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

# **Project Information**

Project ID: PR-RGRW-00410

Project Name: Angel González Meléndez

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico/Utuado, PR

Preparer: Andrew McCadden

**Certifying Officer Name and Title:** Permit and Compliance Officers: Sally Acevedo Cosme, Pedro De León Rodríguez, María T. Torres Bregón, Ángel G. López-Guzmán, Ivelisse Lorenzo Torres, Santa Damarys Ramírez Lebrón, Janette I. Cambrelén, Limary Vélez-Marrero, Juan Carlos Perez Bofill, and Mónica M. Machuca Ríos.

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

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

#### **Project Location:**

The property is a 24.4-acre site located at Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso in the Municipality of Utuado, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 163-000-001-61). The coordinates of the project parcel are 18.299792, -66.622658.

The land was previously used for coffee production. The land is currently used for growing coffee, oranges, and plantains.

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

The area of potential effect (APE) for the proposed project is approximately 0.12 acres. The proposed use of grant funds is for the purchase and installation of a warehouse.

The scope of work (SOW) is the purchase and installation of a warehouse at coordinates 18.299907, -66.622655. The proposed warehouse is a 40' x 40' x 15' metal structure with a new 40' x 40' on-site poured concrete floor. Installation will require ground disturbance approximately 3 feet deep related to land leveling, insertion of footings (3' x 3" x 1"), and construction of the concrete floor. The project site will require clearing, grading, brush

and vegetation removal. However, proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning, or transplanting of trees.

No power or water connection is included as part of the SOW. The structure will be powered in the future by solar panels, which is not part of this grant request.

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

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

The Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (RGRW) will increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island wide. This Program will enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. The purpose of this project is to increase the productivity of the farm. This agricultural project associated with the purchase and installation of a warehouse is keeping with the overall objectives of the Economic Development Program.

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

The land proposed for the installation of a warehouse is used for agricultural purposes. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with the project. Some ground disturbance, clearing, grading, brush and vegetation removal is required. However, proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning, or transplanting of trees.

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

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

Appendix A – Site Inspection

Appendix B – Maps

Appendix C – Additional Documentation

Appendix D – Endangered Species

Appendix E – SHPO Consultation

# **Funding Information**

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001,	Community Development Block	\$11,938,162,230
	Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-	
	DR)	
B-18-DP-72-0001,	CDBG-DR, Re-Grow Puerto Rico	
B-19-DP-78-0002,	Urban-Rural Agricultural Program	
B-18-DE-72-0001		

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$49,500.00

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$49,500.00

# Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATION	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
Airport Hazards  24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The nearest civil airport, the "Aeropuerto Internacional Mercedita", is approximately 104,916 feet from the proposed site. The nearest military airport, "Aeropuerto Internacional Luis Muñoz Marín", is approximately 216,321 feet from the proposed site. The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements. Refer to Figure 2 in Appendix B.
Coastal Barrier Resources	Yes No	Puerto Rico has various Coastal Barrier Resources Systems (CBRS). The project is in northwestern Puerto Rico. The distance to the nearest CBRS

Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]		unit is 68,285 feet. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. Refer to Figure 3 in <b>Appendix B</b> .
Flood Insurance  Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes No	The Project site is located in Zone X, area of minimal flood hazard, as per Floodplain Insurance Map 72000C0640H, with an effective date April 19, 2005. This project is in compliance with Floodplain Insurance requirements. (See Figures 4 and 5 in <b>Appendix B</b> .)

STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes No	The Project site is not located in a county or air quality management district that is in non-attainment status for any criteria pollutants. The Municipio of Utuado is not listed in the EPA Green Book "Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for all Criteria Pollutants". (See the List in Appendix C) The purchase and installation of a warehouse would have no impact on air quality. The project is in compliance with Clean Air Act. Refer to EPA listing in Appendix C.
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes No	The project is located 58,748 feet from the nearest Coastal Zone Management area and does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the PR Coastal Zone Management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. See Figure 7 in <b>Appendix B</b> .
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)	Yes No	A site visit conducted on June 1, 2023, no debris or rubbish or visible signs vegetative stress, contamination, or toxic substances were identified at the project site.  Site contamination was evaluated through online data searches to determine if toxic sites are located within 3,000-feet of the proposed project.

		There are no sites of environmental concern identified within 3,000 feet of the project site.  The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. Refer to Figures 8 and 9 in <b>Appendix B</b> .  The project is in compliance with Contamination and Toxic Substances.
Endangered Species  Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse located in an area that has been previously used for agricultural purposes.
30 CIRT 402		According to EPA NEPAssist Enviromapper, the nearest critical or proposed critical habitat is 9,641 feet to the north of the project location. The Official Species List from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website lists, the Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, and Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly as being able to be found in the area, but there are no critical habitats for them at this location.
		A site-specific review of endangered species was conducted in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended: 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) (See <b>Appendix D</b> ).
		The project is Not Likely to Adversely Affect the Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, and Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly, provided conservation measures are implemented as part of the project. As well as training construction staff to identify and avoid the plant <i>Oplonia spinosa</i> , of which the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly uses for egg laying and larval feeding.
		If a Puerto Rican Boa is encountered, work will cease until it moves off the site or, failing that, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers will be notified for safe capture and relocation of the animal, in accordance with the USFW Puerto

		Rican Boa Conservation Measures guidelines and the July 27, 2023 Amended Programmatic Biological Opinion.  If a worker believes they have spotted a Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly, work should cease within the area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).  If a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk and/or Puerto Rican Parrot is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124)  Refer to Figures 10 and 11 in Appendix B and
		IPaC report in <b>Appendix D</b> . This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards	Yes No	The project does not include development, construction, or rehabilitation that will increase residential density.
24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C		The project is in compliance with Explosive and Flammable Hazard requirements.
		Refer to site visit report in <b>Appendix A</b> .
Farmlands Protection  Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes No	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The project site is not designated as farmland of statewide importance or prime farmland. The project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to nonagricultural use. Although the project includes new construction, the project is exempt from review under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) as the project is limited to construction of on-farm structures needed for

		farm operations. No further review is required.  This project is in compliance with the FPPA. Refer to Figure 12 in <b>Appendix B.</b>
Floodplain Management  Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24  CFR Part 55	Yes No	The Project site is not located in a 100-year floodplain per Floodplain Insurance Map 72000C0640H, with effective date April 19, 2005. The project site is not located an Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) special flood hazard area. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Utuado; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
		See Figures 4, 5 and 6 in <b>Appendix B</b> . This project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988.
Historic Preservation  National Historic  Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106	Yes No	The site was evaluated on September 15, 2023 by an SOI Qualified Archaeologist. SHPO concurred with a finding of <b>No Historic Properties Affected</b> within the project's Area of Potential on Effects on November 2, 2023.
and 110; 36 CFR Part 800		Refer to Figure 13 in <b>Appendix B</b> and the report in <b>Appendix E</b> . This project is in compliance with Historic Preservation requirements.
Noise Abatement and Control  Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. HUD's noise regulations protect residential properties from excessive noise exposure. HUD noise regulations do not apply as the project does not include new construction for residential use or rehabilitation of an existing residential property. The proposed project is in compliance with Noise Abatement and Control.
Sole Source Aquifers  Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No	There are no EPA sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The nearest Sole Source Aquifer is 5,299,241 feet to the northwest of the project site. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.  Refer to Figure 17 in <b>Appendix B</b> .
Wetlands Protection	Yes No	The north coast is 69,071 feet northwest of the property. The closest fresh-water bodies include Limon River 2,339 feet east of the property, an

Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5		unnamed creek tributary of the Caonillas River at 798 ft west, and the Caonillas River 4,885 feet southwest of the property. There are several other unnamed creeks within 0.5 miles of the property.
		The NWI maps show no wetlands on the or adjacent to the project site. This project does not impact any on or off-site wetlands and includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section.
		The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. Refer to Figure 14 in <b>Appendix B</b> .
Wild and Scenic Rivers  Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	This project is not within proximity of a National Wild and Scenic River (WSR). The distance to the nearest WSR is approximately 287,601 feet. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Refer to Figure 15 in <b>Appendix B</b> .

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice  Executive Order 12898	Yes No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in any other compliance review portion of this project that may disproportionately be high for low-income and/or minority communities. Therefore, this topic complies with Executive Order 12898.

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

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

(1) Minor beneficial impact

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

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Environmental	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOP	MENT	
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The proposed project is located on a private farm. The project site is zoned as "Agricola Productivo (A-P)". The proposed action is compliant with the current agricultural land use of the Project area.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The proposed project is located within rural, mountainous terrain surrounded by crop lands and forests. The parcel was previously used for coffee production, and now used for growing coffee, oranges, and plantains. Soils in the proposed project area are classified as Consumo Clay (CpF) and Morado Clay Loam both with 40 to 60 percent slopes, 400 meters above mean sea level.
		The area where the warehouse will be installed was completely cleared and graded in 2019 according to historical aerials. Some clearing of vegetation and ground disturbance to level the ground will be required to install the warehouse. However, proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning, or transplanting of trees.
		The project site area is rated as "moderate" to "high" for landslide susceptibility (see Figure 16 in <b>Appendix B</b> ). The proposed project area is located on a graded area within the parcel that is currently used to grow coffee, oranges, and plantains and is frequently disturbed.
		There will be no human habitation associated with the structure and therefore extensive mitigation measures will not be required, such as retaining walls or special engineering design. Standard construction BMPs would be used to control erosion and runoff during construction.

		There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise		The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. During implementation of the project, construction activities may result in temporary elevation of ambient noise levels in immediate areas around active construction areas. The only nearby receptors are the residents of the farm.  There is no access to the project area by the public.
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Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONON	AIC .	
Employment and Income Patterns	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. Temporary employment of workers related to construction activities would result, but no new permanent jobs would be created as a result of this project. These workers are expected to come from the local region. However, since the project will include an economic component, it may aid in restoring some employment opportunities and increase income. The proposed project would not negatively impact employment or income patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The proposed project would not result in demographic character changes or displacement. Given the nature of the project area, no relocations or demolition of residential structures or businesses would occur as part of this project.
Environmental	2	In the area (one mile radius) in which project will occur.
Justice		99% are people of color compared to PR average of 96%
		85% are low income compared to PR average of 70%
		45% are unemployed compared to PR average of 15%
		The proposed purchase and installation of a warehouse will result in restoration and increase in income and potential employment opportunities in the local area. The impacts would be beneficial.
		See EJScreen Report in Appendix C

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Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FA	CILITIES A	AND SERVICES
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The project would not result in any change to regional or local area educational and cultural facilities or increase demand for them.
Commercial Facilities	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The agricultural activity of the project property will improve. Other commercial facilities would not be impacted by the proposed project.
Health Care and Social Services	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. Health care and social services facilities would not be impacted by the proposed project. The project would not increase demand for health care and social services facilities.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. Waste vegetation from clearing activities will either be composted on site or at regional composting centers. Soil from grading would be recycled on the farm as fill. Left over construction materials that could be reused on the farm would be stored for later use. The remaining construction solid waste materials would be collected for transport to the local landfill. The amount of impact of solid waste resulting from the construction of the proposed project would be minor. During operations, the products and by-products would be agricultural, which waste would be biodegradable. Other waste components related to the operation of the proposed project includes recyclable materials such as plastics and cardboard. Recyclables will be set aside and dispose according to the local recycling management plan. The remaining municipal solid waste would be collected for the transport to the local landfill.
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The proposed project would not include any bathrooms, wastewater, or sewage facilities. Current farm conditions would remain unchanged.
Water Supply	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The SOW for this project does not involve the connection of the new warehouse to water utility. The area has

		access to the local water utility infrastructure. The proposed project will have no impact on water usage.
Public Safety – Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The proposed project would not create any new demand for emergency or health services.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The proposed project would not create or destroy any new parks, open space, or recreational activities. It also would not increase use of those facilities.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The proposed project would not involve the creation of new roads nor any increase in long-term traffic on existing roads. There would be some minor use of the existing road during construction. All residents and businesses would retain access to their properties during and after the project.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The proposed project will be situated on land previously used for agriculture and will have no impact to unique natural features or water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The proposed project will occur on land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. All vegetative exceedance material resultant from the clearing activities will be disposed as per the Municipal vegetative material management and diversion plan. No vegetative material will be stored or left at site. The proposed project will have minimal impact on vegetation and no impact on wildlife.

Environmental	Impact			
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation		
CLIMATE AND ENERGY				

Climate Change Impacts	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The project area is rural and does not have urban heat island effects. There would be no changes to the site configuration or structure that would specifically address the possibility and uncertainty of rising sea levels or the possibility of increases in rainfall intensity. This is a small agricultural project with no measurable impact on climate change factors.
Energy Efficiency/Energy Consumption	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a warehouse. The SOW does not include any power connection for the new warehouse. The proposed project is an agricultural project that does not involve energy use.

Additional Studies Performed: None required.

**Field Inspection** (Date and completed by):

Site inspection was conducted on June 1, 2023 by Carlos O. Medina.

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

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

FAA, National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System:

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-

state?stateAbbrev=PR&stateName=Puerto%20Rico&statusCategory=Listed

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Mapping Service:

https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home (compilation of numerous maps)

US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory:

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

Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program Plan, September 2009.

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

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

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

#### List of Permits Obtained:

None

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

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

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

While not included in the activities proposed to be funded by HUD, the applicant has stated their intention to install solar panels in the future to power the warehouse.

In accordance with 24 CFR 58.32 (Aggregation), there are no cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project. The project would allow more space for the storage of agricultural products and equipment leading to a more efficient processing and growing of the agricultural products. The SOW does not involve the connection of the warehouse to electric or water utilities. Therefore, water and power use would not increase with the installation of the warehouse and should have no impact on the local utilities supply or demand.

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

The RGRW Program's goal is to increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island-wide. This Program seeks to enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. Alternative locations off and on property may represent an impact to undisturbed and/or uneven ground, sloped terrain or within forested areas,

which could require heavier clearing and grading activities. Any alternative that would involve an off-property location might require the purchase of land, the movement of products, equipment, infrastructure, among others, representing an additional cost. An off-property alternative will not enhance and expand agricultural production or allow for the economic development for this applicant. Given the above-mentioned possible impacts of an alternative location, an off-property alternative was not selected.

