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

# **Project Information**

1.

Project ID: PR-RGRW-00038

Project Name: Mirelis Melendez Rosado

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): Not Applicable

Program: Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico / Municipio of Barranquitas

Preparer: Steve Swick, RPG

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Sally Acevedo Cosme, Permit and Environmental

Compliance Officer

Consultant (if applicable): HORNE LLP

Direct Comments to: Sally Acevedo Cosme

**Project Location:** Farm: Carr 772 Bo. Barrancas sector las villas, Barranquitas, PR 00794. Physical: Carr 152 km 1 H 7 Bo Quebrada Grande, Barranquitas, PR 00794.

Latitude 18.195467, longitude -66.320526

Parcel cadastral # 246-000-010-24-000

**Description of the Proposed Project** [24 CFR 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]: Purchase of above ground irrigation system and hydroponic production equipment (with ground disturbance).

**Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal** [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]: The Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (Re-Grow) will build agricultural capacity and is focused on promoting and increasing food security island wide and enhancing and expanding agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. This agricultural project associated with the greenhouse placement is in keeping with the overall objectives of the economic development program.

**Existing Conditions and Trends** [24 CFR 58.40(a)]: The existing area for the proposed greenhouse placement is used for agricultural purposes. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with this greenhouse placement.

# **Funding Information**

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-18-DP-72-0001	CDBG-DR, Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural	\$41,279,480
	Agriculture Program	

**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** \$43,469.77

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$43,469.77

# 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.

<b>Compliance Factors</b> : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
<b>Airport Hazards</b> 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport, nor is it within an airport Runway Protection Zone (RPZ). The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 104,253 feet away. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements. See the attached Airports map.
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 79,877 feet from a protected area. 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.
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 project site is located in a Zone X, Panel 72000C1155H, effective 4/19/2005. The project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance; therefore, is in compliance with flood insurance requirements. See the attached Flood Map.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5

Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes No	This project consists only of purchase and installation of equipment (greenhouse and irrigation) for an agricultural site, and is not located in a non-attainment municipality of Puerto Rico. Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
<b>Coastal Zone Management</b> Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes No	This project is not located in and does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 75,369 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
<b>Contamination and Toxic Substances</b> 24 CFR Part 58.5(i) (2)	Yes No	Site contamination was evaluated through online data search and no toxic sites are located within 3,000 feet of the project area. 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. The project is incompliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements. See the attached Toxics map.
<b>Endangered Species</b> Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	This project and proposed activity will have No Effect on listed species due to the nature of the activities involved in the project. Additionally, the project has no critical habitats in the area. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. See attached Critical Habitats map.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project does not include

		development of a hazardous facility and does not include increasing residential density. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	N o	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act. See the attached Farmlands map.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	NO	This project does not occur in a floodplain, nor an ABFE. The project site is located in a Zone X, Panel 72000C1155H, 4/19/2005. The project is in compliance with Flood plain management requirements. See attached flood map and ABFE map.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	 0 2 2	Based on the project description, consultation with the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is required. SHPO agrees with the finding of no historic properties affected within the project's area of potential effects. Therefore, this activity is in compliance. See attached agency correspondence to/from SHPO.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	 No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	NO	There are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with this citation without further evaluation.

Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes	No 🛛	There are no wetlands within or in the vicinity of the project area. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. See the attached Wetlands map.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes	No	The project is not within the proximity of a NWSRS river. The nearest Wild and Scenic River is over 35 miles east of the project site. Therefore, this project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. See the attached map.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE			
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes	No 🛛	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898.

**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 DEVELOP/	MENT	
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The proposed action is continued agricultural use of property which is compatible with zoning and existing land use. There is no urban design associated with this rural, agricultural site.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	The soil is currently in agriculture. The site is flat in the immediate area of the proposed greenhouse. The greenhouse is sufficiently small so as to not be affected by land development issues. The landslide data indicates low to moderate landslide susceptibility.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	There are no specific environmental hazards that have been identified for this site. The site is not in a high Noise Level area, nor will the project generate any additional noise. Additionally, the project does not include housing or such to where inhabitants would be affected.
Energy Consumption	2	The project should not trigger any additional energy consumption since the project is agricultural in nature and will not require any expansion to existing power facilities.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONON	<b>NIC</b>	J
Employment and Income Patterns	2	The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on Employment and Income Patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The proposed project will not alter the demographic characteristics of Barranquitas, PR. The project wil allow for displaced community members to return to agricultural activities.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation

COMMUNITY FA		ND SERVICES
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The proposed project will have no impact on educational or cultural facilities.
Commercial Facilities	2	The proposed project may aid in restoring the demand for local commercial services; however, not to the point of putting undue pressure on commercial facilities.
Health Care and Social Services	2	The proposed project will have no impact on Health Care and Social Services.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The proposed project will have no impact on Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling services. The products and by-products are agricultural, and any waste would be biodegradable.
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The proposed project will have no impact on Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers. There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project.
Water Supply	2	The proposed project will require additional water supply but not from a municipal water supply. The water will come from onsite water wells. The amount of water needed to irrigate the agriculture associated with the greenhouse would not cause on undue burden on the aquifer associated with the private water well.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The proposed project will have no impact on Public Safety.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The proposed project will have no impact to Parks, Open Space and Recreation. The property being used is agricultural and it will continue as agricultural use.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The proposed project will have no impact to Transportation and Accessibility nor any infrastructure on Puerto Rico.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		^

Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The proposed project will be situated on previous agriculture property and will have no impact to unique natural features or water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The proposed project will occur in land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. There may be wildlife attracted to the greenhouse but no negative impact on wildlife.
Other Factors		Not applicable.

