

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-RGRW-02368-W

HEROS Number: 90000010473433

Start Date: 05/28/2025

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , Salinas, PR 00704

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 17.972531, longitude -66.282785 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 417-000-008-36-000

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

This project (PR-RGRW-02368-W) entails the award of a grant to All Green Organic Culture, LLC, an agricultural business, at Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas PR, 00704. Tax ID Number: 417-000-008-36-000. Coordinates (latitude 17.972531, longitude -66.282785). The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-02368 consist of the purchase and installation of a 40' x 8 feet Greenery Container for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The container will be used for protected cultivation, a process of growing crops in a controlled environment (where factors such as light, CO2, temperature/humidity, and airflow are regulated) and includes cultivation in vertical farming and greenhouses where environmental factors are tightly controlled. Because CEA grows crops indoors, it is labor-saving, allows for the reduced use of pesticides, and can be set up just about anywhere. The container will be anchored to 8 supports buried 2 feet deep. The little water needed (5 gallons of water per day) for cultivation will be taken from an existing PRASA water intake on the property. The line to supply the water to the greenhouse will be underground so it will involve ground disturbance measuring approximately 33 linear feet and approximately 3 feet deep. The power needed to operate the module will come from an existing PREPA/LUMA connection and the line to supply the power to the greenhouse will be buried approximately 3 feet deep, measuring approximately 35 linear feet. Since the system recycles the water, every 3 months the system must be cleaned disposing approximately 50 gallon of water that could be used for irrigation. No sewer connection is required for any discharge from the module. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years. The project All Green Organic Culture, LLC, PR-RGRW-02368-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

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: \$100,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$100,000.00

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, Mitigation Mea Authority, or Factor	sure or Condition Comment Completed	s on Complete I Measures
------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	-----------------------------

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
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)).
Prepar	er Signature:
Respo	/ Title/ Organization: Ianmario Heredia / Department of Housing - Puerto Rico
Name/	Title: Pedro A. de León 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-RGRW-02368-W

HEROS Number: 90000010473433

Start Date: 05/28/2025

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

State / Local Identifier:

RE Preparer: Ianmario Heredia

Certifying Office r:

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Ent ity):

Point of Contact:

Point of Contact:Justin NeelyConsultant (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: , Salinas, PR 00704

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 17.972531, longitude -66.282785 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 417-000-008-36-000

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-RGRW-02368-W) entails the award of a grant to All Green Organic Culture, LLC, an agricultural business, at Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas PR, 00704. Tax ID Number: 417-000-008-36-000. Coordinates (latitude 17.972531, longitude -66.282785). The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-02368 consist of the purchase and installation of a 40' x 8 feet Greenery Container for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The container will be used for protected cultivation, a process of growing crops in a controlled environment (where factors such as light, CO2, temperature/humidity, and airflow are regulated) and includes cultivation in vertical farming and greenhouses where environmental factors are tightly controlled. Because CEA grows crops indoors, it is labor-saving, allows for the reduced use of pesticides, and can be set up just about anywhere. The container will be anchored to 8 supports buried 2 feet deep. The little water needed (5 gallons of water per day) for cultivation will be taken from an existing PRASA water intake on the property. The line to supply the water to the greenhouse will be underground so it will involve ground disturbance measuring approximately 33 linear feet and approximately 3 feet deep. The power needed to operate the module will come from an existing PREPA/LUMA connection and the line to supply the power to the greenhouse will be buried approximately 3 feet deep, measuring approximately 35 linear feet. Since the system recycles the water, every 3 months the system must be cleaned disposing approximately 50 gallon of water that could be used for irrigation. No sewer connection is required for any discharge from the module. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years. The project All Green Organic Culture, LLC, PR-RGRW-02368-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

Maps, photographs, and other documentation of project location and description: <u>PR-RGRW-02368-W Site Map.pdf</u>

PR-RGRW-02368-W IUGF CEST.pdf

<u>PRDOH Regrow Puerto Rico Program - 5836 Waiver (002).pdf</u> Farm Service Agency Adopted Categorical Exclusions Identified in FR-6492-N-01.pdf <u>PR-RGRW-02368-W EFOR.pdf</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
✓ 	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:

02368-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 Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded, \$2 Assisted or Insured Amount:

\$100,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost:

\$100,000.00

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 ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6Airport HazardsI Yes I NoThe project site is not within 15,000 feet					
Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D		of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Mercedita, is located 94,828 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 192,781 ft from the project site. 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 3,945 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	🗆 Yes 🗹 No	Flood Map Number 72000C2085J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure			

1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001- 4128 and 42 USC 5154a]		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	DNS 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	Based on the project description the project does not include any activities that would affect a Coastal Zone. The project is located in the coastal zone but will have no effect because it does not include new construction, conversion, major rehabilitation, or substantial improvement activities. Based on the project description, the project falls under Resolution JP-2024-004 (A)(2), which establishes the following: "Projects or activities that are exempt from construction permits according to Act 161-2009, as amended, known as the Puerto Rico Permit Process Reform Act, and the Joint Regulation for the Evaluation and Issuance of Permits Related to Development, Land Use, and Business Operations (Regulation No. 9473)". Therefore, this project does not require a Consistency Letter from the Puerto Rico Planning Board (JP). The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004).
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	□ Yes ☑ No	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.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	□ Yes ☑ No	This project will have No Effect on listed species based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office. The project site is not in or immediately adjacent to a wetland. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	□ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	□ Yes ☑ No	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.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	□ Yes ☑ No	Flood Map Number 72000C2085J, effective on 11/18/2009: This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. 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 Salinas; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of	☑ Yes □ No	Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties

	•	
1966, particularly sections 106 and		present. The project is in compliance
110; 36 CFR Part 800		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	The project is not located on a sole
Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as		source aquifer area. According to EPA,
amended, particularly section		there are no sole source aquifers in
1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149		Puerto Rico. The project is in
		compliance with Sole Source Aquifer
		requirements.
Wetlands Protection	□ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description this
Executive Order 11990, particularly		project includes no activities that would
sections 2 and 5		require further evaluation under this
		section. The project is in compliance
		with Executive Order 11990. This
		project does not involve new
		construction, so a visual wetlands
		survey was not conducted.
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)		200,263 feet from the nearest Wild and
		Scenic River. The project is in
		compliance with the Wild and Scenic
		Rivers Act.
HUD HO		NTAL STANDARDS
	ENVIRONMENTAL	
Environmental Justice	🗆 Yes 🗹 No	No adverse environmental impacts were
Executive Order 12898		identified in the project's total
		environmental review. The project is in
		compliance with Executive Order 12898.
		On January 21, 2025, President Donald
		Trump issued the Executive Order
		14173 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,	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on	Mitigation	Complete
Authority,		Completed	Plan	
or Factor		Measures		

Project Mitigation Plan

Should new ground disturbance occur the Karst zone must be evaluated and when necessary DNER must be consulted prior to construction activities. Since a consultation was made to SHPO, the case is not exempt and will proceed to public notice.

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 civil primary or commercial service airport, Mercedita, is located 94,828 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 192,781 ft from the project site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-02368-W 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 3,945 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-RGRW-02368-W CBRS.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

🗸 No

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-RGRW-02368-W FIRM.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 72000C2085J, 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

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

2. Does this project include new construction, conversion, major rehabilitation, or substantial improvement activities?

Yes

✓ No

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description the project does not include any activities that would affect a Coastal Zone. The project is located in the coastal zone but will have no effect because it does not include new construction, conversion, major rehabilitation, or substantial improvement activities. Based on the project description, the project falls under Resolution JP-2024-004 (A)(2), which establishes the following: "Projects or activities that are exempt from construction permits according to Act 161-2009, as amended, known as the Puerto Rico Permit Process Reform Act, and the Joint Regulation for the Evaluation and Issuance of Permits Related to Development, Land

Use, and Business Operations (Regulation No. 9473)". Therefore, this project does not require a Consistency Letter from the Puerto Rico Planning Board (JP). The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004).

Supporting documentation

Resolution JP-2024-004.pdf PR-RGRW-02368-W 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:

There are no toxic sites within 3,000 feet of the applicant 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 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 Memo.

File Upload:

Radon Attachments.pdf PR-RGRW-02368-W Radon Memo.docx

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-RGRW-02368-W Toxics.pdf PR-RGRW-02368-W EFOR(1).pdf

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

Explain your determination:

This project clears via the project criteria 29 of the USFWS Blanket Clearance Letter. See attached USFWS Blanket Clearance Letter and Self-Certification Form.

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

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project will have No Effect on listed species based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local

HUD office. The project site is not in or immediately adjacent to a wetland. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-02368-W USFWS Self-Certification Form (1).pdf USFWS End Species Blanket Clearance Letter_2025.pdf PR-RGRW-02368-W Wetlands.pdf PR-RGRW-02368-W Site Photos.docx PR-RGRW-02368-W Site Map(1).pdf PR-RGRW-02368-W Endangered Species.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

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	7 CFR Part 658
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-RGRW-02368-W Farmland.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

Flood Map Number 72000C2085J, effective on 11/18/2009: This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. 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 Salinas; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-02368-W ABFE.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

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?

Yes No

Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

1. Define the Area of Potential Effect (APE), either by entering the address(es) or uploading a map depicting the APE below:

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 present 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.</u>5)] Consider direct and indirect effects as applicable as

per guidance on direct and indirect effects.

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

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

PR-RGRW-02368-W SHPO Consultation Package.pdf PR-RGRW-02368-W Historic.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

✓ Yes

No

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

✓ No

2. Is the project located on a sole source aquifer (SSA)?

A sole source aquifer is defined as an aquifer that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. This includes streamflow source areas, which are upstream areas of losing streams that flow into the recharge area.

< No

 \checkmark

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload documentation used to make your determination, such as a map of your project (or jurisdiction, if appropriate) in relation to the nearest SSA and its source area, below.

Yes

3. Does your region have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or other working agreement with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for HUD projects impacting a sole source aquifer?

