

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW Washington, DC 20410 www.hud.gov espanol.hud.gov

Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5 Pursuant to 24 CFR 58.35(a)

Project Information

Project Name: PR-SBF-03400

HEROS Number: 90000010384216

Start Date: 03/01/2024

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.171793, longitude -65.958758 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 278-047-337-38-000

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

This project (PR-SBF-03400) entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Agricultura Urbana Inc., an agricultural business, at Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, PR 00754. Tax ID Number: 278-047-337-38-000. Coordinates (latitude 18.171793, longitude -65.958758). The specific scope of work for this project includes installation of a new irrigation system consisting of a new cistern, a new water pump, a water intake line (which will start at a nearby stream and connect to the cistern), an electrical line connected to existing infrastructure, and irrigation pipes. The cistern, water intake pipe, and irrigation pipes will not require ground anchoring; no ground disturbance is anticipated. It has not been determined if the electric line will be installed below ground or as an aerial. If the line location is below ground, the anticipated ground disturbance will be no more than 3 feet (ft.; 0.9 meters [m]). The new water pump will be anchored to the ground surface with two metal bars at a depth of three inches. Equipment to be purchased includes: ball valve 2" irrigation system, (clamps 2" irrigation system, tape lock coupling 5/8, oval hose 2" x 450, Pega pvc rain r shine, t tape 508-12-450, water tank 2000gls, pressurized tank, Wayne jet pump 1hp), tractor, rotary plow single, Zanon 40" high capacity I, commercial van. The year built of the structure is circa 2008. Project funding amount: \$49,447.60

Level of Environment Review Determination:

Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5:

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Program Name	
B-17-DM-72-	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00

0001	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-18-DE-72-	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
0001	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-18-DP-72-	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
0001	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-19-DP-78-	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
0002	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$49,447.60

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$49,447.60

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [CFR 1505.2(c)]:

Summarized below are 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 or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete
Endangered	if a Puerto Rican Boa is encountered, the	N/A	
Species Act	Conservation Measures will be in		
	accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican		
	Boa Conservation Measures 2024.		

Determination:

	This categorically excluded activity/project converts to EXEMPT per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR		
X	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds" (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR		
	This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).		
Prepa	Preparer Signature: Date: <u>April 11, 2025</u>		

Name / Title/ Organization:	Ricardo Espiet Lopez///Department of Housing - Puerto Rico
Responsible Entity Agency Of	Ricardo Espiet Lopez///Department of Housing - Puerto Rico ficial Signature:
Name/ Title: Pedro A. de Leó	n Rodríguez, MSEM/Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

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

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Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5 Pursuant to 24 CFR 58.35(a)

Project Information

Project Name: PR-SBF-03400

HEROS Number: 900000010384216

Start Date: 03/01/2024

Responsible Entity (RE): Department of Housing - Puerto Rico, P.O. Box 21365 San Juan PR, 00928

State / Local Identifier:

RE Preparer: Ricardo Espiet Lopez

Certifying Office r:

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Ent ity):

Point of Contact:

Point of Contact:Blas GuernicaConsultant (if applicable):HORNE LLP

40 CFR 1506.5(b)(4): The lead agency or, where appropriate, a cooperating agency shall prepare a disclosure statement for the contractor's execution specifying that the contractor has no financial or other interest in the outcome of the action. Such statement need not include privileged or confidential trade secrets or other confidential business information.

✓ By checking this box, I attest that as a preparer, I have no financial or other interest in the outcome of the undertaking assessed in this environmental review.

Project Location: , San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.171793, longitude -65.958758 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 278-047-337-38-000

Direct Comments to: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

This project (PR-SBF-03400) entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Agricultura Urbana Inc., an agricultural business, at Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, PR 00754. Tax ID Number: 278-047-337-38-000. Coordinates (latitude 18.171793, longitude -65.958758). The specific scope of work for this project includes installation of a new irrigation system consisting of a new cistern, a new water pump, a water intake line (which will start at a nearby stream and connect to the cistern), an electrical line connected to existing infrastructure, and irrigation pipes. The cistern, water intake pipe, and irrigation pipes will not require ground anchoring; no ground disturbance is anticipated. It has not been determined if the electric line will be installed below ground or as an aerial. If the line location is below ground, the anticipated ground disturbance will be no more than 3 feet (ft.; 0.9 meters [m]). The new water pump will be anchored to the ground surface with two metal bars at a depth of three inches. Equipment to be purchased includes: ball valve 2" irrigation system, (clamps 2" irrigation system, tape lock coupling 5/8, oval hose 2" x 450, Pega pvc rain r shine, t tape 508-12-450, water tank 2000gls, pressurized tank, Wayne jet pump 1hp), tractor, rotary plow single, Zanon 40" high capacity l, commercial van. The year built of the structure is circa 2008. Project funding amount: \$49,447.60

Maps, photographs, and other documentation of project location and description: <u>PR-SBF-03400 EFOR.docx</u>

Level of Environmental Review Determination: Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at 58.5: 58.35(a)(3)(iii)

Determination:

This categorically excluded activity/project converts to **EXEMPT** per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR

 \checkmark This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds" (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR

This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).

Approval Documents:

03400-SIG-PAGE.pdf

7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer

on:

7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer on:

Funding Information

Grant / Project Identification Number	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants \$0.00	
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	

Estimated Total HUD Funded, **Assisted or Insured Amount:**

\$49,447.60

Estimated Total Project Cost:

\$49,447.60

Compliance with 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5 and §58.6 Laws and Authorities

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORE	DERS, AND REGULATIO	NS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 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. The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 93,644 feet away. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act 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 60,513 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.
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	Flood Map Number 72000C1240J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORE	DERS, AND REGULATIO	NS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5
Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	□ Yes ☑ No	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.
Coastal Zone Management Act Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	□ Yes ☑ No	This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The

		project is located 57,242 feet from the
		coastal zone. The project is in
		compliance with the Coastal Zone
		Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic	🗆 Yes 🗹 No	Site contamination was evaluated as
Substances		follows: None of the above. On-site or
24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]		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. A review of
		science-based radon data offered a lack
		of data for the project site and radon
		testing was determined to be infeasible
		or impracticable. The project is in
		compliance with contamination and
		toxic substances requirements.
Endangered Species Act	☑ Yes □ No	This project May Affect, but is Not Likely
Endangered Species Act of 1973,		to Adversely Affect, listed species, and
particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part		informal consultation was conducted.
402		With mitigation, identified in the
		mitigation section of this review, the
		project will be in compliance with the
		Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards	🗆 Yes 🗹 No	Based on the project description the
Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part		project includes no activities that would
51 Subpart C		require further evaluation under this
		section. The project is in compliance
		with explosive and flammable hazard
		requirements.
Farmlands Protection	□ Yes ☑ No	This project does not include any
Farmland Protection Policy Act of		activities that could potentially convert
1981, particularly sections 1504(b)		agricultural land to a non-agricultural
and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658		use. The project is in compliance with
		the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
Floodplain Management	□ Yes ☑ No	FIRM Flood Map Number 72000C1240J,
Executive Order 11988, particularly		effective on 11/18/2009: PFIRMs in
section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55		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 San
		Lorenzo; therefore, PFIRM information
		was not available for the area and not
		considered in the review. This project
		does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain.

		The project is in compliance with
		Executive Orders 11988 and 13690.
Historic Preservation	🗆 Yes 🗹 No	(ca. 2008) Based on Section 106
National Historic Preservation Act of		consultation there are No Historic
1966, particularly sections 106 and		Properties Affected because there are
110; 36 CFR Part 800		no historic properties present. The
		project is in compliance with Section
		106.
Noise Abatement and Control	🗆 Yes 🗹 No	Based on the project description, this
Noise Control Act of 1972, as		project includes no activities that would
amended by the Quiet Communities		require further evaluation under HUD's
Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart		noise regulation. The project is in
В		compliance with HUD's Noise
		regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers	□ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description, the
Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as		project consists of activities that are
amended, particularly section		unlikely to have an adverse impact on
1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149		groundwater resources. According to
		EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in
		Puerto Rico. The project is in
		compliance with Sole Source Aquifer
		requirements.
Wetlands Protection	□ Yes ☑ No	The project will not impact on- or off-
Executive Order 11990, particularly		site wetlands. This project does not
sections 2 and 5		involve new construction, so a visual
		wetlands survey was not conducted.
		The project is in compliance with
		Executive Order 11990.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	□ Yes ☑ No	This project is not within proximity of a
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968,		NWSRS river. The project is located
particularly section 7(b) and (c)		63,661 feet from the nearest Wild and
		Scenic River. The project is in
		compliance with the Wild and Scenic
		Rivers Act.
HUD HO		TAL STANDARDS
Environmental Justice	🗆 Yes 🗹 No	On January 21, 2025, President Donald
Executive Order 12898		Trump issued the Executive Order titled
		"Ending Illegal Discrimination and
		Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity",
		which revoked Executive Order 12898
		and eliminated federal mandates
		requiring agencies to assess
		environmental justice impacts.
		Consequently, there is no longer a

federal requirement to address
environmental justice concerns in the
environmental compliance review
process.

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

Summarized below are 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 or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Mitigation Plan	Complete
Endangered Species Act	if a Puerto Rican Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024.	N/A		

Project Mitigation Plan

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. 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. Should new ground disturbance occur the Karst zone must be evaluated and when necessary DNER must be consulted prior to construction activities.

Supporting documentation on completed measures

APPENDIX A: Related Federal Laws and Authorities

Airport Hazards

General policy	Legislation	Regulation
It is HUD's policy to apply standards to		24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D
prevent incompatible development		
around civil airports and military airfields.		

1. To ensure compatible land use development, you must determine your site's proximity to civil and military airports. Is your project within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport?

✓ No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload the map showing that the site is not within the applicable distances to a military or civilian airport below

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 93,644 feet away. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 Airports.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Coastal Barrier Resources

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
HUD financial assistance may not be	Coastal Barrier Resources Act	
used for most activities in units of the	(CBRA) of 1982, as amended by	
Coastal Barrier Resources System	the Coastal Barrier Improvement	
(CBRS). See 16 USC 3504 for limitations	Act of 1990 (16 USC 3501)	
on federal expenditures affecting the		
CBRS.		

1. Is the project located in a CBRS Unit?

✓ No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 60,513 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.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 CBRS.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Flood Insurance

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Certain types of federal financial assistance may not be	Flood Disaster	24 CFR 50.4(b)(1)
used in floodplains unless the community participates	Protection Act of 1973	and 24 CFR 58.6(a)
in National Flood Insurance Program and flood	as amended (42 USC	and (b); 24 CFR
insurance is both obtained and maintained.	4001-4128)	55.1(b).

1. Does this project involve <u>financial assistance for construction, rehabilitation, or</u> <u>acquisition of a mobile home, building, or insurable personal property</u>?

No. This project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance.

✓ Yes

2. Upload a FEMA/FIRM map showing the site here:

PR-SBF-03400 FIRM(1).pdf

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplains. The <u>FEMA</u> <u>Map Service Center</u> provides this information in the form of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). For projects in areas not mapped by FEMA, use the best available information to determine floodplain information. Include documentation, including a discussion of why this is the best available information for the site. Provide FEMA/FIRM floodplain zone designation, panel number, and date within your documentation.

Is the structure, part of the structure, or insurable property located in a FEMAdesignated Special Flood Hazard Area?

🗸 No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

Yes

4. While flood insurance is not mandatory for this project, HUD strongly recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Will flood insurance be required as a mitigation measure or condition?

Yes

✓ No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Flood Map Number 72000C1240J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 FIRM.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Air Quality

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Clean Air Act is administered	Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et	40 CFR Parts 6, 51
by the U.S. Environmental	seq.) as amended particularly	and 93
Protection Agency (EPA), which	Section 176(c) and (d) (42 USC	
sets national standards on	7506(c) and (d))	
ambient pollutants. In addition,		
the Clean Air Act is administered		
by States, which must develop		
State Implementation Plans (SIPs)		
to regulate their state air quality.		
Projects funded by HUD must		
demonstrate that they conform		
to the appropriate SIP.		

1. Does your project include new construction or conversion of land use facilitating the development of public, commercial, or industrial facilities OR five or more dwelling units?

Yes

✓ No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

- Yes
- ✓ No

Coastal Zone Management Act

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Federal assistance to applicant	Coastal Zone Management	15 CFR Part 930
agencies for activities affecting	Act (16 USC 1451-1464),	
any coastal use or resource is	particularly section 307(c)	
granted only when such	and (d) (16 USC 1456(c) and	
activities are consistent with	(d))	
federally approved State		
Coastal Zone Management Act		
Plans.		

1. Is the project located in, or does it affect, a Coastal Zone as defined in your state Coastal Management Plan?

Yes

✓ No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload all documents used to make your determination below.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 57,242 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 CZM.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Contamination and Toxic Substances

General Requirements	Legislation	Regulations	
It is HUD policy that all properties that are being		24 CFR	
proposed for use in HUD programs be free of		58.5(i)(2)	
hazardous materials, contamination, toxic		24 CFR 50.3(i)	
chemicals and gases, and radioactive substances,			
where a hazard could affect the health and safety of			
the occupants or conflict with the intended			
utilization of the property.			
Reference			
https://www.onecpd.info/environmental-review/site-contamination			

1. How was site contamination evaluated?* Select all that apply.

ASTM Phase I ESA

ASTM Phase II ESA

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

✓ None of the above

* HUD regulations at 24 CFR § 58.5(i)(2)(ii) require that the environmental review for multifamily housing with five or more dwelling units or non-residential property include the evaluation of previous uses of the site or other evidence of contamination on or near the site. For acquisition and new construction of multifamily and nonresidential properties HUD strongly advises the review include an ASTM Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to meet real estate transaction standards of due diligence and to help ensure compliance with HUD's toxic policy at 24 CFR §58.5(i) and 24 CFR §50.3(i). Also note that some HUD programs require an ASTM Phase I ESA.

2. Were any on-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances* (excluding radon) found that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property? (Were any recognized environmental conditions or RECs identified in a Phase I ESA and confirmed in a Phase II ESA?)

Provide a map or other documentation of absence or presence of contamination** and explain evaluation of site contamination in the Screen Summary at the bottom of this screen.

✓ No

Explain:

Based on NEPA data, there are no toxic sites within 3,000 feet of the applicant's location. The environmental field observation did not note any items of concern. See the attached environmental field observation report. A google earth review of the area shows no visible hazards. The past land use for the last 10-15 year is rural-agricultural.

Yes

* This question covers the presence of radioactive substances excluding radon. Radon is addressed in the Radon Exempt Question.

** Utilize EPA's Enviromapper, NEPAssist, or state/tribal databases to identify nearby dumps, junk yards, landfills, hazardous waste sites, and industrial sites, including EPA National Priorities List Sites (Superfund sites), CERCLA or state-equivalent sites, RCRA Corrective Action sites with release(s) or suspected release(s) requiring clean-up action and/or further investigation. Additional supporting documentation may include other inspections and reports.

