

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-01627-W-RE

**HEROS Number:** 900000010365527

**Start Date:** 11/14/2023

State / Local Identifier:

**Project Location:** , Carolina, PR 00778

#### **Additional Location Information:**

The project is located at latitude 18.294386, longitude -65.938027 at the address given above. Tax ID Numbers: 173-000-010-99, 173-000-010-11

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

This project (PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Dona Carmen, an agricultural business, at Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6, Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778. Tax ID Numbers: 173-000-010-99, 173-000-010-11. Coordinates (18.294386, -65.938027). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of farm equipment including a chopper for project cost of \$4,500.00. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes a scope item previously considered as an EA level of review (water trough and feeders, generator, load bar and true test equipment, irrigation system, squeeze chute) which is now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$43,611.94. The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of water trough and feeders, generator, load bar and true test equipment, irrigation system, squeeze chute. The water through and feeder purchase includes three (3) water tanks, 3ft diameter, 80 gallons each and ten (10) 10' Galvanized Bunk Feeders w/Drop-In Liner. These are going to be located on bare ground, in different areas of the farm to feed and provide water to cattle. The proposed irrigation system is a mobile hose/pump irrigation system to be used as needed around the cropping areas. The scope of work 1 (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of a 13 KW (17.4 hp) diesel Kohler power generator. The applicant plans to construct an on- site poured 10-foot (ft)' x 10 ft concrete pad at coordinates 18.292289, -65.941060, for the installation of the new power generator. This generator will provide power to the water pump of the existing water well. Concrete pad construction will require a ground disturbance with a maximum depth of 1 ft. Generator can be anchored to the concrete slab with the use of tensors attached to the concrete. The SOW includes the installation of a transfer switch. The scope of work 2 (SOW-2) is the installation of a cattle chute and a load bar at coordinates 18.294630, -65.937065. This is used to provide care and restrain the animal for different procedures. The system will be installed in a concrete pad of 10 ft x 5 ft. Thickness of concrete must be at least 8-10", for a maximum depth of disturbance of 1.5 ft. As per product manual, no anchoring of the

cattle chute is required. However, it can be fixed to the concrete slab. Field is not graded. The project site will require clearing, grubbing, grading, and vegetation, brush and shrubs removal. However, the proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees. The project Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Dona Carmen, PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, CE: #8 - 8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural efforts, and 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.

#### Level of Environment Review Determination:

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

# **Funding Information**

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

**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** \$43,611.94

**Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]:** \$43,611.94

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete	
Endangered	The United States Fish and Wildlife Service	N/A		
Species Act	(USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field			
	Office reviewed the information provided			
	and their files, and on November 23, 2024			

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concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, and the Puerto Rican Boa Pigeon. The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Broadwinged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately. Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action. In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.

#### **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

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	X	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, <b>publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds"</b> (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)).				
	Preparer Signature:				
Name / Title / Organization: Ianmario Heredia / / Department of Housing - Puerto Rico					
Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature: A. l. l. L. Date: 7/1/2025					
	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).

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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW

Washington, DC 20410 <u>www.hud.gov</u> <u>espanol.hud.gov</u>

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

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Pro	ıect	Inform	nation

Project Name:	PR-RGRW-U1027-W-RE	
HEROS Number:	90000010365527	

Duniant Names DD DCDM/ 01037 M/ DE

**Start Date:** 11/14/2023

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

Juan PR, 00928

**State / Local Identifier:** 

**RE Preparer:** Ianmario Heredia

**Certifying Office** 

r:

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Ent** 

ity):

**Point of Contact:** 

**Point of Contact:** Justin 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:** , Carolina, PR 00778

# **Additional Location Information:**

The project is located at latitude 18.294386, longitude -65.938027 at the address given above. Tax ID Numbers: 173-000-010-99, 173-000-010-11

**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-01627-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Dona Carmen, an agricultural business, at Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6, Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778. Tax ID Numbers: 173-000-010-99, 173-000-010-11. Coordinates (18.294386, -65.938027). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of farm equipment including a chopper for project cost of \$4,500.00. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes a scope item previously considered as an EA level of review (water trough and feeders, generator, load bar and true test equipment, irrigation system, squeeze chute) which is now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$43,611.94. The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of water trough and feeders, generator, load bar and true test equipment, irrigation system, squeeze chute. The water through and feeder purchase includes three (3) water tanks, 3ft diameter, 80 gallons each and ten (10) 10' Galvanized Bunk Feeders w/Drop-In Liner. These are going to be located on bare ground, in different areas of the farm to feed and provide water to cattle. The proposed irrigation system is a mobile hose/pump irrigation system to be used as needed around the cropping areas. The scope of work 1 (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of a 13 KW (17.4 hp) diesel Kohler power generator. The applicant plans to construct an on-site poured 10-foot (ft)' x 10 ft concrete pad at coordinates 18.292289, -65.941060, for the installation of the new power generator. This generator will provide power to the water pump of the existing water well. Concrete pad construction will require a ground disturbance with a maximum depth of 1 ft. Generator can be anchored to the concrete slab with the use of tensors attached to the concrete. The SOW includes the installation of a transfer switch. The scope of work 2 (SOW-2) is the installation of a cattle chute and a load bar at coordinates 18.294630, -65.937065. This is used to provide care and restrain the animal for different procedures. The system will be installed in a concrete pad of 10 ft x 5 ft. Thickness of concrete must be at least 8-10", for a maximum depth of disturbance of 1.5 ft. As per product manual, no anchoring of the cattle chute is required. However, it can be fixed to the concrete slab. Field is not graded. The project site will require clearing, grubbing, grading, and vegetation, brush and shrubs removal. However, the proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees. The project Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Dona Carmen, PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new

farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, CE: #8 - 8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural efforts, and 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:

ReEvaluation Memo .docx

PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE Site Map.pdf

PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE IUGF CEST.pdf

PR-RGRW-01627 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-01627-W-RE EFOR.pdf

#### **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 <b>EXEMPT</b> 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; <b>Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part</b> for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
<b>✓</b>	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, <b>publish NOI/RROF</b> 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:**

01627-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:

- 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.
- 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 Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Dona Carmen, PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, CE: #8 - 8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural efforts, and 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-01627 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	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount
Number			
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	

Estimated Total HUD Funded, Assisted or Insured Amount:

\$43,611.94

**Estimated Total Project Cost:** 

\$43,611.94

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORE	DERS, AND REGULATIO	NS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	□ Yes ☑ No	The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil and military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport (SJU), is approximately 53,639 feet from the proposed site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	□ Yes ☑ No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is at 40,554 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001- 4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	□ Yes ☑ No	Flood Map Number 72000C0765J (effective date November 18, 2009) and Flood Map Number 72000C0770J (effective date November 18, 2009) The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORE	DERS, AND REGULATIO	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5
Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	□ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
Coastal Zone Management Act Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	□ Yes ☑ No	This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 35,391 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	□ Yes ☑ No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. 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	☑ Yes □ No	This project May Affect, but is Not Likely
Endangered Species Act of 1973,		to Adversely Affect, listed species, and
particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part		informal consultation was conducted.
402		With mitigation, identified in the
		mitigation section of this review, the
		project will be in compliance with the
		Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards	☐ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description the
Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part		project includes no activities that would
51 Subpart C		require further evaluation under this
31 Subpart C		section. The project is in compliance
		with explosive and flammable hazard
		requirements.
Farmlands Protection	☐ Yes ☑ No	This project does not include any
Farmland Protection Policy Act of	l les E No	activities that could potentially convert
1981, particularly sections 1504(b)		agricultural land to a non-agricultural
and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658		use. The project is in compliance with
and 1541, 7 Critifate 050		the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
Floodplain Management	☐ Yes ☑ No	Flood Map Number 72000C0765J
Executive Order 11988, particularly	L 1C3 L 10	(effective date November 18, 2009) and
section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55		Flood Map Number 72000C0770J
Section 2(a), 24 critical		(effective date November 18, 2009) 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
		Carolina; However, the proposed
		project is not within an area where a
		1
		PFIRM was developed. Therefore, PFIRM was not considered in the
		review. At the time of this review, this
		section has not been updated in HEROS
		to include questions regarding FFRMS.
		This project does not occur in the
		FFRMS floodplain. The project is in
		compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690.
Historia Drasomiatica	☐ Yes ☑ No	
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of	LI TES EL NO	(AH est.): c2020 Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic
1966, particularly sections 106 and		Properties Affected because there are
110; 36 CFR Part 800		no historic properties present. The

		project is in compliance with Section
		106.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	□ Yes ☑ 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	□ Yes ☑ 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	□ Yes ☑ 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. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	□ Yes ☑ No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 50,120 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
HUD HO	OUSING ENVIRONME	NTAL STANDARDS
	ENVIRONMENTAL	JUSTICE
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	☐ Yes ☑ 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
Endangered	The United States Fish and	N/A		
Species Act	Wildlife Service (USFWS)			
	Caribbean Ecological Services			
	Field Office reviewed the			
	information provided and their			
	files, and on November 23, 2024 concurred with the			
	determination that the proposed			
	project actions May Affect, but is			
	Not Likely to Adversely Affect			
	(NLAA) the Puerto Rican Broad-			
	winged Hawk, Puerto Rican			
	Parrot, and the Puerto Rican Boa			
	Pigeon. The USFWS NLAA			
	concurrence is conditioned to the			
	following: (1) if a Boa is			
	encountered, the Conservation			
	Measures will be in accordance			
	with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa			
	Conservation Measures 2024, (2)			
	if a Puerto Rican Parrot is			
	encountered on the site, the			
	USFWS Caribbean Office will be			
	notified immediately, (3) if a			
	Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk			
	is encountered on the site, the			
	USFWS Caribbean Office will be			
	notified immediately. Obligations			
	under section 7 of the Act must			
	be reconsidered if: (1) new			
	information reveals impacts of			

this identified action that may		
affect listed species or critical		
habitat in a manner that was not		
previously considered; (2) this		
action is subsequently modified		
in a manner not previously		
considered in this assessment; or,		
(3) a new species is listed, or		
critical habitat determined that		
may be affected by the identified		
action. In conclusion, the USFWS		
concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT		
Permits and Environmental		
Compliance Division NLAA		
determination. However, the		
applicant must be informed		
about the conditions of the		
determination of concurrence		
and implement them as		
described.		

# **Project Mitigation Plan**

Should new ground disturbance occur the Karst zone must be evaluated and when necessary DNER must be consulted prior to construction activities. In accordance with Puerto Rican Permit requirements any generator above 10HP requires an Emergency Generators General Permit of the Puerto Rico Natural and Environmental Resources Department prior to installation. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office reviewed the information provided and their files, and on November 23, 2024 concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, and the Puerto Rican Boa Pigeon. The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately. Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action. In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.

**Supporting documentation on completed measures** 

# **APPENDIX A: Related Federal Laws and Authorities**

# **Airport Hazards**

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

# **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil and military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport (SJU), is approximately 53,639 feet from the proposed site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

# **Supporting documentation**

# PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE Airports.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Coastal Barrier Resources**

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

# 1. Is the project located in a CBRS Unit?

√ No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is at 40,554 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-01627-W-RE CBRS.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Flood Insurance**

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

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

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

✓ Yes

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

PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE FIRM 2.pdf PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE FIRM 1.pdf

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

Is the structure, part of the structure, or insurable property located in a 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 72000C0765J (effective date November 18, 2009) and Flood Map Number 72000C0770J (effective date November 18, 2009) The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

# **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Air Quality**

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

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

# **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

**Coastal Zone Management Act** 

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 35,391 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

# Supporting documentation

# PR-RGRW-01627-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		24 CFR
proposed for use in HUD programs be free of		58.5(i)(2)
hazardous materials, contamination, toxic		24 CFR 50.3(i)
chemicals and gases, and radioactive substances,		
where a hazard could affect the health and safety of		
the occupants or conflict with the intended		
utilization of the property.		
Reference		
https://www.onecpd.info/environmental-review/site-contamination		

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

**ASTM Phase I ESA** 

**ASTM Phase II ESA** 

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

✓ None of the above

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:

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

Based on ECHO reports for the facilities, there is no impact for the intended use of this project. See attached table. 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-01627-W-RE Toxics Table Reports.pdf

PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE Toxics 2.pdf

PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE Toxics 1.pdf

PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE Radon Memo.docx

# Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Endangered Species**

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

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

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

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

- ✓ Yes, the activities involved in the project have the potential to affect species and/or habitats.
- 2. Are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area?

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

- ✓ Yes, there are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area.
- 3. What effects, if any, will your project have on federally listed species or designated critical habitat?

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

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

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

#### 4. Informal Consultation is required

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office reviewed the information provided and their files, and on November 23, 2024 concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, and the Puerto Rican Boa Pigeon. The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately. Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action. In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.

No mitigation is necessary.

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation

section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

# **Supporting documentation**

PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE USFWS Consultation Measures.pdf PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE USFWS Conservation Measures.pdf PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE USFWS Concurrence Letter.pdf

# Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

✓ Yes

No

**Explosive and Flammable Hazards** 

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

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

✓	No
	Vac

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

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

Yes

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

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

# **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Farmlands Protection**

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

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:

The project site is not designated as farmland of statewide importance or prime farmland. The project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use.

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-01627-W-RE Farmlands.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Floodplain Management**

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

# 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-01627-W-RE FIRM 2.pdf PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE FIRM 1.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**

Flood Map Number 72000C0765J (effective date November 18, 2009) and Flood Map Number 72000C0770J (effective date November 18, 2009) 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 Carolina; However, the proposed project is not within an area where a PFIRM was developed. Therefore, PFIRM was not considered in the review. At the time of this review, this section has not been updated in HEROS to include questions regarding FFRMS. This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690.

#### Supporting documentation

# PR-RGRW-01627-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	36 CFR 800 "Protection of Historic
Section 106 of the	National Historic	Properties"
National Historic	Preservation Act	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CF
Preservation Act	(16 U.S.C. 470f)	R-2012-title36-vol3/pdf/CFR-2012-title36-
(NHPA) require a		vol3-part800.pdf
consultative process		
to identify historic		
properties, assess		
project impacts on		
them, and avoid,		
minimize, or mitigate		
adverse effects		

#### Threshold

# Is Section 106 review required for your project?

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

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

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

✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

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

**Other Consulting Parties** 

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

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

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

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

Yes

No

# Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

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

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

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

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

#### **Additional Notes:**

No Historic Properties present within the APE

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

Yes

✓ No

#### Step 3 –Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

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

(AH est.): c2020 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-01627-W-RE SHPO Consultation Package.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Noise Abatement and Control**

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

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

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

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

An interstate land sales registration

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

✓ None of the above

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

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

#### Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

#### **Sole Source Aquifers**

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

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

< No

 $\checkmark$ 

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

Yes

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

Yes

No

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### **Supporting documentation**

PR-RGRW-01627-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	Executive Order	24 CFR 55.20 can be
indirect support of new construction impacting	11990	used for general
wetlands wherever there is a practicable		guidance regarding
alternative. The Fish and Wildlife Service's		the 8 Step Process.
National Wetlands Inventory can be used as a		
primary screening tool, but observed or known		
wetlands not indicated on NWI maps must also		
be processed Off-site impacts that result in		
draining, impounding, or destroying wetlands		
must also be processed.		

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

✓ No

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

Yes

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### Supporting documentation

#### PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE Wetlands.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

√ No

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

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

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

✓ No

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

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

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 50,120 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

#### **Supporting documentation**

#### PR-RGRW-01627-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	Executive Order 12898	
creates adverse environmental		
impacts upon a low-income or		
minority community. If it		
does, engage the community		
in meaningful participation		
about mitigating the impacts		
or move the project.		

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

#### Screen Summary

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

√ No





#### **Memorandum to File**

**Date:** 4/11/2025

From: Justin Neely

**Environmental Manager** 

SKNeely

CDBG-DR Program

Regrow Puerto Rico Program

Puerto Rico Department of Housing

**Application Number:** PR-RGRW-01627-W-RE

Project: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

#### Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-RGRW-01627-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

CDBG-DR Program
Regrow Puerto Rico Program
Memorandum to File
Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing
Page 2 of 3

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.

CDBG-DR Program
Regrow Puerto Rico Program
Memorandum to File
Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing
Page 3 of 3

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**

#### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

Saturday, April 6, 2024

#### Lauren B Poche

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

SHPO-CF-03-26-24-11 PR-RGRW-01627 (Carolina), Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

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

my afartir

CARC/GMO/OJR







March 26, 2023

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

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

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-01627 – Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen. Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected* 

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, HORNE is providing information for your review and requesting your concurrence regarding the above-referenced projects on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) and the Home Repair, Reconstruction, or Relocation (R3) Program. On February 9, 2018, an allocation of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds 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, we are submitting documentation for activities proposed by: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen at Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas in the municipality of Carolina. The undertaking for this project includes the purchase and installation of a power generator on a new concrete pad and the construction of a second concrete pad to support a new cattle chute with a Load Bar and True Test scale.

The generator will be placed on a new 10-foot (ft) x 10 ft concrete pad at coordinates 18.292289, -65.941060. This generator will provide power to the water pump of the existing water well using an above-ground conduit. The installation of a cattle chute and a load bar will be located at coordinates 18.294630, -



65.937065. The system will be installed in a concrete pad of 10 ft x 5 ft. Water connections are currently installed with above-ground PVC tube piping.

Based on the submitted documentation, the Program requests a concurrence that a determination of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for this proposed project.

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

Kindest regards,

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager

LBP/JLE

Attachments

Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina

Project Location: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina PR, 00778

**Project Coordinates:** 18.294386, -65.938027

TPID (Número de Catastro): 173-000-010-99, 173-000-010-11

Type of Undertaking:

☐ Substantial Repair

☐ New Construction

Construction Date (AH est.): c2020 Property Size (acres): 22.90 / 31.03

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Maria F. Lopez Schmid

**Date Reviewed**: 10/26/2023

**SOI-Qualified Archaeologist**: Roberto G. Munoz-Pando, PhD

Date Reviewed: January 11, 2024

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 project consists of the purchase and installation of a power generator on a new concrete pad and installation of a second concrete pad for a new cattle chute with a Load Bar and True Test scale. This land was used for chicken production. Currently it is used for cattle pasture.

The scope of work 1 (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of a power generator. The applicant plans to construct a 10-foot (ft)' x 10 ft concrete pad at coordinates 18.292289, -65.941060, for the installation of the new power generator. This generator will provide power to the water pump of the existing water well.

The scope of work 2 (SOW-2) is the installation of a cattle chute and a load bar at coordinates 18.294630, -65.937065. This is used to provide care and restrain the animal for different procedures. The system will be installed in a concrete pad of 10 ft x 5 ft.

Water connections are currently installed with above-ground PVC tube piping. The power generator is needed to provide energy to the water pump to supply water from the existing well to the existing 8,000-gallon storage water tank located northwest of the property. The generator will provide power with an above-ground electric conduit. Field is not graded.

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

Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627

City: Carolina

#### **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 proposed location of the new generator and concrete pad (SOW 1) and the proposed location of the cattle chute and new concrete pad (SOW 2). A 15-meter buffer was applied to both locations to allow variation in final equipment installation, and the visual APE is the proposed project's viewshed.

#### Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows the following characteristics for the project area. Based on our research efforts, no Archaeological Sites were found within the quarter-mile buffer of the APE. However, it is worth mentioning, one archaeological site has been reported. The Archaeological Site Barrazas (SHPO ID#: CL0100008/IPRC ID#: CA-71) is located 0.48 miles north and exhibits initial precolonial and colonial ceramics and lithics. However, the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (IPRC) reports that the site was destroyed.

Our research revealed one Phase IB survey titled "Documentacion de algunos yacimientos arqueologicos ubicados en el cuadrangulo de Gurabo, Carolina, PR" (IPRC ID#: CAT-CA-03-19-01) by Madeliz Gutierez in 2003 which resulted in no data at the time of our research. The survey area covered the whole extent of the APE.

The APE consists of the following soil types. Most of the northern area of the 173-000-010-11 parcel of the APE is Caguabo clay loam (CbF) with 20 to 60 percent slopes. The southern area of the 173-000-010-11 parcel is composed of Sabana silty clay loam (SaF2), 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded. The area has several water sources in proximity. The closest but very small is an unnamed stream 0.09 mi (0.15km), tributary of the Río Canovanillas to the northeast and it has the Quebrada Maracuto that runs 0.29 mi (0.47km) southwest. These soil conditions combined with the previous investigations and sites described above, make the probability of finding new, intact, and significant archaeological sites in the APE low to moderate.



Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina

#### Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the project area is **not** within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. Additionally, there are **no** NRHP-listed properties within the quarter mile buffer zone from the property's APE.

The proposed project is located in a rural, mountainous terrain surrounded by grasslands and mature vegetation. The APE lies west of the public road Carretera 945 in Carolina near the limit with the town of Gurabo to the west. A circa 2020 storage building, is located west of the APE's geocoordinates. The building, shown below, appears in a 2022 aerial image, but not in a 2020 aerial image.





**Figures 1 & 2.** Detail of 2020 aerial image indicating the location of the building on the property and building elevation, view to the west.

This building is an open one-story concrete storage building without doors or windows. This building has a concrete foundation, concrete walls, and metal front gable roofs over metal structure. The building has a portico entrance on the north side.

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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen	,
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627	City: Carolina

#### **Determination**

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

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

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that the project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. No NRHP-listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel in which the Area of Potential Effect is located.

No known Archaeological sites or historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel in which the Area of Potential Effect is located. The project actions will not affect the historic properties that compose the Area of Potential Effect.

In conclusion, our research efforts within the quarter-mile buffer of the APE did not yield any archaeological sites. We did uncover a Phase IB survey conducted in 2003 by Madeliz Gutierez that included the entire APE, but its results had no data in the database utilized at the time of our research. Given the soil conditions and the lack of significant findings discussed in the 'Identification of Historic Properties – Archaeology' section of this form, the likelihood of finding new, intact, and significant archaeological sites within the APE appears to be low to moderate. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627	City: Carolina

#### 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 (Choo	ose One):
☑ No Historic Properties Affected	
□ No Adverse Effect	
Condition (if applicable):	
□ Adverse Effect	
Proposed Resolution (if appliable)	
This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Sto	aff Only
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewe and:	d the above information
☐ <b>Concurs</b> with the information provided.	
□ <b>Does not concur</b> with the information provided.	
Comments:	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela	Date:
State Historic Preservation Officer	

Author: TG

Date: 1/23/2024



Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

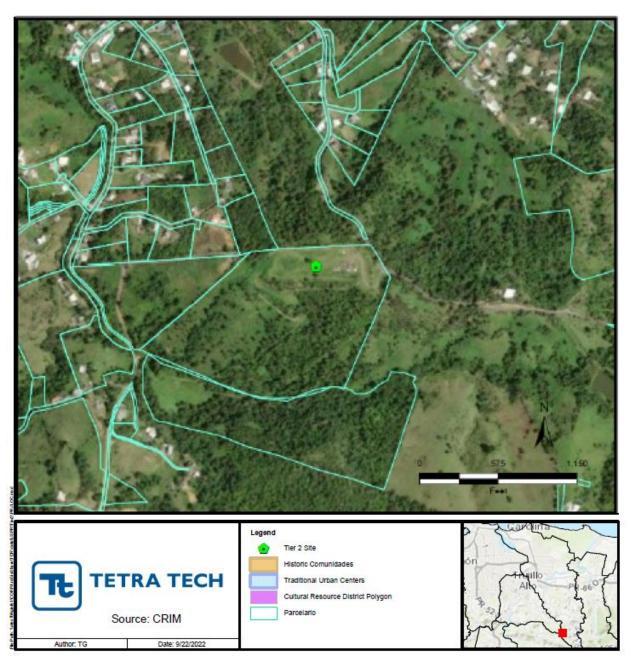
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina

## Project (Parcel) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial) Scope of work 2: Installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test Scope of work 1: Installation of a generator in a concrete pad Legend Tier 2 Site Area of Potential Effect **ETRA TECH** Parcelario Source: CRIM



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina

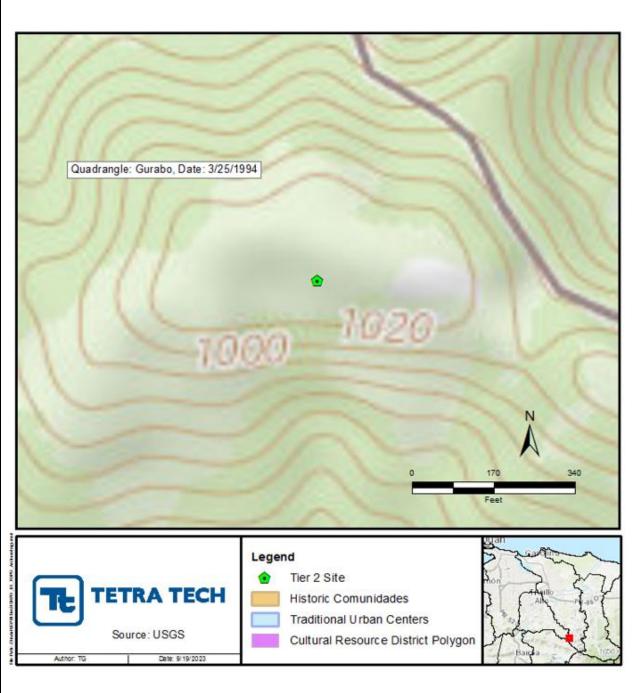
# Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map





Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina

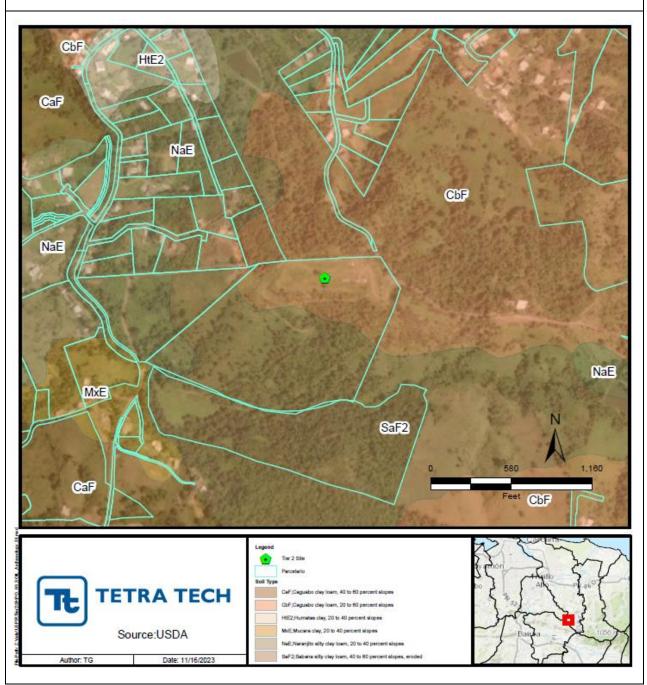
## Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map





Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina

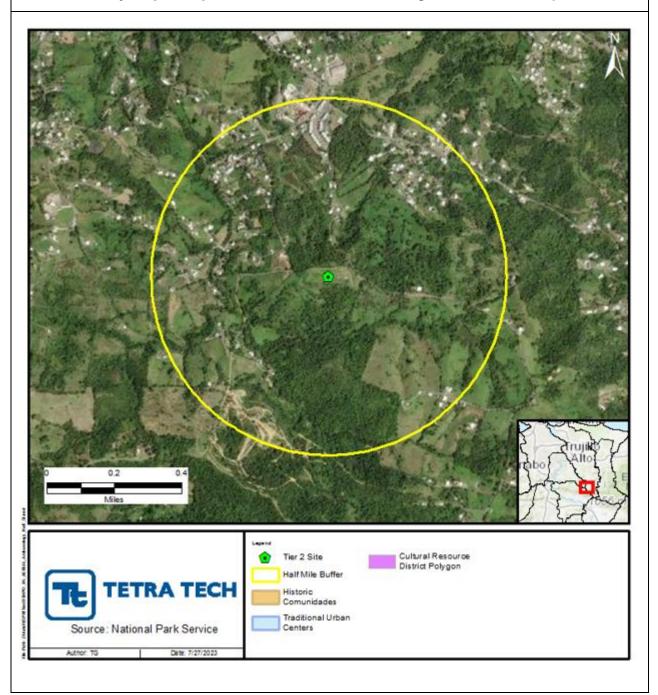
#### Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map





Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina

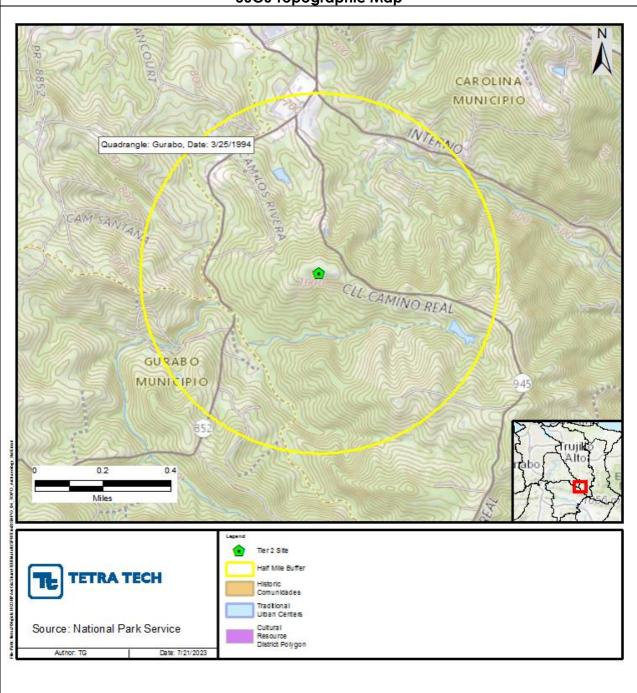
#### Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map





Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina

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





Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina

#### Photograph Key





Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina



Photo #: 1

**Description (include direction):** Scope of work 1: installation of a generator in a concrete pad, view to the East.

**Date:** 10/12/2023



Photo #: 2

**Description (include direction):** Scope of work 1: installation of a generator in a concrete pad, view to the South.

Date: 10/12/2023



Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina



Photo #: 3

**Description (include direction):** Scope of work 1: installation of a generator in a concrete pad, view to the North.

**Date:** 10/12/2023



Photo #: 4

**Description (include direction):** Scope of work 2: installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test, view to the Northwest.

**Date:** 10/12/2023



Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627 City: Carolina



Photo #: 5

**Date:** 10/12/2023

**Description (include direction):** Scope of work 2: installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test, view to the West.



Photo #: 6

**Date:** 10/12/2023

**Description (include direction):** Scope of work 2: installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test, view to the Southeast.



October 20, 2022

#### Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

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

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela:

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

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

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

Cordially,

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

CDBG DR-MIT

## Radon Attachments



August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: guerrero.carmen@epa.gov

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

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

Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103. This Notice emphasizes the importance of radon testing and milligation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assited properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery and Milligation (CDBG-DR/MII), is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental requirements under CDBG-DR/MII programs. To fulfill our obligations under this Notice, we must compile comprehensive and up-to-date information on radon levels, testing practices, and any milligation efforts within the Islands of Puerto Rico. Rico.

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

 $\underline{Radon\ testing\ data} - Results\ from\ radon\ testing\ conducted\ within\ your\ agency's\ purview,\ including\ details\ on\ location,\ testing\ methods,\ and\ recorded\ radon\ levels.$ 

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



August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

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

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

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

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

Barbosa Ave. #606 , Building Juan C. Cordeto Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel. (767) 274-2527 | <a href="https://www.nienda.pr.gov">https://www.nienda.pr.gov</a>

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

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

<u>Policies and quidelines</u> – Information or any policy, guideline, or protocol your agency follows concerning radon testing, exposure limits, or mitigation.

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

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

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

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

llmn ( Rodfiguez, Esq.

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

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

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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.

My Rodríguez, Esq.

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: OIA@cdc.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 Inis Notice emphasizes the importance of radon testing and miligation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assisted properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Block Grant for Biosaster Recovery and Miligation (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 miligation efforts within the islands of Puerto Rico.

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following

 $\frac{Radon\ testing\ data}{Results} - Results\ from\ radon\ testing\ conducted\ within\ your\ agency's\ purview,\ including\ details\ on\ location,\ testing\ methods,\ and\ recorded\ radon\ levels.$ 

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: anais.rodriquez@drna.pr.gov

#### RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing

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 testling and miligation 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. It setting practices, and any militardium efforts within the intensic of Puerto testing practices, and any mitigation efforts within the islands of Puerto

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following

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

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

agency has produced or commissioned that address radon testing or mitigation.

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

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

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

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

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

D. Rodríguez, Esq

CD8G-DR/MIT Pro Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerli

<u>Policies and guidelines</u> – 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 strate 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.

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.

Secretary

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



August 20, 2024

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

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

#### RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing nd 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 milligation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assisted properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery and Miligation (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

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

Radon Iestling 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

Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel. (787) 274-2527 | <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/noses/21365">https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/noses/21365</a> San Juan, PR 00928-1365



August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: hsweyers@usgs.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.

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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.

Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel (787) 274-2527 | www.vivienda.or.gov

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

<u>Policies and guidelines</u> – 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. It 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.

Ladriguez Rodriguez, Esq.

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

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

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

Sincerely

Ariauez Rodriguez, Esq.

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. Rodríguez in your response to his requests

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

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



From: Schumann, R. Randall <rschumann@usgs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 4:39 PM

To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Weyers, Holly S <hsweyers@usgs.gov> Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A.

Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>

Subject: RE: Request for Information- Radon testing and levels

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

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

Best regards,

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

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From: Raul Hernandez Doble <rhernandez2@salud.pr.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 2:13:31 PM

To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Dr. Carlos Mellado <drcarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov> Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Mayra Toro Tirado <mtoro@salud.pr.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Good afternoon, Ms. Medina

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

Raul Hernandez Doble
Director, Seccion Salud Radiologica
Division de Salud Ambiental
Secretaria Auxiliar para la Vigilancia y la Proteccion de la Salud Publica
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>;

Silvina Cancelos Mancini <silvina.cancelos@upr.edu>; Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>

Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez

<aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Povetko, Oleg (he/him/his) <Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

#### Saludos.

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

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

\_\_\_

From: Silvina Cancelos Mancini <silvina.cancelos@upr.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 15:04

To: Melanie Medina Smaine < mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov >

Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia < Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz < Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez

<a href="mailto:aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov"><a href="mailto:Aarivera@vivie

<<u>Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov</u>>; Povetko, Oleg <<u>Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov</u>>

Subject: Re: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

#### Estimada Melanie Medina

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

#### Atentamente

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



Bubble Dynamics Lab



September 23, 2024

#### VIA EMAIL

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

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

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodríguez Rodríguez

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

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

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

ventilation allow for soil-gas radon to enter and concentrate within the structure. <sup>1</sup> 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 Irms 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, Aguadalli, stabela, Questradillas, Barecloneta and Vega Baja. The quality assurance protocols were anchored in American National Standards institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (ANSI/AARS) standards of practice (ANSI/AARS) 1939. 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 ystems. 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 and on 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. Typical radon testing technology used in mainland United States (charcoal canisters or electric-powered levels.

Mapping radon in Puerto Rico proved to be a complicated endeavor given the COVID-19 pandemic in wapping fault in Puter to Nico proved to de Econipactace encessor given the COVID-19 panietin. In 2020. EPA and UPM 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.

CITY VIEW PLAZA II BUILDING, 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR ROUTE 165 GUAYNABO, PR 00968

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

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

Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez Director

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: cesarrodriguez@drna.pr.gov Marita Rosa Olivares: maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.



### 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/72031-Gen

Submitted Via Electronic Mail (<u>icperez@vivienda.pr.gov</u>)

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

Re: CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-01627 Félix González DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen, Carolina, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated October 08, 2024, requesting informal consultation on the above referenced project. As per your request, our comments are provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is proposing the purchase and installation of a 13kVA diesel Kohler power generator, installation of a cattle chute and a load bar and the purchase of an irrigation system. The project will be located at State Road PR-945 and State Road PR-853, Km 11.6, Bo. Barrazas in the municipality of Carolina, Puerto Rico. The proposed scope of work (SOW) consist of the following:

SOW 1: Installation of a 13kVA diesel Kohler power generator (18°17'32.2"N 65°56'27.8"W)

- Construction of an on-site poured 10 feet (Ft) x 10 Ft concrete pad.
- Concrete pad construction will require a ground disturbance with a maximum depth of 1 Ft.

SOW 2: Installation of a cattle chute and a load bar (18°17'40.7"N 65°56'13.4"W)

- Construction of a new concrete pad of 10 Ft x 5 Ft.
- Concrete pad construction will require a ground disturbance with a maximum depth of 1.5 Ft.

SOW 3: Irrigation system (18°17'40.7"N 65°56'14.9"W)

- The irrigation system will consist of a water reel with a hose.
- The irrigation system and the proposed water trough and feeder are movable. All movable

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

equipment will be stored in the existing warehouse.

According to PRDOH, the land was previously used for chicken production but currently is used as cattle pasture. Surrounding landscape includes hilly forests surrounding the parcel, with hilly pasture within. The project site will require clearing, grubbing, grading, and vegetation, brush and shrubs removal. However, proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees.

Using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system the proponent has determined that the proposed project lies within the range of Puerto Rican boa (*Epicrates inornatus* now known as *Chilabothrus inornatus*), Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*) and Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*).

PRDOH used the Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) in the IPaC application to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on federally listed species (Project code: 2024-0002520). Based on the answers provided, a concurrence letter was obtained for the Puerto Rican boa, and Puerto Rican broadwinged hawk, which determined that the proposed actions for this project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) these species. Conservation measures for these species will be implemented. As for the Puerto Rican parrot, a consultation is required.

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and analysis of the IPaC lists together with field direct observations of the area where the project will be developed, PRDOH has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican parrot with the implementation of the conservation measures.

We have reviewed the information provided in your letter and our files, and concur with your determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican parrot with the implementation of the conservation measures. Also, the Service acknowledge receipt of the NLAA concurrence letter obtained using the Dkey.

