



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

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

Project Information

Project Name: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

HEROS Number: 900000010390139

Start Date: 04/03/2024

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , Yabucoa, PR 00767

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.015553, longitude -65.853466 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 401-000-002-48-998

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

This project (PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to EL ALGARROBO INC., an agricultural business, at BO. CAMINO NUEVO SECTOR EL GUANO, CARR. 901 KM 9.9 CAMINO VECINAL, Yabucoa, PR 00767. Tax ID Number: 401-000-002-48-998. Coordinates (18.015553, -65.853466). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of farm equipment including a three disc plow, backpack sprayer, blower, compost soil, motor sprayer, post hole digger, three hitch point plow, plantain seeds, yautia lila seeds, industrial trimmer for project cost of \$ 20,314.50. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes a scope item previously considered as an EA level of review (irrigation system) which is now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$ 8,474.00. The proposed activities for El Algarrobo Inc. consist of installing a new irrigation system with a 2,000-gallon cistern, a pump, 708.7 feet (ft; 216 meters [m]) of above-ground water pipes, a solar panel system, and above-ground electrical lines connecting the solar panel system to the pump. The irrigation system will be connected to AAA municipal water lines located 70.04 ft (21.35 m) northeast of the proposed cistern location. A 50 square foot (sq ft) base of gravel and concrete for the solar panel system, pump, and cistern will also be set on the ground surface with minimal vegetation clearance using a weed trimmer. During the wetland visual assessment, after the environmental site visit and SHPO consultation, the applicant explained that no access roads will be constructed, and they will only use the existing roads to access the planting areas. The applicant plans to purchase/install the solar panel system battery and four panels, and gravel/concrete base using their own funding for a cost of \$15,000.00. However, they are seeking financial assistance for the rest of the undertaking. The project EL ALGARROBO INC., PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified as CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes new

ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

Level of Environment Review Determination:

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

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Program Name	
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,507,179,000.00
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,932,347,000.00
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$8,220,783,000.00
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$277,853,230.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$8,474.00

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$23,474.00

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

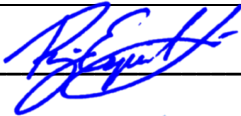
Summarized below are all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete

Determination:

<input type="checkbox"/>	This categorically excluded activity/project converts to EXEMPT per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds" (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR

<input type="checkbox"/>	This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).
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Preparer Signature:  Date: September 23, 2025

Name / Title/ Organization: Ricardo Espiet Lopez / / Department of Housing - Puerto Rico

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:  Date: 9/29/2025

Name/ Title: Pedro A. de León Rodríguez, MSEM/Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

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

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

Project Information

Project Name: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

HEROS Number: 900000010390139

Start Date: 04/03/2024

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

State / Local Identifier:

RE Preparer: Ricardo Espiet Lopez

**Certifying Office
r:**

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Ent
ity):**

Point of Contact:

Point of Contact: Justin Neely

Consultant (if applicable): HORNE LLP

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

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

Project Location: , Yabucoa, PR 00767

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.015553, longitude -65.853466 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 401-000-002-48-998

Direct Comments to: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

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

This project (PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to EL ALGARROBO INC., an agricultural business, at BO. CAMINO NUEVO SECTOR EL GUANO, CARR. 901 KM 9.9 CAMINO VECINAL, Yabucoa, PR 00767. Tax ID Number: 401-000-002-48-998. Coordinates (18.015553, -65.853466). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of farm equipment including a three disc plow, backpack sprayer, blower, compost soil, motor sprayer, post hole digger, three hitch point plow, plantain seeds, yautia lila seeds, industrial trimmer for project cost of \$ 20,314.50. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes a scope item previously considered as an EA level of review (irrigation system) which is now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$ 8,474.00. The proposed activities for El Algarrobo Inc. consist of installing a new irrigation system with a 2,000-gallon cistern, a pump, 708.7 feet (ft; 216 meters [m]) of above-ground water pipes, a solar panel system, and above-ground electrical lines connecting the solar panel system to the pump. The irrigation system will be connected to AAA municipal water lines located 70.04 ft (21.35 m) northeast of the proposed cistern location. A 50 square foot (sq ft) base of gravel and concrete for the solar panel system, pump, and cistern will also be set on the ground surface with minimal vegetation clearance using a weed trimmer. During the wetland visual assessment, after the environmental site visit and SHPO consultation, the applicant explained that no access roads will be constructed, and they will only use the existing roads to access the planting areas. The applicant plans to purchase/install the solar panel system battery and four panels, and gravel/concrete base using their own funding for a cost of \$15,000.00. However, they are seeking financial assistance for the rest of the undertaking. The project EL ALGARROBO INC., PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified as CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes new ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

Maps, photographs, and other documentation of project location and description:

- [PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Site Map_v2.pdf](#)
- [ReEvaluation Memo .docx](#)
- [PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE IUGF CEST.pdf](#)
- [PR-RGRW-02813 CENST ERR.pdf](#)
- [PRDOH Regrow Puerto Rico Program - 5836 Waiver \(002\).pdf](#)
- [Farm Service Agency Adopted Categorical Exclusions Identified in FR-6492-N-01.pdf](#)
- [PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE EFOR.docx](#)

Level of Environmental Review Determination:

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

Determination:

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

Approval Documents:

[02813-SIG-PAGE\(1\).pdf](#)

7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer on:

7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer on:

Reevaluation of a Completed Review

The environmental findings of a completed environmental review were re-evaluated to determine if the original findings are still valid for all of the three scenarios below:

- a. Substantial changes in the nature, magnitude, or extent of the project, including adding new activities not anticipated in the original scope of the project are proposed.
- b. There are new circumstances and environmental conditions which may affect the project or have a bearing on its impact, such as concealed or unexpected conditions discovered during the implementation of the project, or
- c. The selection of an alternative not in the original finding is proposed.

It was determined that the original findings were still valid.

Statement or memo documenting determination:

The project EL ALGARROBO INC., PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified as CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes new ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

[ReEvaluation Memo \(1\).docx](#)

[PR-RGRW-02813 CENST ERR\(1\).pdf](#)

[PRDOH Regrow Puerto Rico Program - 5836 Waiver \(002\)\(1\).pdf](#)

[Farm Service Agency Adopted Categorical Exclusions Identified in FR-6492-N-01\(1\).pdf](#)

Funding Information

Grant / Project Identification Number	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,507,179,000.00
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,932,347,000.00

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B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$277,853,230.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded, Assisted or Insured Amount: \$8,474.00

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$23,474.00

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6		
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 102,277.9 feet away. 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.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 9,569.8 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C1815J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5		
Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
Coastal Zone Management Act Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description the project does not include any activities that would affect a Coastal Zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Small Business Financing (SBF) program will have no significant impact on Puerto Rican Coastal Resources and does not require a Federal Consistency Review (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004).
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements. At the time of this review, this section has not been updated in HEROS to include questions regarding radon. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. See attached radon documents.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project will have No Effect on listed species based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this

		section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not occur in a floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Yabucoa; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. According to the applicant, no access roads will be constructed in the wetland area. Only the existing roads will be used to access the planting areas. The water piping for

		the planting areas will be non-anchored above ground.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 82,206.2 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
HUD HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS		
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

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

Summarized below are all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Mitigation Plan	Complete
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Project Mitigation Plan

No mitigation required.

Supporting documentation on completed measures

APPENDIX A: Related Federal Laws and Authorities

Airport Hazards

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

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

No

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 102,277.9 feet away. 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.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Airports.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Coastal Barrier Resources

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

1. Is the project located in a CBRS Unit?

No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 9,569.8 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE CBRS.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Flood Insurance

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

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

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

✓ Yes

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

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE FIRM.pdf](#)

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

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

Yes

✓ No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Flood Map Number 72000C1815J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Air Quality

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Coastal Zone Management Act

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

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

- Yes
 No

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

- Yes
 No

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description the project does not include any activities that would affect a Coastal Zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Small Business Financing (SBF) program will have no significant impact on Puerto Rican Coastal Resources and does not require a Federal Consistency Review (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004).

Supporting documentation

[Resolution JP-2024-004_Second Amendment.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE CZM.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Contamination and Toxic Substances

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

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

ASTM Phase I ESA

ASTM Phase II ESA

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

None of the above

* HUD regulations at 24 CFR § 58.5(i)(2)(ii) require that the environmental review for multifamily housing with five or more dwelling units or non-residential property include the evaluation of previous uses of the site or other evidence of contamination on or near the site.

For acquisition and new construction of multifamily and nonresidential properties HUD strongly advises the review include an ASTM Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to meet real estate transaction standards of due diligence and to help ensure compliance with HUD's toxic policy at 24 CFR §58.5(i) and 24 CFR §50.3(i). Also note that some HUD programs require an ASTM Phase I ESA.

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

No

Explain:

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements. At the time of this review, this section has not been updated in HEROS to include questions regarding radon. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. See attached radon documents.

Supporting documentation

[Radon Attachments.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Toxics.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Radon Memo.docx](#)

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE EFOR\(1\).docx](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Endangered Species

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

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

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

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

Explain your determination:

This project clears via criteria 25 and 26 of the USFWS Blanket Clearance Letter. See attached USFWS Blanket Clearance Letter and Self-Certification Form.

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

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project will have No Effect on listed species based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Supporting documentation

- [PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE USFWS Self-Certification Form.pdf](#)
- [FINAL - Wetlands Visual Assessment Yabucoa PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE.pdf](#)
- [USFWS End Species Blanket Clearance Letter_2025.docx](#)
- [PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Wetlands.pdf](#)
- [PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Site Photos.docx](#)
- [PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Site Map v2\(1\).pdf](#)
- [PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE IPaC.pdf](#)
- [PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Endangered Species.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Explosive and Flammable Hazards

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

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

No

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Farmlands Protection

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

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

Yes

No

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

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Farmlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Floodplain Management

General Requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires federal activities to avoid impacts to floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development to the extent practicable.	Executive Order 11988	24 CFR 55

1. Do any of the following exemptions apply? Select the applicable citation? [only one selection possible]

- 55.12(c)(3)
- 55.12(c)(4)
- 55.12(c)(5)
- 55.12(c)(6)
- 55.12(c)(7)
- 55.12(c)(8)
- 55.12(c)(9)
- 55.12(c)(10)
- 55.12(c)(11)

None of the above

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

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE FIRM.pdf](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplains. The FEMA Map Service Center provides this information in the form of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). For projects in areas not mapped by FEMA, use **the best available information** to determine floodplain information. Include documentation, including a discussion of why this is the best available information for the site.

Does your project occur in a floodplain?

No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

This project does not occur in a floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Yabucoa; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE ABFE.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Historic Preservation

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

Threshold

Is Section 106 review required for your project?

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

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

Step 1 – Initiate Consultation

Select all consulting parties below (check all that apply):

✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

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

Other Consulting Parties

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

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

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

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

Address / Location / District	National Register Status	SHPO Concurrence	Sensitive Information
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Additional Notes:

No Historic Properties present within the APE

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

- Yes
- ✓ No

Step 3 –Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

Only properties that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places receive further consideration under Section 106. Assess the effect(s) of the project by applying the Criteria of Adverse Effect. (36 CFR 800.5)] Consider direct and indirect effects as applicable as

per guidance on direct and indirect effects.

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

No Historic Properties Affected

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

Document reason for finding:

No historic properties present.

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

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE SHPO Consultation Package.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Historic.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Noise Abatement and Control

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

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

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

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

An interstate land sales registration

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

None of the above

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Sole Source Aquifers

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

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

Yes

No

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

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

< No

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

Yes

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

Yes

No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Sole Source Aquifers.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wetlands Protection

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. According to the applicant, no access roads will be constructed in the wetland area. Only the existing roads will be used to access the planting areas. The water piping for the planting areas will be non-anchored above ground.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Wetlands\(1\).pdf](#)

[FINAL - Wetlands Visual Assessment Yabucoa PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE\(1\).pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

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

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

No

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

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 82,206.2 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Wild and Scenic.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Environmental Justice

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

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

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

Yes

No

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No



CDBG-DR

Re-GROW Program

PRIMARY SCREENING FOR WETLANDS AS PER HUD'S REGULATIONS AT 24 CFR 55.9(b)

General Information:		
Project Name (Case ID):	PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE	
Coordinates:	18.015553, -65.853466	
Parcel ID:	401-000-002-48-998	
Municipio:	Yabucoa	
Report Date:	8-27-2025	
Preparer:	Alberto Mercado Vargas	
Project Scope:		
<p>Does this project involve new construction as defined in Executive Order 11990?</p> <p>(The term "new construction" shall include draining, dredging, channelizing, filling, diking, impounding, and related activities and any structures or facilities begun or authorized after the effective date of the Order.)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (Based on the response, the review is in compliance)
<p>Project Site Conditions:</p> <p>(Indicate whether the area is impacted or not. If impacted, specify what elements or factors are present.)</p>	<p>The project site is a former cattle-grazing area that was previously impacted by agricultural activities. As a result of this past land use, natural conditions have been altered, and the area is now covered by common opportunistic vegetation that has recolonized the disturbed landscape. Within the site, certain depressional</p>	

	<p>areas of varying depth are evident, functioning as intermittent drainage features that periodically collect surface water and discharge toward the coast. In the primary drainage area, the presence of hydrophytic vegetation was observed, confirming wetland plant communities consistent with forested wetland habitat conditions. Nevertheless, these areas are outside the project’s direct impact zone and will not be disturbed by the proposed activities. Therefore, in accordance with 24 CFR Part 55, the project will avoid adverse effects to wetlands, and no significant wetland-related issues are anticipated.</p>
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A. Visual Assessment (Desktop Study)

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Reference		
Coordinates: 18.015553, -65.853466		
Is the project area located in proximity to wetlands identified on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	The project site is in proximity of wetlands identified on NWI.
	<input type="checkbox"/> No	The project site is not in proximity of wetlands identified on NWI.