Yes

No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. 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-RGRW-02368-W Sole Source Aquifers.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

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

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-02368-W Wetlands(1).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 200,263 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-02368-W 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

No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 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

06/20/2025 16:10





Memorandum to File

Date: 5/28/2025

SKNeely

From: Justin Neely Environmental Manager CDBG-DR Program Regrow Puerto Rico Program Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Application Number: PR-RGRW-02368-W **Project:** All Green Organic Culture, LLC

Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-RGRW-02368-W under the Regrow Puerto Rico 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.





Self-Certification

https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services

Endangered Species Act Certification

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office developed a Blanket Clearance Letter in compliance with Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for federally funded projects.

The Service determined that projects in compliance with the following criteria are not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species.

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) certifies that the following project **All Green Organic Culture, LLC (PR-RGRW-02368-W**)under the CDBG-DR Regrow Puerto Rico Program, consisting of purchase and installation of a 40' x 8 feet Greenery Container for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module, located at Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas PR, 00704 complies with:

Check	Project Criteria		
	1. Activities related to the resurfacing existing streets or roads; maintenance of existing upland gabion or reinforced concrete retention walls; construction, reconstruction or repair of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.		
	 Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct and/or rehabilitate facilities in already established public transportation systems (signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes). 		
	3. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, rehabilitate and/or expanding existing public transportation facilities located in urban or developed areas.		
	4. Construction of new facilities for public transportation systems (e.g. school bus stops, city buses, trolleybuses, public car stops, public car terminal) in urban or developed areas.		
	5. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, or rehabilitate existing bridges or rip-rap. We recommend following FWS rip-rap guidance for design: <u>https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-</u> <u>structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us</u>		

 Reconstruction, or emergency repairs, of existing structures, including but no limited to buildings, facilities and homes. 	ot
7. Demolition of dilapidated single-family homes or buildings.	
8. Rebuilding of demolished single-family homes or buildings.	
9. Retrofitting existing buildings.	
10. Construction of residential and/or commercial facilities.	
 Construction, repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, and/or rehabilitat recreational facilities. 	te
12. Addition of concrete pads to the existing footprint of a residential and/c commercial structure, provided that the resulting addition is less than 20% of th size of the existing structure.	
13. Improvement or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior renovations resulting in an exterior increase greater than 20%.	r)
 Improvements or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior renovations) resulting in an exterior increase of less than 20%. 	or
15. Acquisition of residential and/or commercial properties in urban or develope areas for the relocation of families and/or activities.	ed
16. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of cemeteries.	
 Installation/drilling of new water well and associated utility infrastructure, eithe above ground or underground. 	er
 Establishment of power facilities, including but not limited to associate aboveground and/or underground infrastructure. 	ed
 Construction of electrical system infrastructure and associated components including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or undergroun infrastructure. 	
20. Construction of land based small electric generating facilities, including thos fueled with wind, sun, or biomass, capable of producing no more than 10 MW.	se
 Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) related to water and sanitar infrastructure; communication infrastructure; roads, bridges and highway without the removal of native vegetation and/or major earth movement. 	
22. Construction of rooftop or urban telecommunications systems and associate components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/c underground infrastructure.	
23. Establishment of temporary debris storage (TDS) facilities.	

USFWS Self-Certification PR-RGRW-02368-W Page 3 / 3

24. Establishment and/or closure of solid waste management facilities. But not new landfills.
25. Installation of water storage systems (cisterns) and associated infrastructure, either above ground or underground, including but not limited to installations on existing or new concrete pads, or existing or new roofs.
26. Installation of solar panels, battery storage systems and/or associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground, on existing or new concrete pads, existing or new roofs, ground or pole mounted.
27. Installation of generators on existing or new concrete slabs, and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
28. Repair of existing agricultural structures including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with less than 20% expansion of footprint.
29. New construction of agricultural structures in established farms including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with or without underground and/or aboveground infrastructure utility connections.
30. Construction of fences, cattle corrals, concrete slabs.
31. Installation of storage containers on new concrete slab.
32. New construction or work which expands the footprint of an existing structure and occurs entirely on disturbed, regularly maintained, upland property, including the staging of equipment.

Ange

June 11,2025 Date

Angel G. López-Guzmán Deputy Director Permits and Environmental Compliance Division Puerto Rico Department of Housing Disaster Recovery Office, CDBG-DR/MIT Address: P.O. Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928 Telephone and Ext: 787-274-2527 ext. 4320 Email: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

Attachments:

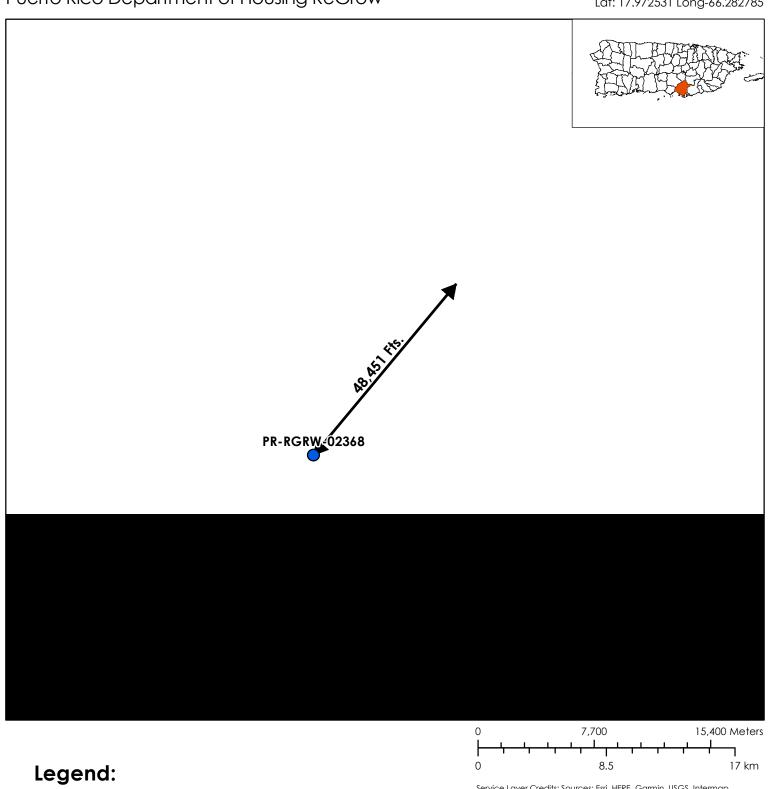
- 1. Project Site Map (Location Map)
- 2. Project Site Photos

Programa CDBG-DR/MIT Puerto Rico | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 | infoCDBG@vivienda.pr.gov | recuperacion.pr.gov | 787-274-2527

- 3. Copy of the Blanket Clearance Letter
- 4. Others, as necessary to demonstrate compliance with the criteria (e.g. Explanatory Memorandum, Critical Habitat Map, National Wetlands Inventory Map, etc.)

Figure 7 Threatened & Endangered Species Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785



PR-RGRW-02368

Critical Habitat



INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and he GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source:

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NOAA Office of Response and Restoration https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/

Application ID: PR-RGRW-04166

Sabana Grande Nursery Incorporado Carr. 117, KM. 12.2 Interior, Bo. Rayo Plata, Sábana Grande, PR 00637 Catastro: 359-000-009-09-000 Lat:18.036430, Long:-66.956881

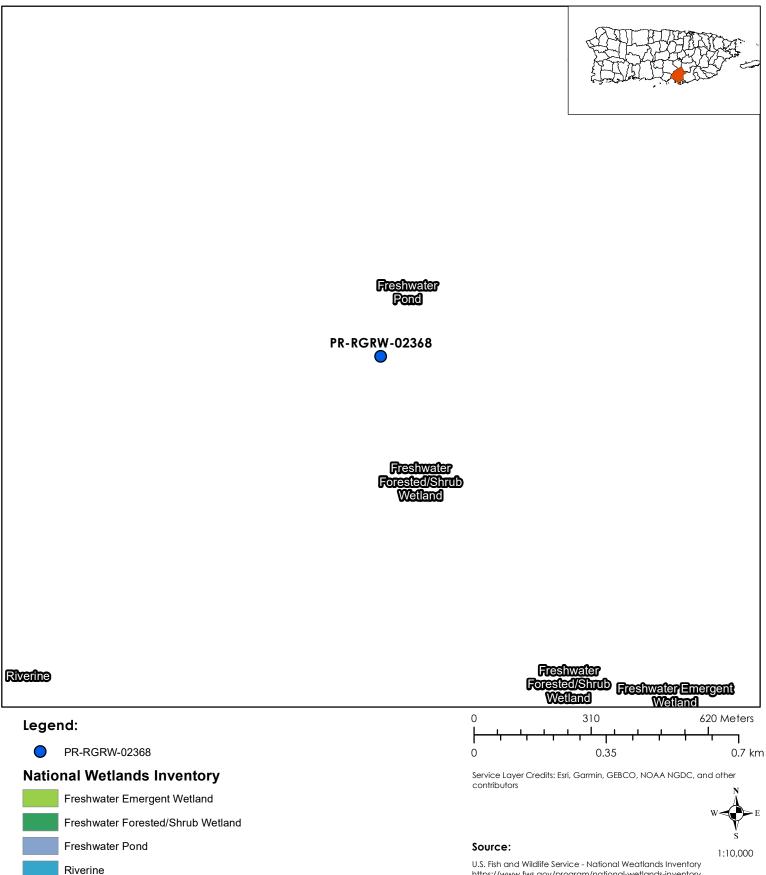


Figure 12

Wetlands Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory

Application ID: PR-RGRW-02368



Altamira, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel.(787)783-0290

Location Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785



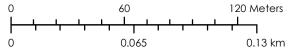
Legend:

PR-RGRW-02368

Power lines

Water lines





Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source:

1:2,000

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

PR-RGRW-02368-W Site Photos



Comments: Orientation: South Coordinates: 17.972569, -66.282781 Dimension: 40ft x 8ft

Photo Direction:

Facing Away from Front



Photo Direction:

Comments: Orientation: North



United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer To: FWS/R4/CESFO/BKT/HUD

Mr. Efrain Maldonado Field Office Director U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 235 Federico Costa Street, Suite 200 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918

> Re: Blanket Clearance Letter for Federally sponsored projects, Housing and Urban Development

Dear Mr. Maldonado:

On January 14, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), signed the Blanket Clearance Letter (BCL) to expedite the consultation process, for federally sponsored projects. On March 20, 2025, the USFWS and the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) acting as the responsible entity designated by HUD decided to review and update the BCL to ensure that new available information regarding the consultation process is included. This letter replaces the January 14, 2013, Blanket Clearance Letter for HUD sponsored projects.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is one of two lead Federal Agencies responsible for the protection and conservation of Federal Trust Resources, including threatened or endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA). In the U.S. Caribbean, the USFWS has jurisdiction over terrestrial plants and animals, the Antillean manatee and sea turtles when nesting. The National Marine Fisheries Service has jurisdiction over marine species, except for the manatee. The ESA directs all Federal agencies to participate in conserving these species. Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to consult with the USFWS to ensure that actions they fund authorize, permit, or otherwise carry out will not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

The USFWS issued regulations in 1986 detailing the consultation process. As part of this consultation process, the USFWS reviews development projects to assist Federal agencies on the compliance of the ESA. Since HUD typically allocate grant funds for rural and urban development projects, obligations under the ESA, as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), require HUD to perform consultation and an environmental impact review prior to the project's

authorization. Primarily, these projects involve repair or reconstruction of existing facilities associated with developed land.