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

Under the No Action Alternative, the applicant would not receive federal funding for the purchase and installation of a warehouse, which would inhibit the economic growth opportunity that the applicant would not otherwise have under the PRDOH Re-Grow Puerto Rico program. As a result, these owners may not be able to experience the growth needed to recover and expand their agriculture activities. A provision of the grant allows for economic development for businesses. The construction of this warehouse will provide a space to securely store and secure the integrity and the quality of the products and equipment used for agricultural activities. This action will minimize the weathering and impacts of having products and equipment expose to weather conditions, increasing the cost-effectiveness of buying products and the useful life of equipment. The No-Action alternative would not allow for the economic development for this applicant.

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

The proposed activity has been found to not have any adverse effects on the environment nor is there the requirement for further consultation with federal agencies associated with the topics evaluated above. There are no environmental review topics addressed above that result in the need for additional formal compliance steps with federal agencies or the requirement for mitigations other than those listed below. There may be additional approvals or permits from local agencies. For example, permits may be required from PRDNER for any water or other utility connections and the Office of Permit Management (OGPe) is responsible for granting permits, licenses, certifications, consultations, construction, and any other procedure necessary for business development and land use in Puerto Rico. The appropriate and necessary permits should be obtained by the applicant and/or contractor, from the appropriate Department or concerned agency, prior to construction activities.

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

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development

agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure			
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff Endangered Species	Standard construction BMPs would be used to control erosion and runoff during construction.  Implement Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, and Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly conservation measures prior to and during construction to avoid or minimize impacts to this species.			
	If a Puerto Rican Boa is encountered, work will cease until it moves off the site or, failing that, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers will be notified for safe capture and relocation of the animal, in accordance with the USFW Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures guidelines and the July 27, 2023 Amended Programmatic Biological Opinion.			
	If a worker believes they have spotted a Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly, work should cease within the area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).			
	If a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk and/or Puerto Rican Parrot is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).			
Paymile or	Aganay Annyayala Paguirad			
	Agency Approvals Required			
Permit or Approval Ground disturbance	Permit Conditions  Projects whose earthworks are more than 40 m³ must submit an Incidental Permit. The permit must be submitted via the Single Business Portal to the OGPe to be evaluated and physicalized by the Water Quality Division of the PRDNER. Any necessary permits should be obtained by the applicant and/or contractor prior to construction activities.			

Clearing activities	Activities involving the excavation or movement of any component of the terrestrial cortex material that exceeds five hundred (500) cubic meters and up to a maximum of five thousand (5,000) cubic meters require the submittal and approval of a Simple Terrestrial Cortex Removal Permit. Applications are submitted via the Single Business Portal of the OGPe to be evaluated and physicalized by terrestrial Cortex Extraction Permit Division of the PRDNER.
Utility Connections- LUMA/PRASA	The project does not involve new utility connections. Facilities have local utility services connections. However, the applicant is responsible for any permits or actions to ensure legalization of utility connections (if needed) prior to construction activities.
Utility Connections- Water supply	The project does not involve new water utility connections. Facilities have local water utility services connections. However, the applicant is responsible for any permits or actions to ensure legalization of utility connections (if needed) prior to construction activities.

Determination:  Finding of No Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.
Finding of Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
Preparer Signature:
Name/Title/Organization: <u>Andrew McCadden, Senior Biologist, Tetra Tech Inc.</u>
Certifying Officer Signature: Jank Officer Signature:Date: April 23, 2024

Name/Title: Santa D. Ramírez Lebrón / Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

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

# **APPENDIX A**

Site Inspection and Photos





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

APPLICANT INFORMATION				
Application ID	PR-RGRW-00410			
Applicant Name	Angel Gonzalez Melendez			
Property Address				
Parcel ID				
Coordinates		-66.622655		
Inspector Name				
Inspection Date				
Building Type				
Number of Units	0			
Number of Stories	0			
Year Built; Data Source		an		
ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS (attach			ssary for any VFS answers)	
OBSERVATION ITEMS	YES	NO	COMMENTS	
	11.5		COMMENTS	
A. Is the structure in use?		☑		
B. is structure a greenhouse? C. Is Electricity connected?				
		☑		
D. Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)		Ø		
1. Are there signs of <b>poor housekeeping</b> on site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, storm debris, solid waste, petroleum products, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, vehicle batteries, abandoned vehicles, pits, pools, ponds of hazardous substances, etc.)		团		
2. Are there any <b>55-gallon drums</b> visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?		Ø		
<b>3</b> . Are there any (or signs of any) <b>underground storage tanks</b> on the property?		Ø		
<b>4</b> . Are there signs of <b>ASTs</b> on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.		₫		
5. Is there any <b>stained soil or pavement</b> on the parcel?		Ø		
6. Is a water <b>drainage system</b> in use?		Ø		
7. Is a warehouse in use for storage of <b>Fertilizer or Pesticides</b> ?				
8. Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?				
9. Is there evidence of a faulty septic system?		Ø		
10. Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?		Ø		
11. Is there any visible indication of MOLD?		$\square$		







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

#### **Additional Notes:**

Re Grow Additional Notes: Template

Case: PR-RGRW-00410

Project Name: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Coordinates: 18.299907, -66.622655

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

Scope of Work: Purchase of a new warehouse.

Land current in use for: coffee plantation

Past Land use was: coffee 50 years ago

The applicant plans to do: a warehouse

Where the applicant plans to do the ground disturbances for the scopes of work, add the coordinates, descriptions and approximately

the measurements:

Scope of work: 18.299907, -66.622655

Construction of a warehouse in metal galvalum with a concrete base of 40' x 40'. The purpose of the warehouse is for farm tools storage. Area available approximately of 50' x 50'.

Any new water connection or power connection?

No water neither power needed.







# Site Sketch

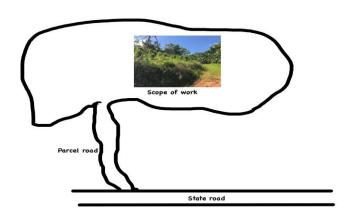




Photo Direction: Northeast

Front of Structure



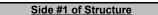
Facing Away From Front

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Direction: Northeast





Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Direction: Southeast





Facing Away From Back

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Direction: Southeast

Side #2 of Structure



Facing Away From Side #2

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Direction: North

Streetscape #1



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction: South





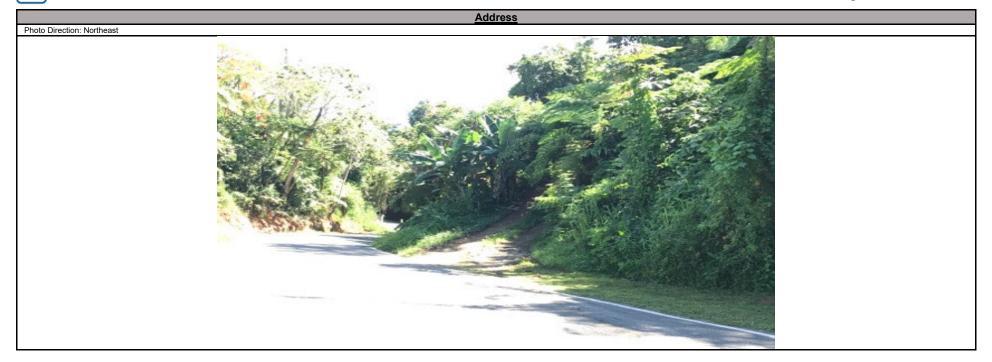




Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: East



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: West





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



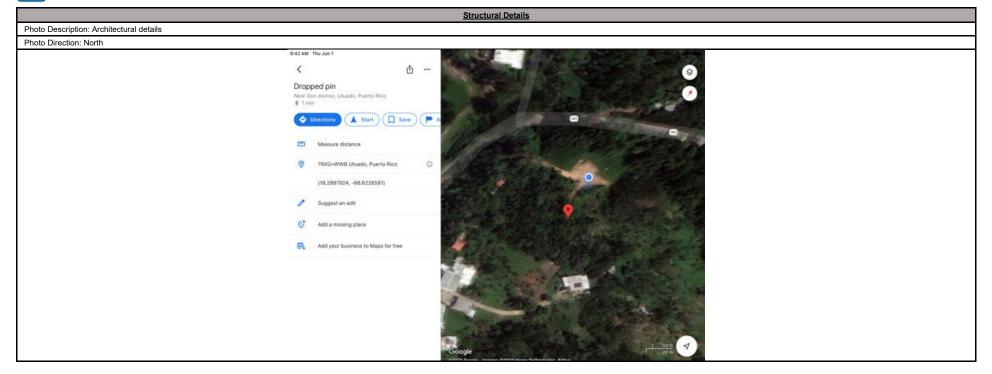
Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast









Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse

Photo Direction: Southeast



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse Photo Direction: East





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse

Photo Direction: North



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse

Photo Direction: East





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse

Photo Direction: Southeast



#### Scope Of Work

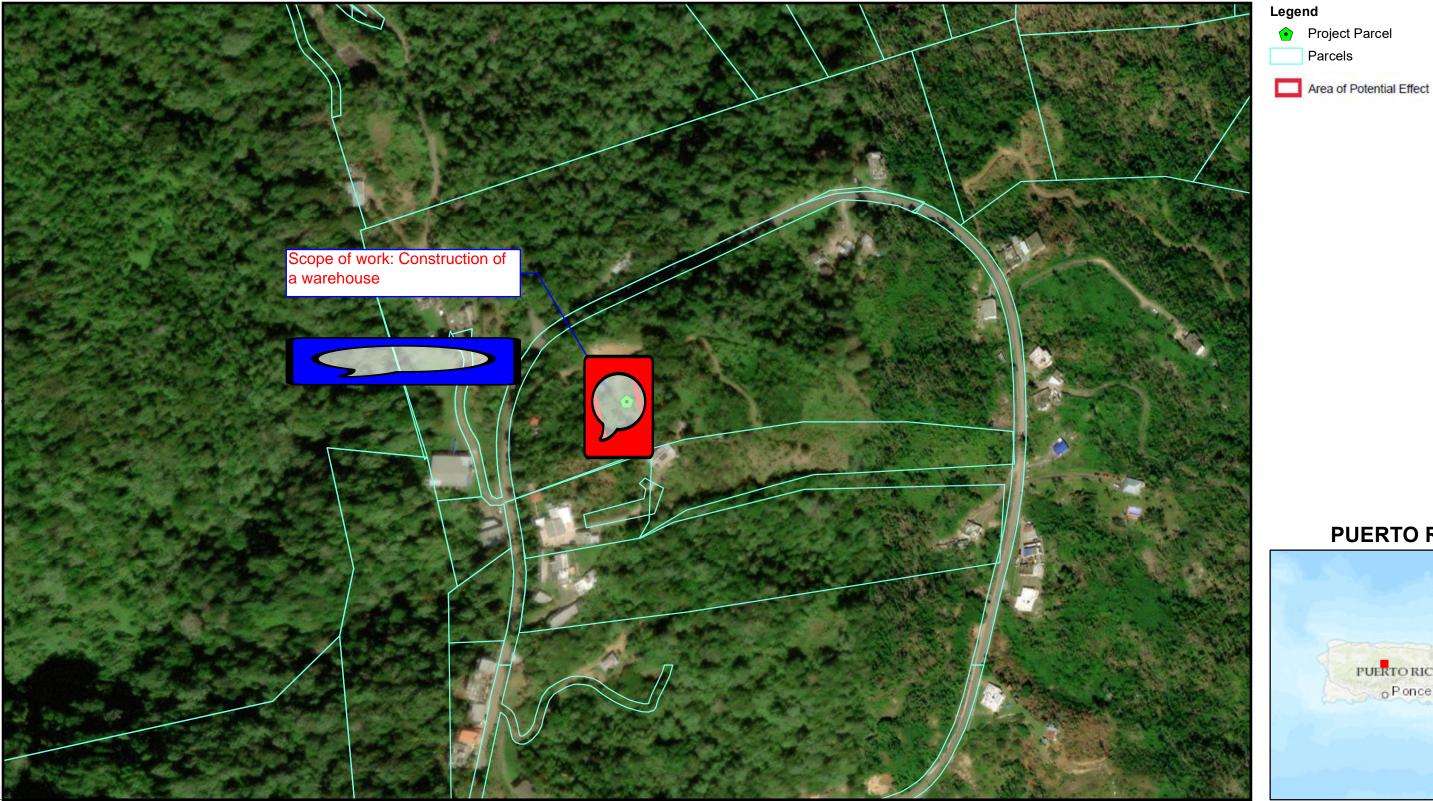
Photo Description: Scope of work: map reference