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

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

Sincerely,

LOURDES MENA Digitally signed by LOURDES MENA Date: 2024.11.23 15:13:31 -04'00'

Lourdes Mena Field Supervisor



### **Detailed Facility Report**

### **Facility Summary**

PUERTO RICO AGGREGATES

PR-853 KM 2.3 BO BARRAZAS, CAROLINA, PR 00985

FRS (Facility Registry Service) ID: 110054206550

EPA Region: 02

Latitude: 18.301611

Longitude: -65.938077

Locational Data Source: NCDB

Industries: Mining (except Oil and Gas)

Indian Country: N

### **Enforcement and Compliance Summary**

Statute	CAA
Compliance Monitoring Activities (5 years)	-
Date of Last Compliance Monitoring Activity	09/09/2015
Compliance Status	No Violation Identified
Qtrs in Noncompliance (of 12)	0
Qtrs with Significant Violation	0
Informal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	-
Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	-
Penalties from Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	-
EPA Cases (5 years)	-
Penalties from EPA Cases (5 years)	-

### **Regulatory Information**

Clean Air Act (CAA): Operating Minor (PR0000007203100001)

Clean Water Act (CWA): No Information

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): No Information

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): No Information

Go To Enforcement/Compliance Details

Known Data Problems <a href="https://epa.gov/resources/echo-data/known-data-problems">https://epa.gov/resources/echo-data/known-data-problems</a>

### **Other Regulatory Reports**

Air Emissions Inventory (EIS): 15514711

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (eGGRT): No Information

Toxic Releases (TRI): No Information

Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI): No Information

### **Facility/System Characteristics**

### **Facility/System Characteristics**

System	Statute	Identifier	Universe	Status	Areas	Permit Expiration Date	Indian Country	Latitude	Longitude
FRS		110054206550					N	18.301611	-65.938077
ICIS-Air	CAA	PR0000007203100001	Minor Emissions	Operating	CAANSPS, CAASIP		N	18.301611	-65.938083
EIS	CAA	15514711					N	18.3604	-65.9517

### **Facility Address**

System	Statute	Identifier	Facility Name	Facility Address	Facility County
FRS		110054206550	PUERTO RICO AGGREGATES	PR-853 KM 2.3 BO BARRAZAS, CAROLINA, PR 00985	Carolina Municipio
ICIS-Air	CAA	PR0000007203100001	PR AGGREGATES	RD 853 KM 2.5 BO. BARRAZAS, CAROLINA, PR 00983	Carolina Municipio
EIS	CAA	15514711	PR AGGREGATES	PR-853, KM 2.3 BARRAZAS WARD, CAROLINA, PR 00771	Carolina Municipio

#### **Codes**

#### **Classification System) Codes**

System	Identifier	SIC Code	SIC Description	System	Identifier	NAICS Code	NAICS Description
ICIS-Air	PR0000007203100001 1411 Dimension Stone		EIS	15514711	327999	All Other Miscellaneous Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	
				ICIS-Air	PR0000007203100001	212311	Dimension Stone Mining and Quarrying

### **Facility Tribe Information**

No data records returned

### **Enforcement and Compliance**

**Compliance Monitoring History** Last 5 Years

Finding (if applicable)

No data records returned

Entries in italics are not included in ECHO's Compliance Monitoring Activity counts because they are not compliance monitoring strategy <a href="https://www.epa.gov/compliance/  $monitoring-programs \verb|-- activities| or because they are not counted as inspections within EPA's Annual Results \verb|-- https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-data-and-results \verb|-- https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-data-and-results \verb|-- https://www.epa.gov/enforcement-data-and-results \verb|-- https://www.e$ 

#### **Compliance Summary Data**

Sta	ute Source ID	Current SNC (Significant Noncompliance)/HPV (High Priority Violation)	Current As Of	Qtrs with NC (Noncompliance) (of 12)	Data Last Refreshed
C	A PR0000007203100001	No	05/11/2024	0	05/10/2024

### Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter

Statute	te Program/Pollutant/Violation Type			QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	QTR 5	QTR 6	QTR 7	QTR 8	QTR 9	QTR 10	QTR 11	QTR 12+
CAA (Source ID: PR0000007203100001)				07/01- 09/30/21	10/01- 12/31/21	01/01- 03/31/22	04/01- 06/30/22	07/01- 09/30/22	10/01- 12/31/22	01/01- 03/31/23	04/01- 06/30/23	07/01- 09/30/23	10/01- 12/31/23	01/01- 03/31/24	04/01- 06/30/24
	Facility-Level Status			No Violation Identified											
	HPV History														
	Violation Type Agency Programs Pollutants														

### Informal Enforcement Actions | Last 5 Years

No data records returned

Entries in italics are not counted as "informal enforcement actions" in EPA policies pertaining to enforcement response tools.

#### **Formal Enforcement Actions**

No data records returned

### **Environmental Conditions**

#### Watersheds

12-Digit WBD (Watershed Boundary Dataset) HUC (RAD (Reach Address Beach Closures Within Last Two Subwatershed Name (RAD (Reach Address

No data records returned

#### Assessed Waters From Latest State Submission (ATTAINS)

State Report Cycle Assessment Unit ID Assessment Unit Name Water Condition Cause Groups Impaired Drinking Water Use Ecological Use Fish Consumption Use Recreation Use Other Use

No data records returned

#### **Air Quality Nonattainment Areas**

plicable Standard(s) No data records returned

### **Pollutants**

### Toxics Release Inventory History of Reported Chemicals Released or Transferred in Pounds per Year at Site

TRI Facility ID Year Air Emissions Surface Water Discharges Off-Site Transfers to POTWs (Publicly Owned Treatment Works) Underground Injections Disposal to Land Total On-Site Releases Total Off-Site Transfers

No data records returned

No data records returned

### Toxics Release Inventory Total Releases and Transfers in Pounds by Chemical and Year

Chemical Name

### Community

### **Environmental Justice**

This section shows indexes from EJScreen, EPA's screening tool for environmental justice (EJ) concerns. EPA uses these indexes to identify geographic areas that may warrant further consideration or analysis for potential EJ concerns. Use of these indexes does not designate an area as an "EJ community" or "EJ facility." EJScreen provides screening level indicators, not a determination of the existence or absence of EJ concerns. For more information, see the EJScreen home page.

#### **Potential Environmental Justice Concerns**

**US Territory** 

Located in an area having 1 or more Census Block Supplemental State or US Percentiles >= 90%Located in an area having 1 or more 1-Mile Average Supplemental State or US Percentiles >= 90%

#### **EJScreen Indexes Shown**

#### Related Reports

EJScreen Community Report

Index Type Supplemental (default)

					Downlo	oad Data		
Census Block Group ID: 720310510013	US (	Percentile)		State (Percentile)				
Supplemental Indexes	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max		
Count of Indexes At or Above 90th Percentile	2	3	6	0	0	5		
Particulate Matter 2.5	-	N/A			N/A			
Ozone	-	N/A			N/A			
Diesel Particulate Matter	11	16	36	57	68	92		
Air Toxics Cancer Risk	52	35	58	45	0	97		
Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index	33	35	44	46	58	<b>9</b> 96		
Toxic Releases to Air	88	91	98	20	25	40		
Traffic Proximity	74	53	74	26	10	26		
Lead Paint	78	65	<b>9</b> 99	40	28	<b>9</b> 94		
Risk Management Plan (RMP) Facility Proximity	95	92	98	59	51	75		
Hazardous Waste Proximity	87	83	<b>9</b> 96	41	35	62		
Superfund Proximity	99	99	99	69	67	91		
Underground Storage Tanks (UST)	0	0	92	0	0	73		
Wastewater Discharge	82	43	98	12	3	36		

Map Display Based o	n: • US O State
Display Map Layer	Summary - Number of Indexes



### Demographic Profile of Surrounding Area (1-Mile Radius)

This section provides demographic information regarding the community surrounding the facility. ECHO compliance data alone are not sufficient to determine whether violations at a particular facility had negative impacts on public health or the environment. Statistics are based upon the 2010 U.S. Census and 2017 - 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Summary and are accurate to the extent that the facility latitude and longitude listed below are correct. Census boundaries and demographic data for U.S. Territories are based on the "2020 Island Areas Demographic Profiles" from the U.S. Census Bureau. EPA's spatial processing methodology considers the overlap between the selected radii and the census blocks (for U.S. Census demographics) and census block groups (for ACS demographics) in determining the demographics surrounding the facility. For more detail about this methodology, see the DFR Data Dictionary <a href="https://epa.gov/help/reports/dfr-data-dictionary#demographic">https://epa.gov/help/reports/dfr-data-dictionary#demographic></a>.

General Statistics (U.S. Census)	
Total Persons	2,867
Population Density	903/sq.mi.
Housing Units in Area	1,142
General Statistics (ACS (American Community Survey))	
Total Persons	2,921
Percent People of Color	100%
Households in Area	877
Households on Public Assistance	31
Persons With Low Income	2,013
Percent With Low Income	70%
Geography	
Radius of Selected Area	1 mi.
Center Latitude	18.301611
Center Longitude	-65.938077
Land Area	100%
Water Area	0%
Income Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) -	Households (%)
Less than \$15,000	246 (27.99%)
\$15,000 - \$25,000	140 (15.93%)
\$25,000 - \$50,000	252 (28.67%)
\$50,000 - \$75,000	143 (16.27%)
Greater than \$75,000	98 (11.15%)

Age Breakdown (U.S. Census) - Persons (%)				
Children 5 years and younger	204 (7%)			
Minors 17 years and younger	815 (28%)			
Adults 18 years and older	2,052 (72%)			
Seniors 65 years and older	332 (12%)			
Race Breakdown (U.S. Census) - Persons (%)				
White	2,205 (77%)			
African-American 339 (12%)				
Hispanic-Origin	2,851 (99%)			
Asian/Pacific Islander	2 (0%)			
American Indian	12 (0%)			
Other/Multiracial	309 (11%)			
Education Level (Persons 25 & older) (ACS (American Community S	Survey)) - Persons (%)			
Less than 9th Grade	492 (23.26%)			
9th through 12th Grade	136 (6.43%)			
High School Diploma	584 (27.61%)			
Some College/2-year	173 (8.18%)			
B.S./B.A. (Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts) or More	520 (24.59%)			



### **Detailed Facility Report**

### **Facility Summary**

VILLAS DEL GIGANTE, CAROLINA

INTERCEPT OF PR-852 & PR-853, CAROLINA, PR 00985

FRS (Facility Registry Service) ID: 110009700804

EPA Region: 02 Latitude: 18.300583 Longitude: -65.937417 Locational Data Source: NPDES

Industries: --Indian Country: N

### **Enforcement and Compliance Summary**

Statute	CWA
Compliance Monitoring Activities (5 years)	-
Date of Last Compliance Monitoring Activity	05/19/2016
Compliance Status	Significant/Category I Noncompliance
Qtrs in Noncompliance (of 12)	10
Qtrs with Significant Violation	5
Informal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	-
Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	-
Penalties from Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	-
EPA Cases (5 years)	-
Penalties from EPA Cases (5 years)	-

### **Regulatory Information**

Clean Air Act (CAA): No Information

Clean Water Act (CWA): Non-Major, Permit Admin Continued (PR0026042) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): No Information

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): No Information

Go To Enforcement/Compliance Details

Known Data Problems <a href="https://epa.gov/resources/echo-data/known-data-problems">https://epa.gov/resources/echo-data/known-data-problems</a>

### **Other Regulatory Reports**

Air Emissions Inventory (EIS): No Information Greenhouse Gas Emissions (eGGRT): No Information

Toxic Releases (TRI): No Information

Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI): No Information

### **Facility/System Characteristics**

### **Facility/System Characteristics**

System	Statute	Identifier	Universe	Status	Areas	Permit Expiration Date	Indian Country	Latitude	Longitude
FRS		110009700804					N	18.300583	-65.937417
ICIS		2446776					N	18	-56.166667
ICIS-NPDES	CWA	PR0026042	Non-Major: NPDES Individual Permit	Admin Continued	POTW	10/31/2020	N	18	-56.166667

### **Facility Address**

	System	Statute	Identifier	Facility Name	Facility Address	Facility County
	FRS		110009700804	VILLAS DEL GIGANTE, CAROLINA	INTERCEPT OF PR-852 & PR-853, CAROLINA, PR 00985	Carolina Municipio
Г	ICIS		2446776	VILLAS DEL GIGANTE CARLINA	INTERCEPT OF PR-852 & PR-853, CAROLINA, PR 00985	Carolina Municipio
	ICIS-NPDES	CWA	PR0026042	VILLAS DEL GIGANTE, CAROLINA	INTERCEPT OF PR-852 & PR-853, CAROLINA, PR 00985	Carolina Municipio

#### **Facility SIC (Standard Industrial Classification)** Codes

#### **Facility NAICS (North American Industry** Classification System) Codes

System	Identifier	SIC Code	SIC Description	System	Identifier	NAICS Code	NAICS Description
ICIS-NPDES	PR0026042	4952	Sewerage Systems			No data records returnes	4

### **Facility Industrial Effluent Guidelines**

### **Facility Tribe Information**

Identifier	Effluent Guideline (40 CFR Part)	Effluent Guideline Description	Effluent Guideline Description Reservation Name Tribe M			Distance to Tribe (miles)
	No data records retu	rned		No data	records returned	

### **Enforcement and Compliance**

### **Compliance Monitoring History** Last 5 Years

No data records returned

 $Entries \ in \ italics \ are \ not \ included \ in \ ECHO's \ Compliance \ Monitoring \ Activity \ counts \ because \ they \ are \ not \ compliance \ monitoring \ strategy \ < https://www.epa.gov/compliance/compliance-monitoring$ programs> activities or because they are not counted as inspections within EPA's Annual Results <a href="https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-data-and-results">https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-data-and-results</a>.

### **Compliance Summary Data**

Statute	Source ID	Current SNC (Significant Noncompliance)/HPV (High Priority Violation)	Current As Of	Qtrs with NC (Noncompliance) (of 12)	Data Last Refreshed
CWA	PR0026042	Yes	12/31/2023	10	05/10/2024

### Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter

Statute	Program/Pollutant/Vie	olation	Туре		QTR 1	QTR2	QTR 3	QTR 4	QTR 5	QTR 6	QTR 7	QTR 8	QTR 9	QTR 10	QTR 11	QTR 12	QTR
	CWA (Source ID: PR0026				01/01- 03/31/21	04/01- 06/30/21	07/01- 09/30/21	10/01-	01/01-03/31/22	04/01- 06/30/22	07/01- 09/30/22	10/01-12/31/22	01/01- 03/31/23	04/01-06/30/23	07/01-09/30/23	10/01-12/31/23	01/01- 05/10/24
	Facility-Level S	tatus			No Violation Identified	Violation Identified	Violation Identified	Violation Identified	Significant/Category I Noncompliance	No Violation Identified	Violation Identified	Significant/Category I Noncompliance	No Violation Identified	Significant/Category I Noncompliance	Significant/Category I Noncompliance	Significant/Category I Noncompliance	Violation Identified
	Quarterly Noncompliance	Repor	t History			Other Violation	Other Violation	Other Violation	Effluent - Non- monthly Average Limit	Resolved	Other Violation	Effluent - Non- monthly Average Limit	Resolved	Effluent - Non- monthly Average Limit	Effluent - Non- monthly Average Limit	Effluent - Non- monthly Average Limit	
	Pollutant	Disch Point		Freq													
CWA	Ammonia & ammonium-total <effluent- 82230="" charts#pr0026042=""> <https: 82230="" charts#pr0026042="" effluent-="" epa.gov=""></https:></effluent->	001 - A	Effluent Gross	NMth				14%	75%		1%	13%	17%	56%	68%	61%	32%
CWA	BOD, 5-day, 20 deg, c <effluent-charts#pr0026042 00310=""> <https: 00310="" effluent-charts#pr0026042="" epa.gov=""></https:></effluent-charts#pr0026042>	001 - A	Effluent Gross	NMth								33%					
CWA	Coliform, fecal - % samples exceeding limit < effluent-charts#pr0026042/30500> <a href="https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/30500">https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/30500&gt;</a>	001 - A	Effluent Gross	NMth			400%										
CWA	Coliform, fecal general <effluent- 74055="" charts#pr0026042=""> <https: 74055="" charts#pr0026042="" effluent-="" epa.gov=""></https:></effluent->	001 - A	Effluent Gross	Mthly			639%										
CWA	Coliform, fecal general <effluent- 74055="" charts#pr0026042=""> <https: 74055="" charts#pr0026042="" effluent-="" epa.gov=""></https:></effluent->	001 - A	Effluent Gross	NMth			475%										

Statute	Program/Pollutant/Vio	olation	Туре		QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	QTR 5	QTR 6	QTR 7	QTR 8	QTR 9	QTR 10	QTR 11	QTR 12	QTR 13+
CWA	Color [PT-CO units] <pre> <pre> <pre></pre></pre></pre>	001 - A	Effluent Gross	NMth		LIMIT VIOLATION										LIMIT VIOLATION	
CWA	Copper, total [as Cu] <effluent- charts#pr0026042/01042&gt; <a href="https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/01042">https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/01042&gt;</a></effluent- 	001 - A	Effluent Gross	NMth											36%	155%	
CWA	Solids, suspended percent removal <effluent- charts#pr0026042/81011&gt; <a href="https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/81011">https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/81011&gt;</a></effluent- 	001 - A	Effluent Gross	Neither											160%		119%
CWA	Solids, total suspended <effluent- 00530="" charts#pr0026042=""> <https: 00530="" charts#pr0026042="" effluent-="" epa.gov=""></https:></effluent->	001 - A	Effluent Gross	Mthly				21%									
CWA	Sulfide, total [as s] <effluent- charts#pr0026042/00745&gt; <a href="https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/00745">https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/00745&gt;</a></effluent- 	001 - A	Effluent Gross	NMth										150%			
CWA	Surfactants [MBAS] <effluent-charts#pr0026042 38260=""> <a href="https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/38260">https://epa.gov/effluent-charts#pr0026042/38260&gt;</a></effluent-charts#pr0026042>	001 - A	Effluent Gross	NMth							182%	688%					

### Informal Enforcement Actions Last 5 Years

Statute	System	Source ID	Type of Action	Lead Agency	Date

No data records returned

Entries in italics are not counted as "informal enforcement actions" in EPA policies pertaining to enforcement response tools.