# Additional Studies Performed: Not applicable

Field Inspection (Date and completed by): April 22, 2022

# 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. (Appendix F)

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: <u>http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=9100UR51.txt</u> 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: <u>www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics</u>

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 required.

**Public Outreach** [24 CFR 58.43]: The local community has been very proactive in the recovery process. PR Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the agricultural community.

**Cumulative Impact Analysis** [24 CFR 58.32]: In accordance with 24 CFR 58.32 (Aggregation), there are no cumulative impacts associated with the placement of the greenhouse on this agricultural site.

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

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

The 'No-Action' alternative would mean that the applicant would not receive federal funding to provide for the greenhouse and equipment 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 this 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

### 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.

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Preparer Signature:

Date: 5/12/2022

Name/Title/Organization: Steve Swick, RPG; Senior Manager; HORNE LLP

Name/Title: Sally Z. Acevedo Cosme- Interim Deputy Director, Permits and Environmental Compliance -PRDOH

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).



Department of Housing

Mirelis Melendez Rosado Carr 772 Bo . Barrancas sector las villas Barranquitas, PR 00794 18.195467,-66.320526

# PR-RGRW-00038 Site Map



Legend	0	0.02	0.04	0.08 mi
Parcels		1 1	<u> </u>	N N
				W - E
				V S



Mirelis Melendez Rosado Carr 772 Bo . Barrancas sector las villas Barranquitas, PR 00794 18.195467,-66.320526

# PR-RGRW-00038 Airports



- Military Accident Protection Zones APZ 2
- Military Accident Protection Zones APZ 1
- Runway Protection Zones
- Airport Runways
- Major
- Minor Airport

4/7/2022 11:16 AM

Airport RPZs and Buffer zones

Major Civil and Military Airports



Department of Housing

Mirelis Melendez Rosado Carr 772 Bo . Barrancas sector las villas Barranquitas, PR 00794 18.195467,-66.320526

# PR-RGRW-00038 CBRS



System Unit

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program

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Department of Housing

Mirelis Melendez Rosado Carr 772 Bo . Barrancas sector las villas Barranquitas, PR 00794 18.195467,-66.320526

# PR-RGRW-00038 Flood Map



Legend	0 0.02 0.04 0.08 mi
Parcels	<u> </u>
1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard	Ä
Regulatory Floodway	W - E
Special Floodway	۷ s
Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard	FEMA Map Service
0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard	· ·
Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee	

FEMA Floodzone Panels - Effective

4/7/2022 11:07 AM



Department of Housing

# PR-RGRW-00038 ABFE Map



# Legend

- Zone/BFE Boundary
  - 1% Annual Chance Flood
- ----- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
- ----- Advisory Base Flood Elevation (zoom in to make visible)
- ----- Streamline (zoom in to make visible)

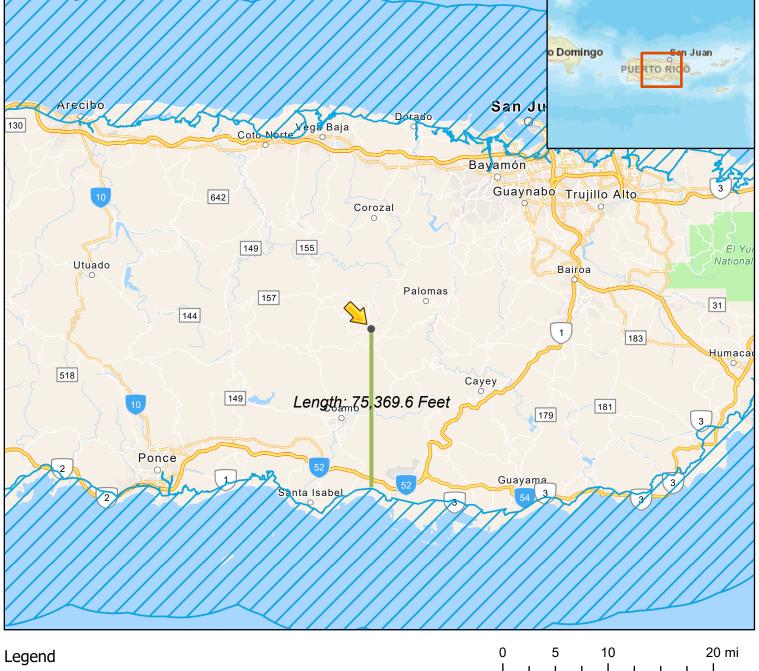
0 0.07 0.15 0.3 mi

FEMA



Mirelis Melendez Rosado Carr 772 Bo . Barrancas sector las villas Barranquitas, PR 00794 18.195467,-66.320526

# PR-RGRW-00038 CZM



📝 Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary

Coastal Zone Management Act

NOAA



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Superfund

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Department of Housing

Mirelis Melendez Rosado Carr 772 Bo . Barrancas sector las villas Barranquitas, PR 00794 18.195467,-66.320526

# PR-RGRW-00038 Toxics



Lege	end	0	0.17		0.35		0.7 m	ni
	Toxic Substances Control Act	L	I	ļ		 	N	
$\diamond$	Brownfields						Å	
	Hazardous waste					W <b>~</b>		
۲	Air pollution						V S	
	Water dischargers					т	oxic Sites	
	Toxic releases					•		

