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

Project Information

Project ID: PR-RGRW-01788

Project Name: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico/Cidra, PR

Preparer: Gabriela Rodríguez

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Permit and Compliance Officers: Sally Acevedo Cosme, Pedro De León Rodriguez, 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 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 5.02-acre site located at Carr. 734 Km 5.6 Bo. Arenas Sector Vista Alegre in the Municipality of Cidra, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 299-039-134-74). The coordinates of the project site are 18.1430503, -66.1328747.

This terrain was used for cattle farming. It is currently used for growing of fruits and as ornamental plants nursery. Activities within the farm include packing and selling topsoil and compost (T&C) mix.

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 0.15 acres. The intent use of funds includes the purchase and construction of a new warehouse, the purchase of compost, topsoil and packaging material, and compost transportation. While the purchase of the of supplies including compost, topsoil, compost transport and plastic bags for product packaging has been submitted and approved as an exempt activity under 24 CFR 58.35 (b)(4), the potential impacts associated to the construction of a storage warehouse are included in the analyses below.

The scope of work (SOW-1) for the proposed project is the construction of a warehouse structure to store, pack and dispatch T&C mix at coordinates 18.1430503, -66.1328747. The proposed warehouse is a 40-foot (ft) x 40 ft steel structure with a galvalume sheet roof. Ground disturbance at building installation will include support posts to a depth of 3 feet.

No new water or electric power connection is required for the proposed SOW. The current operation does not need the use of electricity. The proposed warehouse will not require electric connection. The site and operational area have existing water connection to the local utility and use a water well to supply the irrigation water. Water is collected from the well in a 5,000 gallons water box via an existing underground PVC piping system with an approximate distance of 500 ft. The water is then used for irrigation via an aboveground PVC piping system that conveys water by gravity from the storage box to the ornamental and fruits cropping areas. The applicant has indicated that they would like to install an on-site poured concrete floor for the warehouse using private funding. The proposed warehouse will require a concrete pad of an estimated dimensions of 42 ft x 42 ft. The construction of the concrete pad is uncertain due to the lack of funds needed. The concrete pad will require for the applicant to pay for this activity themselves and no HUD funds would be utilized for this portion of work, However, the potential impacts from this action are contained within the delimited APE and it is included in the analyses below and. The visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

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 construction of a warehouse in 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 the warehouse is used for agricultural purposes. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with the project. Some ground disturbance will be required.

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: \$27,500.00

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$27,500.00

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 construction of a warehouse. The nearest civil airport is approximately 113,913 feet from the proposed site. The nearest military airport is approximately	

		113,233 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 Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No	Puerto Rico has various Coastal Barrier Resources Systems (CBRS). The project is in eastern Puerto Rico. The distance to the nearest CBRS unit is 68,792 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 Appendix 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 72000C1195H, effective date April 19, 2005. This project is in compliance with Floodplain Insurance requirements. (See Figures 4 and 5 in Appendix B .)

STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS 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 N	quality management district that is in non-	
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes N	nearest Coastal Zone Management area and	

Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 58.5(i) (2)	Yes	No	A site visit conducted on October 17, 2023, no debris or rubbish or visible signs vegetative stress, contamination, or toxic substances were noted at the project site.
21 31 11 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31			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 construction of a warehouse. Refer to Figures 8 and 9 in Appendix B. The project is in compliance with Contamination and Toxic Substances.
Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402		No	The project consists of the construction of a warehouse in an area that has been used for agricultural purposes.
			According to EPA NEPAssist Enviromapper, the nearest critical or proposed critical habitat is 24,447 feet to the southwest 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 and the Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon 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 Appendix D).
			The proposed project will have No Effect on listed species or habitats. Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the Project Site, and IPaC species list, it was determined that there would be No Effect for any of the listed 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 USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures guidelines. Refer to Figures 10 and 11 in Appendix B and IPaC report in Appendix D . 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 Appendix A .
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes No	The project site is not designated as farmland of statewide importance. The project consists of the construction of a warehouse. 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 form review under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FFPA) 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 Farmland
		Protection Policy Act. Refer to Figure 12 in Appendix 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 72000C1195H, effective date April 19, 2005. The project site is not located in Preliminary Firm or an Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) special flood hazard area. See Figures 4, 5 and 6 in Appendix B . This project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966,	Yes No	The site was evaluated on November 07, 2023, by an SOI Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian. Additionally, the site was evaluated on November 9, 2023, by an SOI Qualified Archaeologist. (Appendix E). SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected

particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800		within the project's Area of Potential on Effects on December 4, 2023. Refer to Figure 13 in Appendix B and the report in Appendix E . 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	HUD's noise regulations protect residential properties from excessive noise exposure. The project consists of the construction of a warehouse. 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 project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No	The southeast coast is 66,634 feet from the property. The closest fresh-water bodies includes an unnamed creek 510 feet northeast of the property and Quebrada Beatriz 1,700 feet southeast of the property.
		The NWI maps show no wetlands on the or adjacent to the project site. The unnamed creek and Quebrada Beatriz are identified as riverine wetlands. 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 Appendix 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 127,200 feet. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Refer to Figure 15 in Appendix B .

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

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

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

Environmental	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOP	MENT	
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The proposed project is located on a private farm. The project consists of the construction of a warehouse. The project site is zoned as "Terrenos Urbanizables (UR)". The proposed action is compliant with the current agricultural land use of the Project area.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/	2	The proposed project is located in relatively flat terrain, in use for agricultural purposes. Soils in the proposed project area are

Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff		classified as Mucara Clay soil (MxE and MxF) with 20 to 40 percent slopes and 40 to 60 percent slopes respectively. Mayo loam (MIC), 3 to 10 percent slopes, surrounded by farmland with primary forest vegetation cover further south, 400 meters
		above mean sea level.
		Projects larger than 1 acre must comply with the CWA and develop a SWPPP with the NPDES. The proposed project area is approximately 0.15 acres.
		The proposed project area was graded in January of 2002 with the intent of constructing a plant nursery and to facilitate topsoil and compost production. Starting in August of 2006, the applicant has been using the space exclusively as a work zone for the collection and compaction of topsoil and compost using a bobcat mini excavator.
		The project site area is rated "moderated" for landslide susceptibility (see Figure 16 in Appendix B). The proposed area for the warehouse location has been maintained as operational area since 2002.
		There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise		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.
, and the second		There is no access to the project area by the public. Standard BMPs, such as construction fencing, would be applied to protect the farm residents and public from typical construction hazards.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONON	AIC .	
Employment and Income Patterns	2	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 construction 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 Justice	2	In a one mile radius in which project will occur. 100% are people of color compared to PR average of 96% 64% are low income compared to PR average of 70% 6% are unemployed compared to PR average of 15% The proposed construction 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

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation	
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES			
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project consists of the construction 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 construction 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 construction 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	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 (e.g., piping, structural materials, greenhouse covering fabrics) 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 construction 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 construction of a warehouse. Applicant has access to a water supply from the local utility. The farm currently has an operational water well with auxiliary water storage tank for collection, storage and use of water with an in place aboveground irrigation system. The proposed project will have minor impact on water usage.
Public Safety – Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The project consists of the construction 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 construction 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 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
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NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	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 proposed project will occur on land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. The proposed project will have no impact on vegetation and wildlife.

Environmental	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
CLIMATE AND ENERGY		
Climate Change Impacts	2	This is a small agricultural project with no measurable impact on climate change factors.
		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. With respect to climate change impact on the project, agricultural
		activities could be affected by drought.
Energy Efficiency/Energy Consumption	2	The proposed project is an agricultural project that does not involve energy use. The project site already has electric power connections. The operations in the warehouse will not use power. There would be no change in energy demand in the area.

Additional Studies Performed: None required.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by):

Site inspection was conducted on October 17, 2023 by Antonio A. Martínez.

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:

www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/npias/reports/NPIAS-Report-2017-2021-Appendix-B-Part6.pdf John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, Puerto Rico <u>map.</u> <u>www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Locator/PR.pdf</u>

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

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

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

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

US EPA, Environmental Topics, Air Topics: www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System:

https://ecos.fws.gov/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:

www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html (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]:

No new water or electric power connection is required. The site and operational area have existing water connection to the local utility and use a water well to supply the required irrigation water. While the applicant plans to pay for this activity themselves and no HUD funds would be utilized for this portion of work, the applicant has indicated that they would like to install an on-site poured concrete floor for the warehouse using private funding. the potential impacts from this action are included in the analyses below and it is contained within the delimited APE. The visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project. In accordance with 24 CFR 58.32 (Aggregation), there are no cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project. The growth of agricultural products at the farm would not increase. The project would allow more efficient processing of the agricultural products. Since the operations and activities in the farm remains as currently, no water or power use increase is expected as a result of to the construction of the proposed warehouse.

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. The applicant submitted a proposal to enhance and expand agricultural production on their property. The proposed use of grant funds will allow the applicant to improve processing and delivery of agricultural products through the construction of a new warehouse at the T&C mixing area. Any alternative that would involve an off-property location would not enhance and expand agricultural production or allow for the economic development for this applicant.

The actions are proposed in an area adjacent of the existing residence, water well and utility connections. The actions are proposed in a property owned by the applicant and a field area that has been already cleared and maintained as an operational area for the mixing of the T&C components and for the packaging of final mixed product. The location of the proposed warehouse will provide shade and a close, more secure environment for the operational procedures required. Among the possibles impacts of alternative location, the location of the new warehouse off-property will not allow for the enhancement of the current operational area, and might require transportation of equipment and products in and out of property creating an increase in traffic and other vial impacts due to the transportation of materials and heavy equipment. Alternative locations off and on property may represent an impact to undisturbed and/or uneven ground which could require clearing and heavier grading activities. On the other hand, the property already has a drilled well. An offsite alternative could require the drilling of a new well or the need to connect the facilities to local utility services if available. 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 construction of a new 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 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			
Endangered Species	Implement Puerto Rican Boa and the Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon conservation measures, included in appendix D, prior to and during construction to avoid or minimize impacts to this species.			
Permits or Agency Approvals Required				
Permit or Approval	Permit Conditions			
Ground disturbance	Projects whose earthworks are more than 40 m ³ 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.
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.
Well	Well or water intake activities require a construction and operation permit form the Water Permits and Franchises Division (DPFA) of the PRDRNER. The SOW does not involve the drilling, construction or installation of the existing well. However, the applicant is responsible for any permits or actions to ensure legalization (if needed) of existing well usage. Any necessary permits should be obtained by the applicant and/or contractor 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 o environment.	n the quality of the human
Finding of Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40	CFR 1508.27]
The project may significantly affect the quality of the hu	man environment.
Preparer Signature:	Date: 2/1/2024
Name/Title/Organization: <u>Gabriela Rodríguez, Senior Envir</u> <u>Inc.</u>	onmental Scientist, Tetra Tech
Certifying Officer Signature:	Date: <u>04/18/202</u> 4

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

Name/Title: Limary Vélez Marrero / Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

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-01788			
Applicant Name				
Property Address	Barrio Aren	as Sector Vist	a Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6	
Parcel ID		4-74		
Coordinates		, -66.132874	7	
Inspector Name	_	•		
Inspection Date				
Building Type				
Number of Units	0			
Number of Stories				
Year Built; Data Source		ın		
ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS (attach			ossary for any VES answers)	
OBSERVATION ITEMS	YES	NO	COMMENTS	
OBSERVATION TIEWIS	163	NO	COMMENTS	
A. Is the structure in use?		I		
B. is structure a greenhouse?		$\overline{\square}$		
C. Is Electricity connected?		\square		
D. Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)		$\overline{\checkmark}$		
1. Are there signs of poor housekeeping 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.)		Ø		
2. Are there any 55-gallon drums visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?		Ø		
3 . Are there any (or signs of any) underground storage tanks on the property?		Ø		
4 . Are there signs of ASTs on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.		Ø		
5. Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?		Ø		
6. Is a water drainage system in use?		V		
7. Is a warehouse in use for storage of Fertilizer or Pesticides ?				
8. Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?	Ø		System fills a 5,000 approximately	
9. Is there evidence of a faulty septic system?		Ø		
10. Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?		V		
11. Is there any visible indication of MOLD?				







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

Additional Notes:

Coordinates: 18.1430503, -66.1328747

Is the field graded? For what purpose the field was graded? Month, Year: From August, 2006 to present. Applicant using proposed area as work zone to collect and pack topsoil and compost. A bobcat is used for collection and distribution of product, this area was first graded in January, 2002 to construct a plant nursery and begin topsoil and compost production.