B. Visual Assessment (Field Study)

Visual Assessment performed on: 8/27/2025		
List Individual(s) conducting the assessment. List weather conditions the day the assessment was performed, description of Site Conditions and Transects performed at site.		
Individual(s) present:	Alberto Mercado Vargas	
Weather Conditions: (Prior and during the site visit)	The weather during the site visit was mostly sunny with light drizzling at times, and the temperature was approximately 86 °F (30 °C).	
Where transects performed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If performed, how many transects were performed per transects?	2	

Wetland Vegetation:		
Was vegetation identified throughout the visit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Wetland vegetation was identified. (Provide supporting documentation)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	No wetland vegetation was identified. (Provide supporting documentation).

Wetland Hydrology:		
Was visual inundation, ponding or saturation present at the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Wetland Hydrology:		
Were watermarks present within site (If applicable)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If performed, how many borings were performed per transects?	n/a	
If performed, how many samples were taken?	n/a	
If performed, was underground water found throughout borings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If boring were performed, summarize determination of borings:	n/a	
Reasoning as for why borings were not performed:	<p>Soil borings were not conducted within the area identified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) as a Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (PFO3A) because the proposed project activities have been designed to avoid direct disturbance to this mapped wetland. In accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 and the wetland protection standards under 24 CFR Part 55, no ground-disturbing activities will occur within this area; therefore, borings were determined to be unnecessary. Furthermore, based on the USDA-NRCS Soil Survey for the project location, no hydric soils have been identified within the project site, supporting the conclusion that additional subsurface verification was not required.</p>	

Wetland Hydrology:
Provide supporting documentation (Photo Log) with brief descriptions and georeferenced document of all boring sample locations taken at end of form.

Hydric Soils:	
What is the NRCS' soil classification for this site?	PeC2 - Parcelas clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded 3.7 16.3% TeE - Teja gravelly sandy loam, 12 to 40 percent slopes
If performed, how many borings were performed per transects?	0
If performed, when were the borings performed?	n/a
If performed, how many samples were taken?	n/a
If performed, what were the identified soils for each sample?	n/a
If performed, does the identified soil sample concur with NRCS Soil Study Identification?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If performed, was underground water found throughout borings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If boring were performed, summarize determination of borings:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Reasoning as for why borings were not performed:	No borings were conducted because soil classifications are already established by USDA-NRCS through the SSURGO/Web Soil Survey database. According to NRCS, map unit names such as <i>Parcelas clay (PeC2)</i> and <i>Teja gravelly sandy loam (TeE)</i>

Hydric Soils:	
	<p>describe soil series and slope characteristics, but they are not Hydrologic Soil Groups (HSG) by themselves. The official HSG classification is assigned separately in the NRCS database at the component level, and therefore these map unit names should not be interpreted as hydrologic groups. In addition, vegetation within the project area has been historically impacted by prior land use activities, including cattle grazing, which altered the natural cover and disturbed site conditions. Furthermore, no project activities are proposed within the area identified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) as a Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (PFO3A). For these reasons, and because the project has been designed to avoid impacts to wetlands, borings were determined to be unnecessary.</p>
<p>Provide supporting documentation (Photo Log) with brief descriptions and georeferenced document of all boring sample locations taken at end of form.</p>	

Summary of Finding for Wetland Indicators	
<p>Is there a presence of mentioned indicators or characteristics of wetlands within the assessed area?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands Vegetation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydric Soils
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Indicators were observed
--	---

C. Determination

Visual Assessment Field Study and Desktop Study		
Based on Visual Assessment Field Study and Desktop Study:	<input type="checkbox"/>	The primary screening conclusively determined that the project site contains wetlands.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The primary screening conclusively determined that the project site does not contain wetlands.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	The primary screening is inconclusive; potential wetlands should be further studied.

D. Supporting Documentation

The best available information such as NRCS Soil identification, Maps, USDA Plant Lists, previous USACE wetland determinations, if any, and/or documentation of project site (if available) must be provided to support the determination made. All supporting documentation must provide source reference.

Field Study photos, photo log, and georeferenced document demonstrating location of all boring sample must be included in this form.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

List of Plants

Note: The project site is nearly 80% covered by common grasses, which typically colonize and characterize areas previously impacted by human or agricultural activities. No endangered or threatened species were identified within the project site.

This list of plants does not represent a comprehensive scientific inventory; rather, it reflects a visual recognition of a sample of the vegetation observed within the project site and its surroundings.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Common grass	<i>Megathyrsus sp.</i>
Coconut Palm	<i>Cocos nucifera L.</i>
Algarrobo de Puerto Rico	<i>Hymenaea courbaril L.</i>
Mango Tree	<i>Mangifera indica</i>
Acacia	<i>Albizia procera (Roxb.) Benth.</i>

Table 1 – List of plant species visually identified within the project site and its surroundings.

Relevant observation on the drainage area: The site appears to contain an intermittent drainage feature located in a low-lying area between two elevated points. At the time of the visit, the drainage was dry and covered with leaf litter. The presence of ferns and mosses was noted, which are characteristic of areas that may retain moisture. While certain conditions resemble those of wetland habitat, the proposed project has been designed to avoid any disturbance within this area. Therefore, consistent with USDA-NRCS soil classifications, field observations, and the fact that no project activities will occur within areas exhibiting wetland-like characteristics, no jurisdictional wetlands are considered present for compliance purposes under 24 CFR Part 58.

Photo Log



Photo 1 – Project Site Access (18.017115, -65.854591): The area is mostly covered by common grasses, with the only tree observed located within the drainage ditches.



Photo 2 - Project Site Access - The area is mostly covered by common grasses, with the only tree observed located within the drainage ditches.



Photo 3 - Project Site Access - The area is mostly covered by common grasses of the genus *Megathyrsus*, characteristic of disturbed agricultural lands in southeastern Puerto Rico.



Photo 4 – Access to the drainage area



Photo 5 -The soil at the project site shows a clayey composition with poor to moderate drainage, consistent with NRCS classifications for Yabucoa. Based on field observations, it resembles Parcelas clay or Coloso clay, which are not classified as hydric soils under NRCS criteria



Photo 6 – Drainage area identified in the NWI as Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (PFO3A), located within the overall parcel but outside the project footprint, and confirmed by the subrecipient/participant to not be impacted in any way by the proposed construction activities.

IPaC resource list

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

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

Location

Maunabo and Yabucoa counties, Puerto Rico



Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (939) 320-3135

📠 (787) 851-7440

✉ CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 622-0491

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Office Park I

State Road #2 Km 156.5, Suite 303}

Mayaguez, PR 680

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

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

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

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

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

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

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

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

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

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

Reptiles

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

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
Guajon <i>Eleutherodactylus cooki</i> Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6963	Threatened

Critical habitats

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

There are no critical habitats at this location.

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

Bald & Golden Eagles

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

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

Additional information can be found using the following links:

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

Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

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

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

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

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

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

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in

your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

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

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

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

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

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

Breeding Season ()

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

Survey Effort ()

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

No Data ()

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

Survey Timeframe

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

Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior [authorization](#) by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
<https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

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

Migratory Bird FAQs

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

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

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

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

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

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

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

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

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

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

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

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

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

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

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

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

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

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No Data ()

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Survey Timeframe

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Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) 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.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

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.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

[PFO3A](#)

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the [National Wetlands Inventory website](#)

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

Data limitations

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

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

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

Data exclusions

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

Data precautions

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



DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



Memorandum to File

Date: 8/18/2025

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

Application Number: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

Project: EL ALGARROBO INC.

Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE under the Regrow Puerto Rico Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

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

- As required by the CPD Notice 23-103, the scientific data reviewed in lieu of testing must consist of a minimum of ten documented test results over the previous ten years. If there are less than ten documented results over this

period, it is understood that there is a lack of scientific data. The latest report for radon testing in Puerto Rico was prepared in 1995 by the U.S. Department of the Interior in Cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. No other completed studies and reports on radon testing are available in Puerto Rico.

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO PLANNING BOARD

June 11, 2024

RESOLUTION JP-2024-004
Second Amendment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- CDBG-DR eligible activities provided in Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA), and outlined in the applicable

Federal Register Notices, the CDBG-DR Action Plan and CDBG-DR Program Guidelines.

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

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

A. The following activities or projects to be financed under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs have no significant impact on Puerto Coastal Resources and do not require Federal Consistency review:

1. Energy and water efficiency improvements for single-family homeowners, as well as small and medium-sized businesses, to enhance resilience. These improvements include the installation of renewable energy systems, such as photovoltaic modules, metering equipment, batteries, mounting and anchoring systems, and electrical accessories needed to create a functional system on existing structures. This also includes PV systems with battery backup for critical loads and water storage systems on roofs or previously impacted areas.
2. Provide support to entities throughout the Island to offer training in job skills related to the reconstruction and economic growth of Puerto Rico. Also, those skills that are necessary to situate the Island in the economy of the future.
3. Granting awards of up to \$150,000 for working capital and movable equipment for small businesses and micro-enterprises that suffered physical and/or financial losses due to the Hurricanes. Start-ups created after the Hurricanes are also eligible if they can show their creation was the result of a closure of a previous business of same owner(s), after damage caused by the Hurricanes.
4. Projects or activities that involve the rehabilitation or renovation of the interior of existing structures, including but not limited to single-family homes. This may encompass activities such as upgrading electrical and plumbing systems, repairing structural components, remodeling living spaces, and enhancing energy efficiency, all aimed at improving the functionality, safety, and sustainability of the property. Projects located within Historic Zones and Flood Zones are required to adhere to the provisions set forth in Sections E and F of this resolution, where applicable.
5. Projects or activities that are exempt from construction permits under Act 161-2009, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Permit Process Reform Act" and Rule 3.2.4 (Activities Exempt from Construction Permits) including Sections 3.2.4.1, 3.2.4.2 and 3.2.4.3 of the "Joint

Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation” (Regulation Number 9473).

- B. Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for demolition of structures with the purpose of restoring green areas, beaches, water retention areas and habitat recovery is consistent with the PRCZMP.
- C. Federal assistance provided under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for projects involving demolition and reconstruction, or the construction of new structures, is consistent with the PRCZMP. This includes projects such as single-family homes, multi-family residential buildings, commercial structures, and other types of construction aimed at rebuilding provided the project fulfill the following requirements:
- 1- The project must comply with land use regulations established under the Puerto Rico Land Use Plan, Territorial Plans and special plans that apply according to the location of the project.
 - 2- The structure to be constructed or reconstructed must comply with applicable regulations and parameters established in the “Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation” (Regulation Number 9473).
 - 3- Each project must provide evidence of compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing a copy of the Environmental Compliance Determination emitted by Puerto Rico Permit Management Office (OGPe) or providing documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)¹.
 - 4- Each project must provide evidence of compliance with Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office (PR SHPO) or the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP).
- D. The Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for infrastructure (according to the definition established by PR state Joint Regulation Number 9473)² projects are consistent with the PRCZMP with the condition that the applicant evidence compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing a copy of the Environmental Compliance Determination emitted by the PR Permit Management Office (OGPe) or providing documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

¹ As outlined in the Administrative Order: OGPe 2025-002, issued on March 12, 2025.

² The Regulation Number 9473 defines infrastructure as “a set of works and services that are considered fundamental and necessary for the establishment and operation of an activity, such as communication systems, aqueduct, sewerage, electricity, telephone installations, and health, education, and recreation facilities. It also includes elements such as sheds for public transportation and other elements of urban furniture”.

- E. Any project or activity to be financed with CDBG-DR or CDBG-MIT funds (including the permit-exempt activities mentioned in Sections A, C and D of this resolution), if located within a Historic Zones or impacts a Historic Site designated by the PR Planning Board, must have the endorsement of the Puerto Rican Culture Institute (PRCI) or the State Historic Preservation Office (PR SHPO) according to the OGPe Administrative Order number 2025-002, dated March 12, 2025.
- F. The structure to be built, repaired or rehabilitated must preferably be located outside the flood plain and flood risk zones according to the “FEMA Advisory Base Flood Elevation Map” (FEMA Advisory Maps) effective on April 13, 2018, or the most recent FEMA map that applies according to the location of the project. Notwithstanding, in established communities and towns that are located within the flood plain, structures located within a flood hazard zone must evidence compliance with the Special Flood Hazard Zone Regulations (Planning Regulation Number 13) by submitting the following documents in the application package:
1. Comply with the requirements of Substantial Damage according to the “*Guía Operacional para las Determinaciones de Daños y Mejoras Sustanciales en Puerto Rico*” (Operational Guide for Substantial Damage Determinations in Puerto Rico).
 2. Copy of the FEMA Elevation Certificate (form ff-206-fy22-152) completed and signed by an engineer or surveyor.
- G. The Office of Geology and Hydrogeology (OGH) of the Puerto Rico Planning Board will provide a conditioned certification letter which will allow the applicant to have access to the funds to finance the design and permitting phase. This applies to the projects that meet the requirements outlined Sections C, D, E and F prior to the construction phase. The Puerto Rico Planning Board in its meeting of November 20, 2024, determined that the applicant must fulfill the mentioned requirements **180 days from receipt of the OGH Conditioned Certification letter**. If the applicant needs additional time to fulfill the required documents, it must be justified and requested referring to the assigned case number through comentariosjp.pr.gov.
- H. For projects that meet all the requirements, the OGH will issue the Federal Consistency Certification directly, without the need for review by the Planning Board. Projects that fulfill applicable regulations and parameters established in the “Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation” (Regulation Number 9473), PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) along with those specified in Sections E and F of this resolution, will not be required to obtain a conditional certification letter from OGH in order to proceed with the design, permitting, and construction phases.
- I. Furthermore, The PR Planning Board on February 1, 2023, issued Resolution JP-339 that covers Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Public Assistance Program (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Therefore, federal assistance awarded through the “Infrastructure Coordination Program” to match the non-federal items that are required for projects under PA and

HMGP programs are covered by Resolution JP-339 and will not require to be submitted to the PRPB for federal consistency review.