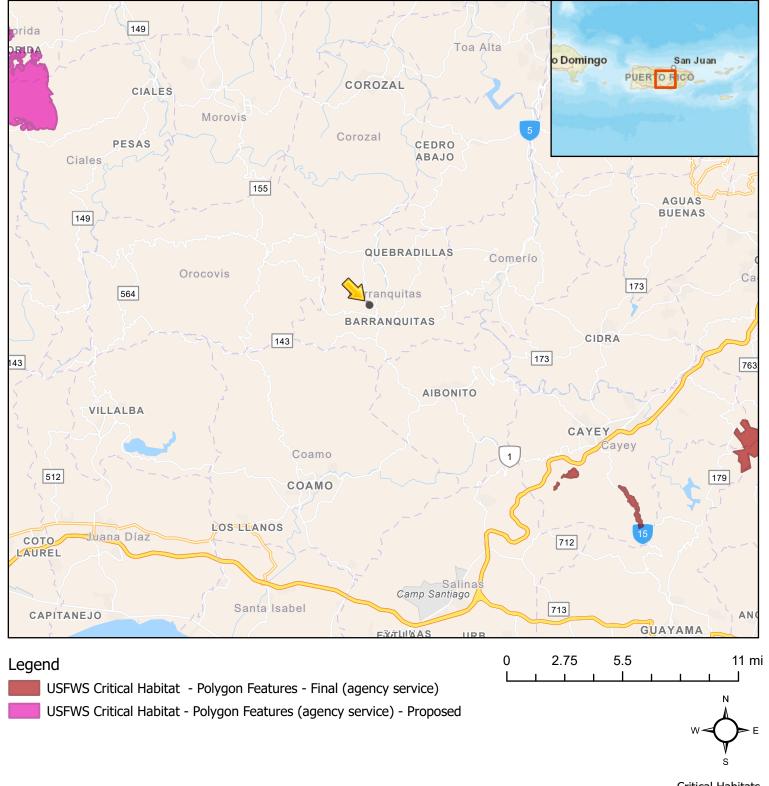
EPA



Department of Housing

Mirelis Melendez Rosado Carr 772 Bo . Barrancas sector las villas Barranquitas, PR 00794 18.195467,-66.320526

# PR-RGRW-00038 Habitat



Critical Habitats

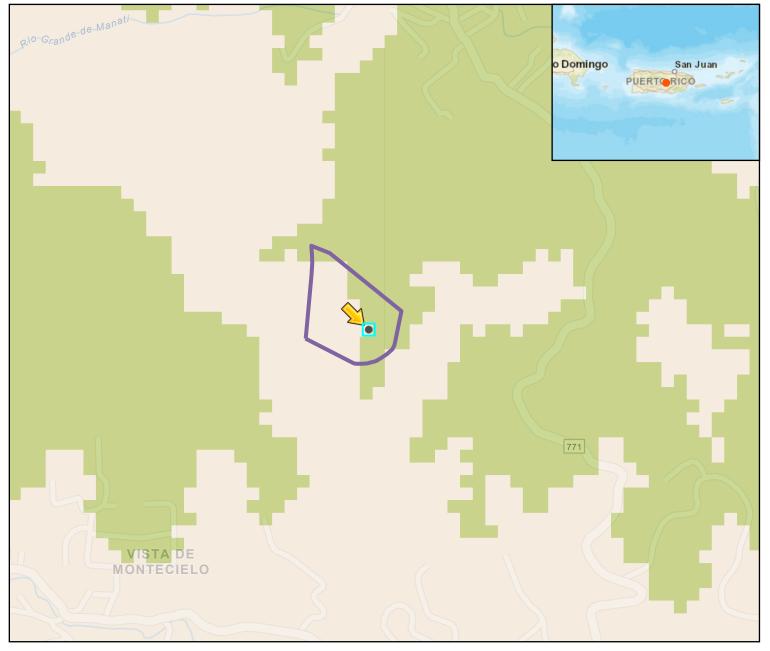
USFWS



Department of Housing

Mirelis Melendez Rosado Carr 772 Bo . Barrancas sector las villas Barranquitas, PR 00794 18.195467,-66.320526

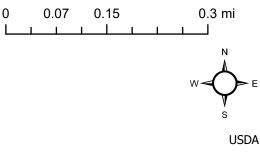
# PR-RGRW-00038 Farmlands



# Legend



- Farmland of Local Importance
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Farmland of Unique Importance
- Not Prime Farmland