Scope of Work: The proposed project includes the purchase and construction of a new storage warehouse, product packaging material, compost transportation, compost and topsoil.

Land current in use for: Fruit and ornamental plants farming and topsoil and compost production.

Past Land use was: Cattle farming 50 years ago.

The applicant plans to do: Warehouse for topsoil and compost packaging and dispatch.

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 #1: Construction of a warehouse to pack and dispatch topsoil and compost.

Coordinates: 18.1430503, -66.1328747

The material to be used for structure are steel walls with galvalume sheets for roof system. The footprint for the structure will be 40' x 40' and applicant would like to install it on a 42' x 42' concrete slab but does not have the funds for the foundation.

Any new water connection or power connection?

No power connection, water service coming from a underground well with pump system distributing water through an underground 1/2" pvc pipe to a 5,000 gallons water box approximately 500' away. Then with water collected in tank, pvc pipes are used for gravity water irrigation in plant nursery.

If the scope of work included tools, machinery or farms products, Where the applicant will be storing them?

N/A







Site Sketch

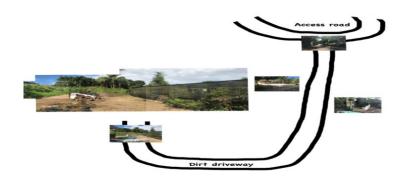




Photo Direction: South

Front of Structure



Facing Away From Front

Photo Direction: North





Photo Direction: Northeast

Side #1 of Structure



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Direction: Southwest



Facing Away From Back

Photo Direction: Northeast





Photo Direction: Northwest

Side #2 of Structure



Facing Away From Side #2

Photo Direction: Southeast





Photo Direction: North

Streetscape #1



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction: Southwest









Outbuildings

Photo Description: Dwelling

Photo Direction: Northwest



Outbuildings

Photo Description: Greenhouse

Photo Direction: Northeast





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: East





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast





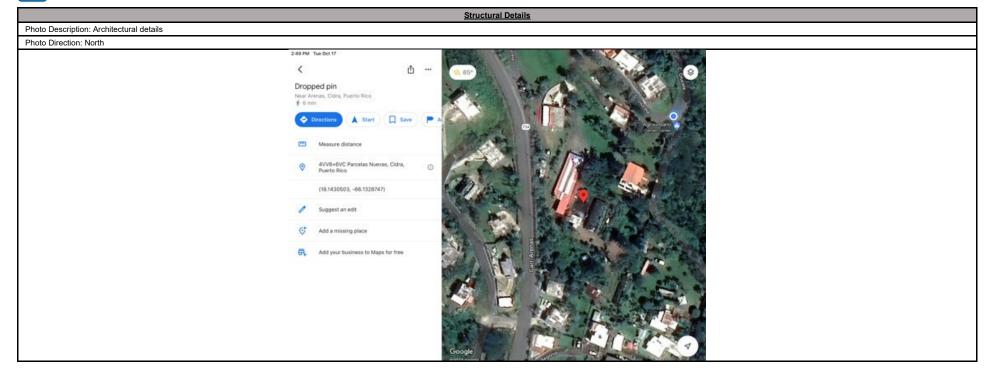




Photo Description: Underground well

Photo Direction: Southeast

The southeast Southe



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work #1: Warehouse

Photo Direction: North



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work #1: Warehouse

Photo Direction: Northeast





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work #1: Warehouse

Photo Direction: Southwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work #1: Warehouse

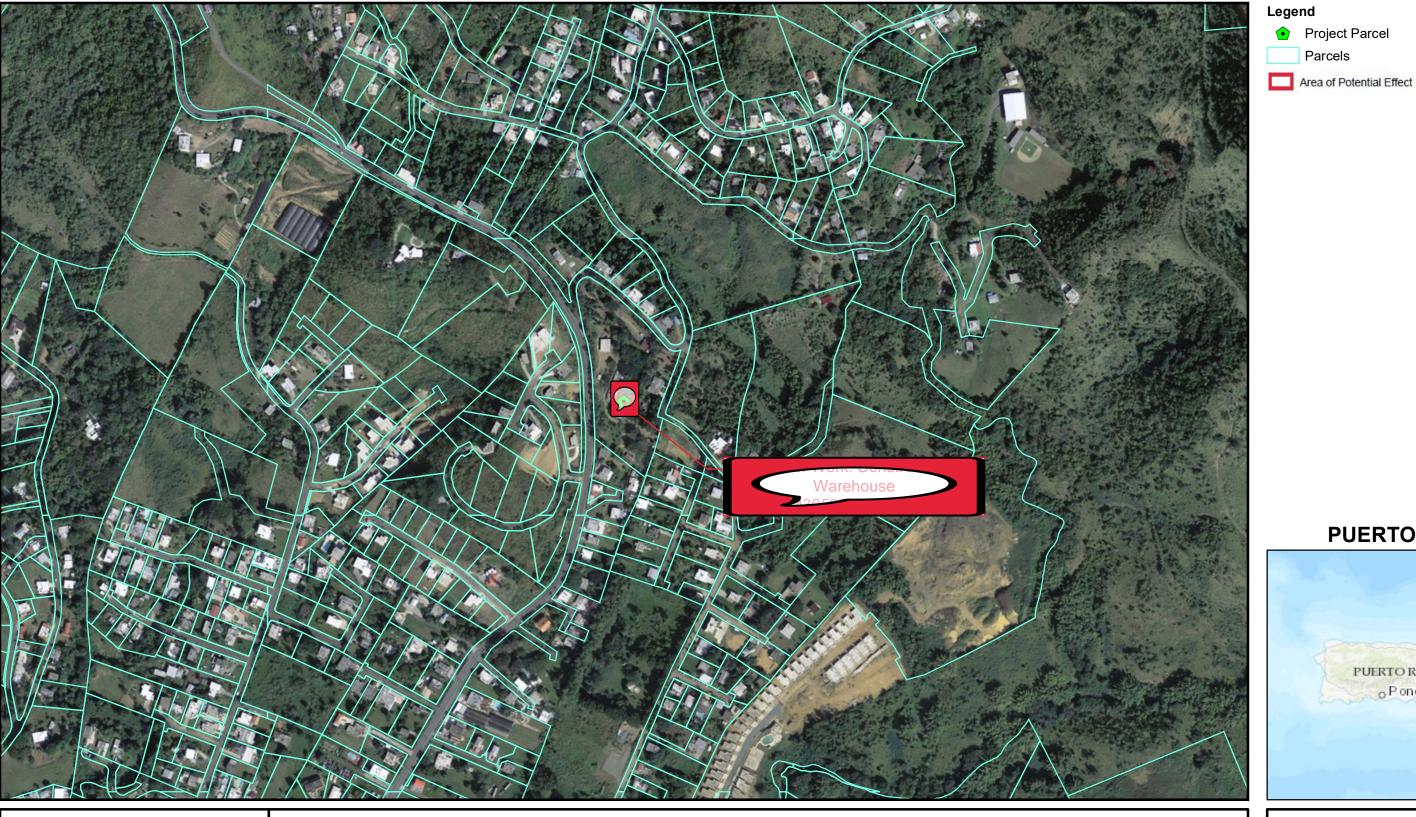
Photo Direction: Northwest





APPENDIX B

Maps





Parcels

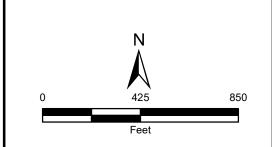


Figure 1: PROJECT LOCATION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874







TETRA TECH

Source: USDOT

https://www.faa.gov

Figure 2: AIRPORT ZONES **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788**

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739 Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez Parcel Coordinates: 18.143050, -66.132874