- J. Hence, Projects for the reconstruction, repair, or rehabilitation of structures for water-dependent uses (piers, boat ramps etc.) are not covered under this Resolution and must be filed at the US Army Corps of Engineers through Regulatory Request System (RRS).

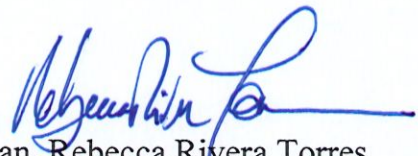
This General Federal Consistency Certification will be in effect for five (5) years from the notification date of this resolution. The Certification at reference will be renewed or amended if necessary to extend its validity or address other matters. The implementation of this resolution will be prospective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

The following parties shall be notified: Secretary, Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH); Director, Permits & Environmental Compliance Division (PRDOH); US Department of Housing, Office of Environmental & Energy; Director, Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program, DNER.


ADOPTED in San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 11, 2025.

Amended today, June 11, 2025.


Lcdo. Hector Morales Martinez
President


Plan. Rebecca Rivera Torres
Alternate Member

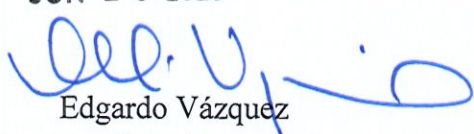
SE INHIBE
Lcdo. Luis Lamboy Torres
Alternante Member


Plan. Emanuel Gomez
Alternate Member

Certify: That this Resolution is a copy of the agreement adopted by Puerto Rico Planning Board in its meeting of, **June 11, 2025**. I expedite and notify this copy to the parties under my sign and official stamp of the Puerto Rico Planning Board stamp, for general use and knowledge.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today,

JUN 25 2025


Edgardo Vázquez
Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



V1.0 | 2023-09-21

CDBG-DR PROGRAM

Re-Grow PR Urban Rural Agriculture (RGRW) Program

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

APPLICATION GENERAL INFORMATION

Application No.:	PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE	Applicant Name:	Alexis Ramon Torres Borges
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PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Address:
BO Camino Nuevo Sector El Guano
Carr. 901 km 9.9 Camino Vecinal
Yabucoa P.R., 00767

Latitude:	18.01555	Longitude:	-65.85347
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Property Type:	Land	Year Built:	N/A
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Number of Buildings:	N/A	Are Utilities Connected?	No
-----------------------------	------------	---------------------------------	-----------

Property Remarks:

Is there evidence of damage from a previous disaster?	No
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Damage Remarks:

SIGNATURES OF INSPECTION REPORT

**Environmental
Inspector:**

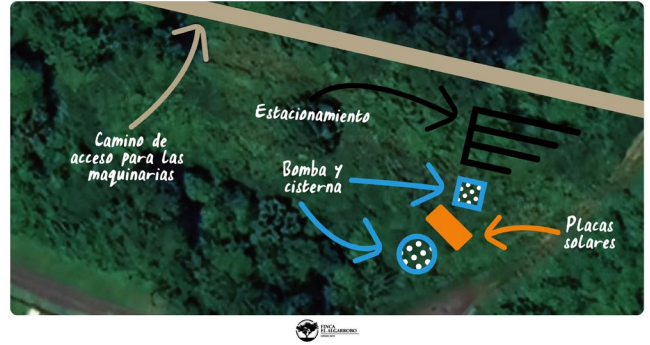
Juan C. Colón
Printed Name

Juan C. Colón
Signature

5-16-2025
Date

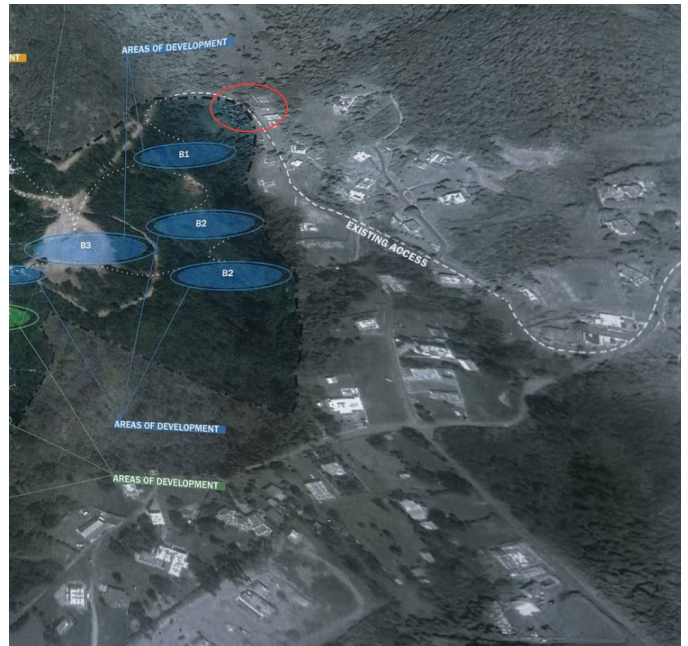
ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS		
Item	Observation	Remarks
Are there any signs of poor housekeeping on the site? <i>(mounds of rubble, garbage, or solid waste or improperly stored household quantities of petroleum products, pesticides, paints, thinners, cleaning fluids, automotive batteries, damaged, abandoned, and/or dangerous vehicles or other motorized equipment; pits, pools, lagoons, or ponds of hazardous substances or petroleum products located on the site)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any 55-gallon drums or containers visible on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
If drums located, are they leaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any signs of petroleum underground storage tanks (PUSTs) on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any UST locations visible from the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any signs of above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) on the site, or immediate adjacent visible sites?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any signs of surface staining?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any ground water monitoring or injection wells on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there evidence of a faulty septic system on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site? <i>(Do not include run-off or ponding from recent weather events.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any distressed vegetation on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Does the subject lot have water frontage?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any visible apparent indication of other environmental conditions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any visible apparent evidence of deteriorated paint (chipping, peeling, cracking) present in the structure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there other unusual conditions on site? <i>(Explain in attached supporting material. Please take photographs, if possible.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is the structure 45 years or older?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is the applicant aware of any significant historical events or persons associated with the structure; or does the home have a historic marker?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

REQUIRED PHOTOS



Applicant Conceptual Map of all equipment location

Applicant Conceptual Map of all equipment location



Access Point | Aerial View Reference on the right picture

Access Point (Red Circle) | B1 is the proposed area for all the activities in this application (It's a bigger area than it seems in this Aerial View)

PHOTOS OF RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS



Access Point



Access Point



Area where all the equipment will be installed | The reason of the high grass is because applicant was told to don't do nothing till RGRW process is finished.



Area where all the equipment will be installed

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



Area where all the equipment will be installed



Area where all the equipment will be installed



Area where all the equipment will be installed



Area where all the equipment will be installed

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



Front of Property



Front of Property (City Water Connection will become from neighbors' property)



Front of Property Outwards



Front of Property Outwards

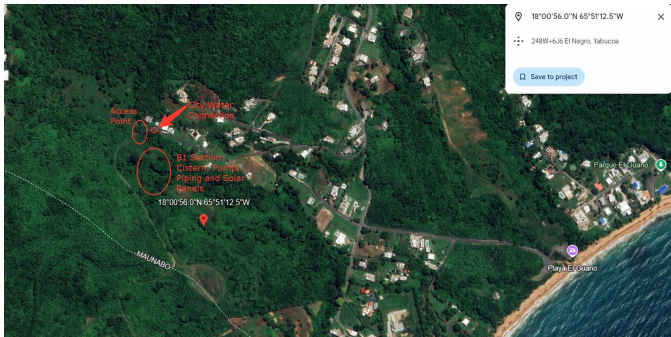
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



City Water Connection



If possible, applicant will install his water connection on the left side of the road (That part of the road (left side) is applicant property)



Aerial View (B1) | For better understanding I recommended to observe the conceptual map given by the applicant at page 3 of this report.



Irrigation system will extend through B1 and B2 section | visit page 3 for reference

Questions:

1. What will the cistern be installed on?
The cistern will be installed on concrete pad along with the other equipment's.
2. Is the solar battery and solar panels portable?
Yes.
3. Will the solar panels be installed permanently? If so, how? On poles or on gravel/concrete base (what are the dimensions)?
The panels will be installed on galvanized 12' long I-Beams, 8' will be driven into the ground. These beams are made of galvanized iron. The dimensions of the I-Beams in terms of "Width" and "Depth" will be 4" X 5", respectively. Gravel will be used around the beams and under the panels to control vegetation. Under the gravel there will be a black cover to control vegetation.
4. What are the dimensions of the concrete base?
A concrete pad with a maximum area of 50 square feet will be constructed to house the pump, cisterns, and battery, which will store energy captured by the solar panels.
5. Where and how the battery will be installed?
The battery and pump will be installed on the concrete pad in an enclosure over both equipment to protect them from weather, vandalism and rats/iguana. The connections to be used between the pump and the battery will be on the concrete pad and covered with PVC pipe, according to the codes that regulate these installations.



Self-Certification

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

Endangered Species Act Certification

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

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

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) certifies that the following project **ALGARROBO INC. (PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE)**, under the CDBG-DR Regrow Puerto Rico Program, consisting of installation of a new irrigation system with a 2,000-gallon cistern, a pump, above-ground water pipes, a solar panel system, and a 50 square foot (sq ft) base of gravel and concrete for the solar panel system, pump, and cistern, located at BO. CAMINO NUEVO SECTOR EL GUANO, CARR. 901 KM 9.9 CAMINO VECINAL, Yabucoa, PR 00767, complies with:

Check	Project Criteria
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Activities related to the resurfacing existing streets or roads; maintenance of existing upland gabion or reinforced concrete retention walls; construction, reconstruction or repair of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct and/or rehabilitate facilities in already established public transportation systems (signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, rehabilitate and/or expanding existing public transportation facilities located in urban or developed areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Construction of new facilities for public transportation systems (e.g. school bus stops, city buses, trolleybuses, public car stops, public car terminal) in urban or developed areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, or rehabilitate existing bridges or rip-rap. We recommend following FWS rip-rap guidance for design:

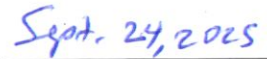
	https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Reconstruction, or emergency repairs, of existing structures, including but not limited to buildings, facilities and homes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Demolition of dilapidated single-family homes or buildings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Rebuilding of demolished single-family homes or buildings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Retrofitting existing buildings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Construction of residential and/or commercial facilities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Construction, repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, and/or rehabilitate recreational facilities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Addition of concrete pads to the existing footprint of a residential and/or commercial structure, provided that the resulting addition is less than 20% of the size of the existing structure.
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Improvement or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior) renovations resulting in an exterior increase greater than 20%.
<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Improvements or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior renovations) resulting in an exterior increase of less than 20%.
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Acquisition of residential and/or commercial properties in urban or developed areas for the relocation of families and/or activities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of cemeteries.
<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Installation/drilling of new water well and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Establishment of power facilities, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
<input type="checkbox"/>	19. Construction of electrical system infrastructure and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
<input type="checkbox"/>	20. Construction of land based small electric generating facilities, including those fueled with wind, sun, or biomass, capable of producing no more than 10 MW.
<input type="checkbox"/>	21. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) related to water and sanitary infrastructure; communication infrastructure; roads, bridges and highways without the removal of native vegetation and/or major earth movement.
<input type="checkbox"/>	22. Construction of rooftop or urban telecommunications systems and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or

	underground infrastructure.
<input type="checkbox"/>	23. Establishment of temporary debris storage (TDS) facilities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	24. Establishment and/or closure of solid waste management facilities. But not new landfills.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	25. Installation of water storage systems (cisterns) and associated infrastructure, either above ground or underground, including but not limited to installations on existing or new concrete pads, or existing or new roofs.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	26. Installation of solar panels, battery storage systems and/or associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground, on existing or new concrete pads, existing or new roofs, ground or pole mounted.
<input type="checkbox"/>	27. Installation of generators on existing or new concrete slabs, and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
<input type="checkbox"/>	28. Repair of existing agricultural structures including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with less than 20% expansion of footprint.
<input type="checkbox"/>	29. New construction of agricultural structures in established farms including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with or without underground and/or aboveground infrastructure utility connections.
<input type="checkbox"/>	30. Construction of fences, cattle corrals, concrete slabs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	31. Installation of storage containers on new concrete slab.
<input type="checkbox"/>	32. New construction or work which expands the footprint of an existing structure and occurs entirely on disturbed, regularly maintained, upland property, including the staging of equipment.



Angel G. López-Guzmán
 Deputy Director

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



Date

Attachments:

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



United States Department of the Interior

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



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

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

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

Dear Mr. Maldonado:

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

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

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

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

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

1. The project is located within an urban or developed area.
 - An urban or developed area is defined as an area that has one or more of the following characteristics:
 - Presence of existing buildings, residential areas, and commercial establishments.
 - Well-established infrastructure including roads, utilities, and urban facilities.
 - High population density.
 - Established neighborhood and urban amenities (“urbanizaciones”).
 - Developed landscape with paved surfaces, parking lots, and industrial areas.
 - Signs of human activity and urbanization, such as shopping centers and recreational facilities.
 - Location within the boundaries of a city or town ("casco urbano").
 - High concentration of built-up structures and limited open spaces.
 - Aerial imagery might be requested to the applicant¹.
2. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is located within a disturbed area that does not require additional clearing of forested (trees) areas.
3. The project is not located within (or adjacent to) drainages, rivers, streams, wetlands, aquatic systems, or coastal areas.
4. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is not located immediately adjacent to forested areas (e.g., rock walls and haystack hills (“mogotes”); wet montane forest; lowland wet forest; remnant coastal; mangrove forest; damp and dry limestone karst forests; pastureland with patches of exotic trees²).
5. The lighting associated to the facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from the shoreline or beach area.

