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) **USA Civil Airports** https://adds-faa.opendata.arcgis.com/



Figure 3 PR-RGRW-01608 CBRS



8/8/2023, 12:09:11 PM

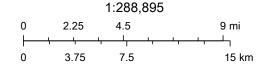
CBRS Units

Otherwise Protected Area

System Unit

PR-RGRW-01608



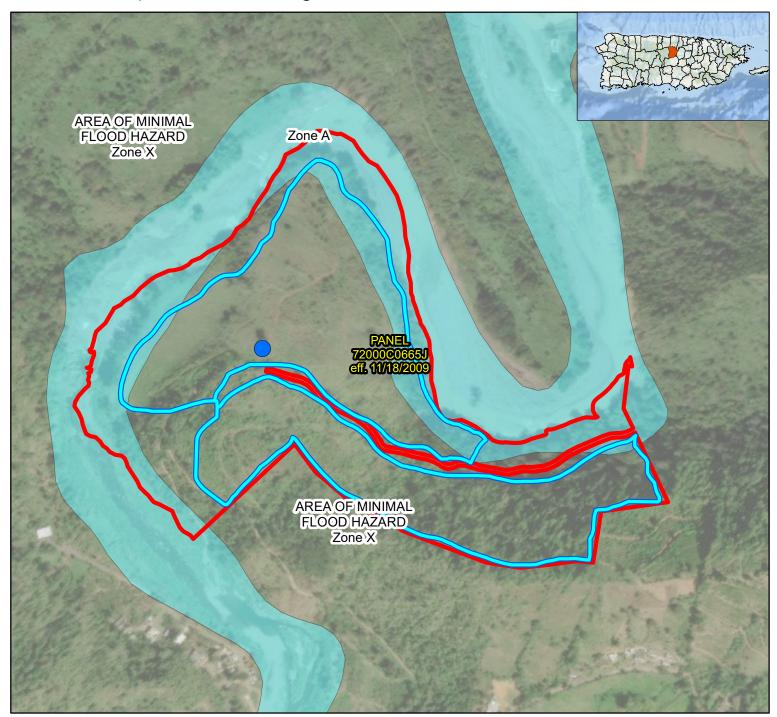


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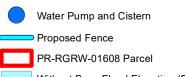
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act

Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Héctor R. Nieves Hernández Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284









Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X

FIRM Panel



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



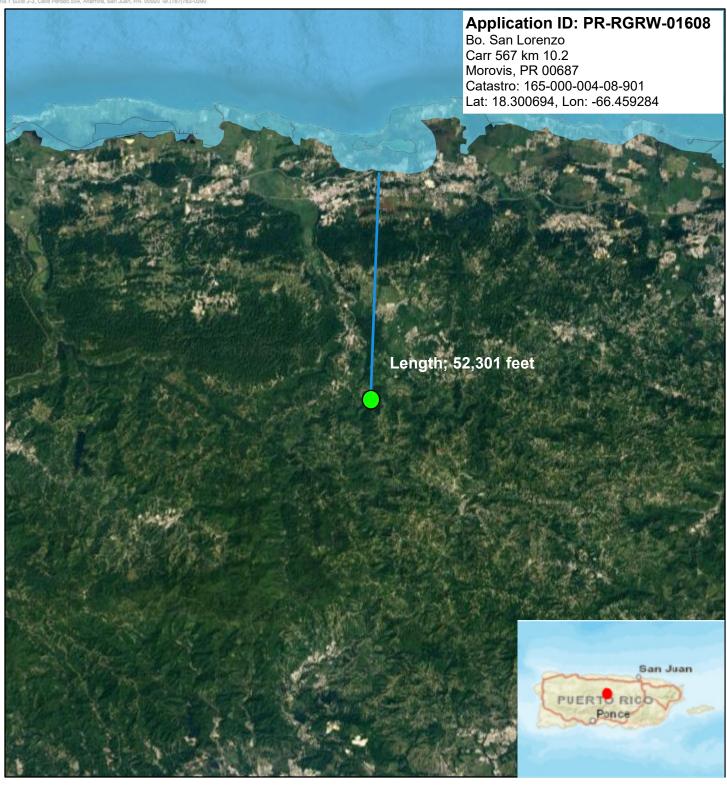
Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home

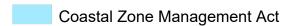




Figure 5 PR-RGRW-01608 CZM

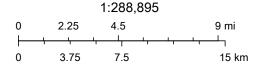


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PR-RGRW-01608



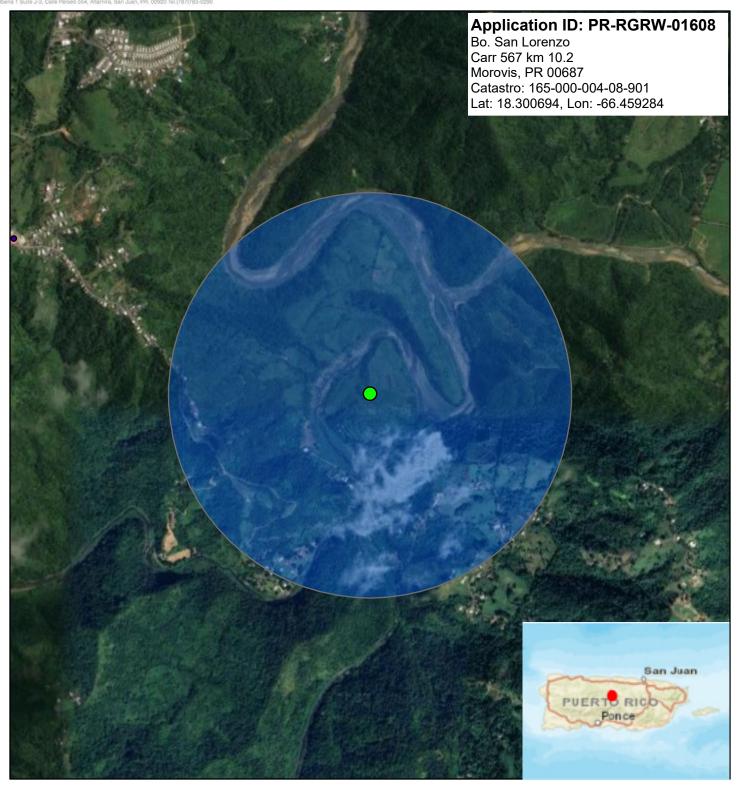


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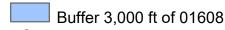
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NOAA Office for Coastal Management (NOAA/OCM) https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/53132



Figure 6 PR-RGRW-01608 Toxic



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PR-RGRW-01608

FACILITY INTERESTS

ICIS

NCDB

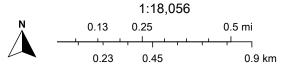
NPDES



A RCRA

RCRA ACTIVE

A RCRA INACTIVE



Source

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Facility Registry Service (FRS) https://www.epa.gov/frs



Figure 7 PR-RGRW-01608 Endangered Species



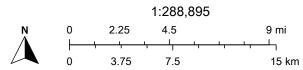
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Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species



USFWS Critical Habitat - Final



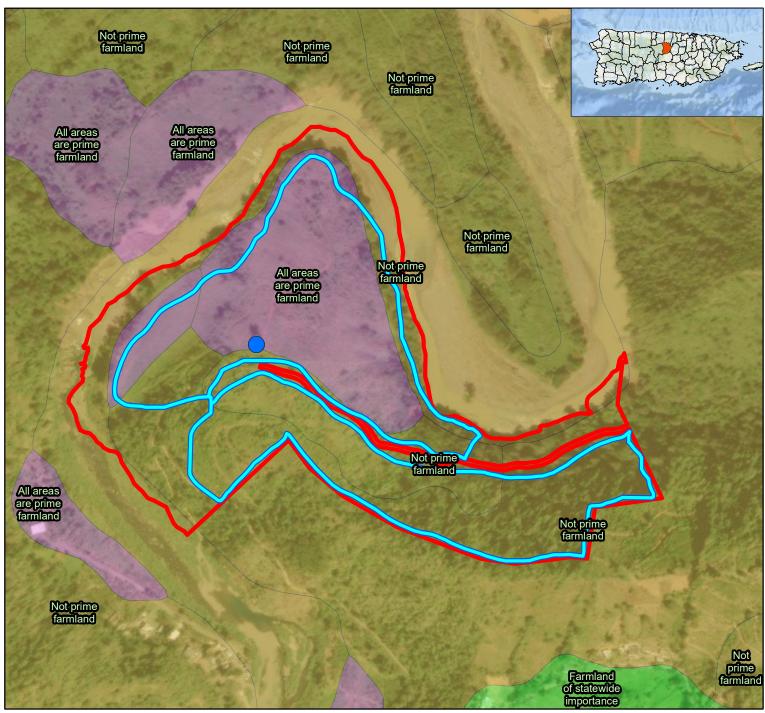


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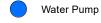
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/

Figure 8: Farmland Protection Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Héctor R. Nieves Hernández Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284





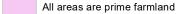


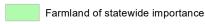
Water Pump and Cistern



PR-RGRW-01608 Parcel

Farm Class





Not prime farmland



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

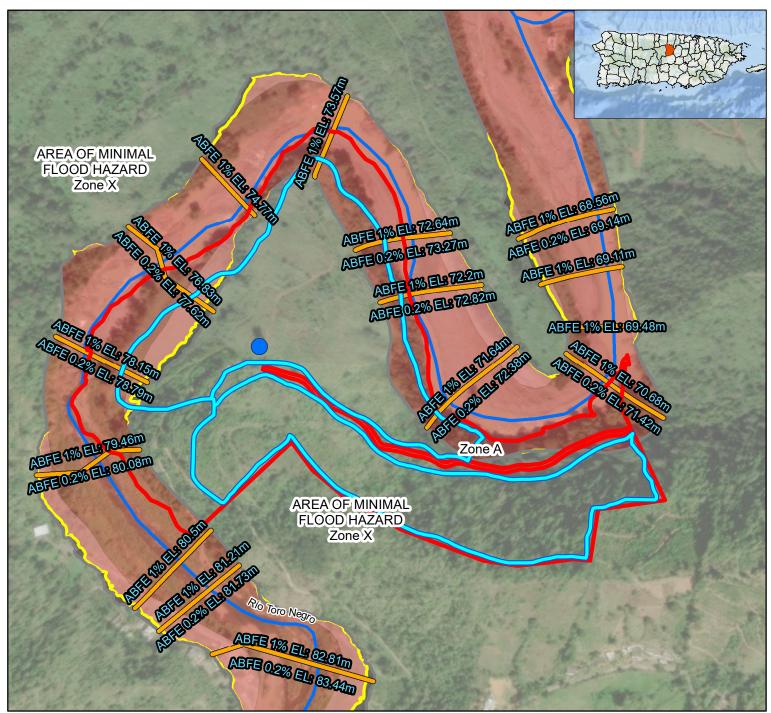


Source

1:5,000 National Resources Conservations Service (NRCS) Gridded Soil Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO) https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/soil-survey-geographic-database-ssurgo

Figure 9: Advisory Base Flood Elevation Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Héctor R. Nieves Hernández Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284



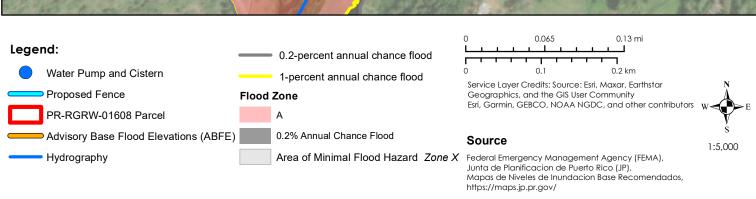




Figure 10 PR-RGRW-01608 Historic Preservation



8/8/2023, 4:12:04 PM 1:9,028 0.2 mi 0.05 0.1 PR-RGRW-01608 Cultural_Resourses - Public Plaza Cultural_Resourses - Registry ICP Archaeological Resource Zones Cultural_Resourses - Historic Places JP

Traditional Urban Center Cultural Resourses - Scenic Places **Historic Communities**

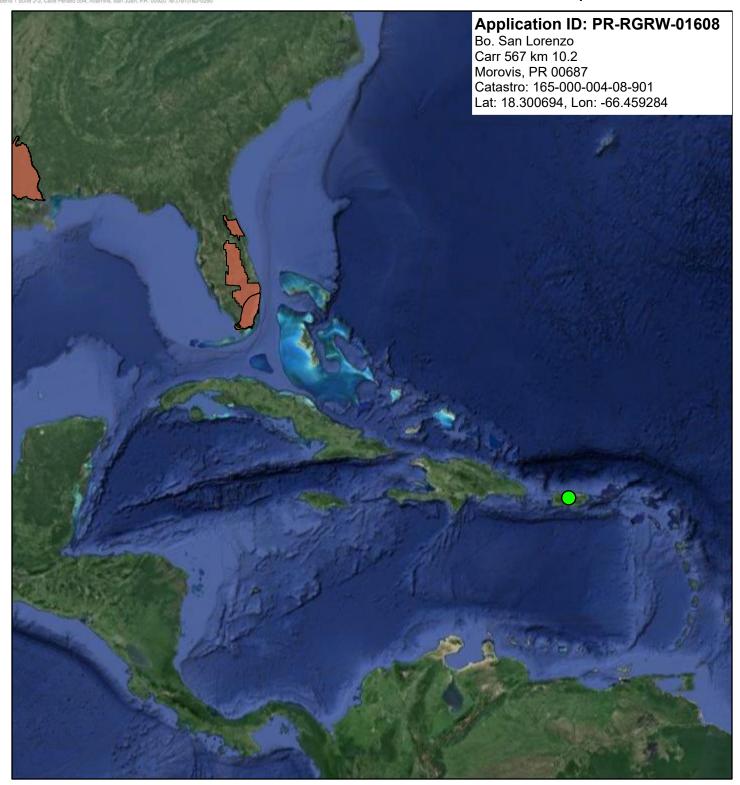
Cultural_Resourses - Cultural Value Places Cultural_Resourses - Railway Vestiges

National Park Service (NPS) - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) https://oech.pr.gov/Pages/default.aspx

0.4 km



Figure 11 PR-RGRW-01608 Sole Source Aquifers



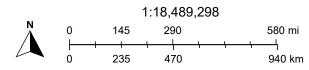
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EPA_Sole_Source_Aquifers