### Formal Enforcement Actions Last 5 Years

Statute	System	Law/ Section	Source ID	Type of Action	Case No.	Lead Agency	Case Name	Issued/ Filed Date	Settlements/ Actions	Settlement/ Action Date	Federal Penalty Assessed	State/ Local Penalty Assessed	Penalty Amount Collected	SEP Value	Comp Action Cost

No data records returned

### **Environmental Conditions**

### Watersheds

12-Digit WBD (Watershed Boundary Dataset) HUC (RAD (Reach Address Database))	WBD (Watershed Boundary Dataset) Subwatershed Name (RAD (Reach Address Database))	State Water Body Name (ICIS (Integrated Compliance Information System))	Beach Closures Within Last Year	Beach Closures Within Last Two Years	Pollutants Potentially Related to Impairment	Watershed with ESA (Endangered Species Act)-listed Aquatic Species?
210100050412	Rio Canovanillas	MARACUTO CREEK, CAROLINA	No	No	BOD, 5-day, 20 deg. C   BOD, 5-day, percent removal   Coliform, fecal - % sample exceeds limit   Coliform, fecal general   Coliform, total general   Oxygen, dissolved (DO)	Yes

### Assessed Waters From Latest State Submission (ATTAINS)

St	ate	Report Cycle	Assessment Unit ID	Assessment Unit Name	Water Condition	Cause Groups Impaired	Drinking Water Use	Ecological Use	Fish Consumption Use	Recreation Use	Other Use
F	PR	2020	PRER14C	RIO CANOVANILLAS	Impaired - 303(d) Listed - With Restoration Plan	ORGANIC ENRICHMENT/OXYGEN DEPLETION   PATHOGENS	Insufficient Information	Not Supporting	-	Not Supporting	

### **Air Quality Nonattainment Areas**

Pollutant	Within Nonattainment Status Area?	Nonattainment Status Applicable Standard(s)	Within Maintenance Status Area?	Maintenance Status Applicable Standard(s)

### **Pollutants**

### Toxics Release Inventory History of Reported Chemicals Released or Transferred in Pounds per Year at Site

TRI Facility ID Year Air Emissions Surface Water Discharges Off-Site Transfers to POTWs (Publicly Owned Treatment Works) Underground Injections Disposal to Land Total On-Site Releases Total Off-Site Transfers

No data records returned

### Toxics Release Inventory Total Releases and Transfers in Pounds by Chemical and Year

Chemical Name

No data records returned

### CWA (Clean Water Act) Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Pollutant Loadings DMR and TRI Multi-Year Loading Report

NPDES ID	Description	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
PR0026042	DMR Pollutant Loadings (lb/year)	8,990	5,463	9,256	11,851	4,561
PR0026042	DMR Pollutant Loadings - Load Over Limit (lb/year)	26.97	115	34.26	85.11	98.69
PR0026042	DMR Conventional Loadings (lb/year)	-			786	
PR0026042	DMR Conventional Loadings - Load Over Limit (lb/year)	-			0	
PR0026042	DMR Toxic-Weighted Loadings (lb-eq/year)	9.70	8.74	11.98	10.74	4.56
PR0026042	DMR Toxic-Weighted Loadings - Load Over Limit (lb-eq/year)	0	0	0	0	0.0239

### **Community**

### **Environmental Justice**

This section shows indexes from EJScreen, EPA's screening tool for environmental justice (EJ) concerns. EPA uses these indexes to identify geographic areas that may warrant further consideration or analysis for potential EJ concerns. Use of these indexes does not designate an area as an "EJ community" or "EJ facility." EJScreen provides screening level indicators, not a determination of the existence or absence of EJ concerns. For more information, see the EJScreen home page.

#### **Potential Environmental Justice Concerns**

**US Territory** 

Located in an area having 1 or more Census Block Supplemental State or US Percentiles >= 90%Located in an area having 1 or more 1-Mile Average Supplemental State or US Percentiles >= 90%

#### **EJScreen Indexes Shown**

#### **Related Reports**

Index Type Supplemental (default)

EJScreen Community Report

Census Block Group ID: 720310510013	US (Percentile)		State (Percentile)			
Supplemental Indexes	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max
Count of Indexes At or Above 90th Percentile	2	3	6	0	0	5
Particulate Matter 2.5		N/A			N/A	
Ozone		N/A			N/A	
Diesel Particulate Matter	11	16	24	57	68	92
Air Toxics Cancer Risk	52	35	58	45	0	97
Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index	33	35	44	46	58	<b>9</b> 96
Toxic Releases to Air	88	<b>9</b> 91	98	20	25	40
Traffic Proximity	74	54	74	26	11	26
Lead Paint	78	67	<b>9</b> 99	40	29	<b>9</b> 94
Risk Management Plan (RMP) Facility Proximity	95	92	98	59	52	75
Hazardous Waste Proximity	87	83	96	41	35	62
Superfund Proximity	99	99	99	69	67	<b>9</b> 91
Underground Storage Tanks (UST)	0	0		0	0	
Wastewater Discharge	82	44	98	12	4	36

Map Display Based on:	O US O Sta	te	
Display Map Layer			
Summary - Number of I	ndexes		
		,	
○ Facilit	y 1-mile Radius	☐ Facility	Census Block Group
+			53



### Demographic Profile of Surrounding Area (1-Mile Radius)

This section provides demographic information regarding the community surrounding the facility. ECHO compliance data alone are not sufficient to determine whether violations at a particular facility had negative impacts on public health or the environment. Statistics are based upon the 2010 U.S. Census and 2017 - 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Summary and are accurate to the extent that the facility latitude and longitude listed below are correct. Census boundaries and demographic data for U.S. Territories are based on the "2020 Island Areas Demographic Profiles" from the U.S. Census Bureau. EPA's spatial processing methodology considers the overlap between the selected radii and the census blocks (for U.S. Census demographics) and census block groups (for ACS demographics) in determining the demographics surrounding the facility. For more detail about this methodology, see the DFR Data Dictionary <a href="https://epa.gov/help/reports/dfr-data-dictionary#demographic">https://epa.gov/help/reports/dfr-data-dictionary#demographic></a>.

General Statistics (U.S. Census)	
Total Persons	2,756
Population Density	892/sq.mi.
Housing Units in Area	1,099
General Statistics (ACS (American Community Survey))	
Total Persons	2,855
Percent People of Color	100%
Households in Area	862
Households on Public Assistance	30
Persons With Low Income	1,980
Percent With Low Income	70%
Geography	
Radius of Selected Area	1 mi.
Center Latitude	18.300583
Center Longitude	-65.937417
Land Area	100%
Water Area	0%
Income Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - I	Households (%)
Less than \$15,000	243 (28.19%)
\$15,000 - \$25,000	133 (15.43%)
\$25,000 - \$50,000	251 (29.12%)
\$50,000 - \$75,000	139 (16.13%)
Greater than \$75,000	96 (11.14%)

Age Breakdown (U.S. Census) - Persons (%)		
Children 5 years and younger	201 (7%)	
Minors 17 years and younger	780 (28%)	
Adults 18 years and older 1,976		
Seniors 65 years and older 322 (1		
Race Breakdown (U.S. Census) - Persons (%)		
White	2,138 (78%)	
African-American	317 (12%)	
Hispanic-Origin	2,741 (99%)	
Asian/Pacific Islander	2 (0%)	
American Indian	11 (0%)	
Other/Multiracial	288 (10%)	
Education Level (Persons 25 & older) (ACS (American Community Sur	vey)) - Persons (%)	
Less than 9th Grade	481 (23.27%)	
9th through 12th Grade	129 (6.24%)	
igh School Diploma 56		
Some College/2-year	176 (8.51%)	
B.S./B.A. (Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts) or More	514 (24.87%)	





December 2, 2024

TO: José M. Olmo Terrasa, Esq.

Deputy Director for Economic Recovery Grant Management Re-Grow PR Urban Rural Agriculture Program

RE: Endangered Species Concurrence - Conservation Measures Implementation Felix González DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen (PR-

**RGRW-01627)** 

Dear Mr. Olmo:

This memorandum is to notify the Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (Re-Grow Program) that on October 8, 2024, for the case **PR-RGRW-01627**, the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division submitted an informal consultation under Section 7 (a) (2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project, which includes three scopes of work (SOW) within the parcel. The first SOW consists in the purchase and installation of a 13kVA diesel Kohler power generator. The second SOW consists in the installation of a cattle chute and a load bar. Finally, the third SOW consists in the purchase of an irrigation system for Felix González DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen, an agricultural business, located PR-945 – PR-853 Km 11.6, Barrazas Ward, Carolina, PR 00778; latitude 18.292336, longitude -65.941406.

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

Name of Species	Status		
Puerto Rican Boa	Endangered		
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk	Endangered		
Puerto Rican Parrot	Endangered		
Critical Habitat			
There were no Critical Habitats noted within the project area.			

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office reviewed the information provided and their files, and on November 23, 2024 concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions **May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)** the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, and the Puerto Rican Boa Pigeon.

The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately.

Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, **the applicant must** be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.

In order to facilitate the species identification, please, find attached the Caribbean Endangered and Threatened Animals Fact Sheets for: the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, and the Puerto Rican Boa

USFWS Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office key contact information:

 José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386 Email: jose\_cruzburgos@fws.gov

Sincerely,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division Disaster Recovery Office

# Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

### Puerto Rican Boa

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



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

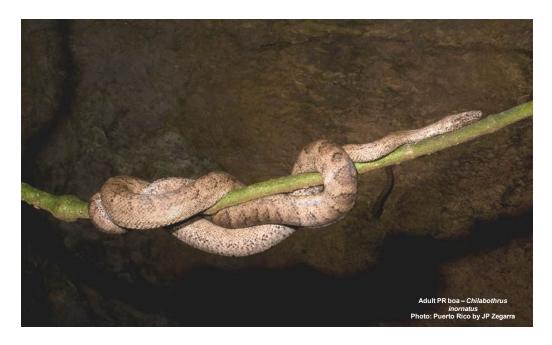


### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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

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

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



Last Revised: January 2024

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

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

#### **Conservation Measures:**

- 1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the PR boa in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming the species as well as penalties for harassing or harming PR boas. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
- Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
- 3. Once areas are clearly marked, and prior to the use of heavy machinery and any construction activity (including removal of vegetation and earth movement), a biologist or project personnel with experience on this species should survey the areas to be cleared to verify the presence of any PR boa within the work area.
- 4. If a PR boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded (see #5). **Do not capture the boa.** If boas need to be moved out of harm's way, designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (PRDNER phone #s: (787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124). **If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities at that area must stop until the boa moves out of harm's way on its own**. Activities at other work sites, where no boas have been found after surveying the area, may continue.
- 5. For all boa sightings (dead or alive), record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where it was found. PR boa data should also include a photo of the animal (dead or alive), site GPS coordinates, the time and date, and comments on how the animal was detected and its behavior.

Last Revised: January 2024

- 6. If a PR boa is captured by PRDNER personnel, record the name of that person and information on where the PR boa will be taken. This information should be reported to the Service.
- 7. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize PR boa casualties by heavy machinery or motor vehicles being used on site. Any heavy machinery left on site (staging) or near potential PR boa habitat (within 50 meters of potential boa habitat), needs to be thoroughly inspected each morning before work starts to ensure that no boas have sheltered within engine compartments or other areas of the equipment. If PR boas are found within vehicles or equipment, do not capture the animal, and let it move on its own or call PRDNER Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (see #4). If not possible, the animal should be left alone until it leaves the vehicle on its own.
- 8. PR boas may seek shelter in debris piles. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize boa casualties associated with sheltering in debris piles as a result of project activities. Debris piles should be placed far away from forested areas. Prior to moving, disposing or shredding, debris piles should be carefully inspected for the presence of boas. If debris piles will be left on site, we recommend they be placed in areas that will not be disturbed in the future.
- 9. If a dead PR boa is found, immediately cease all work in that area and record the information accordingly (see #5). If the PR boa was accidentally killed as part of the project actions, please include information on what conservation measures had been implemented and what actions will be taken to avoid further killings. A dead boa report should be sent by email (see contacts below) to the Service within 48 hours of the event.
- 10. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact the PRDNER for further guidance.

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

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Program Coordinator
  - o Email: jose cruz-burgos@fws.gov
  - o Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
  - o Email: jan zegarra@fws.gov
  - o Office phone (786) 933-1451

## Guaraguao de bosqoe

Buteo platypterus brunnescens



Distribuci6n



Familia: Accipitridae
Orden: Falconiformes

### **Descripci6n**

El guaraguao de bosque de Puerto Rico o guaraguaito es de color marr6n oscuro con barras blancas y rojizas en la parte ventral. Es una subespecie endemica de Puerto Rico de tamafio mediano, que mide aproximadamente 39 centimetros (15.5 pulgadas). Es mas pequefio que el *Buteo platypterus platypterus* pero mas grande que la subespecie que ocurre en las Antillas Menores. El guaraguao de bosque es la subespecie de halc6n de ala ancha mas oscuro. En los adultos, la cola es de un color negro claro con bandas blancas horizontales en la base, medio y extremo de la cola, y esto, junto con el pecho rojizo, caracteriza a la especie. Los machos y las hembras son muy similares en apariencia, pero las hembras son un poco mas grandes. Las aves juveniles tienen barras oscuras en el pecho y no tienen las bandas distintivas en la cola. La población del guaraguao de bosque de Puerto Rico oscila cerca de los 125 individuos.

### Informaci6n biol6gica

### Reproducci6n

Esta especie anida en bosques secundarios maduros y plantaciones antiguas. En el Bosque Estatal de *Rio* Abajo (RACF, por sus siglas en ingles), los sitios de anidación estan caracterizados por la presencia de arboles tales como el palo Marfa (Calophyllum antillanum), la teca (Tectona grandis), la caoba hondurefia (Swietenia macrophylla) y la majagua (Hibiscus elatus). Los guaraguaos de bosque colocan sus nidos en la parte superior de arboles grandes que sobrepasan la cubierta forestal. Información recientemente recopilada sobre la abundancia y caracteristicas demograficas del guaraguao de bosque en RACF indica un alto nivel de fidelidad entre parejas; una tasa de sobrevivencia en nidos de 0.67 a traves de la temporada de reproducción; y una productividad de 1.1 crfas por nido. Entre los afios 2001 a 2003, se marcaron con radio transmisores y se colocaron bandas en las patas a varias crfas de guaraguaos en el RACF. En 2013, al visitar el area donde se marcaron, se document6 que segufan vivas (Llerandi-Roman and Rios-Cruz pers. comm.). Por ejemplo, una hembra joven que fue marcada entre el 2001 al 2003 en el RACF fue documentada anidando exitosamente entre los afios 2007 al 2009. (Rios-Cruz pers. comm.)

#### Habitat

Esta especie habita en bosques enanos, bosques de palmas de sierra, de caimitillo-granadillo y de tabonuco. Estos bosques se encuentran en las reservas forestales del Bosque Estatal de Carite, Bosque Estatal Toro Negro, Bosque Los Tres Picachos y el Bosque Nacional El Yunque. Tambien habita en plantaciones madereros maduros, en cafetales bajo sombra yen bosques secundarios maduros del area de carso al norte-central de Puerto Rico dentro y cerca del Bosque Estatal de Rfo Abajo y el area de Rfo Encantado entre los pueblos de Aorida y Ciales. La topograffa humeda de los bosques del carso le provee al guaraguao de bosque otra alternativa como area para anidar. En estudios recientes, se han documentado miembros de una especie similar de guaraguao (guaraguao de cola roja; *Buteo jamaicensis jamaicensis*) anidando en las laderas del carso adyacentes al RACF.

#### Distribuci6n

El guaraguao de bosque es un ave de rapifia poco comun y extremadamente localizado, que se encuentra en los bosques montafiosos de tierra alta de Puerto Rico. Las poblaciones existentes se hallan primariamente dentro de cinco bosques: el RACF, el Bosque Estatal Carite, el Bosque Estatal Toro Negro, el Bosque Los Tres Picachos y el Bosque Nacional El Yunque. Llerandi-Roman (2006) hallo trece territorios de guaraguao de bosque justo fuera de los limites de RACF, en seis sitios diferentes con habitat apropiado para los guaraguaos de bosque. Los territorios se encuentran a lo largo del valle del Rfo Tanama, al noroeste del RACF

### <u>Amenazas</u>

La abundancia y la distribucion del guaraguao de bosque es limitada. Cualquier amenaza que atente contra su poblacion y su habitat puede resultar en detrimento para esta especie. De forma natural, los huracanes constituyen una amenaza ya que destruyen su habitat debido a las intensas lluvias y a los fuertes vientos. No obstante, existe una gran variedad de actividades humanas que tambien amenazan las poblaciones de esta especie. La construccion de instalaciones recreativas, de estructuras para energfa y comunicaciones y de carreteras contribuye a la destruccion y fragmentacion de su habitat. De igual manera, la caza ilegal, las malas practicas de manejo y la carencia de planes de manejo para los bosques publicos tambien afectan las poblaciones del guaraguao de bosque. Los bajos numeros poblacionales de esta especie pueden, por si mismos, estar afectando la poblacion ya que se pierde la variacion genetica de esta.

### Medidas de conservaci6n

El guaraguao de bosque esta incluido en la lista de especies amenazadas desde el 1994. La Ley Federal de Especies en Peligro de Extincion de 1973, segun enmendada, prohibe matar, dafiar, molestar, atrapar, comprar o vender una especie, as { como partes o productos derivados de ellas. El tener la especie en la lista federal fomenta y ayuda a crear acciones de conservacion por las agencias federales, estatales, privadas, y por grupos e individuos particulares. La Ley de Especies En Peligro fomenta la compra de terrenos y la cooperación con el Estado, y requiere que se ejecuten acciones de recuperacion en relacion a todas las especies listadas. Entre las medidas esenciales para proteger el habitat y fomentar el crecimiento de las poblaciones existentes estan: la proteccion de los sitios de anidamiento y alimento en las areas publicas y privadas, el mejoramiento de los habitats, la reforestacion en areas abiertas, la actualización de la información acerca de la distribucion y la identificacion o creacion de corredores biologicos entre poblaciones cercanas (tales como RACF, Los Tres Picachos y Toro Negro) con tal de facilitar el movimiento de los guaraguaos de bosque entre los bosques.

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### Informaci6n adicional

Oficina de Servicios Ecológicos del Caribe Dirección: PO Box 491, Boquerón, PR 00622 Telefono: 787-851-7297 / Fax: 787-851-7440

Internet: www.fws.gov/caribbean





Cotorra RUertorriquena Amozono vittata vittata



Distribuci6n



normalmente de por vida. Las parejas permanecen juntas casi todo el afio, excepto cuando la hembra esta incubando y el macho asume la responsabilidad de proveer alimento. La cotorra usa como nido las cavidades que se encuentran en arboles de gran tamafio como el palo colorado (Cyrilla racemifiora), entre otros. De ser necesario, tambien podrfa anidar en las cavidades de roca caliza. El anidamiento comienza en los meses de febrero y marzo, hasta junio. Tradicionalmente, la anidación coincide con el periodo mas seco del afio y durante el periodo de fructificación (producir frutos) de plantas cuyas semillas, frutas y hojas le sirven de alimento.

parejas que perduran por mucho tiempo,

Familia: Psittacidae
Orden: Psittaciformes

### **Descripci6n**

La cotorra puertorriquefia o Iguaca, como la llamaban los indios tainos, es un ave verde brillante con una mancha roja en la frente, un anillo blanco alrededor del ojo y plumas primarias azules. Su pico es color marfil y el horde de su cola es redondo. Los juveniles son bastante parecidos a los adultos. Tanto hembras como machos son parecidos y miden cerca de doce pulgadas (aprox. 30 centimetros). A veces, la franja roja en la frente es mas ancha en los machos que en las hembras. Mientras vuela emite un fuerte y ruidoso "kar...kar." Este sonido se escucha a gran distancia. Emite otros sonidos para comunicarse con otras cotorras y para defender su territorio.

### Informaci6n biol6gica

### Reproducci6n

La cotorra puertorriquefia alcanza su edad reproductiva entre los 3 a 5 afios. Las cotorras usualmente forman

#### **Dieta**

La cotorra come plantas tales como: palma de sierra, palma real, maricao, maria, guaba, cupey, guaraguao y yagrumo, entre otros arboles.

#### Distribuci6n

La cotorra puertorriquefia, ave endemica a Puerto Rico fue abundante en Puerto Rico, incluyendo las islas de Culebra, Vieques y Mona. Esta cotorra es la ultima especie de psitacidos existentes y originaria en territorio de los Estados Unidos. Los psitacidos son la familia de aves, en su mayorfa tropicales, con plumas de colores vivos y pico corto, alto y muy encorvado (ej. guacamayo y cotorra). La población silvestre de cotorras puertorriquefias se limita actualmente a la Sierra de Luquillo, mayormente en el Bosque Nacional El Yunque, al este de Puerto Rico y en el Bosque Estatal de *Rio* Abajo, en el norte central de Puerto Rico, entre Arecibo y Utuado. Al menos tres de las cotorras liberadas en Rio Abajo se han dispersado yen 2012 fueron vistas entre Morovis, Vega Baja y Manati.