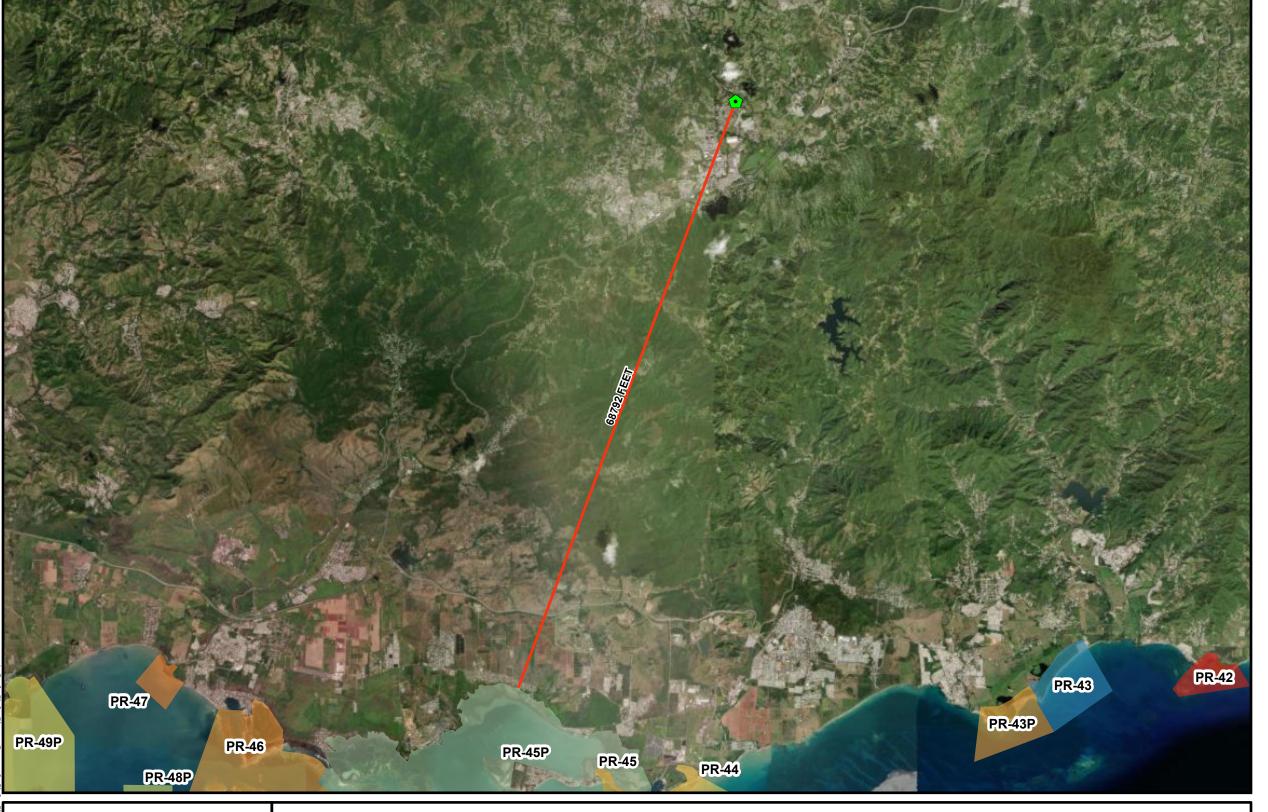
PUERTO RICO

Project Parcel

Civilian Runway Protection

Civilian Airport 2,500 Feet

Military Airport 15,000 Feet





Distance to Nearest Coastal Barrier Resources System: 68792 Feet

PUERTO RICO





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

Author: TG

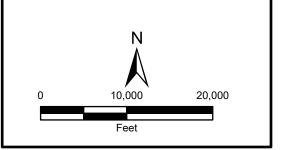
Date: 10/17/2023

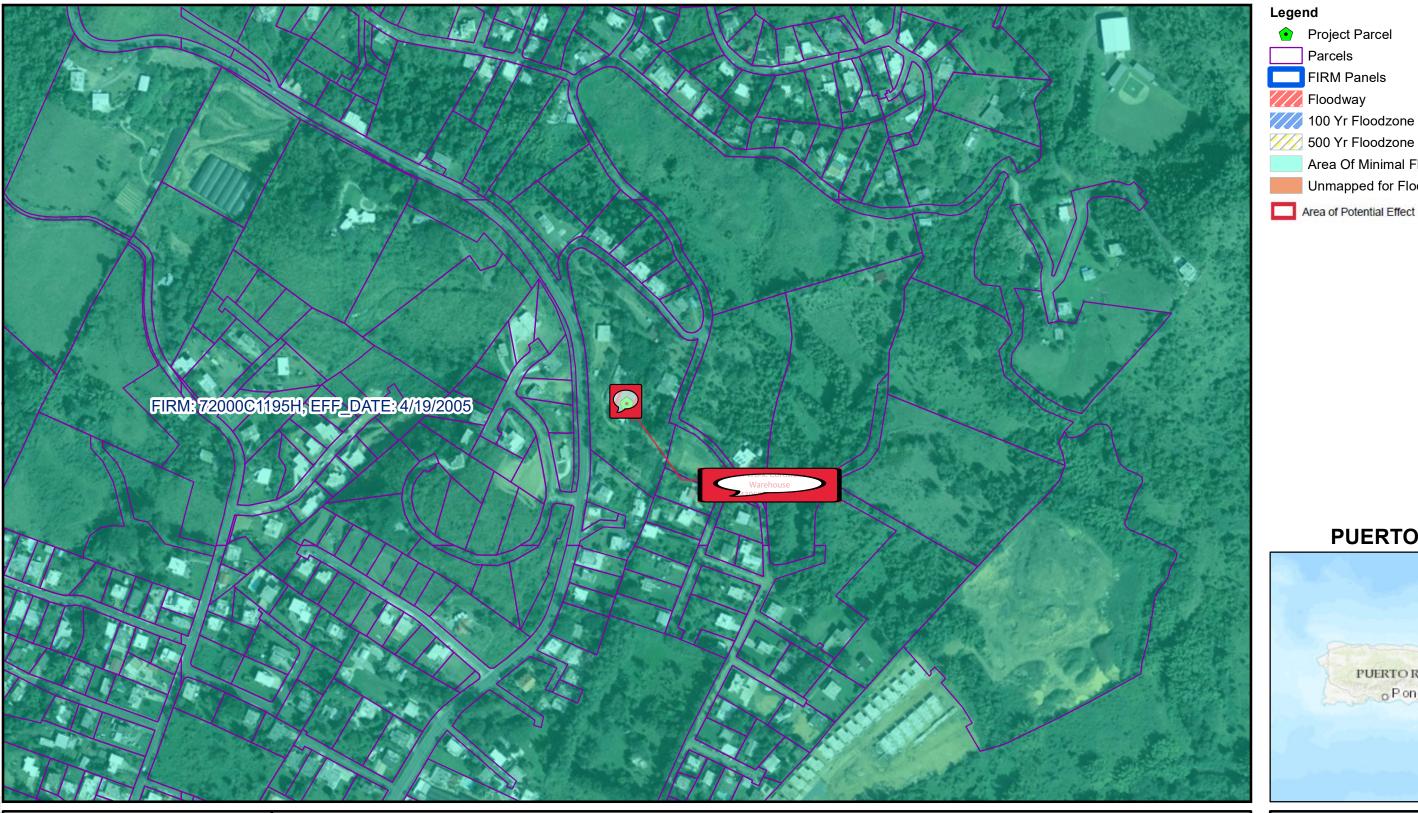
Figure 3: COASTAL BARRIERS IMPROVEMENT ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez

Parcel Coordinates: 18.143050, -66.132874





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Area Of Minimal Flood Hazard

Unmapped for Floodplain



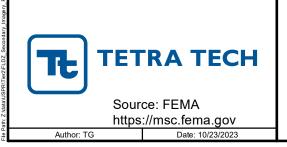
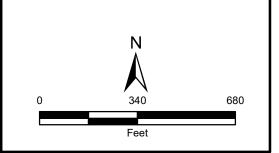


Figure 4: FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788**

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874



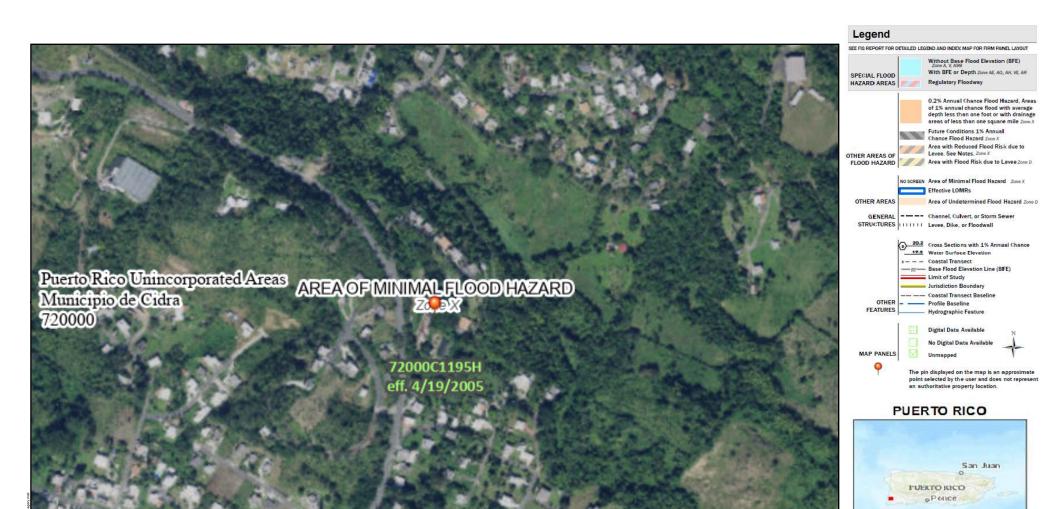
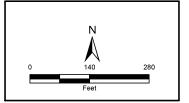
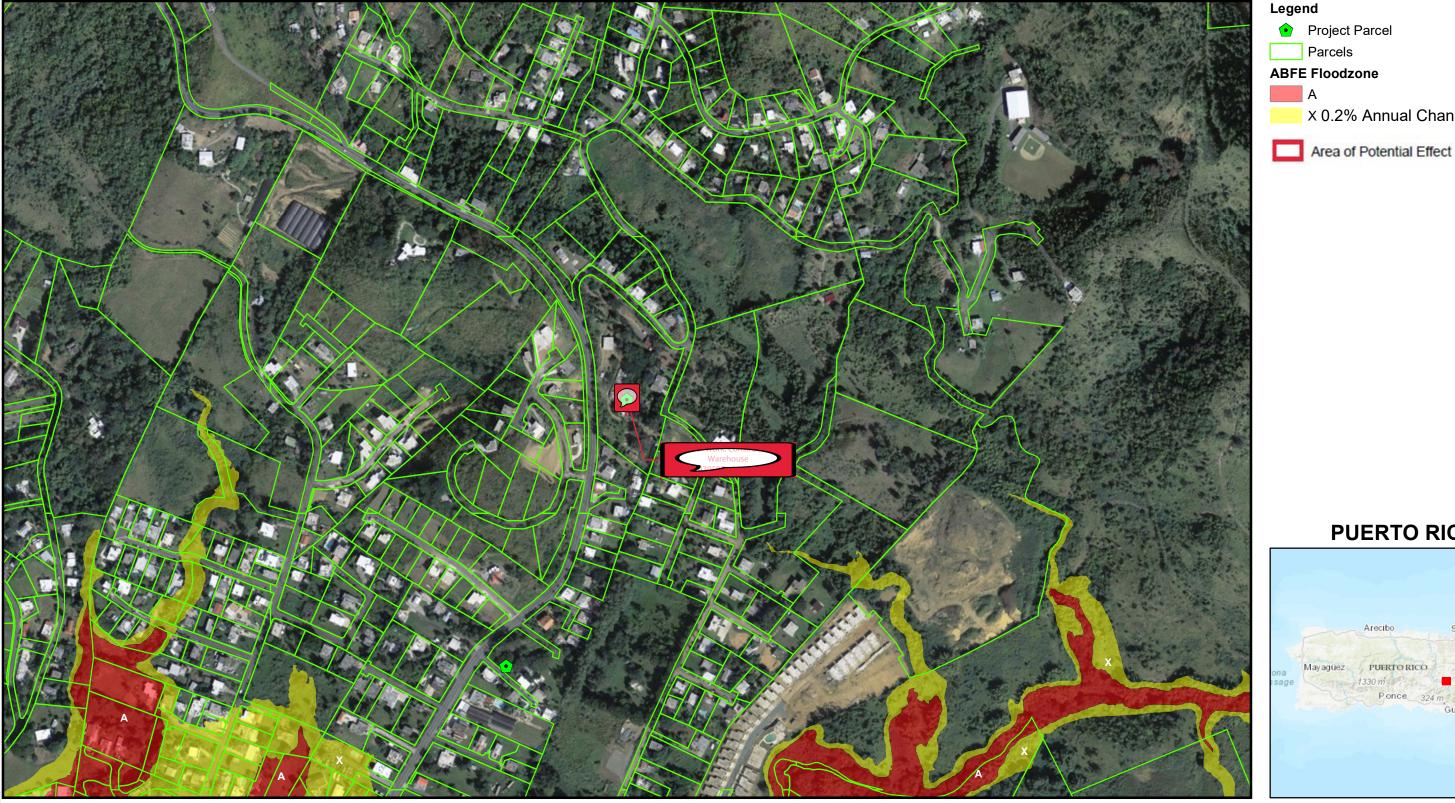




FIGURE 5: NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER FIRMETTE







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X 0.2% Annual Chance Flood

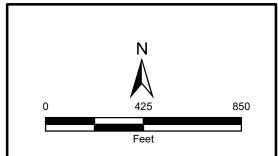
Parcels

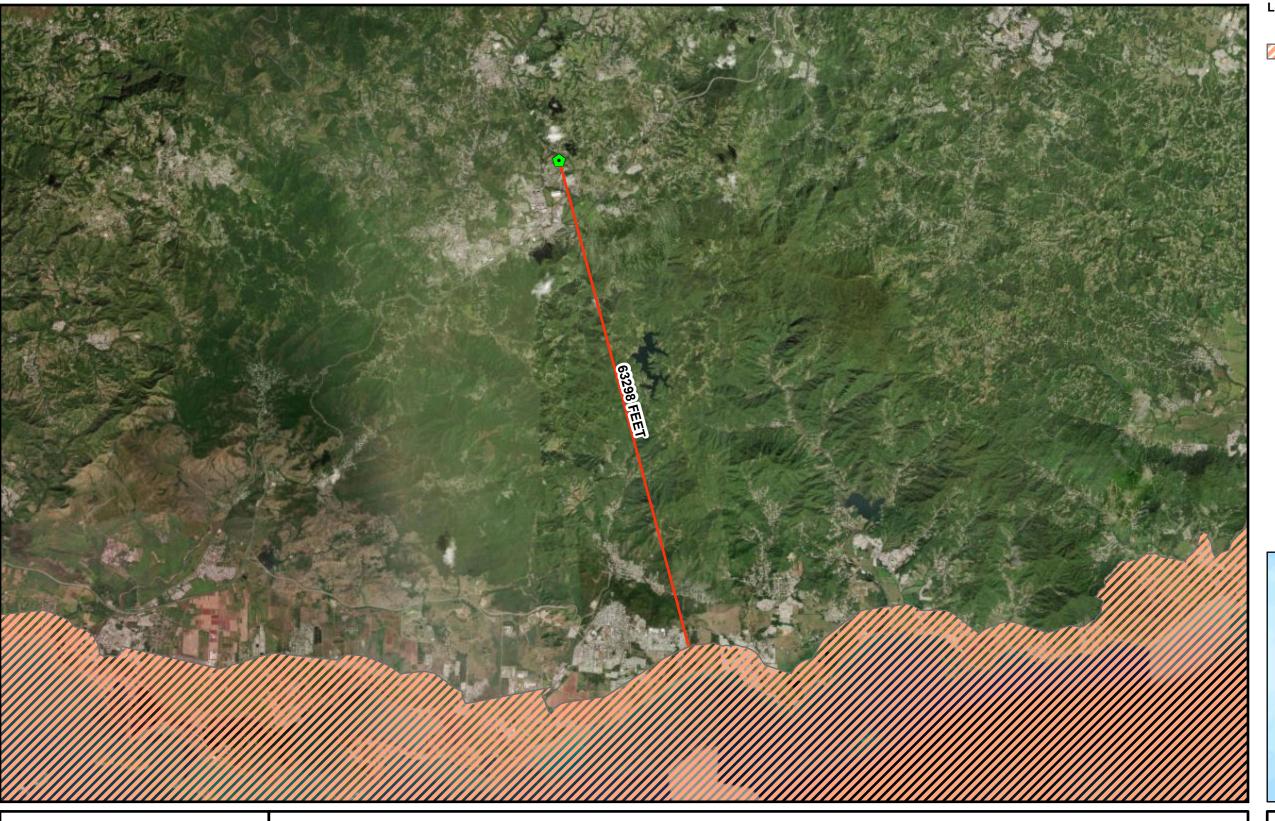


Figure 6: ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788**

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739 Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874