PR-RGRW-01608

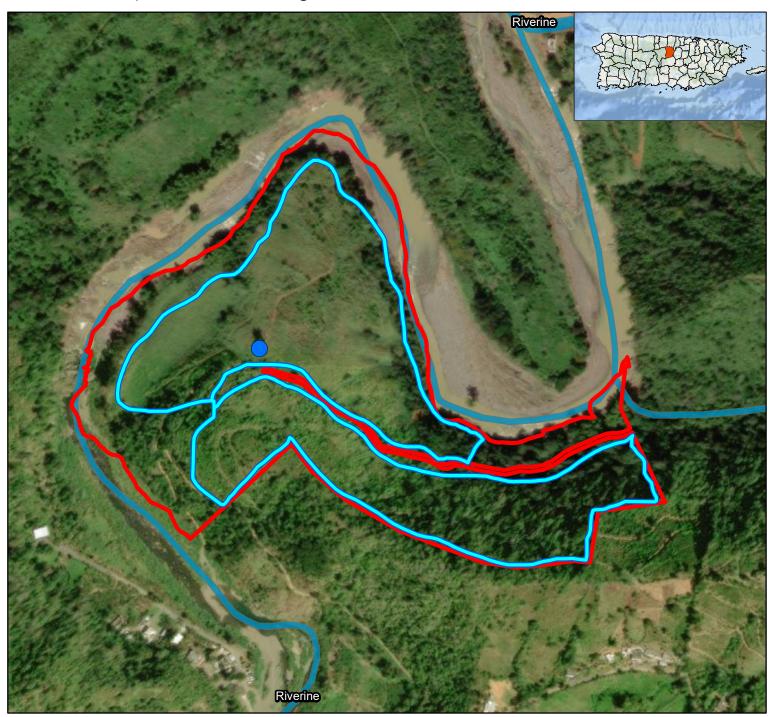


Source

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html ?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b

Figure 12: Wetlands Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Héctor R. Nieves Hernández Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284







Water Pump and Cistern



Proposed Fence

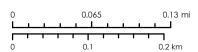


PR-RGRW-01608 Parcel

National Wetlands Inventory



Riverine



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

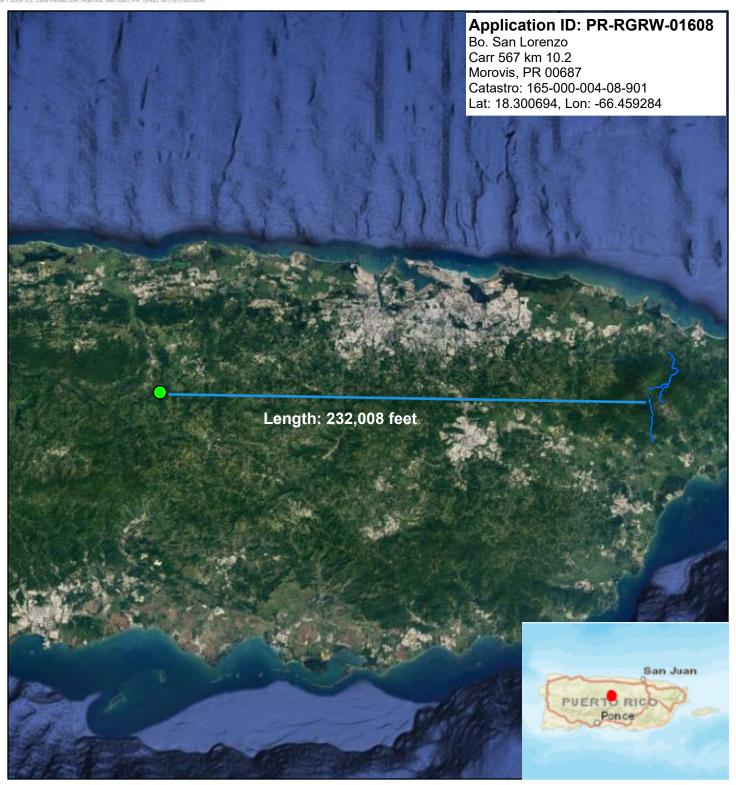


Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Weatlands Inventory https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory



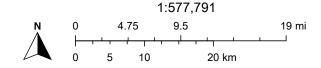
Figure 13 PR-RGRW-01608 Wild and Scenic River



8/8/2023, 4:18:22 PM

National Wild and Scenic River Line

PR-RGRW-01608

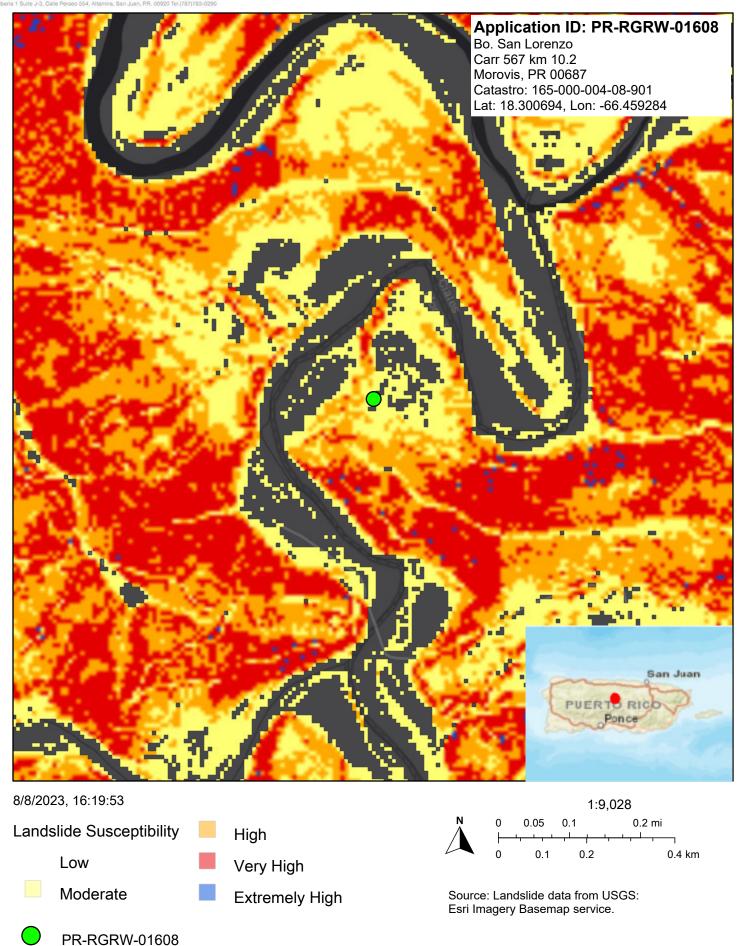


Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Wild and Scenic Rivers System https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php



Figure 14 PR-RGRW-01608 Landslide





Appendix 1: SHPO Consultation Package



ENVIRONMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: 4/16/2024

To: Environmental Review Record (ERR) File

Subject: Explanation of Conflicting Information within the ERR

Applicant Name: Hector R. Nieves Hernandez

Application Number: PR-RGRW-01608

This memorandum serve information within the En	•	•	•	ce of conflicting pieces of
Confliction Information:	□ Coordinates □ Construction E into an EA a	Date 🗆 Appli	· ·	□ Parcel ID/Cadaster Number ☑ Other: IUGF was divided

Location(s) of SHPO Package: Scope of work

Conflicting Information:

Explanation: "PRDOH requested for authorization a change in the Intended Use of Grant

Funds (IUGF), and it was approved by the program on October 23, 2023. The original IUGF included the purchase of equipment including an ATV, cows and auger. These items were included in the CENST. BYA were requested to include the remaining items (water pump, cistern and fence materials) from the new IUGF in the EA. Consultation with SHPO was initiated on August 30, 2023, and SHPO concurred with a finding of NHPA on September 29, 2023, prior to the approval of the change in the IUGF. The change in the IUGF does not affect since they are still the same activities proposed for this project. Therefore, the application does not

need to return to SHPO for re-consultation."

Version 1.0 12/11/2023



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

September 27, 2023

Lauren Bair Poche

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

SHPO 09-15-23-04 SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL: PR-RGRW-01608- HECTOR R. NIEVES HERNÁNDEZ- BO. SAN LORENZO, CARR. 567, KM 10.2, MOROVIS, 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,

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela

mels of

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB





September 15, 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-01608 – Hector R. Nieves Hernandez – Bo. San Lorenzo, Carr 567 Km 10.2, Morovis, 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). 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, HORNE is submitting documentation for activities proposed by Hector R. Nieves Hernandez at Carr 567 Km 10.2 in Bo. San Lorenzo in the municipality of Morovis. The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01608, consist of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and a new fence. The project also includes the purchase of cattle, a hole-maker, and a UTV vehicle. All fences will be new due to the majority being destroyed during Hurricane Maria and Fiona. The new fences will be wooden spikes and barbed wire. The project area is located at PR-567 km. 10.2 within the Municipality of Morovis. The fence will be placed to keep the cattle grazing by areas. The new water pump and fence will require ground disturbance. The water cistern will be placed on bare soil. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that will be provided by the applicant.



Based on the submitted documentation, the Program requests a concurrence that a finding of no historic properties affected is appropriate for this proposed project.

Please contact me by email at lauren.poche@horne.com or phone at 225-405-7676 with any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards,

James B. Pocke

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Senior Manager

Attachments

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608	City: Morovis
Applicant: Héctor R. Nieves	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	

Project Location: Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 Km 10.2, Morovis, Puerto Rico 00687			
Project Coordinates: 18.300694, -66.459284			
TPID (Número de Catastro): 165-000-004-08-901			
Type of Undertaking:			
□ Substantial Repair/Improvements			
New Construction New Construction			
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size (acres): 51.01		

SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jaqueline López Meléndez
Date Reviewed: August 26, 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)

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01608, consist of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and a new fence. The project also includes the purchase of cattle (1 bull and 14 pregnant heifers (Brangus)), a hole-maker, and a UTV vehicle. All fences will be new due to the majority being destroyed during Hurricane Maria and Fiona. The new fences will be wooden spikes and barbed wire. The project area is located at PR-567 km. 10.2 within the Municipality of Morovis. The fence will be placed to keep the cattle grazing by areas. The new water pump and fence will require ground disturbance. The water cistern will be placed on bare soil. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that will be provided by the applicant.

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 project is the location of the new water pump, cistern and fence plus a 15-meter buffer 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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Applicant: Héctor R. Nieves

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608

City: Morovis

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 there are no reported archaeological sites, archaeological materials of significant cultural properties within a half-mile (0.50 miles) radius of the project location. The closest reported archaeological site to the PR-RGRW-01608 project area is MR0100014 (SHPO: MR0100014) located 1.15 miles northeast. The proposed project is located in Morovis, at an elevation between 246 and 590 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area is within mapped soil series: Daguey, Humatas, and Mucara. The project area APE is in DaD2, HmF, DaD, and MuF. The nearest water bodies are Del Guano creek located 0.33 miles northeast and Bauta River located 0.10 miles northwest. The Grande de Manatí River borders the farm to the north and west. The river is at a lower level than the project property, about 10 meters and is located approximately 0.01 to 0.02 miles away. The coast is approximately 11.54 miles north from the project area.

Within 0.50 miles radius of the project area no archaeological surveys have been conducted.

The project area does not have cultural resources that are listed either on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or in a Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. On August 18, 2023, we visually inspected the project area. This property is located in a mountainous area with a steep slope towards the river. The area where the cistern and water pump will be installed has good visibility. The area where the fence will be installed has abundant vegetation composed of grasses, shrubs, vines and trees of all kinds. In the project area we have mainly 4 types of soils. These are: Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded (DaD2); Humatas clay 40 to 60 percent slopes eroded (HmF); Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded (DaD); Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes (MuF).

Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded, is a moderately steep, well drained soils on stable side slopes, ridgetops and foot slopes of the humid volcanic uplands. Permeability and the available water capacity are moderate. Runoff is rapid, and erosion is a hazard. Natural fertility is medium. Humatas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes is a deep soil soil, very steep, and well drained. It is on the side slopes and ridgetops of humid volcanic uplands. The permeability and available water capacity of this Humatas soil are moderate. Runoff is very rapid, and fertility is medium. Slope and an erosion hazard make this soil poorly suited for cultivated crops. Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded is a moderately steep, well drained soils on stable side slopes, ridgetops and foot slopes of the humid volcanic uplands. Permeability and the available water capacity are moderate. Runoff is rapid, and erosion is a hazard. Natural fertility is medium. Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes is moderately deep, very steep and well drained. It is on the side slopes and ridgetops of humid volcanic uplands. The permeability is moderate, and the available water capacity is low. Runoff is rapid. Natural fertility is medium. Slope and the depth to rock are main limitations of this soil for nonfarm development.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING		
Applicant: Héctor R. Nieves	. f		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608 City: Morovis			

There are no cultural resource studies within a half-mile radius of the property.

The project area does not have cultural resources that are listed either on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or in a Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. On August 18, 2023, we visually inspected the project area. We observed some roads with exposed surface. It is on some of the roads that the fence will be placed so that the cattle do not scatter and get lost. No cultural remains can be observed on the surface of the roads.