### **Amenazas**

Ademas de tener una población pequefia y una distribución limitada, la especie tambien se ve afectada por el zorzal pardo (Margaropsfuscatus) quien mata los huevos y pichones de la cotorra para usar el nido. El guaraguao colirojo (Buteo jamaicensis), el guaraguaito de bosque (Buteo platypterus brunnescens) y las ratas (Rattus rattus y R. norvegicus) son depredadores mortales de cotorras juveniles y adultas. Las moscas parasfticas (Philornis pici) depositan sus larvas en los pichones de aves para completar su ciclo de desarrollo. Estas moscas enferman y matan a los pichones. Las abejas europeas y africanas (Apis mellifera) invaden los nidos de la cotorra para formar adentro sus colmenas. Tambien pueden matar a los pichones. Los huracanes y otros eventos climatológicos pueden afectar la estabilidad de la especie en su estado natural. La perdida de habitat por la deforestación es una amenaza que siempre esta presente y limita las opciones de lugares aptos para reintroducir la cotorra a la vida silvestre.

### Medidas de conservaci6n

La cotorra puertorriquefia fue designada como especie en peligro de extinción en el afio 1967, antes de que la Ley de Especies en Peligro de Extinci6n de 1973 entrara en vigor. Existe un Acuerdo Cooperativo entre el Servicio Federal de Pesca y Vida Silvestre, el Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales y el Servicio Forestal de los Estados Unidos para manejar de forma conjunta la recuperación de la cotorra puertorriquefia. Las tres agencias constituyen el Comite de Recuperación de la Cotorra Puertorriquefia. Inicialmente, se estableci6 un programa de propagaci6n en cautiverio que, con el tiempo, ha crecido para incluir liberaciones de cotorras al estado silvestre, monitoreo de las poblaciones silvestres, manejo del habitat e investigación. Otras entidades privadas y academicas se han unido a los esfuerzos para realizar investigaciones y educar.

El Comite realiza censos de cotorras peri6dicamente y estima que existen ente 18 a 22 cotorras en El Yunque y cerca de 60 a 70 en Rfo Abajo. Los bi6logos de campo utilizan multiples estrategias para manejar el habitat. La escasez de arboles maduros con cavidades

requiere que se construyan e instalen nidos artificiales para que la cotorra puertorriquefia anide. Tambien, los expertos controlan las poblaciones de las especies depredadoras, cuando es necesario, para asegurar el desarrollo normal de los huevos y de los pichones.

La población en cautiverio se mantiene para varios propósitos: reproducir cotorras y aumentar su numero, asegurar poblaciones adicionales, particularmente en el caso de una catastrofe natural tal como un huracan, y para, eventualmente, poder proveer aves para reintroducirlas a los bosques donde habitaban. En los aviarios, se utilizan tecnicas avanzadas para diagnosticar enfermedades y proveer tratamiento. Actualmente, hay cerca de 350 cotorras entre el Aviario Iguaca, manejado por el Servicio Federal de Pesca y Vida Silvestre en El Yunque, yen el Aviario Jose L. Vivaldi, manejado por el Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales de Puerto Rico, en el Bosque Estatal Rfo Abajo.

La Ley Federal de Especies en Peligro de Extinción de 1973, segun enmendada, prohíbe matar, dafiar, molestar, atrapar, comprar o vender una especie, asf como partes o productos derivados de ellas

### Referencias

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### Informaci6n adicional

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seaGifutt

Puerto Rico





October 8, 2024

COBG-DR FUND

Lourdes Mena Field Supervisor Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office Park I, Suite 303 State Road #2 Km 156.5. Mayagüez, Puerto Rico 00680

Email: Caribbean es@fws.gov; Lourdes Mena@fws.gov

Re: Puerto Rico Department of Housing / Re-Grow Program PR-RGRW-01627 – Félix González DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen **Endangered Species Concurrence for NLAA Determination** 

Dear Ms. Mena:

Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is requesting informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project located at PR-945 Road and PR-853 Road Km 11.6, barrio Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778 (Parcel ID# 173-000-010-99, 173-000-010-11).

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

The proposed project, PR-RGRW-01627, consists of three scopes of work (SOW) within the parcel. SOW-1 consists in the purchase and installation of a 13kVA diesel Kohler power generator. The applicant plans to construct an on-site poured 10-foot x 10-foot concrete pad at coordinates 18.292289, -65.941060, for the installation of the new power generator. Typically for the installation of a generator like the one proposed, the slab thickness should de 4-6 inches. This generator will provide power to the water pump of the existing water well. Concrete pad construction will require a ground disturbance with a maximum depth of 1-foot. Generator can be anchored to the concrete slab with the use of tensors attached to the concrete. The SOW includes the installation of a transfer switch. SOW-2 consists in the installation of a cattle chute and a load bar at coordinates 18.294630, -65.937065. This is used to provide care and restrain the animal for different procedures. The system will be installed on a new concrete pad of 10 feet x 5 feet. Thickness of concrete must be at least 8-10 inches, for a maximum depth of disturbance of 1.5 feet. As per product manual, no anchoring of the cattle chute is required. However,

it can be fixed to the concrete slab. SOW-3 consists in the purchase of an irrigation system. The irrigation system will consist of a water reel with a hose. The irrigation system and the proposed water trough and feeder are movable. All movable equipment will be stored in the existing warehouse located at coordinates: 18.294632, -65.937478.

This land was used for chicken production but is currently used as cattle pasture. Surrounding landscape includes hilly forests surrounding the parcel, with hilly pasture within. The site for the new generator is currently mostly cleared, with a power pole to the side. Field is not graded. The project site will require clearing, grubbing, grading, and vegetation, brush and shrubs removal. However, proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees. The National Wetlands Inventory indicated that no wetlands are located within the parcel.

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

Name of the species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate	
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens)	Endangered	
Puerto Rican Parrot (Amazona vittata)	Endangered	
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered	
Critical Habitat		
There are no critical habitats at this location.		

Based on site review and site photos, no suitable habitat was found within the proposed project area for the listed species.

The Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk habitat requirements per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997 Recovery plan are as follows: "In the Caribbean National Forest, Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawks were more often seen on the eastern side, and the tabonuco and palo colorado forest types were reported as preferred habitats for the species (Wiley and Bauer 1985). Delannoy (1992) reported that Broad-winged Hawks were observed to be clustered in the north-central part of the forest within the subtropical wet forest and subtropical rain forest life zones, where the tabonuco is the dominant forest type. In the Carite Commonwealth Forest the species has been reported from the elfin, caimitillo, granadillo, tabonuco, and slope forest types (Hermindez 1980, Delannoy 1992). Delannoy (1992) reported Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawks sighted in the northeastern corner and west-central parts of the Río Abajo forest within the subtropical moist forest and subtropical wet forest life zones (Ewel and Whitmore 1973). Limestone hillside, sinkholes, and narrow valleys or ravines between haystack hills or "mogotes" are the dominant habitats within these life zones (Department of Natural Resources 1976)."

The Puerto Rican Parrot habitat requirements per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are as follows: "The habitat of the parrot is generally identified as the Palo Colorado, Palma de Sierra, and Tabonuco forests types of the upper zones of the Luquillo Mountains within the El Yunque National Forest. This bird feeds chiefly on wild fruits, particularly the sierra palm

(Prestoria montana), but may also consume flowers and tender shoots. During October, when other fruits are scarce, the tabonuco fruit (Dacryodes excelsa) becomes an important food item."

The Puerto Rican Boa habitat requirements per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are as follows: "The Puerto Rican Boa is considered a habitat generalist and tolerates a wide variety of habitat types (terrestrial and arboreal). These include: rocky areas and haystack hills, trees and branches, rotting stumps, caves (entrances and inside), plantations, various types of forested areas such as karst and mangrove forests, forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges. Cave ecosystems and their surrounding forests are considered particularly important because of the availability of such ecological resources such as prey, shelter, thermal gradients, and mates for reproduction."

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

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will I implemented	
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk	Not Likely to Adversely	USFWS Puerto Rican Broad-winged	
(Buteo platypterus brunnescens)	Affect (NLAA)	Hawk Conservation Measures	
Puerto Rican Parrot	Not Likely to Adversely	USFWS Puerto Rican Parrot	
(Amazona vittata)	Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures	
Puerto Rican Boa	Not Likely to Adversely	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa	
(Chilabothrus inornatus)	Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures 2024	

Given the current land use and frequent disturbance and lack of sightings of the listed species within the vicinity, PRDOH has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect the listed species provided the attached Conservation Measures are implemented as part of the proposed project. The automated informal consultation process was completed on October 7<sup>th</sup> through USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation website (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/).

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determinations included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species.

For any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information below.

Sincerely,

Juan Carlos Pérez-Bofill, PE, MEng.

Director – Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program

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

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A:

Figure 1 - Project Location Map

Figure 2 – Area of Potential Effect Map

Figure 3 – Endangered Species Map

Figure 4 – Critical Habitats Map

Figure 5 – Farmland Protection Map

Figure 6 – Wetland Map

Appendix B: Species List Caribbean Ecological Services and Consistency Letter

Appendix C: Site Photos

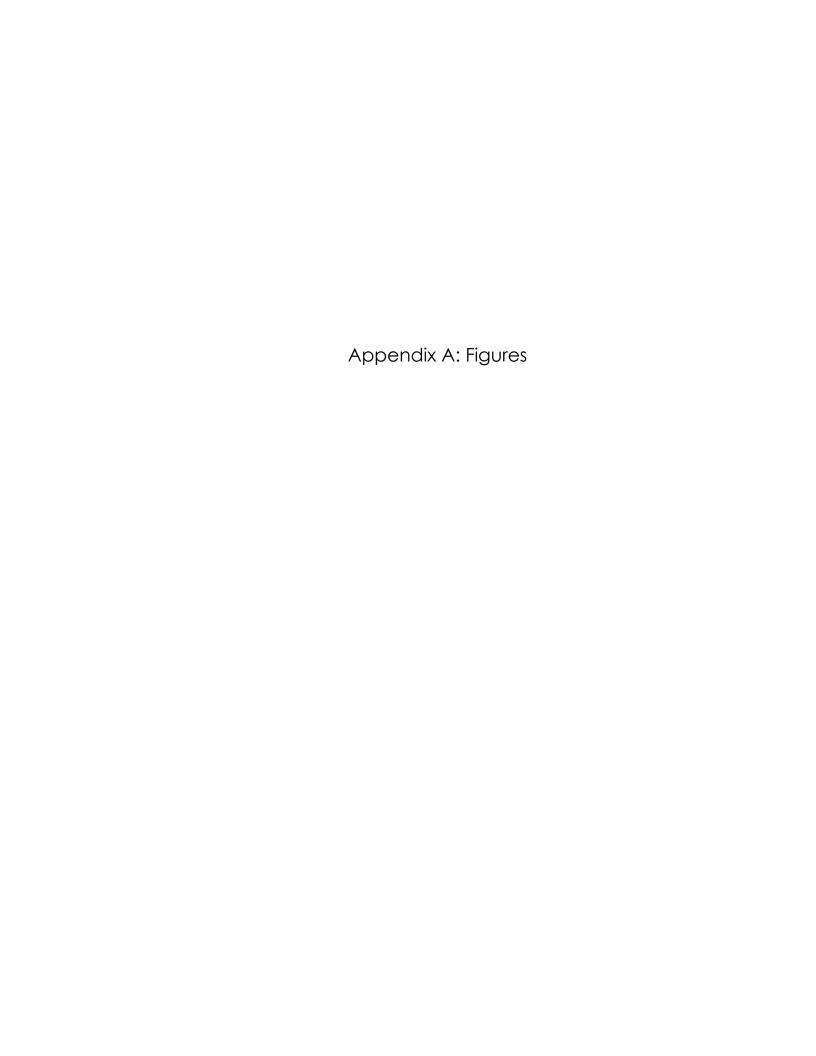
Appendix D: USFWS Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk Conservation Measures

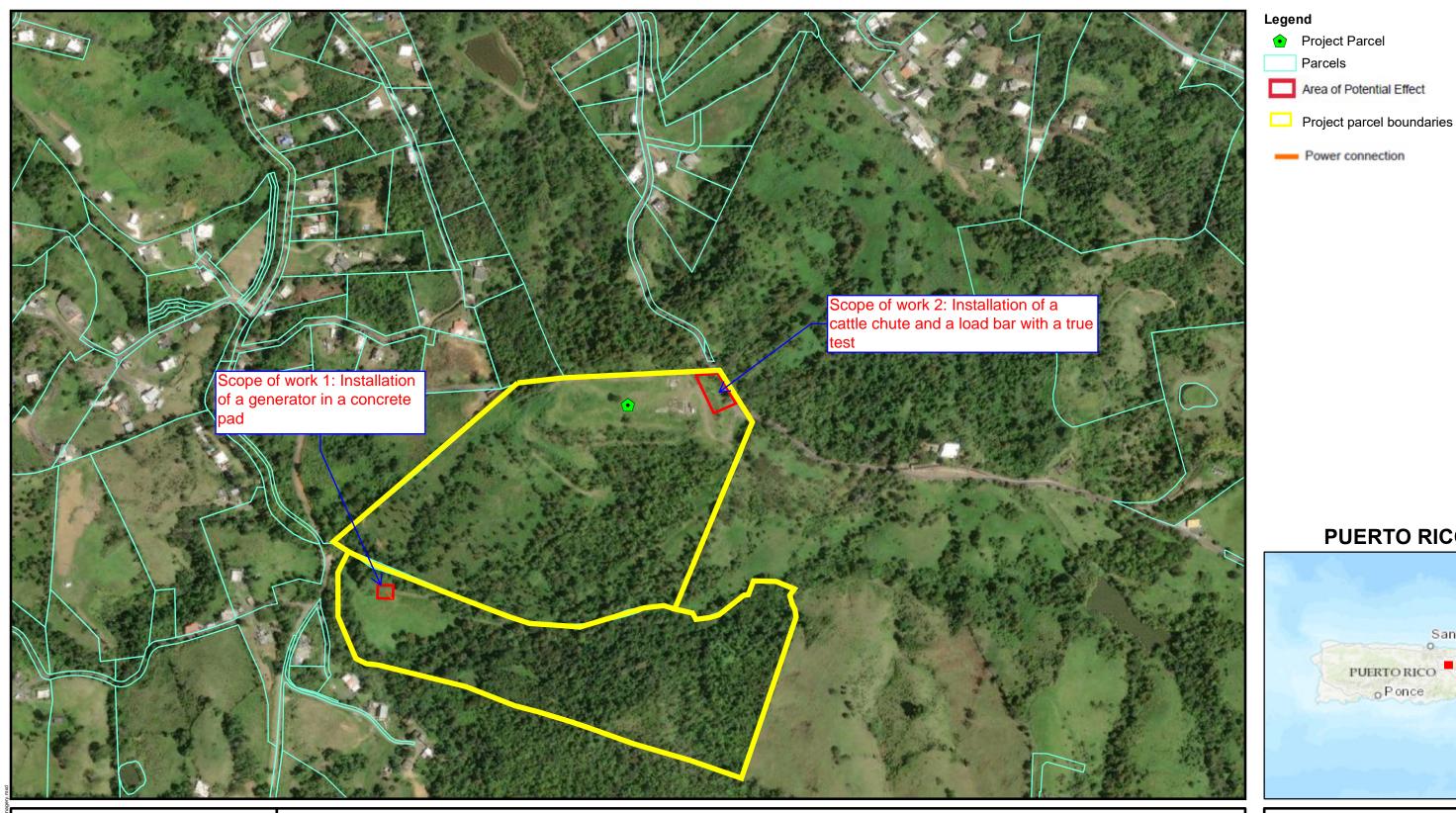
Appendix E: USFWS Puerto Rican Parrot Conservation Measures Appendix F: USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024

C: Angel G. López-Guzmán, MSEM

Deputy Director

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division





**TETRA TECH** 

Date: 3/22/2024

Source: CRIM

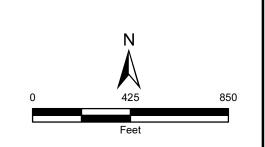
https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

**APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627** 





**PUERTO RICO** 

PUERTO RICO

o Ponce

San Juan

Parcels

Author: TG

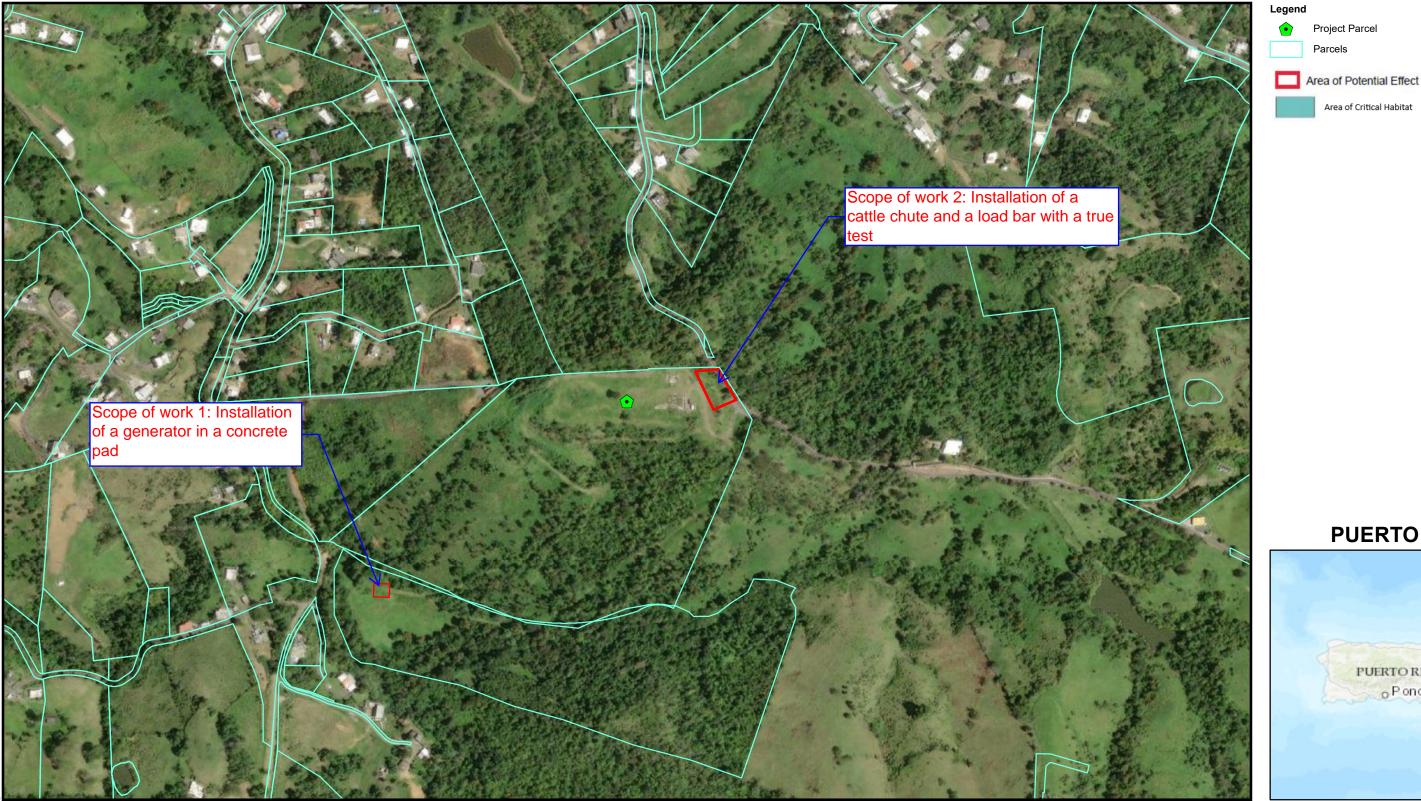
Date: 1/23/2024



Subrecipient: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01627

# City: Carolina Project (Parcel) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial) Scope of work 2: Installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test Scope of work 1: Installation of a generator in a concrete pad Legend Project Parcel Area of Potential Effect **ETRA TECH** Parcelario Source: CRIM