Photo Direction: North



## **APPENDIX B**

Maps





Parcels

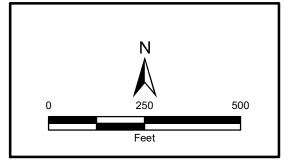


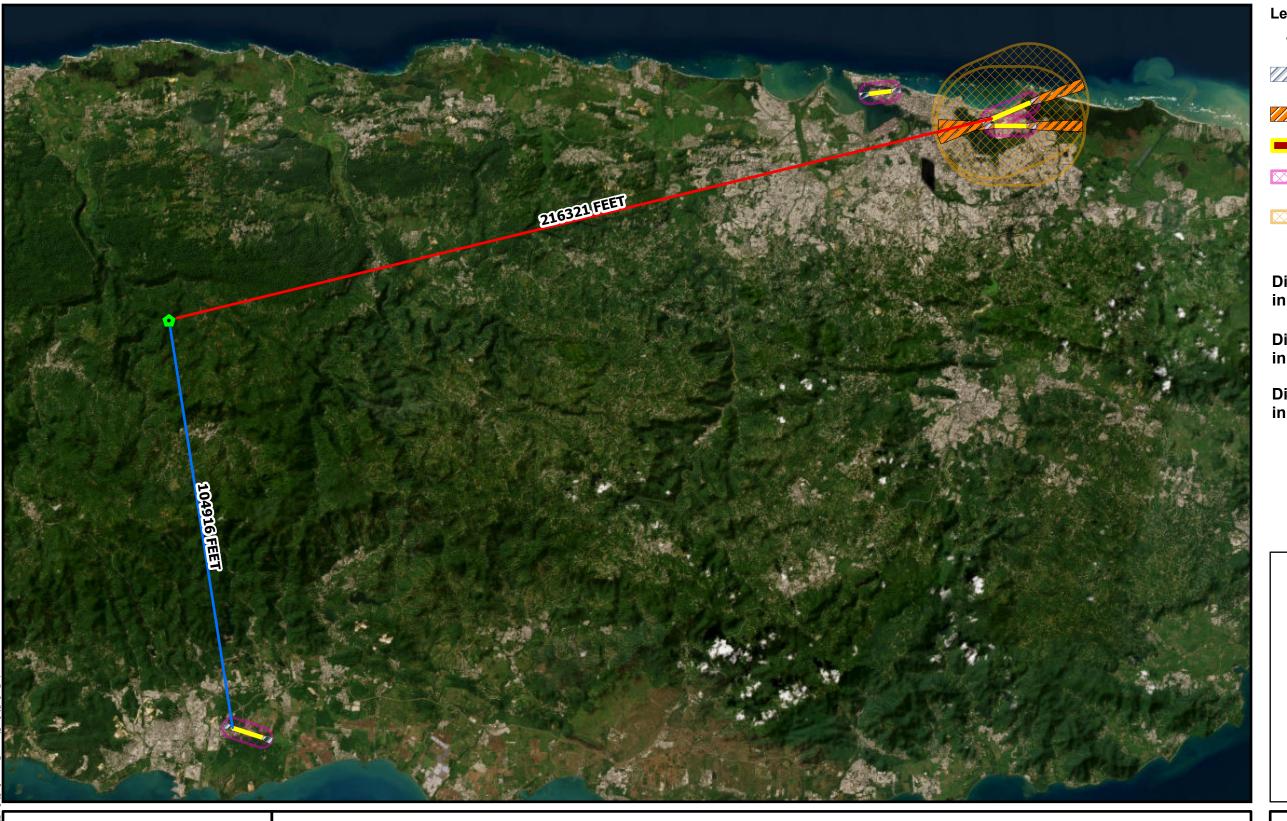


ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650

Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658

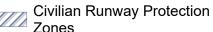






#### Legend

Project Parcel



Military Accident Potential

Airport Runways

Civilian Airport 2,500 Feet

Military Airport 15,000 Feet

**Distance to Nearest Airport** in Feet: 104,916

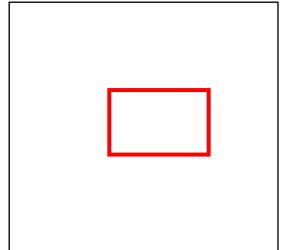
**Distance to Nearest Civilian Airport** 

in Feet: 104,916

**Distance to Nearest Military Airport** 

in Feet: 216,321

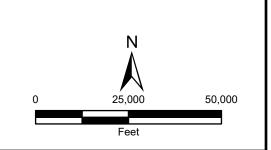
## **PUERTO RICO**

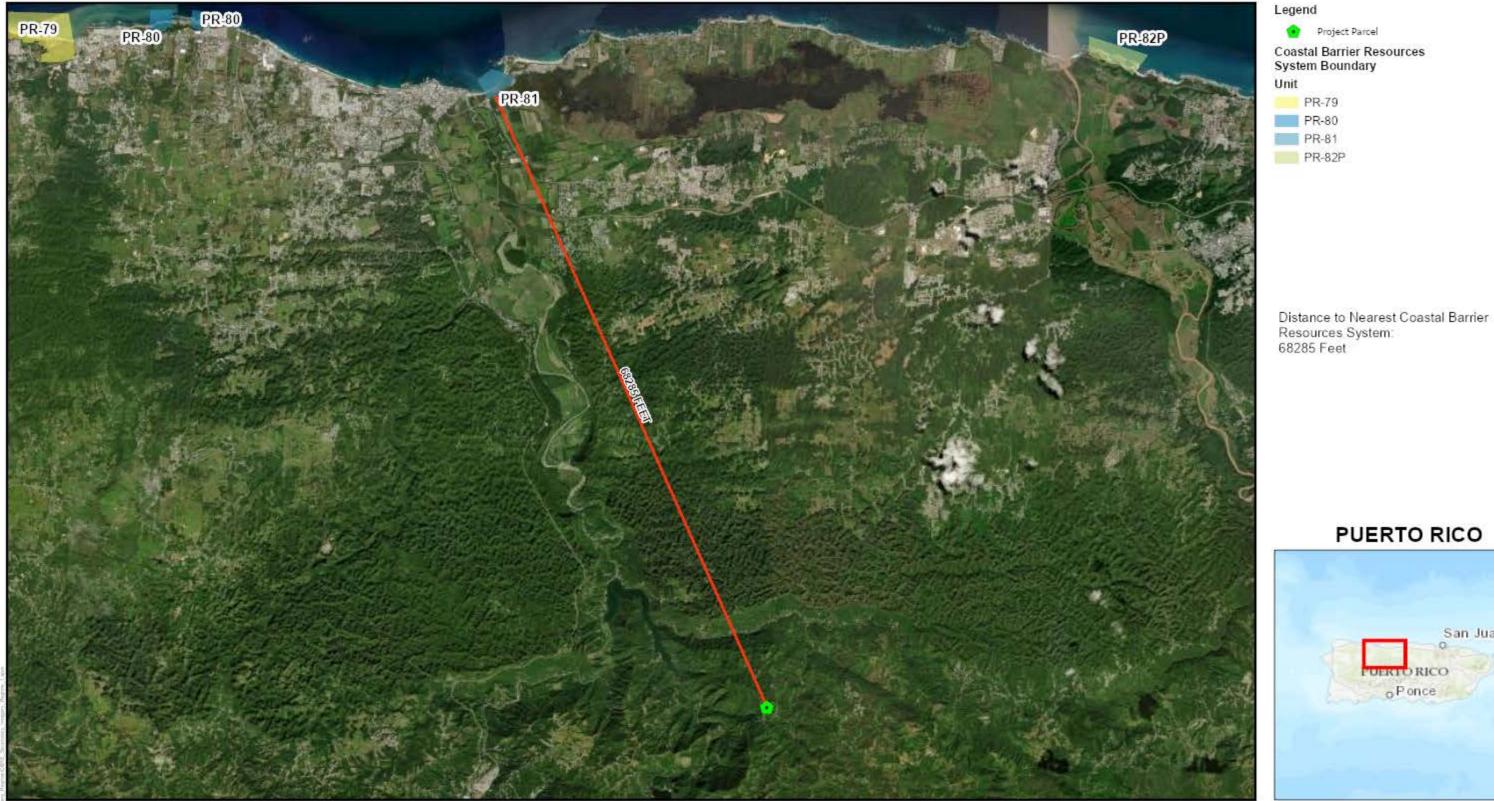




ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650 Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658







Project Parcel

PR-79

## **PUERTO RICO**



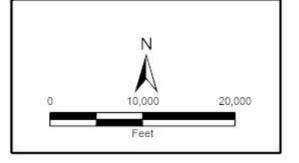


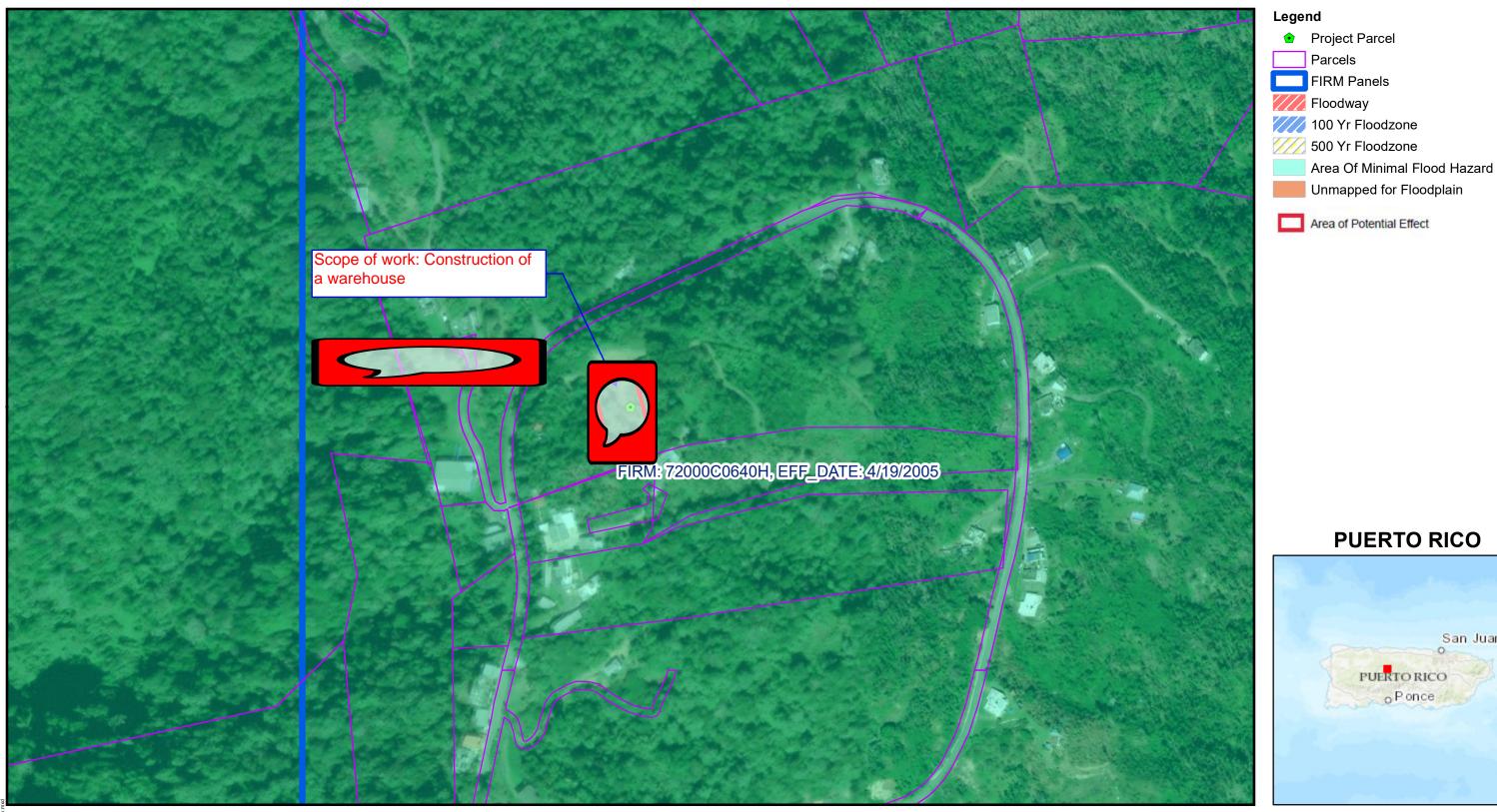
Source: U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service https://www.fws.gov

Date: 10/17/2023

## Figure 3: COASTAL BARRIERS IMPROVEMENT ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410

ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650 Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658





## **PUERTO RICO**

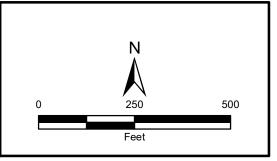




## Figure 4: FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410**

ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650

Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658

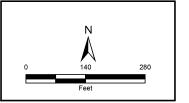


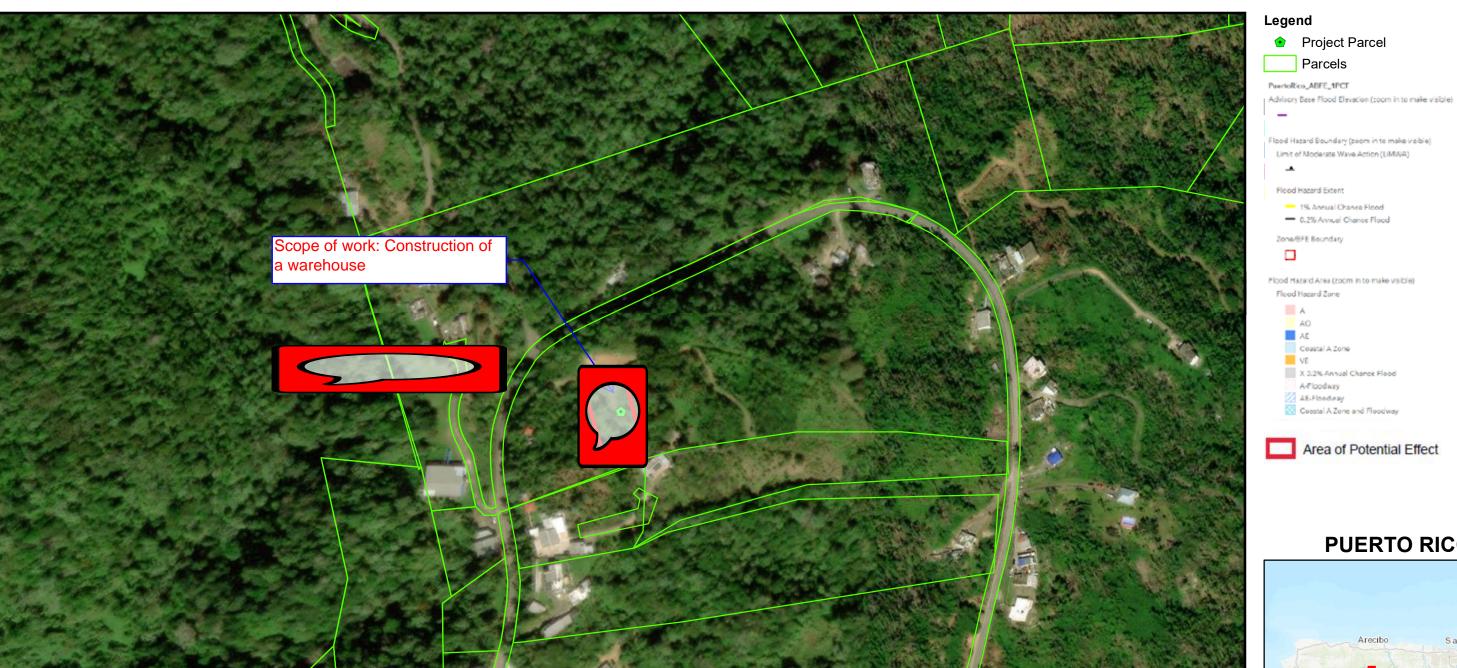




#### FIGURE 5: NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER FIRMETTE







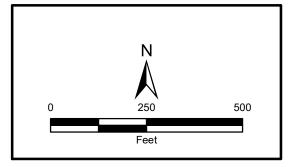
## **PUERTO RICO**





## Figure 6: ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410**

ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650 Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez



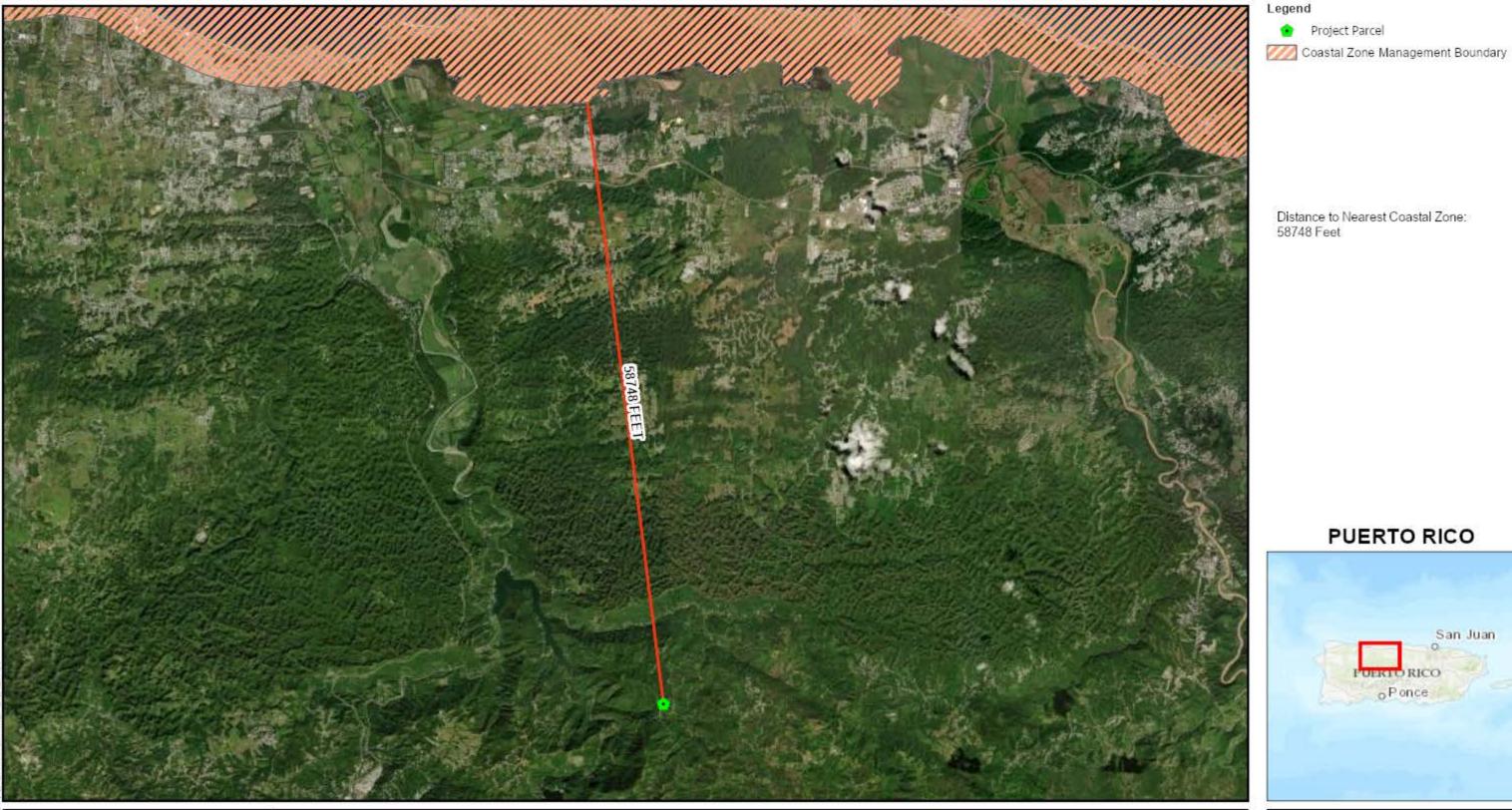
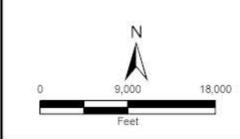


Figure 7: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410** 

ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650

Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates:18.299792, -66.622658



Distance to Nearest Coastal Zone: 58748 Feet

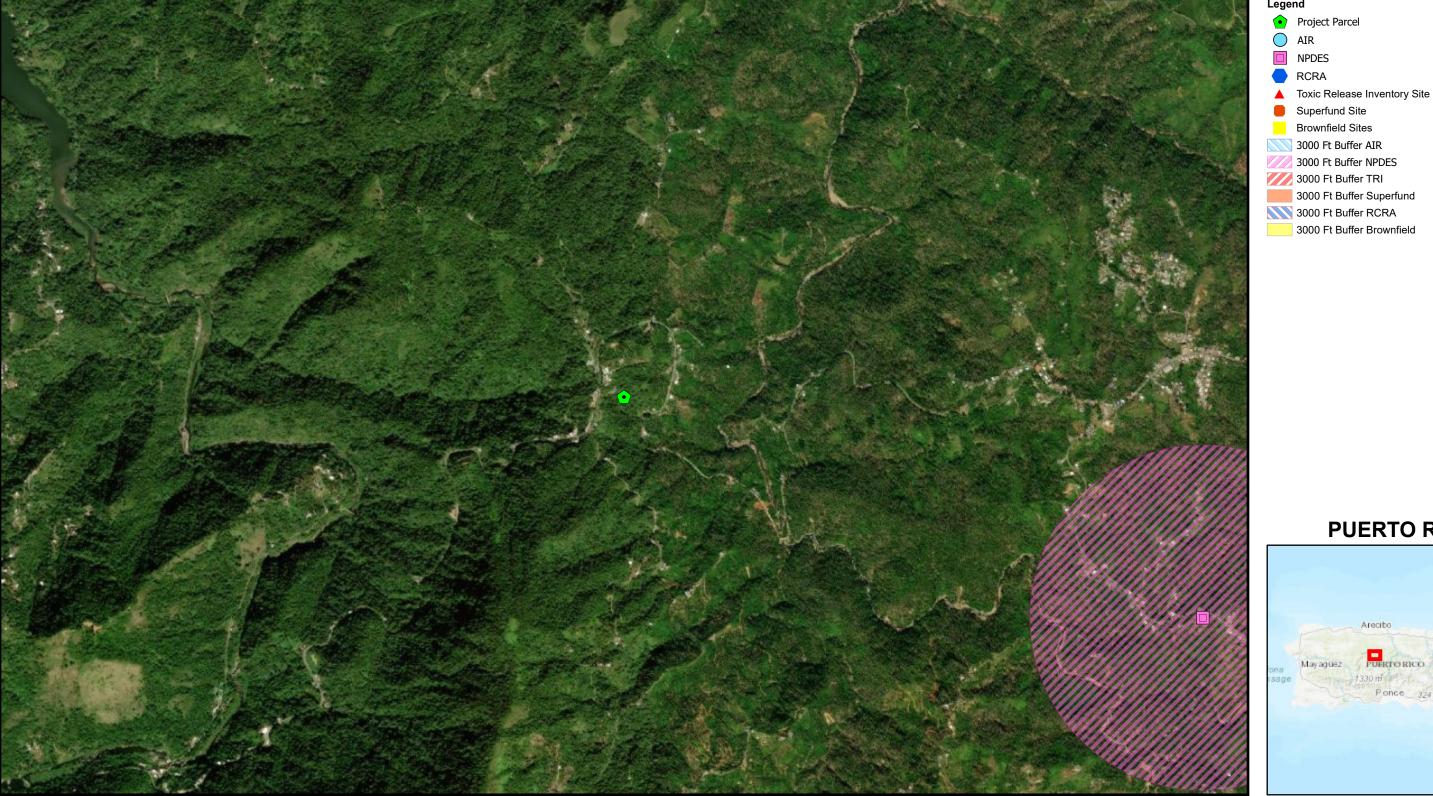
Project Parcel

## **PUERTO RICO**



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

**TETRA TECH** 



## **PUERTO RICO**

**Brownfield Sites** 3000 Ft Buffer AIR 3000 Ft Buffer NPDES

3000 Ft Buffer Superfund

3000 Ft Buffer Brownfield



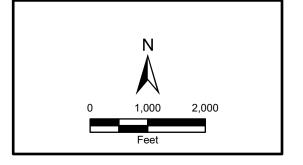


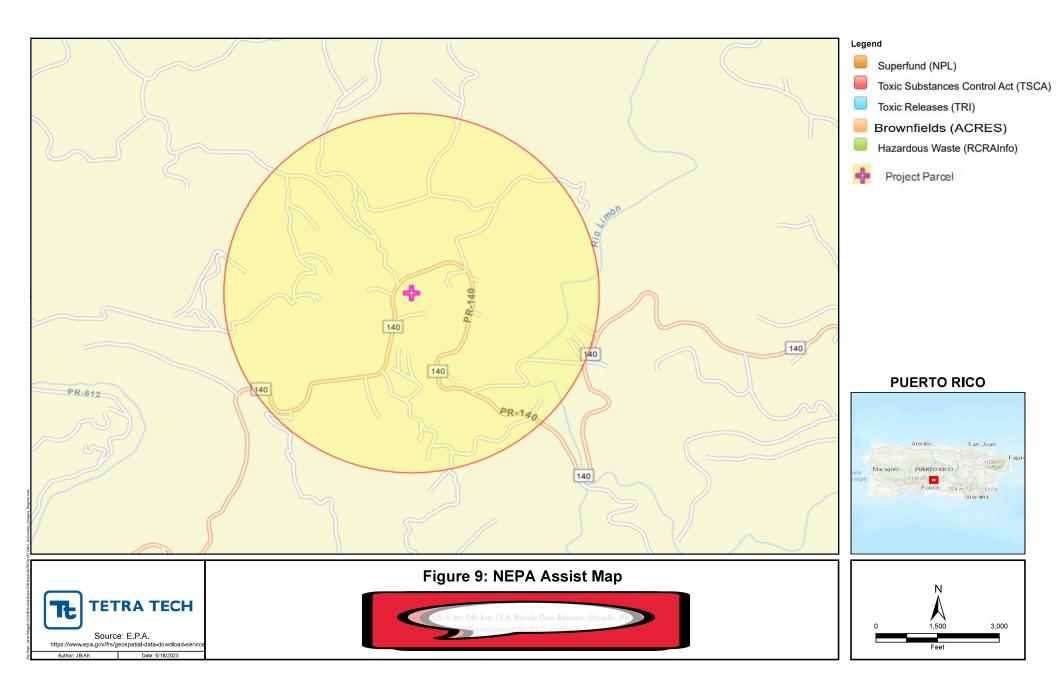
Date: 1/10/2024

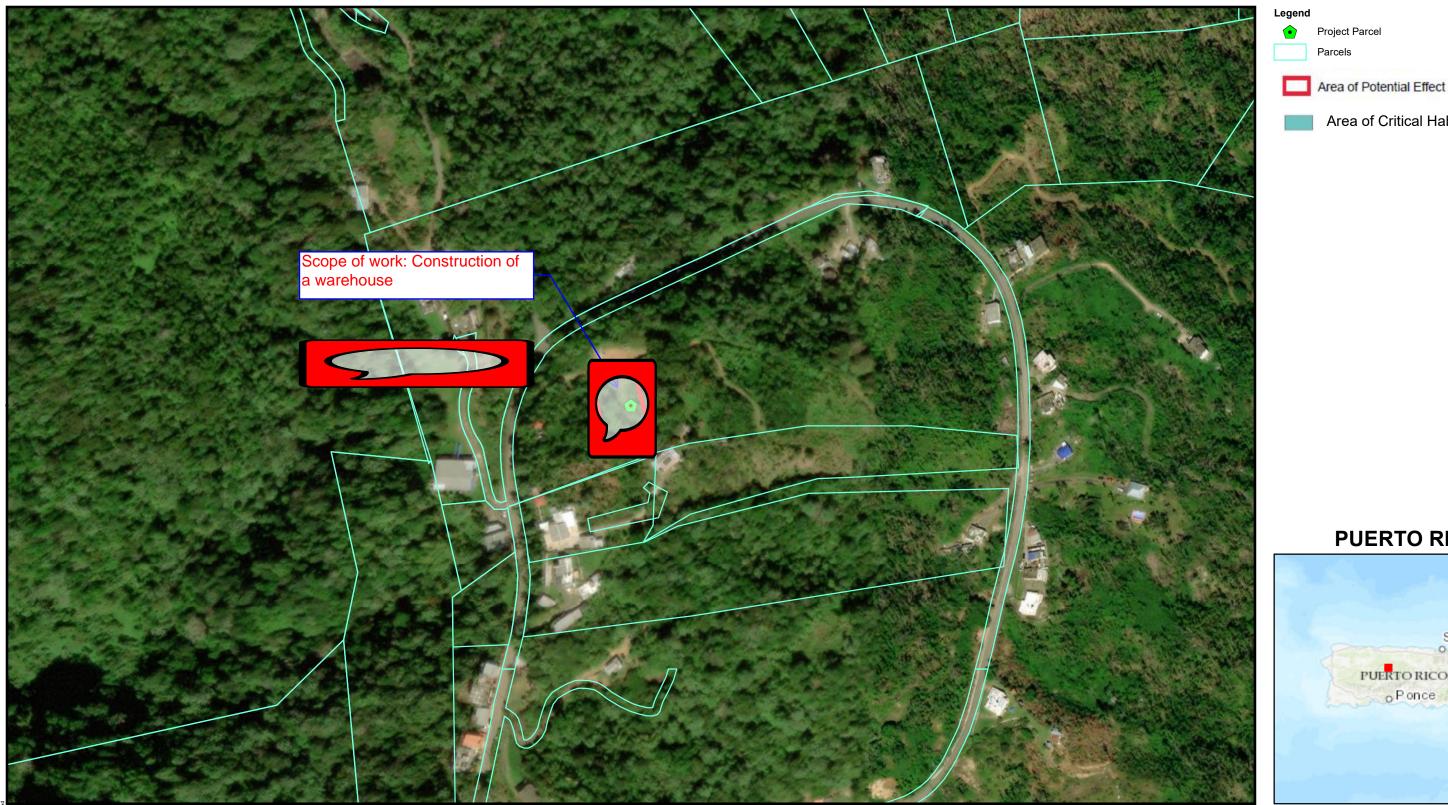
Author: JB/AK

Figure 8: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND GASES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, **CONTAMINATION, AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410** 

> ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650 Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez









Project Parcel Parcels

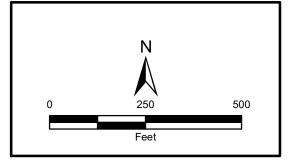
Area of Critical Habitat

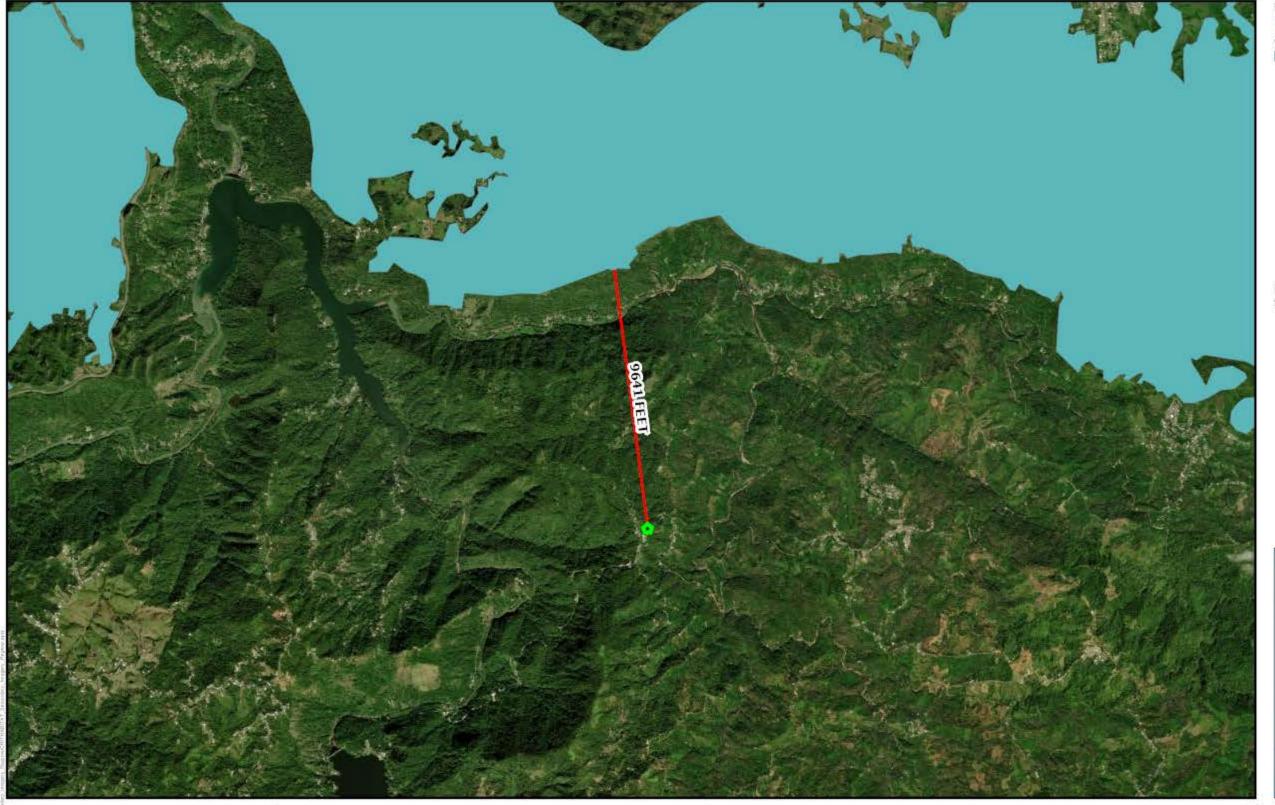




## Figure 10: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410**

ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650 Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez







Distance to Nearest Critical Habitat: 9641 Feet

## **PUERTO RICO**

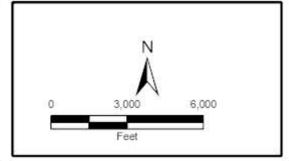


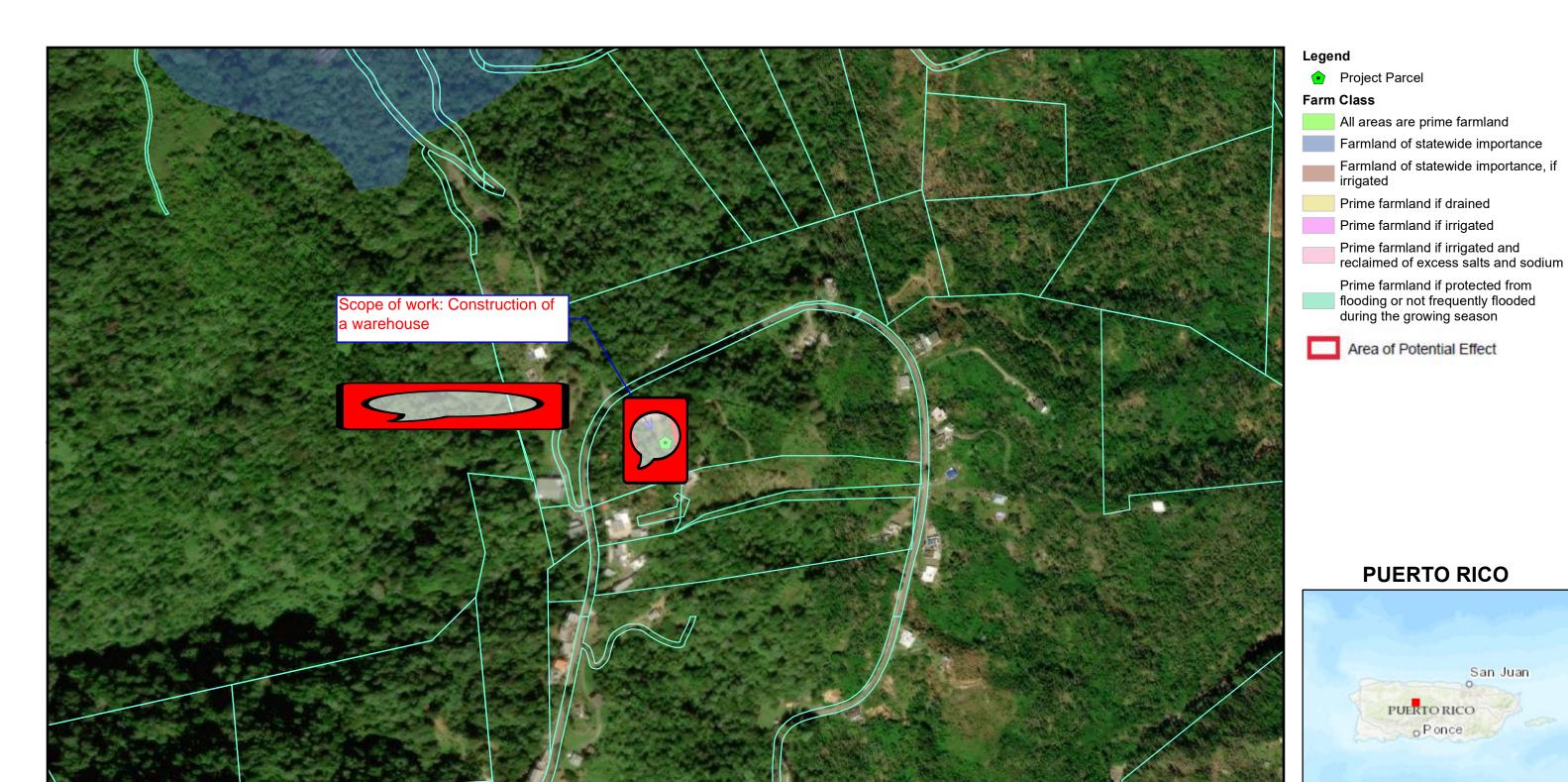


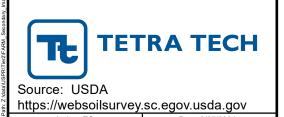
ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650

Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez





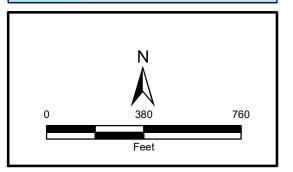


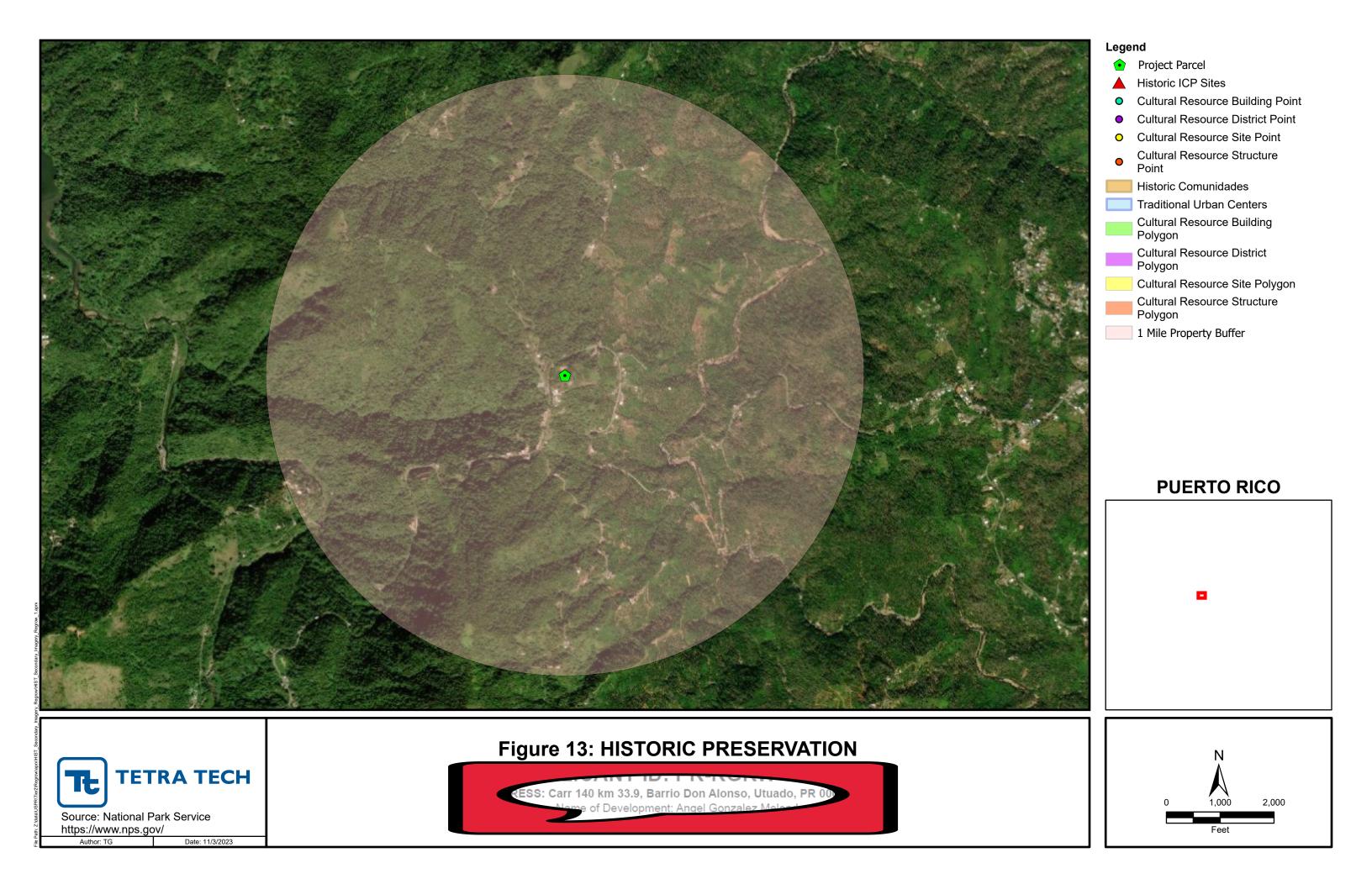


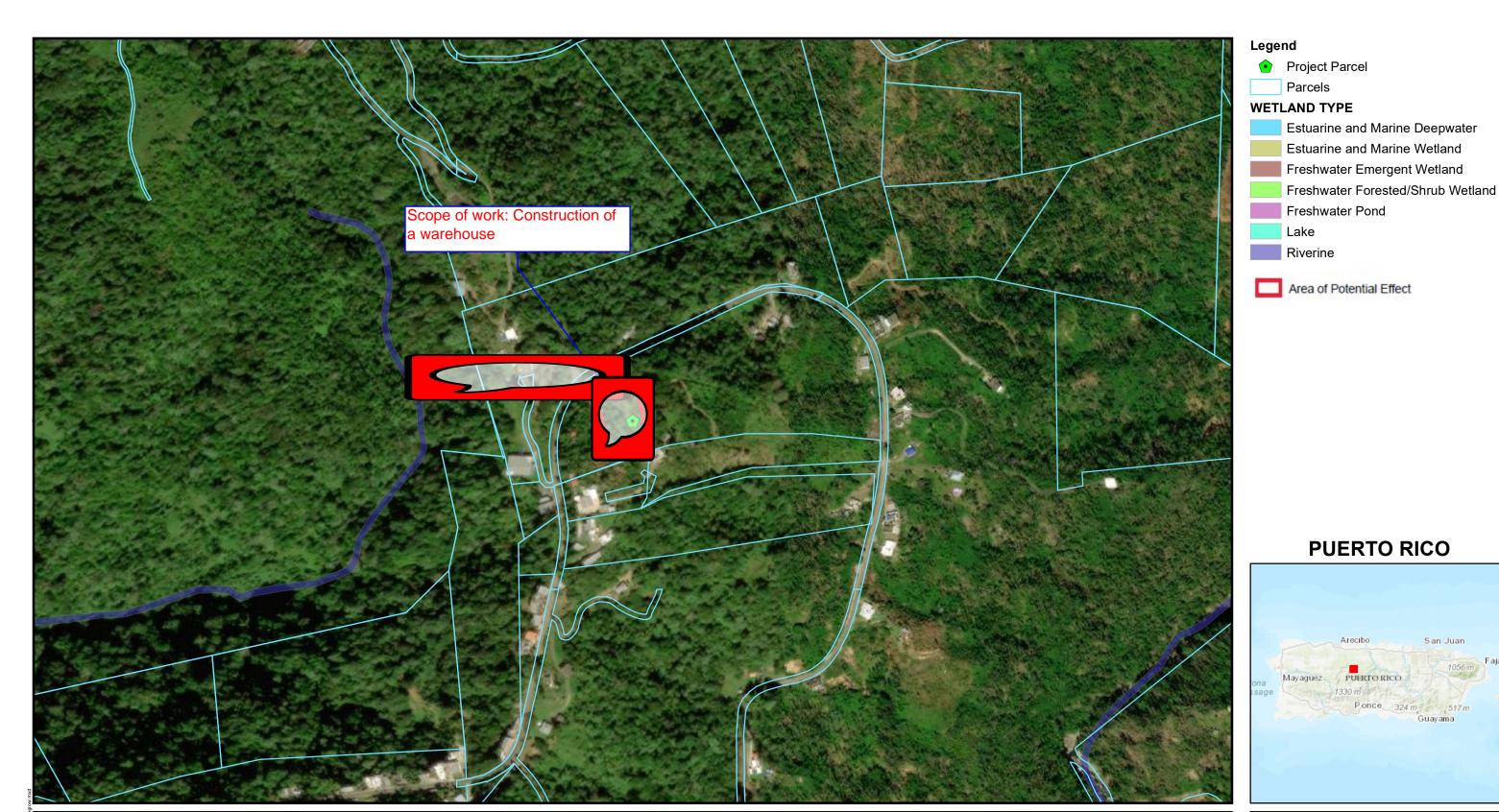
# Figure 12: FARMLAND PROTECTION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410

ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650

Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658





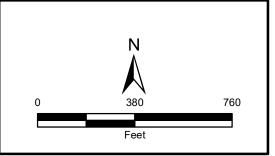




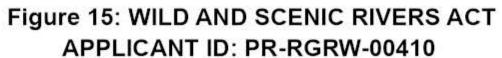
ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650

Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez









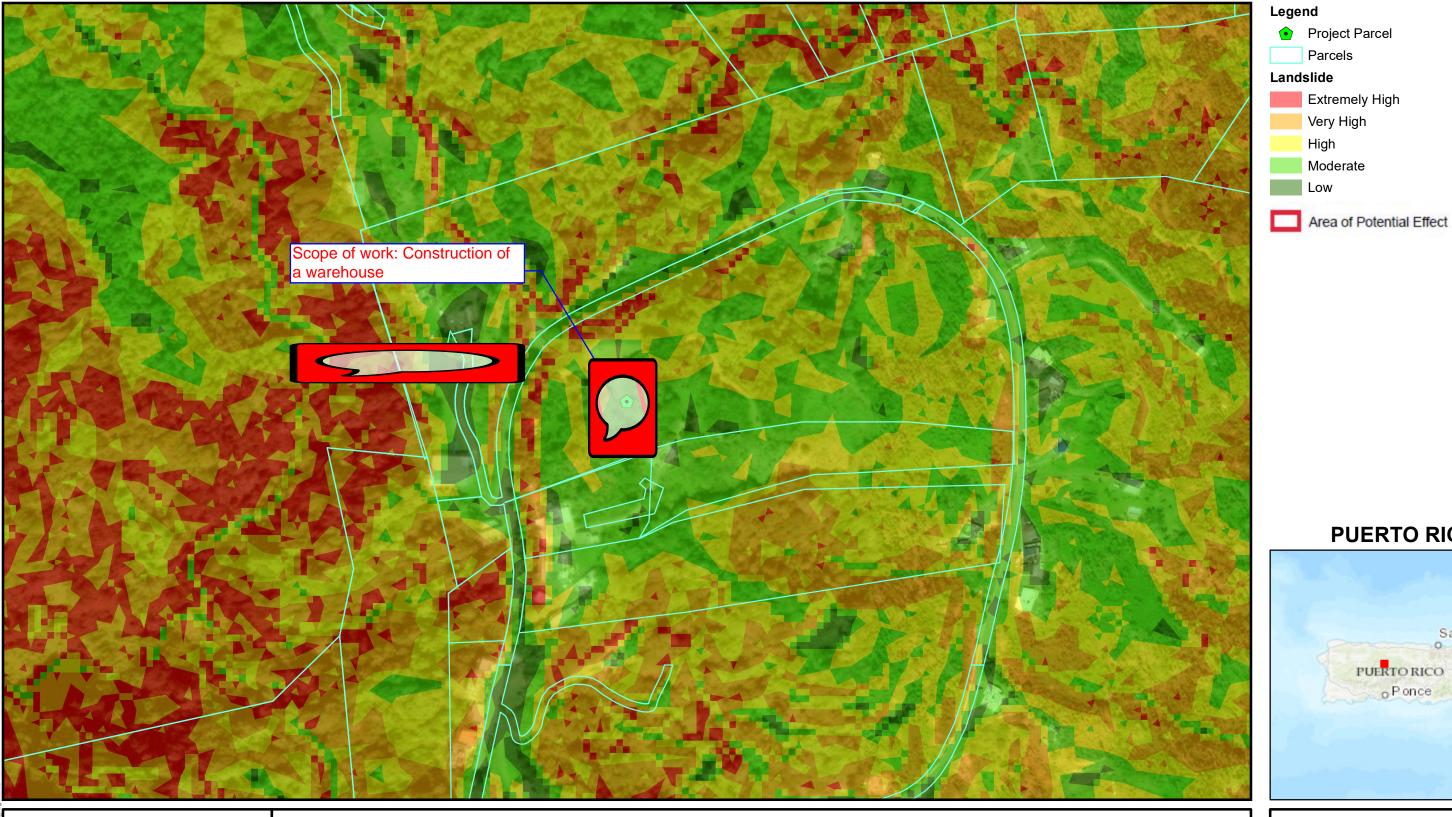
ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650 Name of Development:Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658

**PUERTO RICO** 

Mayaguez

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

**TETRA TECH** 



## **PUERTO RICO**

Parcels

Very High

High Moderate

Extremely High

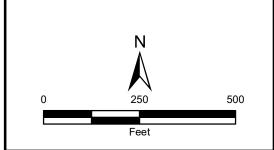


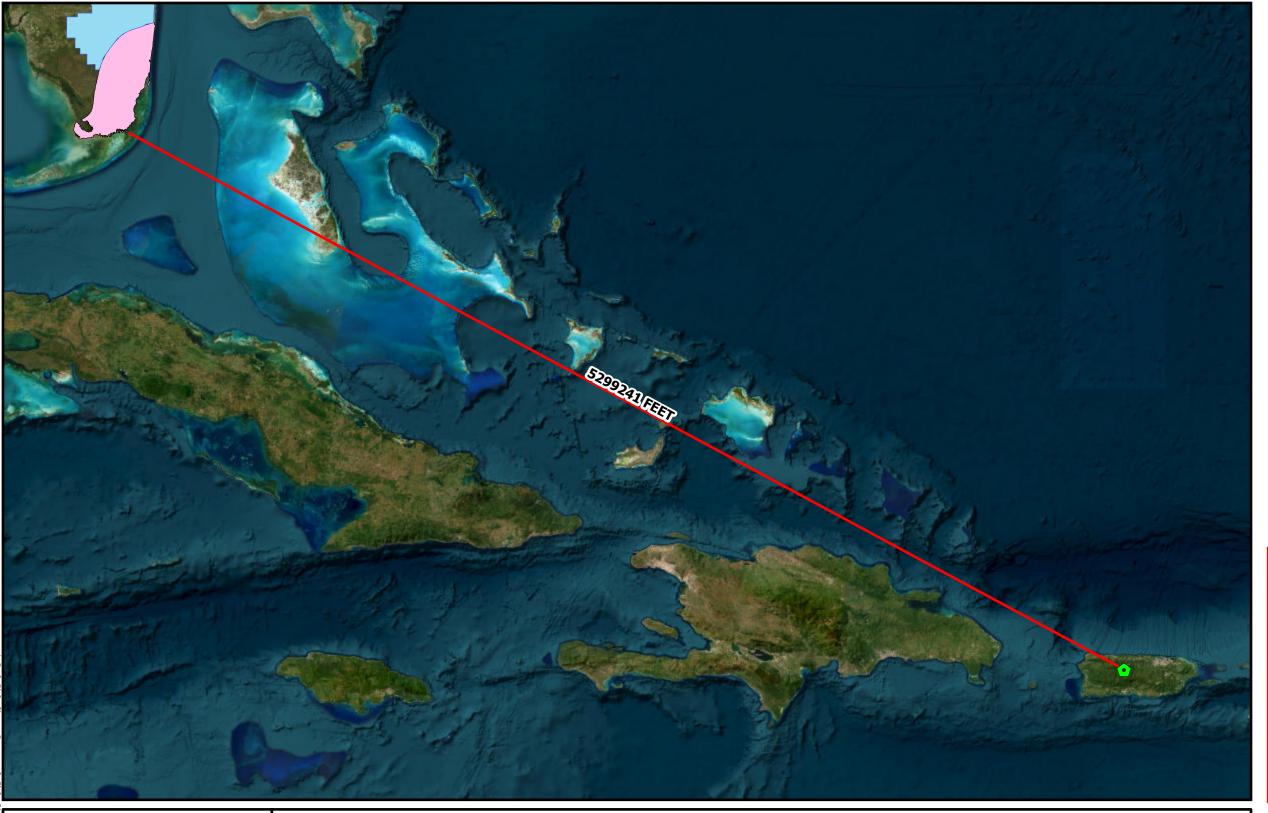


ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650

Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658







Project Parcel

Sole Source Aquifer

Biscayne Aquifer SSA

Biscayne Aquifer SSA
Streamflow and Recharge
Source Zones

Distance to Nearest Aquifer: 5,299,241 FT

## **PUERTO RICO**



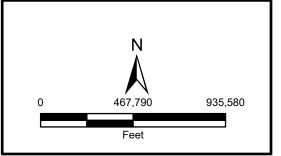
Source: USGS
https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/
epa-sole-source-aquifers

Author: TG Date: 2/21/2024

Figure 17:SOLE SOURCE AQUIFERS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410

ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650

Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658



## **APPENDIX C**

Additional Information



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

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

Data is current as of December 31, 2023

Listed by County, NAAQS, Area. The 8-hour Ozone (1997) standard was revoked on April 6, 2015 and the 1-hour Ozone (1979) standard was revoked on June 15, 2005.

\* The 1997 Primary Annual PM-2.5 NAAQS (level of 15 μg/m³) is revoked in attainment and maintenance areas for that NAAQS. For additional information see the PM-2.5 NAAQS SIP Requirements Final Rule, effective October 24, 2016. (81 FR 58009)

Change the State:	
PUERTO RICO 🗸	GO

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

Important Notes

Discover. Connect. Ask.



## **EJScreen Community Report**

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

# Utuado Municipio,

1 mile Ring Centered at 18.299898,-66.622663 Population: 260 Area in square miles: 3.14

A3 Landscape

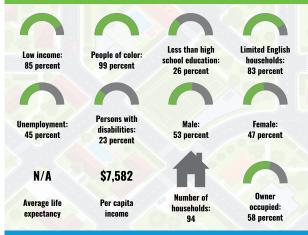


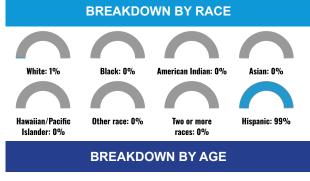


#### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
No language data available	

#### **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**





From Ages 1 to 4	8%
From Ages 1 to 18	23%
From Ages 18 and up	77%
From Ages 65 and up	21%

#### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



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

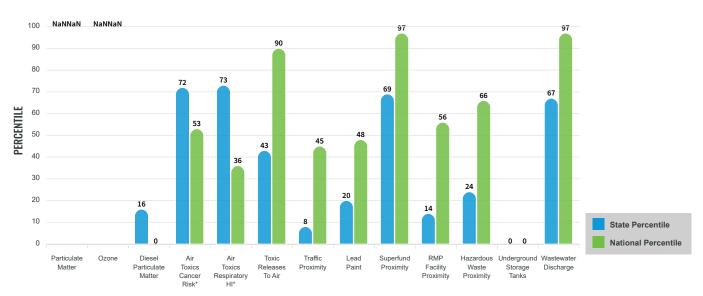
## **Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes**

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

#### **EJ INDEXES**

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

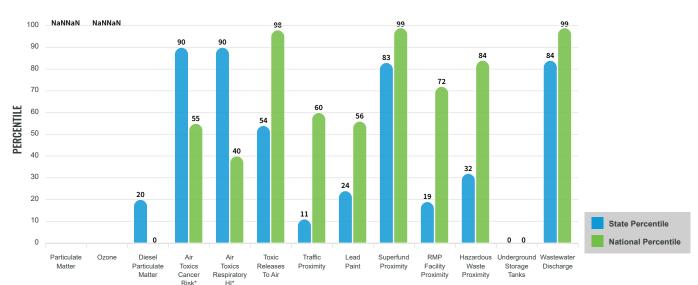
#### **EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION**



#### **SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES**

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high

#### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

 $\equiv$ 

 $\equiv$ 

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.299898,-66.622663

## **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter (µg/m³)	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.08	N/A
Ozone (ppb)	N/A	N/A	N/A	61.6	N/A
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m³)	0.0166	0.0667	15	0.261	0
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	20	20	15	25	5
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.2	0.19	17	0.31	4
Toxic Releases to Air	610	4,300	42	4,600	50
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	6.4	180	8	210	13
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.028	0.16	24	0.3	21
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.11	0.15	65	0.13	70
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.067	0.47	13	0.43	16
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.12	0.76	22	1.9	24
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km²)	0	1.7	0	3.9	0
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.034	2.3	66	22	76
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	92%	83%	69	35%	99
Supplemental Demographic Index	60%	43%	91	14%	99
People of Color	99%	96%	20	39%	95
Low Income	85%	70%	70	31%	98
Unemployment Rate	45%	15%	96	6%	99
Limited English Speaking Households	84%	67%	82	5%	99
Less Than High School Education	26%	21%	64	12%	88
Under Age 5	8%	4%	89	6%	76
Over Age 64	21%	22%	48	17%	70
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A%	N/A	20%	N/A

\*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of estimators to find the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations, cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figure and additional significant figure and additional significant figure and additional si

#### Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	D
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	J
Water Dischargers	J
Air Pollution	J
Brownfields	J
Toxic Release Inventory	D

#### Other community features within defined area:

Schools 0	
Hospitals 0	
Places of Worship	

#### Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	No
Immeined Weters	V-

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

## **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

HEALTH INDICATORS							
INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE		
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%	N/A		
Heart Disease	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	N/A		
Asthma	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A		
Cancer	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	N/A		
Persons with Disabilities	20.2%	21.6%	40	13.4%	86		

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

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS							
INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE		
Broadband Internet	51%	32%	83	14%	98		
Lack of Health Insurance	4%	7%	25	9%	31		
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Transportation Access	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		

Footnotes

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.299898,-66.622663

## APPENDIX D

**Endangered Species** 



## United States Department of the Interior

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



In Reply Refer to: FWS/R4/CESFO/72141-Gen

Submitted Via Electronic Mail: jcperez@vivienda.pr.gov

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

Re: CDBG-DR RGRW-00410 Angel Gonález Meléndez, Utuado, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated November 21, 2023, requesting consultation on the above referenced project. As per your request, our comments are provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is proposing the construction of a 40-foot by 40-foot metal warehouse with a concrete base on a property located on State Road PR-140, Km 33.9, Don Alonso Ward (18°17'59.3"N 66°37'21.6"W) in the municipality of Utuado, Puerto Rico.