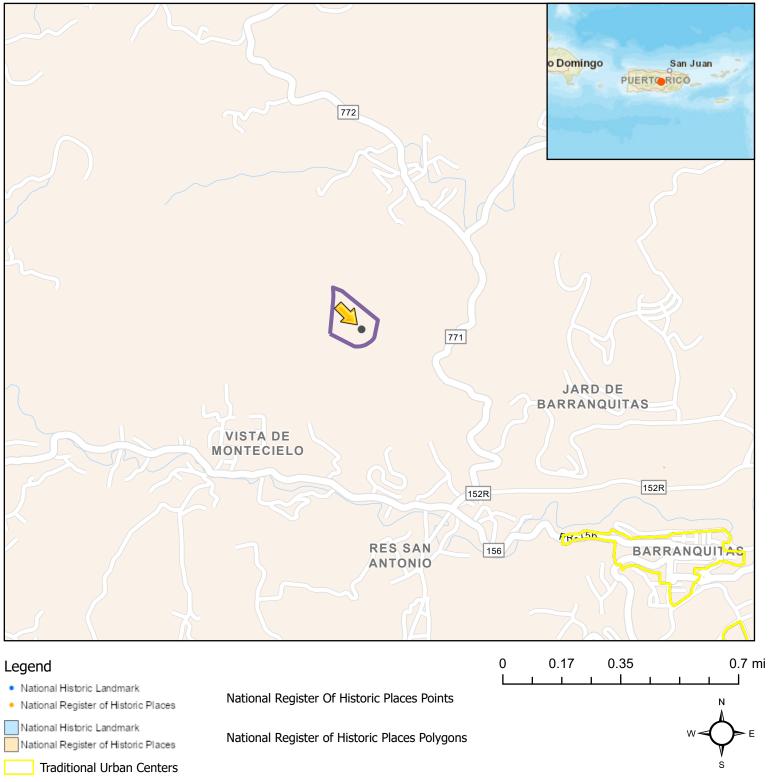


NRCS



Department of Housing

# PR-RGRW-00038 Historic

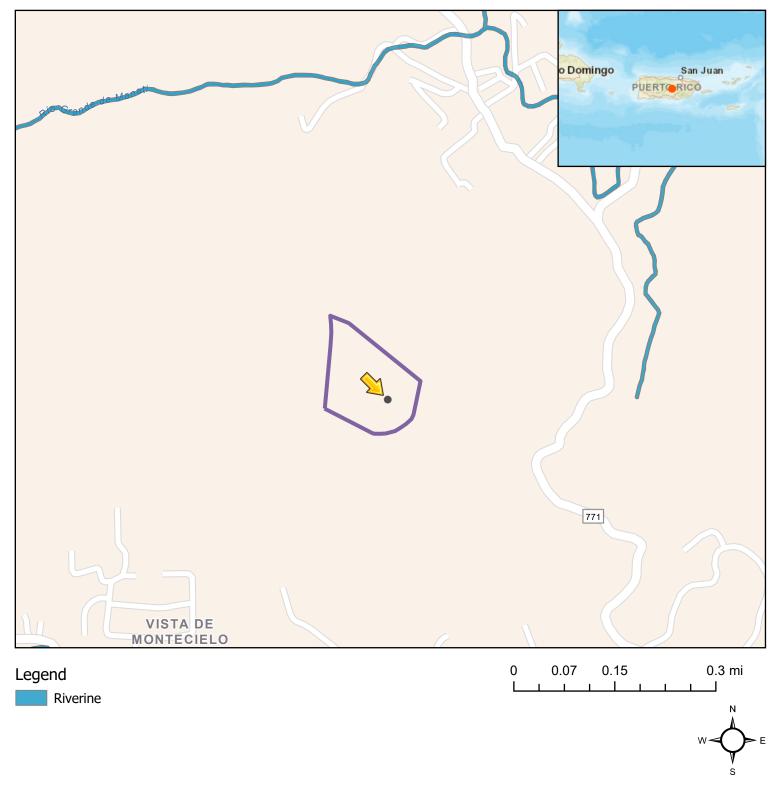


Traditional Urban Centers



Department of Housing

# PR-RGRW-00038 Wetlands



National Wetlands Inventory

USFWS



PR-RGRW-00038 W&S Rivers 18.195467,-66.320526



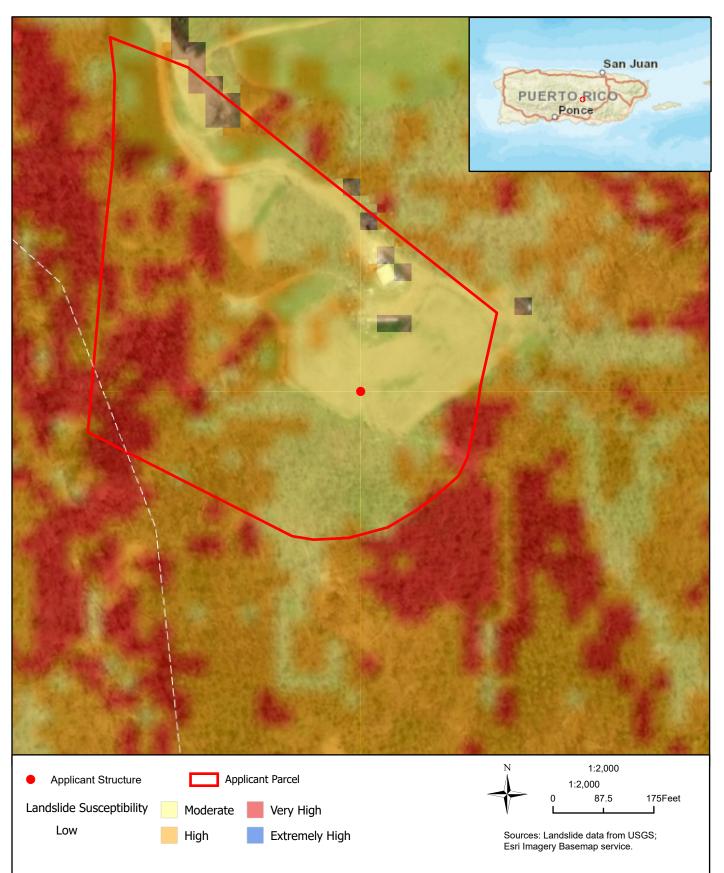
National Wild & Scenic Rivers System

National Park Service

# Landslide Susceptibility Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID#:PR-RGRW-00038Address:Carr 722 Bo. Barrancas sector las villas, Barranquitas, PR 00794