Legend



Coastal Zone Management Boundary

Distance to Nearest Coastal Zone: 63298 Feet

PUERTO RICO

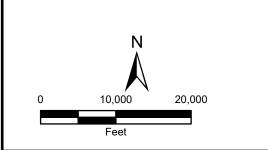


Figure 7: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez Parcel Coordinates:18.143050, -66.132874





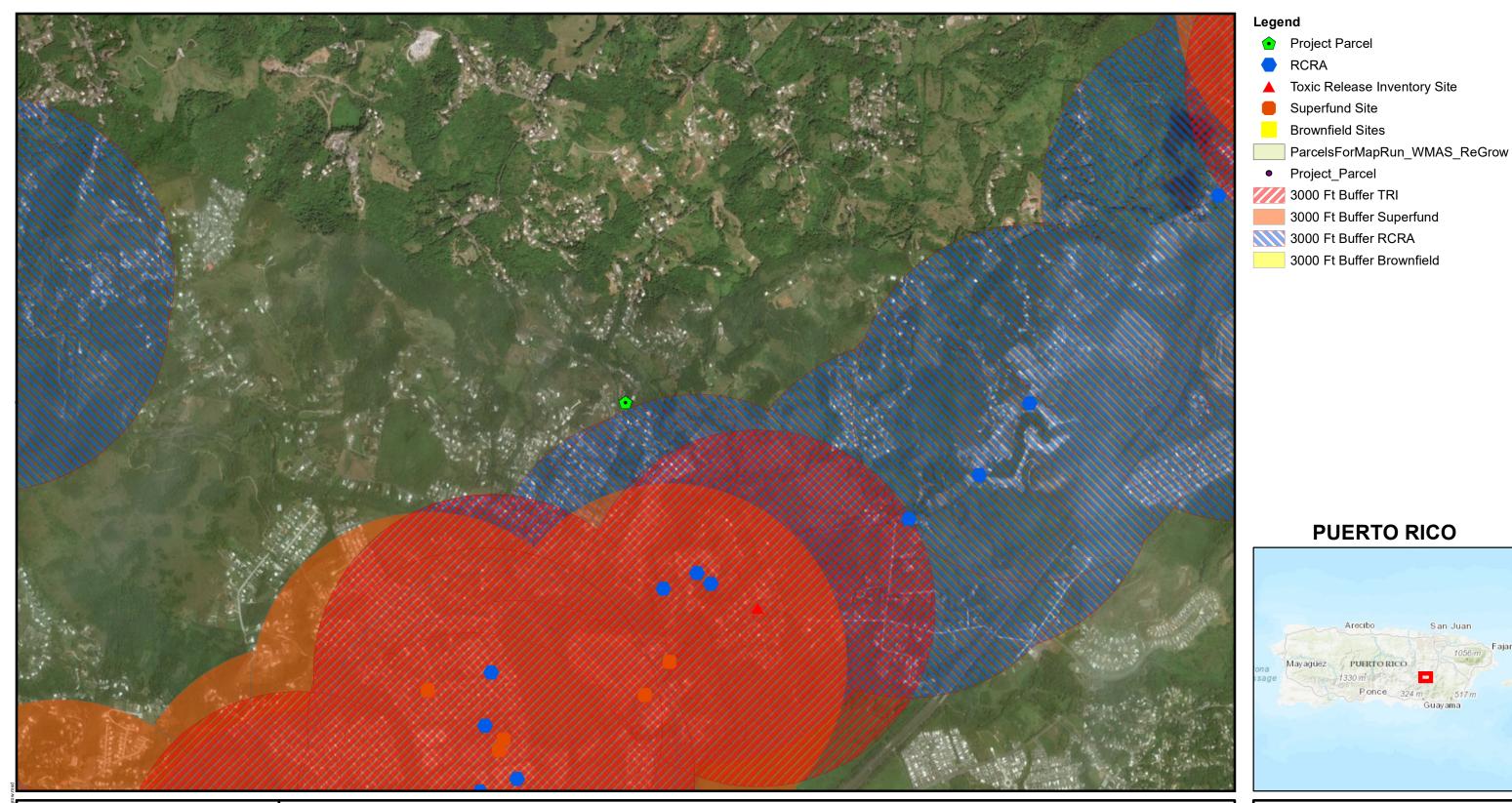


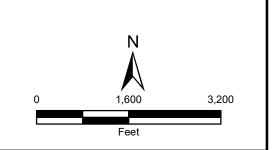
Figure 8: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND GASES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, **CONTAMINATION, AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788**

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez

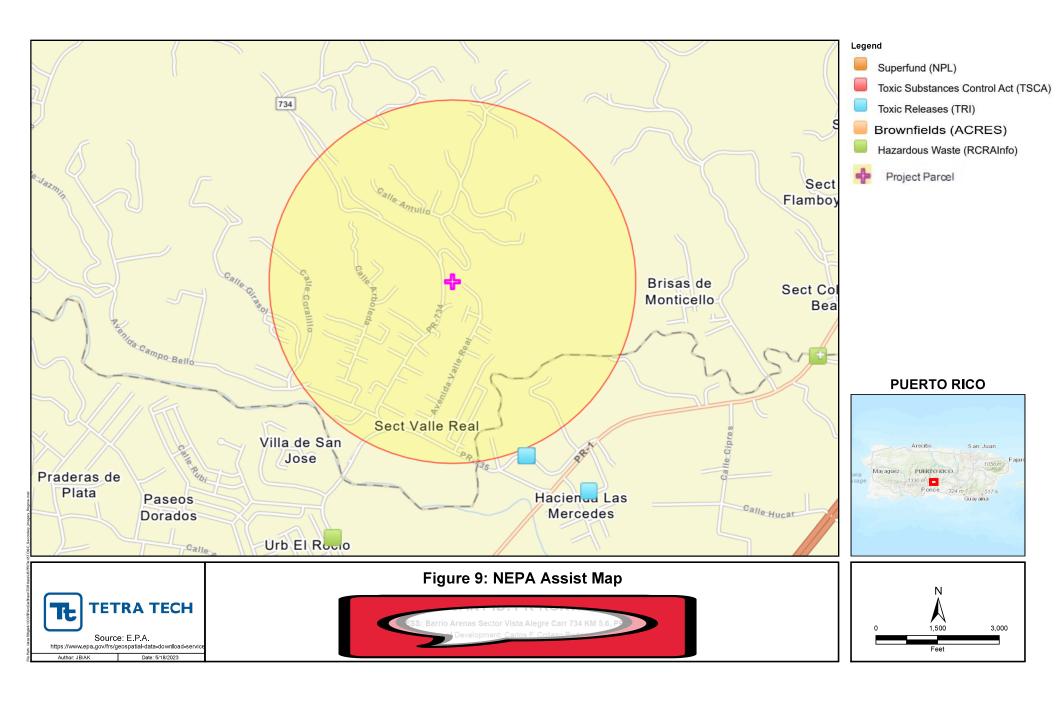
Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874