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

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

¹ *Ibid.*

Project Criteria:

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

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

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

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

Determination:

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

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

Water Crossing Structures:

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

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

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

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

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

Limitations:

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

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

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

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

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

We appreciate your interest in protecting endangered species and their habitats. It is the Service's mission to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of our people. It is our mission to work with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of our people. If you have any additional questions regarding this BCL, please do not hesitate to contact us at (786) 244-0081 or via email at caribbean_es@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

LOURDES
MENA

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

Lourdes Mena

Field Supervisor



CDBG-DR

Re-GROW Program

PRIMARY SCREENING FOR WETLANDS AS PER HUD'S REGULATIONS AT 24 CFR 55.9(b)

General Information:		
Project Name (Case ID):	PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE	
Coordinates:	18.015553, -65.853466	
Parcel ID:	401-000-002-48-998	
Municipio:	Yabucoa	
Report Date:	8-27-2025	
Preparer:	Alberto Mercado Vargas	
Project Scope:		
<p>Does this project involve new construction as defined in Executive Order 11990?</p> <p>(The term "new construction" shall include draining, dredging, channelizing, filling, diking, impounding, and related activities and any structures or facilities begun or authorized after the effective date of the Order.)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (Based on the response, the review is in compliance)
<p>Project Site Conditions:</p> <p>(Indicate whether the area is impacted or not. If impacted, specify what elements or factors are present.)</p>	<p>The project site is a former cattle-grazing area that was previously impacted by agricultural activities. As a result of this past land use, natural conditions have been altered, and the area is now covered by common opportunistic vegetation that has recolonized the disturbed landscape. Within the site, certain depressional</p>	

	<p>areas of varying depth are evident, functioning as intermittent drainage features that periodically collect surface water and discharge toward the coast. In the primary drainage area, the presence of hydrophytic vegetation was observed, confirming wetland plant communities consistent with forested wetland habitat conditions. Nevertheless, these areas are outside the project’s direct impact zone and will not be disturbed by the proposed activities. Therefore, in accordance with 24 CFR Part 55, the project will avoid adverse effects to wetlands, and no significant wetland-related issues are anticipated.</p>
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A. Visual Assessment (Desktop Study)

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Reference		
Coordinates: 18.015553, -65.853466		
Is the project area located in proximity to wetlands identified on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	The project site is in proximity of wetlands identified on NWI.
	<input type="checkbox"/> No	The project site is not in proximity of wetlands identified on NWI.

B. Visual Assessment (Field Study)

Visual Assessment performed on: 8/27/2025		
List Individual(s) conducting the assessment. List weather conditions the day the assessment was performed, description of Site Conditions and Transects performed at site.		
Individual(s) present:	Alberto Mercado Vargas	
Weather Conditions: (Prior and during the site visit)	The weather during the site visit was mostly sunny with light drizzling at times, and the temperature was approximately 86 °F (30 °C).	
Where transects performed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If performed, how many transects were performed per transects?	2	

Wetland Vegetation:		
Was vegetation identified throughout the visit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Wetland vegetation was identified. (Provide supporting documentation)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	No wetland vegetation was identified. (Provide supporting documentation).

Wetland Hydrology:		
Was visual inundation, ponding or saturation present at the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Wetland Hydrology:		
Were watermarks present within site (If applicable)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If performed, how many borings were performed per transects?	n/a	
If performed, how many samples were taken?	n/a	
If performed, was underground water found throughout borings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If boring were performed, summarize determination of borings:	n/a	
Reasoning as for why borings were not performed:	<p style="color: #4f81bd;">Soil borings were not conducted within the area identified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) as a Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (PFO3A) because the proposed project activities have been designed to avoid direct disturbance to this mapped wetland. In accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 and the wetland protection standards under 24 CFR Part 55, no ground-disturbing activities will occur within this area; therefore, borings were determined to be unnecessary. Furthermore, based on the USDA-NRCS Soil Survey for the project location, no hydric soils have been identified within the project site, supporting the conclusion that additional subsurface verification was not required.</p>	

Wetland Hydrology:
Provide supporting documentation (Photo Log) with brief descriptions and georeferenced document of all boring sample locations taken at end of form.

Hydric Soils:	
What is the NRCS' soil classification for this site?	PeC2 - Parcelas clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded 3.7 16.3% TeE - Teja gravelly sandy loam, 12 to 40 percent slopes
If performed, how many borings were performed per transects?	0
If performed, when were the borings performed?	n/a
If performed, how many samples were taken?	n/a
If performed, what were the identified soils for each sample?	n/a
If performed, does the identified soil sample concur with NRCS Soil Study Identification?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If performed, was underground water found throughout borings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If boring were performed, summarize determination of borings:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Reasoning as for why borings were not performed:	No borings were conducted because soil classifications are already established by USDA-NRCS through the SSURGO/Web Soil Survey database. According to NRCS, map unit names such as <i>Parcelas clay (PeC2)</i> and <i>Teja gravelly sandy loam (TeE)</i>

Hydric Soils:	
	<p>describe soil series and slope characteristics, but they are not Hydrologic Soil Groups (HSG) by themselves. The official HSG classification is assigned separately in the NRCS database at the component level, and therefore these map unit names should not be interpreted as hydrologic groups. In addition, vegetation within the project area has been historically impacted by prior land use activities, including cattle grazing, which altered the natural cover and disturbed site conditions. Furthermore, no project activities are proposed within the area identified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) as a Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (PFO3A). For these reasons, and because the project has been designed to avoid impacts to wetlands, borings were determined to be unnecessary.</p>
<p>Provide supporting documentation (Photo Log) with brief descriptions and georeferenced document of all boring sample locations taken at end of form.</p>	

Summary of Finding for Wetland Indicators	
<p>Is there a presence of mentioned indicators or characteristics of wetlands within the assessed area?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands Vegetation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydric Soils
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Indicators were observed
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C. Determination

Visual Assessment Field Study and Desktop Study		
Based on Visual Assessment Field Study and Desktop Study:	<input type="checkbox"/>	The primary screening conclusively determined that the project site contains wetlands.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The primary screening conclusively determined that the project site does not contain wetlands.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	The primary screening is inconclusive; potential wetlands should be further studied.

D. Supporting Documentation

The best available information such as NRCS Soil identification, Maps, USDA Plant Lists, previous USACE wetland determinations, if any, and/or documentation of project site (if available) must be provided to support the determination made. All supporting documentation must provide source reference.

Field Study photos, photo log, and georeferenced document demonstrating location of all boring sample must be included in this form.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

List of Plants

Note: The project site is nearly 80% covered by common grasses, which typically colonize and characterize areas previously impacted by human or agricultural activities. No endangered or threatened species were identified within the project site.

This list of plants does not represent a comprehensive scientific inventory; rather, it reflects a visual recognition of a sample of the vegetation observed within the project site and its surroundings.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Common grass	<i>Megathyrsus sp.</i>
Coconut Palm	<i>Cocos nucifera L.</i>
Algarrobo de Puerto Rico	<i>Hymenaea courbaril L.</i>
Mango Tree	<i>Mangifera indica</i>
Acacia	<i>Albizia procera (Roxb.) Benth.</i>

Table 1 – List of plant species visually identified within the project site and its surroundings.

Relevant observation on the drainage area: The site appears to contain an intermittent drainage feature located in a low-lying area between two elevated points. At the time of the visit, the drainage was dry and covered with leaf litter. The presence of ferns and mosses was noted, which are characteristic of areas that may retain moisture. While certain conditions resemble those of wetland habitat, the proposed project has been designed to avoid any disturbance within this area. Therefore, consistent with USDA-NRCS soil classifications, field observations, and the fact that no project activities will occur within areas exhibiting wetland-like characteristics, no jurisdictional wetlands are considered present for compliance purposes under 24 CFR Part 58.

Photo Log



Photo 1 – Project Site Access (18.017115, -65.854591): The area is mostly covered by common grasses, with the only tree observed located within the drainage ditches.



Photo 2 - Project Site Access - The area is mostly covered by common grasses, with the only tree observed located within the drainage ditches.



Photo 3 - Project Site Access - The area is mostly covered by common grasses of the genus *Megathyrsus*, characteristic of disturbed agricultural lands in southeastern Puerto Rico.



Photo 4 – Access to the drainage area



Photo 5 -The soil at the project site shows a clayey composition with poor to moderate drainage, consistent with NRCS classifications for Yabucoa. Based on field observations, it resembles Parcelas clay or Coloso clay, which are not classified as hydric soils under NRCS criteria



Photo 6 – Drainage area identified in the NWI as Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (PFO3A), located within the overall parcel but outside the project footprint, and confirmed by the subrecipient/participant to not be impacted in any way by the proposed construction activities.

IPaC resource list

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

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

Location

Maunabo and Yabucoa counties, Puerto Rico



Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (939) 320-3135

📠 (787) 851-7440

✉ CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 622-0491

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Office Park I

State Road #2 Km 156.5, Suite 303}

Mayaguez, PR 680

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

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

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

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

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

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

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

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

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

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

Reptiles

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

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
Guajon <i>Eleutherodactylus cooki</i> Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6963	Threatened

Critical habitats

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

There are no critical habitats at this location.

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

Bald & Golden Eagles

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

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

Additional information can be found using the following links:

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

Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

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

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

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

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

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

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in

your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

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

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

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

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

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

Breeding Season ()

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

Survey Effort ()

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

No Data ()

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

Survey Timeframe

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

Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior [authorization](#) by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
<https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

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

Migratory Bird FAQs

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

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

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

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

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

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

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

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

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

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

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

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

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

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

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

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

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

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

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

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

Breeding Season ()

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

Survey Effort ()

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

No Data ()

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

Survey Timeframe

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

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) 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.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Wetland information is not available at this time

This can happen when the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map service is unavailable, or for very large projects that intersect many wetland areas. Try again, or visit the [NWI map](#) to view wetlands at this location.

Data limitations

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

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

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

Data exclusions

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


Data precautions

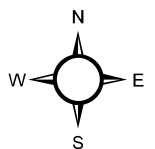
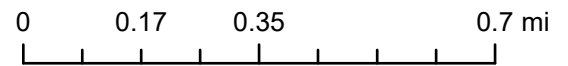
Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal,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

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Endangered



Legend

 USFWS Critical Habitat - Polygon (live agency service)












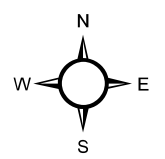
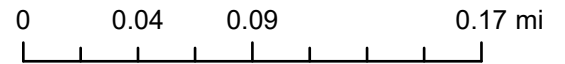
Endangered Species Habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Site Map



-  PR-RGRW-0281-W-RE
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Proposed Above-ground Water Line
-  Planting/Irrigation Areas
-  Existing AAA Connection
-  Cistern Location
-  Solar Array Location
-  Parking Area
-  Proposed Pump Location



PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

Project Access Points



Area where equipment will be installed

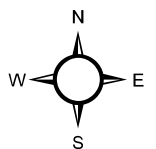
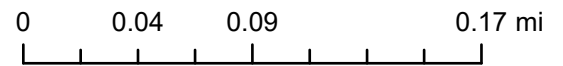


PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Wetlands



Legend

 Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



United States Department of the Interior

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



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

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

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

Dear Mr. Maldonado:

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

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

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

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

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

1. The project is located within an urban or developed area.
 - An urban or developed area is defined as an area that has one or more of the following characteristics:
 - Presence of existing buildings, residential areas, and commercial establishments.
 - Well-established infrastructure including roads, utilities, and urban facilities.
 - High population density.
 - Established neighborhood and urban amenities (“urbanizaciones”).
 - Developed landscape with paved surfaces, parking lots, and industrial areas.
 - Signs of human activity and urbanization, such as shopping centers and recreational facilities.
 - Location within the boundaries of a city or town ("casco urbano").
 - High concentration of built-up structures and limited open spaces.
 - Aerial imagery might be requested to the applicant¹.
2. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is located within a disturbed area that does not require additional clearing of forested (trees) areas.
3. The project is not located within (or adjacent to) drainages, rivers, streams, wetlands, aquatic systems, or coastal areas.
4. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is not located immediately adjacent to forested areas (e.g., rock walls and haystack hills (“mogotes”); wet montane forest; lowland wet forest; remnant coastal; mangrove forest; damp and dry limestone karst forests; pastureland with patches of exotic trees²).
5. The lighting associated to the facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from the shoreline or beach area.

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

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

¹ *Ibid.*

Project Criteria:

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

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

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

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

Determination:

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

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

Water Crossing Structures:

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

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

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

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

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

Limitations:

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

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

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

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

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

We appreciate your interest in protecting endangered species and their habitats. It is the Service's mission to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of our people. It is our mission to work with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of our people. If you have any additional questions regarding this BCL, please do not hesitate to contact us at (786) 244-0081 or via email at caribbean_es@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

LOURDES
MENA

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

Lourdes Mena
Field Supervisor



OFICINA ESTATAL DE

CONSERVACIÓN HISTÓRICA

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

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

Friday, June 20, 2025

Lauren B Poche

269 Avenida Ponce de León, San Juan, PR, 00917

SHPO-CF-06-11-25-02 PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE (Yabucoa), El Algarrobo

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/OJR





GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

April 30, 2024

Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

Executive Director

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

Cuartel de Ballajá, Third Floor

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents for Consultation

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 review services, among others, that will support the objectives of the agenda for both CDBG-DR and CDBG -MIT Programs.