In order to expedite the consultation process, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (CESFO) has developed this BCL to cover for activities and projects that typically result in no adverse effects to federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. The proposed project criteria discussed below are subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The project is located within an urban or developed area.
 - An urban or developed area is defined as an area that 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 neighborhood 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 applicant¹.
- 2. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is located within a disturbed area that does not require additional clearing of forested (trees) areas.
- 3. The project is not located within (or adjacent to) drainages, rivers, streams, wetlands, aquatic systems, or coastal areas.
- 4. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is not located immediately adjacent to forested areas (e.g., rock walls and haystack hills ("mogotes"); wet montane forest; lowland wet forest; remnant coastal; mangrove forest; damp and dry limestone karst forests; pastureland with patches of exotic trees²).
- 5. The lighting associated to the facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from the shoreline or beach area.

Proposed projects that **do not** meet the above conditions **Do Not Qualify** for review under the Blanket Clearance Letter developed for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

¹ This is the definition used by the USFWS in IPaC.

Project Criteria:

- 1. Activities related to the resurfacing existing streets or roads; maintenance of existing upland gabion or reinforced concrete retention walls; construction, reconstruction or repair of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.
- 2. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct and/or rehabilitate facilities in already established public transportation systems (Signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
- 3. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, rehabilitate and/or expanding existing public transportation facilities located in urban or developed areas.
- 4. Construction of new facilities for public transportation systems (e.g. School bus stops, city buses, trolleybuses, public car stops, Public car terminal) in urban or developed areas.
- 5. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, or rehabilitate existing bridges or rip-rap. (follow FWS rip-rap guidance for design).
- 6. Reconstruction, or emergency repairs, of existing structures, including but not limited to buildings, facilities and homes.
- 7. Demolition of dilapidated single-family homes or buildings.
- 8. Rebuilding of demolished single-family homes or buildings.
- 9. Retrofitting existing buildings.
- 10. Construction of residential and/or commercial facilities.
- 11. Construction, repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, and/or rehabilitate recreational facilities.
- 12. Addition of concrete pads to the existing footprint of a residential and/or commercial structure, provided that the resulting addition is less than 20% of the size of the existing structure.
- 13. Improvement or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior) renovations resulting in an exterior increase greater than 20%.
- 14. Improvements or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior renovations) resulting in an exterior increase of less than 20%.
- 15. Acquisition of residential and/or commercial properties in urban or developed areas for the relocation of families and/or activities.
- 16. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of cemeteries.

- 17. Installation/drilling of new water well and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
- 18. Establishment of power facilities, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 19. Construction of electrical system infrastructure and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 20. Construction of land based small electric generating facilities, including those fueled with wind, sun, or biomass, capable of producing no more than 10 MW. *
- 21. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) related to water and sanitary infrastructure; communication infrastructure; roads, bridges and highways without the removal of native vegetation and/or major earth movement.
- 22. Construction of rooftop or urban telecommunications systems and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 23. Establishment of temporary debris storage (TDS) facilities.
- 24. Establishment and/or closure of solid waste management facilities. But not new landfills.
- 25. Installation of water storage systems (cisterns) and associated infrastructure, either above ground or underground, including but not limited to installations on existing or new concrete pads, or existing or new roofs.
- 26. Installation of solar panels, battery storage systems and/or associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground, on existing or new concrete pads, existing or new roofs, ground or pole mounted.
- 27. Installation of generators on existing or new concrete slabs, and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
- 28. Repair of existing agricultural structures including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with less than 20% expansion of footprint.
- 29. New construction of agricultural structures in established farms including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with or without underground and/or aboveground infrastructure utility connections.
- 30. Construction of fences, cattle corrals, concrete slabs.
- 31. Installation of storage containers on new concrete slab.

32. New construction or work which expands the footprint of an existing structure and occurs entirely on disturbed, regularly maintained, upland property, including the staging of equipment.

*Comply with USFWS wind energy guidelines if more than one wind turbine, consider painting one blade black to help birds see the blades. <u>https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines</u>

Determination:

Based on the nature of the projects described above and habitat characteristics described on project criteria, we have determined that the actions and type of projects described above may be conducted within this BCL without adversely affecting federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. Thus, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

For all projects, HUD and its funded partners (municipalities) are expected to implement Best Management Practices to enhance the conservation of our trust resources (i.e.; listed species, wetlands, aquatic habitats, migratory birds and marine mammals) and avoid impacts from project development to aquatic habitat such as erosion and stream sedimentation. The Service provides the following recommendations that have proven to help achieve this effort.

Water Crossing Structures:

- 1. Use of bottomless culverts or single span bridges instead of traditional box or RCP culverts or any other water crossing structure that impacts the stream bottom, particularly in streams which support native fish. The use of bottomless culverts or a short span bridge would provide a more stable crossing and would not alter the stream habitat. However, if bottomless structures or bridges are not feasible due to cost or engineering constraints, we recommend the following criteria be used to maintain good habitat in the streams:
 - **a.** The stream should not be widened to fit the bridge since this can lead to sedimentation during low flows and possible bank erosion during high flows. Rather, the bridge should be designed to fit the stream channel at the point of crossing. Culverts should be sized to carry natural bank full flow. Additional flow can be capture by culverts placed at a higher elevation so as not to impact bank full flows.
 - **b.** Bridge abutments, wing walls or any other structures should not intrude into the active stream channel.
 - **c.** All culvert footings must be countersunk into the stream channel at both the invert and outlet ends at a minimum of 10% of the culvert height. This will align the water crossing structure with the slope of the stream.
 - **d.** Waterways must not be blocked as to impede the free movement of water and fish. Materials moved during construction, such as grubbing, earth fills, and earth cut

materials must not be piled where they can fall back into the stream and block the drainage courses.

- e. Appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation controls measures are to be undertaken to protect water quality until riverbanks are re-vegetated. It has been our experience that appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation control measures are not implemented properly by project contractors. In order to function properly, silt fences need to be buried 6" (proper depth is marked by a line on the silt fence) and suppolted at regular intervals by wood stakes. For that reason we are recommending that the enclosed drawing of proper silt fence installation is included in all final project construction plans.
- **f.** Upon completion of a water crossing construction, any temporary fill, must be removed from the construction area and disposed in a landfill.

For a detailed guide to water crossing structures, the Service developed a detailed guide to water crossing structures for regulatory review by permitting agencies, protect damaged structures, reduce future damages, and prevent or minimize damage to natural resources. The document is titled "Guidance for Repair, Replacement, and Clean-up Projects in Streams and Waterways of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands" and is available at:

https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us

Limitations:

Actions that do not meet the above project criteria, such as actions requiring placement of fill, disturbance, or modification to land outside of an existing access road or ROW; actions that occur on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forest vegetation; actions requiring excavation, clearing of native vegetation, or alteration of storm water drainage patterns; or actions that require lighting which can be directly or indirectly seen from a beach, must be individually coordinated through the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

The Service reserves the right to revoke or modify this BCL if:

- 1. New information reveals that the categories of work covered in this BCL may affect listed or designated critical habitat in a manner, or to an extent, not previously considered.
- 2. The categories of work included in this BCL are subsequently modified to include activities not considered in this review.
- 3. New species are listed, or designated critical habitat may be affected.
- 4. Lack of compliance with criteria in this BCL.

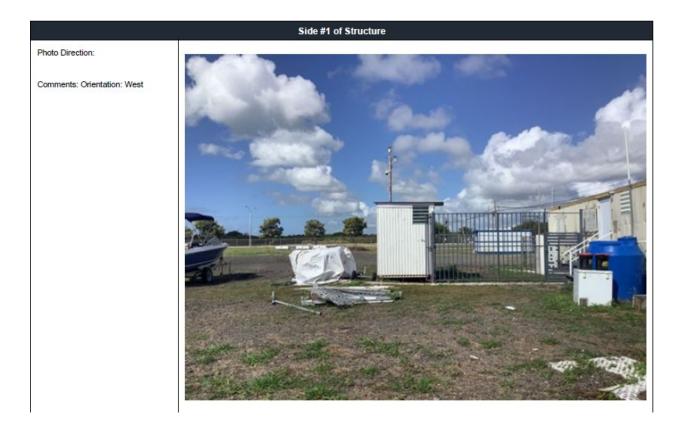
To obtain additional information on threatened and endangered species, you may visit our website <u>https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services</u> where you will also find the Map of the Species by Municipality and the Map of Critical Habitat. These maps provide information on the species/habitat relations within a municipality and could provide the applicants an insight if the proposed action is covered under this BCL or may affect a species, thus requiring individual review

The USFWS has also developed a web based tool called the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). Please visit <u>https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/</u> and familiarize yourself with the features we offer. We encourage you to begin your project planning process by requesting an Official Species List for your individual project that will include all species that may occur in the vicinity of the action area and includes a map of the action area. The site will also identify designated critical habitat, or other natural resources of concern that may be affected by your proposed project. Best management practices or conservation measures are available at the site for some species, but we expect the site to continue growing in its offering.