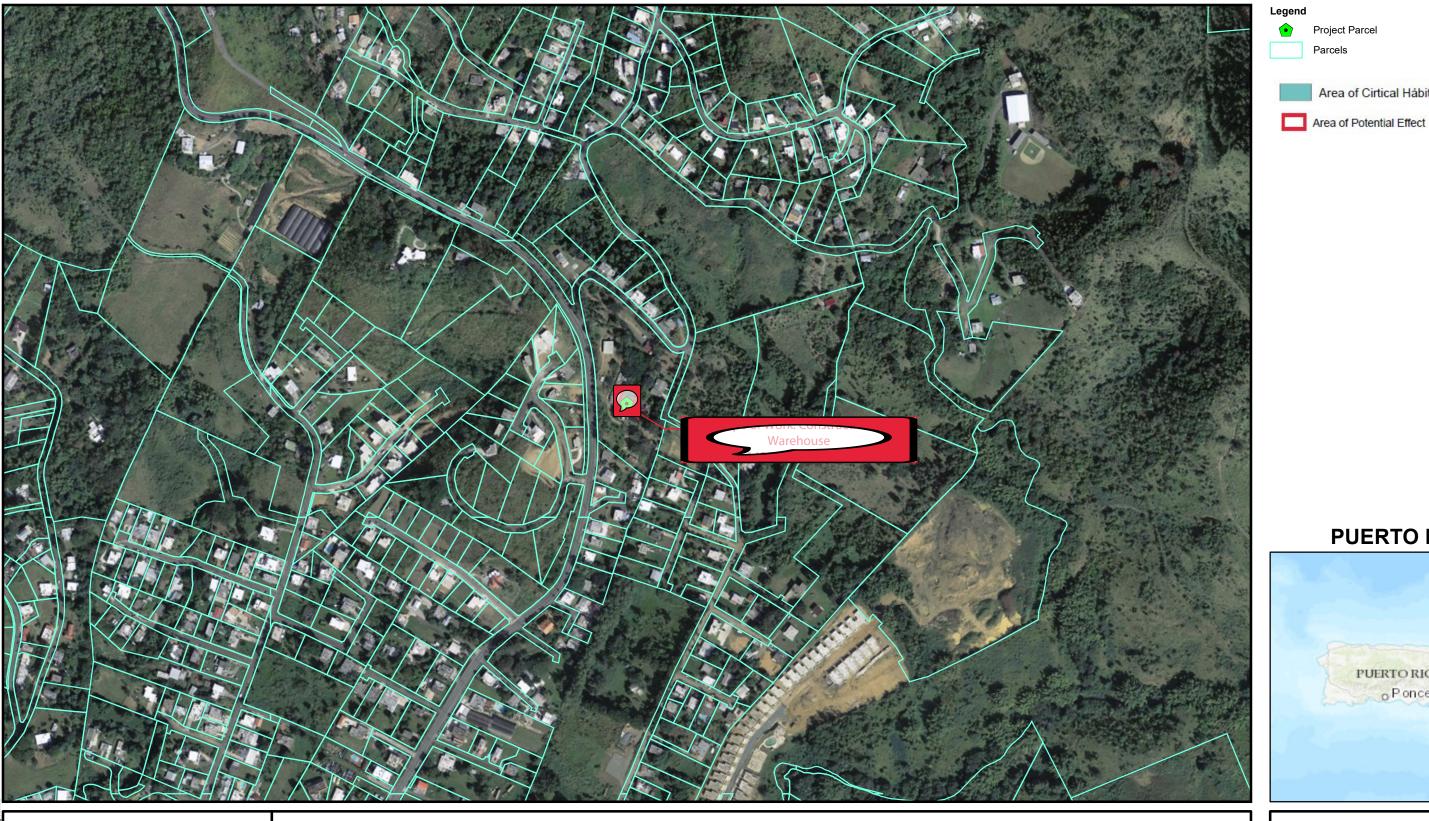




PUERTO RICO

PUERTO RICO







Project Parcel Parcels

Area of Cirtical Hábitat

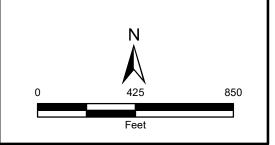


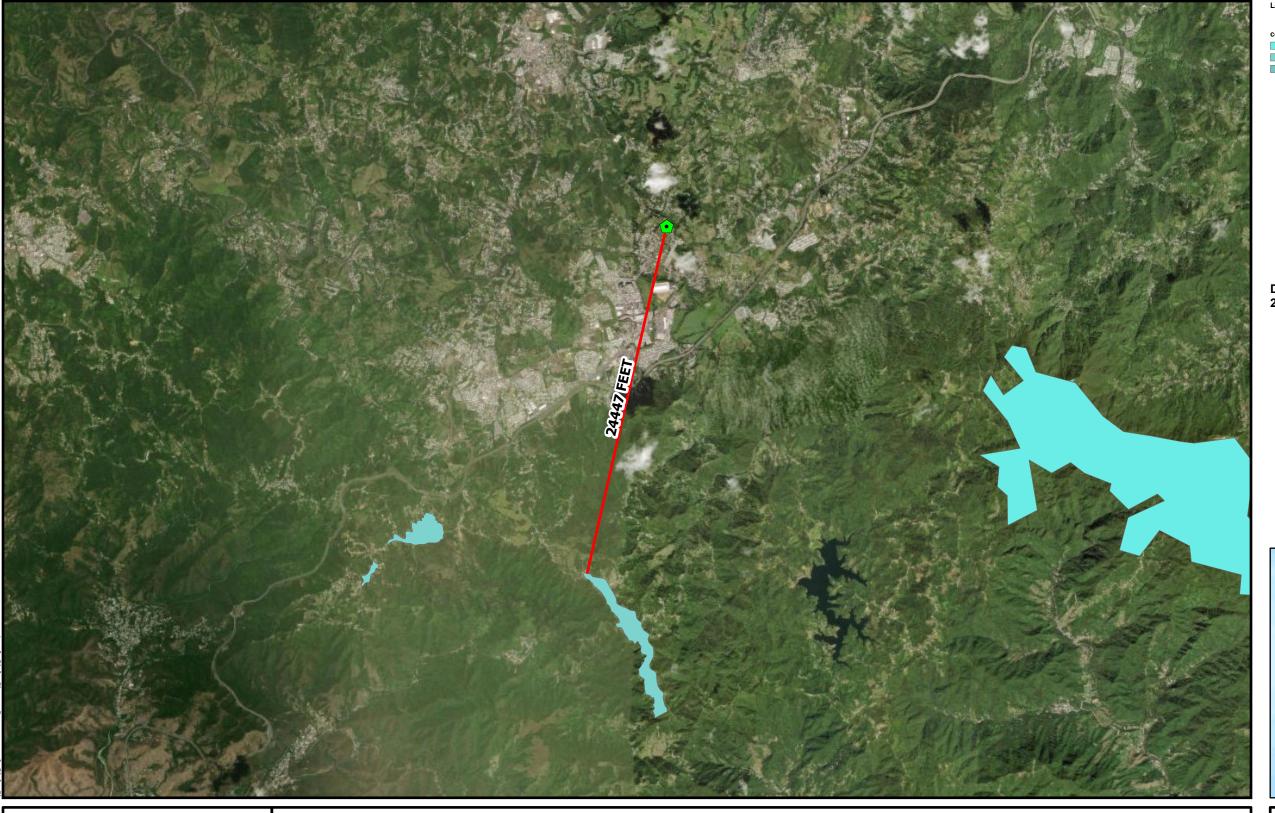


ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874

TETRA TECH Source: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE https://ecos.fws.gov Date: 10/23/2023







Distance to Nearest Critical Habitat: 24447 Feet

PUERTO RICO

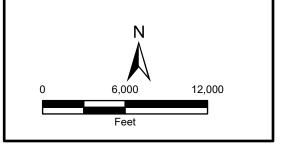




Figure 11: CRITICAL HABITATS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez
Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874



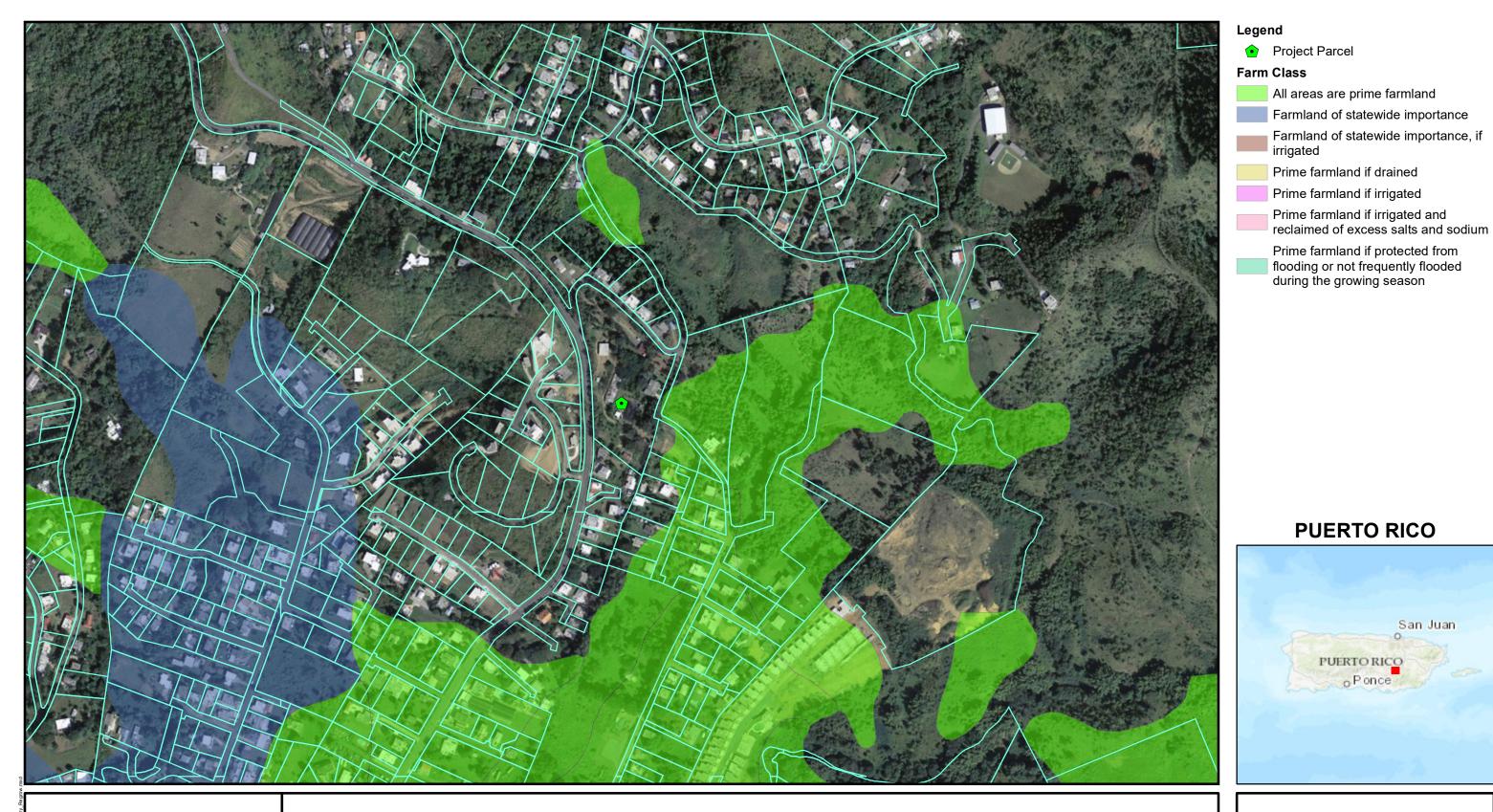


Figure 12: FARMLAND PROTECTION

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874

APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788

PUERTO RICO

PUERTO RICO o Ponce

San Juan

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

TETRA TECH

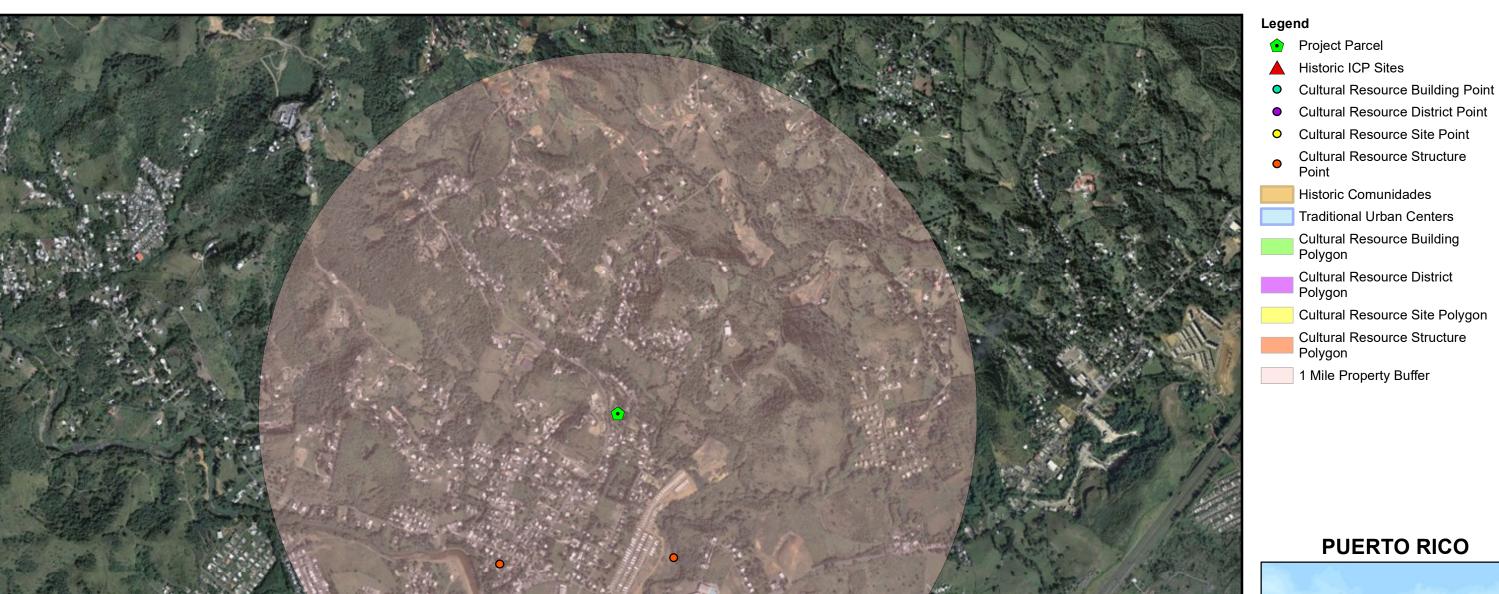


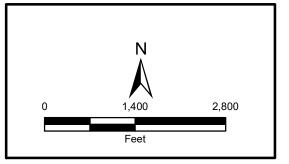




Figure 13: HISTORIC PRESERVATION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788

ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874



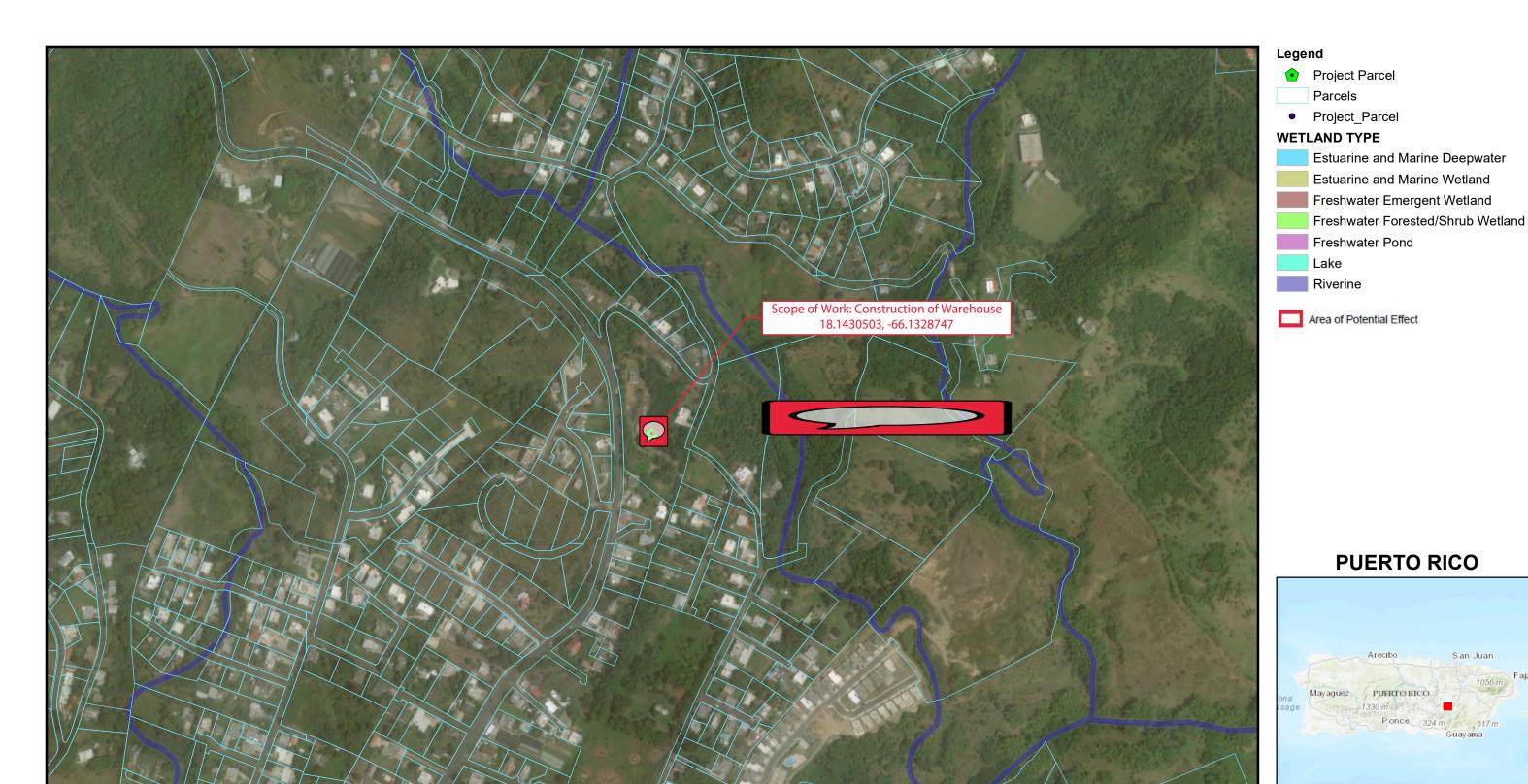




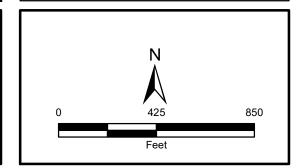
Figure 14: WETLANDS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788