3. Evaluate the building(s) for radon. Do all buildings meet any of the exemptions* from having to consider radon in the contamination analysis listed in CPD Notice <u>CPD-23-103</u>?

Yes

Explain:

✓ No

* Notes:

• Buildings with no enclosed areas having ground contact.

• Buildings containing crawlspaces, utility tunnels, or parking garages would not be exempt, however buildings built on piers would be exempt, provided that there is open air between the lowest floor of the building and the ground.

• Buildings that are not residential and will not be occupied for more than 4 hours per day.

• Buildings with existing radon mitigation systems - document radon levels are below 4 pCi/L with test results dated within two years of submitting the application for HUD assistance and document the system includes an ongoing maintenance plan that includes periodic testing to ensure the system continues to meet the current EPA recommended levels. If the project does not require an application, document test results dated within two years of the date the environmental review is certified. Refer to program office guidance to ensure compliance with program requirements.

• Buildings tested within five years of the submission of application for HUD assistance: test results document indoor radon levels are below current the EPA's recommended action

levels of 4.0 pCi/L. For buildings with test data older than five years, any new environmental review must include a consideration of radon using one of the methods in Section A below.

4. Is the proposed project new construction or substantial rehabilitation where testing will be conducted but cannot yet occur because building construction has not been completed?

Yes

Compliance with this section is conditioned on post-construction testing being conducted, followed by mitigation, if needed. Radon test results, along with any needed mitigation plan, must be uploaded to the mitigation section within this screen.

🗸 No

5. Was radon testing or a scientific data review conducted that provided a radon concentration level in pCi/L?

Yes

✓ No

If no testing was conducted and a review of science-based data offered a lack of science-based data for the project site, then document and upload the steps taken to look for documented test results and science-based data as well as the basis for the conclusion that testing would be infeasible or impracticable.

Explain:

Radon testing is not feasible or practicable for this case, please see the attached Radon Memorandum.

File Upload:

PR-SBF-03400 Radon Memorandum.pdf

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Screen Summary at the bottom of this screen.

Non-radon contamination was found in a previous question.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. 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. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 Toxics.pdf PR-SBF-03400 EFOR(1).docx

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Endangered Species

General requirements	ESA Legislation	Regulations
Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)	The Endangered	50 CFR Part
mandates that federal agencies ensure that	Species Act of 1973	402
actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out	(16 U.S.C. 1531 et	
shall not jeopardize the continued existence of	seq.); particularly	
federally listed plants and animals or result in	section 7 (16 USC	
the adverse modification or destruction of	1536).	
designated critical habitat. Where their actions		
may affect resources protected by the ESA,		
agencies must consult with the Fish and Wildlife		
Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries		
Service ("FWS" and "NMFS" or "the Services").		

1. Does the project involve any activities that have the potential to affect specifies or habitats?

No, the project will have No Effect due to the nature of the activities involved in the project.

No, the project will have No Effect based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office

 ✓ Yes, the activities involved in the project have the potential to affect species and/or habitats.

2. Are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area?

No, the project will have No Effect due to the absence of federally listed species and designated critical habitat

✓ Yes, there are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area.

3. What effects, if any, will your project have on federally listed species or designated critical habitat?

No Effect: Based on the specifics of both the project and any federally listed species in the action area, you have determined that the project will have absolutely no effect on listed species or critical habitat. in the action area.

 May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect: Any effects that the project may have on federally listed species or critical habitats would be beneficial, discountable, or insignificant.

Likely to Adversely Affect: The project may have negative effects on one or more listed species or critical habitat.

4. Informal Consultation is required

Section 7 of ESA (16 USC. 1536) mandates consultation to resolve potential impacts to endangered and threatened species and critical habitats. If a HUD-assisted project may affect any federally listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat, then compliance is required with Section 7. See 50 CFR Part 402 Subpart B Consultation Procedures.

Did the Service(s) concur with the finding that the project is Not Likely to Adversely Affect?

✓ Yes, the Service(s) concurred with the finding.

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload the following below:

- (1) A biological evaluation or equivalent document
- (2) Concurrence(s) from FWS and/or NMFS
- (3) Any other documentation of informal consultation

Exception: If finding was made based on procedures provided by a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office, provide whatever documentation is mandated by that agreement.

No, the Service(s) did not concur with the finding.

6. For the project to be brought into compliance with this section, all adverse impacts must be mitigated. Explain in detail the exact measures that must be implemented to mitigate for the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation. This information will be automatically included in the Mitigation summary for the environmental review. If negative effects cannot be mitigated, cancel the project using the button at the bottom of this screen.

✓ Mitigation as follows will be implemented:

if a Puerto Rican Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024.

No mitigation is necessary.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Supporting documentation

<u>conservation-measures_puerto-rican-boa.pdf</u> <u>PR-SBF-03400 Endangered Species.pdf</u> <u>PR-SBF-03400 Site Map.pdf</u> <u>PR-SBF-03400 Wetlands(1).pdf</u> <u>PR-SBF-03400 USFWS Consultation Package.pdf</u> <u>PR-SBF-03400 USFWS Concurrence Memorandum.pdf</u>

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

✓ Yes

No

Explosive and Flammable Hazards

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
HUD-assisted projects must meet	N/A	24 CFR Part 51
Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD)		Subpart C
requirements to protect them from		
explosive and flammable hazards.		

1. Is the proposed HUD-assisted project itself the development of a hazardous facility (a facility that mainly stores, handles or processes flammable or combustible chemicals such as bulk fuel storage facilities and refineries)?

✓ No

Yes

2. Does this project include any of the following activities: development, construction, rehabilitation that will increase residential densities, or conversion?

✓ No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Farmlands Protection

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Farmland Protection	Farmland Protection Policy	<u>7 CFR Part 658</u>
Policy Act (FPPA) discourages	Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201	
federal activities that would	et seq.)	
convert farmland to		
nonagricultural purposes.		

1. Does your project include any activities, including new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land or conversion, that could convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use?

Yes

✓ No

If your project includes new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land or conversion, explain how you determined that agricultural land would not be converted:

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload all documents used to make your determination below.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 Farmlands.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Floodplain Management

General Requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Executive Order 11988,	Executive Order 11988	24 CFR 55
Floodplain Management,	* Executive Order 13690	
requires Federal activities to	* 42 USC 4001-4128	
avoid impacts to floodplains	* 42 USC 5154a	
and to avoid direct and	* only applies to screen 2047	
indirect support of floodplain	and not 2046	
development to the extent		
practicable.		

1. Does this project meet an exemption at 24 CFR 55.12 from compliance with HUD's floodplain management regulations in Part 55?

Yes

(a) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 58.34 and 58.35(b).

(b) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 50.19, except as otherwise indicated in § 50.19.

(c) The approval of financial assistance for restoring and preserving the natural and beneficial functions and values of floodplains and wetlands, including through acquisition of such floodplain and wetland property, where a permanent covenant or comparable restriction is place on the property's continued use for flood control, wetland projection, open space, or park land, but only if:

(1) The property is cleared of all existing buildings and walled structures; and

(2) The property is cleared of related improvements except those which:

(i) Are directly related to flood control, wetland protection, open space, or park land (including playgrounds and recreation areas);

(ii) Do not modify existing wetland areas or involve fill, paving, or other ground disturbance beyond minimal trails or paths; and

(iii) Are designed to be compatible with the beneficial floodplain or wetland function of the property.

(d) An action involving a repossession, receivership, foreclosure, or similar acquisition of property to protect or enforce HUD's financial interests under previously approved loans, grants, mortgage insurance, or other HUD assistance. (e) Policy-level actions described at 24 CFR 50.16 that do not involve site-based decisions.

(f) A minor amendment to a previously approved action with no additional adverse impact on or from a floodplain or wetland.

(g) HUD's or the responsible entity's approval of a project site, an incidental portion of which is situated in the FFRMS floodplain (not including the floodway, LiMWA, or coastal high hazard area) but only if: (1) The proposed project site does not include any existing or proposed buildings or improvements that modify or occupy the FFRMS floodplain except de minimis improvements such as recreation areas and trails; and (2) the proposed project will not result in any new construction in or modifications of a wetland .

(h) Issuance or use of Housing Vouchers, or other forms of rental subsidy where HUD, the awarding community, or the public housing agency that administers the contract awards rental subsidies that are not project-based (i.e., do not involve site-specific subsidies).

(i) Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of and accessibility to elderly and persons with disabilities.

Describe:

✓ No

2. Does the project include a Critical Action? Examples of Critical Actions include projects involving hospitals, fire and police stations, nursing homes, hazardous chemical storage, storage of valuable records, and utility plants.

Yes

Describe:

✓ No

3. Determine the extent of the FFRMS floodplain and provide mapping documentation in support of that determination

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain can be determined using a Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA), 0.2 percent flood approach (0.2 PFA), or freeboard value approach (FVA). For projects in areas without available CISA data or without FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) or Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs), use the best available information¹ to determine flood elevation. Include documentation and an explanation of why this is the best available information² for the site. Note that newly constructed and substantially improved³ structures must be elevated to the FFRMS floodplain regardless of the approach chosen to determine the floodplain.

Select one of the following three options:

CISA for non-critical actions. If using a local tool , data, or resources, ensure that the FFRMS elevation is higher than would have been determined using the 0.2 PFA or the FVA.

✓ 0.2-PFA. Where FEMA has defined the 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain, the FFRMS floodplain is the area that FEMA has designated as within the 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain.

FVA. If neither CISA nor 0.2-PFA is available, for non-critical actions, the FFRMS floodplain is the area that results from adding two feet to the base flood elevation as established by the effective FIRM or FIS or — if available — a FEMA-provided preliminary or pending FIRM or FIS or advisory base flood elevations, whether regulatory or informational in nature. However, an interim or preliminary FEMA map cannot be used if it is lower than the current FIRM or FIS.

¹ Sources which merit investigation include the files and studies of other federal agencies, such as the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Soil Conservation Service and the U. S. Geological Survey. These agencies have prepared flood hazard studies for several thousand localities and, through their technical assistance programs, hydrologic studies, soil surveys, and other investigations have collected or developed other floodplain information for numerous sites and areas. States and communities are also sources of information on past flood 'experiences within their boundaries and are particularly knowledgeable about areas subject to high-risk flood hazards such as alluvial fans, high velocity flows, mudflows and mudslides, ice jams, subsidence and liquefaction.

² If you are using best available information, select the FVA option below and provide supporting documentation in the screen summary. Contact your <u>local environmental officer</u> with additional compliance questions.

³ Substantial improvement means any repair or improvement of a structure which costs at least 50 percent of the market value of the structure before repair or improvement or results in an increase of more than 20 percent of the number of dwelling units. The full definition can be found at 24 CFR 55.2(b)(12).

5. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?

Yes

✓ No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

FIRM Flood Map Number 72000C1240J, effective on 11/18/2009: 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 San Lorenzo; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and not considered in the review. This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 FIRM(2).pdf PR-SBF-03400 ABFE.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Historic Preservation

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Regulations under	Section 106 of the	36 CFR 800 "Protection of Historic
Section 106 of the	National Historic	Properties"
National Historic	Preservation Act	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CF
Preservation Act	(16 U.S.C. 470f)	R-2012-title36-vol3/pdf/CFR-2012-title36-
(NHPA) require a		vol3-part800.pdf
consultative process		
to identify historic		
properties, assess		
project impacts on		
them, and avoid,		
minimize, or mitigate		
adverse effects		

Threshold

Is Section 106 review required for your project?

No, because the project consists solely of activities listed as exempt in a Programmatic Agreement (PA). (See the PA Database to find applicable PAs.) No, because the project consists solely of activities included in a No Potential to Cause Effects memo or other determination [36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)].

 ✓ Yes, because the project includes activities with potential to cause effects (direct or indirect).

Step 1 – Initiate Consultation Select all consulting parties below (check all that apply):

✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

Indian Tribes, including Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) or Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs)

Other Consulting Parties

Describe the process of selecting consulting parties and initiating consultation here:

Only SHPO was consulted as No Historic Properties Affected was determined and no Tribal Lands were identified.

Document and upload all correspondence, notices and notes (including comments and objections received below).

Was the Section 106 Lender Delegation Memo used for Section 106 consultation?

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N	I٥	

No

Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

 Define the Area of Potential Effect (APE), either by entering the address(es) or uploading a map depicting the APE below: Carretera 916, Km 2.0 Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

In the chart below, list historic properties identified and evaluated in the APE. Every historic property that may be affected by the project should be included in the chart.

Upload the documentation (survey forms, Register nominations, concurrence(s) and/or objection(s), notes, and photos) that justify your National Register Status determination below.

Address / Location	National Register	SHPO Concurrence	Sensitive
/ District	Status		Information

Additional Notes:

No historic properties within the APE.

2. Was a survey of historic buildings and/or archeological sites done as part of the project?

Yes

✓ No

Step 3 –Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

Only properties that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places receive further consideration under Section 106. Assess the effect(s) of the project by applying the

Criteria of Adverse Effect. (<u>36 CFR 800.5</u>)] Consider direct and indirect effects as applicable as per guidance on <u>direct and indirect effects</u>.

Choose one of the findings below - No Historic Properties Affected, No Adverse Effect, or Adverse Effect; and seek concurrence from consulting parties.

✓ No Historic Properties Affected

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload concurrence(s) or objection(s) below.

Document reason for finding:

✓ No historic properties present.

Historic properties present, but project will have no effect upon them.

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

(ca. 2008) Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.

Supporting documentation

<u>PR-SBF-03400 Historic.pdf</u> <u>PR-SBF-03400 SHPO Consultation Package.pdf</u>

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Noise Abatement and Control

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
HUD's noise regulations protect	Noise Control Act of 1972	Title 24 CFR 51
residential properties from		Subpart B
excessive noise exposure. HUD	General Services Administration	
encourages mitigation as	Federal Management Circular	
appropriate.	75-2: "Compatible Land Uses at	
	Federal Airfields"	

1. What activities does your project involve? Check all that apply:

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

A research demonstration project which does not result in new construction or reconstruction

An interstate land sales registration

Any timely emergency assistance under disaster assistance provision or appropriations which are provided to save lives, protect property, protect public health and safety, remove debris and wreckage, or assistance that has the effect of restoring facilities substantially as they existed prior to the disaster

✓ None of the above

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

- Yes
- ✓ No

Sole Source Aquifers

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974	Safe Drinking Water	40 CFR Part 149
protects drinking water systems	Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.	
which are the sole or principal	201, 300f et seq., and	
drinking water source for an area	21 U.S.C. 349)	
and which, if contaminated, would		
create a significant hazard to public		
health.		