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. It is our 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 additional questions regarding this BCL, please do not hesitate to contact us at (786) 244-0081 or via email at caribbean es@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Mena Field Supervisor





Back of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments: Orientation: North



Photo Direction:

Facing Away from Back



Comments: Orientation: South

Side #2 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments: Orientation: East





Architectural Details 1

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water is connected





Architectural Details 8

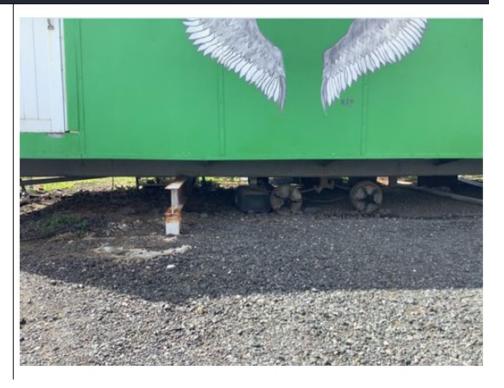


Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Example of how trailer will be placed

IPaC resource list

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

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

Location

Salinas County, Puerto Rico



Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

▶ (939) 320-3135
 ▶ (787) 851-7440
 ▶ CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

MAILING ADDRESS Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

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

NOTFORCONSULTATION

Endangered species

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

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

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

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

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

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the <u>Ecological Services Program</u> of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

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

- Species listed under the <u>Endangered Species Act</u> are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the <u>listing status page</u> for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
- 2. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

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

Reptiles		
NAME	STATUS	
Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</u>	Endangered	

Critical habitats

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

There are no critical habitats at this location.

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

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act 2 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) 1 . Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their nests, should follow appropriate regulations and implement required avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

The <u>data</u> in this location indicates that no eagles have been observed in this area. This does not mean eagles are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the <u>Supplemental</u> <u>Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document</u> to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if eagles may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
 <u>https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-</u>

<u>birds</u>

- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
 <u>https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</u>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
 <u>https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action</u>

Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

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

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

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort line or no data line (red horizontal) means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide you in knowing when to implement avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities or get the appropriate permits should presence be confirmed.

How do I know if eagles are breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the <u>RAIL Tool</u> and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior <u>authorization</u> by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The incidental take of migratory birds is the injury or death of birds that results from, but is not the purpose, of an activity. The FWS interprets the MBTA to prohibit incidental take.

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

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
 <u>https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</u>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds

Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
 <u>https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action</u>

The <u>data</u> in this location indicates that no migratory birds of concern have been observed in this area. This does not mean <u>birds of concern</u> are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the <u>Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document</u> to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine what migratory birds of concern may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

Migratory Bird FAQs

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

<u>Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds</u> describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

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

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of <u>Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC)</u> and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location, such as those listed under the Endangered Species Act or the <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> and those species marked as "Vulnerable". See the FAQ "What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?" for more information on the levels of concern covered in the IPaC migratory bird species list.

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

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, and to verify survey effort when no results present, please visit the <u>Rapid Avian Information</u> <u>Locator (RAIL) Tool</u>.

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

Subspecies profiles are included on the list of species present in your project area because observations in the AKN for **the species** are being detected. If the species are present, that means that the subspecies may also be present. If a subspecies shows up on your list, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if that subspecies may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

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

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

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

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

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the <u>RAIL Tool</u> and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

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

Although it is important to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially BCC species. For more information on avoidance and minimization measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts, please see the FAQ "Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the <u>Northeast Ocean Data Portal</u>. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project

review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the <u>NOAA</u> <u>NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on</u> <u>the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf</u> project webpage.

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

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

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

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

JI)

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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

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

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

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

Data limitations

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

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

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

Data exclusions

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

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.



United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer To: FWS/R4/CESFO/BKT/HUD

Mr. Efrain Maldonado Field Office Director U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 235 Federico Costa Street, Suite 200 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918

> Re: Blanket Clearance Letter for Federally sponsored projects, Housing and Urban Development

Dear Mr. Maldonado:

On January 14, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), signed the Blanket Clearance Letter (BCL) to expedite the consultation process, for federally sponsored projects. On March 20, 2025, the USFWS and the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) acting as the responsible entity designated by HUD decided to review and update the BCL to ensure that new available information regarding the consultation process is included. This letter replaces the January 14, 2013, Blanket Clearance Letter for HUD sponsored projects.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is one of two lead Federal Agencies responsible for the protection and conservation of Federal Trust Resources, including threatened or endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA). In the U.S. Caribbean, the USFWS has jurisdiction over terrestrial plants and animals, the Antillean manatee and sea turtles when nesting. The National Marine Fisheries Service has jurisdiction over marine species, except for the manatee. The ESA directs all Federal agencies to participate in conserving these species. Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to consult with the USFWS to ensure that actions they fund authorize, permit, or otherwise carry out will not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

The USFWS issued regulations in 1986 detailing the consultation process. As part of this consultation process, the USFWS reviews development projects to assist Federal agencies on the compliance of the ESA. Since HUD typically allocate grant funds for rural and urban development projects, obligations under the ESA, as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), require HUD to perform consultation and an environmental impact review prior to the project's

authorization. Primarily, these projects involve repair or reconstruction of existing facilities associated with developed land.

In order to expedite the consultation process, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (CESFO) has developed this BCL to cover for activities and projects that typically result in no adverse effects to federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. The proposed project criteria discussed below are subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The project is located within an urban or developed area.
 - An urban or developed area is defined as an area that 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 neighborhood 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 applicant¹.
- 2. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is located within a disturbed area that does not require additional clearing of forested (trees) areas.
- 3. The project is not located within (or adjacent to) drainages, rivers, streams, wetlands, aquatic systems, or coastal areas.
- 4. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is not located immediately adjacent to forested areas (e.g., rock walls and haystack hills ("mogotes"); wet montane forest; lowland wet forest; remnant coastal; mangrove forest; damp and dry limestone karst forests; pastureland with patches of exotic trees²).
- 5. The lighting associated to the facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from the shoreline or beach area.

Proposed projects that **do not** meet the above conditions **Do Not Qualify** for review under the Blanket Clearance Letter developed for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

¹ This is the definition used by the USFWS in IPaC.

¹ Ibid.

Project Criteria:

- 1. Activities related to the resurfacing existing streets or roads; maintenance of existing upland gabion or reinforced concrete retention walls; construction, reconstruction or repair of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.
- 2. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct and/or rehabilitate facilities in already established public transportation systems (Signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
- 3. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, rehabilitate and/or expanding existing public transportation facilities located in urban or developed areas.
- 4. Construction of new facilities for public transportation systems (e.g. School bus stops, city buses, trolleybuses, public car stops, Public car terminal) in urban or developed areas.
- 5. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, or rehabilitate existing bridges or rip-rap. (follow FWS rip-rap guidance for design).
- 6. Reconstruction, or emergency repairs, of existing structures, including but not limited to buildings, facilities and homes.
- 7. Demolition of dilapidated single-family homes or buildings.
- 8. Rebuilding of demolished single-family homes or buildings.
- 9. Retrofitting existing buildings.
- 10. Construction of residential and/or commercial facilities.
- 11. Construction, repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, and/or rehabilitate recreational facilities.
- 12. Addition of concrete pads to the existing footprint of a residential and/or commercial structure, provided that the resulting addition is less than 20% of the size of the existing structure.
- 13. Improvement or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior) renovations resulting in an exterior increase greater than 20%.
- 14. Improvements or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior renovations) resulting in an exterior increase of less than 20%.
- 15. Acquisition of residential and/or commercial properties in urban or developed areas for the relocation of families and/or activities.
- 16. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of cemeteries.

- 17. Installation/drilling of new water well and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
- 18. Establishment of power facilities, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 19. Construction of electrical system infrastructure and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 20. Construction of land based small electric generating facilities, including those fueled with wind, sun, or biomass, capable of producing no more than 10 MW. *
- 21. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) related to water and sanitary infrastructure; communication infrastructure; roads, bridges and highways without the removal of native vegetation and/or major earth movement.
- 22. Construction of rooftop or urban telecommunications systems and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 23. Establishment of temporary debris storage (TDS) facilities.
- 24. Establishment and/or closure of solid waste management facilities. But not new landfills.
- 25. Installation of water storage systems (cisterns) and associated infrastructure, either above ground or underground, including but not limited to installations on existing or new concrete pads, or existing or new roofs.
- 26. Installation of solar panels, battery storage systems and/or associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground, on existing or new concrete pads, existing or new roofs, ground or pole mounted.
- 27. Installation of generators on existing or new concrete slabs, and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
- 28. Repair of existing agricultural structures including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with less than 20% expansion of footprint.
- 29. New construction of agricultural structures in established farms including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with or without underground and/or aboveground infrastructure utility connections.
- 30. Construction of fences, cattle corrals, concrete slabs.
- 31. Installation of storage containers on new concrete slab.

32. New construction or work which expands the footprint of an existing structure and occurs entirely on disturbed, regularly maintained, upland property, including the staging of equipment.

*Comply with USFWS wind energy guidelines if more than one wind turbine, consider painting one blade black to help birds see the blades. <u>https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines</u>

Determination:

Based on the nature of the projects described above and habitat characteristics described on project criteria, we have determined that the actions and type of projects described above may be conducted within this BCL without adversely affecting federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. Thus, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

For all projects, HUD and its funded partners (municipalities) are expected to implement Best Management Practices to enhance the conservation of our trust resources (i.e.; listed species, wetlands, aquatic habitats, migratory birds and marine mammals) and avoid impacts from project development to aquatic habitat such as erosion and stream sedimentation. The Service provides the following recommendations that have proven to help achieve this effort.