# CDBG-DR PROGRAMA RE-GROW PUERTO RICO HOJA REQUERIDA DE COSTOS ELEGIBLES

Nombre del Solicitante: MIRELIS MELENDEZ ROSADO Fecha:2/1/2021



### Instrucciones: Hoja de Costos - Llame al 787-936-7755 para asistencia

(1) Complete la Hoja con todos los costos elegibles solicitados que propone para adjudicación del programa
(2) Utilice la lista general de costos elegibles de las Guías del Programa para identificar los costos correspondientes
3) El total de los costos estimados a ser subvencionados no puede exceder el límite del Nivel de subvención aplicable al solicitante establecida en la solicitud.
4) Instrucciones por columna enumeradas en las notas que se muestran cuando se selecciona la cabecera de la columna
(5) La hoja debe ser completada y anejada de vuelta a la solicitud para ser elegible
(6) Si sólo existe un suplidor en la isla, cotizaciones de suplidores en Estados Unidos son aceptables

Costo Elegible	Descripción del Artículo	Cotización 1	Suplidor 1	Evidencia de Precio 1	Costo Promedio de Artículo	Suplidor Seleccionado	Selected Quote Amount	
infraestructura: invernadero (Greenhouse)	hidroponico	\$ 25,800.00	Steel works		\$ 35,240.00	EMPRESAS SAN PABLO	\$	920.00
		\$-			\$-		\$	-
		\$ -			\$-		\$	-
Estimado Total de Coste	os Elegibles						\$ 49,9	920.00



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

May 11, 2022

Lauren Bair Poche HORNE- Architectural Historian Manager 10000 Perkins Rowe, Suite 610 Bldg. G Baton Rouge, LA 70810

SHPO: 04-29-22-03 EMPRESAS AGRÍCOLAS SAN PABLO INC. CARR 772 BO. BARRANCAS SECTOR LAS VILLAS, BARRANQUITAS, PUERTO RICO/PR-RGRW-00000038

Dear Ms. Bair,

Our Office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with 54 USC 306108 (commonly known as Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act, as amended*) and 36 CFR Part 800: *Protection of Historic Properties* from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is to advise and assist federal agencies and other responsible entities when identifying historic properties, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or reduce the project's effects.

Our records support your finding of **no historic properties affected** within the project's area of potential effects. Please note that should the Agency discover other historic properties at any point during project implementation, you should notify the SHPO immediately. If you have any questions concerning our comments, do not hesitate to contact our Office.

Sincerely,

andy armhir

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/IMC



Cuartel de Ballajá (Tercer Piso), Calle Norzagaray, Esq. Beneficiencia, Viejo San Juan, PR 00901 | PO Box 9023935, San Juan, PR 00902-3935



April 29, 2022

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela Director Ejecutivo Oficina Estatal de Conservación Histórica Cuartel de Ballajá (Tercer Piso)

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

# Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: Carr 772 Bo. Barrancas Sector las Villas, Barranquitas, Puerto Rico (Case PR-RGRW-00000038)

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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 (PRDOH) aims to lead a comprehensive and transparent recovery for the benefit of Puerto Rico residents. To faithfully comply with HUD's environmental requirements, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing contracted Horne Federal, LLC (HORNE) to provide environmental records review services that will support the Department's objectives Puerto Rico Housing (PRDOH) for CDBG-DR. The purpose of the Re-Grow PR Program is to promote and increase food security island-wide, enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and development activity.

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, Mirelis Melendez Rosado, we are submitting documentation for new construction activities proposed at Carr 772 Bo. Barrancas Sector las Villas, Barranquitas Puerto Rico. The undertaking consists of the construction of two new greenhouses and the associated irrigation systems.

Based on the submitted documentation, the Program requests a concurrence with a determination of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for both proposed projects

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

Kindest regards, Janan B. Poch

Lauren Bair Poche Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Manager Enclosures

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROG REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GRAM		GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Project Case ID: PR-RGRW-00000038			
Project Name: Empresas Agrícolas San Pablo	nc.		City: Barranquitas
Project Location: Carr 772 Bo. Barrancas Sec Project Coordinates: 18.1962111, -66.320833 TPID (Número de Catastro): 246-000-010-24		anquitas Pu	Jerto Rico
Type of Undertaking: □ Substantial Repair/Improvements ⊠ New Construction			
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size	e (acres): 7	'4 acres

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: n/a
Date Reviewed: n/a
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Eminett Jimenez, M.A.
Date Reviewed: 4/20/2022

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 Undertaking consists of the construction of two new Greenhouses and the associated irrigation support systems. The proposed location is currently planted with bananas. The proposed construction site is steeply sloped and will require leveling of the ground surface prior to the construction of the greenhouses. The soils in the project area are Humatas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, and Humatas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes. Per the Web Soil Survey, these soils are found on hillslopes and mountain slopes, forming on the clayey residuum of volcanic rock. Preparation work will be required for the construction of the new two greenhouses.

Overview of potentially ground-disturbing activities in the scope of work:

- Leveling the ground surface prior to construction
- Construction of two greenhouse structures
- Two straight up 20 × 100' walls which will include:
  - $\circ$  Two 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 20' arches.
  - o 2" pillars.
  - $\circ$  1 × 21' Perling.
  - $_{\circ}$   $\,$  Two pipes 1"  $\times$  1"  $\times$  20" and 1"  $\times$  2"  $\times$  2" pipes.
  - Frontal pipe
- Irrigation Support System
  - Six 250 gallon cisterns

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



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City: Barranquitas

- PVC Pipes
- Discharge pipes
- Six submersible pumps

### Area of Potential Effects

As defined in 36 CFR 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 proposed location of the two greenhouses and associated irrigation infrastructure (see attached Area of Potential Effect map).

### Identification of Historic Properties

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this Undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), found no previously identified historic properties or archaeological resources are present within or adjacent to the parcel containing the project APE.