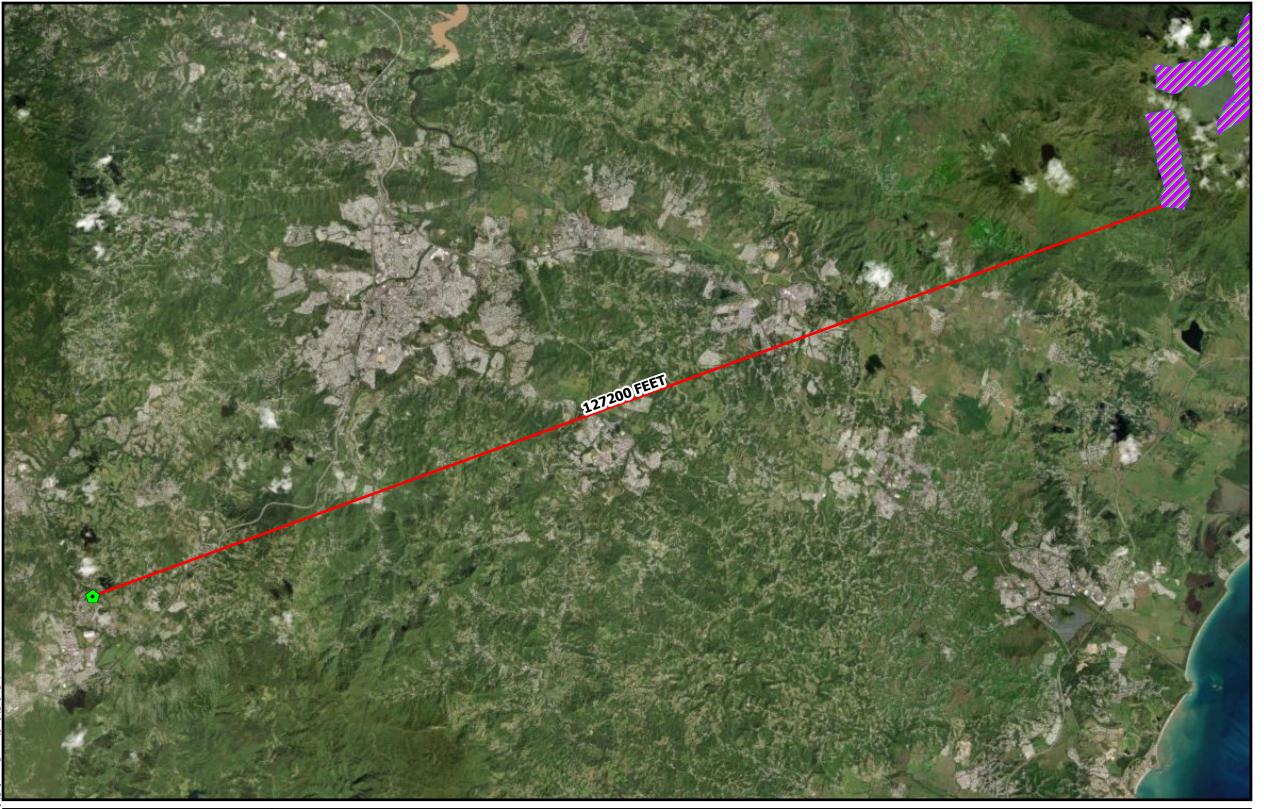
ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez

Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874







Legend

◆ Project Parcel

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Distance to Nearest Wild and Scenic River: 127200 Feet

PUERTO RICO





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

Author: TG

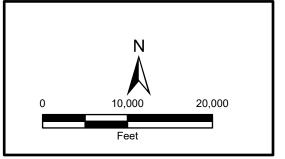
Date: 10/23/2023

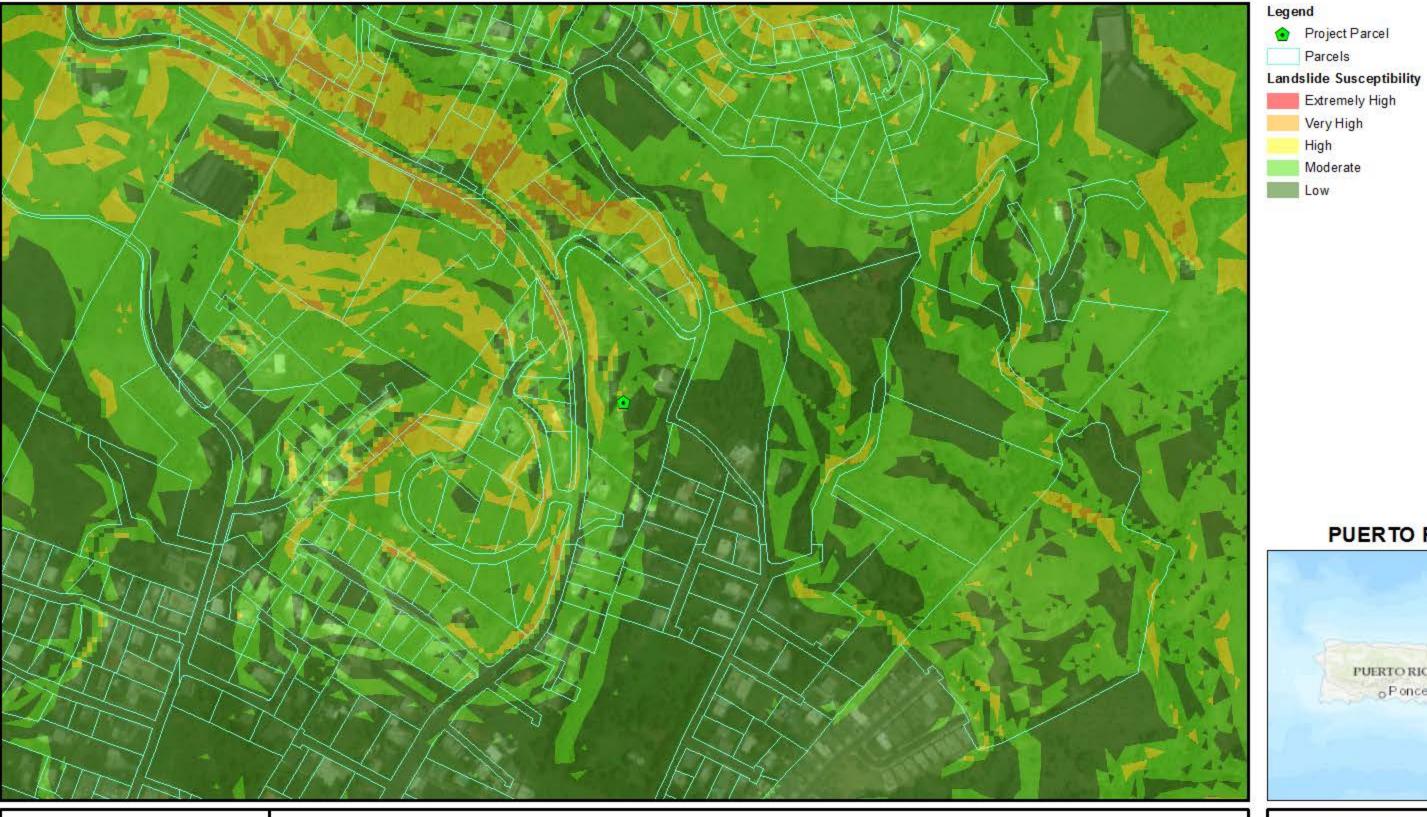
Figure 15: WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01788

ADDRESS:Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development:Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez

Parcel Coordinates:18.14305, -66.132874





PUERTO RICO

Parcels

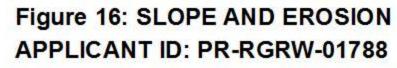
Very High

Moderate

High

Extremely High

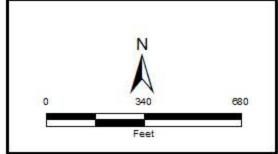




ADDRESS: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, PR 00739

Name of Development: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez Parcel Coordinates: 18.14305, -66.132874





APPENDIX C

Additional Information



Green Book

Contact Us

Download National Dataset: dbf | | xls | | Data dictionary (PDF)

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 May 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:

Important Notes

PUERTO RICO GO

ortant Notes Download National Dataset: dbi xis Data dictionary (PD						ionary (I Di	
NAAQS	Area Name	Nonattainment in Year	Redesignation to Maintenance	Classification	Whole or/ Part County	Population (2010)	State/ County FIPS Codes
Lead (2008)	Arecibo, PR	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	//		Part	32,185	72/013
Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	18 19 20 21 22 23	//		Part	22,921	72/021
Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	18 19 20 21 22 23	//		Whole	28,140	72/033
PM-10 (1987)	Mun. of Guaynabo, PR	92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09	02/11/2010	Moderate	Part	90,470	72/061
Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	18 19 20 21 22 23	//		Part	23,802	72/061
Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	Guayama-Salinas, PR	18 19 20 21 22 23	//		Part	23,401	72/123
Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	18 19 20 21 22 23	//		Part	147,963	72/127
Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	18 19 20 21 22 23	11		Part	52,441	72/137
	Lead (2008) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) PM-10 (1987) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	Lead (2008) Arecibo, PR Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) PM-10 (1987) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	Lead (2008) Arecibo, PR	NaAQS Area Name	NAAQS Area Name	NAAQS Area Name	NAAQS Area Name Nonattainment in Year Redesignation Maintenance Classification Classification Redesignation Maintenance Redesi

Important Notes

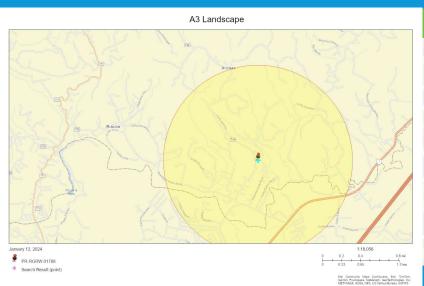


EJScreen Community Report

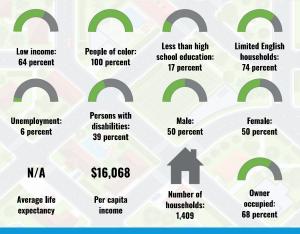
This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

Cidra Municipio, PR

1 mile Ring Centered at 18.143052,-66.132874 Population: 4,008 Area in square miles: 3.14



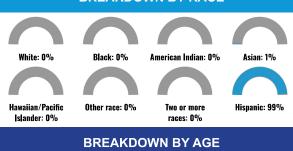
COMMUNITY INFORMATION



LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	1%
Spanish	99%
Total Non-English	99%

BREAKDOWN BY RACE



	From Ages 1 to 4	3%
	From Ages 1 to 18	16%
######################################	From Ages 18 and up	84%
	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

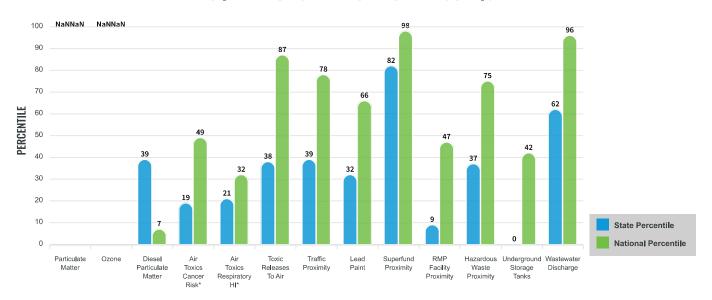
The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations 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 color populations with a single environmental indicator.

EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



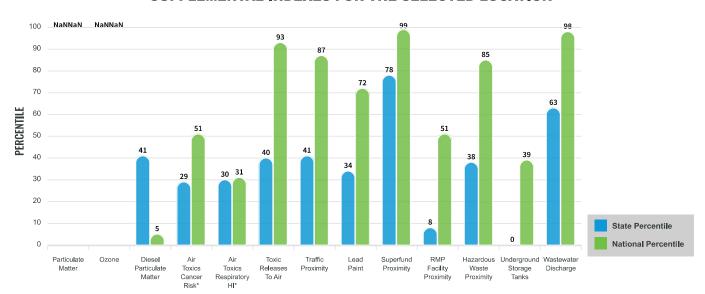


SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

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

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION





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

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.143052,-66.132874

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)	0.031	0.0667	41	0.261	1
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	18	20	0	25	1
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.18	0.19	0	0.31	1
Toxic Releases to Air	570	4,300	35	4,600	48
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	62	180	46	210	45
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.062	0.16	39	0.3	28
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.23	0.15	87	0.13	87
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.06	0.47	8	0.43	14
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.21	0.76	37	1.9	36
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km²)	0.22	1.7	60	3.9	32
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)		2.3	64	22	74
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	82%	83%	30	35%	96
Supplemental Demographic Index	40%	43%	34	14%	98
People of Color	100%	96%	29	39%	97
Low Income	64%	70%	29	31%	90
Unemployment Rate	6%	15%	30	6%	64
Limited English Speaking Households	74%	67%	60	5%	99
Less Than High School Education	17%	21%	40	12%	75
Under Age 5	3%	4%	55	6%	34
Over Age 64	21%	22%	47	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 EPAS Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the Unitee States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates 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 fligures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/haps/sir/civics-data-update.

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	0
Water Dischargers	1
Air Pollution	1
Brownfields	0
Toxic Release Inventory	2

Other community features within defined area:

Schools 0
Hospitals
Places of Worship 0

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	No
Impaired Waters	Vρ

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	35.8%	21.6%	96	13.4%	99	

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	29%	32%	49	14%	87	
Lack of Health Insurance	6%	7%	42	9%	41	
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 18.143052,-66.132874

APPENDIX D

Endangered Species



Date: December 12, 2023

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01788

Street Address: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6

Municipality: Cidra

Subject – Endangered Species No Effect Determination for PR-RGRW-01788

Tetra Tech conducted a site-specific review of endangered species 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 located at Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, in the Municipality of Cidra, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 299-039-134-74).

The proposed project is for the construction of a warehouse structure to store, pack and dispatch T&C mix at coordinates 18.1430503, -66.1328747. The proposed warehouse is a 40-foot (ft) x 40 ft steel structure with a galvalume sheet roof. The parcel was previously used for cattle farming and is currently used as fruit and ornamental plants nursery.

Surrounding landscape includes urban development to the southeast, south, and southwest, residential developments to the north and west, and undulating pasture and farmland to the east. No trees are located within the proposed project area and therefore is not sufficient habitat for nesting birds, nor arboreal snakes. Trees will not be removed during this project. The proposed project area was first graded in January 2002 to construct the nursery and begin topsoil and compost mix production. The T&C mixing area is maintained graded and operational.

The National Wetlands Inventory indicated that no wetlands are located within the parcel (Figure 14).

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

Species	Status
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (Columba inornate wetmorei)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered

No Critical Habitats were noted within the project area (Figure 10). Based on site review and site photos, no suitable habitat was found within the proposed project area for the listed species as the area has already been graded and is maintained. 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:



Species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures to be implemented (if needed)
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (Columba inornate wetmorei)	No Effect	No Conservation Measures
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	No Effect	No Conservation Measures

A 'No Effect' determination has been made based on the lack of suitable habitat for the listed species, as well as previous disturbance and current land use of the proposed project area.

If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the Construction Manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the Boa.

Attachments:

IPaC Resource List

Shelby McDowell

B.S. Biologist, Tetra Tech



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (787) 834-1600 Fax: (787) 851-7440

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

In Reply Refer To: February 01, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0043754 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01788

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

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Once a species list is obtained for the proposed project, an effect determination for endangered and threatened species should be made. The applicant could make an effect determination by using available keys on IPaC for specific species. For species with no determination keys, the applicant should request concurrence from the Service by sending a project package

to <u>caribbean es@fws.gov</u>. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

 $\underline{https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/consultation-under-section-7-of-the-endangered-species-act-with-the-caribbean-ecological\%20Services-field-office-template-letter.pdf$

When a federal agency, after discussions with the Service, determines that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any listed species, or adversely modify any designated critical habitat, and the Service concurs, the informal consultation is complete, and the proposed project moves ahead. If the proposed action is suspected to affect a listed species or modify designated critical habitat, the Federal agency may then prepare a Biological Assessment (B.A.) to assist in its determination of the project's effects on species and their habitat. However, a B.A. is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a B.A. where the agency provides the Service with an evaluation on the likely effects of the action to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a B.A. are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a federal agency determines, based on its B.A. or biological evaluation, that listed species and/ or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to further consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species, and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation process. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species.

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action". Please use this list to determine whether your project requires consultation and to make your effects determination. For more guidance, use the Guideline for Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office by clicking here.

This species list is provided by:

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

Attachment(s):

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

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 (787) 834-1600

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0043754 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01788

Project Type: Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural

Project Description: The proposed project, located at Carr. 734 Km 5.6 Bo. Arenas Sector

Vista Alegre, Cidra, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 299-039-134-74; coordinates 18.1430503, -66.1328747), will be funded under the ReGrow PR Urban-Rural Agricultural Program. The proposed project includes the purchase and construction of a new warehouse, the purchase of compost, topsoil and packaging material, and compost transportation. The scope of work for the proposed project is the construction of a warehouse structure to store, pack and dispatch T&C mix at coordinates 18.1430503, -66.1328747. The proposed warehouse is a 40-foot (ft) x 40 ft steel structure with a galvalume sheet roof. Ground disturbance at building installation will include support posts to a depth of 3 feet. No new water

installation will include support posts to a depth of 3 feet. No new water or electric power connection is required for the proposed SOW. The current operation does not need the use of electricity. The proposed warehouse will not require electric connection. The site and operational

area have existing water

connection to the local utility and use a water well to supply the irrigation water. Water is collected from the well in a 5,000 gallons water box via an existing underground PVC piping system with an approximate distance of 500 ft. The water is then used for irrigation via an aboveground PVC piping system that conveys water by gravity from the storage box to the ornamental and fruits cropping areas.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1430468,-66.13288129741372,14z



Counties: Cidra County, Puerto Rico

Project code: 2024-0043754 02/01/2024

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

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

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

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

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

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

BIRDS

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon Patagioenas inornata wetmorei

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7955

REPTILES

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

Endangered

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

General project design guidelines:

 $\frac{https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/M5P6RLJLGFETDFTOGIDNDOUSME/documents/generated/7159.pdf}{}$

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act¹ and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act².

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

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

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

MIGRATORY BIRDS

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

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

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

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

WETLANDS

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

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

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Project code: 2024-0043754 02/01/2024

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Tetra Tech

Name: Shelby McDowell Address: 2301 Lucien Way #120

City: Maitland

State: FL Zip: 32751

Email shelby.mcdowell@tetratech.com

Phone: 4096591563

USFWS Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures

Puerto Rican Boa

Generated September 11, 2023 01:39 PM UTC, IPaC v6.97.0-rc3



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.

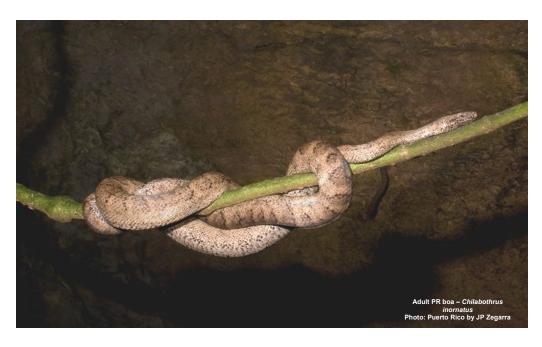


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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

Guidelines for Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon

The Puerto Rican plain pigeon is a large pigeon about the size and shape of a domestic pigeon. At a distance the species appears pale blue-gray. The head, hindneck, breast, and the top central part of the folded wing are washed with a wine color. The wing coverts are margined with white. Legs and feet are dark red. A variety of fruits and seeds, and livestock feed provide nourishment for this species. Approximately 70 percent of the foods come from tree branches, and 30 percent from the ground. Principal foods at Cidra are royal palm (Roystonea borinquena); mountain immortelle (Erythrina poeppigiana); West Indies trema (Trema lamarckiana); and white prickle (Zanthoxylum martinicense). Water is usually taken from the axils of bromeliads or from water-retaining blossoms of the African tulip-tree. Nesting occurs primarily in bamboo groves and the hardwood canyons of Cidra.

- 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 pigeon (late January to early July), if the paigeon 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 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 pigeon 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.

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

December 04, 2023

Lauren Bair Poche

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

SHPO: 12-01-23-07 PUERTO RICO DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR RE-GROW PR URBAN-RURAL AGRICULTURAL RE-GROW PROGRAM, PR-RGRW-01788, CARLOS F. COLLAZO RODRÍGUEZ, BO. ARENAS, SECTOR VISTA ALEGRE, CARR. 734 KM 5.6, CIDRA, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Poche,

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

Our records support your finding of **no historic properties affected** within the project's area of potential effects.

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela

andy a Probi

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/LGC





December 1, 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-01788 – Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez – Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, Cidra, 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 Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez located at Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6, in the municipality of Cidra. The undertaking for this project includes the purchase and construction of a new warehouse, the purchase of compost, topsoil and packaging material, and compost transportation. The proposed warehouse is a 40-foot (ft) x 40 ft steel structure with a galvalume sheet roof. Ground disturbance during building construction will include the installation of support posts anchored to a depth of 3 feet. In addition, the applicant has indicated that they would like to install a concrete floor for the warehouse using private funding.



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

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

Kindest regards,

James B. Pocke

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP 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: Carlos F. Collazo Rodriguez	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01788	City: Cidra

Project Location: Barrio Arenas Sector Vista Alegre Carr 734 KM 5.6

Project Coordinates: 18.1430503, -66.1328747

TPID (Número de Catastro): 299-039-134-74

Type of Undertaking:

☐ Substantial Repair

☐ New Construction

Construction Date (AH est.): c1970

Property Size (acres): 5.02

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Maria F. Lopez Schmid
Date Reviewed : 11/07/2023
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Roberto G. Muñoz-Pando, PhD
Date Reviewed : 11/09/2023

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 intent use of funds includes the purchase and construction of a new warehouse, the purchase of compost, topsoil and packaging material, and compost transportation. In the past this land was used for cattle farming. Currently the land is used as fruit and ornamental plants nursery. Activities within the farm include packing and selling topsoil and compost (T&C) mix.

The scope of work (SOW-1) for the proposed project is the construction of a warehouse structure to store, pack and dispatch T&C mix at coordinates 18.1430503, -66.1328747. The proposed warehouse is a 40-foot (ft) x 40 ft steel structure with a galvalume sheet roof. Ground disturbance at building installation will include support posts to a depth of 3 feet. In addition, the applicant has indicated that they would like to install a concrete floor for the warehouse using private funding.

No power connection is needed for the proposed project. Water is supplied from an existing well through an underground ½ inch PVC pipe that conveys water to a 5,000 gallons storage box located approximately 500 ft away from the well. Water irrigation at nursery is achieved by gravity from the storage box. This field was first graded in January 2002 to construct the

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nursery and begin topsoil and compost mix production. The T&C mixing area is maintained graded and operational.

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 proposed new warehouse with a 15-meter buffer to allow for variation in final building placement; this APE is constrained to the west, south, and east by other buildings on the parcel. 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 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 located archaeologist sites within a half mile radius of the APE.