Water Crossing Structures:

- 1. Use of bottomless culverts or single span bridges instead of traditional box or RCP culverts or any other water crossing structure that impacts the stream bottom, particularly in streams which support native fish. The use of bottomless culverts or a short span bridge would provide a more stable crossing and would not alter the stream habitat. However, if bottomless structures or bridges are not feasible due to cost or engineering constraints, we recommend the following criteria be used to maintain good habitat in the streams:
 - **a.** The stream should not be widened to fit the bridge since this can lead to sedimentation during low flows and possible bank erosion during high flows. Rather, the bridge should be designed to fit the stream channel at the point of crossing. Culverts should be sized to carry natural bank full flow. Additional flow can be capture by culverts placed at a higher elevation so as not to impact bank full flows.
 - **b.** Bridge abutments, wing walls or any other structures should not intrude into the active stream channel.
 - **c.** All culvert footings must be countersunk into the stream channel at both the invert and outlet ends at a minimum of 10% of the culvert height. This will align the water crossing structure with the slope of the stream.
 - **d.** Waterways must not be blocked as to impede the free movement of water and fish. Materials moved during construction, such as grubbing, earth fills, and earth cut

materials must not be piled where they can fall back into the stream and block the drainage courses.

- e. Appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation controls measures are to be undertaken to protect water quality until riverbanks are re-vegetated. It has been our experience that appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation control measures are not implemented properly by project contractors. In order to function properly, silt fences need to be buried 6" (proper depth is marked by a line on the silt fence) and suppolted at regular intervals by wood stakes. For that reason we are recommending that the enclosed drawing of proper silt fence installation is included in all final project construction plans.
- **f.** Upon completion of a water crossing construction, any temporary fill, must be removed from the construction area and disposed in a landfill.

For a detailed guide to water crossing structures, the Service developed a detailed guide to water crossing structures for regulatory review by permitting agencies, protect damaged structures, reduce future damages, and prevent or minimize damage to natural resources. The document is titled "Guidance for Repair, Replacement, and Clean-up Projects in Streams and Waterways of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands" and is available at:

https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us

Limitations:

Actions that do not meet the above project criteria, such as actions requiring placement of fill, disturbance, or modification to land outside of an existing access road or ROW; actions that occur on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forest vegetation; actions requiring excavation, clearing of native vegetation, or alteration of storm water drainage patterns; or actions that require lighting which can be directly or indirectly seen from a beach, must be individually coordinated through the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

The Service reserves the right to revoke or modify this BCL if:

- 1. New information reveals that the categories of work covered in this BCL may affect listed or designated critical habitat in a manner, or to an extent, not previously considered.
- 2. The categories of work included in this BCL are subsequently modified to include activities not considered in this review.
- 3. New species are listed, or designated critical habitat may be affected.
- 4. Lack of compliance with criteria in this BCL.

To obtain additional information on threatened and endangered species, you may visit our website <u>https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services</u> where you will also find the Map of the Species by Municipality and the Map of Critical Habitat. These maps provide information on the species/habitat relations within a municipality and could provide the applicants an insight if the proposed action is covered under this BCL or may affect a species, thus requiring individual review

The USFWS has also developed a web based tool called the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). Please visit <u>https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/</u> and familiarize yourself with the features we offer. We encourage you to begin your project planning process by requesting an Official Species List for your individual project that will include all species that may occur in the vicinity of the action area and includes a map of the action area. The site will also identify designated critical habitat, or other natural resources of concern that may be affected by your proposed project. Best management practices or conservation measures are available at the site for some species, but we expect the site to continue growing in its offering.

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. It is our 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 additional questions regarding this BCL, please do not hesitate to contact us at (786) 244-0081 or via email at caribbean es@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by LOURDES MENA Date: 2025.04.24 09:11:24 -04'00'

Lourdes Mena Field Supervisor

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO PUERTO RICO PLANNING BOARD

November 20, 2024

RESOLUTION JP-2024-004 First Amendment

Federal Consistency Certification with the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)

The United States (U.S.) Government, through Major Disaster Declarations (DR-4336 and DR-4339), declared Puerto Rico a disaster area after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and María. Considering this event, the U.S. Congress approved Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for Puerto Rico's unmet disaster recovery needs, and Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for the Commonwealth's long-term planning and risk mitigation activities. Moreover, the Congress approved additional CDBG-DR funds for the Commonwealth in response to Major Disaster Declarations: DR-4336, DR-4339, DR-4473, and DR-4671.

The damage caused by high-speed winds, storm surges, earthquakes, flooding, and landslides attributed to major disasters, had devastating effects on Puerto Rico's coastal areas that need to be addressed in an expeditious manner. While many of the direct emergency needs have been met, disaster recovery and mitigation need of the Commonwealth are on-going and will continue into the near future.

The Law Number 75 of June 24, 1975, as amended (Organic law of the Puerto Rico Planning Board) grants the Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) the responsibility and powers to guide the comprehensive development of Puerto Rico, guaranteeing the general well-being of its current and future inhabitants.

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq) establishes that federal agency activities including the award of Federal Assistance must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved state management programs. The Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) is the designated state agency to review and determine Federal Consistency with the PR Coastal Zone Management Program according to stablished procedures at 15 CFR Part 930.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is formally the Grantee for the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funds. The Governor of Puerto Rico designated the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) as the grantee for the purposes of administering these funds and executing grant agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the federal oversight agency for the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funding.

Taking into consideration the high volume of requests for federal assistance that has been generated as part of the recovery process following the disaster declarations and the current need to expedite this process, the PRPB proceeded to carry out a review of Federal Consistency with the PMZCPR for the following federal assistance programs:

- CDBG-DR eligible activities provided in Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA), and outlined in the applicable Federal Register Notices, the CDBG-DR Action Plan and CDBG-DR Program Guidelines.
- CDBG-MIT eligible activities provided in Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA), and outlined in the applicable Federal Notices, the CDBG-MIT Action Plan and CDBG-MIT Program Guidelines.



After considering the information provided by PRDOH in relation to the eligible projects and activities to be awarded by the above-mentioned programs, the PR Planning Board (PRPB) in their meeting held on July 24, 2024, agreed the following:

- A. The following activities or projects to be financed under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs have no significant impact on Puerto Coastal Resources and do not require Federal Consistency review:
 - 1. Activities to be financed under the following subprograms:
 - a. <u>Community Energy and Water Resilience Installations Program</u> (<u>CEWRI</u>): The Program provide single-family homeowners energy and water efficiency improvements to promote resilience by installing PV systems with battery backup for critical loads and water storage systems.
 - b. <u>The Workforce Training Program (WFT)</u>: supports entities throughout the Island to offer training in job skills related to the reconstruction and economic growth of Puerto Rico. Also, those skills necessary to situate the Island in the economy of the future.
 - c. <u>Small Business Financing Program (SBF)</u>: will provide a Recovery Grants phase (grants awards of up to \$150,000) for working capital and movable equipment for small businesses and microenterprises that suffered physical and/or financial losses due to the Hurricanes. Start-ups created after the Hurricanes are also eligible if they can show their creation was the result of a closure of a previous business of same owner(s), after damages caused by the Hurricanes.
 - d. <u>Re-grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program</u>: Develop, Increase and improve agricultural capacity and addresses the needs created by Hurricanes Irma and María with a substantial investment of CDBG-DR funds for a wide variety of viable and sustainable agricultural activities.
 - Projects or activities that are exempt from construction permits according to Act 161-2009, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Permit Process Reform Act" and the "Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation" (Regulation Number 9473).
- **B.** Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for demolition of structures with the purpose of restoring green areas, beaches, water retention areas and habitat recovery is consistent with the PRCZMP.
- **C.** Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for projects that involve demolition for reconstruction, reconstruction or construction of a new structure is consistent with the PRCZMP if the project fulfills the following requirements:
 - 1. The project must comply with land use regulations established under the PR Land Use Plan, Territorial Plans and special plans that apply according to the location of the project.
 - 2. The structure to be constructed or reconstructed must comply with applicable regulations and parameters established in the "Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation" (Regulation Number 9473).



GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO JUNTA DE PLANIFICACIÓN

- 3. Each project must provide evidence of compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing copy of the Environmetal Compliance Determination emitted by OGPe.
- 4. The structure to be built or rehabilitated must be located outside flood risk zones according to the "Recommended Base Flood Level Maps" (FEMA Advisory Maps) effective on April 13, 2018, or the most recent FEMA map that applies according to the location of the project.
- 5. Structures located within a flood hazard zone must evidence compliance with the Special Flood Hazard Zone Regulations (Planning Regulation Number 13) by providing copy of the FEMA Elevation Certificate (form ff-206-fy22-152) completed and signed by an engineer or surveyor.
- 6. In the case of projects that are located within Historic Zones designated by the PR Planning Board, or if the structure was designated as a Historic Site, the project must have the endorsement of the Puerto Rican Culture Institute and the State Historic Preservation Office.
- **D.** Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for infrastructure projects (sidewalks, roads, highways, service lines, public squares) are consistent with the PRCZMP with the condition that the applicant fulfill the following requirements before the construction phase of the project:
 - Evidence compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing copy of the Environmental Compliance Determination emitted by the PR Permit Management Office (OGPe).
 - 2. Evidence compliance with the Special Flood Hazard Zone Regulations (Planning Regulation Number 13) when it is required depending on the nature and location of the project.
 - 3. In the case of projects that are located within Historic Zones designated by the PR Planning Board, the project must have the endorsement of the Puerto Rican Culture Institute.

The Office of Geology and Hydrogeology (OGH) of the Puerto Rico Planning Board will provide a conditioned certification letter which will allow the applicant to have access to the funds to finance the design and permitting phase. The Puerto Rico Planning Board in its meeting of November 20, 2024 determined that the applicant must fulfill the above mentioned requirements **120 days from receipt of the OGH Conditioned Certification letter**. If the applicant needs additional time to fulfill the required documents, it must be justified and requested referring to the assigned case number trough comentariosjp.pr.gov.