Barranquitas is an area that at the present is not highly developed and there are a lot of areas without studies and information, but with very important archaeological sites as Palo Hincado located 1.64 miles to the east.

One residential building is present on the parcel. The estimated date of construction for the home is circa 1965 as the building is present in 1977 aerial imagery but is absent from the 1958 imagery. The home is not located within the APE and no improvements to the home are included within the scope of work for this project.

There are no previously identified historic properties within a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius of the project area. Five archaeological studies have been carried out within a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius of the project area. All five studies were negative for cultural materials.

- 1. ICP/CAT-BR-07-04-03 a Phase IA-IB SE. Barranquita Memorial Inc. by archaeologist Harry Alemán Crespo 0.22 miles southeast 2007, Negative
- 2. Sistema Sanitario, Sistema de Bombeo, Comunidad Palo Hincado: Phase IA-IB, Marisol Rodríguez Miranda 0.44 miles southwest. 1994. Negative
- 3. Sistema Sanitario Comunidad Palo Hincado: Phase IA-IB. Marisol Rodríguez Miranda 0.46 miles south.1994. Negative

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO						
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- 4. Ampliación Vertedero de Barranquitas: Phase IA-IB. Marlene Ramos. 0.48 miles east. 1997, Negative
- 5. Barranquitas Garden: Phase IA-IB. Marlene Ramos. 0.50 miles southeast. 1997, Negative

### Site Visit Summary

During the site visit, it was observed the moderately steep to steep areas of the area. The location of the proposed Undertaking is planted with bananas, no activities related to the project were observed. The soils where the greenhouses will be located is moderately steep to the north and an increase the steepness of the terrain to the south. The closest source of water is relatively far (0.34 miles north) from the Undertaking. To survey the area, it was traversed from east to west verifying its surface. The soil consists of thick red clay with some erosion areas. In this survey, **NO** cultural materials were observed. This supports the argument that this area of study is one of low probability to find cultural resources.

### Determination

Based on the observations made during the site visit, the characteristics of the project area, and the results of the previous investigations research, the proposed construction of two greenhouses and associated irrigation support will have no effect on any historic properties. First, there are no sites located in or near the proposed project area. Second, the closest archaeological study Phase IA-IB (0.22 miles southeast) yielded negative results. Third and most important the soil type and the slope of the area is excessive in terms of prehistoric settlement patterns. Finally, during the site visit and the thorough inspection of the area to be developed it was verified and confirmed the information recovered about the topography of the area, the characteristics of the soils and the absence of evidence of cultural material remains. As such, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project.

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program	
ReGrow Puerto Rico Program	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
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### Recommendation

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

 $\boxtimes$  No Historic Properties Affected

□ No Adverse Effect

Condition (if applicable):

□ Adverse Effect

Proposed Resolution (if appliable)

# This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

The	Puerto	Rico	State	Historic	Preservation	Office	has	reviewed	the	above	informatio	on
and	:											

 $\Box$  **Concurs** with the information provided.

 $\Box$  **Does not concur** with the information provided.

# Comments:

Carlos Rubio-Cancela	Date:	
State Historic Preservation Officer	Dale.	