Project Parcel Parcels

Area of Critical Habitat

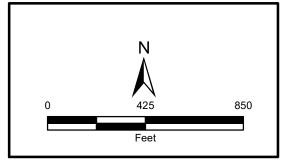


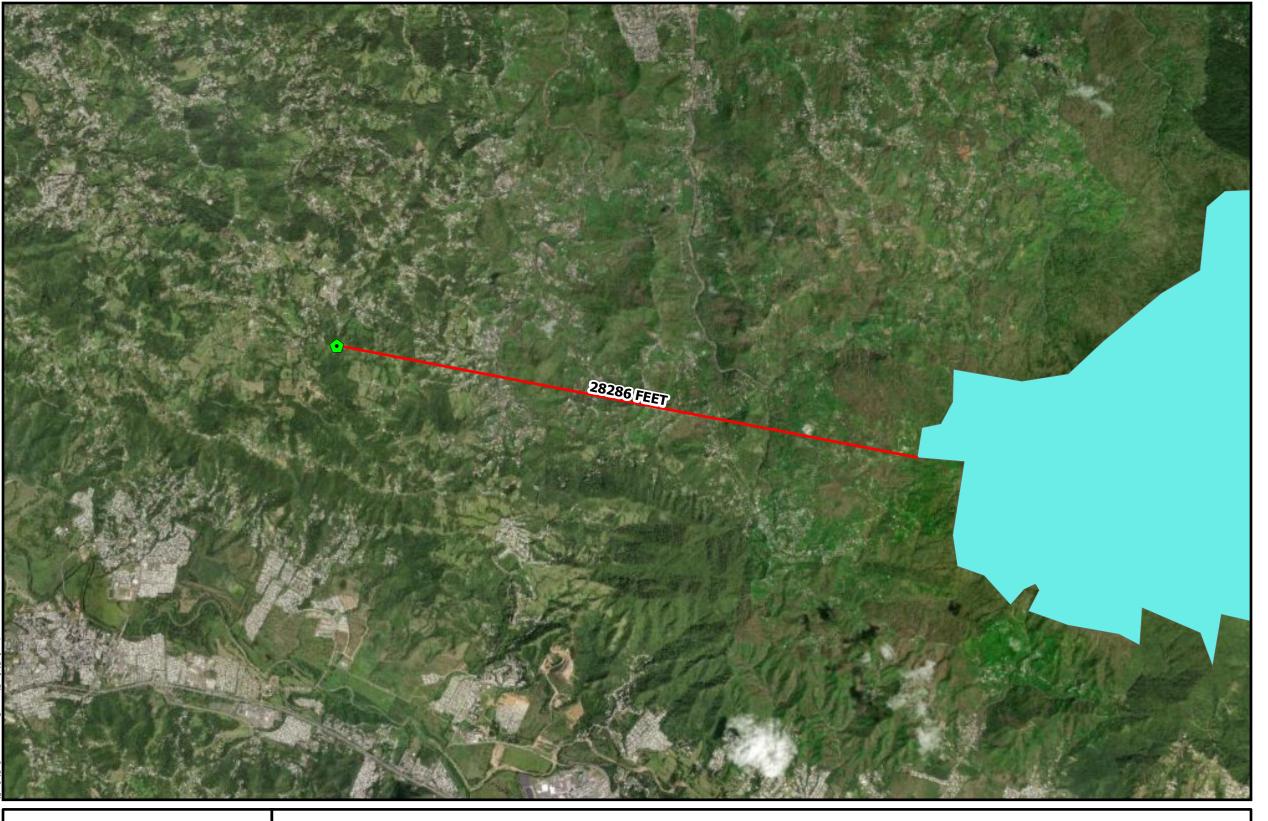


### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627**

ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027





Project Parcel

Common Name

Elfin-woods warbler

Distance to Nearest Critical Habitat: 28286 Feet

### **PUERTO RICO**



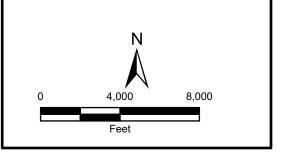


# CRITICAL HABITATS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627

ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027

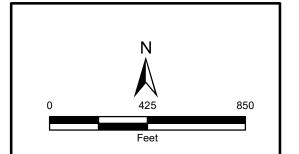






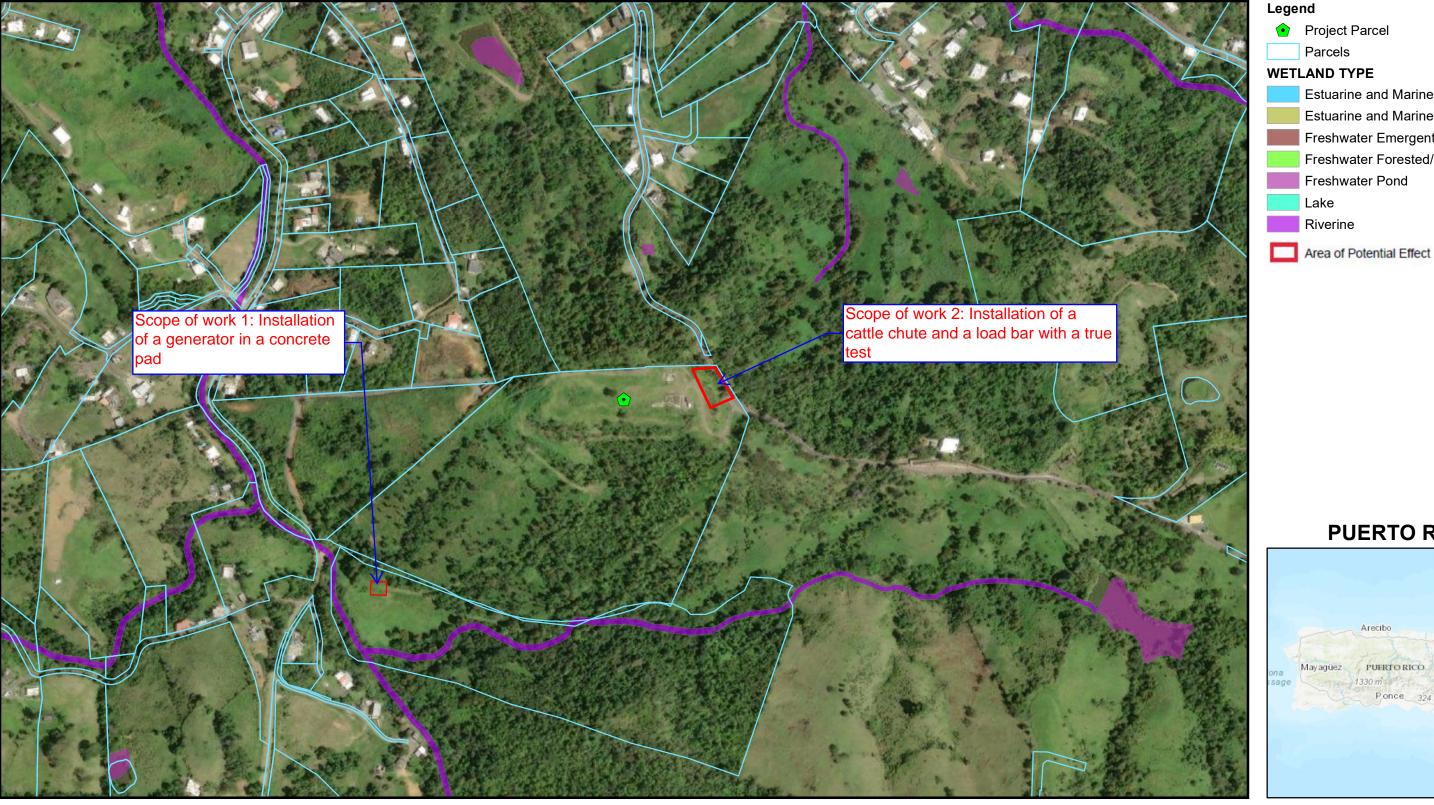
ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027



# TETRA TECH Source: USDA https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov

Date: 3/22/2024



### **PUERTO RICO**

Parcels

Lake Riverine

Freshwater Pond

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater Estuarine and Marine Wetland Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland





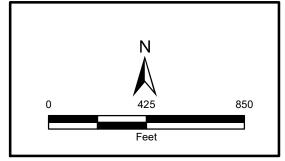
Date: 3/22/2024

### **WETLANDS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627**

ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027



Species List Caribbean	Appendix B: Ecological Services and Consistency Letter



### United States Department of the Interior



#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440

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

In Reply Refer To: 10/07/2024 15:54:42 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0002520 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01627

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

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This species list is provided by:

Project code: 2025-0002520

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

### Attachment(s):

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

# **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 (939) 320-3135

# **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project code: 2025-0002520

Project Code: 2025-0002520 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01627

Project Type: Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural

Project Description: The scope of work 1 (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of a power

generator. The applicant plans to construct a 10-foot (ft)' x 10 ft concrete pad at coordinates 18.292289, -65.941060, for the installation of the new power generator. This generator will provide power to the water pump of

the existing water well.

The scope of work 2 (SOW-2) is the installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test scale at coordinates 18.294630, -65.937065. This is used to provide care and restrain the animal for different procedures including the weighing and inspection. The system will be installed in a

concrete pad of 10 ft x 5 ft.

SOW-3 is for the purchase of an irrigation system. The irrigation system will consist of a water reel with a hose. The irrigation system and the proposed water trough and feeder are movable. All movable equipment will be stored in the existing warehouse located at coordinates:

viii be stored iii the existing warehouse focated

18.294632, -65.937478.

### **Project Location:**

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2924794">https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2924794</a>,-65.93943562123337,14z



Counties: Carolina and Gurabo counties, Puerto Rico

# **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

Project code: 2025-0002520

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

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

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

**BIRDS** 

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk Buteo platypterus brunnescens

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512</a>

Puerto Rican Parrot Amazona vittata

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067</a>

**REPTILES** 

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</a>

General project design guidelines:

https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/D2YRQHO56FAZ7PI4NPMITOBPSU/documents/generated/7159.pdf

### **CRITICAL HABITATS**

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

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

# USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

# **BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES**

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

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

Project code: 2025-0002520

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

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

# **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

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

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats<sup>3</sup> should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

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

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

# **WETLANDS**

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

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

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

### RIVERINE

- R5UBH
- R4SBC

Project code: 2025-0002520 10/07/2024 15:54:42 UTC

# **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Tetra Tech

Name: Shelby McDowell Address: 2301 Lucien Way #120

City: Maitland

State: FL Zip: 32751

Email shelby.mcdowell@tetratech.com

Phone: 4096591563



# United States Department of the Interior



### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440 Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>

In Reply Refer To: 10/07/2024 16:14:47 UTC

Project code: 2025-0002520 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01627

Subject: Concurrence letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-01627' for specified threatened

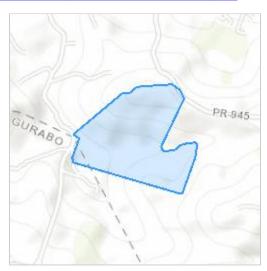
and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to

the IPaC determination key titled Caribbean Determination Key (DKey).

### Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the assisted evaluation keys in IPaC. This letter is provided pursuant to the Service's authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.). On October 07, 2024, Shelby McDowell used the Caribbean DKey; dated April 03, 2024, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online IPaC application to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-01627'. The project is located in Carolina and Gurabo counties, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2924794,-65.93943562123337,14z">https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2924794,-65.93943562123337,14z</a>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01627':

The scope of work 1 (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of a power generator. The applicant plans to construct a 10-foot (ft)' x 10 ft concrete pad at coordinates 18.292289, -65.941060, for the installation of the new power generator. This generator will provide power to the water pump of the existing water well.

The scope of work 2 (SOW-2) is the installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test scale at coordinates 18.294630, -65.937065. This is used to provide care and restrain the animal for different procedures including the weighing and inspection. The system will be installed in a concrete pad of 10 ft x 5 ft.

SOW-3 is for the purchase of an irrigation system. The irrigation system will consist of a water reel with a hose. The irrigation system and the proposed water trough and feeder are movable. All movable equipment will be stored in the existing warehouse located at coordinates: 18.294632, -65.937478.

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Caribbean DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered	NLAA
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus	Endangered	NLAA
brunnescens)		

Based on the answers provided in IPaC, the proposed project is consistent with a "may affect but is not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) for the species listed above because your project impacts to the species will be avoided or minimized using the **Conservation Measures** you agreed to implement. These conservation measures must be implemented during the project development to ensure compliance with Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA.

No further action is required for the species listed above. However, be aware that reinitiation of consultation may be necessary if later modifications are made to the project so that it no longer meets the criteria or outcome described above, or if new information reveals effects of the action that could affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed.

The Service will notify you within 30 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) determination for federally listed species in the Caribbean. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluate the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having unanticipated impacts. In such instances, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the DKey.

**Note:** Projects located within the range of the Puerto Rican boa or the Virgin Islands tree boa might encounter these species during project activities. **This letter does not provide take to handle or move these species**. If relocation of the species is needed, please contact either the

Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DNER) at 787-724-5700, 787-230-5550, or 787-771-1124 for projects in Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) at 340-775-6762 for projects in the Virgin Islands. Otherwise, contact the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (caribbean\_es@fws.gov) to determine whether the consultation needs to be reinitiated.

In addition to the species listed above, the following species and/or critical habitats may also occur in your project area and **are not** covered by this conclusion. Effects to the other federally listed species or critical habitat as listed below should be considered as part of your ESA review for the project.

• Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata* Endangered

If the proposed project is located within species range where a DKey has not been developed for those species, please follow the established guidance for initiating section 7 consultation Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office.

We appreciate your interest in protecting endangered species and their habitats. It is the Service's mission to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of our people. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office at Caribbean\_es@fws.gov.

### **Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

#### 1. Name

PR-RGRW-01627

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01627':

The scope of work 1 (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of a power generator. The applicant plans to construct a 10-foot (ft)' x 10 ft concrete pad at coordinates 18.292289, -65.941060, for the installation of the new power generator. This generator will provide power to the water pump of the existing water well.

The scope of work 2 (SOW-2) is the installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test scale at coordinates 18.294630, -65.937065. This is used to provide care and restrain the animal for different procedures including the weighing and inspection. The system will be installed in a concrete pad of 10 ft x 5 ft.

SOW-3 is for the purchase of an irrigation system. The irrigation system will consist of a water reel with a hose. The irrigation system and the proposed water trough and feeder are movable. All movable equipment will be stored in the existing warehouse located at coordinates: 18.294632, -65.937478.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2924794,-65.93943562123337,14z">https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2924794,-65.93943562123337,14z</a>



# **QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW**

 Is the proposed project an EPA Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) renewal for an existing project? (MSGP Fact Sheet)

No

2. Is the proposed project within an urban developed area? (i.e., cities, downtowns, shopping malls etc.)

**Note:** Urban and developed areas has one or more of the following characteristics: Presence of existing buildings, residential areas, and commercial establishments. Well-established infrastructure including roads, utilities, and urban facilities. High population density. Established neighborhoods and urban amenities ("urbanizaciones"). Developed landscape with paved surfaces, parking lots, and industrial areas. Signs of human activity and urbanization, such as shopping centers and recreational facilities. Location within the boundaries of a city or town ("casco urbano"). High concentration of built-up structures and limited open spaces. Aerial imagery might be requested to the applicant.

No

3. Does the proposed project consist of rehabilitation or demolition of existing single-family homes and buildings?

No

4. Does the proposed project consist of improvements to existing facilities?

**Note:** Examples of facilities are occupied single family homes, and buildings; existing recreational facilities, including the installation of roofs to existing basketball courts, etc.

No

5. Does the proposed project consist of repavement or repair of existing roads and installing transit signage or guardrails?

No

6. Does the proposed project consist of the construction of gutters and/or sidewalks along existing roads, and developments?

No

7. Does the proposed project consist of replacement or repair of existing bridges which include cutting vegetation or earth movement?

No

8. Does the proposed project consist of activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) along roads which include cutting vegetation or earth movement?

No

9. Is the proposed project located within a rural area covered by grassland (pasture lands "pastos")?

No

10. Is the proposed project adjacent or within a forested area?

**Note:** Examples of immediately adjacent to forested areas are 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 trees.

Yes

11. Is the project area more than 1 acre?

No

12. Is the proposed project an existing facility or the expansion of an existing facility within the footprint of the already developed area?

Yes

13. [Hidden Semantic] Does the proposed project intersect the Puerto Rican boa area of influence?

### **Automatically answered**

Yes

14. Will the proposed project implement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife <u>Puerto Rican boa</u> Conservation Measures?

Yes

- 15. Will the proposed project be conducted during the Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk or Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk breeding season between December and July?

  Yes
- 16. Will daily surveys be conducted to detect breeding activites by qualified personnel?

**Note:** Examples of breeding activities are courtship and territoriality, re-occupancy of nesting sites, nest building, egg laying, incubation and hatching, and post-fledging.

Yes

17. Will qualified personnel conduct nest searches with the appropriate Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DNER) permit?

**Note:** We might require you to submit a copy of the DNER permits by email.

Yes

18. Will the proposed project implement a strategy to avoid disturbing detected Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk and Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk nesting and breeding activities?

Note: Examples of breeding activities are courtship and territoriality, re-occupancy of nesting sites, nest building, egg laying, incubation and hatching, and post-fledging.

Yes

Project code: 2025-0002520

19. Will the avoidance strategy include protocols to create a buffer zone of 200 meters around all detected nests?

**Note:** A buffer zone is an area around the detected nests where no actions or activities can take place. The buffer zone should be clearly marked or delineated in the field and in the project plans.

Yes

20. If nests are detected within the project area, will the proposed project avoid any disturbance until fledging leaves the nest permanently?

Yes

21. Outside of the breeding season, in the event of a Sharp-shinned hawk nest encounter, would a buffer zone be implemented?

**Note:** The species or nests might be found out of the breeding season. A buffer zone is an area around the detected nests where no actions or activities can take place. The buffer zone should be clearly marked or delineated in the field and in the project plans.