E. Furthermore, The PR Planning Board on February 1, 2023, issued Resolution JP-339 that covers Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Therefore, federal assistance awarded through the "Infrastructure Coordination Program" to match the non-federal items that are required for projects under PA and HMGP programs are covered by Resolution JP-339 and will not require to be submitted to the PRPB for federal consistency review.



F. Hence, Projects for the reconstruction, repair, or rehabilitation of structures for waterdependent uses (piers, boat ramps etc.) are not covered under this Resolution and must be filed at the US Army Corps of Engineers through RSS.

This General Federal Consistency Certification will be in effect for five (5) years from the notification date of this resolution. The Certification at reference will be renewed or amended if necessary to extend its validity or address other matters.

The following parties shall be notified: William Rodríguez, Secretary, PR Department of Housing (PRDH); Angel G. López Guzmán, Permits and Environmental Compliance Division, PRDH; Juan C. Perez Bofill, PRDH; Aldo A. Rivera, PRDH; Alberto Mercado, Jose A. Cedeño Maldonado, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Donna M. Mahon, HUD and Magaly Massanet Rodríguez, Director, Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program, DNER.

ADOPTED in San Juan, Puerto Rico on July 24, 2024.

Amended today, November 20, 2024.

Plan. Julio Lassús Ruiz, LLM, MP, PPL

President Lemuel Rivera Rivera, BSEE, CAPM

Associate Member

Ing. José Díaz Díaz, MEM, BSIE Associate Member

Plan. Rebecca Rivera Torres, MPR, PPL Alternate Member

Certify: That this Resolution is copy of the agreement adopted by Puerto Rico Planning Board in its meeting of **November 20, 2024**. I expedite and notify this copy to the parties under my sign and official stamp of the Puerto Rico Planning Board stamp, for general use and knowledge.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today,

DEC 2 3 2024

Edgardo Vázquez

Secretary



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

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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.

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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>(aurita.matthew@epa.gov</u>

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

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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

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>

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o aronary

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 <silvina.cancelos@upr.edu>

 Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 15:04

 To: 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>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov>; Reyes, Brenda

 <Reves.Brenda@epa.gov>; Povetko, Oleg <Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov>

 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>

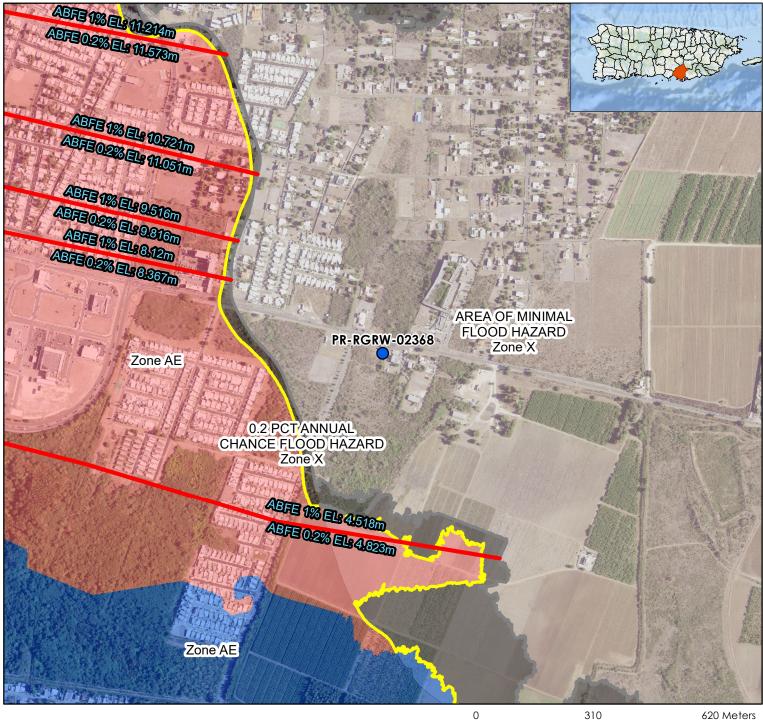
cesar o. nounguez.	esanounguez@unia.pr.gov	
Marita Rosa Olivares:	maritzarosaolivares@drna.	pr.gov



Cond. Iberia 1 Suite J-3. Calle Perseo 554. Altamira, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel.(787)783-0290

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

All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785



Legend:

PR-RGRW-02368
 Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFE)

0.2-percent annual chance flood

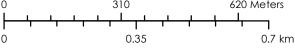
1-percent annual chance flood



Flood Zone

0.2% Annual Chance Flood

Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X



Service Layer Credits: Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

1:10,000

Source:

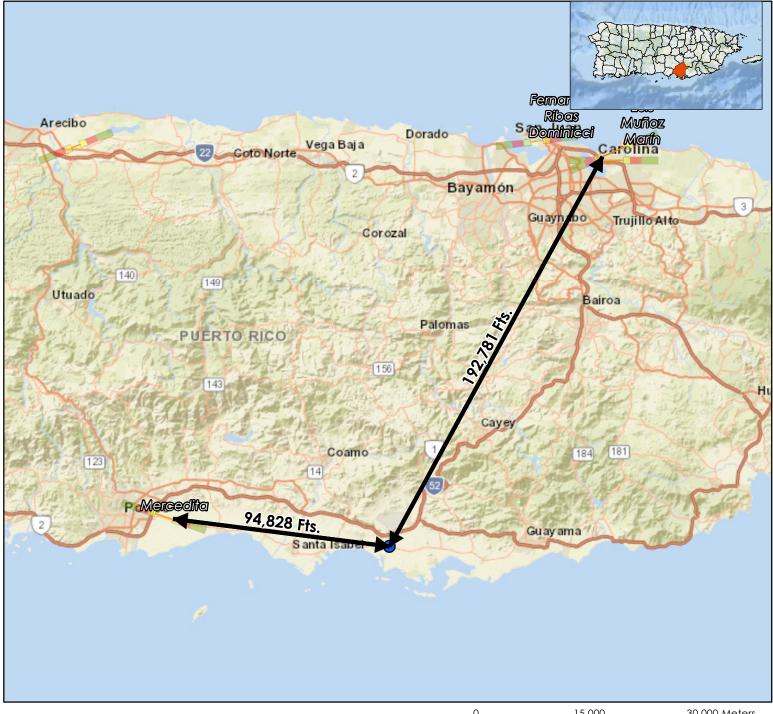
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Junta de Planificacion de Puerto Rico (JP), Mapas de Niveles de Inundacion Base Recomendados, https://maps.jp.pr.gov/

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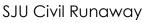


All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785

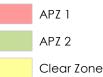


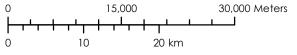
Legend:





Accident Potential Zone





1:500,000

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source:

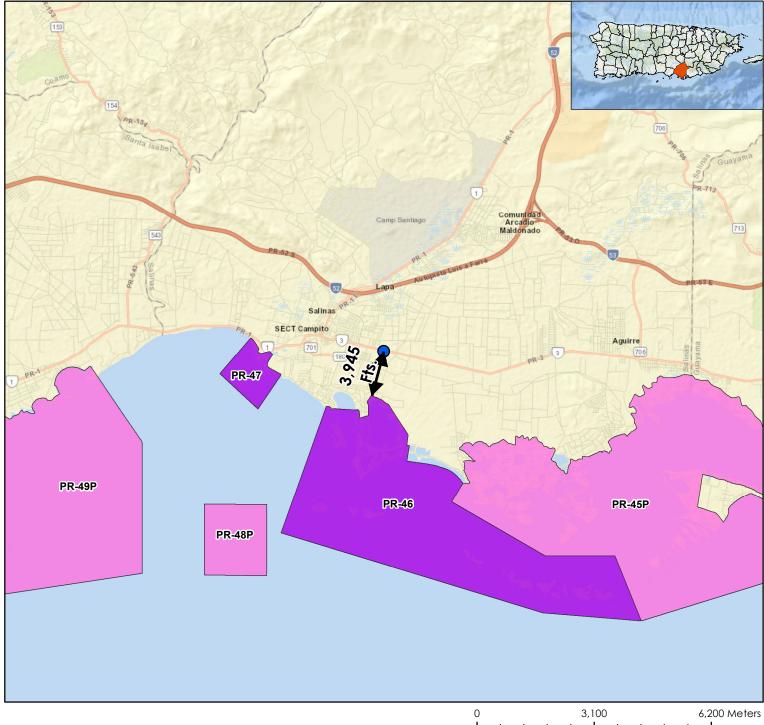
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) https://adds-faa.opendata.arcgis.com/



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Figure 3 Coastal Barrier Resources System Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

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Legend:

PR-RGRW-02368

Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS)

Otherwise Protected Area

System Unit



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Internap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Inailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source:

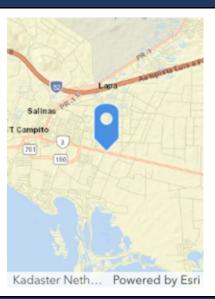
1:100,000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

BYA

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-02368		
Applicant Name:	Angel Santiago		
Parcel ID:	417-000-008-36-000		
Latitude:	17.972811		
Longitude:	-66.282905		
Street Address:	BO. Aguirre, Carr 3 KM.HM 157.4		
Municipio:	Salinas		
Zip Code:	00704		
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez		
Date of Visit:	January 27, 2025		
Time of Visit:	10:06		
	Farm in the City Module		