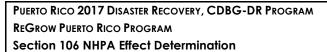


Project Case ID: PR-RGRW-00000038

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**City:** Barranquitas

# Project (Parcel) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial) 0

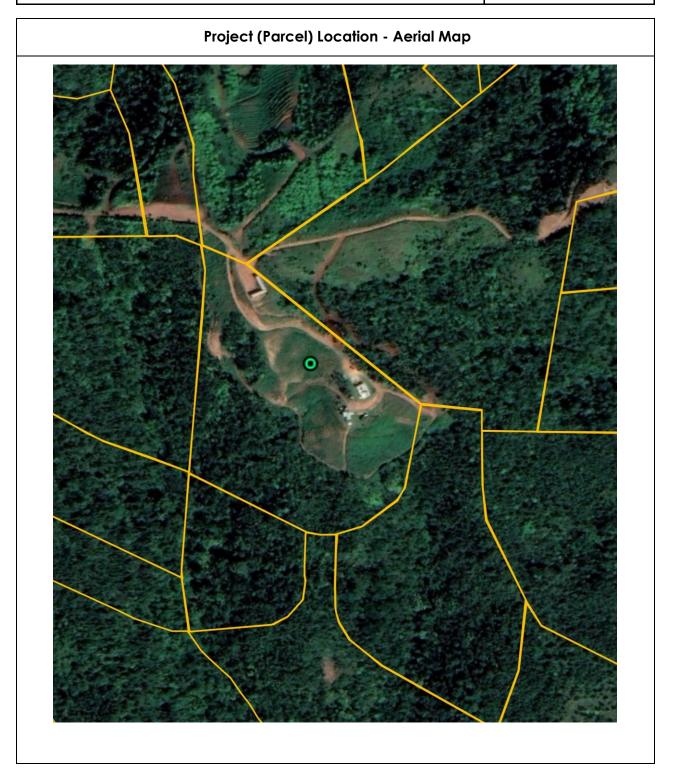


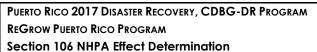


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City: Barranquitas



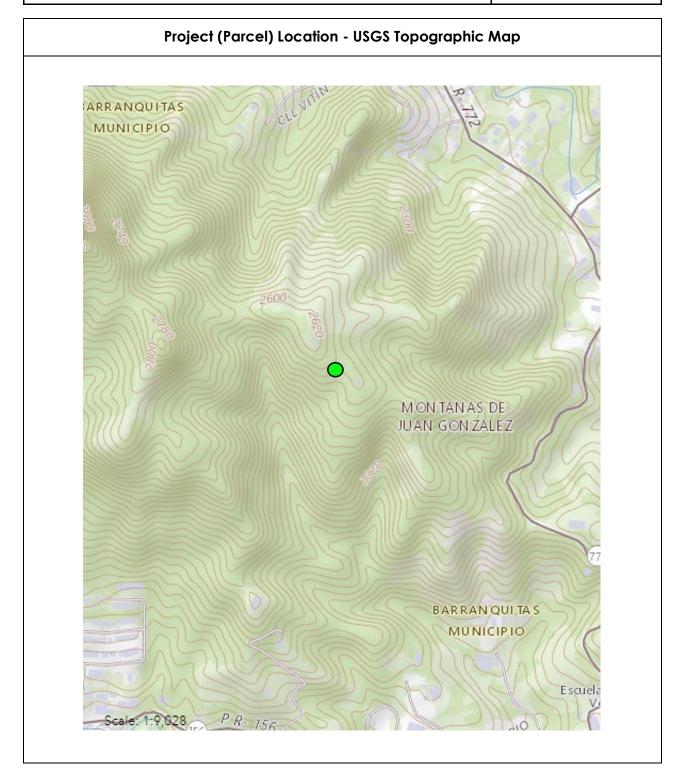




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**City:** Barranquitas







**City:** Barranquitas

Project Case ID: PR-RGRW-0000038

Project Name: Empresas Agrícolas San Pablo Inc.

Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map HIE

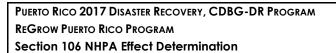
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Project Name: Empresas Agrícolas San Pablo Inc.

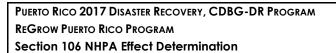






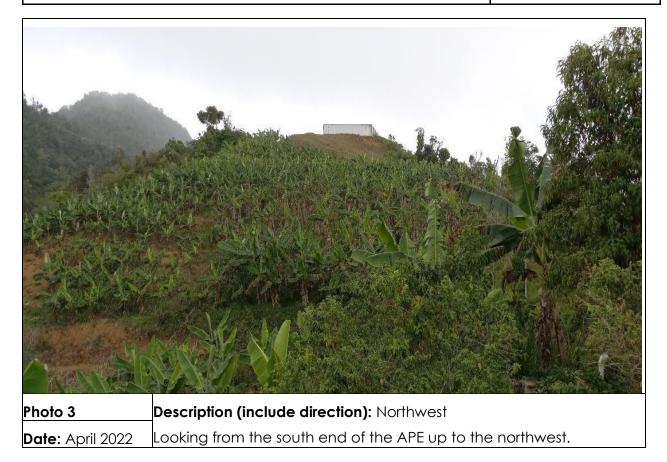
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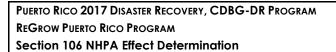






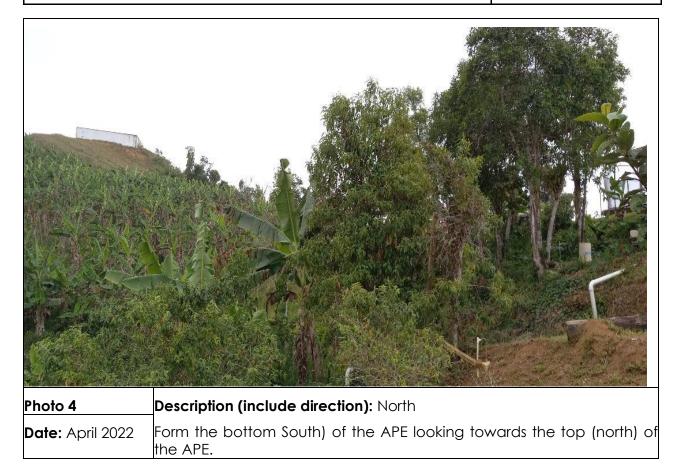
Project Name: Empresas Agrícolas San Pablo Inc.





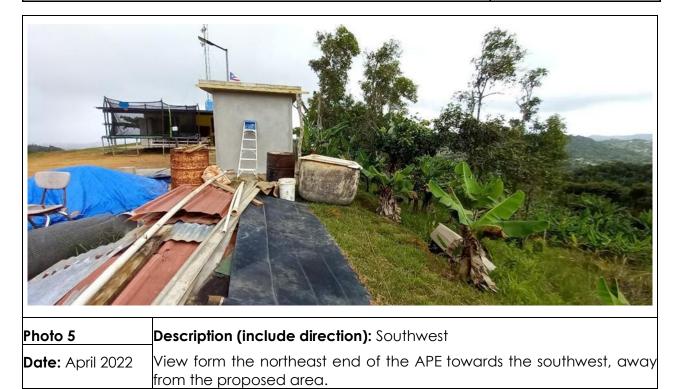


Project Name: Empresas Agrícolas San Pablo Inc.