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,

Aldo A. Rivera Vázquez, PE

Director

Division of Environmental Permitting and Compliance

Office of Disaster Recovery

June 11, 2025

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-02813-W-RE – EL
ALGARROBO INC. – BO. CAMINO NUEVO SECTOR EL GUANO, CARR. 901 KM 9.9 CAMINO
VECINAL, YABUCOA, 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 were 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 El Algarrobo Inc. located at Bo. Camino Nuevo Sector El Guano, Carr. 901 Km 9.9 Camino Vecinal, in the municipality of Yabucoa. The undertaking for this project consists of installing a new irrigation system with a 2,000-gallon cistern, a pump, 708.7 feet (ft; 216 meters [m]) of above-ground water pipes, a solar panel system, and above-ground electrical lines connecting the solar panel system to the pump. The irrigation system will be connected to AAA municipal water lines located 70.04 ft (21.35 m) northeast of the proposed cistern location. A 50 square foot (sq ft) base of gravel and concrete

for the solar panel system, pump, and cistern will also be set on the ground surface with minimal vegetation clearance using a weed trimmer. The applicant plans to build a new access road and parking lot to the system and agricultural fields and to purchase the solar panel system battery and four panels using their own funding and/or equipment. However, they are seeking financial assistance for the rest of the undertaking.

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,




Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager

LBP/JCO

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION	
APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.	
CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE	CITY: Yabucoa

PROJECT LOCATION: Bo. Camino Nuevo Sector El Guano, Carr. 901 Km 9.9 Camino Vecinal	
PROJECT COORDINATES: 18.015553, -65.853466	
TPID (Número de Catastro): 401-000-002-48-998	
TYPE OF UNDERTAKING: <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
CONSTRUCTION DATE (AH est.): N/A	PROPERTY SIZE (acres): 23.14 ac; Direct APE: 5.93 ac


SOI-QUALIFIED ARCHITECT/ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: N/A
DATE REVIEWED: Click or tap to enter a date.
SOI-QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGIST: Teresa L. Brown, M.A., R.P.A.
DATE REVIEWED: June 11, 2025

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (UNDERTAKING)

The proposed activities for El Algarrobo Inc. consist of installing a new irrigation system with a 2,000-gallon cistern, a pump, 708.7 feet (ft; 216 meters [m]) of above-ground water pipes, a solar panel system, and above-ground electrical lines connecting the solar panel system to the pump. The irrigation system will be connected to AAA municipal water lines located 70.04 ft (21.35 m) northeast of the proposed cistern location. A 50 square foot (sq ft) base of gravel and concrete for the solar panel system, pump, and cistern will also be set on the ground surface with minimal vegetation clearance using a weed trimmer. The applicant plans to build a new access road and parking lot to the system and agricultural fields and to purchase the solar panel system battery and four panels using their own funding and/or equipment. However, they are seeking financial assistance for the rest of the undertaking.

The project area is located at Bo. Camino Nuevo, Sector El Guano, Carr. 901 Km 9.9, Camino Vecinal, Yabucoa, P.R., 00767 within the Municipality of Yabucoa. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery and topographic maps, the general area has changed very little since the early 20th century. The local terraces and lower slopes are used for agricultural land, with the steeper

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION	 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO</small>
APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.	
CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE	CITY: Yabucoa

slopes and ridgelines undeveloped. Concentrated areas of residential development are located east, southeast, and northeast of the project along the waterways and coast.

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 ___ plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.


IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES - ARCHAEOLOGY

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information was completed by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology (36 CFR Part 61). Based on this review, no archaeological sites are documented within a half-mile of the APE.

The proposed project is located in a rural, mountainous area on the border of the Municipalities of Yabucoa and Maunabo at an elevation of 183 ft (55.8 m) above mean sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project APE is located in Teja gravelly sandy loam, with slopes ranging from 12 to 40 percent. Teja gravelly sandy loam is a gravelly sandy loam derived from gravelly residuum found on mountain slopes. As mentioned previously, the general project area is situated in hilly terrain, surrounded by vegetation and agricultural lands, with residential neighborhoods to the northeast, southeast, and east. The closest freshwater source is a Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland that runs through the center of the APE, generally from west to east. The southeast coast is approximately 0.40 mi (0.65 km) southeast of the project area.

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES - ARCHITECTURE

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review 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 no buildings or structures are located in or adjacent to the APE. Additionally, the undertaking will not occur within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District.


PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION	 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO</small>
APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.	
CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE	CITY: Yabucoa

DETERMINATION

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

- Direct Effect:
 - No historic properties are present within the Direct APE.
- Indirect Effect:
 - No historic properties are present within the Direct APE.

Based on the results of the historic property identification efforts, no previously identified historic properties are present within the Direct APE or the Indirect/Visual APE. The project area has a low probability of containing intact archaeological deposits due to its sloping terrain and previous agricultural use. The proposed activities will also have minimal impacts on a small area of shallow sub-surface deposits. As a result, the Program has determined that the proposed activities will have no effects to historic properties.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION	
APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.	
CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE	CITY: Yabucoa

RECOMMENDATION (PLEASE KEEP ON SAME PAGE AS SHPO STAFF SECTION)

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

- No Historic Properties Affected
- No Adverse Effect
 - Condition (if applicable):
- Adverse Effect
 - Proposed Resolution (if applicable)

THIS SECTION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY SHPO STAFF ONLY

The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above information and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Concurs with the information provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not concur with the information provided. 	
Comments:	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:

APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

CITY: Yabucoa

PROJECT (PARCEL) LOCATION - AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)



PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
 RE-GROW PROGRAM

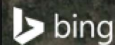
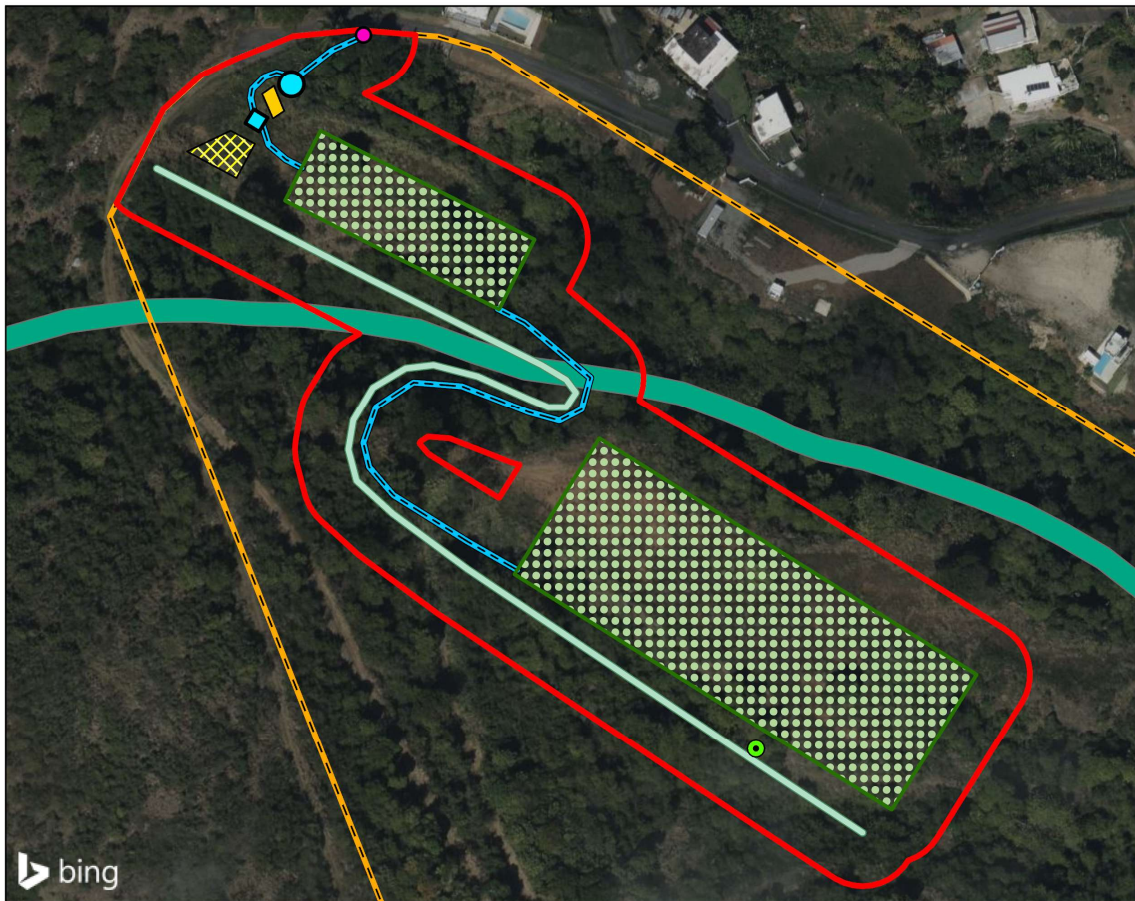


Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

Latitude: 18.015553

Address: Bo. Camino Nuevo Sector El Guano, Carr. 901 Km 9.9 Camino Vecinal, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

Longitude: -65.853466



Source: Bing, Portal Catastro Digital y Productos Cartográficos, USGS National Hydrography Dataset, and the National Wetlands Inventory Dataset



- PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE
- Area of Potential Effect
- CRIM Parcel Boundary
- Planting/Irrigation Areas
- Parking Area
- Cistern Location
- Solar Array Location
- Proposed Pump Location
- Access Road for Machinery
- Proposed Above-ground Water Line
- Existing AAA Connection
- National Wetlands Inventory
- Freshwater Forested/ Shrub Wetland

Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere Scale: 1:1,500



APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

CITY: Yabucoa

PROJECT (PARCEL) LOCATION - AERIAL BASE



PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
 RE-GROW PROGRAM

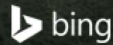


Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

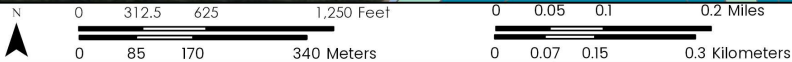
Latitude: 18.015553

Address: Bo. Camino Nuevo Sector El Guano, Carr. 901 Km 9.9 Camino Vecinal, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

Longitude: -65.853466



Source: Bing, Portal Catastro Digital y Productos Cartográficos, USGS National Hydrography Dataset, and the National Wetlands Inventory Dataset



- PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE
- Area of Potential Effect
- CRIM Parcel Boundary
- NHD Flowline
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/ Shrub Wetland
- Riverine



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

Scale: 1:8,000

APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

CITY: Yabucoa

PROJECT (PARCEL) LOCATION - TOPOGRAPHIC BASE



PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
 RE-GROW PROGRAM

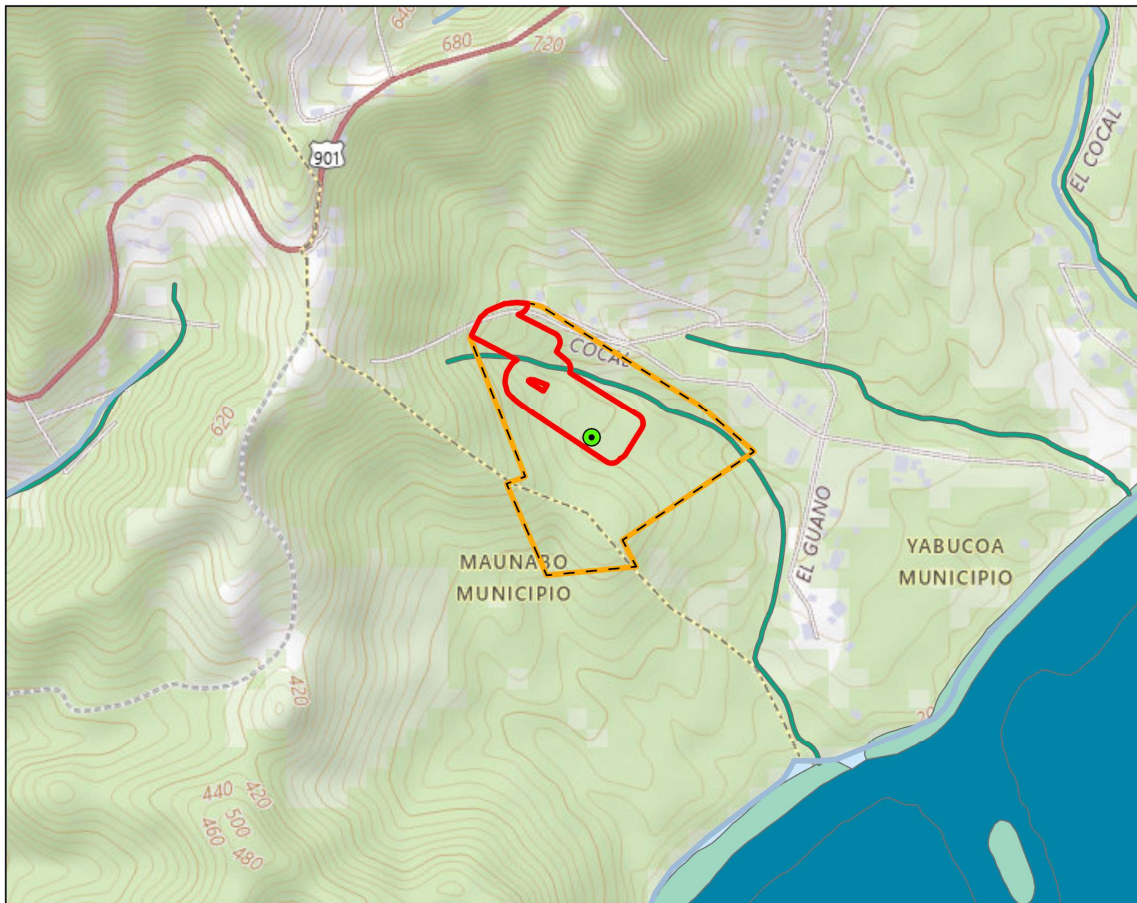


Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

Latitude: 18.015553

Address: Bo. Camino Nuevo Sector El Guano, Carr. 901 Km 9.9 Camino Vecinal, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