1. Does the project consist solely of acquisition, leasing, or rehabilitation of an existing building(s)?

✓ Yes

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description, the project consists of activities that are unlikely to have an adverse impact on groundwater resources. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 SSA.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Wetlands Protection

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Executive Order 11990 discourages direct or	Executive Order	24 CFR 55.20 can be
indirect support of new construction impacting	11990	used for general
wetlands wherever there is a practicable		guidance regarding
alternative. The Fish and Wildlife Service's		the 8 Step Process.
National Wetlands Inventory can be used as a		
primary screening tool, but observed or known		
wetlands not indicated on NWI maps must also		
be processed Off-site impacts that result in		
draining, impounding, or destroying wetlands		
must also be processed.		

1. Does this project involve new construction as defined in Executive Order 11990, expansion of a building's footprint, or ground disturbance? The term "new construction" shall include draining, dredging, channelizing, filling, diking, impounding, and related activities and any structures or facilities begun or authorized after the effective date of the Order

No

✓ Yes

2. Will the new construction or other ground disturbance impact an on- or off-site wetland? The term "wetlands" means those areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances does or would support, a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds.

"Wetlands under E.O. 11990 include isolated and non-jurisdictional wetlands."

✓ No, a wetland will not be impacted in terms of E.O. 11990's definition of new construction.

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload a map or any other relevant documentation below which explains your determination

Yes, there is a wetland that be impacted in terms of E.O. 11990's definition of new construction.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

The project will not impact on- or off-site wetlands. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 Wetlands.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation		
The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	The Wild and Scenic Rivers	36 CFR Part 297		
provides federal protection for	Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287),			
certain free-flowing, wild, scenic	particularly section 7(b) and			
and recreational rivers	(c) (16 U.S.C. 1278(b) and (c))			
designated as components or				
potential components of the				
National Wild and Scenic Rivers				
System (NWSRS) from the effects				
of construction or development.				

1. Is your project within proximity of a NWSRS river?

✓ No

Yes, the project is in proximity of a Designated Wild and Scenic River or Study Wild and Scenic River.

Yes, the project is in proximity of a Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) River.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 63,661 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

PR-SBF-03400 Wild and Scenic.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Environmental Justice

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Determine if the project	Executive Order 12898	
creates adverse environmental		
impacts upon a low-income or		
minority community. If it		
does, engage the community		
in meaningful participation		
about mitigating the impacts		
or move the project.		

HUD strongly encourages starting the Environmental Justice analysis only after all other laws and authorities, including Environmental Assessment factors if necessary, have been completed.

1. Were any adverse environmental impacts identified in any other compliance review portion of this project's total environmental review?

- Yes
- ✓ No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

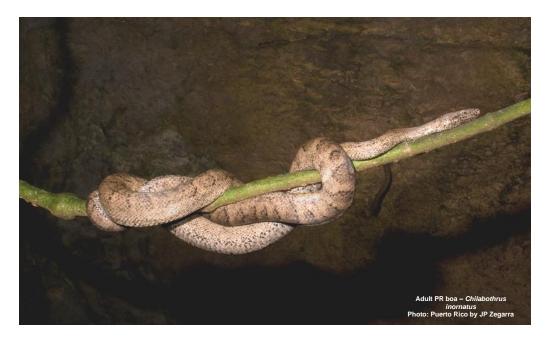


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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.



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.
- 2. 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.
- 10. 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
 - Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 - Email: jan_zegarra@fws.gov
 - Office phone (786) 933-1451





March 11, 2025

TO: José M. Olmo Terrasa, Esq. Deputy Director for Economic Recovery Grant Management Re-Grow PR Urban Rural Agriculture Program

RE: Endangered Species Concurrence - Conservation Measures Implementation Agricultura Urbana Inc. (PR-SBF-03400)

Dear Mr. Olmo:

This memorandum is to notify the CDBG-DR Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (Re-Grow Program) that on November 1, 2024, for the case **PR-SBF-03400**, 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 which consist of the purchase of a mobile commercial van, a mobile tractor, a mobile rotary plow, a mobile Zanon, irrigation ball valves, irrigation clamps, tape lock couplings, oval hoses, PVC Cement, T-Tape, water tank, pressurized tank and a Jet Wayne well pump, for Agricultura Urbana Inc, an agricultural business, located at PR-916 Km 2.0, Cerro Gordo Ward, San Lorenzo, PR 00754; latitude 18.171793, longitude -65.958758.

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			
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon	Endangered			
Coqui Guajón	Threatened			
Critical Habitat				
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 January 13, 2025 concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions will have **May Affect**, **but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)** the Puerto Rican Boa.

The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Puerto Rican Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024.

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.

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.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

Puerto Rican Boa

Generated August 01, 2024 02:11 PM UTC, IPaC v6.112.0-rc2



IPaC - Information for Planning and Consultation (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/): A project planning tool to help streamline the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service environmental review process.

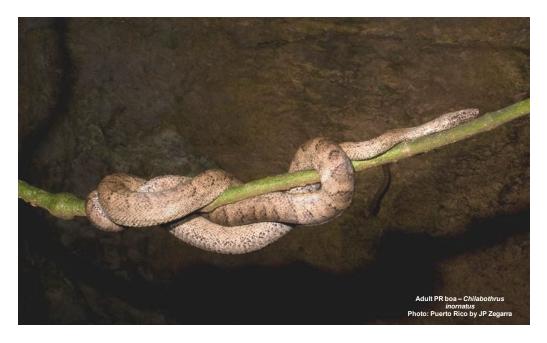


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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.



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.
- 2. 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.
- 10. 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
 - Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 - Email: jan_zegarra@fws.gov
 - Office phone (786) 933-1451





Memorandum to File

Date: April 7, 2025

Ba -

From: Blas Guernica Senior Environmental Associate CDBG-DR Program Small Business Financing Program Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Application Number: PR-SBF-03400 **Project:** Agricultura Urbana Inc.

Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-SBF-03400 under the Small Business Financing Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

Per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (**HUD**) CPD Notice 23-103, the recommended best practices and alternative options for radon testing are infeasible and impracticable in this case due to the following reasons:

 As required by the CPD Notice 23-103, the scientific data reviewed in lieu of testing must consist of a minimum of ten documented test results over the previous ten years. If there are less than ten documented results over this period, it is understood that there is a lack of scientific data. The latest report for radon testing in Puerto Rico was prepared in 1995 by the U.S. Department of the Interior in Cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. No other completed studies and reports on radon testing are available in Puerto Rico.

- There is no available science-based or state-generated information for Puerto Rico for the last ten years that can be used to determine whether the project site is in a high-risk area. The Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Environmental Public Health Tracking, and Radon Testing map do not include Puerto Rico data.
- There are only two (2) licensed professionals in Puerto Rico who can conduct radon testing using the American National Standards Institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (**ANSI/AARST**) testing standards, which makes it difficult, time-consuming, and highly expensive to coordinate and secure a site visit for the contamination evaluation.
- Do-it-yourself (**DIY**) radon test kits are known to be unreliable in assuring and controlling the quality of the test results; they are not readily available in Puerto Rico, and the cost and time required for purchasing and sending them for analysis are unreasonable when weighed against the results' reliability and the need for prompt results.
- Local authorities in Puerto Rico do not have the specialized radon monitoring equipment or trained staff needed to conduct the radon testing analysis and ensure proper quality control and quality assurance practices are adhered to.
 We also do not have a radiation laboratory certified for radon testing.

As part of the evaluation for this determination, PRDOH sent information requests to six (6) local agencies at the state and federal levels. We received responses from the following agencies:

- United States Geological Survey;
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Puerto Rico Department of Health; and
- United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The agencies mentioned above confirmed the lack of scientific data on Radon testing for Puerto Rico and the technical difficulties that we face to comply with HUD's Radon testing requirement. For the above-mentioned reasons, Radon testing is infeasible and impracticable for this property, and no further consideration of Radon is needed for the environmental review. Radon Attachments GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

August 20, 2024

Mrs. Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez Director

Caribbean Environmental Protection Division City View Plaza II – Suite 7000 #48 Rd. 165 km 1.2 Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069

Vía email: <u>guerrero.carmen@epa.gov</u>

RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

The Puerlo Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) kindly requests your assistance in gathering data, information, or reports related to radon testing in Puerlo Rico, as this information is crucial for our compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103.

Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-32-103. This Notice emphasizes the importance of radion testing and miligation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assitted properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Black Grant for Disaster Recovery and Miligation (CDB-DR/MIT), is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental requirements under CDBG-DR/MIT programs. To fulfill our obligations under this Notice, we must complie comprehensive and up-to-date information on radion levels, testing practices, and any miligation efforts within the Islands of Puerto Rico.

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following information:

Radon testing data – Results from radon testing conducted within your agency's purview, including details on location, testing methods, and recorded radon levels.

Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Davila, Rio Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel. (787) 274-2527 | www.invenda.pr.gov



August 20, 2024

Dr. Silvina Cancelos Professor College of Engineering University of Puerto Rico – Mayagüez Campus 259 Norte Blvd, Alfonso Valdés Cobián Mayagüez, Puerto Rico

Via email: <u>silvina.cancelos@upr.edu</u> RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) kindly requests your assistance in gathering data, information, or reports related to radon testing in Puerto Rico, as this information is crucial for our compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103.

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Policies and auidelines – Information or any policy, guideline, or protocol your agency follows concerning radon testing, exposure limits, or mitigation.

<u>Historical data</u> – if available, historical data or trends in radon levels within the regions you monitor that may impact HUD-assisted housing.

This information is vital to ensure that our radon management strategies are practical and compliant with federal requirements. If some of this information may be sensitive or confidential, we are prepared to discuss any necessary agreements or protocols for sharing this data securely.

Please let us know if you require additional details or have any questions regarding this request. We would greatly appreciate your response by September 15, 2024, so we can incorporate this data into our ongoing compliance efforts.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. We look forward to working together on this crifical initiative.

Sincerel Imm and iguez, Esq. Wille

Cc:

Mr. Oleg Povetko. <u>Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov</u> Mr. Matthew Laurita. <u>Jaurita.matthew@epa.gov</u>

> CD8G-DR/MIT Program Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerto Rico Page 2 / 2

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Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. We look forward to working together on this critical initiative. Sincerely.

Manuez Robriguez, Esq. William O. Secretary

Cc: Dr. Carlos Marín, <u>carlos.marin3@upr.edu</u>

CDBG-DR/MIT Program Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerto Ric Page 2 /

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

August 20, 2024

Dr. Jessica Irizarry

Director Office of Island Affairs U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1324 Cll Canada, San Juan, 00920 Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069

Via email: <u>OIA@cdc.gov</u>

RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

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August 20, 2024

Mrs. Anaís Rodríguez

Secretary Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources Carretera 8838, km. 6.3, Sector El Cinco, Río Piedras San Juan, PR 00926

Vía email: anais.rodriguez@dma.pr.gov

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Sincerely

D. Rodríguez, Esq

CD8G-DR/MIT Program Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerto Rico Page 2 / 2

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William O. Rodríguez, Esq. Secretary

Secretary

Cc: Mr. Luis Márquez, <u>secretariaaire@drna.pr.gov</u> Eng. Amarilys Rosario, <u>aire@drna.pr.gov</u> Mrs. Elid Ortega, <u>eortega@drna.pr.gov</u>

August 20, 2024

Dr. Carlos R. Mellado López Secretary Puerto Rico Department of Health PO Box 70184 San Juan, PR 00936-8184

Vía email: drcarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov

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August 20, 2024

Mrs. Holly Weyers Regional Director, Southeast – Puerto Rico US Geological Survey 3916 Sunset Ridge Road Raleigh, NC 27607

Vía email: <u>hsweyers@usgs.gov</u>

RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

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bodríguez Rodríguez, Esq. Willa atary

ourorury

Cc: Mr. Raúl Hernández Doble, rhernandez2@salud.pr.gov

> CDBG-DR/MIT Program Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerto Rico Page 2 / 2

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dríquez, Esq. William Ø. Secretary

Mr. R. Randall Schumann, rschumann@usgs.gov

From:	Charp, Paul (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP) <pac4@cdc.gov></pac4@cdc.gov>
Sent:	Tuesday, September 3, 2024 6:36 AM
To:	Miranda, Sandra (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Irizarry, Jessica (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Rzeszotarski, Peter
	(CDC/NCEH/DEHSP); Vinson, D. Aaron (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)
Cc:	Kostak, Liana (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Vazquez, Germaine (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)
Subject:	RE: REHi: Puerto Rico Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Good morning, Sandra and others,

In response to the request from Mr. William Rodriguez of the Department of Housing, Government of Puerto Rico, I have reviewed all the available data within the CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network system for data related to radon in Puerto Rico. In addition to the tracking data available on the internet, I also reached out to Mr. Aaron Vinson of the NCEH Tracking Branch.

I was not able to find any data in the CDC systems and this was confirmed by Mr. Vinson. We also reached out the US Environmental Protection Agency who indicated they had no radon data in their systems. Please relay this information to Mr. Rodríguez in your response to his requests

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

Paul A. Charp, Ph.D., Fellow, HPS Senior Health Physicist Emerging Environmental Hazards and Health Effects Branch (EEHHEB) Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice (DEHSP) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) pcharp@cdc.gov 770-488-0723 office 404.388.0614 Cell



From: Schumann, R. Randall <rschumann@usgs.gov> Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 4:39 PM To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Weyers, Holly S <hsweyers@usgs.gov> Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov> Subject: RE: Request for Information- Radon testing and levels

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

In the early 1990s the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducted geologic assessments of radon potential for all 50 states and the territories of Guam and Puerto Rico, in collaboration with the U.S. EPA. I conducted the geologic radon potential assessment for Puerto Rico. The PDF file of the report is too large to attach to this message but it can be obtained at https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1993/0292k/report.pdf. The USGS did not conduct indoor radon testing and we did not conduct field studies associated with this assessment; it was based on existing data. Mr. David Saldana of the Puerto Rico Department of Health kindly provided us with data for 610 homes that were tested for indoor radon by his agency between 1993 and 1995, which are summarized in the report. I am not aware of any other radon-related geologic studies conducted in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Best regards,

R. Randall Schumann Scientist Emeritus U.S. Geological Survey Geociences and Environmental Change Science Center Denver, Colorado, USA <u>rschumann@usgs.gov</u> <u>https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/r-randall-schumann</u>

From: Raul Hernandez Doble <rhernandez2@salud.pr.gov> Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 2:13:31 PM To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Dr. Carlos Mellado <drcarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov> Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Mayra Toro Tirado <mtoro@salud.pr.gov> Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Good afternoon. Ms. Medina

I regret to inform that we do not have any recent information on radon testing, since we do not have a certified radiation laboratory certified for radon testing. There are companies that sell test kits available online that can be done and mailed to a testing laboratory. There are also lists of radon contractors and these companies that process radon testing cartridges with instructions, on the Environmental Protection Agency Indoor air Quality web page. The last radon study in Puerto Rico done by the PR Department of Health was done on the year 1993.