Using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, PRDOH has determined that the proposed project lies within the range of Puerto Rican boa (*Epicrates inornatus* now known as *Chilabothrus inornatus*), Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*), Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*) and Puerto Rican broadwinged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*).

Based on the nature of the project and that the existing area has been used for cultivation of coffee for approximately 50 years, PRDOH has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, Puerto Rican parrot, Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk, and Puerto Rican boa with the implementation of conservation measures, developed by the Service, during the project construction to avoid and minimize impacts to these species.

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

We have reviewed the information provided and our files, and concur with PRDOH determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the above-mentioned species with the implementation of the conservation measures.

As per the Puerto Rican boa conservation recommendations (updated conservation measures enclosed), please note that if a boa is encountered during the project activities, it should not be captured. If a boa needs to be moved out of harm's way, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) should be contacted for safe capture and relocation of the animal. If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities in the area where the boa is found must stop until it moves out of harm's way on its own.

Also, please be aware that the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly measures were amended to clarify how they are appropriately applied. Therefore, the Service recommends the applicant to adopt the implementation of the below updated conservation measures for the proposed actions.

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

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

6. Once the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly has moved away, within a period of 24 to 36 hours, a search of the prickly bush that has been buffered should be conducted to determine the presence of any eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids of the butterfly on the plant. The contractor or the Applicant should send a report of the observation and its findings to caribbean\_es@fws.gov after the 36-hour search is concluded.

- 7. If, after the initial search or after the 24 to 36-hour search, any life stage of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is found in the prickly bush, take the following actions:
  - o Clearly mark the host plant with flagging tape.
  - o Establish a 10-meter (32-foot) buffer zone around the bush to protect it.
  - Eggs are typically found on the prickly bush's newly grown, tender branches.
     Once an egg hatches, the caterpillar moves and feeds throughout the bush.
     Therefore, avoid cutting off the prickly bush within the project site even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
  - Work within the 10-meter buffered area may resume when no signs of any live life stage of the butterfly are detected, which usually takes approximately 60 to 120 days.
- 8. For all Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly sightings (all life stages), the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where the butterfly was found must be recorded. Data should also include a photo of the butterfly (if possible) and the habitat where it was observed, site GPS coordinates, and comments on how the butterfly was detected and its behavior. All Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly sighting reports should be sent to the USFWS Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office at <a href="mailto:caribbean\_es@fws.gov">caribbean\_es@fws.gov</a>.
- 9. For questions regarding the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, the Point of Contacts are:

José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator:

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

Carlos Pacheco, Fish and Wildlife Biologist:

o Mobile: 786-847-5951

Office Direct Line: 939-320-3113
 Email: carlos pacheco@fws.gov

In view of this, we believe that requirements of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) have been satisfied. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

Mr. Pérez-Bofill 4

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

Sincerely,

Lourdes Mena Acting Field Supervisor

drr

Enclosure: Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures





November 21, 2023

Edwin E. Muñiz Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service PO Box 491 Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622

Email: <a href="mailto:caribbean\_es@fws.gov">caribbean\_es@fws.gov</a>; <a href="mailto:edwin\_muniz@fws.gov">edwin\_muniz@fws.gov</a>;

RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing Re-Grow Program

PR-RGRW-00410 – Ángel González Meléndez

**Endangered Species Concurrence for NLAA Determination** 

Dear Mr. Muñiz:

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is requesting an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project PR-RGRW-00410, located at PR-140 Km 33.9, Don Alonso Ward, Utuado, PR 00650 (Parcel ID# 163-000-001-20-000). The coordinates of the project site are 18.299792, -66.622658.

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-00410 consist in the construction of a 40-foot by 40-foot metal warehouse with a concrete base that would be used for storage of farm tools. The warehouse would be located on a 50-foot by 50-foot area with concrete foundation. The project site would have to be cleared and graded. This building will be used for the parking of farm equipment and product transport vehicles. Vegetation removal will be required for installation of the warehouse and the concrete foundation. During removal of vegetation best practices should be followed in accordance with USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2020 to avoid potential disturbance.

The proposed project area is approximately 21.29 acres located at PR-140 Km 33.9, Don Alonso Ward in the Municipality of Utuado, Puerto Rico. This land is currently being used to cultivate coffee and has been doing so for approximately 50 years. Review of historical

aerials shows that the land where the proposed warehouse will be installed was completely cleared and graded in 2019. The proposed construction of a warehouse will take place on frequently disturbed lands with low lying vegetation. The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) indicated there are no NWI mapped wetlands located within the parcel.

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

Name of Species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate	
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered	
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens)	Endangered	
Puerto Rican Parrot (Amazona vittate)	Endangered	
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)	Threatened	
Critical Habitat		
There are no critical habitats within the project area.		

Based on the nature of the project, previous site disturbance, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the Project Site, and IPaC species list, we have made the following effects determinations:

Name of Species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures to be implemented (if needed)
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures
Puerto Rican Broad-Winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens)	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged hawk 2023
Puerto Rican Parrot (Amazona vittate)	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon 2023
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	No conservation measures listed – see below

Given the current and previous land use, it has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect the listed species provided the attached Conservation Measures are implemented as part of the proposed project as well as training construction staff to identify and avoid the plant Oplonia spinosa, of which the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly uses for egg laying and larval feeding.

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

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue.

Cordially,

Juan Carlos Pérez Bofill, PE, MEng.

Director – Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program

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

#### **Attachments:**

Appendix A:

Figure 1 – Location Site Map

Figure 2 – Area of Potential Effect Map

Figure 3 – Wetland Map

Figure 4 – Farmland Protection

Figure 5 – Endangered Species Act

Appendix B: IPaC Resource List

Appendix C: Site Photos

Appendix D: Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged hawk 2023 Appendix E: Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon 2023 Appendix F: USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2020

C: Angel G. López-Guzmán, MSEM

**Deputy Director** 

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division







## **PUERTO RICO**

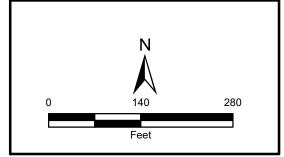




ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650

Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658







**Subrecipient:** Angel Gonzalez Melendez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410 City: Utuado

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





## **PUERTO RICO**

Parcels

Lake Riverine

Freshwater Pond

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater Estuarine and Marine Wetland Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland



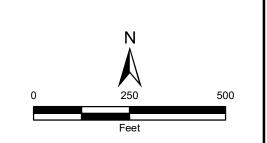


**TETRA TECH** 

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

Date: 10/9/2023

Figure 14: WETLANDS ODRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00





**TETRA TECH** 

https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov

Source: USDA

## Figure 12: FARMLAND PROTECTION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410**

Name of Development:

ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650 Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658

## **PUERTO RICO**

All areas are prime farmland

Prime farmland if drained Prime farmland if irrigated

irrigated

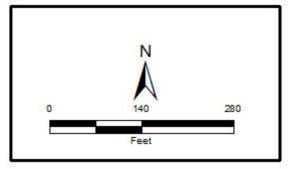
Farmland of statewide importance Farmland of statewide importance, if

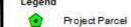
Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium

Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded

during the growing season







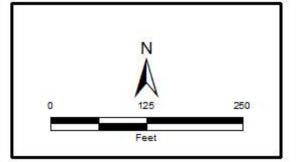
## **PUERTO RICO**





## Figure 10: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00410

ADDRESS: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, PR 00650 Name of Development: Angel Gonzalez Melendez Parcel Coordinates: 18.299792, -66.622658





IPaC
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## 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.

CONSULT

#### Location

Utuado County, Puerto Rico



#### Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

**(**787) 834-1600

**(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

## **Endangered species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Birds

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk Buteo platypterus brunnescens Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512	Endangered
Puerto Rican Parrot Amazona vittata Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067  Reptiles	Endangered
NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus  Wherever found  No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628	Endangered
Insects	
NAME	STATUS

Wherever found

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005</a>

#### Critical habitats

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

There are no critical habitats at this location.

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

## Bald & Golden Eagles

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

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Managment https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</a>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</a>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action">https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action</a>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Migratory birds

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

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

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

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</a>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</a>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action">https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action</a>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Facilities**

#### National Wildlife Refuge lands

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

There are no refuge lands at this location.

#### Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

## Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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

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

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

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

#### **Data limitations**

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

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

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

#### Data exclusions

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

#### **Data precautions**

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

TEOR CONSULTATI





Photo Direction: Northeast

Front of Structure



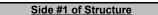
Facing Away From Front

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Direction: Northeast





Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Direction: Southeast





Facing Away From Back

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Direction: Southeast

Side #2 of Structure



Facing Away From Side #2

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Direction: North

Streetscape #1



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction: South





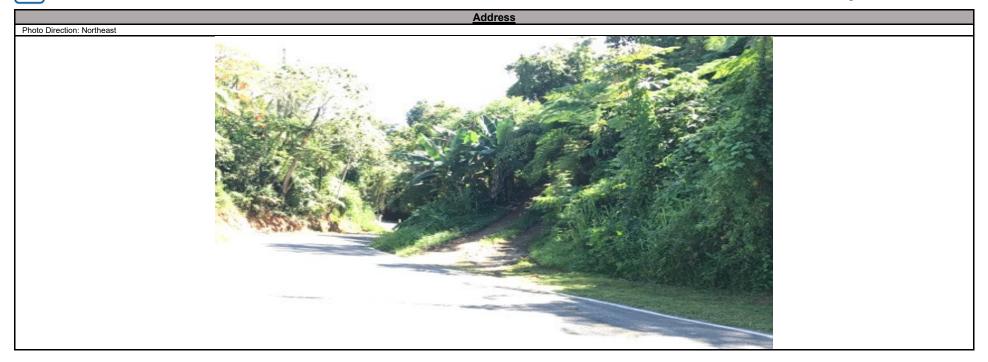




Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: East



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: West





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



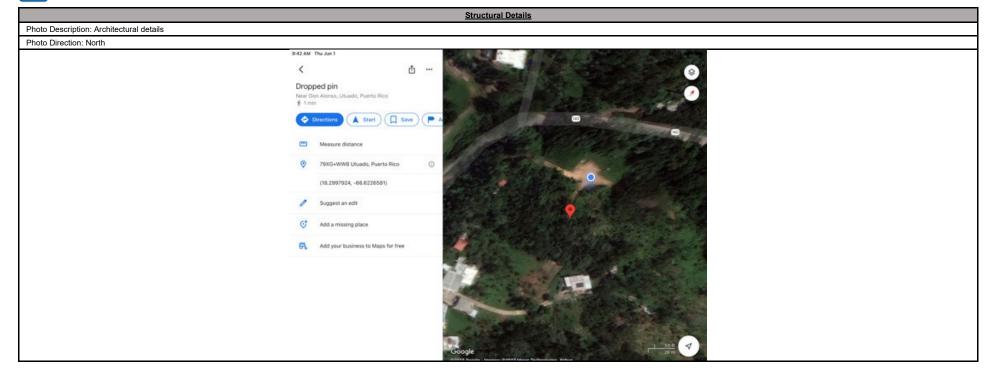
Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast









Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse

Photo Direction: Southeast



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse Photo Direction: East





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse

Photo Direction: North



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse

Photo Direction: East





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: construction of a warehouse

Photo Direction: Southeast



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 1: construction of a warehouse Photo Direction: South



Appendix D: Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged hawk 2020

#### Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens)

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

The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk is a small hawk with dark chocolate-brown upperparts, heavily streaked rufous breast, and a broadly banded black and white tail. Adult male and female are similar in appearance, but the female is slightly larger. This species occurs in elfin woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest, Carite Commonwealth Forest, and El Yunque National Forest as well as within hardwood plantations, shade coffee plantations, and mature secondary forests. The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk population is estimated at about 125 individuals island-wide.



The broad-winged hawk was federally listed in 1994. The broad-wing prefers to hunt from a perch under the forest canopy for a better view of potential prey in a forest clearing, trail or river below. Each hunting pair requires a range of 40 hectares (98 acres). The Broad-wing builds a nest of sticks in February and March, laying 2 to 4 white/brown-spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs for almost a month while the male searches for food. The young fledge around April or May about 1 month after hatching and can fly about 6 weeks after hatching. The parents feed the young for a few weeks after they leave the nest. The voice is a high-pitched whistle.

The hawk is an uncommon and local resident in the El Yunque National Forest, the Rio Abajo State Forest, and the Toro Negro State Forest.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the hawk and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain cirmunstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional conservation measures can be implemented besides the ones presented here.

1. For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures

to follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency spill response protocols.