Ves

22. Will the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources be notified immediately if a nest is detected?

Yes

23. Does the proposed project intersect the Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk area of influence?

### Automatically answered

Yes

24. Are you the Federal agency or designated non-federal representative for the proposed action?

Yes

Project code: 2025-0002520 10/07/2024 16:14:47 UTC

# **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Tetra Tech

Name: Shelby McDowell Address: 2301 Lucien Way #120

City: Maitland

State: FL Zip: 32751

Email shelby.mcdowell@tetratech.com

Phone: 4096591563

# LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development





Photo Direction: South

Front of Structure



Facing Away From Front

Photo Direction: North





Photo Direction: Southwest

Side #1 of Structure



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction: Northeast





Photo Direction: South

Back of Structure



Facing Away From Back

Photo Direction: North





Photo Direction: West

Side #2 of Structure



Facing Away From Side #2

Photo Direction: East





Photo Direction: West

Streetscape #1



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction: East









Outbuildings

Photo Description: Warehouse

Photo Direction: Northwest



 $\underline{Outbuildings}$ 

Photo Description: House

Photo Direction: South





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: East



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: South





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: West



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: West



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: West





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: East



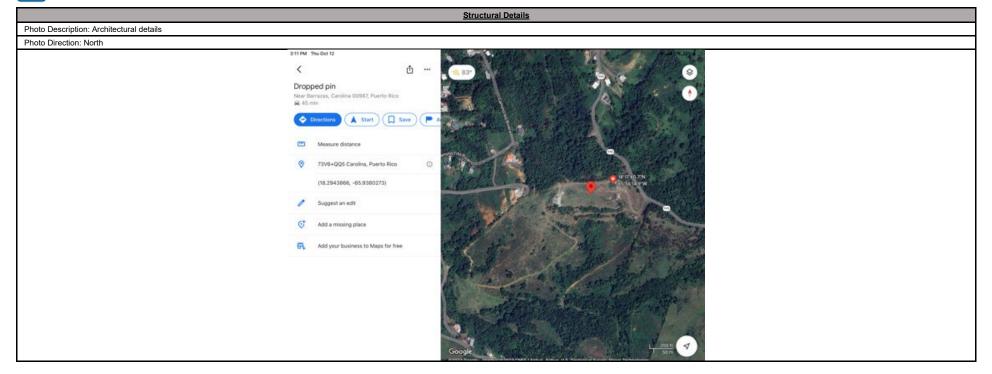
Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast









Aboveground Storage Tanks

Photo Description: Water tank
Photo Direction: East

Aboveground Storage Tanks

Photo Direction: East



Warehouse Use

Photo Description: Warehouse
Photo Direction: Northeast









Photo Description: Wetland
Photo Direction: North



Photo Description: North

Photo Description:



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 1: installation of a generator

Photo Direction: South



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 1: installation of a generator

Photo Direction: Northwest





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 1: installation of a generator Photo Direction: North



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 1: installation of a generator

Photo Direction: East





#### Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 2: installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test.

Photo Direction: Northwest



#### Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 2: installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test.

Photo Direction: West





#### Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 2: installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test.

Photo Direction: Southeast



#### Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 2: installation of a cattle chute and a load bar with a true test.

Photo Direction: Northwest





#### Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 3: use of the chopper to plowing the soil Photo Direction: Southwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 3: use of the chopper to plowing the soil

Photo Direction: Southwest





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 3: use of the chopper to plowing the soil Photo Direction: Southwest



# Appendix D: USFWS Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk Conservation Measures

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Appendix E: USFWS Puerto Rican Parrot Conservation Measures

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix F: USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024

### Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

#### Puerto Rican Boa

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



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

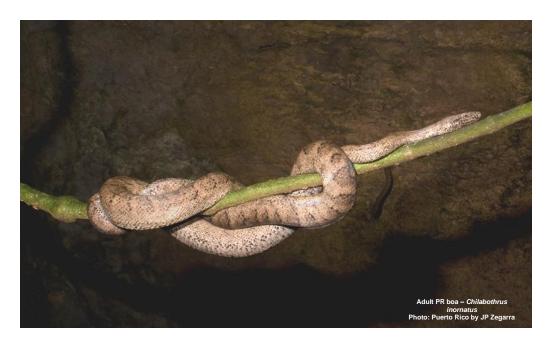


### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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

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

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



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

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

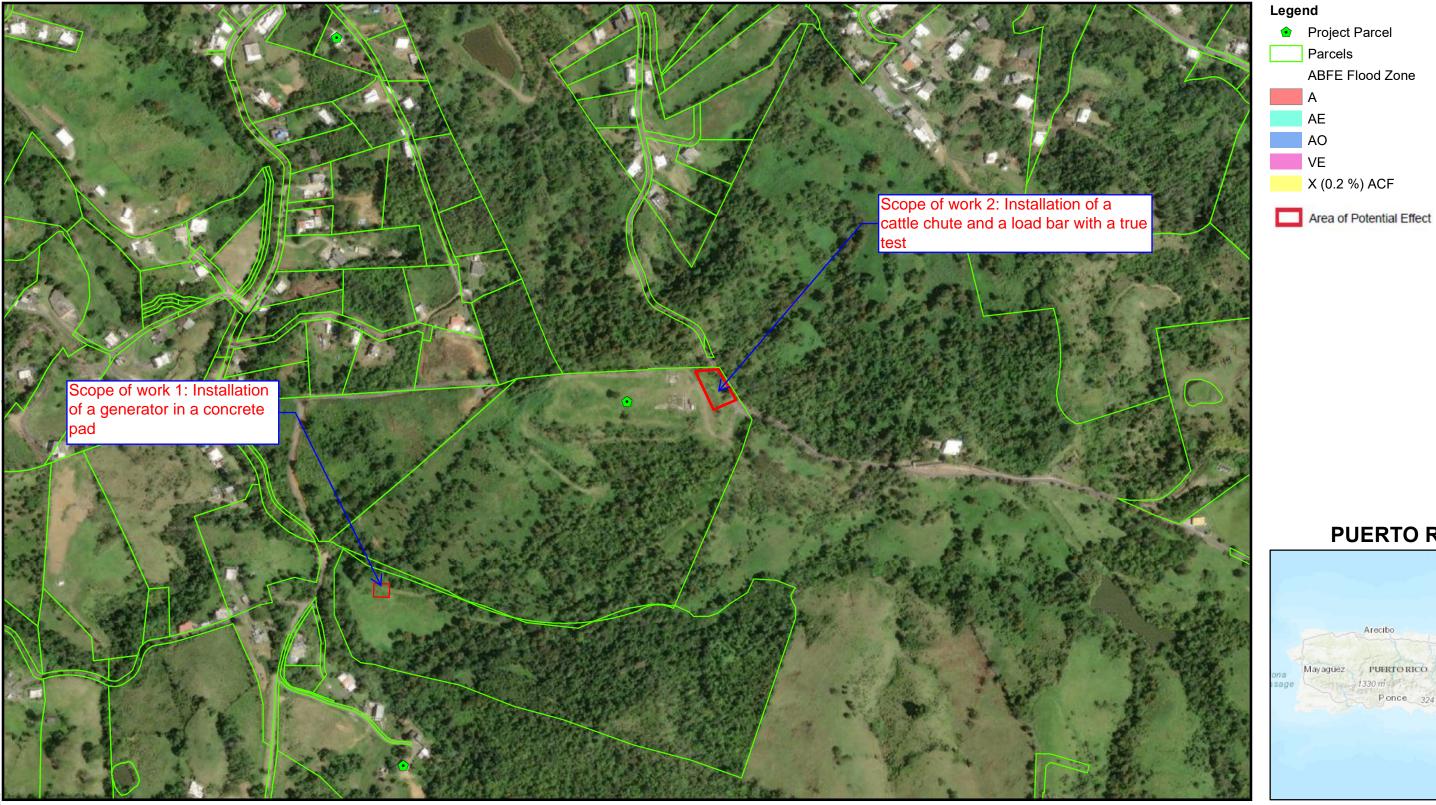
#### **Conservation Measures:**

- 1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the PR boa in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming the species as well as penalties for harassing or harming PR boas. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
- 2. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
- 3. Once areas are clearly marked, and prior to the use of heavy machinery and any construction activity (including removal of vegetation and earth movement), a biologist or project personnel with experience on this species should survey the areas to be cleared to verify the presence of any PR boa within the work area.
- 4. If a PR boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded (see #5). **Do not capture the boa.** If boas need to be moved out of harm's way, designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (PRDNER phone #s: (787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124). **If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities at that area must stop until the boa moves out of harm's way on its own**. Activities at other work sites, where no boas have been found after surveying the area, may continue.
- 5. For all boa sightings (dead or alive), record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where it was found. PR boa data should also include a photo of the animal (dead or alive), site GPS coordinates, the time and date, and comments on how the animal was detected and its behavior.

- 6. If a PR boa is captured by PRDNER personnel, record the name of that person and information on where the PR boa will be taken. This information should be reported to the Service.
- 7. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize PR boa casualties by heavy machinery or motor vehicles being used on site. Any heavy machinery left on site (staging) or near potential PR boa habitat (within 50 meters of potential boa habitat), needs to be thoroughly inspected each morning before work starts to ensure that no boas have sheltered within engine compartments or other areas of the equipment. If PR boas are found within vehicles or equipment, do not capture the animal, and let it move on its own or call PRDNER Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (see #4). If not possible, the animal should be left alone until it leaves the vehicle on its own.
- 8. PR boas may seek shelter in debris piles. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize boa casualties associated with sheltering in debris piles as a result of project activities. Debris piles should be placed far away from forested areas. Prior to moving, disposing or shredding, debris piles should be carefully inspected for the presence of boas. If debris piles will be left on site, we recommend they be placed in areas that will not be disturbed in the future.
- 9. If a dead PR boa is found, immediately cease all work in that area and record the information accordingly (see #5). If the PR boa was accidentally killed as part of the project actions, please include information on what conservation measures had been implemented and what actions will be taken to avoid further killings. A dead boa report should be sent by email (see contacts below) to the Service within 48 hours of the event.
- 10. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact the PRDNER for further guidance.

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

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Program Coordinator
  - o Email: jose\_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
  - o Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
  - o Email: jan\_zegarra@fws.gov
  - o Office phone (786) 933-1451



**TETRA TECH** 

Date: 3/22/2024

Source: FEMA https://gis.fema.gov

### Figure 6: ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (ABFE) MAP **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627**

ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778 Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027

### **PUERTO RICO**

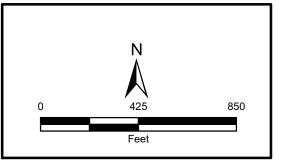
Parcels

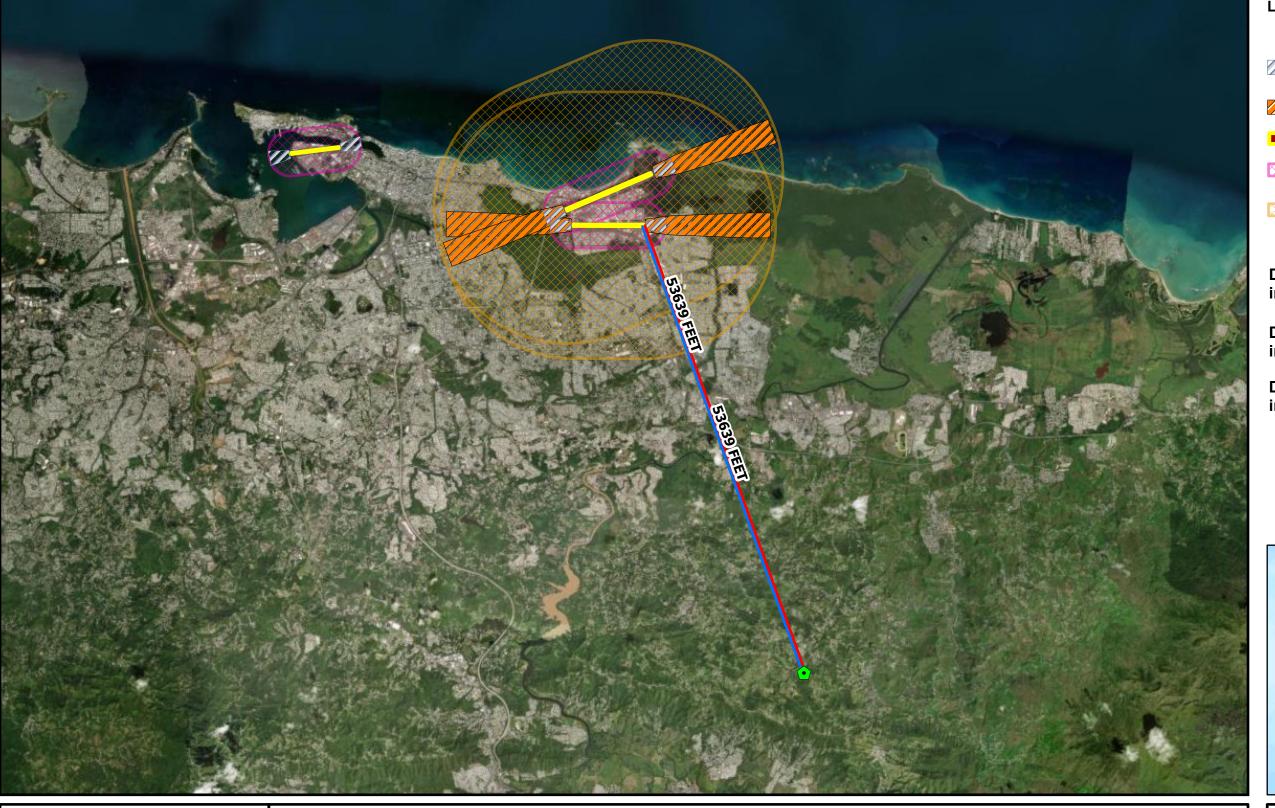
ΑE ΑO VE

ABFE Flood Zone

X (0.2 %) ACF

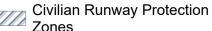






Legend

Project Parcel



Military Accident Potential Zones

Airport Runways

Civilian Airport 2,500 Feet Buffer

Military Airport 15,000 Feet Buffer

Distance to Nearest Airport in Feet: 53,639

**Distance to Nearest Civilian Airport** 

in Feet: 53,639

**Distance to Nearest Military Airport** 

in Feet: 53,639

#### **PUERTO RICO**

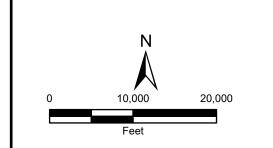


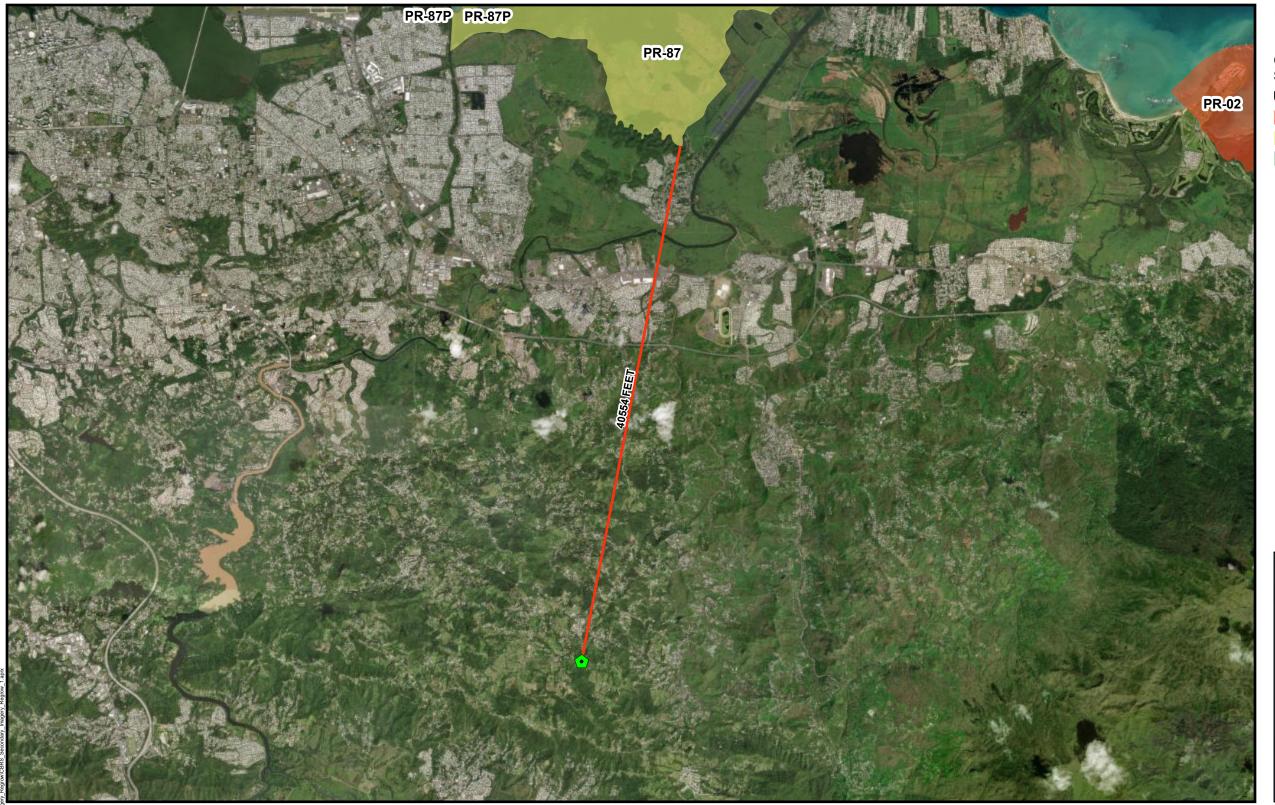


ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027







Legend

• Project Parcel

**Coastal Barrier Resources System Boundary** 

Unit

PR-02

PR-87

PR-87P

Distance to Nearest Coastal Barrier Resources System: 40554 Feet

#### **PUERTO RICO**





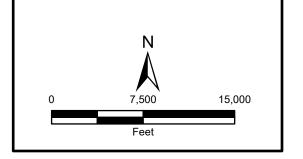
Source: U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service https://www.fws.gov