Raul Hernandez Doble Director, Seccion Salud Radiologica Division de Salud Ambiental Secretaria Auxiliar para la Vigilancia y la Proteccion de la Salud Publica <u>rhernandez2@salud.gov.pr</u> Phone: (787)765-2929 ext. 3210 From: Reyes, Brenda <Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:48 AM
To: Cesar O Rodriguez Santos <cesarrodriguez@drna.pr.gov>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov>; Silvina Cancelos Mancini <silvina.cancelos@upr.edu>; Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>
Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Povetko, Oleg (he/him/his) <Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Saludos.

La EPA esta trabajando una respuesta a su petición. Se sometió borrador a la directora y el subdirector para su aprobación y firma.

Brenda Reyes Tomassini Public Affairs U.S. EPA Region 2 Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (787) 977-5869/(787) 977-5865 Mobile: 202-834-1290

From: Silvina Cancelos Mancini <<u>silvina.cancelos@upr.edu</u>> Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 15:04 To: Melanie Medina Smaine <<u>mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov</u>> Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <<u>Edume@vivienda.pr.gov</u>>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <<u>Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov</u>>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <<u>aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov</u>>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <<u>maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov</u>>; Reyes, Brenda <<u>Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov</u>>; Povetko, Oleg <<u>Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov</u>> Subject: Re: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Estimada Melanie Medina

Quería dejarle saber que recibimos su correo el 21 de agosto al igual que el de Maritza Rosa el pasado 4 de septiembre. Ya las personas involucradas de EPA, junto conmigo y el Dr. Marín estamos al tanto del asunto y estamos trabajando para poder enviarles la información.

Atentamente

Silvina Cancelos Professor Associate Director Mechanical Engineering Department University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez Call BOX 9000 Mayaguez PR 00680 Tel: 787-832-4040 ext 5956 email: <u>silvina.cancelos@upr.edu</u>



Bubble Dynamics Lab University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez



September 23, 2024

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq. Secretary Puerto Rico Department of Housing Barbosa Ave. 606 Building Juan C. Cordero San Juan, PR 00917 Email: W.Rodriguez@vivienda.pr.gov

EPA Response to August 20, 2024 request for information of data on radon testing and levels in Puerto Rico RE:

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodríguez Rodríguez

This communication is in response to your letter of August 20, 2024 addressed to the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) and referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

EPA's National Radon Action Plan 2021–2025 sets a goal for the nation to find, fix and prevent high indoor radon levels in 8 million buildings by 2025 and prevent 3,500 lung cancer deaths per year. Under this Plan, leaders from across multiple sectors are working together to plan, guide, and sustain nationwide action to prevent exposure to radon.

Due to the lack of data in Puerto Rico, EPA undertook an investigation in collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez (UPRM) Campus, Departments of Civil Engineering and Surveying and Mechanical Engineering, to find out if radon presented a problem in Puerto Rico. Up until 2021, the only data we had for Puerto Rico was a 1993-1995 mail-in radon screening study referred to by the U.S. Geological Survey report (USGS, 1995) in which the USGS concluded that several areas of Puetor Rico have the geologic potential to generate indoor radio Heel's exceeding the EPA Action Level of 4 pC/L (piccouries per liter), perhaps locally reaching very high levels above 50 pC/L, if a house construction and

CITY VIEW PLAZA II BUILDING, 7TH FLOOR ROUTE 165 GUAYNABO, PR 00968

ventilation allow for soil-gas radon to enter and concentrate within the structure.¹ According to the USGS report, most of these areas are located in the northwest part of the island. Please note that the actual 1993-1995 study documentation is not available to the EPA.

Typical radon testing technology used in mainland United States (charcal canisters or electric-powered devices) are impractical in Puerto Rico because of high humidity and power outages. The recovery and rebuilding of communities following the aftermath of 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria presented an opportunity to develop radon prevention and mitigation strategies in 2019. Initially, EPA sampled indoor radon air in over 170 single-family residences in the municipalities of San Sebastian. Lares, Cales, Arecibo, Moroxis, Camuy, and Hatillo and later expanded the project to other municipalities such as Rincon, Aguada, Ruadalla, Isabela, Querbardilas, Barceloneta and Vega Baja. The quality assurance protocols were anchored in American National Standards institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and technologist; (ANS/JAARS) Tsathadrads of practice (ANS/JAARS, 2019). The sampling was designed in two stages: scoping and confirmatory sampling. The scoping sampling was conducted using Correntium Home (CH) electronic monitors and Ferm systems. Locations measuring above the EPA Action Level of 4 pC/L with CH were measured at the second stage of the sampling using RAD7 and Corentium Pro Continuous Radon Monitors (CRMS). Nationally certified radon sampling in the second stage. Also, during the study, the nationally certified radon mitigation professionals led by one such professional levels. Typical radon testing technology used in mainland United States (charcoal canisters or electric-powered levels.

Mapping radon in Puerto Rico proved to be a complicated endeavor given the COVID-19 pandemic in Mapping Takon in Planto Nico proves to obe a complexicate encessive given use ComPlantemic tim 2020. EPA and UPAK continue to work on the project, however, results have not been finalized, and no scientific report has been published yet. Unfortunately, EPA cannot share preliminary data this time because it contains privileged information. Nevertheless, preliminary data from the study does show homes with levels over 4 pCr/L (EPA Action Level) that might need mitigation to protect the health of their inhabitants.

Although many states have developed laws and regulations governing radon disclosure, certification, and mitigation, Puerto Rico lacks legislation or mandatory radon testing provisions for new construction, remodeling, setuing or bunying bomes. Given this loophole and aiming to answer your request, the EPA can provide information on Best Management Practices for sampling indoor radon in Puerto Rico.

¹ Reference: USGS. Geologic Radon Potential of Guam and Puerto Rico, Report 93-292-K. Washington, DC: USGS. Retrieved 9/11/2024, from https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1993/0292k/report.pdf. 2

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at 787-977-5865 or guerrero.carmen@epa.gov or have your staff contact Reyes, Brenda at reves.brenda@epa.gov or (787) 977-5869.

Sincerely,
CARMEN
GUERRERO
PEREZ
Carmen R. Guerrero I

Digitally signed by CARMEN GUERRERO PEREZ Date: 2024.09.23 09:41:39 -04'00' Pérez Director

Roberto Mendez, Esq (Acting Secretary, PR Department of Natural and Env. Resources) cc: Melany Medina: mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov Elaine Dume Mejia: Edume@vivienda.pr.gov Luz S Colon Ortiz: <u>Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov</u> Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez: <u>aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov</u>

cesar o. nounguez.	esanounguez@unia.pr.gov	
Marita Rosa Olivares:	maritzarosaolivares@drna.	pr.gov

October 24, 2024

Ms. Mena Division Supervisor Division Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Regional Office 1875 Century Boulevard Atlanta, GA 30345 robert tawes@fws.gov

Dear Ms. Mena:

Horne, on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH), is requesting 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 Small Business Financing project. PR-SBF-03400 is located at Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, PR 00754. The project coordinates are latitude 18.171793, and longitude -65.958758. A map of the project site location can be found in Appendix A, Figure 1.

The proposed project in question, PR-SBF-03400, is requesting funding under the Small Business Financing Program. The impact of hurricanes Maria and Irma to an already declining economy caused small businesses, including microenterprises, to have even less access to critical capital necessary to support the recovery and growth of the small business sector in order to create and retain jobs. The goal of the Small Business Financing program is to promote economic development. The full scope of work for this project is a mobile commercial van, a mobile tractor, a mobile rotary plow, a mobile 40" Zanon, 4 2" irrigation ball valves, 10 2" irrigation clamps, 50 5/8" tape lock couplings, 2 2" oval hoses, a Pega PVC, a T Tape 508-23-450, a 2,000 gallon water tank, a pressurized tank, and a Bomba Jet Wayne well pump. The affixed scope items include the installation of a new irrigation system consisting of a new cistern, a new water pump, a water intake line (which will start at a nearby stream and connect to the cistern), an electrical line connected to existing infrastructure, and irrigation pipes. The cistern, water intake pipe, and irrigation pipes will not require ground anchoring; no ground disturbance is anticipated. New electrical lines will be installed below ground to power the water pump. They will be buried below ground at a depth no greater than 3 feet (0.9 meters [m]). The new water pump will be anchored to the ground surface with two metal bars at a depth of three inches. The Field Observation Form depicting and clarifying the extent and location of project activities, are included in Appendix B. There is no tree clearing required. The area is routinely mowed, and no vegetation removal will occur.

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

Name of the species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate

Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (Patagioenas inornata wetmorei)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered
Guajon (Eleutherodactylus cooki)	Threatened

Critical Habitat	
There are no critical habitats at this location.	

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, we have made the following effects determinations:

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will be implemented
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (Patagioenas inornata wetmorei)	No Effect	N/A
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024
Guajon (Eleutherodactylus cooki)	No Effect	N/A

Critical Habitat
There are no critical habitats at this location.

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the **NE and NLAA** determinations included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our '**No effect' and 'Not Likely to Adversely Affect'** determinations for the listed species. If more information is required, please contact Paige Pilkinton at <u>Paige.Pilkinton@horne.com.</u>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Existing Habitat Conditions at Project Area:

The project area where activities will be taking place consists of approximately 18-acres of land located at Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, PR 00754. According to the U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database (NLCD) (Appendix A, Figure 4) the majority of the project area consists of mostly herbaceous land that is currently cleared. A topographic map is included (see Appendix A, Figure 3). The project is located in Zone X on the FEMA Flood map and ABFE map, panel number 72000C1240J dated 11/18/2009 (see Flood Map Appendix A, Figure 5 and ABFE map Appendix A, Figure 6). A Preliminary FIRM has not been developed for this area. There is a mapped NWI riverine, at the Southeast quadrant of the project activities will not occur within a natural or manmade wetlands and no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated as a result of the project activities (see wetlands map Appendix A, Figure 7).

Species Effects Analysis:

A Species List of Caribbean Ecological Services can be found in Appendix C.

Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (Patagioenas inornata wetmorei)

The Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon is a large pigeon with a shape that can be compared to that of a domestic pigeon (USFWS 2023). The coloring of the pigeon appears to be blue-gray while the head, hindneck, breast, and top central part of the folded wing are washed with a wine-like color. The species was first listed as "endangered" in 1970 and can be found primarily in the Southeast portion of Puerto Rico. The pigeons diet consists of a variety of fruits and seeds, and livestock also provides nourishment for the bird. 70% of the Puerto Rican Plain Pigeons diet comes from foods from tree branches, while the remaining 30% of their food is sourced from the ground. Though it is possible the pigeon exists in the general project site location, the scope of work does not involve any tree clearing (nor are there any trees in the project site itself), and the only ground disturbance will be burying an electrical line on an already-cleared portion of land. The remaining scope of work is the placement and connection of materials in the creation of an above-ground irrigation system. Based on the scope of work for this project, and the landcover, which is made up of cleared, herbaceous vegetation, a 'No Effect' Determination has been made for the Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon.

Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)

Considered to be a habitat generalist, the Puerto Rican Boa tolerates a wide variety of terrestrial and arboreal habitats, including rocky areas, haystack hill, trees and branches, rotting stumps, caves, plantations, various types of forested areas such as karst and mangrove forests, forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges (see Appendix E for citations). The IPaC Determination Key (Dkey) for the Puerto Rican Boa, dated October 22, 2024, was used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on the answers inputted into the DKey along with the scope of work, which does include ground disturbance, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a **"Not Likely To Adversely Affect"** on the Puerto Rican Boa (Appendix C).

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.

Guajon (Eleutherodactylus cooki)

The Guajon, also referred to as the "Rock Frog" and "Robber Frog", is a species native to Puerto Rico that is only found in the Southeast quadrant of the island. (USFWS 2020). This medium-sized frog, averaging 37mm in size, was first categorized as "Threatened" in 1997. This species can be found in cave formations made of plutonic, granitic, or sedimentary rocks as well as forested rocky stream banks covered with ferns, moss and other

vegetation. This moist and humid environment is critical for laying eggs for reproduction. The frog feeds on cockroaches, crickets and other invertebrates like spiders. Based on the answers inputted into the DKey, along with the landcover of the project and proposed scope of work, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a 'No Effect' determination.

Appendix A

Maps

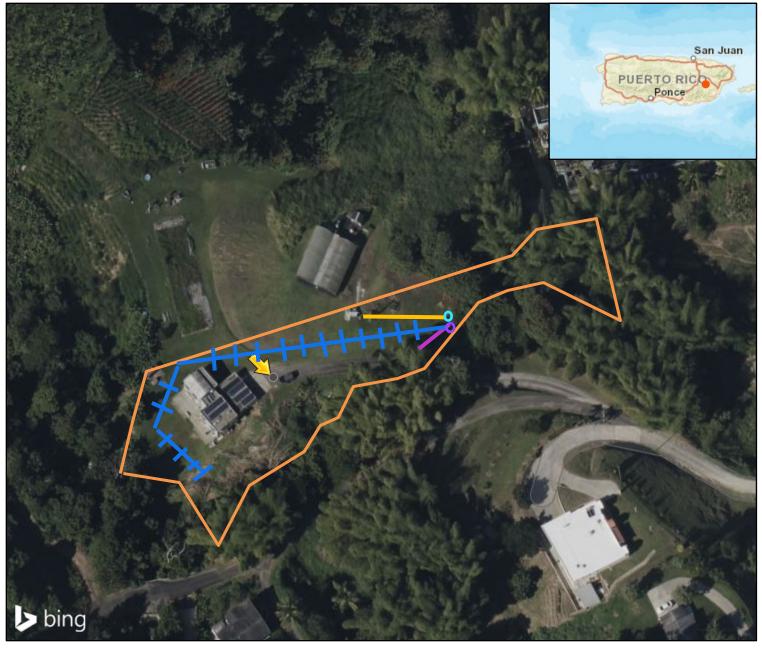
Figure 1

Site Location Map



Agricultura Urbana Inc. Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo San Lorenzo, PR 00754 18.171793, -65.958758

PR-SBF-03400 Site Map



Legend

- parcel boundary
- proposed water tank location
- proposed water pump location
- proposed electrical line route
- proposed irrigation system
- proposed water intake line