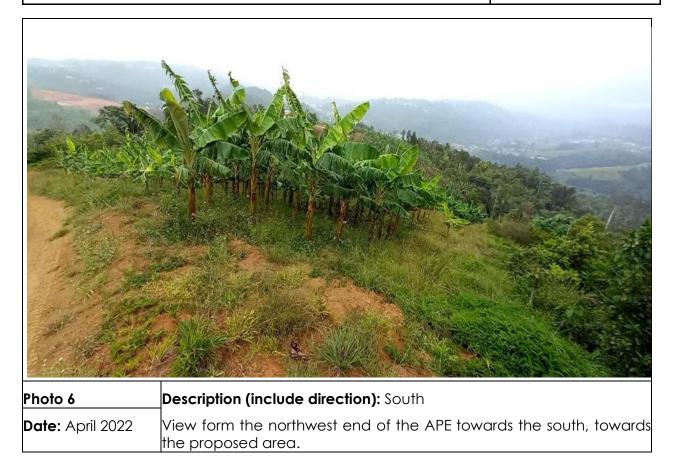
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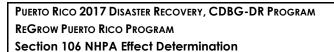






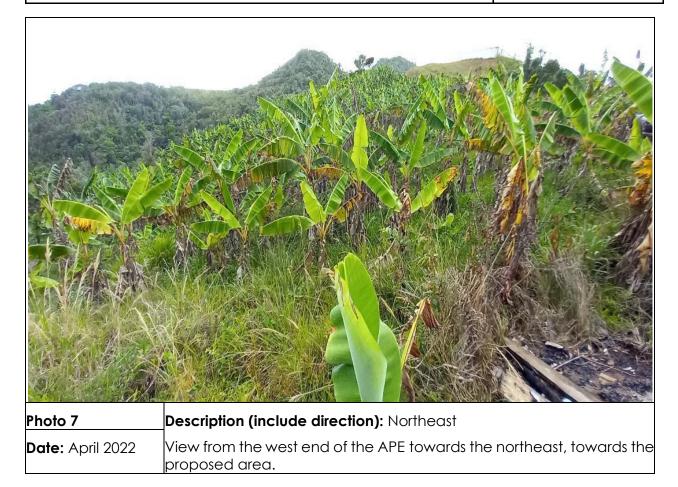
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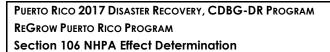






Project Name: Empresas Agrícolas San Pablo Inc.



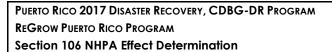




Project Name: Empresas Agrícolas San Pablo Inc.



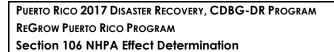
Description (include direction): East
APE to the right out of frame. View of the existing structures on the lot. At the end what once was a residential structure.





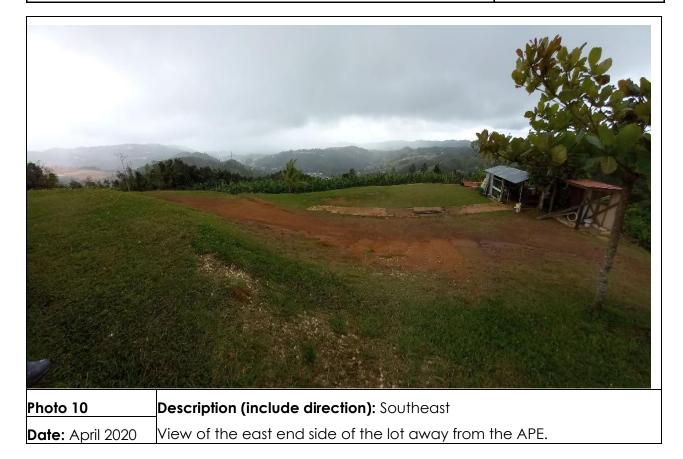
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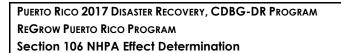
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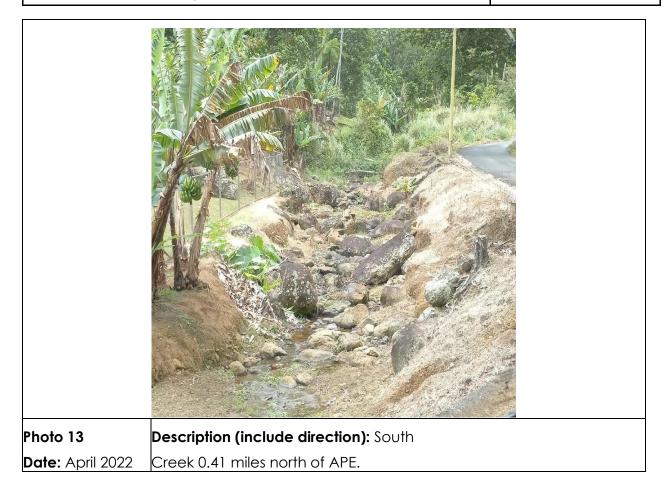


Project Name: Empresas Agrícolas San Pablo Inc.





Project Name: Empresas Agrícolas San Pablo Inc.





## GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO Departamento de la Vivienda

13 de enero de 2020

Arq. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela Director Ejecutivo Oficina Estatal de Conservación Histórica Cuartel de Ballajá (Tercer Piso) Calle Norzagaray, Esquina Beneficiencia San Juan, Puerto Rico

## Re: Autorización para Someter Documentos

Estimado Arq. Rubio Cancela:

El Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés) de los Estados Unidos aprobó una asignación de fondos tipo Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG-DR, por sus siglas en inglés) el 9 de febrero de 2018. El objetivo de esta asignación es atender necesidades insatisfechas a consecuencia del paso de los huracanes Irma y María ocurrido en septiembre de 2017.

Para cumplir con los requisitos ambientales que establece HUD, el Departamento de Vivienda de Puerto Rico contrató a Horne Federal, LLC para proporcionar servicios de revisión de registros ambientales, entre otros, que respaldarán los objetivos de la agencia para el Programa CDBG-DR.

En el ánimo de agilizar los procesos se autoriza a Horne Federal, LLC, a presentar ante la Oficina Estatal de Preservación Histórica, documentación de los casos relacionada al Programa CDBG-DR en representación del Departamento de Vivienda.

Cordialmente,

Dennis G. González Ramos, PE MEM Subsecretario Programa CDBG-DR