Determination

The project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. There are no reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties within a half-mile radius of the proposed project location. There are no known archaeological sites or NRHP listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel in which the Area of Potential Effect of case PR-RGRW-01608 is located. The impact of the fence installation is minimal. The construction of public roads and agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no impact to cultural properties is anticipated for this reconstruction project.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Applicant: Héctor R. Nieves	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608	City: Morovis

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the Puerto Rico SHPO concur that the
following determination is appropriate for the undertaking (Choose One):

Recommendation (Please keep on same page as SHPO Staff Section)
The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the Puerto Rico SHPO concur that the following determination is appropriate for the undertaking (Choose One):
☑ No Historic Properties Affected☐ No Adverse EffectCondition (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 reviewed the above information
and:
 □ Concurs with the information provided. □ Does not concur with the information provided.
Comments:



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608 City: Morovis

Project (PR-RGRW-01608) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)



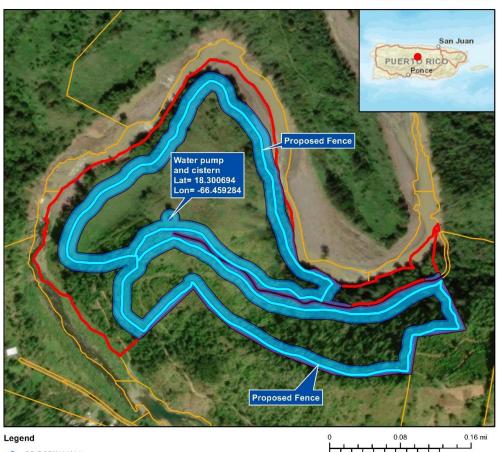
Area of Potential Effect

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

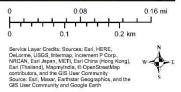
Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO







Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608



City: Morovis

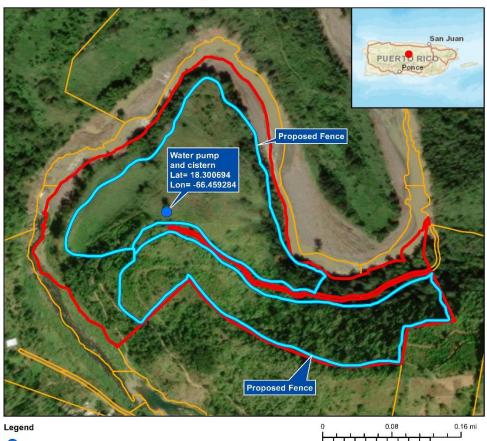
Project (PR-RGRW-01608) Location - Aerial Map



Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

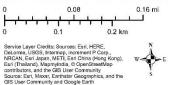
Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284





CRIM Parcels



Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608 City: Morovis

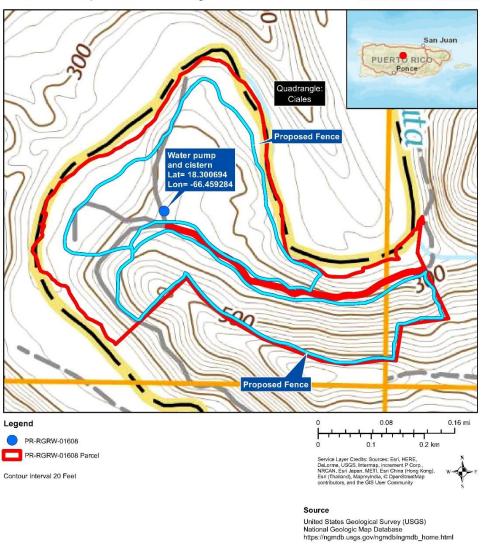
Project (PR-RGRW-01608I) Location - USGS Topographic Map

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC

Location: USGS Topographic Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284





Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608 City: Morovis



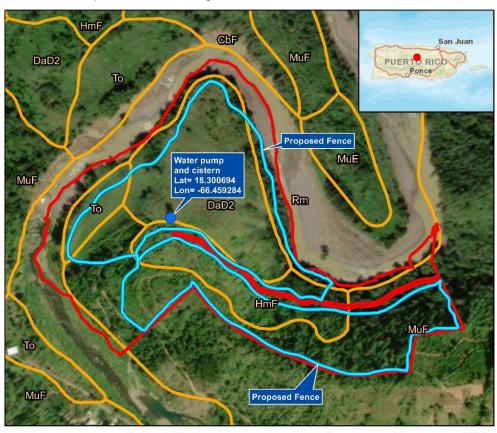
Project (PR-RGRW-01608) Location – Soils Map



Soils Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284



Legend



PR-RGRW-01608 Parcel Soil Map Unit Symbol

Soil Map Unit Symbol

- CbF Caguabo-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes
- DaD2 Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded
- HmF Humatas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes
- MuE Mucara clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes MuF - Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent
- slopes Rm - Riverwash
- To Toa silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded

0.2 km 0.1

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Ean Japan, METI, Eart China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth

Source

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Gridded Soil Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO) https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/soil-survey-geographic-database-ssurgo



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608 City: Morovis

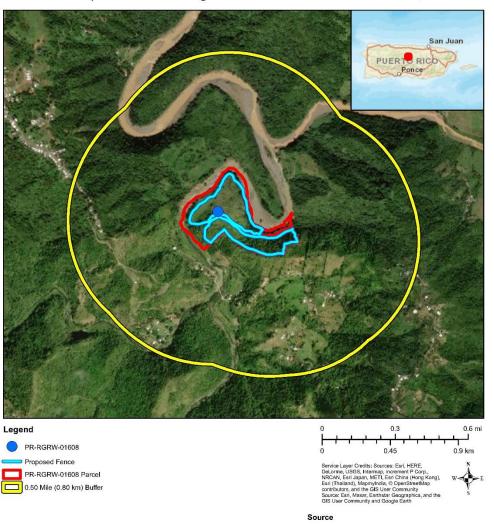
Project (PR-RGRW-01608) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map



Previous Investigations: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

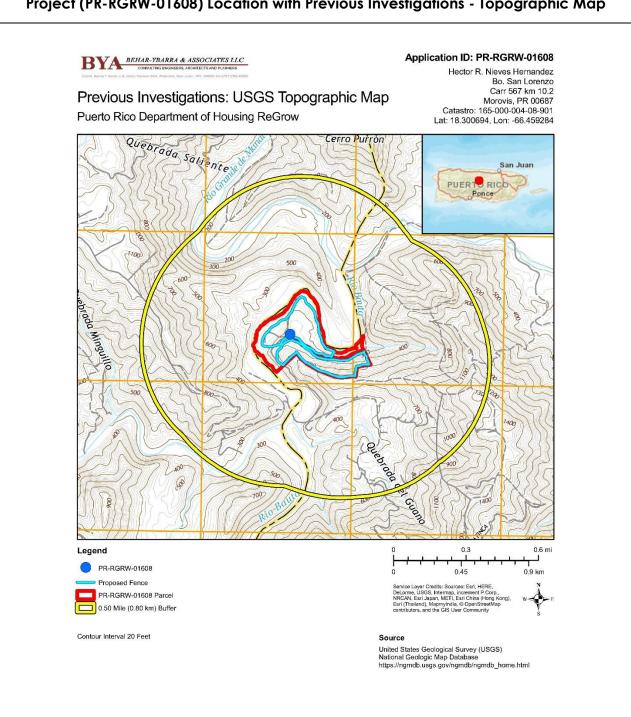
Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284





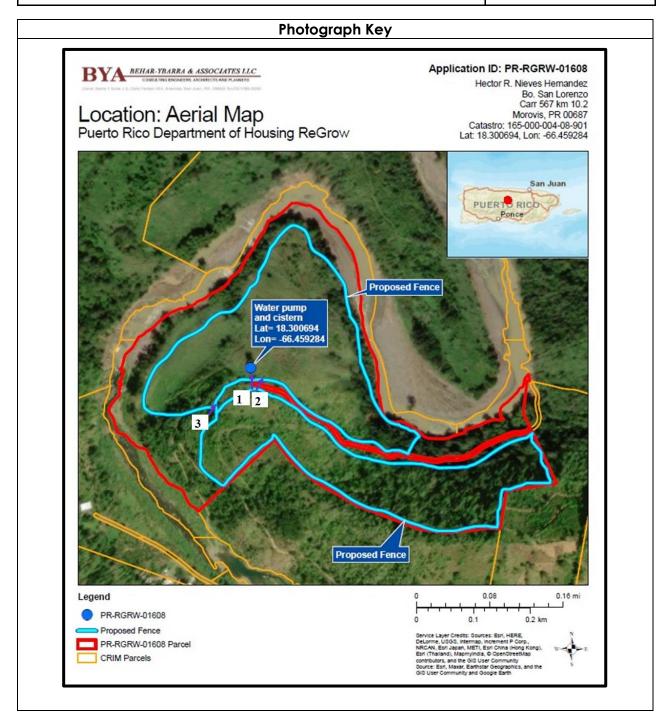
City: Morovis Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Project (PR-RGRW-01608) Location with Previous Investigations - Topographic Map





Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608 City: Morovis



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Applicant: Héctor R. Nieves

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608 City: Morovis



Photo #: 1

Date: August 18, 2023

Description (include direction): General area where the cistern and pump will be installed, looking north.



Photo #: 2

Date: August 18, 2023

Description (include direction): General area where the cistern and pump will be installed, looking northeast.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Applicant: Héctor R. Nieves

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01608 City: Morovis



Photo #: 3

Date: August 18, 2023

Description (include direction): General area where fencing will be installed, looking northeast.



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



Appendix 2: Puerto Rico Nonattainment/ Maintenance Status for each count by year for all pollutants



You are here: EPA Home > Green Book > National Area and County-Level Multi-Pollutant Information > Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants

Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants

Data is current as of March 31, 2023

Listed by County, NAAQS, Area. 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 μ g/m 3) 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)

Change the State:	
PUERTO RICO 🕶	GO

Important	Notes		Download	National Datas	et: dbf xls	Data	dictionary	(PDF)
	NAAQS	Area Name	Nonattainment in Year	Redesignation to Maintenance	Classification	Whole or/ Part County	Population (2010)	State/ County FIPS Codes
PUERTO	RICO							
Municipio	(2008)	Arecibo, PR	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	//		Part	32,185	72/013
Bayamon Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	22,921	72/021
0.4	Sulfur	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Whole	28,140	72/033
Guaynabo Municipio	PM-10	Mun. of Guaynabo, PR	929394959697989900010203040506070809	02/11/2010	Moderate	Part	90,470	72/061
Guaynabo Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	23,802	72/061
Calinas	Sulfur	Guayama-	181920212223	//		Part	23,401	72/123
Con Isson	Sulfur	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	147,963	72/127
Toa Baja Municipio		San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	52,441	72/137

Important Notes

Discover. Connect. Ask.

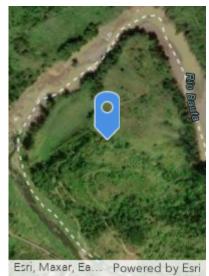


Appendix 3: Site Inspection Report and EJScreen Community Report

APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION PR-RGRW-01608 Applicant ID: Applicant Name: Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Parcel ID: 165-000-004-08-901 Latitude: 18.300694 -66.459284 Longitude: Street Address: Bo San Lorenzo Carr 567 k. 10.2 Municipio: Morovis Zip Code: 00687 Site Inspector: Egon Gonzalez Date of Visit: August 4, 2023 11:32 Time of Visit:

Building Type:



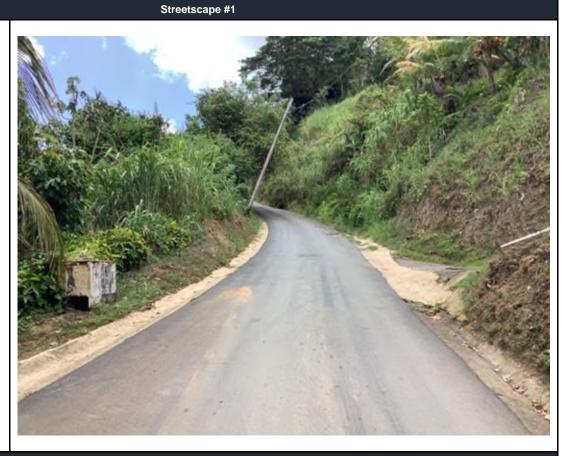


HERE, Ga Powered by Esri	Esri, Maxar, Ea	Powered
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FIELD OBSERVATIONS						
	Question	Answer	Notes			
A.	Is the structure in use?	No				
В.	Is the structure a greenhouse?	No				
C.	Is Electricity connected? (Utilities or Well)	No	Generator will be used to run pump			
D.	Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	Yes	Water			
1.	Are there signs of poor housekeeping on site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, strom debris, solid waste, petroleum products, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, vehicle batteries, abandoned vehicles, pits, pools, ponds of hazardous substances, etc.)	No				
2.	Are there any 55-gallon drums visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?	No				
3.	Are there any (or signs of any) underground storage tanks on the property?	No				
4.	Are there signs of AST on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.	No				
5.	Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?	No				
6.	Is a water drainage system in use?	No				
7.	Is a warehouse in use for storage of Fertilizer or Pesticides?	No				
8.	Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?	No				
9.	Is there evidence of a faulty septic system?	No				
10.	Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?	No				
11.	Is there any visible indication of mold?	No				
12.	Is there any visible evidence of asbestos, chipping, and flaking or peeling paint, or hazardous materials present in or on the structure?	No				
13.	Are any additional site hazards observed?	No				
14.	Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site(do not include ponding from recent rain / weather events)?	No				
15.	Does the subject property have water frontage?	No				
16.	Is there any indication of the presence of wetlands?	No				
17.	Are there any obvious signs of animals or birds nesting on or near the site?	No				
18.	Is the applicant aware of any significant historical event or persons associated with the structure, or of it being located in a historic district/ area?	No				
19.	Is a historic marker present?	No				

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:

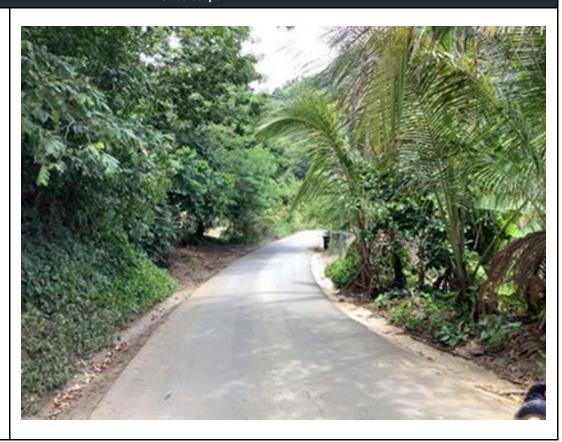


Photo Direction:

Comments:

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Fencing



Architectural Details 2

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Fencing



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Fencing



Architectural Details 4

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 6

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 8

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water cistern on soil and water pump coordinates 18.300694, -66.459284



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Toro negro river



Architectural Details 10

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Burned



Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 12

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Property has water from AAA



Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 14

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:

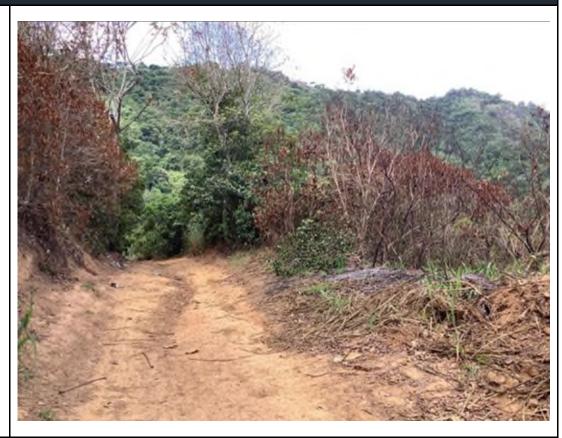


Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 16

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Fencing



Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 18

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: entrance



Architectural Details 20

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



SEPA EJScreen Community Report

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

Morovis Municipio, PR

1 mile Ring Centered at 18.300695,-66.459284 Population: 605 Area in square miles: 3.14





LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	3%
Spanish	97%
Total Non-English	97%

BREAKDOWN BY RACE

White: 0%	Black: 0%	American Indian: 0%	Asian: 0%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0%	Other race: 0%	Two or more races: 0%	Hispanie: 100%

BREAKDOWN BY AGE

From Ages 1 to 4	2%
From Ages 1 to 18	18%
From Ages 18 and up	82%
From Ages 65 and up	24%

LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN

Speak Spanish	100%
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	0%
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	0%
Speak Other Languages	0%

Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017 -2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

1 de 4

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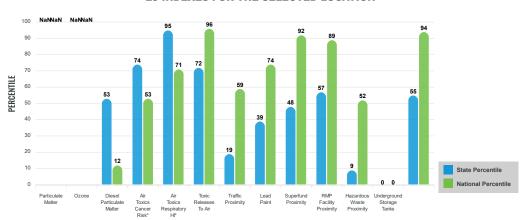
Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the <u>EJScreen website</u>.

EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

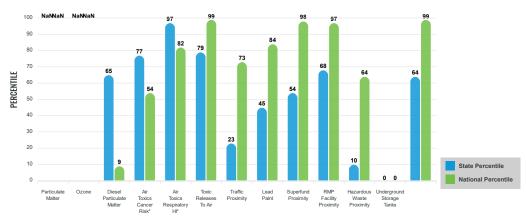
EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed, and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or national percentiles are also become a selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or national percentiles.

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.300695,-66.459284

2 de 4

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter (µg/m³)	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.08	N/A
Ozone (ppb)	N/A	N/A	N/A	61.6	N/A
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m³)	0.0368	0.0667	48	0.261	2
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	20	20	15	25	5
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.26	0.19	17	0.31	4
Toxic Releases to Air	1,400	4,300	67	4,600	65
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	16	180	19	210	21
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.058	0.16	37	0.3	28
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.073	0.15	44	0.13	56
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.2	0.47	55	0.43	57
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.075	0.76	8	1.9	15
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km²)	0	1.7	0	3.9	0
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.0036	2.3	50	22	59
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	92%	83%	71	35%	99
Supplemental Demographic Index	52%	43%	75	14%	99
People of Color	100%	96%	28	39%	96
Low Income	85%	70%	71	31%	98
Unemployment Rate	21%	15%	72	6%	96
Limited English Speaking Households	75%	67%	62	5%	99
Less Than High School Education	27%	21%	67	12%	89
Under Age 5	2%	4%	41	6%	23
Over Age 64	24%	22%	60	17%	78
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A%	N/A	20%	N/A

*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, aim locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional

Hospitals	
Places of Worship	0
Other environmental data:	

,	Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
:	Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	Yes
:	Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Yes

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.300695,-66.459284

3 de 4

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS						
INDICATOR VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILE						
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%	N/A	
Heart Disease	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	N/A	
Asthma	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	
Cancer	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	N/A	
Persons with Disabilities	24.6%	21.6%	66	13.4%	94	

CLIMATE INDICATORS							
INDICATOR	INDICATOR VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILE						
Flood Risk	N/A	N/A	N/A	12%	N/A		
Wildfire Risk	N/A	N/A	N/A	14%	N/A		

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS						
INDICATOR VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILE						
Broadband Internet	35%	32%	61	14%	92	
Lack of Health Insurance	4%	7%	26	9%	32	
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Transportation Access	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.300695,-66.459284

www.epa.gov/ejscreen

4 de 4 12/04/2024, 15:24



Appendix 4: USFWS Informal Consultation Package and supporting documentation

From: Roman, Damaris
To: environmentcdbg

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-01608 Héctor R. Nieves Hernández

Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 12:55:00 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

Good Afternoon:

This email is to acknowledge receipt of PRDOH letter confirming the acceptance implementation of the conservation measures provided by the Service on April 11, 2024 for the PRDOH consultation of March 14, 2024. Keep this email for your records.

Thanks

** If you need assistance, please contact me at emails or mobile below. If you are sending a request for technical assistance or Section 7 consultation, please contact us at Caribbean_es@fws.gov**

Need a project evaluation? Please visit our Consultation Guidelines website.

Cordially,

Damaris Román Ruiz

Biological Science Technician
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office
P.O Box 491/Road 301 km 5.1
Boqueron PR 00622

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

Office Desk Phone (939) 320-3135 Mobile (786) 244-0081 damaris_roman@fws.gov caribbean es@fws.gov Office Homepage: https://www.fws.gov/southeast/caribbean/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USFWSCaribbean?ref=hl

Flicker: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast/sets/72157626859158391/

From: environmentcdbg <environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 10:51 AM

To: Caribbean ES, FW4 < Caribbean_ES@fws.gov> **Cc:** Roman, Damaris < damaris roman@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-01608 Héctor R. Nieves Hernández

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

To whom it may concern:

In order to complete the environmental review process, attached please find a letter of acceptance by PRDOH regarding the case PR-RGRW-01608 for the CDBG-DR Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program. This document contains the confirmation of the implementation of the conservation measures regarding this case.

Should you need additional information, do not hesitate to contact our office.

Cordially,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

Disaster Recovery Office

environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527

Visit us: recuperacion.pr.gov

Contact us: infocdbg@vivienda.pr.gov



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From: Roman, Damaris <damaris_roman@fws.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 7:21 AM

To: Juan C. Perez-Bofill < jcperez@vivienda.pr.gov>

Cc: environmentcdbg <environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov> **Subject:** CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-01608 Héctor R. Nieves Hernández

Mr. Pérez

See attached file regarding the referenced project. Should you have any questions, contact us at <u>caribbean es@fws.gov</u>

Thanks

** If you need assistance, please contact me at emails or mobile below. If you are sending a request for technical assistance or Section 7 consultation, please contact us at Caribbean_es@fws.gov**

Need a project evaluation? Please visit our Consultation Guidelines website.

Cordially,

Damaris Román Ruiz

Biological Science Technician
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office
P.O Box 491/Road 301 km 5.1
Boqueron PR 00622

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

Office Desk Phone (939) 320-3135 Mobile (786) 244-0081 damaris_roman@fws.gov caribbean_es@fws.gov

Office Homepage: https://www.fws.gov/southeast/caribbean/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USFWSCaribbean?ref=ht

Flicker: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast/sets/72157626859158391/

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July 22, 2024

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service P.O. Box 491 Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622

Email: <u>caribbean@es@fws.gov</u>

Re: Puerto Rico Department of Housing / Re-Grow Program

Héctor R. Nieves | PR-RGRW-01608 Effect Determination Acceptance

To whom it may concern:

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) acknowledges receipt of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service correspondence dated on March 14, 2024 for the project PR-RGRW-01608 According to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), PRDOH confirms the acceptance to the reconsideration of the No Effect (NE) determination for the Puerto Rican Boa to a May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) determination, as well as the implementation of the pertinent conservation measures for the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly.

As it is stated, with this communication, the PRDOH completes its responsibility under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the Services' requirements for concurrence.

Should you need additional information, do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division
Disaster recovery Office
environmentalcompliance Division
Disaster recovery Disaster Division
Disaster recovery Disaster Division
Disaster recovery Disaster Division
Disast



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



In Reply Refer to: FWS/R4/CESFO/72101-Gen

Submitted 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-01608 Héctor R. Nieves Hernández, Morovis, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated March 14, 2024, requesting informal consultation 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) is proposing the installation of a water pump, a 2,000-gallon cistern and replacement of a fence with wooden spikes and barbed wire. The proposed project will be located at State Road PR-567, Km 10.2, San Lorenzo Ward (18°18'02.5"N 66°27'33.4"W) in the municipality of Morovis.

Using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, the PRDOH has determined that the proposed project site is located within the range of Puerto Rican boa (*Epicrates inornatus* now known as *Chilabothrus inornatus*) and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*).

PRDOH then used the Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) in the IPaC application to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on federally listed species (Project code: 2024-0060380). Based on the answers provided, a consistency letter was obtained for the Puerto Rican boa, which determined that the proposed actions for this project would have "No Effect" (NE) for this species. The Service acknowledges receipt of the NE DKey consistency letter for the Puerto Rican boa.

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available and existing habitat, the PRDOH has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly.

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

We have reviewed the information provided and our files, and concur with PRDOH's determination that the proposed actions may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly if PRDOH agrees to implement the following conservation measures for this species:

- 1. The contractor must inform all personnel about the potential presence of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly or its occupied host plant "prickly bush" (*Oplonia spinosa*) in the project areas. A pre-work meeting should inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming this butterfly and its occupied host plant. Educational material (e.g., posters, flyers or signs with photos or illustrations of all the life stages of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (i.e., eggs, caterpillar, chrysalids and adult, and its host plant) should be prepared and available to all personnel for reference.
- 2. Before starting any project activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement, the contractor must clearly delineate the boundaries of the working area in the field to avoid unnecessary habitat impacts. Once the project areas are clearly marked, and before any work activity, including site preparation, personnel with knowledge and ability to identify the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (all life stages) and the "prickly bush" must survey the areas where the work will be performed for the presence of the species and its host plant. It is important to note that the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly can be observed year-round in all its life stages; thus, oviposition (egg-laying) may occur at any time during the year.
- 3. If the "prickly bush" is present on the project site, try to avoid cutting it off, even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
- 4. If there is no prickly bush within the project area, and the butterfly is observed flying within the project area, do not harass, harm, pursue, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct, the species.
- 5. Adult butterflies are often observed flying near the host plant as part of their mating behavior and laying eggs. Project-related activities must stop if the prickle bush is found in the project area and the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is observed flying in that same area. A temporary 50-meter (164 feet) buffer zone of no activity or human disturbance should be established and clearly marked around that prickly bush until the butterfly moves out on its own.
- 6. Once the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly has moved away, within a period of 24 to 36 hours, a search of the prickly bush that has been buffered should be conducted to determine the presence of any eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids of the butterfly on the plant. The contractor or the Applicant should send a report of the observation and its findings to caribbean es@fws.gov after the 36-hour search is concluded.
- 7. If, after the initial search or after the 24 to 36-hour search, any life stage of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is found in the prickly bush, take the following actions:
 - o Clearly mark the host plant with flagging tape.
 - Establish a 10-meter (32-foot) buffer zone around the bush to protect it.

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Eggs are typically found on the prickly bush's newly grown, tender branches.
 Once an egg hatches, the caterpillar moves and feeds throughout the bush.
 Therefore, avoid cutting off the prickly bush within the project site even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.

- Work within the 10-meter buffered area may resume when no signs of any live life stage of the butterfly are detected, which usually takes approximately 60 to 120 days.
- 8. For all Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly sightings (all life stages), the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where the butterfly was found must be recorded. Data should also include a photo of the butterfly (if possible) and the habitat where it was observed, site GPS coordinates, and comments on how the butterfly was detected and its behavior. All Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly sighting reports should be sent to the USFWS Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office at caribbean es@fws.gov.
- 9. For questions regarding the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, the Point of Contacts are:

José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator:

Mobile: 305-304-1386
Office phone: 786-244-0081
Office Direct Line: 939-320-3120

o Email: jose cruz-burgos@fws.gov

This consultation will be completed once we receive PRHOD's confirmation of the implementation of the above mentioned conservation measures for the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly.

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,

Robert Tawes Acting Field Supervisor

drr





March 14, 2024

Robert Tawes
Division Supervisor, Environmental Review
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southeast Regional Office
875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30345

email: <u>Caribbean es@fws.gov</u>; <u>robert tawes@fws.gov</u>

RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing / Re-Grow Program
PR-RGRW-01608 – Héctor R. Nieves Hernández
Endangered Species Concurrence for NLAA Determination

Dear Mr. Tawes:

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is requesting an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and 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 PR-RGRW-01608, located at PR-567 Road Km. 10.2, San Lorenzo Ward, Morovis, PR 00638; coordinates of the fence: 18.300694,– 66.459284. A map of the project site location can be found in Appendix A: Figure 1 & Figure 2.

The proposed project is part of the Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (RGRW) that aims to increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island-wide. This Program will enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities.

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01608 consist in the installation of a water pump, a 2,000-gallon cistern and a new fence. All fences will be new due to the majority being destroyed during Hurricane María and Fiona. The new fences will be wooden spikes and barbed wire. The fence will be placed to keep the cattle grazing by areas. The new water pump and fence will require ground disturbance. The water cistern will be placed on bare soil. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that will be provided by the applicant. The project area is located at PR-567 Road Km. 10.2, San Lorenzo Ward, within the Municipality of Morovis. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined as the area potentially impacted by ground disturbing activities related to the installation of the fence and cistern, see Appendix A: Figure 3.

Existing Conditions and Trends:

For the proposed project parcel 165-000-004-08-901, some areas are designated as Not Prime Farmland and others as Prime Farmland, see Appendix A: Figure 4. The project area is located in the mountainous area of Morovis. The project has a steep topography, and the surface is covered with grass and shrubs, refer to Appendix C. The project area has mainly 4 types of soil. These are: Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded (DaD2); Humatas clay 40 to 60 percent slopes eroded (HmF); Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded (DaD); Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes (MuF). The land has been used for agricultural uses for over 30 years and the proposed project will not change the land use associated with these placements. In addition, the closer Final Critical Habitat is located at 26,178 feet from the project location, see Appendix A: Figure 5. The site is located in a mountainous area with a steep slope towards the Bauta River. The project improvements will not alter the drainage runoff flow. Therefore, the floodplain will maintain its preconstruction state. The project is expected to have no significant impact in the river, see Appendix A: Figure 6.

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

Name of the species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate				
Reptiles					
Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus) Endangered					
İr	nsects				
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)	Threatened				
Critical Habitat					
There are no critical habitats within the project area.					

The nature of the project, scope of work, information available, a careful analysis of the IPaC, the Puerto Rican Boa conservation measures, the Caribbean Dkey on March 11, 2024, in the US Fish and Wildlife Service's online IPaC application, and the observations during the field visit, were used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on that information and the answer inputted into the Dkey, it was determined that the proposed action will have "No Effect" determination on the Puerto Rican Boa, see Appendix B.

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will be implemented			
Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	No Effect (NE)	No Conservation Measures			
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)	May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	No Conservation Measures			
Critical Habitats					
There are no critical habitats within the project area.					

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determination for the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species. For any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information below.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Juan Carlos Pérez Bofill, PE, MEng.