PR-SBF-3400

0	0.01	0.02		0.04 mi
1		- 1		1

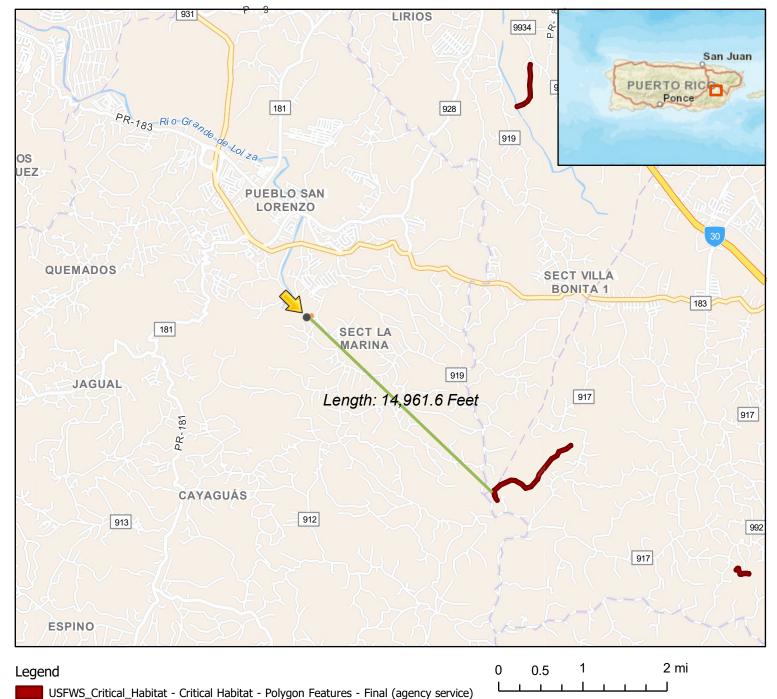
Figure 2

Endangered Species Map



Agricultura Urbana Inc. Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo San Lorenzo, PR 00754 18.171793, -65.958758

PR-SBF-03400 End. Species



Endangered Species Habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Figure 3

Topographic Map

USGS - Topographic Base Puerto Rico Department of Housing Small Business Financing Program

Latitude: 18.171789°N Longitude: 65.95876°W

HORNE DEPARTAMENTO DE LA VIVIENDA



Application ID#: PR-SBF-03400

Address: Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

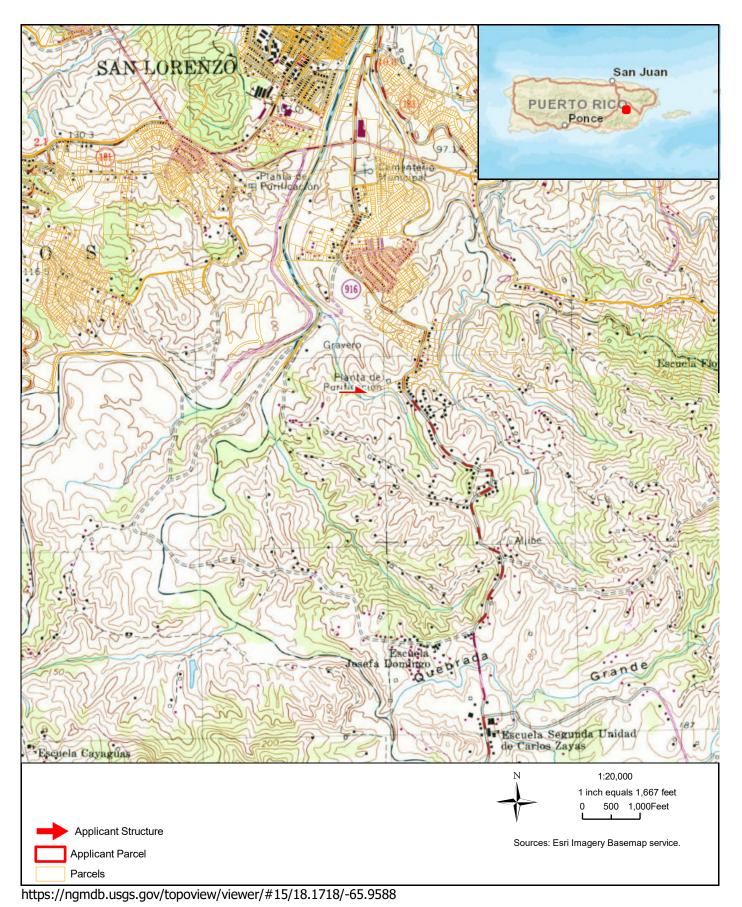


Figure 4

Land Cover Map



PR-SBF-3400 Land Cover Map

Legend



Map Details

Datasets



National Land Cover Database, land cover - Puerto Rico https://databasin.org/datasets/e95aa06e05624f3087559eca884db034/

Credits:USGS National Land Cover Database 2001Layers:Iayer1

PR-SBF-3400 Agricultura Urbana Inc. Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo San Lorenzo, PR 00754 18.171793, -65.958758 Figure 5

Flood Map



Agricultura Urbana Inc. Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo San Lorenzo, PR 00754 18.171793, -65.958758

PR-SBF-03400 Flood Map



Legend	0 0.01 0.02 0.04 mi
FEMA Flood Zones - Effective	
1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard	
Kegulatory Floodway	
XX Special Floodway	
Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard	
0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard	FEMA Map Service
Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
Mrea with Reduced Risk Due to Levee	
X, Area of Minimal Flood Hazard	
FEMA Flood Zone Panel	

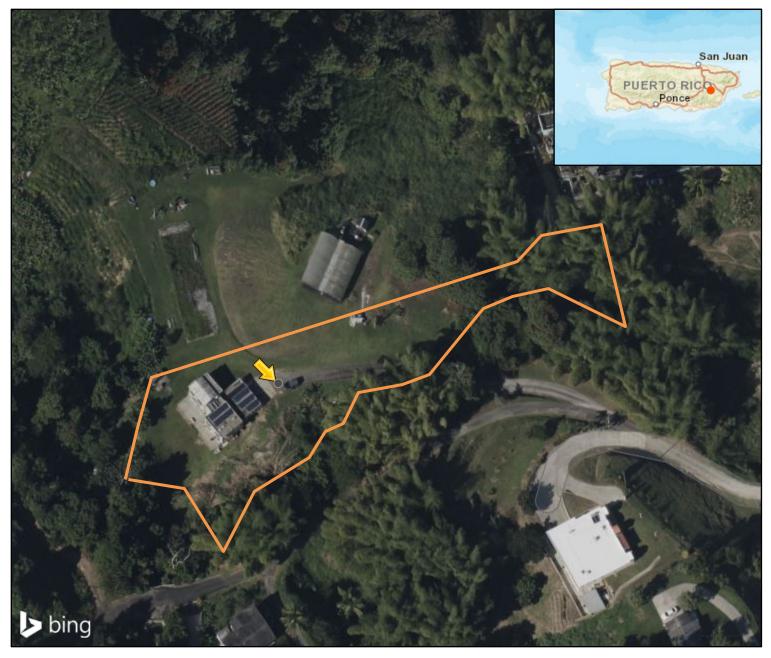
Figure 6

ABFE



Agricultura Urbana Inc. Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo San Lorenzo, PR 00754 18.171793, -65.958758

PR-SBF-03400 ABFE



Legend		0	0.01	0.0	2		0.04	mi
A	Coastal A Zone and Floodway		 		I	 		
AO	Zone/BFE Boundary							
AE	1% Annual Chance Flood							
Coastal A Zone	0.2% Annual Chance Flood							
VE	Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA)							
0.2% Annual Chance Flood Zone	Advisory Base Flood Elevation (zoom in to make visible)							
A-Floodway	Streamline (zoom in to make visible)					FEM	А Мар	Service
AE-Floodway								
							ABF	E 1PCT

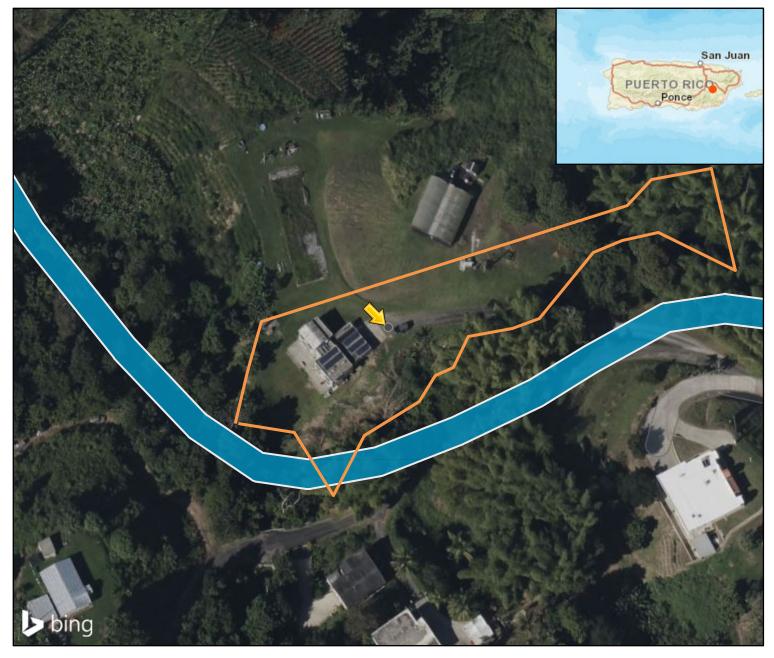
Figure 7

Wetlands Map



Agricultura Urbana Inc. Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo San Lorenzo, PR 00754 18.171793, -65.958758

PR-SBF-03400 Wetlands



Legend

Freshwater Pond

Riverine

0 0.01 0.02 0.04 mi

National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Appendix **B**

Field Observation Report



CDBG-DR PROGRAM

Small Business Financing (SBF) Program

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

APPLICATION GENERA	L INFORMATION		
Application No.:	PR-SBF-03400	Applicant Name:	Agricultura Urbana Inc.
PROPERTY INFORMATIO			
	N		

Property Address:

Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Latitude:	18.17179	Longitude:	-65.95876
Property Type:	Farm	Year Built:	2012
Number of Buildings:	1	Are Utilities Connected?	Yes

Property Remarks:

There is a structure on the property. This structure is not associated with the scope of work. Photos of the route of the proposed irrigation lines have been provided.

Is there evidence of damage from a previous disaster?

No

Damage Remarks:

Click or tap here to enter text.

SIGNATURES OF INSPECTION REPORT

Mar

Environmental Inspector:

Blas Guernica Printed Name

Signature	

12-06-2023

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS

Item	Observation	Remarks
Are there any signs of poor housekeeping on the site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, or solid waste or improperly stored household quantifies of petroleum products, pesticides, paints, thinners, cleaning fluids, automotive batteries, damaged, abandoned, and/or dangerous vehicles or other motorized equipment; pits, pools, lagoons, or ponds of hazardous substances or petroleum products located on the site)	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any 55-gallon drums or containers visible on the site?	⊠ Yes □ No	There are 14 55-Gallon drums that provide water for a hydroponic system within the greenhouse on the property.
If drums located, are they leaking?	□ N/A □ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any signs of petroleum underground storage tanks (PUSTs) on the site?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any UST locations visible from the site?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any signs of above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) on the site, or immediate adjacent visible sites?	⊠ Yes □ No	There is an air compressor, four propane tanks (two of which are empty) and four cisterns.
Are there any signs of surface staining?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any ground water monitoring or injection wells on the site?	⊠ Yes □ No	There is a septic tank on the property.
Is there evidence of a faulty septic system on the site?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site? (Do not include run-off or ponding from recent weather events.)	⊠ Yes □ No	There is a small stream.
Is there any distressed vegetation on the site?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Does the subject lot have water frontage?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is there any visible apparent indication of other environmental conditions?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is there any visible apparent evidence of lead-based paint or hazardous materials present in the structure?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there other unusual conditions on site? (Explain in attached supporting material. Please take photographs, if possible.)	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is the structure 45 years or older?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is the applicant aware of any significant historical events or persons associated with the structure; or does the home have a historic marker?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	

REQUIRED PHOTOS



Front of Structure



Entrance to Property



Route of Irrigation Line



Route of Irrigation Line

PHOTOS OF RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (add additional pages as necessary)



Route of Irrigation Line



Route of Irrigation Line





Aerial Route of Irrigation Line

55-Gallon Drums

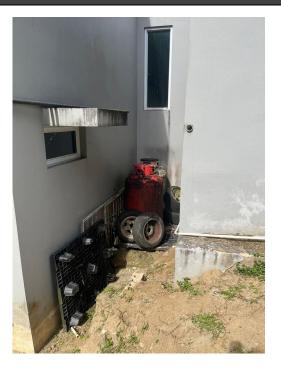
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS (add additional pages as necessary)





55-Gallon Drums





ASTs



AST

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS (add additional pages as necessary)





AST

ASTs





ASTs

AST

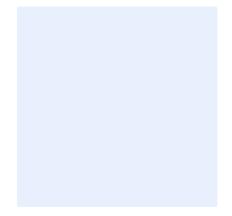




Septic Tank

Stream





Appendix C

USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation



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: Project code: 2025-0009244 Project Name: PR-SBF-03400 10/22/2024 16:11:27 UTC

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-SBF-03400' 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 October 22, 2024, Chris Rickard used the Caribbean DKey; dated April 03, 2024, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online <u>IPaC application</u> to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-SBF-03400'. The project is located in San Lorenzo County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1718082,-65.9587257076187,14z</u>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-SBF-03400':

The proposed project will be funded by the SBF Small Business Financing program. The proposed project, a farm located in San Lorenzo, PR, at latitude 18.171793, and longitude -65.958758, includes the installation of a new irrigation system consisting of a new cistern, a new water pump, a water intake line (which will start at a nearby stream and connect to the cistern), an electrical line connected to existing infrastructure, and irrigation pipes. The cistern, water intake pipe, and irrigation pipes will not require ground anchoring; no ground disturbance is anticipated. Electrical lines will be buried below ground at no more than 3 feet (ft; 0.9 meters [m]). The new water pump will be anchored to the ground surface with two metal bars at a depth of three inches.

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:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Guajon (Eleutherodactylus cooki)	Threatened	No effect
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered	No 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 Plain Pigeon Patagioenas inornata wetmorei Endangered

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-SBF-03400

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-SBF-03400':

The proposed project will be funded by the SBF Small Business Financing program. The proposed project, a farm located in San Lorenzo, PR, at latitude 18.171793, and longitude -65.958758, includes the installation of a new irrigation system consisting of a new cistern, a new water pump, a water intake line (which will start at a nearby stream and connect to the cistern), an electrical line connected to existing infrastructure, and irrigation pipes. The cistern, water intake pipe, and irrigation pipes will not require ground anchoring; no ground disturbance is anticipated. Electrical lines will be buried below ground at no more than 3 feet (ft; 0.9 meters [m]). The new water pump will be anchored to the ground surface with two metal bars at a depth of three inches.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1718082,-65.9587257076187,14z</u>



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*

11. Does the proposed project intersect the Coquí Guajón area of influence?

Automatically answered Yes

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Horne LLP Name: Chris Rickard Address: 10000 Perkins Rowe, Building G Baton Rouge City: State: LA Zip: 70810 Email chris.rickard@horne.com Phone: 7062063592

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development



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: Project Code: 2025-0009244 Project Name: PR-SBF-03400 10/22/2024 16:08:08 UTC

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 FOLLOWING SPECIES LIST IS NOT A SECTION 7 CONSULTATION. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE TO COMPLETE THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The purpose of the Endangered Species Act (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 those species and/or their designated critical habitat.