Longitude: -65.853466



	PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE		National Wetlands Inventory
	Area of Potential Effect		Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
	CRIM Parcel Boundary		Estuarine and Marine Wetland
	NHD Flowline		Freshwater Forested/ Shrub Wetland



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere Scale: 1:8,000

APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

CITY: Yabucoa

PROJECT (PARCEL) LOCATION - SOILS MAP



PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
 RE-GROW PROGRAM

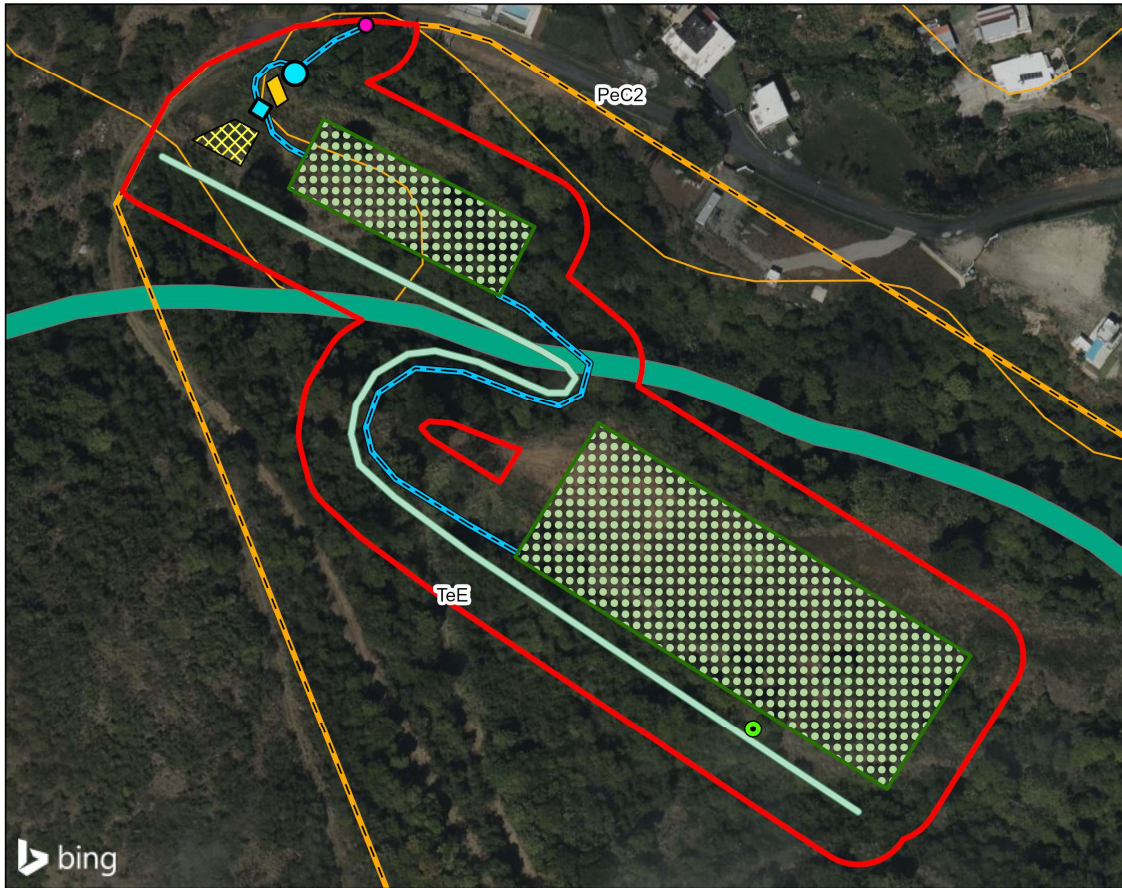


Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

Latitude: 18.015553

Address: Bo. Camino Nuevo Sector El Guano, Carr. 901 Km 9.9 Camino Vecinal, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

Longitude: -65.853466



Source: Bing Portal Catastro Digital y Productos Cartográficos, USDA and NRCS Soil Units, USGS National Hydrography Dataset, USDA and NRCS Soil Units

Scale: 1:1,500

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Area of Potential Effect CRIM Parcel Boundary Planting/Irrigation Areas Parking Area Cistern Location Solar Array Location	Proposed Pump Location Access Road for Machinery Proposed Above-ground Water Line Existing AAA Connection NRCS Soil Units National Wetlands Inventory Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
---	---

Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

CITY: Yabucoa

HISTORIC PROPERTIES - AERIAL BASE



PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
 RE-GROW PROGRAM

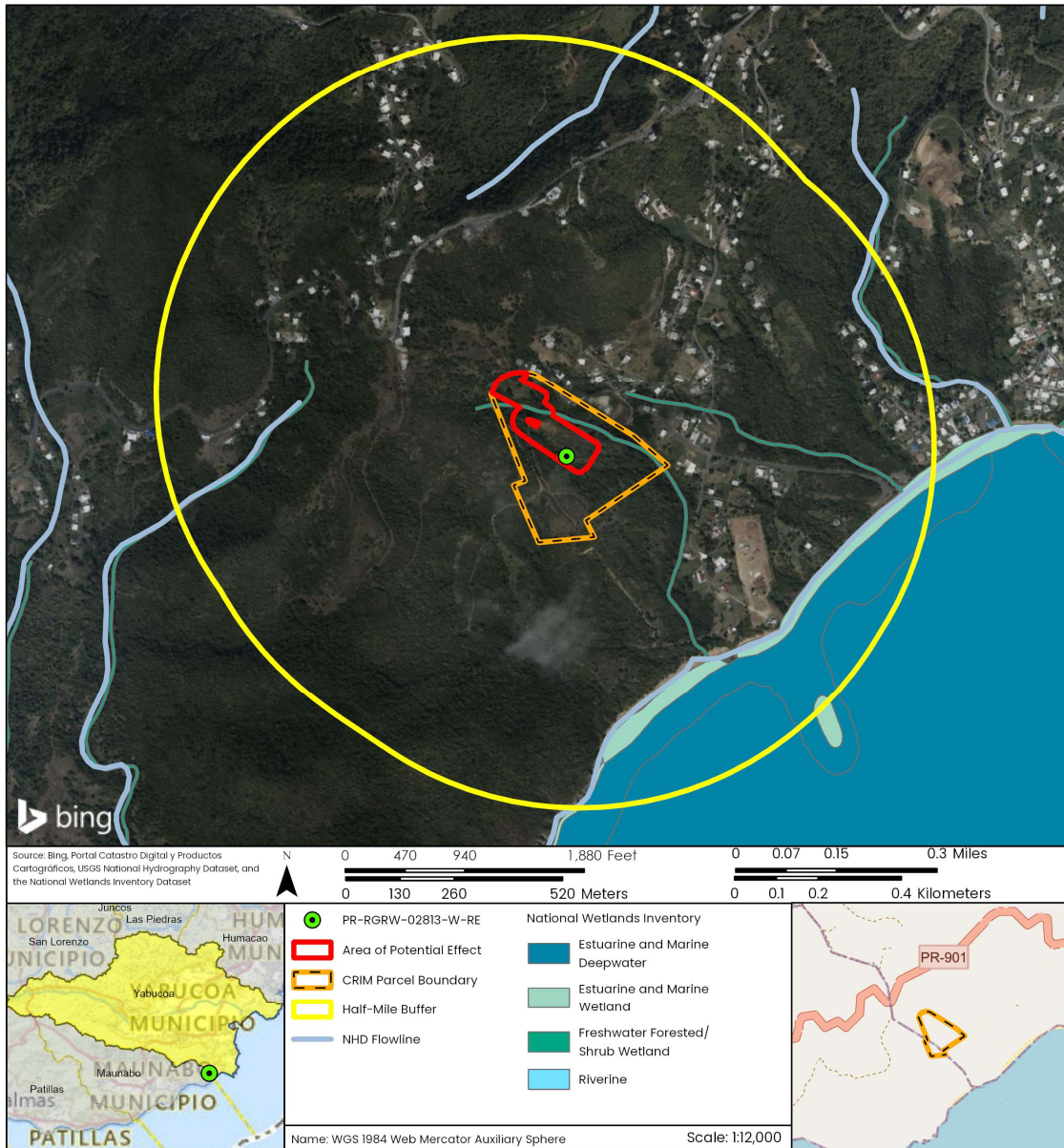


Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

Latitude: 18.015553

Address: Bo. Camino Nuevo Sector El Guano, Carr. 901 Km 9.9 Camino Vecinal, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

Longitude: -65.853466



APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

CITY: Yabucoa

HISTORIC PROPERTIES - TOPOGRAPHIC BASE



PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
 RE-GROW PROGRAM

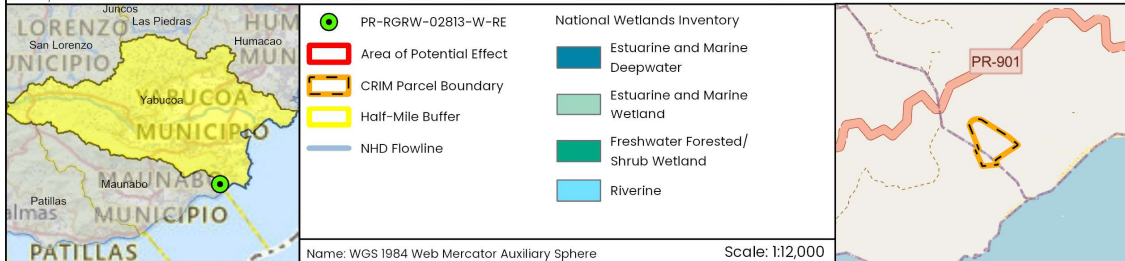
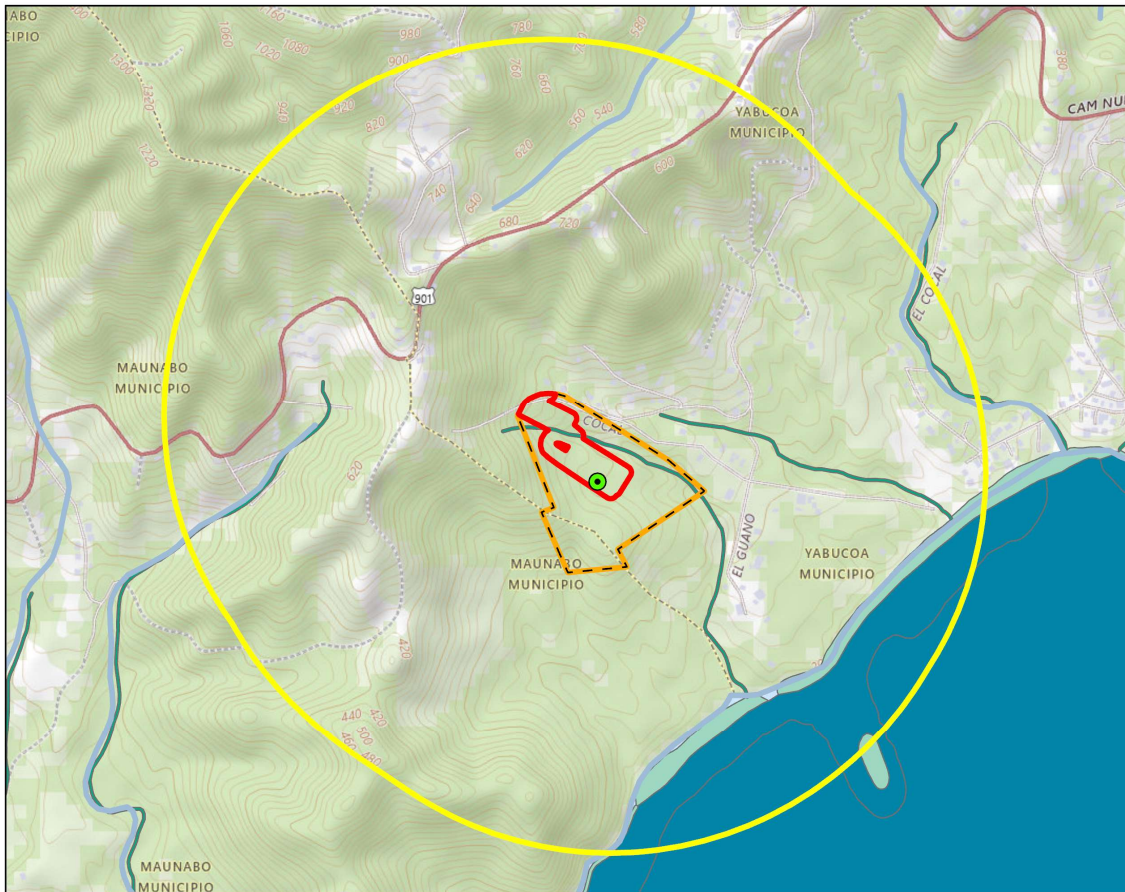


Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

Latitude: 18.015553

Address: Bo. Camino Nuevo Sector El Guano, Carr. 901 Km 9.9 Camino Vecinal, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

Longitude: -65.853466



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere Scale: 1:12,000

APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

CITY: Yabucoa



PHOTO #: 1

DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE DIRECTION): Overview of Access into the project area, looking west.