Director - Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program

environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320

Attachments:

Appendix A:

Figure 1 – Location Map

Figure 2 - Topographic Map

Figure 3 – Area of Potential Effect Map

Figure 4 - Farmland Map

Figure 5 – Critical Habitats Map

Figure 6 – Wetlands Map

Appendix B: Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)

Appendix C: Field Visit Photos

C: Angel G. López-Guzmán, MSEM

Deputy Director

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

PR-RGRW-01608 USFWS Informal Consultation Page 4 / 4

References:

Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*)

USFWS Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures Species profile:

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

Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005





Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284

Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

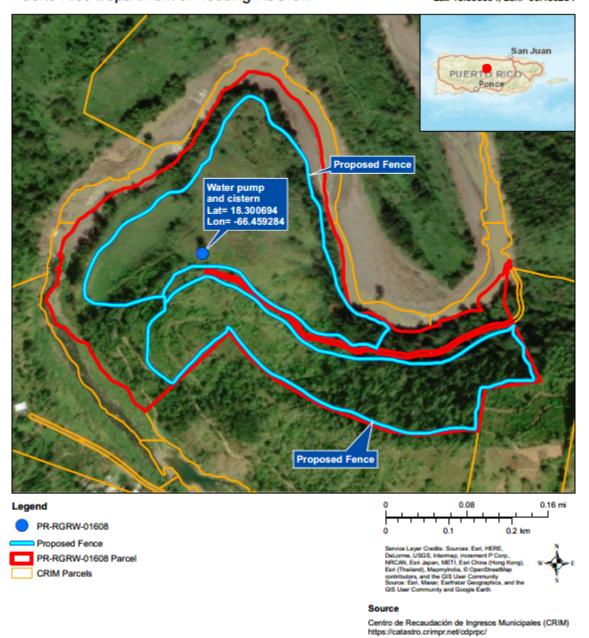


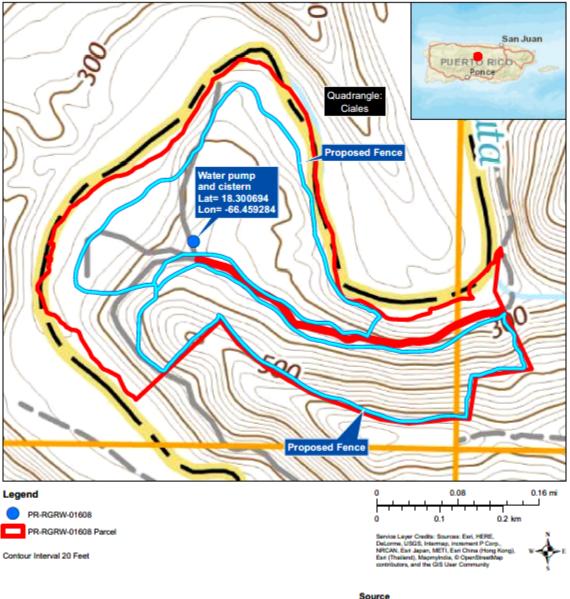
Figure 1: PR-RGRW-01608 Location Map



Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284

Location: USGS Topographic Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Geologic Map Database https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html

Figure 2: PR-RGRW-01608 Topographic Map



Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284

Area of Potential Effect Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Figure 3: PR-RGRW-01608 Area of Potential Effect Map

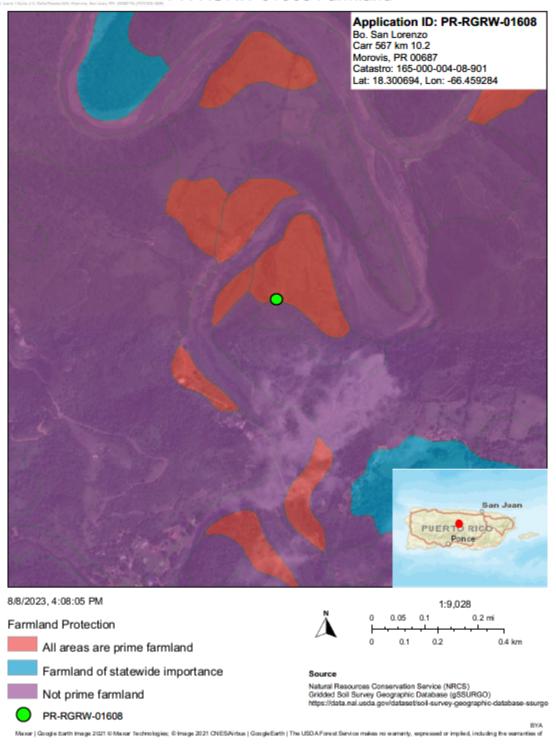
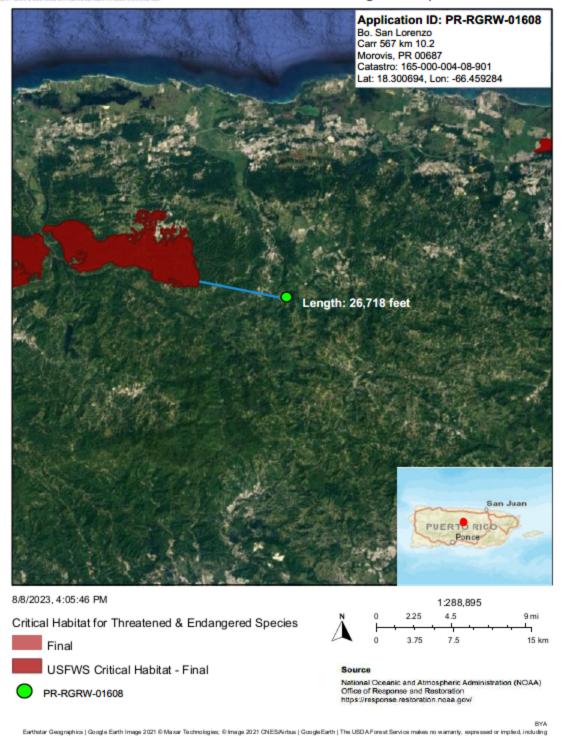


Figure 4: PR-RGRW-01608 Farmland Protection Map

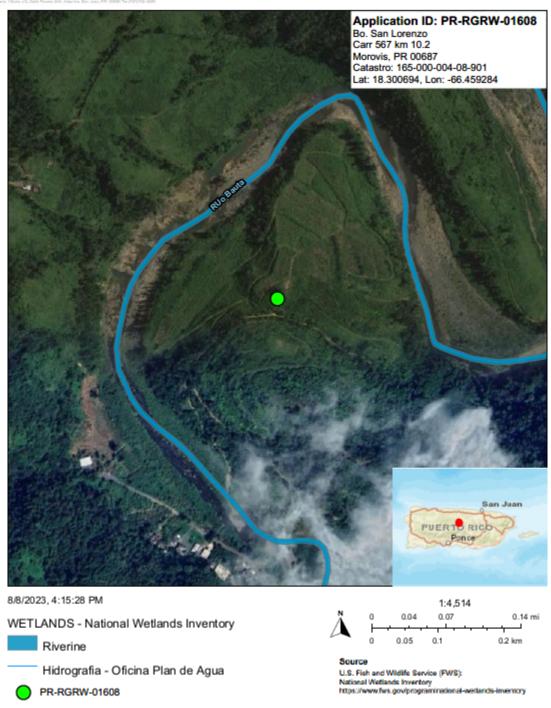


PR-RGRW-01608 Endangered Species





PR-RGRW-01608 Wetland



BY/
Maxor | Google Earth Image 2021 © Maxor Technologies; © Image 2021 CNESA/rbus | Google Earth | The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied, including the warranties or

Figure 6: PR-RGRW-01608 Wetlands Map

Appendix B: In	nformation for P	lanning and Co	onsultation (IPa	aC)



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440

Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>

In Reply Refer To: March 11, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0060380 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01608

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through IPaC by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at: https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see Migratory Bird Permit | What We Do | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov).

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Project code: 2024-0060380 03/11/2024

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 (939) 320-3135

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project code: 2024-0060380

Project Code: 2024-0060380 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01608

Project Type: New Constr - Above Ground

Project Description: The undertaking consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000

gallons cistern and a new fence. All fences will be new due to the majority being destroyed during Hurricane Maria and Fiona. The new fences will be wooden spikes and barbed wire. The fence will be placed to keep the cattle grazing by areas. The new water pump and fence will require ground disturbance. The water cistern will be placed on bare soil. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that

will be provided by the applicant.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.3004045,-66.45916520097376,14z



Counties: Morovis County, Puerto Rico

Project code: 2024-0060380 03/11/2024

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <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.

REPTILES

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628

General project design guidelines:

https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/VN4BK46YTFHYNAM4WBW3QVZ7VI/

documents/generated/7159.pdf

INSECTS

NAME

Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Atlantea tulita

Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005

General project design guidelines:

https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/VN4BK46YTFHYNAM4WBW3QVZ7VI/documents/generated/7168.pdf

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440 Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>

In Reply Refer To: March 11, 2024

Project code: 2024-0060380 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01608

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-01608' for specified threatened

and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to

the IPaC determination key titled Caribbean Determination Key (DKey).

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the assisted evaluation keys in IPaC. This letter is provided pursuant to the Service's authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.). On March 11, 2024, Patricia Carmenatty used the Caribbean DKey; dated January 19, 2024, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online IPaC application to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-01608'. The project is located in Morovis County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.3004045,-66.45916520097376,14z



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01608':

The undertaking consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and a new fence. All fences will be new due to the majority being destroyed during Hurricane Maria and Fiona. The new fences will be wooden spikes and barbed wire. The fence will be placed to keep the cattle grazing by areas. The new water pump and fence will require ground disturbance. The water cistern will be placed on bare soil. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that will be provided by the applicant.

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Caribbean DKey, you determined the proposed Action will have "No Effect" on the following species:

SpeciesListing StatusDeterminationPuerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)EndangeredNo effect

Thank you for informing the Service of your "No Effect" determination(s) for this project. No further consultation/coordination for this project is required for these species. However, be aware that reinitiation of consultation may be necessary if later modifications are made to the project so that it no longer meets the criteria or outcome described above, or if new information reveals effects of the action that could affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed.

This letter serves as documentation of your consideration of the federally listed species as required under section 7 of the ESA. However, effects to the other federally listed species or critical habitat as listed below from the "IPaC print-out for the project" (see below) should be considered as part of your ESA review for the project.

The Service will notify you within 30 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a "No Effect" (NE) determination for Federally listed species in the Caribbean. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NE concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluate the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having unanticipated impacts. In such instances, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the DKey.

Note: Projects located within the range of the Puerto Rican boa or the Virgin Islands tree boa might encounter these species during project activities. **This letter does not provide take to handle or move these species.** If relocation of the species is needed, please contact either the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DNER) at 787-724-5700, 787-230-5550, or 787-771-1124 for projects in Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) at 340-775-6762 for projects in the Virgin Islands. Otherwise, contact the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (caribbean_es@fws.gov) to determine whether the consultation needs to be reinitiated.

In addition to the species listed above, the following species and/or critical habitats may also occur in your project area and **are not** covered by this conclusion. Effects to the other federally

listed species or critical habitat as listed below should be considered as part of your ESA review for the project.

• Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Atlantea tulita Threatened

If the proposed project is located within species range where a DKey has not been developed for those species, please follow the established guidance for initiating section 7 consultation Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office.

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. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office at Caribbean_es@fws.gov.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

PR-RGRW-01608

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01608':

The undertaking consists of the installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern and a new fence. All fences will be new due to the majority being destroyed during Hurricane Maria and Fiona. The new fences will be wooden spikes and barbed wire. The fence will be placed to keep the cattle grazing by areas. The new water pump and fence will require ground disturbance. The water cistern will be placed on bare soil. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that will be provided by the applicant.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.3004045,-66.45916520097376,14z



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

 Is the proposed project an EPA Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) renewal for an existing project? (MSGP Fact Sheet)

No

2. Is the proposed project within an urban developed area? (i.e., cities, downtowns, shopping malls etc.)

Note: Urban and developed areas has one or more of the following characteristics: Presence of existing buildings, residential areas, and commercial establishments. Well-established infrastructure including roads, utilities, and urban facilities. High population density. Established neighborhoods and urban amenities ("urbanizaciones"). Developed landscape with paved surfaces, parking lots, and industrial areas. Signs of human activity and urbanization, such as shopping centers and recreational facilities. Location within the boundaries of a city or town ("casco urbano"). High concentration of built-up structures and limited open spaces. Aerial imagery might be requested to the applicant.

No

3. Does the proposed project consist of rehabilitation or demolition of existing single-family homes and buildings?

No

4. Does the proposed project consist of improvements to existing facilities?

Note: Examples of facilities are occupied single family homes, and buildings; existing recreational facilities, including the installation of roofs to existing basketball courts, etc.

No

5. Does the proposed project consist of repavement or repair of existing roads and installing transit signage or guardrails?

No

6. Does the proposed project consist of the construction of gutters and/or sidewalks along existing roads, and developments?

No

7. Does the proposed project consist of replacement or repair of existing bridges which include cutting vegetation or earth movement?

No

8. Does the proposed project consist of activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) along roads which include cutting vegetation or earth movement?

No

9. Is the proposed project located within a rural area covered by grassland (pasture lands "pastos")?

Yes

10. [Hidden Semantic] Does the proposed project intersect the Puerto Rican boa area of influence?

Automatically answered

Yes





Photo #: 1

Date: August 18, 2023

Description (include direction): General area where the cistern and pump will be installed, looking northeast.



Photo #: 2

Date: August 18, 2023 Description (include direction): General area where fencing will be installed, looking northeast.



Transmittal Letter

July 23, 2024

To: José Luis Rivera Rivera

Deputy Director for Economic Recovery Grant Management

Re-Grow PR Urban Rural Agriculture Program

Re: Endangered Species Concurrence - Conservation Measures Implementation

Héctor R. Nieves Hernández | PR-RGRW-01608

Dear Mr. Rivera:

This memorandum is to notify the Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (Re-Grow Program) that on March 14, 2024, for the case **PR-RGRW-01608**, the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division submitted an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and 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 of the installation of a water pump and water tank and replacement of fence, for Héctor R. Nieves Hernández, an agricultural business, located at PR-567 Road, km. 10.2, San Lorenzo Ward, Morovis PR 00638; coordinates 18.300694, – 66.459284.

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

Name of Species	Status	
Puerto Rican boa	Endangered	
(Chilabothrus inornatus)		
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly	Threatened	
(Atlantea tulita)		

There were no Critical Habitats noted within the project area.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office reviewed the information provided and their files, and on April 11, 2024 concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions will have **No Effect (NE)** on the Puerto Rican Boa. Also, the PRDOH together with the USFWS have determined that the proposed project **May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)** the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly.

The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly is encountered in the site, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Conservation Measures and (3) a plant survey should be conducted prior to any construction activities occurring and if a species is identified as being endangered or threatened, the PR USFWS must be notified before any work commences.

Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.

In order to facilitate the species identification, please, find attached the Caribbean Endangered and Threatened Animals Fact Sheets for: Puerto Rican Boa and Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly.