Federal agencies are required to "request of the Secretary of Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action". The enclosed species list provides information to assist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) consultation process under section 7 of the Act. However, **the enclosed species list does not complete the required consultation process.** The species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and designated critical habitats, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. A discussion between the Federal agency and the Service should include what types of listed species may occur in the proposed action area and what effect the proposed action may have on those species. This process initiates informal consultation.

Once a species list is obtained for the proposed project, an effect determination for endangered and threatened species should be made. The applicant could make an effect determination by using available keys on IPaC for specific species. For species with no determination keys, the applicant should request concurrence from the Service by sending a project package to <u>caribbean_es@fws.gov</u>. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/consultation-under-section-7-of-theendangered-species-act-with-the-caribbean-ecological%20Services-field-office-templateletter.pdf

When a federal agency, after discussions with the Service, determines that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any listed species, or adversely modify any designated critical habitat, and the Service concurs, the informal consultation is complete, and the proposed project moves ahead. If the proposed action is suspected to affect a listed species or modify designated critical habitat, the Federal agency may then prepare a Biological Assessment (B.A.) to assist in its determination of the project's effects on species and their habitat. However, a B.A. 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 B.A. where the agency provides the Service with an evaluation on the likely effects of the action to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a B.A. are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a federal agency determines, based on its B.A. or biological evaluation, that listed species and/ or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to further 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 process. 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-consultationhandbook.pdf

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.

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". Please use this list to determine whether your project requires consultation and to make your effects determination. For more guidance, use the Guideline for Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office by clicking here.

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office caribbean_es@fws.gov Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 (786) 244-0081

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

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: 2025-0009244 **Project Name:** PR-SBF-03400 **Project Type:** Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural Project Description: The proposed project will be funded by the SBF Small Business Financing program. The proposed project, a farm located in San Lorenzo, PR, at latitude 18.171793, and longitude -65.958758, includes the installation of a new irrigation system consisting of a new cistern, a new water pump, a water intake line (which will start at a nearby stream and connect to the cistern), an electrical line connected to existing infrastructure, and irrigation pipes. The cistern, water intake pipe, and irrigation pipes will not require ground anchoring; no ground disturbance is anticipated. Electrical lines will be buried below ground at no more than 3 feet (ft; 0.9 meters [m]). The new water pump will be anchored to the ground surface with two metal bars at a depth of three inches.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1718082,-65.9587257076187,14z</u>



Counties: San Lorenzo County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 3 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.

STATUS

Endangered

BIRDS

Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon Patagioenas inornata wetmorei No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7955</u>

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/A45XPRX5K5G3BGHG3QJYHDDP7M/	

documents/generated/7159.pdf

AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
Guajon Eleutherodactylus cooki	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/6963	
General project design guidelines:	
https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/A45XPRX5K5G3BGHG3QJYHDDP7M/	
documents/generated/7136.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.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act^1 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act^2 .

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the <u>"Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"</u>.

- 1. The <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> of 1940.
- 2. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

THERE ARE NO BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF YOUR PROJECT AREA.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the <u>"Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"</u>.

- 1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
- 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

THERE ARE NO FWS MIGRATORY BIRDS OF CONCERN WITHIN THE VICINITY OF YOUR PROJECT AREA.

WETLANDS

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

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

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

RIVERINE

• R2UBH

FRESHWATER POND
• PUBH

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency:Horne LLPName:Chris RickardAddress:10000 Perkins Rowe, Building GCity:Baton RougeState:LAZip:70810Emailchris.rickard@horne.comPhone:7062063592

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

Appendix D Species

Conservation

Measures

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

Puerto Rican Boa

Generated August 01, 2024 02:11 PM UTC, IPaC v6.112.0-rc2



IPaC - Information for Planning and Consultation (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/): A project planning tool to help streamline the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service environmental review process.

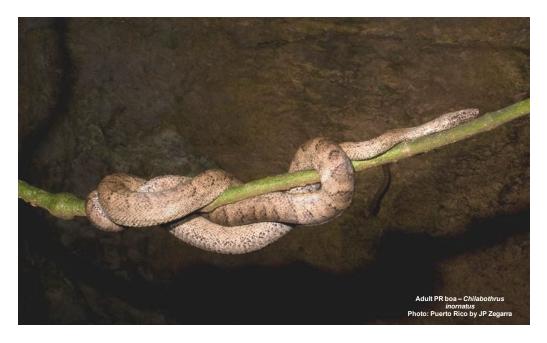


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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.



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.
- 2. 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.
- 10. 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
 - Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 - Email: jan_zegarra@fws.gov
 - o Office phone (786) 933-1451

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office General Project Design Guidelines - Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk and 4 more species

Appendix E

Literature Cited

Literature Cited:

Maps: Data basin. Maps | Data Basin. (n.d.). https://databasin.org/maps/new/#datasets=e95aa06e05624f3087559eca884db034

2023a. Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC). Available at: http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/. Accessed October 2024.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (n.d.). Fact Sheets. Caribbean Endangered and Threatened Animals. Sea Grant Puerto Rico.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2011. Puerto Rican Boa (Epicratesinornatus) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region. Boquerón, Puerto Rico.



CDBG-DR PROGRAM

Small Business Financing (SBF) Program

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

Application General Information			
Application No.:	PR-SBF-03400	Applicant Name:	Agricultura Urbana Inc.
PROPERTY INFORMATION			
Duran and a Ardaharan			

Property Address:

Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Latitude:	18.17179	Longitude:	-65.95876
Property Type:	Farm	Year Built:	2012
Number of Buildings:	1	Are Utilities Connected?	Yes

Property Remarks:

There is a structure on the property. This structure is not associated with the scope of work. Photos of the route of the proposed irrigation lines have been provided.

Is there evidence of damage from a previous disaster?

No

Damage Remarks:

Click or tap here to enter text.

SIGNATURES OF INSPECTION REPORT

NAS.

Environmental Inspector:

Blas Guernica Printed Name

Signature

12-06-2023

Date

Environmental Observations		
Item	Observation	Remarks
Are there any signs of poor housekeeping on the site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, or solid waste or improperly stored household quantities of petroleum products, pesticides, paints, thinners, cleaning fluids, automotive batteries, damaged, abandoned, and/or dangerous vehicles or other motorized equipment; pits, pools, lagoons, or ponds of hazardous substances or petroleum products located on the site)	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any 55-gallon drums or containers visible on the site?	⊠ Yes □ No	There are 14 55-Gallon drums that provide water for a hydroponic system within the greenhouse on the property.
If drums located, are they leaking?	□ N/A □ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any signs of petroleum underground storage tanks (PUSTs) on the site?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any UST locations visible from the site?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any signs of above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) on the site, or immediate adjacent visible sites?	⊠ Yes □ No	There is an air compressor, four propane tanks (two of which are empty) and four cisterns.
Are there any signs of surface staining?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there any ground water monitoring or injection wells on the site?	⊠ Yes □ No	There is a septic tank on the property.
Is there evidence of a faulty septic system on the site?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site? (Do not include run-off or ponding from recent weather events.)	⊠ Yes □ No	There is a small stream.
Is there any distressed vegetation on the site?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Does the subject lot have water frontage?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is there any visible apparent indication of other environmental conditions?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is there any visible apparent evidence of lead-based paint or hazardous materials present in the structure?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Are there other unusual conditions on site? (Explain in attached supporting material. Please take photographs, if possible.)	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is the structure 45 years or older?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Is the applicant aware of any significant historical events or persons associated with the structure; or does the home have a historic marker?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	

REQUIRED PHOTOS



Front of Structure



Entrance to Property



Route of Irrigation Line



Route of Irrigation Line

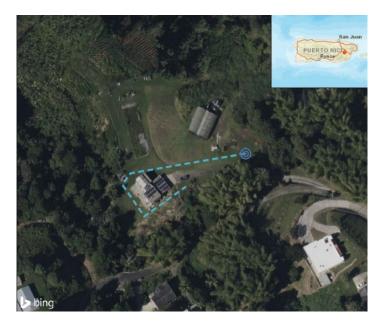
PHOTOS OF RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (add additional pages as necessary)



Route of Irrigation Line



Route of Irrigation Line





Aerial Route of Irrigation Line

55-Gallon Drums

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS (add additional pages as necessary)





55-Gallon Drums





ASTs



AST





AST

ASTs





ASTs

AST





Septic Tank

Stream





GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

February 27, 2024

Lauren Bair Poche

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

SHPO-CF-02-21-24-05 SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL: PR-SBF-03400 – AGRICULTURA URBANA INC. – CARR. 916, KM 2.0, BARRIO CERRO GORDO, SAN LORENZO, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Poche,

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,

Carly apentir

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB



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



February 21, 2024

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 Program: Small Business Financing Program (SBF)

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal – Case PR-SBF-03400, Agricultura Urbana Inc., Carr. Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected*

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, HORNE is providing information for your review and requesting your concurrence regarding the above-referenced projects on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) and the Home Repair, Reconstruction, or Relocation (R3) Program. On February 9, 2018, an allocation of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds was approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 28, 83 FR 5844, to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in meeting unmet needs in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. On August 14, 2018, an additional \$8.22 billion recovery allocation was allocated to Puerto Rico 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 for the Small Business Financing Program (SBF), the Economic Development Bank for Puerto Rico, we are submitting documentation for the proposed improvements to the property at Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo in the municipality of San Lorenzo. The proposed improvements by Agricultura Urbana Inc. are the installation of a new irrigation system consisting of a new cistern, a new water pump, a water intake line (which will start at a nearby stream and connect to the cistern), an electrical line connected to existing infrastructure, and irrigation pipes. The cistern, water intake pipe, and irrigation pipes will not require ground anchoring; no ground disturbance is anticipated. It has not been determined if the electric line will be installed below ground or as an aerial. If the line location is below ground, the anticipated ground disturbance will be no more than 3 feet (ft; 0.9 meters [m]). The new water pump will be anchored to the ground surface with two metal bars at a depth of three inches (in; 7.62 centimeters [cm]).



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

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

Kindest regards,

Januan B. Pocke

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A. Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager LBP/JLE

Attachments



Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400

Applicant: Agricultura Urbana Inc.

Project Location: Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo, San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico, 00754		
Project Coordinates: 18.171793, -65.958758		
TPID (Número de Catastro): 278-047-337-38-000		
Substantial Repair/Improvements		
Property Size (acres): 1		
-		

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.		
Date Reviewed: 2/20/2024		
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jennifer Ort, M.S.		
Date Reviewed: 1/19/2024		

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Program is responsible for identifying historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (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)

Agricultura Urbana Inc.'s proposed activities include installing a new irrigation system consisting of a new cistern, a new water pump, a water intake line, which will start at a nearby stream and connect to the cistern, an electrical line connected to existing infrastructure, and irrigation pipes. The cistern, water intake pipe (water will be taken from a nearby stream), and irrigation pipes will not require ground anchoring; no ground disturbance is anticipated. It has not been determined if the electric line will be installed below ground or as an aerial. If the line location is below ground, the anticipated ground disturbance will be no more than 3 feet (ft; 0.9 meters [m]). The new water pump will be anchored to the ground surface with two metal bars at a depth of three inches (in; 7.62 centimeters [cm]).

The project area is located at Carretera 916, Km 2.0, Bo. Cerro Gordo within the Municipality of San Lorenzo in a residential setting. Based on historical aerial imagery and topographic mapping review, the project area, situated in hilly terrain, is seemingly devoid of structures, although some roads are visible; side slopes and ridge tops were cleared of vegetation, with most vegetation visible with the small valleys (1940 aerial imagery, the earliest available aerial imagery). By 1962 through 1977, aerial imagery shows some

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF) Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400	
Applicant: Agricultura Urbana Inc.	

residential growth was evident along Carretera 916; the project area is within an open field. The project area remained unchanged until the first appearance of the building associated with the farm in 2010.

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 entire parcel boundary. The Indirect/Visual APE is defined as the viewshed of the proposed project.

Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information was completed by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology (36 CFR Part 61), shows two significant cultural properties within a half-mile (mi) radius of the project location. The Rosa Julia Site (SL-28), a Pre-Columbian and Historical site, is located 0.32 miles (0.52 kilometers [km]) west of the project area. The Bosque Llano Site (SY0100031), a Pre-Columbian Site consisting of Ostiones style ceramics and lithics, is located 0.47 mi (0.75 km) northeast of the project area.

The proposed project is a residential area within the southern portion of the Mountainous Interior physiographic zone at an elevation of 406 ft (123.7 m) above modern sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses two mapped soil series: Pandura sandy loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes (PaE) in the northern half of the APE, and Pandura sandy loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes (PaF) in the southern half. The closest freshwater source is an unnamed Río Grande De Loiza tributary, located 0.02 mi (0.04 km) south of the project area. It is this unnamed stream that the water intake pipe will be in. The southern coast is approximately 14.7 mi (22 km) from the project area.

Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review



Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400

Applicant: Agricultura Urbana Inc.

of this existing information by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61) shows that the project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center.

Determination

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

- Direct Effect:
 - o n/a
- Indirect Effect:
 - o n/a

Based on our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that the project area is not within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. No known archaeological sites or NRHP-listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel where the Area of Potential Effect of case PR-SBF-03400 is located. The closest freshwater is 0.02 mi (0.04 km) south of the project area. Agricultural activities have impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.



Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400

Applicant: Agricultura Urbana Inc.

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):

 \Box 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.