DATE: 5/16/2025



PHOTO #: 2

DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE DIRECTION): Overview of the project area, looking south.

DATE: 5/16/2025

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM
ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM
SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION



APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

CITY: Yabucoa



PHOTO #: 3

DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE DIRECTION): Overview of the project area, looking southwest.

DATE: 5/16/2025



PHOTO #: 4

DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE DIRECTION): Overview of the project area, looking southeast.

DATE: 5/16/2025

APPLICANT: El Algarrobo Inc.

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

CITY: Yabucoa



PHOTO #: 5

DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE DIRECTION): Overview of AAA connection location. Looking northwest.

DATE: 5/16/2025

Radon
Attachments



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: guerrero.carmen@epa.gov

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

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

This Notice emphasizes the importance of radon testing and mitigation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assisted properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery and Mitigation (CDBG-DR/MIT), is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental requirements under CDBG-DR/MIT programs. To fulfill our obligations under this Notice, we must compile comprehensive and up-to-date information on radon levels, testing practices, and any mitigation efforts within the islands of Puerto Rico.

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

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

Reports and assessments – Any reports, studies, or assessments your agency has produced or commissioned that address radon testing or mitigation.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Oleg Povelko, Povelko.Oleg@epa.gov
Mr. Matthew Lantia, lantia.matthew@epa.gov



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Dr. Carlos Marín, carlos.marin3@upr.edu



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: OIA@cdc.gov

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: anais.rodriguez@dma.pr.gov

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Luis Márquez, secretariogaire@dma.pr.gov
Eng. Amarilys Rosario, aire@dma.pr.gov
Mrs. Elid Ortega, ortega@dma.pr.gov



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: drCarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov

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August 20, 2024

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

Via email: hswyers@usgs.gov

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Raúl Hernández Dabla, rahernandez2@salud.pr.gov

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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

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

Good morning, Sandra and others,

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

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

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

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



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

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

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

Best regards,

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

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

Good afternoon. Ms. Medina

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

Raul Hernandez Doble
Director, Seccion Salud Radiologica
Division de Salud Ambiental
Secretaria Auxiliar para la Vigilancia y la Proteccion de la Salud Publica
rhernandez2@salud.gov.pr
Phone: (787)765-2929 ext. 3210

From: Reyes, Brenda <Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:48 AM
To: Cesar O Rodriguez Santos <cesarrodriguez@drna.pr.gov>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov>; Silvana Cancelos Mancini <silvana.cancelos@upr.edu>; Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>
Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Povetko, Oleg (he/him/his) <Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Saludos.

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

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

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

Estimada Melanie Medina

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

Atentamente

Silvana Cancelos
Professor
Associate Director
Mechanical Engineering Department
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez
Call BOX 9000 Mayaguez PR 00680
Tel: 787-832-4040 ext 5956
email: silvana.cancelos@upr.edu



Bubble Dynamics Lab
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez



EPA REGION 2
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

September 23, 2024

VIA EMAIL

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

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

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodriguez Rodriguez:

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

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

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

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

Typical radon testing technology used in mainland United States (charcoal canisters or electric-powered devices) are impractical in Puerto Rico because of high humidity and power outages. The recovery and rebuilding of communities following the aftermath of 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria presented an opportunity to develop radon prevention and mitigation strategies in 2019. Initially, EPA sampled indoor radon air in over 170 single-family residences in the municipalities of San Sebastian, Lares, Ciales, Arecibo, Morovis, Camuy, and Hatillo and later expanded the project to other municipalities such as Rincon, Aguada, Aguadilla, Isabela, Quebradillas, Barceloneta and Vega Baja. The quality assurance protocols were anchored in American National Standards Institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (ANSI/AARST) standards of practice (ANSI/AARS, 2019). The sampling was designed in two stages: scoping and confirmatory sampling. The scoping sampling was conducted using Corentium Home (CH) electronic monitors and E-Perm systems. Locations measuring above the EPA Action Level of 4 pCi/L with CH were measured at the second stage of the sampling using RAD7 and Corentium Pro Continuous Radon Monitors (CRMs). Nationally certified radon sampling professionals led by one such professional from the UPRM conducted confirmatory sampling in the second stage. Also, during the study, the nationally certified radon mitigation professionals inspected several homes with elevated indoor radon levels.

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

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

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

CITY VIEW PLAZA II BUILDING, 7TH FLOOR
ROUTE 185 GUAYNABO, PR 00988

2

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

Sincerely,

**CARMEN
GUERRERO
PEREZ**

Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez
Director

Digitally signed by
CARMEN GUERRERO PEREZ
Date: 2024.09.23 09:41:39
-0400

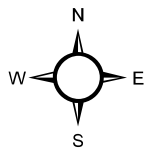
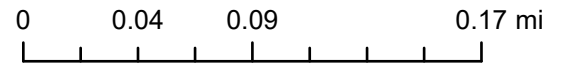
cc: Roberto Mendez, Esq (Acting Secretary, PR Department of Natural and Env. Resources)
Melany Medina: mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov
Elaine Dume Mejia: Edume@vivienda.pr.gov
Luz S Colon Ortiz: Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov
Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez: aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov
Cesar O. Rodriguez: cesarrodriquez@drna.pr.gov
Marita Rosa Olivares: maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE ABFE



Legend

- Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LimWA)
- Streamline (zoom in to make visible)
- Zone/BFE Boundary
- 1% Annual Chance Flood
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
- A
- AO
- AE
- Coastal A Zone
- VE
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Zone
- A-Floodway
- AE-Floodway
- Coastal A Zone and Floodway
- Advisory Base Flood Elevation (zoom in to make visible)



FEMA Map Service

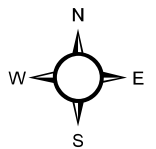
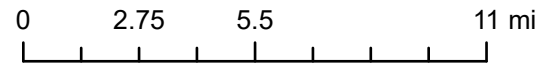
ABFE 1PCT

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Airports



Legend

- Civilian Airports 2,500ft Buffer
- Runway Protection Zones
- Airport Runways
- Minor Airport



Runway Protection Zones

Major Civil and Military Airports

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE CBRS



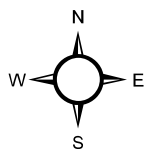
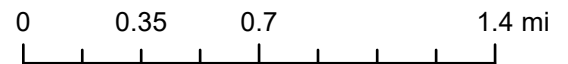
Legend

 CBRS Map Panels

Unit_Type

 System Unit

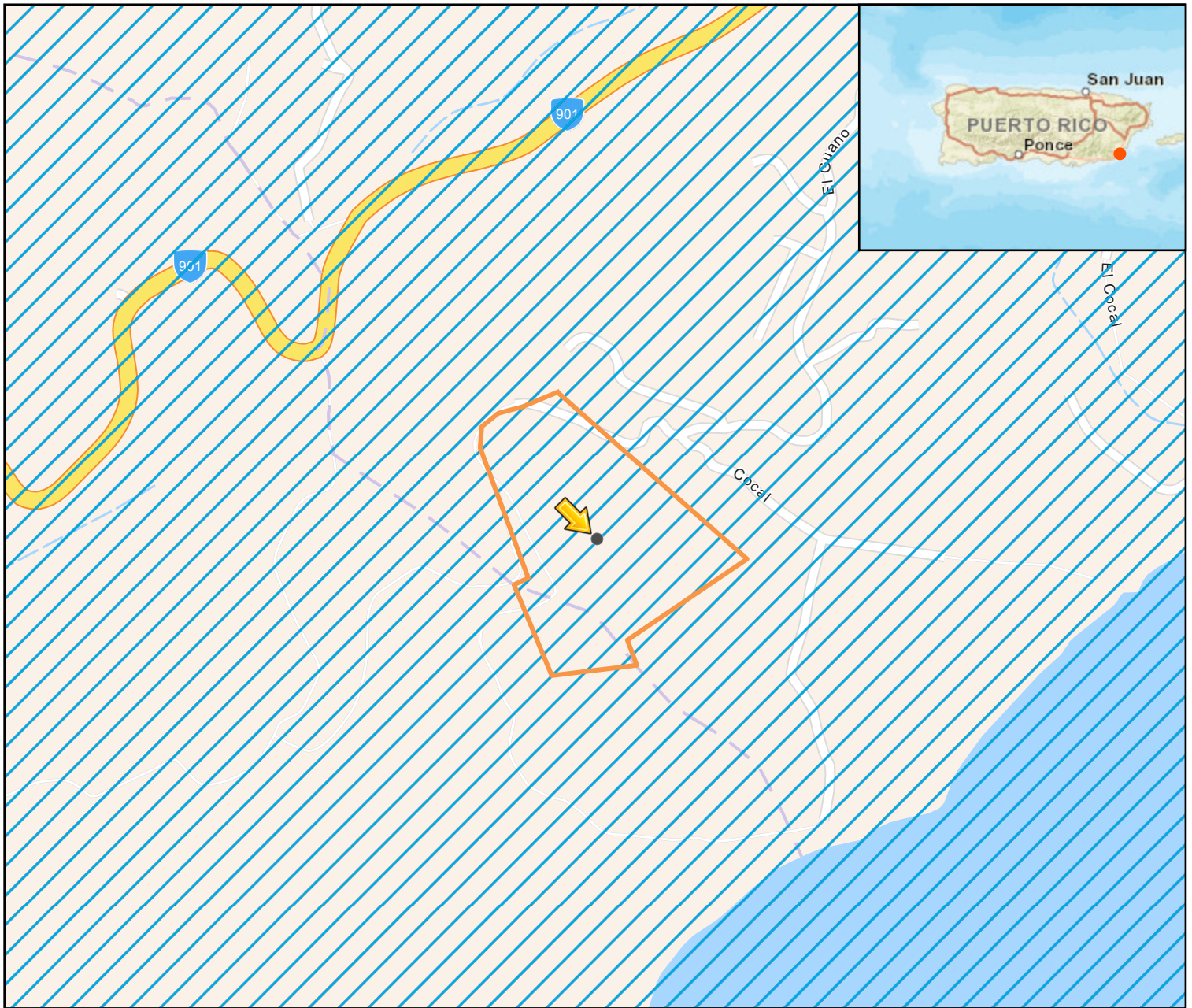
 CBRS Buffer Zone



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

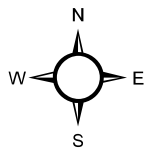
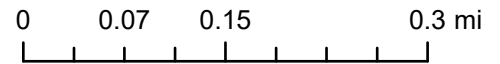
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE CZM



Legend

 Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary




NOAA

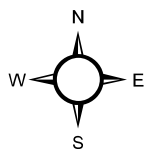
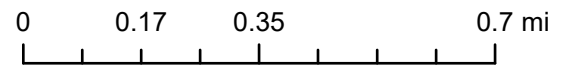
Coastal Zone Management Act

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Endangered



Legend

 USFWS Critical Habitat - Polygon (live agency service)



Endangered Species Habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

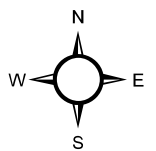
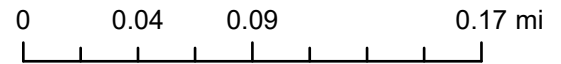
PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Farmlands



Legend

ClassName

-  Farmland of Statewide Importance
-  Not Prime Farmland



USGS USA Soils










Farmland dataset

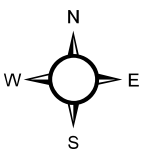
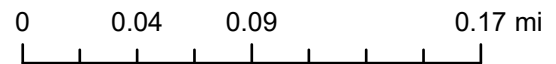
PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE FIRM



Legend

FEMA Flood Zones - Effective

-  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Regulatory Floodway
-  Special Floodway
-  Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
-  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
-  X, Area of Minimal Flood Hazard
-  FEMA Flood Zone Panel












FEMA Map Service
 Flood Insurance Rate Maps

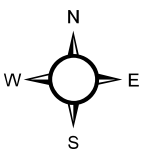
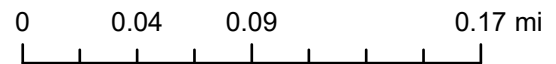
PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE FIRM