- 2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
- 3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this hawk (February and March), if the hawk is determined to be present.
- 4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the USFWS and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
- 5. If a broad-winged hawk is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).
- 6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.
- 7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable environmental compliance and permitting requirements. This information shall be submitted to the PRDNER as shown in Number 5 above.
- 8. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact PRDNER for further guidance.

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

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
   Email: marelisa\_rivera@fws.gov
   Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator Email: jose\_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
   Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386

Appendix E: Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon 2023

#### Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon (Parrot) (Amazona vittata)

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

The Puerto Rican amazon (Amazona vittata), also known as the Puerto Rican parrot (Puerto Rican Spanish: cotorra puertorriqueña) or iguaca, is the only extant parrot endemic to the archipelago of Puerto Rico and belongs to the Neotropical genus Amazona. Measuring 28–30 cm (11.0–11.8 in), the bird is a predominantly green parrot with a red forehead and white rings around the eyes.



The parrot was federally listed as endangered in 1967. The parrot reaches sexual maturity at between three and four years of age. It reproduces once a year (between the months of February to June) and is a cavity nester. Once the female lays eggs, she will remain in the nest and continuously incubate them until hatching (about 24 to 28 days). The chicks are fed by both parents and will fledge 60 to 65 days after hatching. This parrot's diet is varied and consists of flowers, fruits, leaves, bark and nectar obtained from the forest canopy.

The species is the only remaining native parrot to Puerto Rico and has been listed as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union since 1994. Once widespread and abundant, the population declined drastically in the 19th and early 20th centuries with the removal of most of its native habitat; the species has completely vanished from Vieques and Mona Island. Conservation efforts commenced in 1968 to save the bird from extinction. The habitat of the parrot is generally identified as

the Palo Colorado, Palma de Sierra, and Tabonuco forests types of the upper zones of the Luquillo Mountains within the El Yunque National Forest.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the hawk and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain cirmunstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional conservation measures can be implemented besides the ones presented here.

- For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction
  workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will
  educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures
  to follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency
  spill response protocols.
- 2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
- 3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this parrot (January to July), if the parrot is determined to be present. The parrot selects a large, deep tree cavity, usually in a Palo Colorado tree. The parrot normally does not build its own nest but, many times, parrot biologists do build artificial cavities that are accepted by the parrot. A check with DNER should occur if large Palo Colorado trees are in the general construction area.
- 4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the DNER and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
- 5. If a parrot is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).
- 6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these

areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.

- 7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable environmental compliance and permitting requirements. This information shall be submitted to the PRDNER as shown in Number 5 above.
- 8. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact PRDNER for further guidance.

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

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
   Email: marelisa\_rivera@fws.gov
   Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator Email: jose\_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
   Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386

Appendix F: USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2020

# USFWS Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures

## Puerto Rican Boa

Generated September 18, 2023 11:05 PM UTC, IPaC v6.98.0-rc2



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

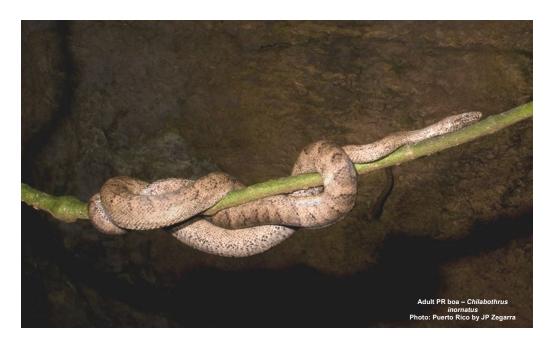


## U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

#### Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)

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

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



Last Revised: November 2020

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

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

#### Conservation Measures:

- 1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the PR boa in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming the species as well as penalties for harassing or harming PR boas. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
- 2. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
- 3. Once areas are clearly marked, and prior to the use of heavy machinery and any construction activity (including removal of vegetation and earth movement), a biologist or personnel with experience on this species should survey the areas to be cleared to verify the presence of any PR boa within the work area.
- 4. The PR boa is considered more active at night. Thus, in order to maximize its detection, the species should be searched at nights prior to habitat disturbance.
- 5. Once the area has been searched for PR boas, vegetation should first be cleared by hand to the maximum extent possible. Vegetation should be cut about one meter above ground prior to the use of heavy machinery for land clearing. Cutting vegetation by hand will allow boas present on site to move away on their own to adjacent available habitat. Any stone walls or naturally occurring rock piles must be carefully dismantled by hand as these are refuges for the snake. This will allow any boas present to vacate the site without injury.
- 6. For all boa sightings (dead or alive), record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where it was found. PR boa data should also include a photo of the animal (dead or alive), site GPS coordinates, the time and date, and comments on how the animal was detected and its behavior.

Last Revised: November 2020

- 7. If a PR boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded (see #6). **Do not capture the boa.** If boas need to be moved out of harm's way, designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124). If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities at this area must stop until the boa moves out of harm's way on its own. Activities at other work sites, where no boas have been found after surveying the area, may continue.
- 8. If a PR boa is captured by the PRDNER, record the name of the PRDNER staff and information on where the PR boa will be taken. This information should be reported to the Service.
- 9. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize PR boa casualties by heavy machinery or motor vehicles being used on site. Any heavy machinery left on site (staging) or near potential PR boa habitat (within 50 meters of potential boa habitat), needs to be thoroughly inspected each morning before work starts to ensure that no boas have sheltered within engine compartments or other areas of the equipment. If PR boas are found within vehicles or equipment, do not capture the animal and let it move on its own or call PRDNER Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (see #7). If not possible, the animal should be left alone until it leaves the vehicle on its own.
- 10. PR boas may seek shelter in debris piles. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize boa casualties associated with sheltering in debris piles as a result of project activities. Debris piles should be placed far away from forested areas. Prior to moving, disposing or shredding, debris piles should be carefully inspected for the presence of boas. If debris piles will be left on site, we recommend they be placed in areas that will not be disturbed in the future.
- 11. If a dead PR boa is found, immediately cease all work in that area and record the information accordingly (see #6). If the PR boa was accidentally? killed as part of the project actions, please include information on what conservation measures had been implemented and what actions that will be taken to avoid further killings. A dead boa report should be sent by email (see contacts below) to the Service within 48 hours of the event.
- 12. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact the PRDNER for further guidance.

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

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
  - o Email: marelisa rivera@fws.gov
  - o Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
  - o Email: jose cruz-burgos@fws.gov
  - o Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386

Last Revised: November 2020

### **APPENDIX E**

Section 106 Consultation



#### GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

November 2, 2023

#### Lauren Bair Poche

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

SHPO 10-16-23-03 SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL: PR-RGRW-00410- ÁNGEL GONZÁLEZ MELÉNDEZ - CARR. 140 KM 33.9, BARRIO DON ALONSO, UTUADO, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Bair,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB





October 16, 2023

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

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

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-00410 – Angel Gonzalez Melendez – Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, Utuado, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected* 

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, HORNE is submitting documentation for activities proposed by Angel Gonzalez Melendez located at Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso, in the municipality of Utuado. The undertaking for this project is the purchase and installation of a warehouse. No new water or power connections are needed for this project however, installation will require ground disturbance including land leveling, tree and vegetation removal, insertion of footings, and construction of the concrete floor.

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



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

Kindest regards,

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Senior Manager

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Subrecipient: Angel Gonzalez Melendez	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410	City: Utuado

Project Location: Carr 140 km 33.9, Barrio Don Alonso

Project Coordinates: 18.299907, -66.622655

TPID (Número de Catastro): 163-000-001-61

Type of Undertaking:

□ Substantial Repair

□ New Construction

Construction Date (AH est.): n/a

Property Size (acres): 24.4

SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Roberto G. Muñoz-Pando, PhD

Date Reviewed: September 15, 2023

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

#### **Project Description (Undertaking)**

The scope of work (SOW) for this project includes the purchase and installation of a warehouse. This land is currently in use for the growing of coffee, oranges and plantains. The applicant plans to install a warehouse at coordinates 18.299907, -66.622655. The proposed warehouse is a 40' x 40' x 15' metal structure with a new 40' x 40' concrete floor. Installation will require ground disturbance approximately 3 feet deep related to land leveling, tree and vegetation removal, insertion of footings (3' x 3" x 1"), and construction of the concrete floor. No power or water connection is included as part of the SOW. The structure will be powered in the future by solar panels.

#### **Area of Potential Effects**

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the warehouse plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

#### Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Subrecipient: Angel Gonzalez Melendez	,
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410	City: Utuado

this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the project area has no previously found archaeological sites or previously conducted cultural resource investigations within a 0.5 mile radius of the APE. The two types of soil in the project area are Consumo Clay (CpF) and Morado Clay Loam, both with 40 to 60 percent slopes. This soil makes the probability of finding intact, new, and significant archaeological deposits low to moderate.

#### Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the project area is **not** within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District.

#### **Determination**

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

- Direct Effect:
  - o N/A
- Indirect Effect:
  - N/A

The project area is not located within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that no previously identified historic properties are located within or adjacent to the parcel that contains the proposed Area of Potential Effect. In addition, our background research shows that the project area has no previously identified archaeological sites within an 0.5-mile radius of the APE. The lack of previously identified archaeological sites in the area combined with the type of soils and the 40 to 60 percent slopes support our conclusion that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Subrecipient: Angel Gonzalez Melendez	•
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410	City: Utuado

#### Recommendation

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the Puerto Rico SHPO concur that the	١e
following determination is appropriate for the undertaking (Choose One):	

⋈ No Historic Properties Affected
□ No Adverse Effect
Condition (if applicable):
□ Adverse Effect
Proposed Resolution (if appliable)

#### This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

mis decircin is to be completed by one of the	•	
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed and:	d the above information	
□ <b>Concurs</b> with the information provided.		
·		
□ <b>Does not concur</b> with the information provided.		
Comments:		
Carlos Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:	



Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410 City: Utuado

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





Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410 City: Utuado

# Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map Tier 2 Site Historic Comunidades **TETRA TECH** Traditional Urban Centers Cultural Resource District Polygon Source: CRIM Date: 10/7/2022 Author: TG



Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410 City: Utuado

## Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map Quadrangle: Florida, Date: 3/25/1994 Legend Tier 2 Site **TETRA TECH** Historic Comunidades Traditional Urban Centers Source: USGS Cultural Resource District Polygon Date: 9/29/2022



Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Subrecipient: Angel Gonzalez Melendez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410 City: Utuado

## Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map CpF MpF2 Legend Tier 2 Site TETRA TECH Soll Type CpF;Consumo clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes MpF2;Morado clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes Source:USDA Date: 9/30/2022

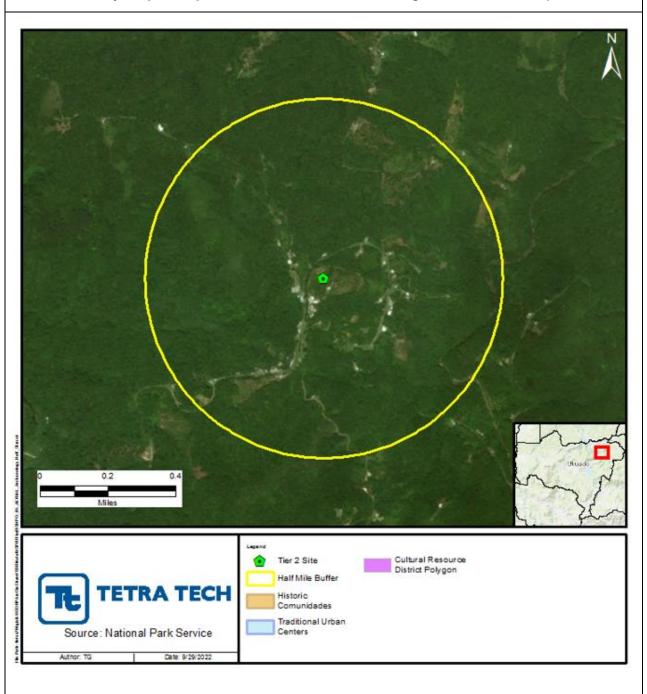
#### **Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination**



City: Utuado Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410

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

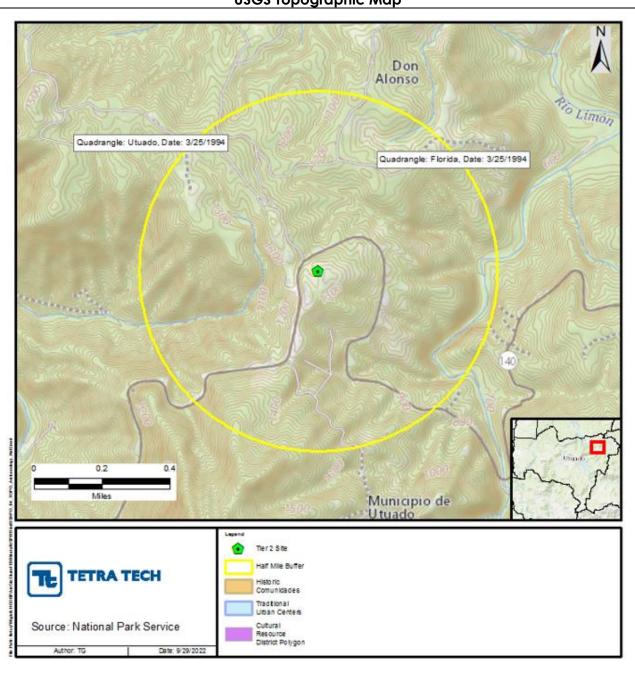
GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING





Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410 City: Utuado

### Project (Parcel) Location with Previously Recorded Cultural Resources USGS Topographic Map



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



**Subrecipient:** Angel Gonzalez Melendez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410 City: Utuado

#### Photograph Key



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



**Subrecipient:** Angel Gonzalez Melendez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410 City: Utuado



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

**Date:** 6/1/2023 Scope Of Work: Construction of a warehouse



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

**Date:** 6/1/2023 Scope Of Work: Construction of a warehouse

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



**Subrecipient:** Angel Gonzalez Melendez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00410 City: Utuado



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

**Date:** 6/1/2023 Scope Of Work: Construction of a warehouse



Photo #: 4 Description (include direction): View to the Southeast

**Date:** 6/1/2023 Scope Of Work: Construction of a warehouse



October 20, 2022

#### Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

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

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela:

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

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

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

Cordially,

Juan C Pérez Bofill, P.E. M.Eng Director of Disaster Recovery

CDBG DR-MIT