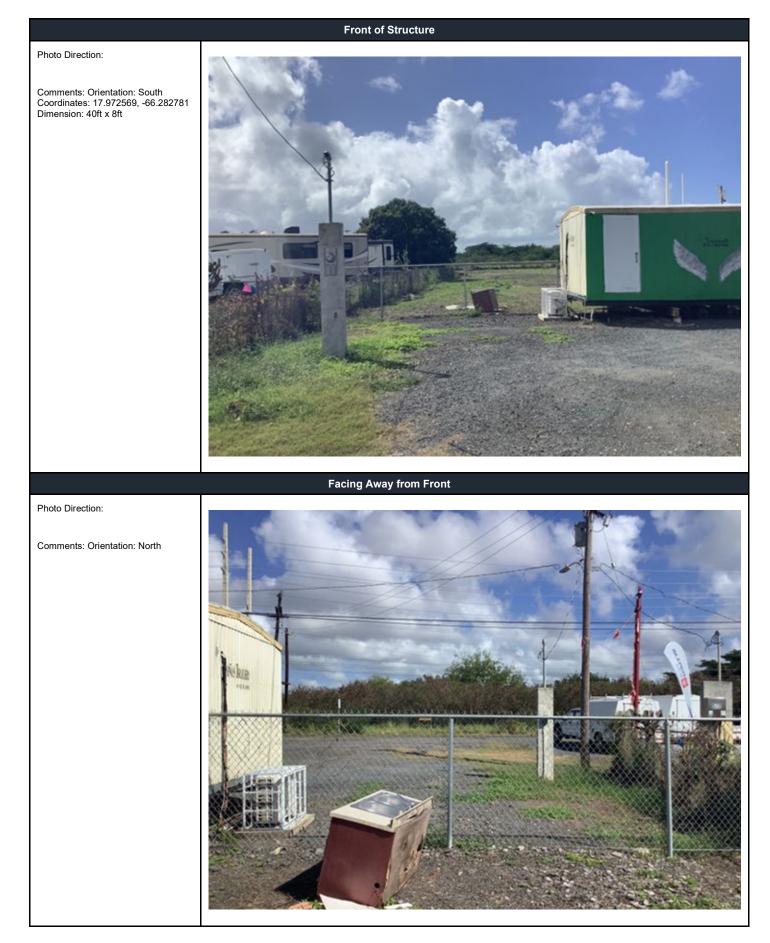




Esri, Maxar, E... Powered by Esri

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













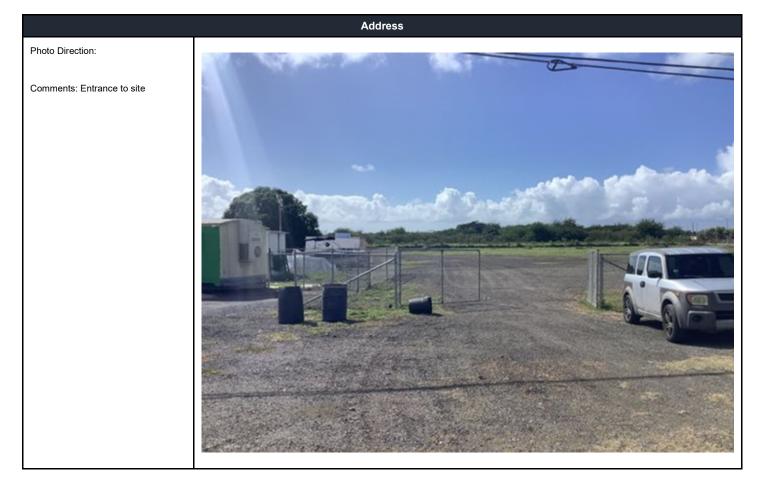
















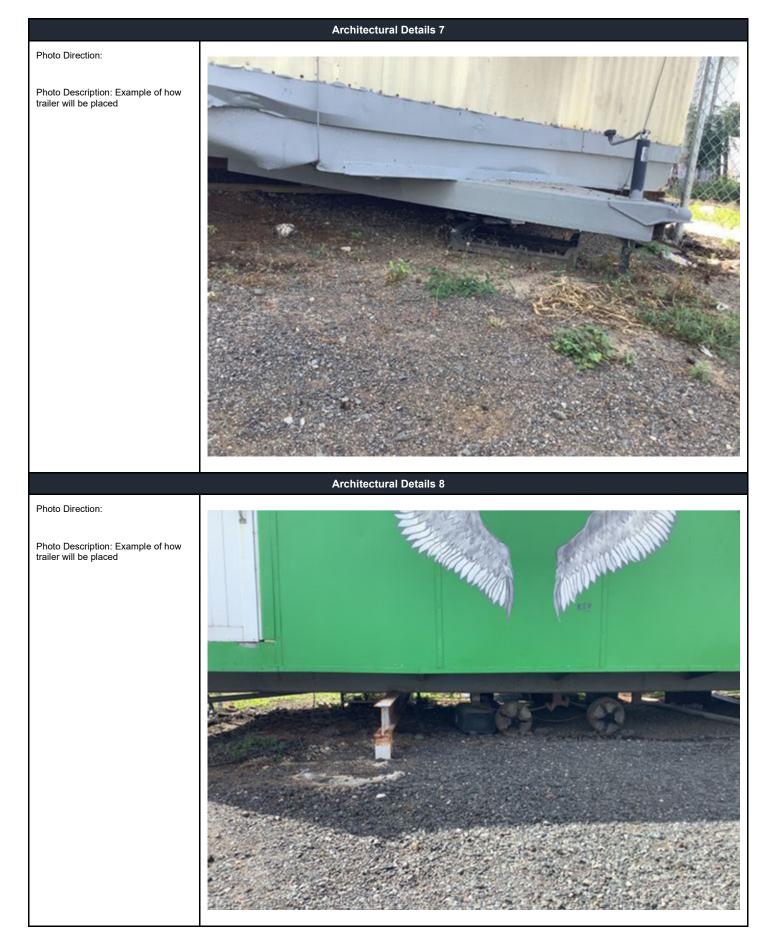




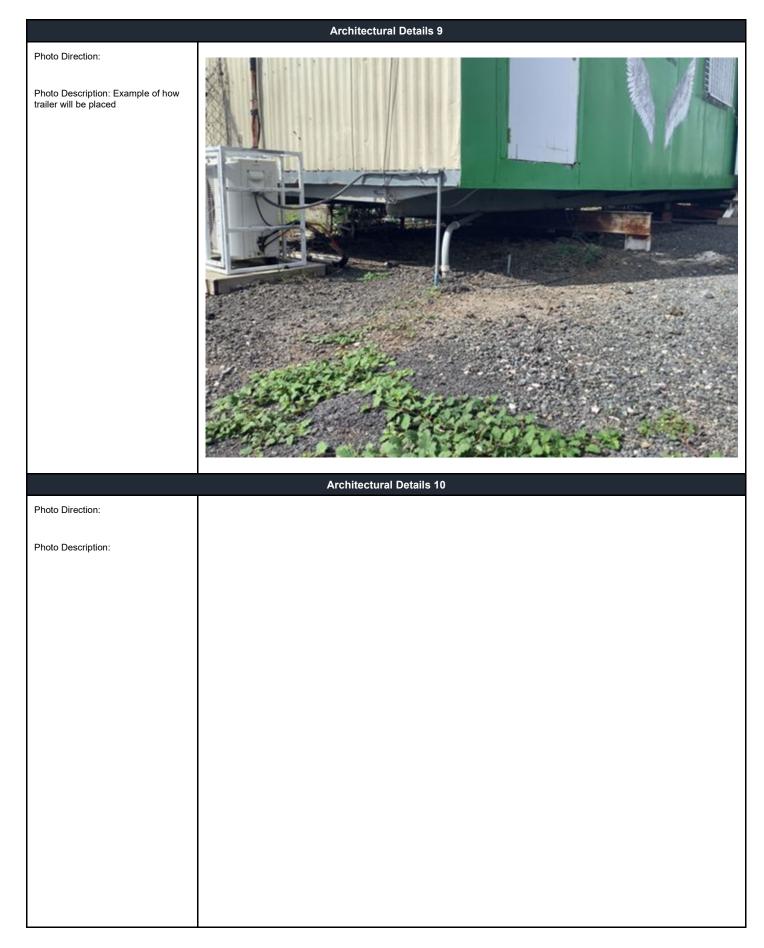














Gond. Iberia 1 Suite J-3, Calle Perseo 554, Altamira, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel.(787)783-0290 Figure 7 Threatened & Endangered Species Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

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> All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785



Legend:

PR-RGRW-02368

Critical Habitat

0 8.5 17 km Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and he GIS User Community

Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source:

1:250,000

NOAA Office of Response and Restoration https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/



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Figure 8 **Farmland Protection** Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

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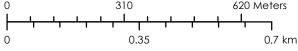


Farm Class

Farmland of statewide importance

Not prime farmland

Prime farmland if irrigated



Service Layer Credits: Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source:

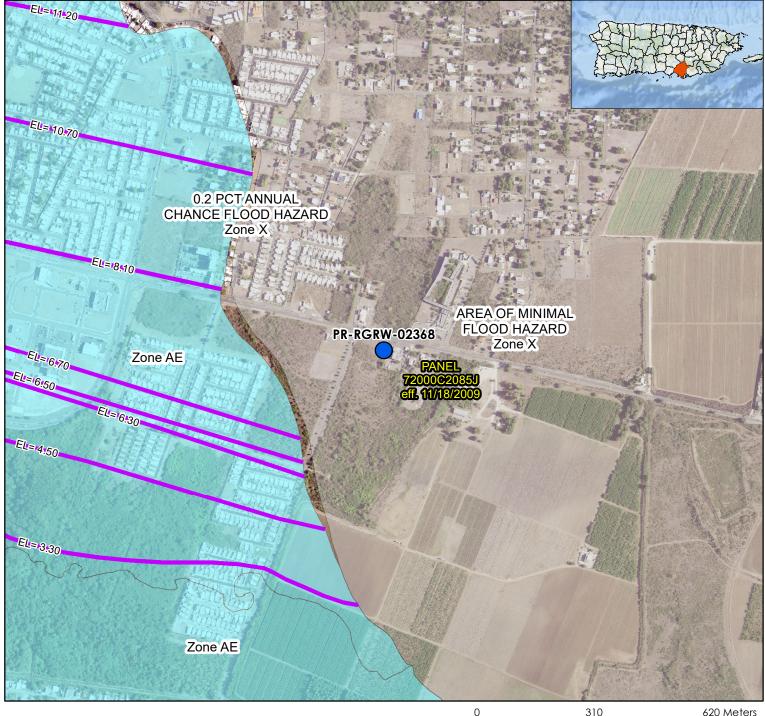
National Resources Conservations Service (NRCS) 1:10,000 Gridded Soil Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO) https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/soil-survey-geographic-database-ssurgo