USFWS Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office key contact information:

 José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386 Email: jose cruz-burgos@fws.gov

Sincerely,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division Disaster Recovery Office <u>environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov</u> (787)274-2527 | ext. 4320

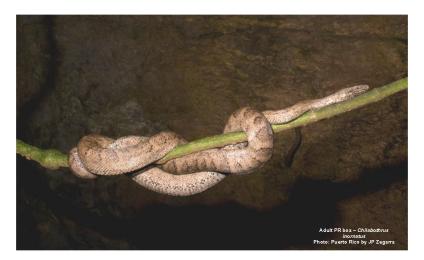


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect federally listed species, such as Federal approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rico boa is subject to penalties under the ESA. If Federal funds or permits are needed, the funding or permitting agency should initiate Section 7 consultation with the Service. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, you must submit a project package with the established minimum requirements. These conservation measures should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the species.

The endangered Puerto Rican (PR) boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*, formerly *Epicrates inornatus*) is the largest endemic snake species that inhabits Puerto Rico. The PR boa is non-venomous and does not pose any life threatening danger to humans, but some individuals may try to bite if disturbed or during capture or handling. Its body color ranges from tan to dark brown with irregular diffuse marking on the dorsum, but some individuals lack marking and are uniformly dark. Juveniles may have a reddish color with more pronounced markings. In general, as they mature, their body color tends to darken.



Last Revised: January 2024

The PR boa was federally listed in 1970. Currently, the species has an island-wide distribution and occurs in a wide variety of habitat types, ranging from wet montane to subtropical dry forest and can be found from mature forest to areas with different degrees of human disturbance such as roadsides or houses, especially if near their habitat in rural areas. The PR boa is considered mostly nocturnal, remaining less active, concealed or basking under the sun during the day.

The Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the PR boa and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional conservation measures can be implemented besides the ones presented in this document.

Conservation Measures:

- 1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the PR boa in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming the species as well as penalties for harassing or harming PR boas. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
- Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
- 3. Once areas are clearly marked, and prior to the use of heavy machinery and any construction activity (including removal of vegetation and earth movement), a biologist or project personnel with experience on this species should survey the areas to be cleared to verify the presence of any PR boa within the work area.
- 4. If a PR boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded (see #5). **Do not capture the boa**. If boas need to be moved out of harm's way, designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (PRDNER phone #s: (787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124). **If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities at that area must stop until the boa moves out of harm's way on its own**. Activities at other work sites, where no boas have been found after surveying the area, may continue.
- 5. For all boa sightings (dead or alive), record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where it was found. PR boa data should also include a photo of the animal (dead or alive), site GPS coordinates, the time and date, and comments on how the animal was detected and its behavior.

- 6. If a PR boa is captured by PRDNER personnel, record the name of that person and information on where the PR boa will be taken. This information should be reported to the Service.
- 7. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize PR boa casualties by heavy machinery or motor vehicles being used on site. Any heavy machinery left on site (staging) or near potential PR boa habitat (within 50 meters of potential boa habitat), needs to be thoroughly inspected each morning before work starts to ensure that no boas have sheltered within engine compartments or other areas of the equipment. If PR boas are found within vehicles or equipment, do not capture the animal, and let it move on its own or call PRDNER Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (see #4). If not possible, the animal should be left alone until it leaves the vehicle on its own.
- 8. PR boas may seek shelter in debris piles. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize boa casualties associated with sheltering in debris piles as a result of project activities. Debris piles should be placed far away from forested areas. Prior to moving, disposing or shredding, debris piles should be carefully inspected for the presence of boas. If debris piles will be left on site, we recommend they be placed in areas that will not be disturbed in the future.
- 9. If a dead PR boa is found, immediately cease all work in that area and record the information accordingly (see #5). If the PR boa was accidentally killed as part of the project actions, please include information on what conservation measures had been implemented and what actions will be taken to avoid further killings. A dead boa report should be sent by email (see contacts below) to the Service within 48 hours of the event.
- Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact the PRDNER for further guidance.

If you have any questions regarding the above conservation measures, please contact the Service:

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Program Coordinator
 - o Email: jose cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - o Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 - o Email: jan_zegarra@fws.gov
 - o Office phone (786) 933-1451



Puerto Rican Harlequin Conservation Measures

- 1. The contractor must inform all personnel about the potential presence of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly or its occupied host plant "prickly bush" (Oplonia spinosa) in the project areas. A pre-work meeting should inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming this butterfly and its occupied host plant. Educational material (e.g., posters, flyers or signs with photos or illustrations of all the life stages of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (i.e., eggs, caterpillar, chrysalids and adult, and its host plant) should be prepared and available to all personnel for reference.
- 2. Before starting any project activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement, the contractor must clearly delineate the boundaries of the working area in the field to avoid unnecessary habitat impacts. Once the project areas are clearly marked, and before any work activity, including site preparation, personnel with knowledge and ability to identify the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (all life stages) and the "prickly bush" must survey the areas where the work will be performed for the presence of the species and its host plant. It is important to note that the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly can be observed year-round in all its life stages; thus, oviposition (egg-laying) may occur at any time during the year.
- 3. If the "prickly bush" is present on the project site, try to avoid cutting it off, even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
- 4. If there is no prickly bush within the project area, and the butterfly is observed flying within the project area, do not harass, harm, pursue, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct, the species.
- 5. Adult butterflies are often observed flying near the host plant as part of their mating behavior and laying eggs. Project-related activities must stop if the prickle bush is found in the project area and the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is observed flying in that same area. A temporary 50-meter (164 feet) buffer zone of no activity or human disturbance should be established and clearly marked around that prickly bush until the butterfly moves out on its own.
- 6. Once the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly has moved away, within a period of 24 to 36 hours, a search of the prickly bush that has been buffered should be conducted to determine the presence of any eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids of the butterfly on the plant. The contractor or the Applicant should send a report of the observation and its findings to caribbean_es@fws.gov after the 36-hour search is concluded.
- 7. If, after the initial search or after the 24 to 36-hour search, any life stage of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is found in the prickly bush, take the following actions:
 - o Clearly mark the host plant with flagging tape.
 - $_{\odot}$ Establish a 10-meter (32-foot) buffer zone around the bush to protect it.

- Eggs are typically found on the prickly bush's newly grown, tender branches. Once an egg hatches, the caterpillar moves and feeds throughout the bush. Therefore, avoid cutting off the prickly bush within the project site even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
- Work within the 10-meter buffered area may resume when no signs of any live life stage of the butterfly are detected, which usually takes approximately 60 to 120 days.
- 8. For all Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly sightings (all life stages), the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where the butterfly was found must be recorded. Data should also include a photo of the butterfly (if possible) and the habitat where it was observed, site GPS coordinates, and comments on how the butterfly was detected and its behavior. All Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly sighting reports should be sent to the USFWS Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office at caribbean_es@fws.gov.
- 9. For questions regarding the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, the Point of Contacts are: José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator:

Mobile: 305-304-1386
Office phone: 786-244-0081
Office Direct Line: 939-320-3120
Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov



Appendix 5: Procedure for Making Determination on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Eight Step Process and Proof of publication



ENVIRONMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: 4/16/2024

To: Environmental Review Record (ERR) File

Subject: Explanation of Conflicting Information within the ERR

Applicant Name: Hector R. Nieves Hernandez

Application Number: PR-RGRW-01608

This memorandum serve information within the Er	•	•	•	ce of conflicting pieces of
Confliction Information:	□ Construction [· ·	□ Parcel ID/Cadaster Number □ Other: IUGF was divided

Location(s) of Step 8 process: Scope of work

Conflicting Information:

Explanation: "PRDOH requested for authorization a change in the Intended Use of Grant

Funds (IUGF), and it was approved by the program on October 23, 2023. The original IUGF included the purchase of equipment including an ATV, cows and auger. These items were included in the CENST. BYA were requested to include the remaining items (water pump, cistern and fence materials) from the new IUGF in the EA. The 8-step process was initiated on October 19, 2023, prior to the approval of the change in the IUGF. The change in the IUGF does not affect it since they are still the same activities proposed for this project. Therefore, the application does not need to

return to PRDOH for re-consultation."

Version 1.0 12/11/2023

PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Hector R. Nieves Hernandez PR-RGRW-01608

Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 Km 10.2, Morovis, Puerto Rico 00687

<u>Procedure for Making Determination on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Eight Step Process</u>

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) intends to use U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to engage in works to improve a farm affected by hurricanes. The PR-RGRW-01608 project is proposed to take place at Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 Km 10.2, Morovis, Puerto Rico 00687; latitude 18.300694, longitude -66.459284, see Figure 1.

The area of the Project where activities will take place is rural and considered prime farmland. The undertaking consists of the purchase and installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern, a new fence, purchase of cattle (1 bull and 14 pregnant heifers (Brangus)), a hole-maker, and a UTV vehicle. All fences will be new due to the majority being destroyed during Hurricane Maria and Fiona. The new fences will be wooden spikes and barbed wire. The project area is located at PR-567 km. 10.2 within the Municipality of Morovis. The fence will be placed to keep the cattle grazing by areas. The new water pump and fence will require ground disturbance. The water cistern will be placed on bare soil. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that will be provided by the applicant.

Pursuant to Executive Orders (EOs) 11988 and 11990, the PRDOH has determined portions of this project be in the one-hundred-year floodplain. The EOs were enacted to "avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative". Based on the FEMA FIRM and/or Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) map, the improvement location lies within the 100-year floodplain, in a ABFE A and in Zone A shaded Special Flood Hazard Area associated to the Bauta River, see Figure 2. However, floodplain impacts are expected to be minimal since the proposed action involves the purchase and installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern, a new fence, purchase of cattle (1 bull and 14 pregnant heifers (Brangus)), a hole-maker, and a UTV vehicle.

Detailed below is a summary of the eight-step process and how the PRDOH has or will comply with EO 11988 and EO 11990, as the project site occurs within the 100-year floodplain.

Step 1- Determination of whether the proposed action is located within a 100-year floodplain

Regarding EO 11988, based on the FEMA FIRM and/or ABFE map, part of the parcel is located within the 100-year floodplain. The Proposed Project is shown on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel 72000C0665J dated 11/18/2009, see Figure 3. Floodplain impacts are expected to be minimal as a result of this action. The existing area for the proposed project is used for agricultural purposes, therefore there is no change in land use associated with this project. The project improvements will not alter the drainage runoff flow. Therefore, the floodplain will maintain its preconstruction state. Regarding EO 11990, the project area includes riverine wetland area associated to the Bauta Rivers, see Figure 4.

Step 2- Early Notification and Involvement of the Public in the Decision-Making Process

The Re-grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program, under the Puerto Rico Community Development Block Grant Program for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) allocated funds to help shape and implement the future vision in communities that were affected by Hurricanes Irma and María.

Based on the program goals, it was determined for Morovis that this project, the purchase and installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern, a new fence, purchase of cattle (1 bull and 14 pregnant heifers (Brangus)), a hole-maker, and a UTV vehicle, would be beneficial to the surrounding community. For the improvements, PRDOH notified the public of the proposed actions located within the 100-year floodplain through an Early Floodplain Notice in the El Vocero local and regional paper, on November 16, 2023, for purposes of eliciting public comments for consideration during this review.

Copies of the Early Floodplain Notice were sent to potentially interested parties, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, State Environmental Natural Resources Department, Puerto Rico Planning Board, Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development Commerce, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, the State Department of Transportation and Public Works. A copy of the Early Floodplain Notice has been included within the Environmental Review Record for this action. No comments were received during the 15-day public comment period applicable to the Early Floodplain Notice. As required by regulation, the notice also included the name, proposed location and description of the activity, total number of floodplain acres involved, and the HUD official or responsible entity contact for information as well as the location and hours of the office at which a full description of the proposed action can be viewed.

Step 3- Identification and Evaluation of Practicable Alternatives.

This project includes the purchase and installation of a water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern, a new fence, purchase of cattle (1 bull and 14 pregnant heifers (Brangus)), a hole-maker, and a UTV vehicle. All fences will be new due to the majority being destroyed during Hurricane Maria and Fiona. The new fences will be wooden spikes and barbed wire. The fence will be placed to keep the cattle grazing by areas. In accordance with the Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines, practical alternatives to locating the proposed action in a floodplain were identified and evaluated. These included the following alternatives:

- 1) Moving the project away from or around the floodplain and;
- 2) Impact of taking no action.

For each of these alternatives, various factors were considered including cost, feasibility, technology,

hazard reduction, and environmental impacts. The evaluation of each alternative is summarized below.

Alternative 1

Moving the project away from or around the floodplain is not possible due to the way it transects the project area. Part of the proposed location for the fences is within the floodplain, thus, there is no possible way of moving the project outside of the floodplain.

Alternative 2

Moving the project to another site will result in the acquisition of a new lot which will increase the costs of the proposed project.

Alternative 3

No Action - Under the No Action Alternative, the applicant would not receive federal funding for the purchase of the water pump, a 2,000 gallons cistern, a new fence, purchase of cattle (1 bull and 14 pregnant heifers (Brangus)), a hole-maker, and a UTV vehicle. Consequently, the applicant may not be able to continue agricultural production. Given the degree of need for greater agricultural capacity in Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the costs of foregoing the project would exceed the benefits.

Step 4- Potential Direct and Indirect Impact of the Proposed Action on the Floodplain and Wetlands

Potential direct and indirect impacts resulting from the proposed action on the floodplain are anticipated to be negligible. The existing area for the proposed project is used for agricultural purposes, therefore there is no change in land use associated with this project. The site is located in a mountainous area with a steep slope towards the Bauta River. The area where the cistern and water pump will be installed has good visibility. The area where the fence will be installed has abundant vegetation composed of grasses, shrubs, vines and trees. The project improvements will not alter the drainage runoff flow. Therefore, the floodplain will maintain its preconstruction state. The project is expected to have no significant impact. The project area does not have cultural resources that are included in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or in a Traditional Urban Center or Historic District.

Wetlands associated with the Rio Bauta are located approximately 250 feet from the proposed location for the water pump and the cistern and 50 feet for the fences but are not anticipated to be impacted under this action.

<u>Step 5- Minimization of Potential Adverse Impacts via Design or Modifications to the Proposed Actions</u>

The following mitigation measures will be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural values: Follow best soil erosion management practices and a water pollution prevention plan. Take necessary safety precautions during construction. The project will comply with state and local floodplain protection procedures.