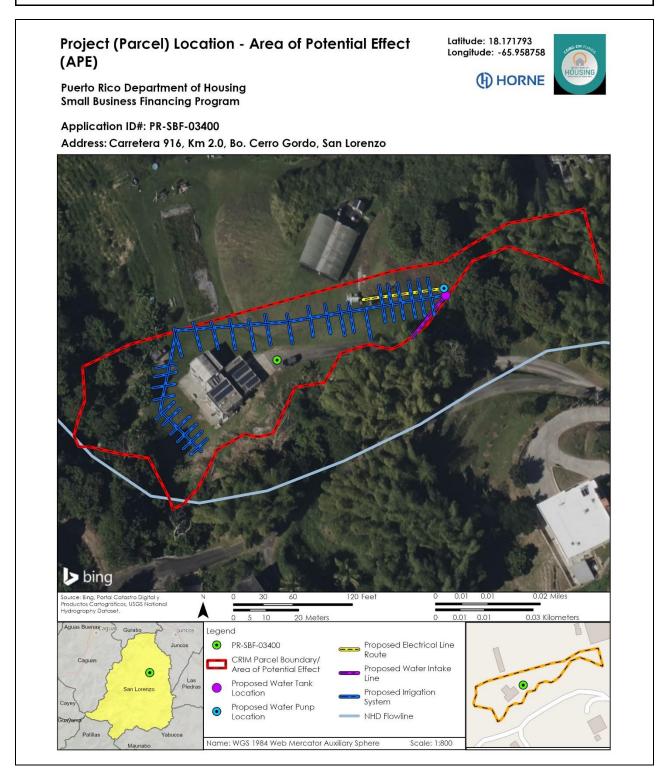
Comments:

Carlos Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer Date:



Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400

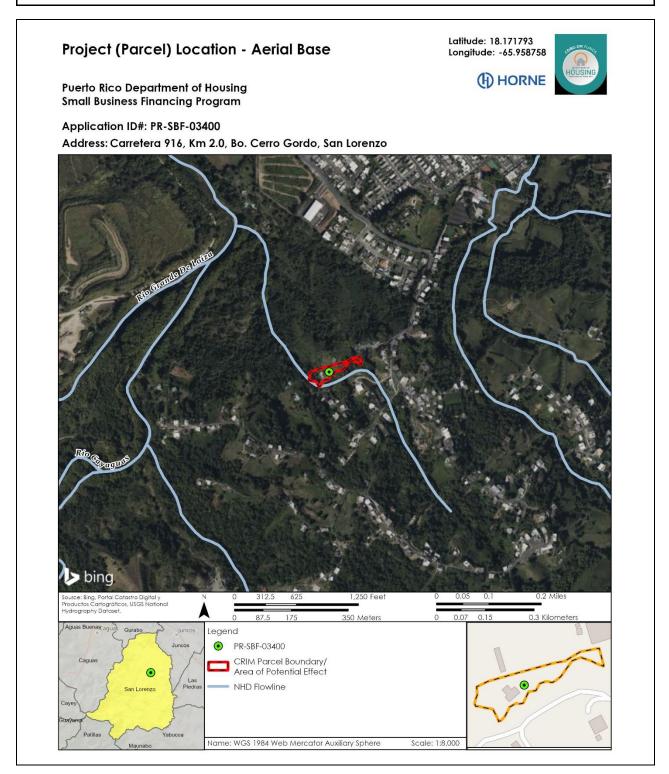
Applicant: Agricultura Urbana Inc.





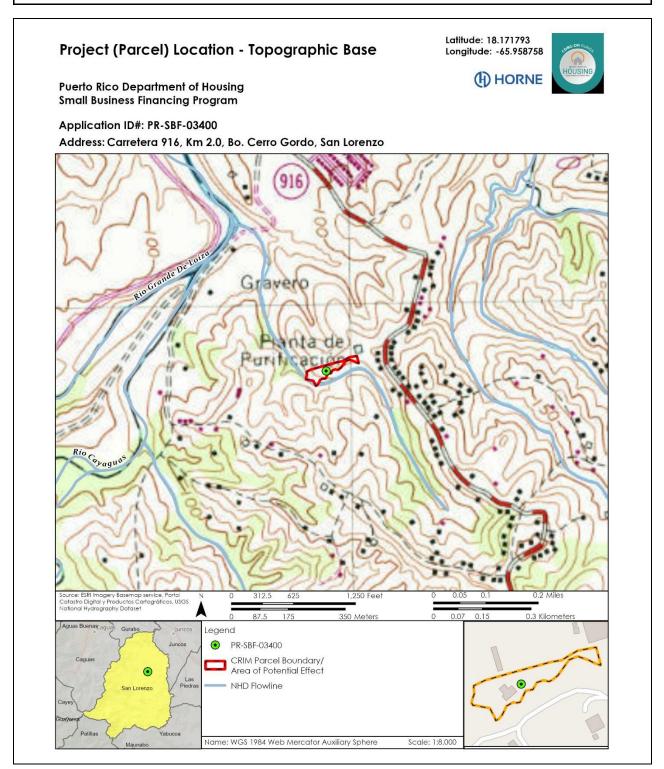
Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400

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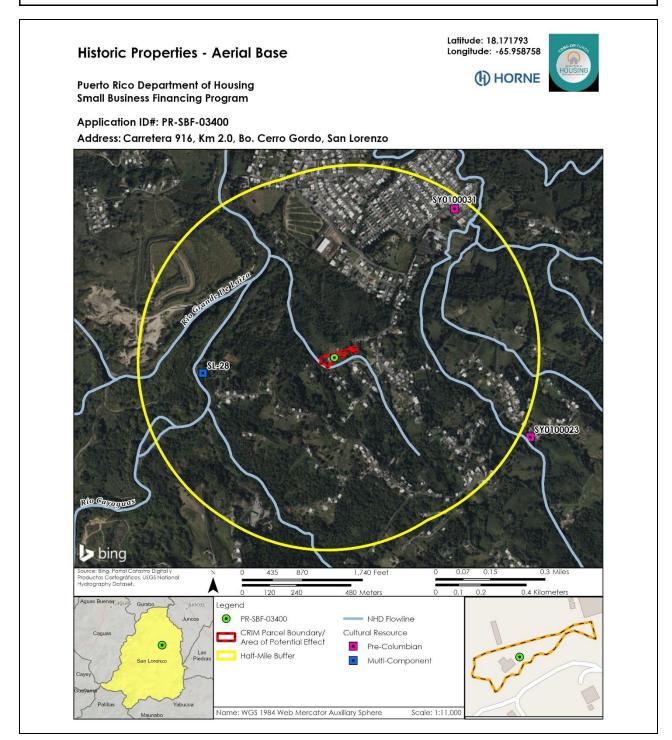


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Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400

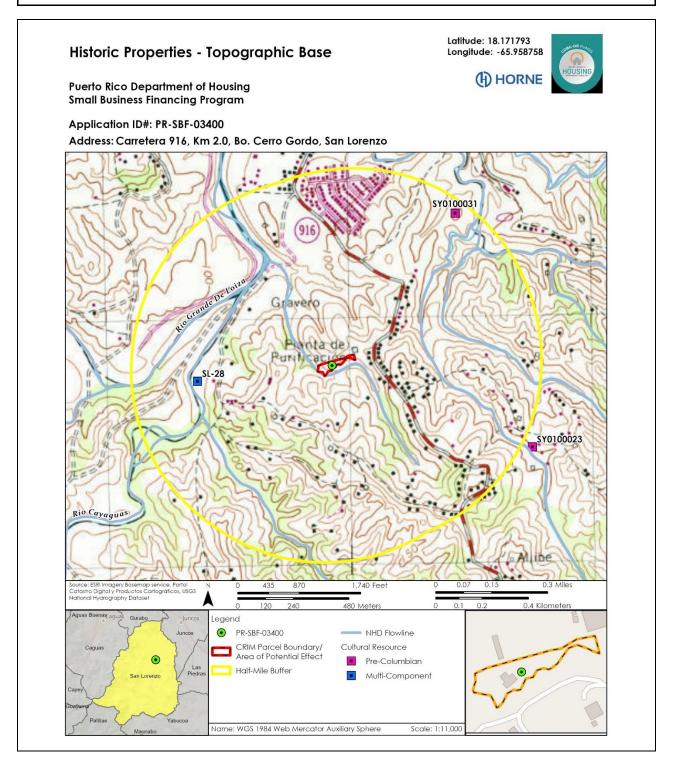
Applicant: Agricultura Urbana Inc.



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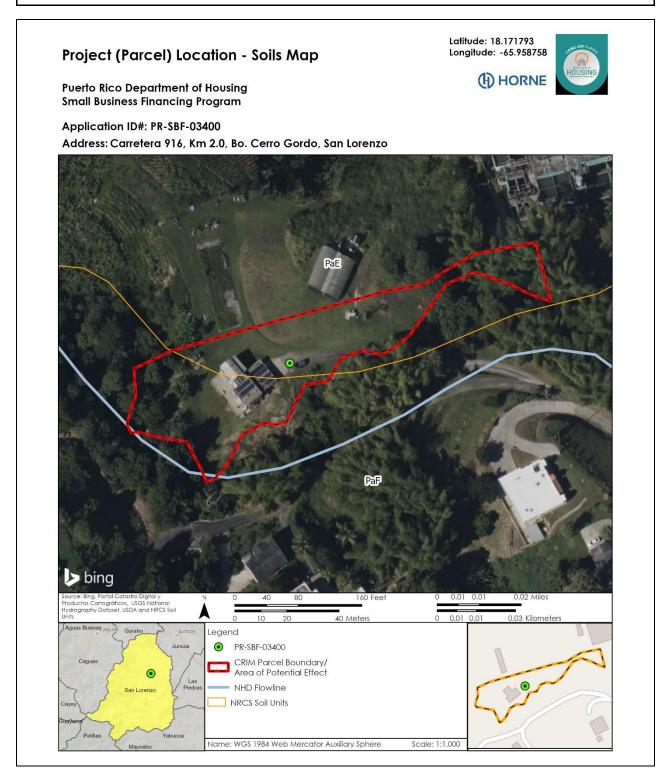
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Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400

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GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400

Applicant: Agricultura Urbana Inc.

Photo #: 1 Date: 10/25/2023	Description (include direction): Overview of the proposed new irrigation system water tank (right) and water pump (left), looking northeast.
Photo #: 2	Description (include direction): Property Overview.
Date: 10/10/2023	



Program ID Number: PR-SBF-03400

Applicant: Agricultura Urbana Inc.

Photo #: 3	Description (include direction): Property Overview.
Date: 10/10/2023	
Photo #: 4	Description (include direction): Property Overview.
Date: 10/10/2023	





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.