There have been four previously performed archaeological resource surveys within half a mile of the project area. In 1996, Juan González Colón led a Phase 1A/ 1B investigation: "Extensión del Sistema Sanitario a la Comunidad Valle Real" with ICP code # ICP/ CAT-CD-96-04-07 or EAP 0226. This investigation was performed 0.10 miles south of the APE and returned Negative results for archaeological materials. In 1996, José Rivera Meléndez led a Phase 1A/ 1B investigation: "Desarrollo de 5 solares residenciales" with ICP code # ICP/CAT-CD-96-04-03 or EAP 0222. This investigation was performed 0.46 miles southwest of the project area and returned Negative results for archaeological materials. In 1999, Harry Alemán Crespo led a Phase 1A/ 1B investigation "Urb. Villa Real Carr. Num.735 KM 0.8" with ICP code # ICP/ CAT-CD-99-06-01 or EAP 0236. This investigation was performed 0.36 miles southeast of the APE and came out Negative for archaeological materials. In 2008, Marisol Martínez Garayalde led a Phase 1A archaeological resource survey: "Cayey North By Pass From PR-14 to PR-1" with ICP code # ICP/ CAT-CY-08-11-08 or EAP 4471. This investigation was performed approximately 0.40 miles south of the APE and came out positive for archaeological materials, however these artifacts were found outside the half mile buffer area from the APE.

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The soil that covers the ground near the APE is Mucara Clay soil (MxE and MxF) with 20 to 40 percent slopes and 40 to 60 percent slopes respectively. This amount of slopes makes the probability of finding new, significant, and intact archaeological artifacts in this area low.

Lastly, per the applicant the proposed project area was graded in January of 2002 with the intent of constructing a plant nursery and to facilitate topsoil and compost production. Starting in August of 2006, the applicant has been using the space exclusively as a work zone for the collection and compaction of topsoil and compost using a bobcat mini excavator. The grading of the proposed APE in 2002 and subsequent use of the area for the collection and compaction of topsoil and compost has resulted in disturbance of the original ground surface within the area.

Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review 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. However, there is one NRHP-listed historic property within the half mile buffer zone from the APE. The property is the Carretera Central historic district built between 1846 and 1886. It is composed of several contributing resources, including the road itself, bridges, historic sewers, and casillas de camineros. This historic district is located 0.25 miles south of the APE.

The proposed project is located in a hilly urban area within single-family houses along the PR-734 Road and other access roads. The property lies west of Carretera Arenas (PR-734) in Cidra. A circa 1970 building is located northeast of the APE geocoordinates. The building, shown below, appears in a 1977 aerial image, but not on a 1962 aerial image. This building is a one-story concrete house with a detached concrete carport on the left side of the house. The house has a concrete slab on grade foundation, concrete walls, and a side gable concrete roof topped with ceramic roof tiles. A full width front porch is supported by four concrete round columns and enclosed by concrete balustrade railings. The left side carport is concrete with a front gable concrete roof supported by two columns on each side and a rear concrete volume for storage.

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Figures 1 & 2. Detail of 1977 aerial image indicating the location of the building on the property and oblique view of the house, view to the northwest.

This building **does not** meet the requirements to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Determination

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

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

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that the project area is **not** within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. Nor have any historic properties or previously recorded archaeological sites been identified within the proposed project APE or the parcel in which it is contained. The nearest previously identified historic property is the Carretera Central, located 0.25 miles south of the project area. There are no previously identified archaeological sites within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE. The four archaeological studies that were performed in the area did not identify archaeological evidence within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE. The 20 to 60 percent slope of the soils around the project area make the probability of finding archaeological sites near the APE low to moderate. The proposed project area was graded in 2002 and subsequently used for the mechanical collection and compaction of topsoil and compost from 2006 to the present day; these activities have resulted in the disturbance of the original ground surface within the APE. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

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Recommendation (Please keep on same page as SHPO Staff Section)

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the Puerto Rico SHPO concur that th	е
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

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	•,
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed and:	d the above information
□ Concurs with the information provided.	
□ Does not concur with the information provided.	
Does not concor with the information provided.	
Comments:	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:

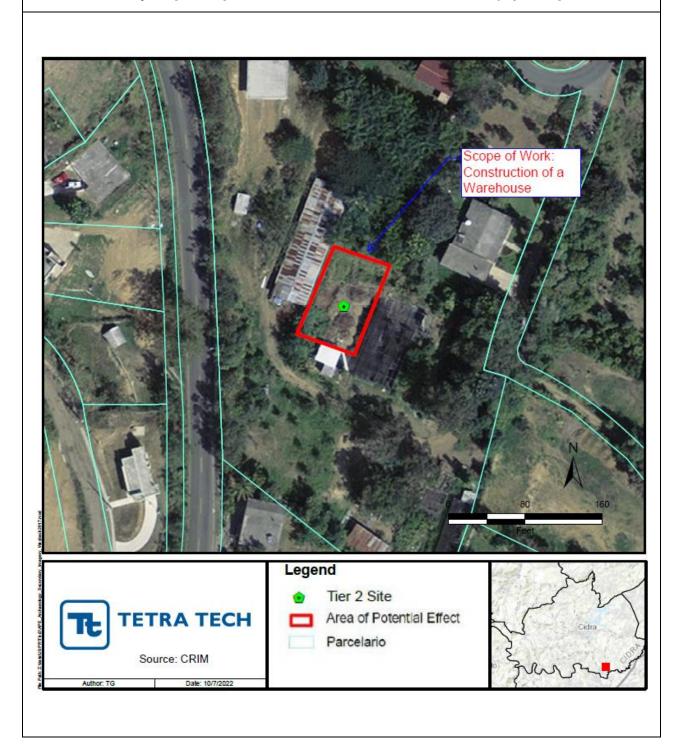


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Project (Parcel) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)

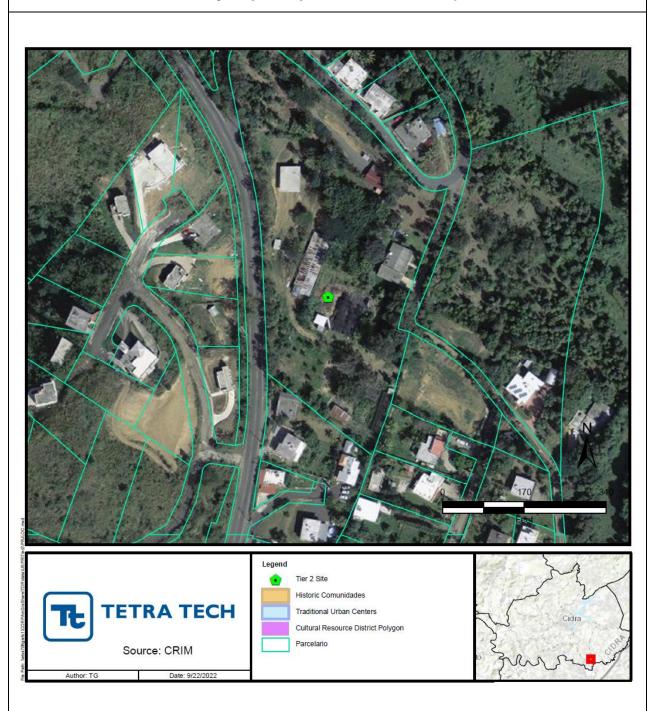




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Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map

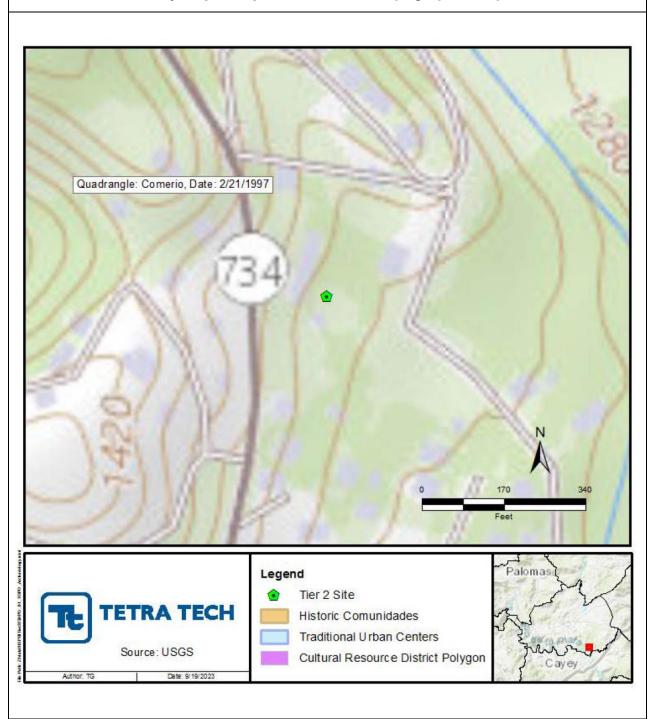




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Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map





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Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map NaF MxF MxE RoC2 RoB Soil Type **TETRA TECH** MxE;Mucara clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes MxF;Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes Source:USDA RoC2;Rio Arriba clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded Date: 10/17/2023



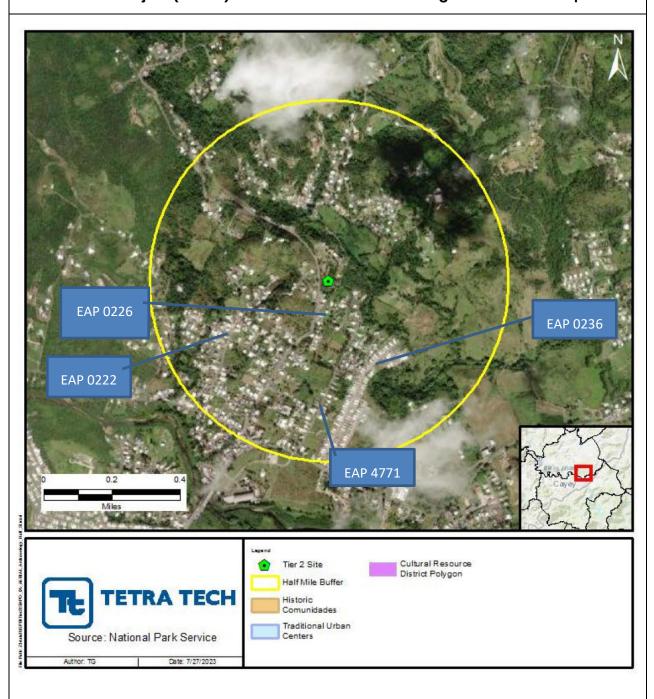
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Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map

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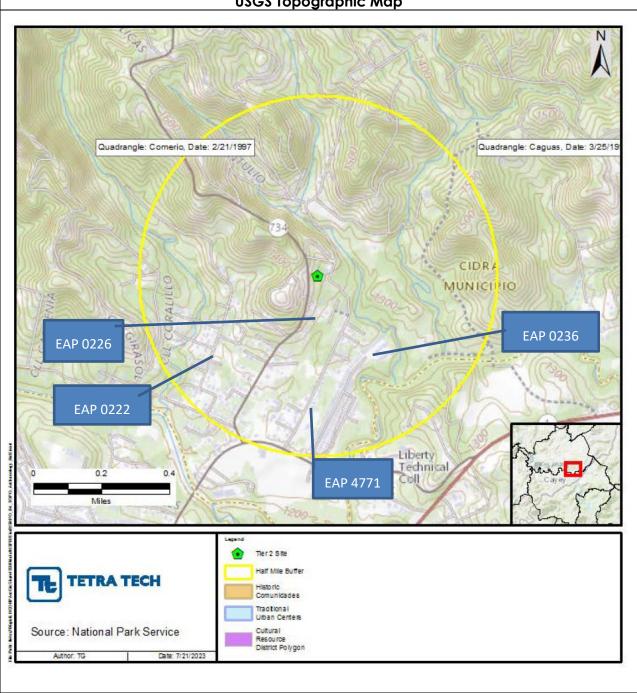




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Project (Parcel) Location with Previously Recorded Cultural Resources **USGS** Topographic Map



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Photo #: 1

Description (include direction): Scope of work 1: Construction of a Warehouse, view to the North

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Date: 10/17/2023



Photo #: 2

Description (include direction): Scope of work 1: Construction of a Warehouse, view to the Northeast

Date: 10/17/2023

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Photo #: 3

Description (include direction): Scope of work 1: Construction of a Warehouse, view to the Southwest

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Date: 10/17/2023



Photo #: 4

Description (include direction): Scope of work 1: Construction of a Warehouse, view to the Northwest

Date: 10/17/2023



October 20, 2022

Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

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

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela:

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

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

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

Cordially,

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

CDBG DR-MIT