Step 6- Reevaluation of the Proposed Action

Although potential adverse impacts to the 100-year floodplain may be reduced by prohibiting any future construction or renovation within it, this option is not practical due to existing severe need within Puerto Rico for developing agricultural capacity and the costs and logistics prohibiting the re-establishment of entire agricultural businesses outside of the floodplain. With respect to wetlands and waters of the United States, the property does include wetlands identified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) but the

proposed fences will not be installed in or will affect the existing wetlands.

Based on a review of the practical alternatives and their implementation wherever possible, the proposed action of the PR-RGRW-01608 project is deemed to be the most appropriate and is selected as the final action. This determination is made on the basis of feasibility, cost, enhancement of quality of life, features for the community, land availability, and lack of impacts to wetlands.

Step 7- Publication of the Final Notice

In our reevaluation we have determined that there is no other practical alternative to the proposed actions. Therefore, a Final Floodplain Explanation Notice for the PR-RGRW-01608 project was published in the local newspapers in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This notice cites the reasons why the proposed actions must be located within the floodplain, a list of the alternatives considered, and the design modifications taken to minimize adverse impacts.

Step 8- Implementation of the Proposed Action

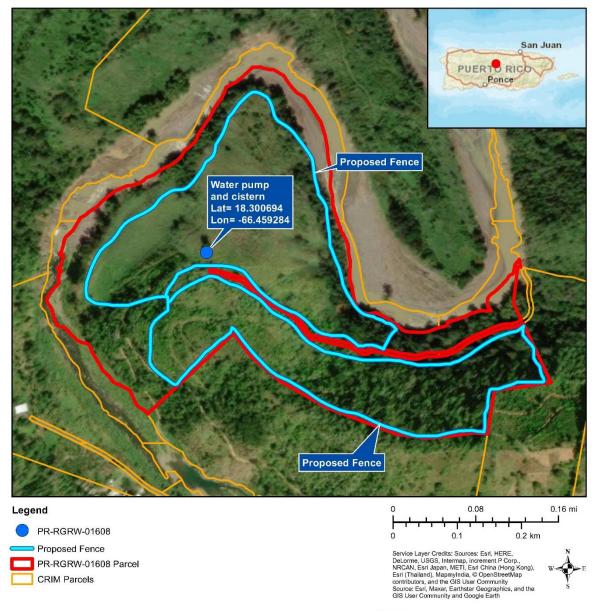
The proposed action is anticipated to begin in calendar year 2024.

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01608

Hector R. Nieves Hernandez Bo. San Lorenzo Carr 567 km 10.2 Morovis, PR 00687 Catastro: 165-000-004-08-901 Lat: 18.300694, Lon: -66.459284

Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/

Figure 1: Location Map

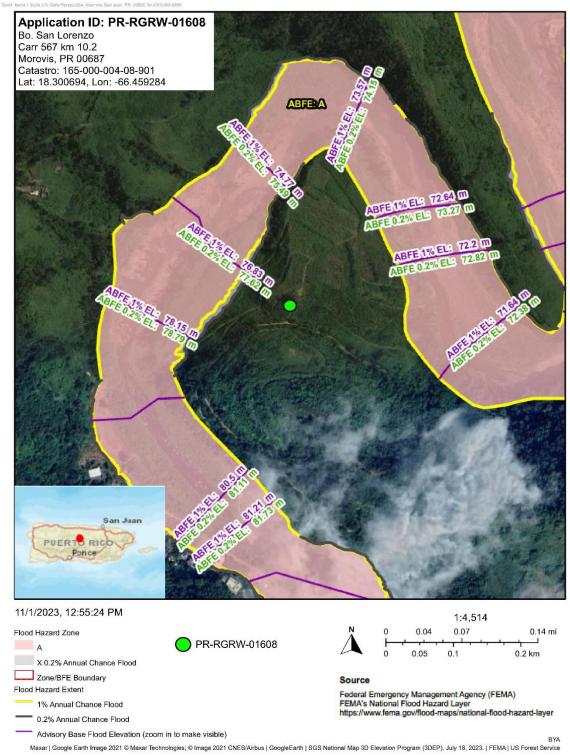


Figure 2: Advisory Base Flood Elevations

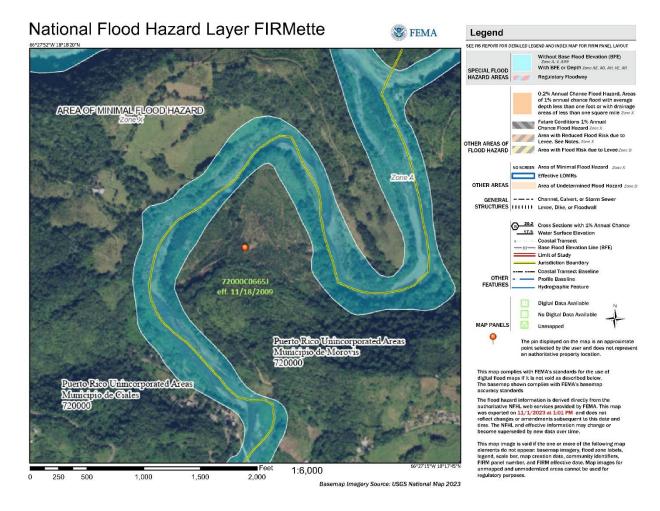
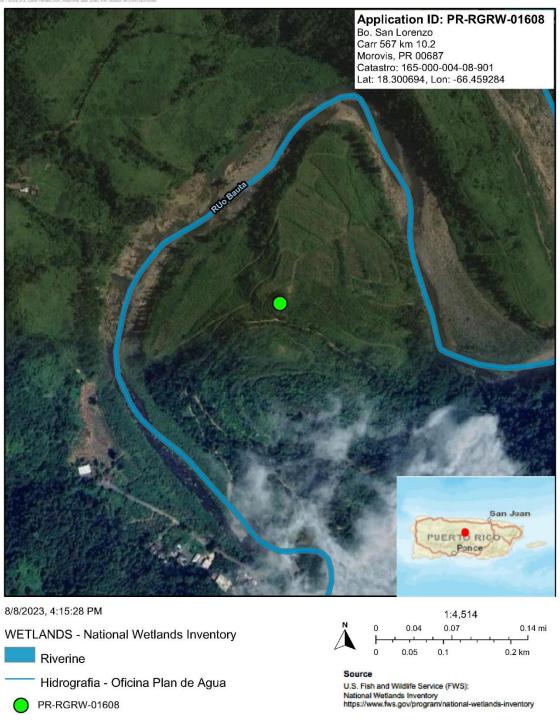


Figure 3: Flood Hazard Map



PR-RGRW-01608 Wetland



BYA

Maxar | Google Earth Image 2021 © Maxar Technologies; © Image 2021 CNES/Airbus | GoogleEarth | The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied, including the warranties of

Figure 4: Wetland Map





AVISO IMPORTANTE

OFICINA MÉDICA

DR. LUIS I. DÁVILA GONZÁLEZ

CARRETERA 159 BO PUEBLO, COROZAL PR

NOTIFICA EL CIERRE DE SU OFICINA. LOS PACIENTES INTERESADOS EN OBTENER SUS EXPEDIENTES FAVOR DE COMUNICARSE AL 787 859-1520 PARA COORDINAR LA ENTREGA DE DICHOS EXPEDIENTES.

PUEDEN RECOGERLOS A PARTIR DEL 13 DE NOVIEMBRE AL 14 DE DICIEMBRE DEL 2023, DE LUNES A JUEVES DE 9:00 AM A 4:00 PM.

LUEGO DE ESTA FECHA LOS EXPEDIENTES SERAN DESTRUIDOS DE ACUERDO A LA REGLAMENTACIÓN DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD. Sucn. Miguel Angel Cedeño Ferrer; Suon. Lilliam Cedeño
González; Sucn. Cayetano
González; Sucn. Cayetano
Cedeño González, que la
parte demandante de epigrafe
ha radicado en esta Secretaria
una Demanda del Expediente de
Dominio que aqui se menciona.
POR LA PRESENTE se le emplaza y requiere para que conteste la Demanda de Expediente de Dominio dentro de los
treinta (30) días siguientes a la
publicación de este Edicto. Usted deberá presentar su
alegación responsiva a través
del Sistema Unificado de Manejo
y Administración de Casos
(SUMAC), al cual puede acceder utilizado la siguiente,
talto que se representa por
derecho proplo, en cuyo caso
deberá presentar su alegación
responsiva en la secretaria del.
Tribunal. Si usted deja de
presentar su alegación responsiva dentro del referido término, el
tribunal portá dictar sentencia
en rebeldía en su contra y conceder el remedio solicitado en
la demanda, o cualquier otro, si
el tribunal en el ejercicio de su
el tribunal en el ejercicio de su
el tribunal en el ejercicio de su

Sana discreción, lo entilende procedente, LCDO JOSE FERTHARI PEREZ RIUA 4947 PO
BOX 988 AGUADILLA, PO
BOX

WILLIAM SOTO

MARVIN COSS

GONZALEZ Y OTROS GUNZALEZ Y OTHOS

Demandadola
Caso Núm:: CG2022CV03756
Sobre:: COBRO DE DINERO REGILA 60 LUIS A. ORTIZ CARRASOUILLO LAOCESTUDIOL EG AL ® GM AIL. C O M
NOTIFICACIÓN DE SENTENCIA POR EDICTO (Nombre de
las partes que se le notifican la
sentencia por edicto) MARVIN
COSS GONZALEZ, SU ESPOSA FULANA DE TAL A: & LA
SOCIEDAD LEGAL DE GANANCIALES COMPUESTA POR
AMBOS EL SECRETARIO(A)
que suscribe le notifica a usted
que el 07 DE NOVIEMBRE DE
2023, este Tribunal ha dictado
Sentencia, Sentencia Parcial o
Resolución en este caso, que ha



aviso público

Aviso Preliminar y Revisión Pública de una Actividad Propuesta en un Valle Inundable de 100 Años

> Héctor R. Nieves Hernández PR-RGRW-01608

Para: Todas las partes interesadas, grupos e individuos

Este aviso notifica que el Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico (Vivienda, en adelante) ha determinado que la siguiente acción propuesta bajo el Programa Renacer Agrícola de Puerto Rico – Agricultura Urbana y Rural, Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario – Recuperación ante Desastres (CDBG-DR), números de subvención B-17-DM-72-0001 y B-18-DP-72-0001, se encuentra en un valle inundable de 100 años. Vivienda estará evaluando e identificando alternativas prácticas para realizar la 100 años. Vivienda estará evaluando e identificando alternativas prácticas para realizar la acción propuesta y el impacto potencial en el valle inundable debido a la acción propuesta, según establecido por la Orden Ejecutiva 11988, de acuerdo con las regulaciones de HUD en 24 CFR 55.20 Subparte C - Procedimientos para tomar determinaciones sobre el manejo de llanuras aluviales y la protección de humedales. El proyecto propuesto, **PR-RGRW-01608**, está localizado en la carretera PR-567, km 10.2, barrio San Lorenzo, Morovis, PR 00687. Este consiste en la compra e instalación de una bomba de agua, una cisterna de 2,000 galones y una cerca nueva. Además, incluye la compra de gapado vacuno (1 tora y 16 povillas embagradas) una perforadora y un compra de ganado vacuno (1 toro y 14 novillas embarazadas), una perforadora y un vehículo de utilidad. La parcela tiene una superficie de 64,804.7 metros cuadrados ubicada en una zona A como Zona Especial de Peligro de Inundación asociado al río Bauta. La ruta propuesta para la cerca cruza 2,844 pies lineales de la zona inundable. El área del proyecto se encuentra en el mapa de tarifas de seguro contra inundaciones (FIRM, por sus siglas en inglés) (panel 72000C0665J, efectivo 11/18/2009), como se indica en el Centro de Serv msc.fema.gov/portal/home. Servicios de Mapas de Inundaciones

Este aviso tiene tres propósitos principales. En primer lugar, las personas que puedan verse afectadas por las actividades en el valle inundable y las que tengan interés en la protección del medioambiente natural deben tener la oportunidad de expresar sus preocupaciones y proporcionar información sobre estas áreas. Se exhorta a la comunidad a ofrecer ubicaciones alternas fuera del valle inundable, métodos alternativos para servir el mismo propósito del proyecto y métodos para minimizar y mitigar los impactos. En segundo lugar, un programa adecuado de aviso público puede ser una herramienta importante de educación pública. La difusión de información y la solicitud de comentarios públicos sobre los valles inundables pueden facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales para reducir los riesgos e impactos asociados con la ocupación y modificación de estas áreas especiales. En tercer lugar, como cuestión de justicia, cuando el gobierno federal determine participar en acciones que tienen lugar en los valles inundables, debe informar a aquellos que pueden ser expuestos a un riesgo mayor o similar al presente.

Vivienda considerará todos los comentarios recibidos en o antes de 1 de diciembre de 2023. Los comentarios por escrito pueden enviarse a la siguiente dirección: Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico, avenida Barbosa 606, edificio Juan C. Cordero Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918-8461, Atención: Sally Z. Acevedo-Cosme, Especialista en Permisos y Cumplimiento Ambiental. Una descripción completa del proyecto está disponible para su revisión pública de 8:30 a. m. a 4:00 p. m. en el Departamento de Vivienda de Puerto Rico, avenida Barbosa 606, edificio Juan C. Cordero, Río Piedras, PR 00918. El número para obtener información es (787) 274-2527, ext. 4320. Como alternativa, también pueden enviar los comentarios al Departamento de la Vivienda por correo electrónico a environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov.

Fecha: 16 de noviembre de 2023

Lcdo. William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez Secretario del Departamento de la Vivienda





public notice

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

Héctor R. Nieves Hernández PR-RGRW-01608

To: All Interested Parties, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program, grant numbers B-17-DM-72-0001 and B-18-DP-72-0001, is located in a 100-year floodplain. PRDOH will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locate the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations set forth in 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C - Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project, PR-RGRW-01608, is located on Road PR-567, km 10.2, San Lorenzo Ward, Moroyis PR 00687. The undertaking consists in the purchase and installation of a ward, Morovis, PR 00687. The undertaking consists in the purchase and installation of a water pump, a 2,000-gallon cistern, and a new fence. The project also includes the purchase of cattle (I bull and I4 pregnant heifers), a drill, and a UTV. The parcel has an area of 64,804.7 square meters, located within a Zone A Special Flood Hazard Area associated to the Bauta River. The proposed route for the fence intersects 2,844 linear feet of the floodplain. The floodplains in the project area can be found in the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) (panel 72000C0665), effective 11/18/2009), as indicated on the FEMA Flood Map Service Center at msc.fema.gov/portal/home.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public education tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

PRDOH will consider all comments received on or before December 1, 2023. Written comments shall be sent to the following address: Puerto Rico Department of Housing, 606 Barbosa Ave., Juan C. Cordero Building, Río Piedras, PR 00918-8461, Attention: Sally Z. Acevedo-Cosme, Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist. A complete description of the project is available to the public for review from 8:30 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. at the Puerto Rico Department of Housing, 606 Barbosa Ave., Juan C. Cordero Building, Río Piedras, PR 00918. The number to get information is (787) 274-2527, ext. 4320. In the alternative, comments may also be sent to PRDOH by email to environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov.