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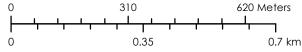
Figure 4 **Flood Insurance Rate Map** Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

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Legend:

PR-RGRW-02368
Area of Minimal Flood Hazard *Zone X*Hydrographic Feature
Base Flood Elevation (m)
With BFE or Depth-Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR *Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR*FIRM Panel



Service Layer Credits: Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

1:10,000

Source:

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



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Location Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785



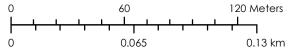
Legend:

PR-RGRW-02368

Power lines

Water lines





Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source:

1:2,000

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



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Location Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785



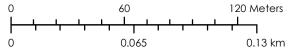
Legend:

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Power lines

Water lines





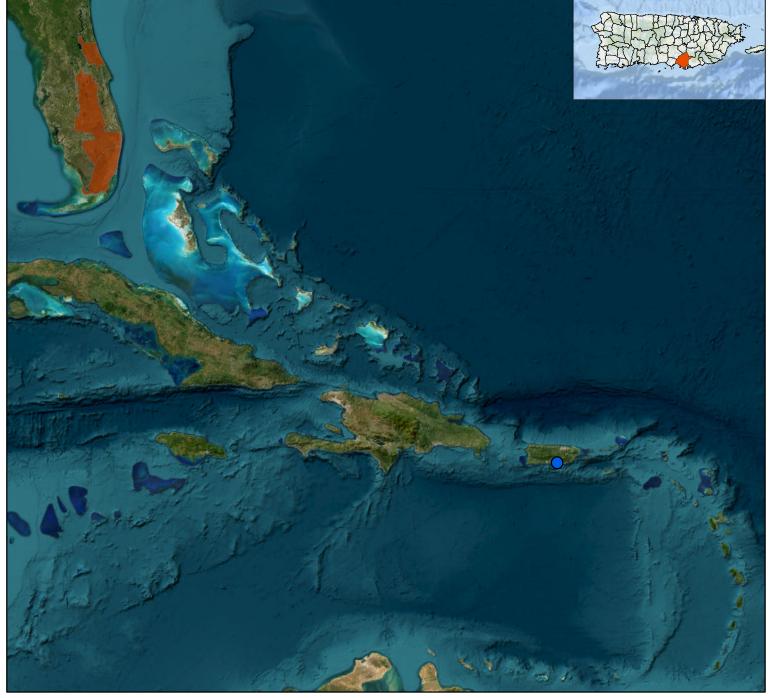
Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source:

1:2,000

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

All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785



Legend:

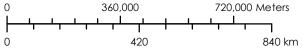
Figure 11

• PR-RGRW-02368

EPA Sole Source Aquifers

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EPA Sole Source Aquifers Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



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

Source:

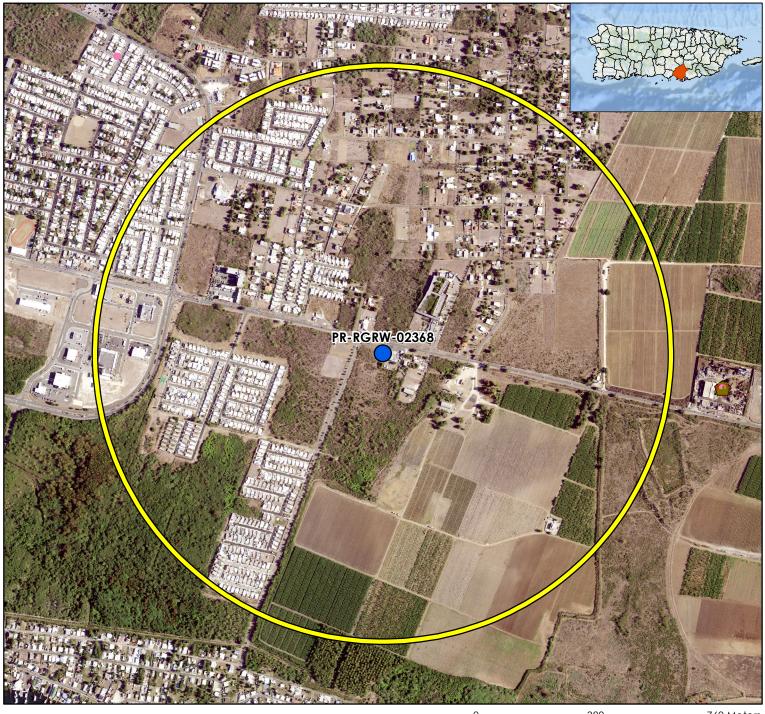
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1:12,000,000 https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html ?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b



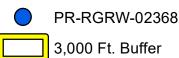
554, Altamira, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel.(787)783-0290

Figure 6 Toxic and Hazardous Facilities Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

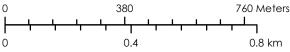
All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785



Legend:



3,000 Ft. Buffer



Service Layer Credits: Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

1:12,000

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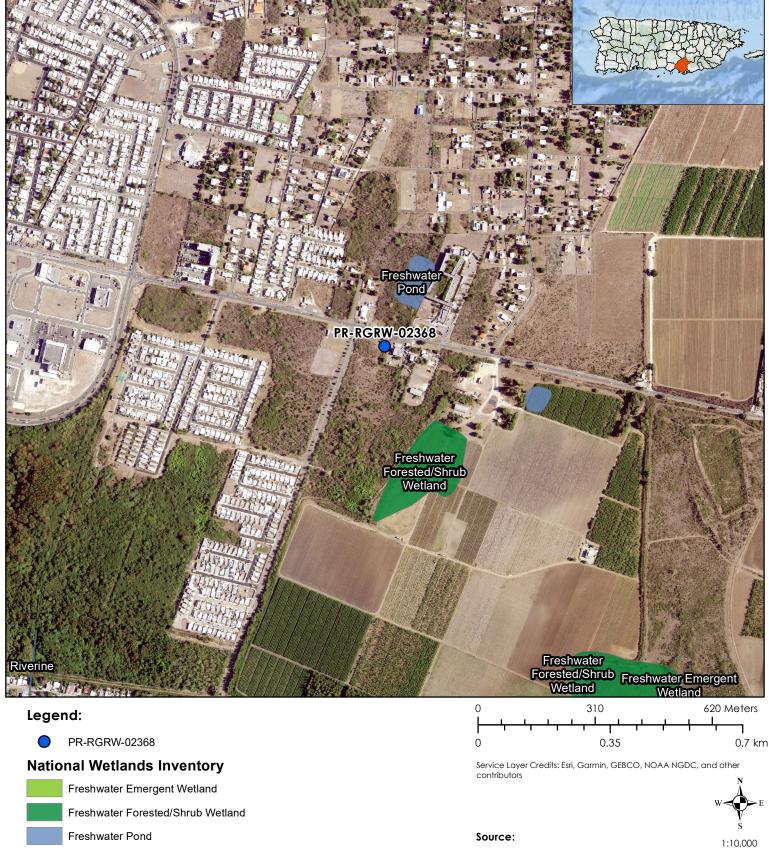
EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS) https://www.epa.gov/frs

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Riverine

Figure 12 Wetlands Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow Sabana Grande Nursery Incorporado Carr. 117, KM. 12.2 Interior, Bo. Rayo Plata, Sábana Grande, PR 00637 Catastro: 359-000-009-09-000 Lat:18.036430, Long:-66.956881



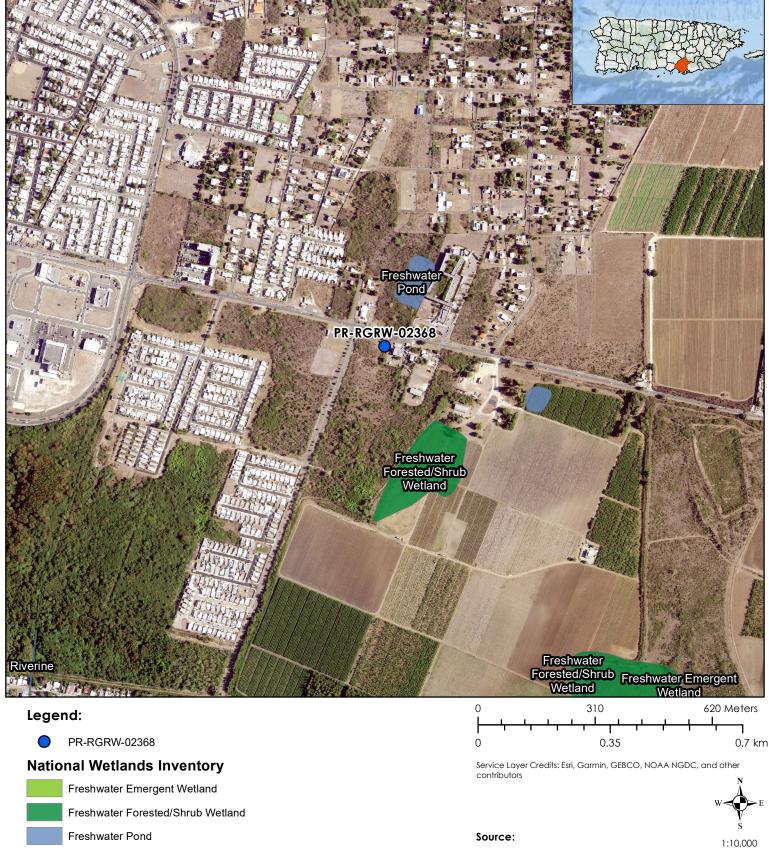
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Weatlands Inventory https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory

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Riverine

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

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Figure 13 Wild and Scenic Rivers Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

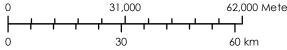
All Green Organic Culture, LLC Bo. Aguirre, Carr. 3 Km.Hm 157.4, Salinas, PR 00704 Catastros: 417-000-008-36-000 Lat: 17.972531 Long-66.282785



Legend:

PR-RGRW-02368

Wild and Scenic Rivers



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Source:

1:1,000,000

F

FWS National Wild and Scenic Rivers System https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php