Legend

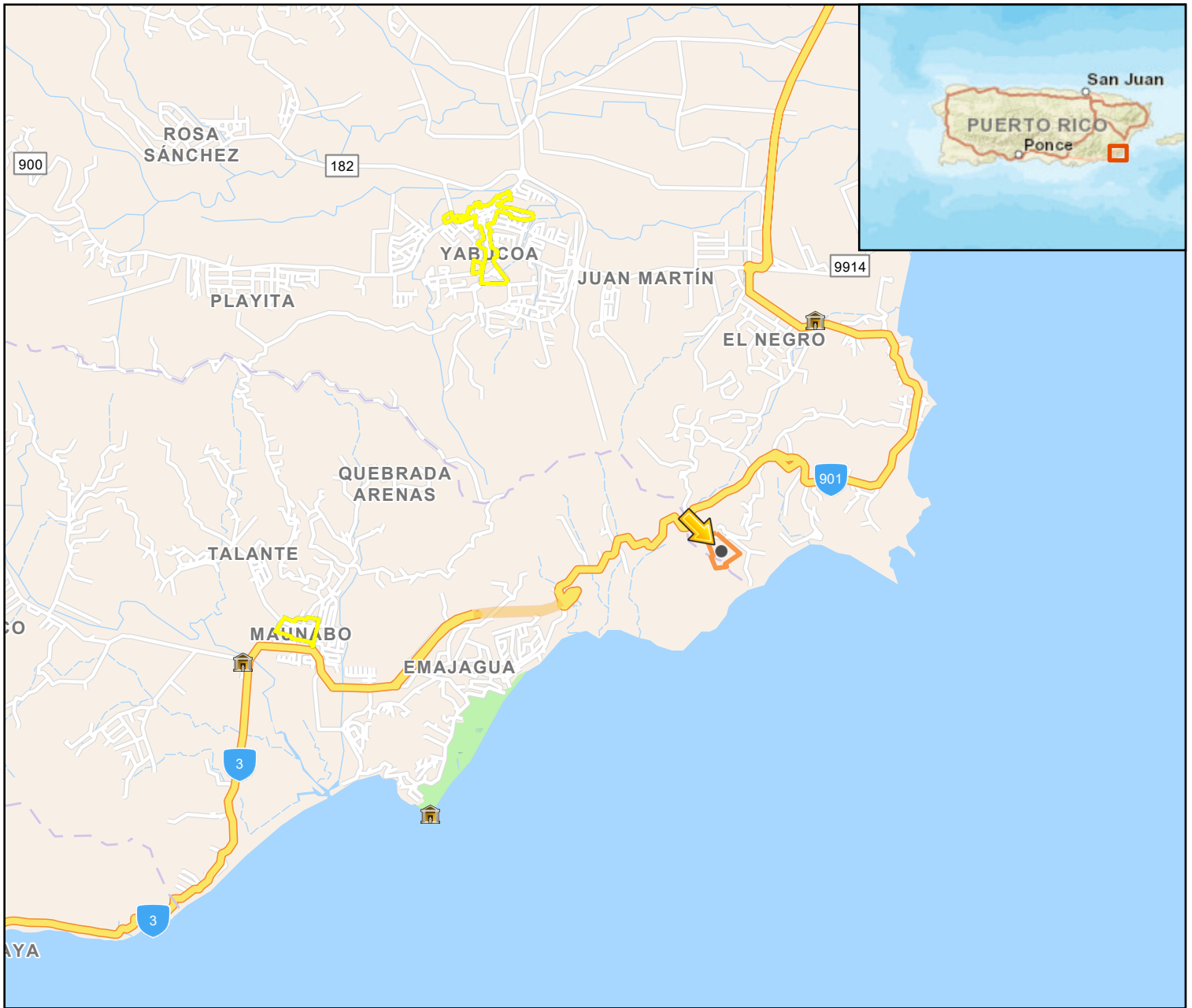
FEMA Flood Zones - Effective

-  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Regulatory Floodway
-  Special Floodway
-  Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
-  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
-  X, Area of Minimal Flood Hazard
-  FEMA Flood Zone Panel





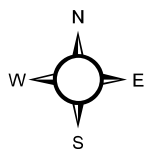
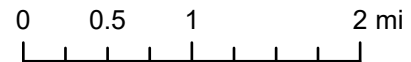
FEMA Map Service
 Flood Insurance Rate Maps

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Historic



Legend










-  Sitios Historicos JP
-  Traditional Urban Centers

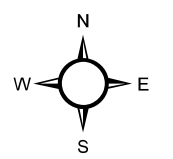
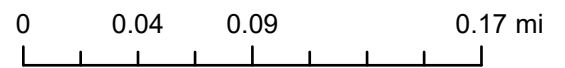


National Register of Historic Places

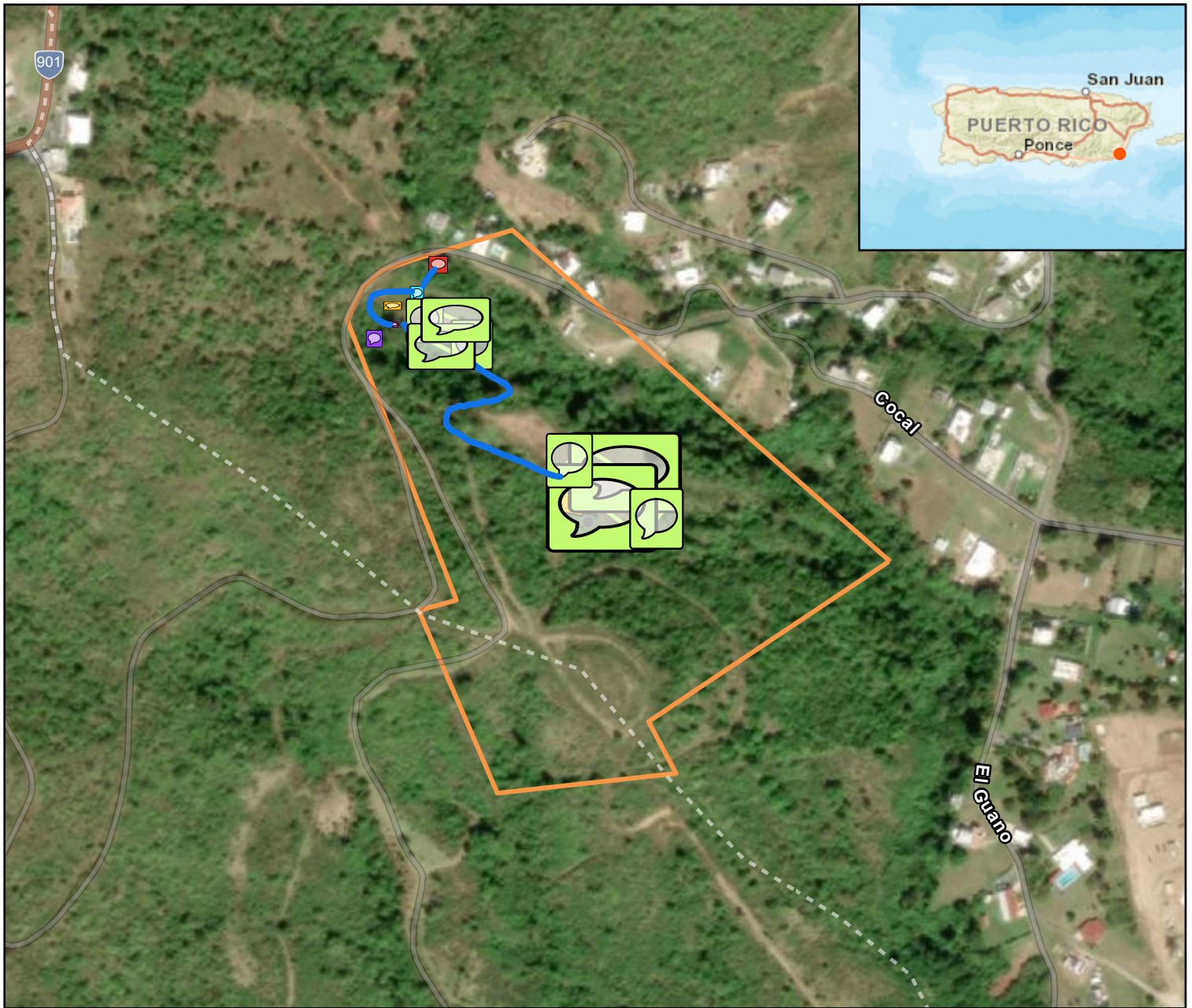
PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Site Map












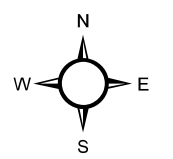
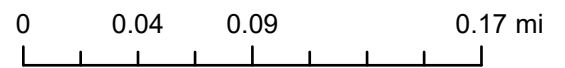
-  PR-RGRW-0281-W-RE
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Proposed Above-ground Water Line
-  Planting/Irrigation Areas
-  Existing AAA Connection
-  Cistern Location
-  Solar Array Location
-  Parking Area
-  Proposed Pump Location



PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Site Map



-  PR-RGRW-0281-W-RE
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Proposed Above-ground Water Line
-  Planting/Irrigation Areas
-  Existing AAA Connection
-  Cistern Location
-  Solar Array Location
-  Parking Area
-  Proposed Pump Location



PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE

Project Access Points



Area where equipment will be installed

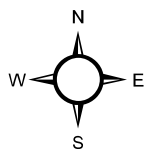
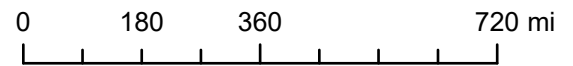


PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Sole Source Aquifers



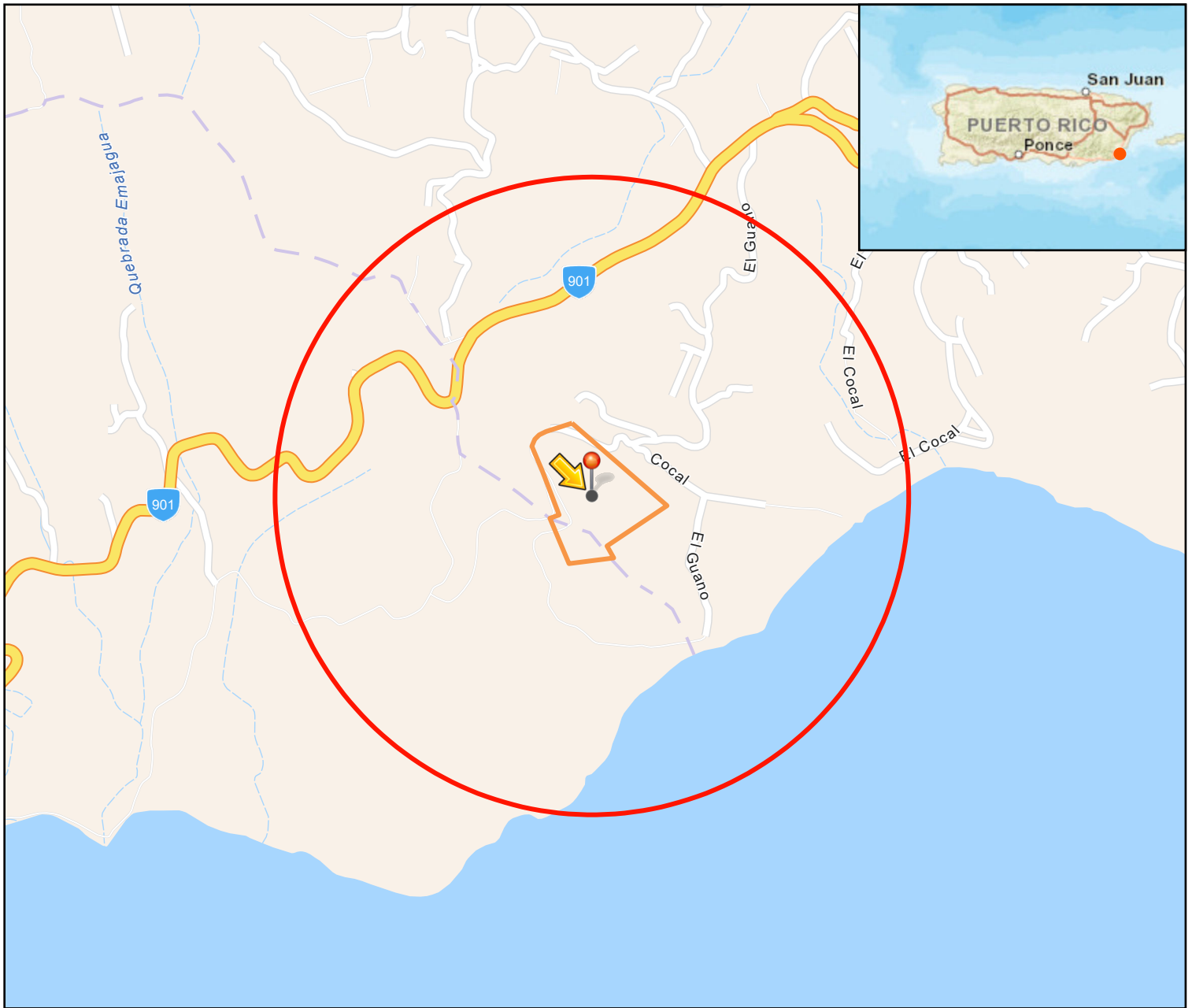
Legend

 Sole Source Aquifers - EPA August 2019

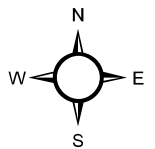
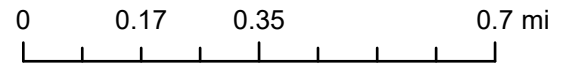


Sole Source Aquifers

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Toxics



Legend
3000ft Buffer



Envirofacts Facility Locations

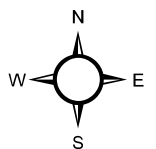
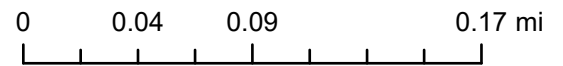
EPA

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Wetlands



Legend

 Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland



National Wetlands Inventory

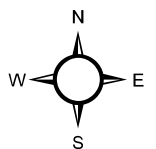
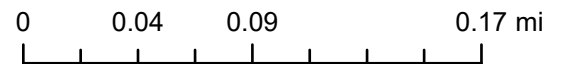
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Wetlands



Legend

 Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



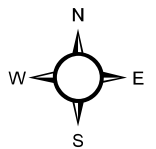
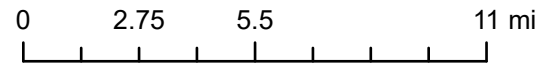
EL ALGARROBO INC.
BO. CAMINO NUEVO SECTOR EL GUANO, CARR.
Yabucoa, PR 00767
18.015553, -65.853466

PR-RGRW-02813-W-RE Wild and Scenic



Legend

— Wild and Scenic Rivers



National Wild and Scenic River System

National Park Service