Date: November 16, 2023

Modelm William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq. Secretary of the Department of Housing







GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO JUNTA DE LIBERTAD BAJO PALABRA

NOTIFICACIÓN A VÍCTIMAS

La Ley Núm. 118 del 22 de julio de 1974, según enmendada, conocida como "Junta de Libertad Bajo Palabra" concede a la víctima del delito y/o Secretario de Justicia, el derecho de notificación, asistencia y participación en procedimientos posteriores a la sentencia. Esto incluye los procedimientos relacionados con la libertad bajo palabra.

Con miras a salvaguardar la política pública dirigida a garantizar a toda víctima el derecho de notificación, asistencia y participación sobre la celebración de la vista en la cual se considera la concesión, modificación, reconsideración, seguimiento e investigación del privilegio de libertad bajo palabra, la Junta notifica que las siguientes personas comparecerán ante dicho organismo para su

VISTA DE CONSIDERACIÓN

Alago Solis, José L. - 148384 Adorno Viera, Kevin - 140098 Alvarado Ramos, Félix - 80307 Alvarado Zayas, David - 127527 Báez Figueroa, Sammy-148291 Báez Martínez, Joshua - 148349 Cortés Padua, José - 114518 Coss Carmona, Gamalier - 135917 Cruz Serrano, Rafael - 141223 De Jesús Carrasquillo, Javier - 148245 Díaz Dávila, Luis E. - 120095 Díaz García, Angel L. - 148567 Figueroa Sánchez, Eliuval - 148316 Hernández Calzada, Alexander - 147985 Jimenez Rosado, Michael - 148548 León Boyrie, Benjamín - 148471 Lisboa Vera, Fernando - 115254 López González, Joel - 123885 Malavé Zavas, Carlos E. - 147962 Martínez Gutierrez, Jorge - 69358 Martínez Vázguez, Jahnny - 120770 Meléndez Adomo, Gilberto - 119580 Millan Ruíz, Jay - 148391 Morales Freddy J. - 138589 Morales, Ángel D. - 148336

VISTA DE CONSIDERACIÓN

Muñoz Martínez, Noe O. - 148333 Nieves Rodríguez, Adolfo - 131476 Ortiz Rodríguez, Sergio J.- 148079 Pérez Rodríguez, José A. - 147866 Pérez Valentín, Jorge - 148173 Pizarro Pagán, Juan C. - 148322 Pizarro Ramos, Jonathan - 148558 Ouintana Sotomayor, Raymond - 148443 Ramos, Jackeline 148169 Rivera Cruz, Héctor M. - 148459 Rivera Franco, Carlos - 147677 Rivera Monje, Jonathan - 133078 Rivera Cruz, Héctor L. - 148612 Rivera Vializ, John S. - 130341 Rodríguez Arroyo, Rod L. - 147507 Rosario Martínez, Sandra -148495 Rosario Rivera Miguel - 148373 Santiago Ramos, Michael - 148372 Vargas Jiménez, Julio - 62296 Vélez Barrera, Jonathan - 148559 Arango Latorre, Camilo - 148675

VISTAS DE SEGUIMIENTO

Velázguez De Jesús, Héctor L. - 09523 Hernández Figueroa, Esteban - 146220 Mario Rivera, Ramassa – 19665 Zeda Collazo, Derwin - 138453

Toda víctima con interés en el proceso deberá comunicarse a la Junta dentro del término de qu (15) días laborables contados a partir de la fecha de publicación de este edicto, al (787) 754-8115 Extensión 4205, para informarle el día, hora y lugar donde se celebrará la referida vista. Para información adicional, el horario laboral es; lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. (12:00 m. - 1:00 p.m. cerrado).

De no tener interés en comparecer y participar de la vista, deberá consignarlo por escrito en el documento provisto por la Junta o en su defecto testificar en la vista en ausencia del peticionario previa solicitud a esos efectos. Toda comunicación deberá ser enviada a la dirección postal: P.O. Box 192294 San Juan, P.R. 00919-2294, vía facsímil al (787) 754-4034, o al correo electrónico: víctimas2@ilbp.pr.gov. En ausencia de respuesta de parte de la víctima, si esta opta por no comparecer a la vista o probada la incapacidad de la Junta de localizarla se continuarán los procedimientos sin su participación

"Autorizado por la Oficina del Contralor Electoral OCE-SA-2024-00173"

En San Juan, Puerto Rico a. 9 de febrero de 2024.

Leliciano Luz S. Feliciano Pérez Secretaria de la Junta

Muñoz Garces, Oscar - 148595

Ave. Teniente César González, Esq. Calaf #34, Piso 9, Urb. Ind. Tres Monjitas, Hato Rey, PR 00919-0759 PO Box 192294, San Juan, PR 00919-2294

Tel. 787-754-8115 / jlbpcorreo@jlp.pr.gov / www.jlpr.pr.gov



aviso público

Aviso Final y Explicación Pública de una Actividad Propuesta en un valle inundable de 100 años

> Héctor R. Nieves Hernandez PR-RGRW-01608

Para: Todas las partes interesadas, grupos e individuos

Este aviso notifica que el Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico (Vivienda) ciste aviso indinica que el pelpartamento de la vivienta de Puerto Rico (invienta) completó una evaluación según establece la Orden Ejecutiva 1988, de acuerdo con los reglamentos de HUD en 24 CFR 5520 Subparte C – Procedimientos para hacer determinaciones sobre el manejo del valle inundable y la protección de humedales. La actividad está subvencionada con fondos del Programa de Renacer Agrícola de PR -Agricultura Urbana y Rural, Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario Particular d'oran y Avia, subvenible en Bouley en a l'essainoir confininairo - Recuperación ante Desastres (DEC-DR), número de subvención B-77-DM-72-0001 y B-B-D-772-0001. El proyecto propuesto, PR-RCRW-01608, está localizado en la carretera PR-567 km 102, barrio San Lorenzo, Morovis, PR 00687. La actividad propuesta consiste en la instalación de una bomba de agua, una cistema de 2,000 propuesa corissis en la inisiasación de una domina de agua, una cisenta de ¿Quo galones y una verja nueva. Además, el proyecto incluye la compra de ganado vacuno, una perforadora y un vehículo de utilidad. La verja será andada al suelo utilizando postes de madera y alambre de púas. La cisterna de agua se colocará sobre suelo desnudo. La energía necesaria para hacer funcionar la bomba será proporcionada por un generador de energía que será proporcionado por el solicitante. Partes de la cerca están ubicadas dentro del valle inundable de 100 años, zona de inundación A. El valle estari unicadas dentro del Valle inuridable de IoV anos, cora de l'initidación A. El Valle inundable en el área del proyectos e encuentra en el mapa de tarifías de seguro contra inundaciones (FIRM, por sus siglas en inglés) [Panel 720000665], efectivo 11/8/2009], cómo se indica en el Centro de Servicios de Mapas de Inundaciones de FEMA en intts://msc.Femagovijoortal/home. El área del proyecto donde se llevarán a cabo las actividades es rural y algunas áreas se consideran tierras de cultivo de importancia a nivel estatal y otras son tierras de cultivo de primera calidad.

Vivienda ha considerado las siguientes alternativas y medidas de mitigación para minimizar los impactos adversos y restaurar y preservar los valores naturales y beneficiosos. (I) alejar el proyecto de o alrededor de la llanura aluvial, (2) mover el proyecto a otrositio, y (3) no tomar ninguna medida. La alternativa 1, alejar el proyecto de la llanura aluvial o airededor de ella, no es posible debido a la forma en que atraviesa el área del proyecto. Según la alternativa 2, mover el proyecto a otro sitio resultará en la adquisición de un nuevo lote que aumentará los costos del proyecto propuesto. De acuerdo a la alternativa 3, el solicinarte no recibir fondos federales para las actividades propuestas. En consecuencia, es posible que el solicitante no pueda continuar con la producción agrícola. Dado el grado de necesidad de una mayor capacidad agrícola en producción agricola. Dado el grado de necesidad de una mayor capacida a gricola en Puerto Rico después de los hucanes (rma y María, los costos de enunuciar al proyecto excederían los benefícios. Se tomarán las siguientes medidas de mitigación para minimizar los impactos adversos y restaurar y preservar los valores naturales seguir las mejores prácticas de manejo de la erosión del suelo y un plan de prevención de la contaminación del agua. El proyecto cumplirá con los procedimientos de protección de llanuras aluviales estatales y locales.

Vivienda reevaluó las alternativas para construir en el valle inundable y determinó que no cuenta con alternativas prácticas. La documentación ambiental que evidencia el cumplimiento de los pasos 3 a 6 de la Orden Ejecutiva 11988, está disponible para inspección, revisión y reproducción de parte del público, de ser solicitado, en el horario y lugar indicado en el último párrafo sobre recibo de comentarios de este aviso

Este aviso tiene tres propósitos principales. Primero, las personas que pueden verse Exterior de la composición de la composición de la composición de la molectra desperanda de la molectra de la composición del ambiente natural deben recibir la oportunidad de expresar sus inquietudes y proveer información sobre estas áreas. Segundo, un programa adecuado de avisos públicos puede ser una importante herramienta de educación pública. La divulgación de información y solicitud de comentarios sobre el valle inundable puede facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales para reducir los riesgos e impactos asociados con la ocupación y alteración de estas áreas especiales. Tercero, como materia de justicia, cuando el gobierno federal determine participar en acciones ubicadas en el valle inundable, debe informárselo a quienes puedan ser expuestos a un riesgo mayor o similar al presente.

Vivienda considerará todos los comentarios recibidos en o antes del 17 de febrero de Vívienda considerará todos los comentarios recibidos en o antes del 17 de febrero de 2024. Pueden enviar los comentarios de forma impresa a la siguiente dirección: Departamento de la Vívienda de Puerto Rico, edificio Juan C. Cordero Dávila, 606 avenida Barbosa, Rio Piedras, PR 00918-8461, Atención: Sally Z. Acevedo, Especialista en Permisos y Cumplimiento Ambiental. Una descripción completa del proyecto está disponible al público para revisión de 820 a.m. a 4:00 p.m. en el Departamento de Vívienda de Puetro Rico, edificio Juan C. Cordero Dávila, 606 avenida Barbosa, Rio Piedras, PR 00918. El número para obtener información es (787)274-2527 ext. 4320. Como alternativa, también pueden enviar los comentarios a Vivienda por medio electrónico a environmentcolbg@vivienda.pr.gov.

Fecha: 9 de febrero de 2024

Lcdo. William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez Secretario del Departamento de la Vivienda

> Autorizado por la Oficina del Contralor Electoral OCE-SA-2023-00076



public notice

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

Héctor R. Nieves Hernandez PR-RGRW-01608

To: All Interested Parties, Groups & Individuals

This is to give notice that the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) has Inlis Is to give notice that the Puerto Nico Department or nooning (PROOF) in a conducted an evaluation as required by the Executive Order 1988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 5520 Subpart C - Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBC-DR), Re-Grow PR
Urban and Rural Agriculture Program, Grant number B-T7-DM-72-0001 and
B-B-DP-72-0001. The proposed project, PR-RCRW-01608, is located at PR-567 Road
Km 102, San Lorenzo Ward, Morovis PR 00687. The proposed activities consist in the
installation of a water pump a 2.000 gallons cistern and a new fence. The project abo includes the purchase of cattle, a hole-maker, and a UTV. The new fence will be includes the purchase of cattle, a hole-maker, and a UTV. The new fence will be nachored to the ground with wooden spikes and barbed wire. The water cistern will be placed on bare soil. The power needed to run the pump will be provided by a power generator that will be provided by the applicant. Some portions of the fence are located within the 100-year floodplain, flood zone A. The floodplain in the project area can be found at Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) [Panel 72000C066S], effective I/I/R/2009], as indicated on the FEMA Flood Map Service Center at https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home. The area of the project where activities will take place is rural and some are considered areas of farmland of statewide importance and some areas are prime farmland.

PRDOH has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be PRIOR has considered une fouldwing alternatives and immigration transistants of the taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: (I) moving the project away from or around the floodplain, (2) moving the project toother site, and (3) taken on action. Alternative I, moving the project away from or around the floodplain, is not possible due to the way it transects the project away from a condition to the project area. According to a laternative 2, moving the project to another site will result in the acquisition of a new lot which will increase the costs of the proposed project. With advanctive 3, the project will result in the acquisition of a new lot which will increase the costs of the proposed project. With advanctive 3, the project was used for example. alternative 3, the applicant would not receive federal funding for the proposed alternative 3, the applicant would not receive lederal funding for the proposed activities. Consequently, the applicant may not be able to continue agricultural production. Given the degree of need for greater agricultural capacity in Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the costs of foregoing the project would exceed the benefits. The following mitigation measures will be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural values follow best soil erosion management practices and a water pollution prevention plan. The project will comply with state and local floodplain protection procedures.

PRDOH has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of 24 Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public education tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about the floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in the floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk

PRDOH will consider all comments received on or before February 17, 2024. Written comments can be sent to the following address: Puerto Rico Department of Housing, 606 Barbosa Avenue, Juan C. Cordero Davila Building, Rio Piedras, PR 00918-946.1 Attention: Sally Z. Acevedo, Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist. A complete description of the project is available to the public for review from 830 am to 400 pm at the Puerto Rico Department of Housing, 606 Barbosa Avenue, Juan C. Cordero Dávila Building, Rio Piedras, PR 00918. The number to get information is (R87/274-527 et. 4520. In the atternative, comments may also be sent to PRDOH by email at environmentcdbg@wivienda.pr.gov.

Date: February 9, 2024

Maln William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq. Secretary of the Department of Housing

> Authorized by the Office of the Electoral Comptroller OCE-SA-2023-00076





February 28, 2024

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to validate that no comments were received in the Permits and Environmental Compliance Division e-mail: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov, for the project Héctor R. Nieves Hernández (PR-RGRW-01608), as part of the CDBG-DR Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program. The Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain was published in the Primera Hora newspaper of Puerto Rico on February 9, 2024, with a comment period that concluded on February 17, 2024.

Cordially,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division
Disaster Recovery Office
environmentalbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320