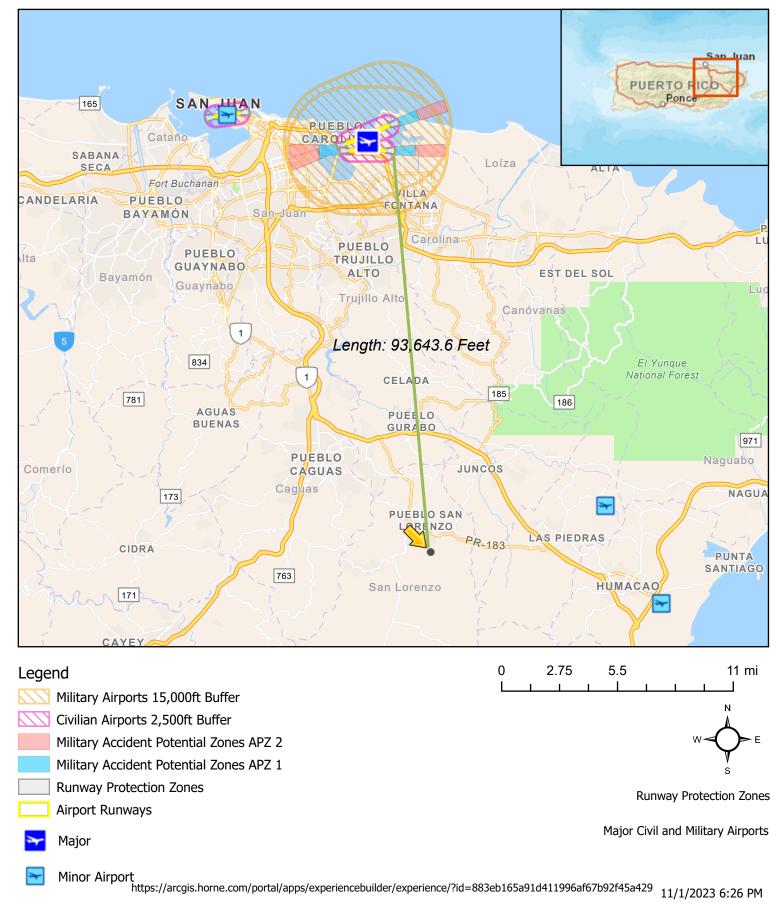
Cordially,

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

CDBG-DR FUNDS I HOUSING

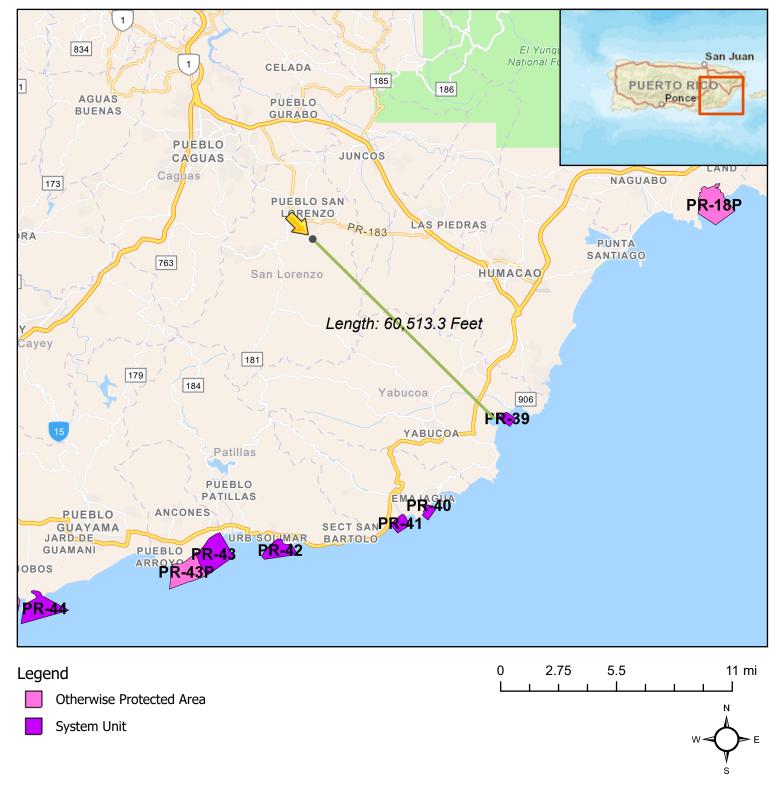


PR-SBF-03400 Airports





PR-SBF-03400 CBRS



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program



PR-SBF-03400 CZM

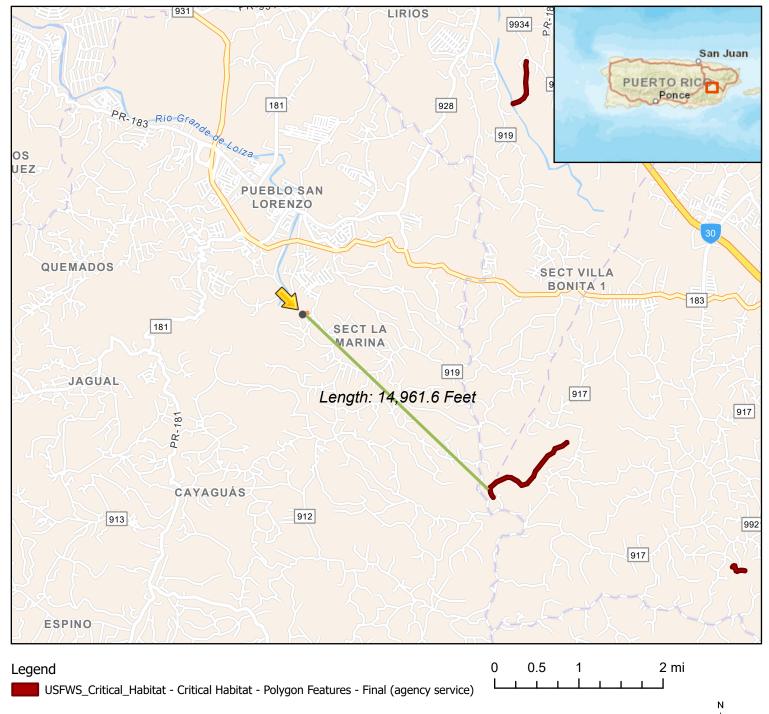




Coastal Zone Management Act



PR-SBF-03400 End. Species



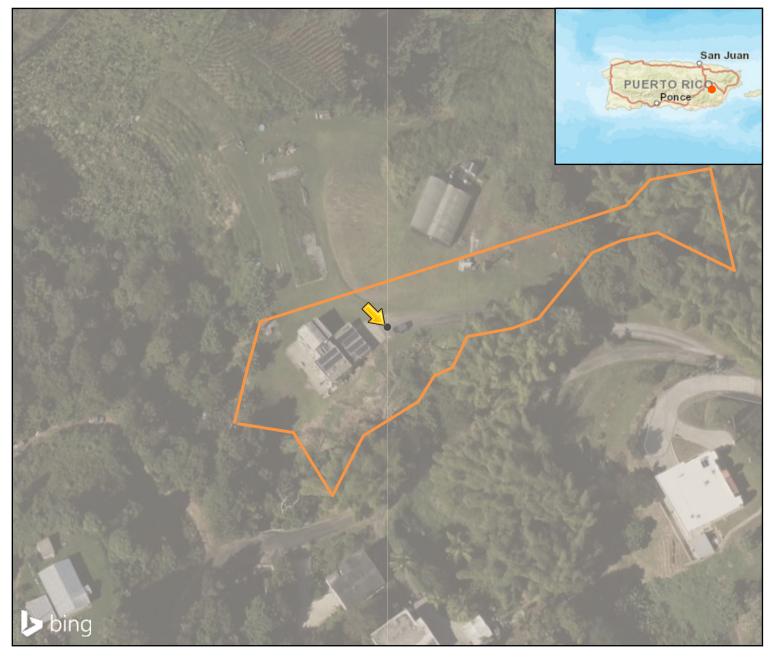


Endangered Species Habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



PR-SBF-03400 Farmlands



Legend



0 0.01 0.02 0.04 mi $V \rightarrow V$ USGS USA Soils

Farmland dataset



PR-SBF-03400 FIRM



Legend	0 0.01 0.02 0.04 mi
FEMA Flood Zones - Effective	<u> </u>
1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard	Ä
Kegulatory Floodway	₩ -{() ≻ E
Special Floodway	Ť
Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard	S
0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard	FEMA Map Service
Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
Mrea with Reduced Risk Due to Levee	
X, Area of Minimal Flood Hazard	
FEMA Flood Zone Panel	

https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd



PR-SBF-03400 Historic



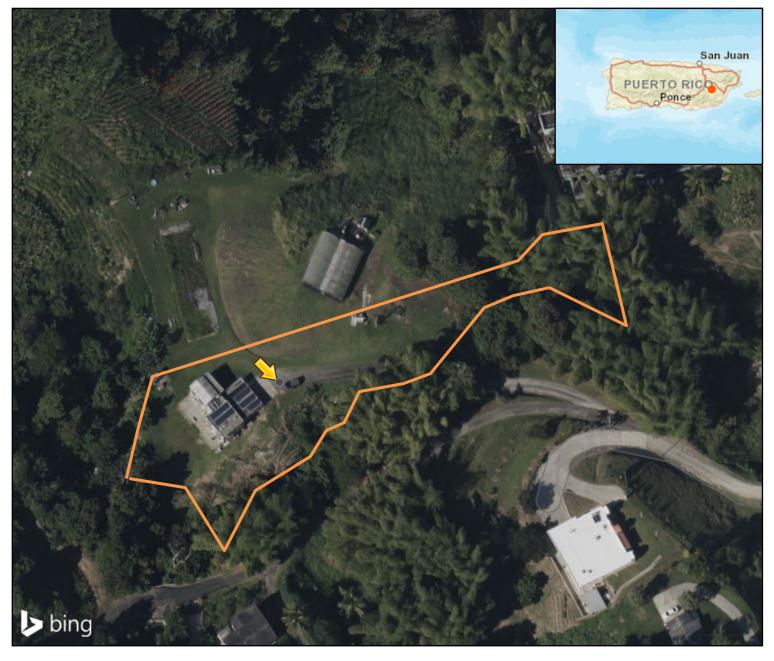
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National Register of Historic Places

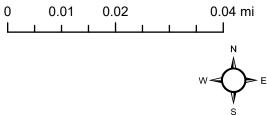
Local Historic Areas digitized by Horne



PR-SBF-03400 Site Map

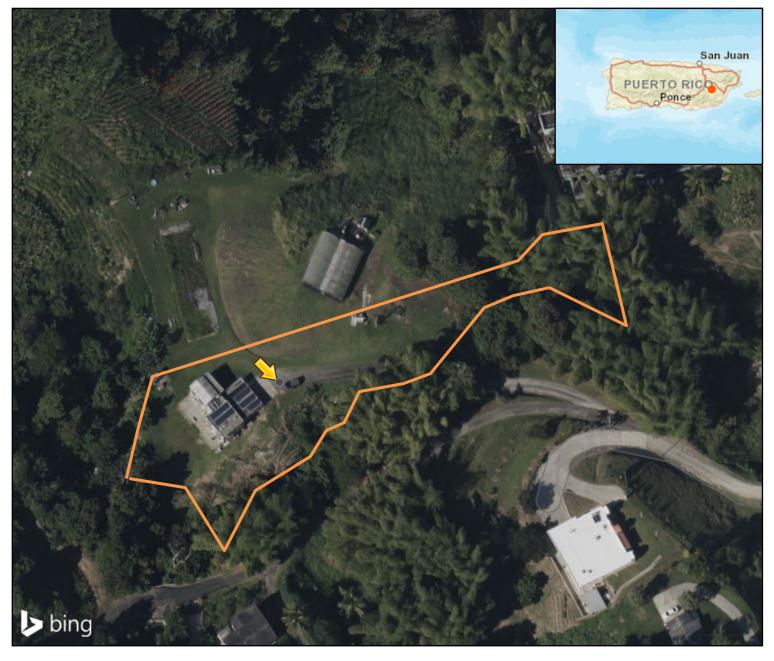


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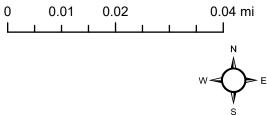




PR-SBF-03400 Site Map

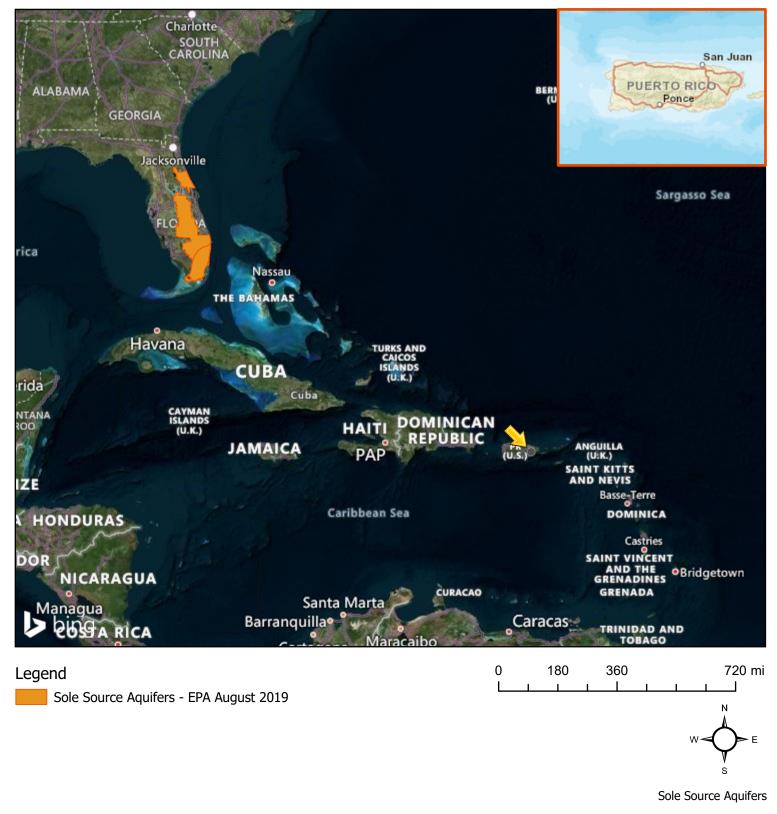


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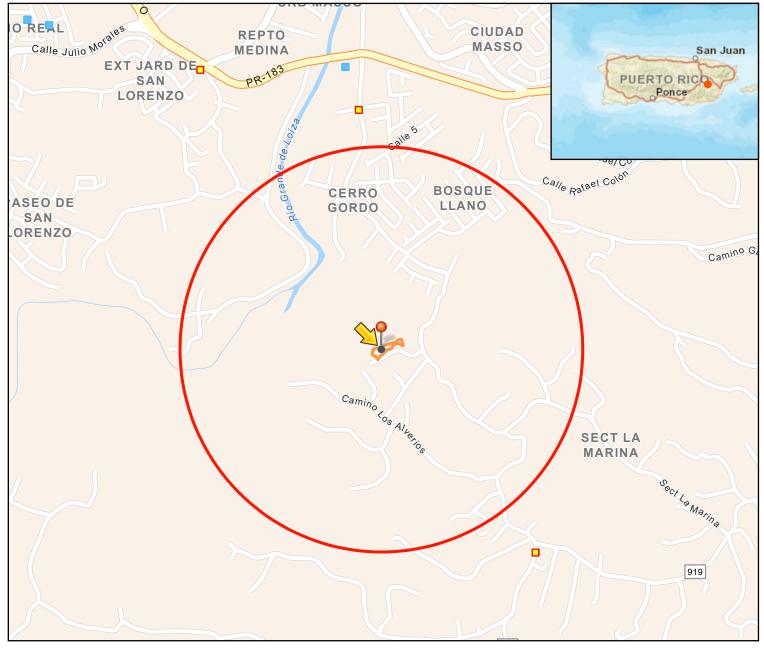


PR-SBF-03400 SSA





PR-SBF-03400 Toxics



Legend

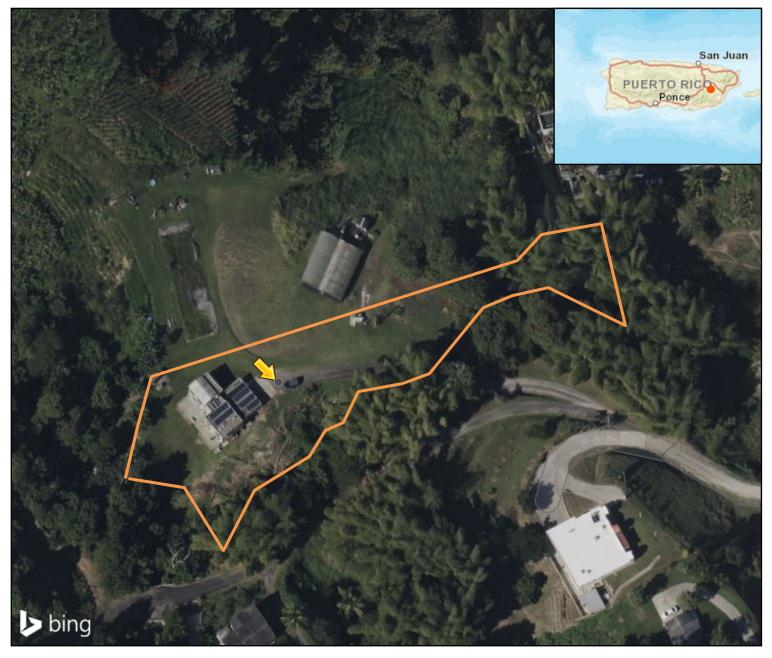
- Hazardous waste
- Water dischargers

0 0.17 0.35 0.7 mi $V \rightarrow V \rightarrow V$

Envirofacts Facility Locations



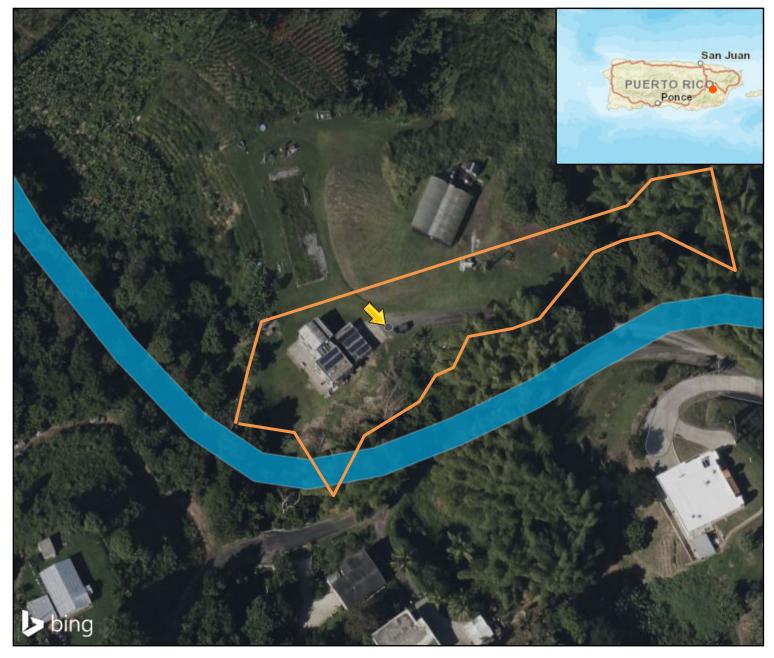
PR-SBF-03400 ABFE



0.01 0.02 0.04 mi Legend 0 Coastal A Zone and Floodway Α AO Zone/BFE Boundary AE 1% Annual Chance Flood Coastal A Zone 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA) VE 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Zone -- Advisory Base Flood Elevation (zoom in to make visible) A-Floodway - Streamline (zoom in to make visible) FEMA Map Service AE-Floodway ABFE 1PCT



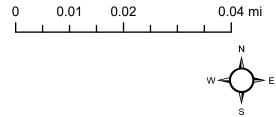
PR-SBF-03400 Wetlands



Legend

Freshwater Pond

Riverine



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



PR-SBF-03400 Wild and Scenic



National Wild and Scenic River System

National Park Service