Date: 10/17/2023



ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027





Legend

Project Parcel



Distance to Nearest Coastal Zone: 35391 Feet

#### **PUERTO RICO**

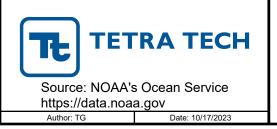


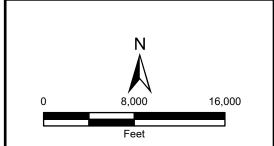


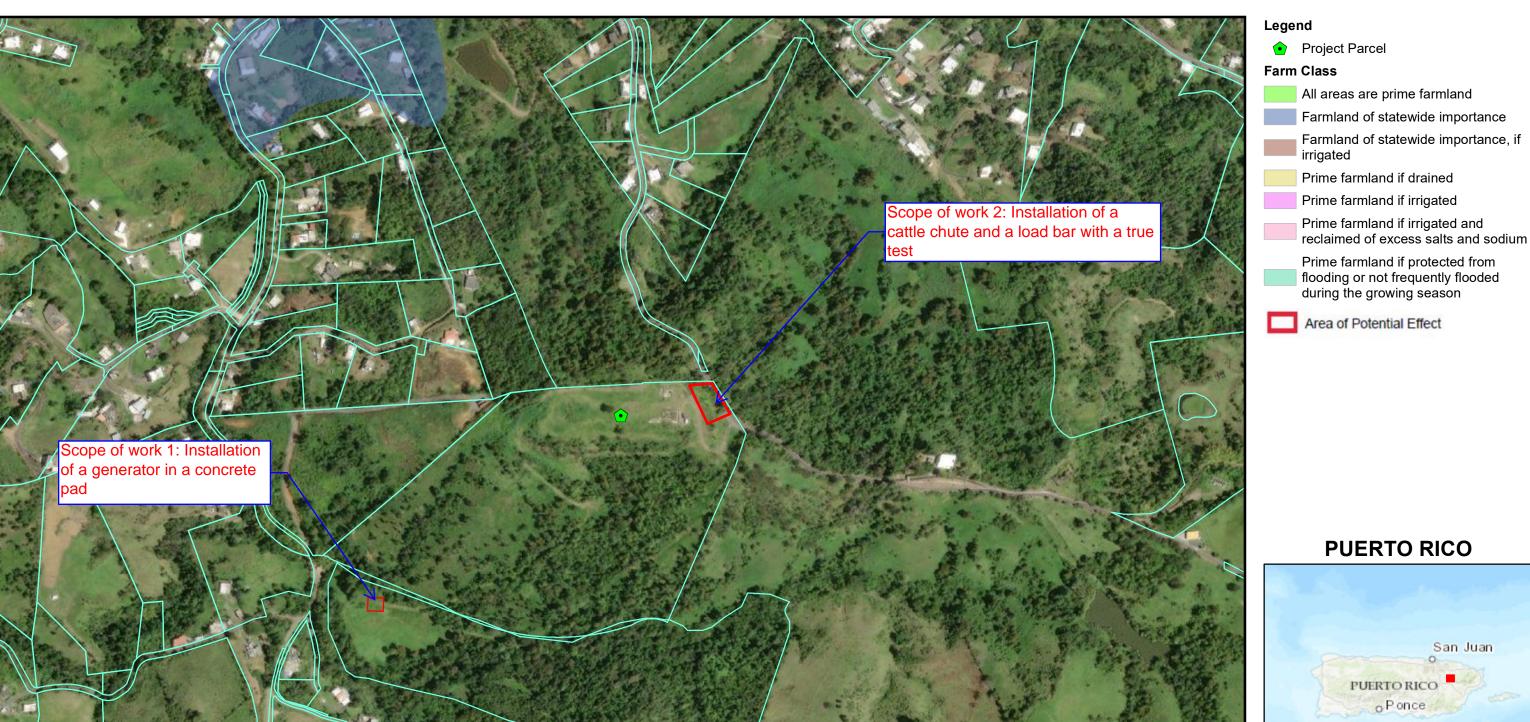
ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027







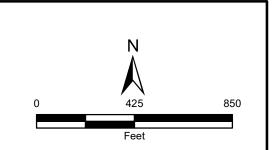


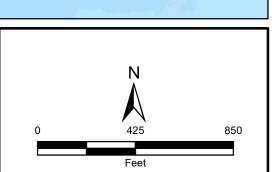
https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov

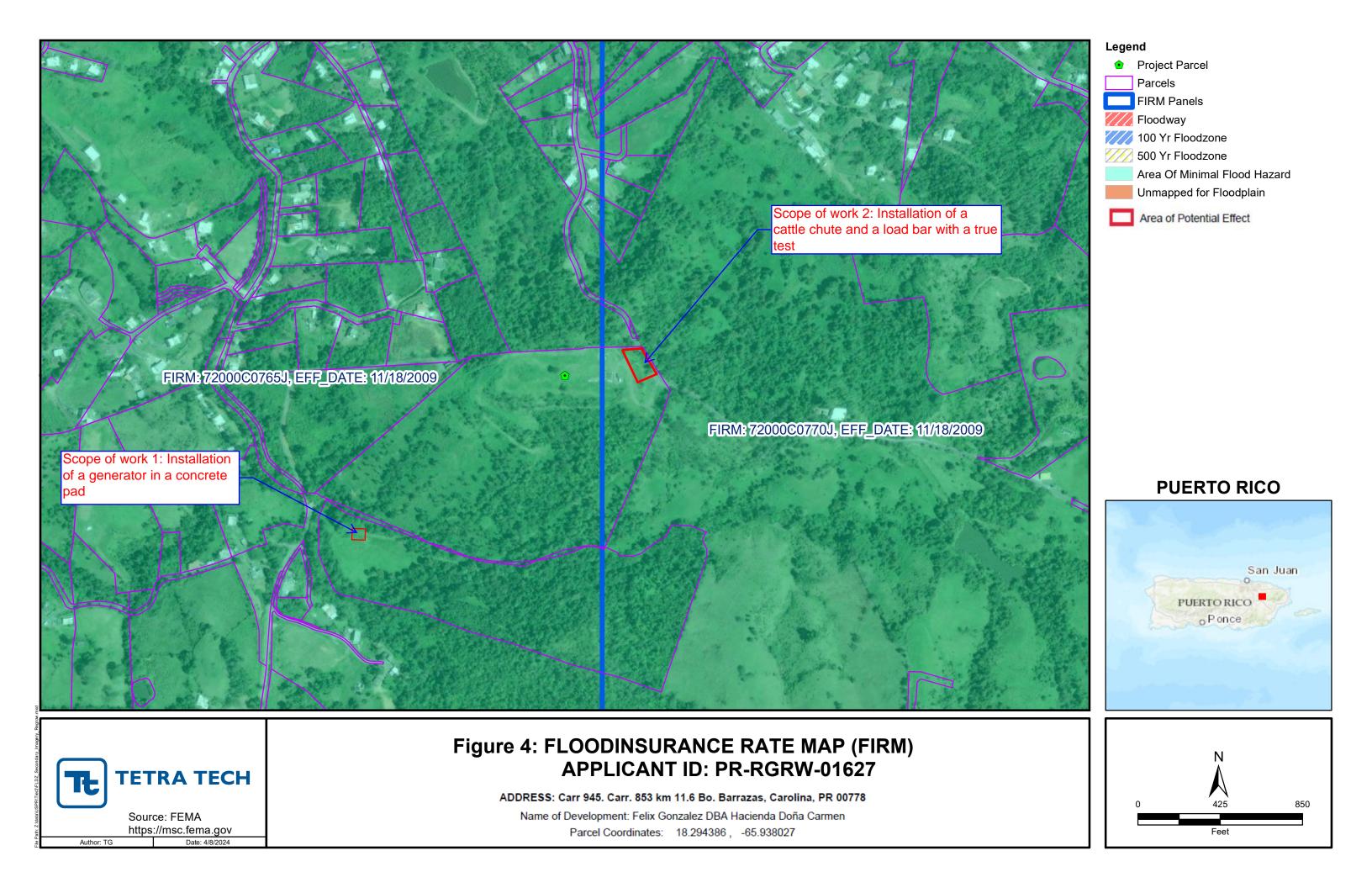
### Figure 12: FARMLAND PROTECTION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627**

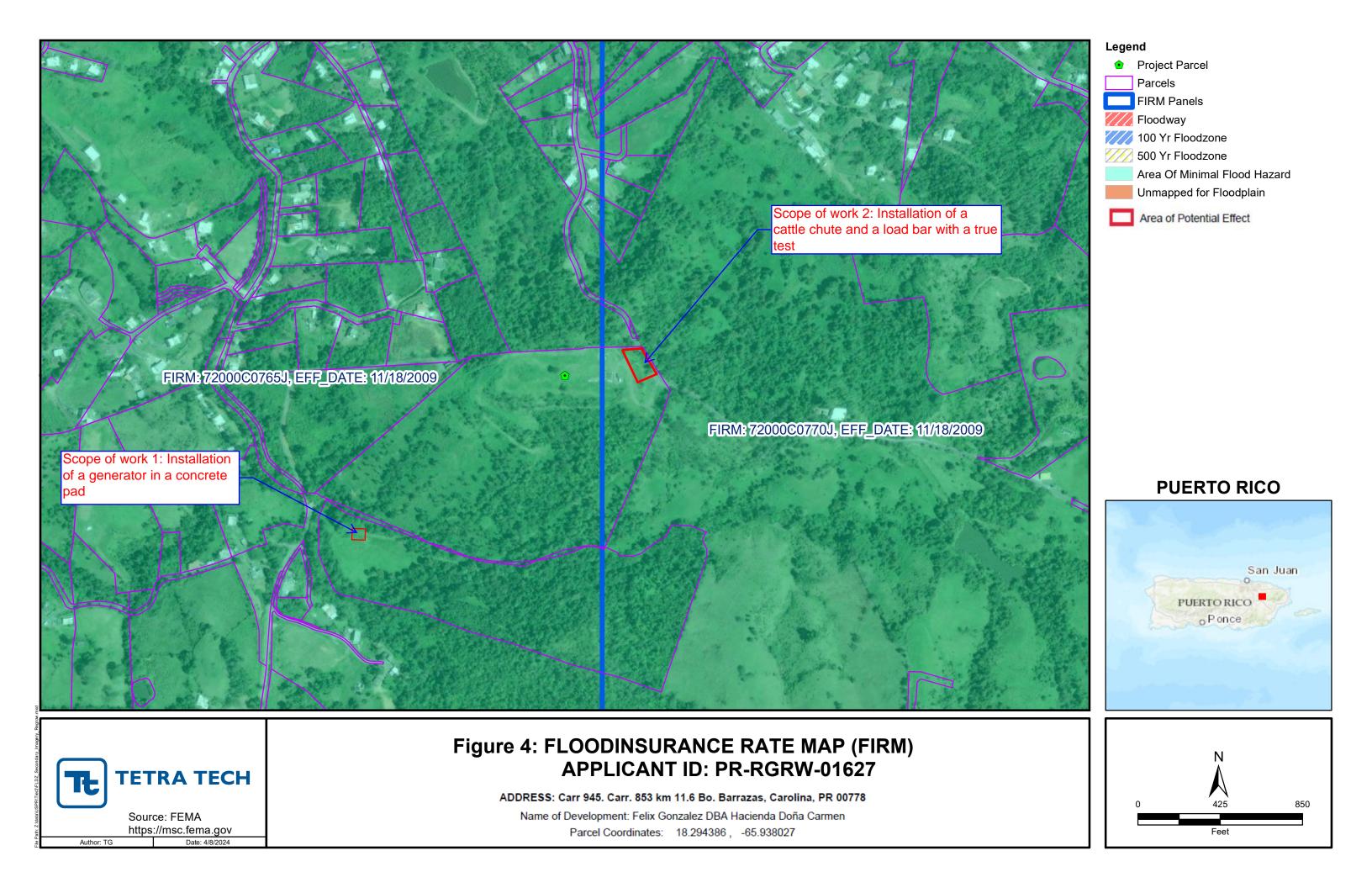
ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

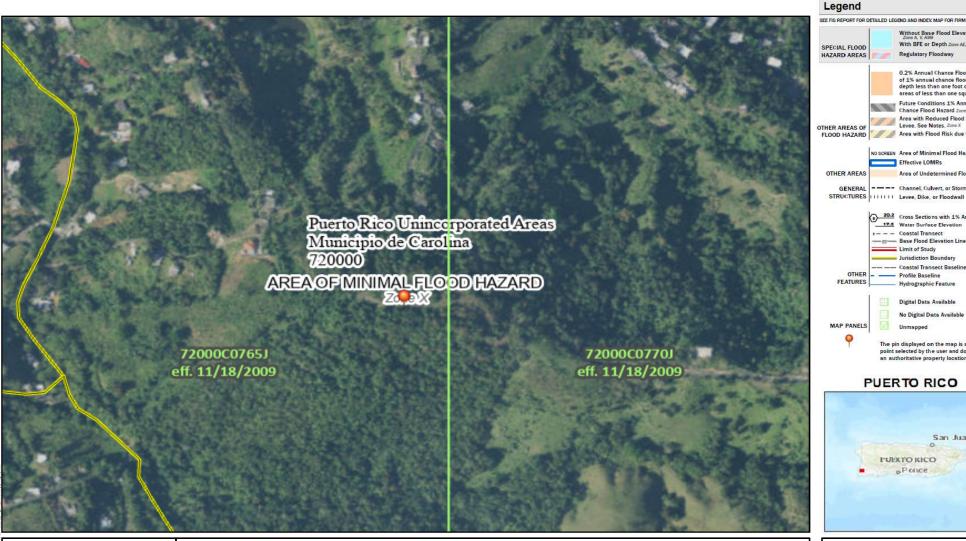
Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027











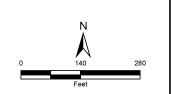
## San Juan PUEKTO RICO Ponce



#### FIGURE 5: NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER FIRMETTE APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627

ADDRESS: Carr 945, Carr, 853 km 11.6 Bo, Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027



Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR

0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zono X

Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D

Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X Effective LOMRs

--- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer

B 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance 17.5 Water Surface Elevation - - Coastal Transect

mgy---- Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE) Limit of Study Jurisdiction Boundary - Coastal Transect Baseline

> Hydrographic Feature Digital Data Available No Digital Data Available

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate

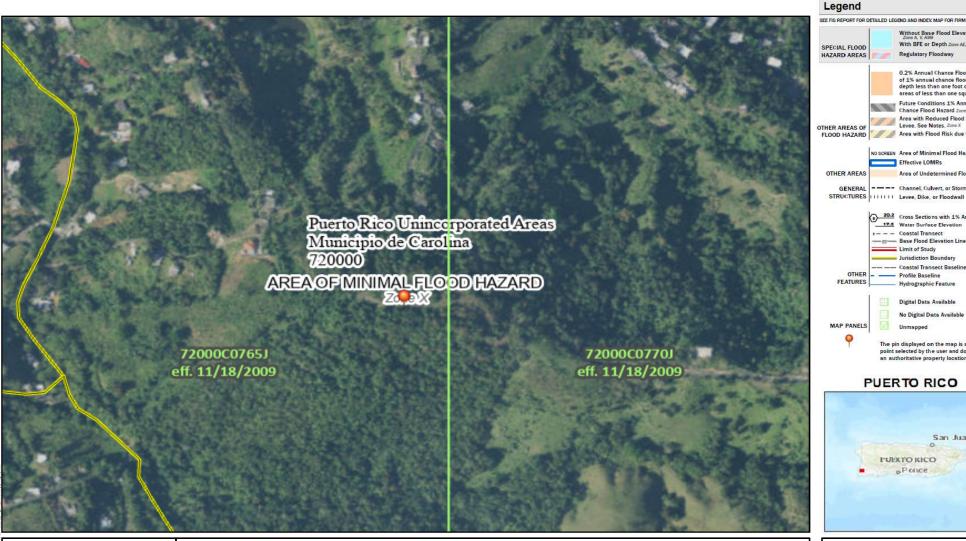
point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

Profile Baseline

**PUERTO RICO** 

FEATURES

Regulatory Floodway



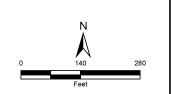
## San Juan PUEKTO RICO Ponce



#### FIGURE 5: NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER FIRMETTE APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627

ADDRESS: Carr 945, Carr, 853 km 11.6 Bo, Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027



Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR

0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zono X

Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D

Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X Effective LOMRs

--- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer

B 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance 17.5 Water Surface Elevation - - Coastal Transect

mgy---- Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE) Limit of Study Jurisdiction Boundary - Coastal Transect Baseline

> Hydrographic Feature Digital Data Available No Digital Data Available

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate

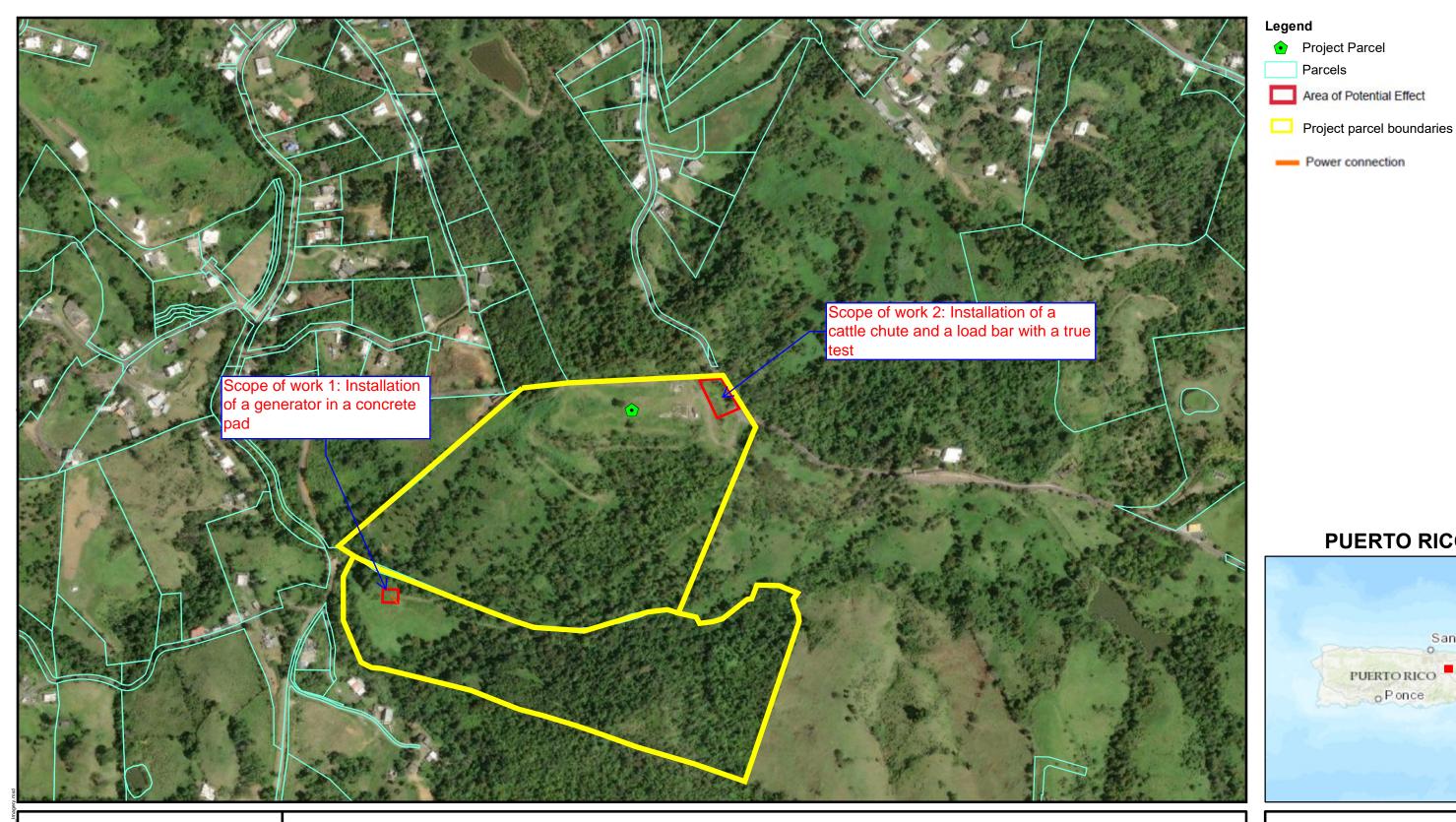
point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

Profile Baseline

**PUERTO RICO** 

FEATURES

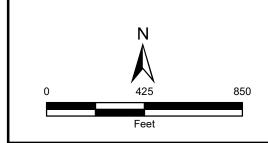
Regulatory Floodway





ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027



**PUERTO RICO** 

PUERTO RICO

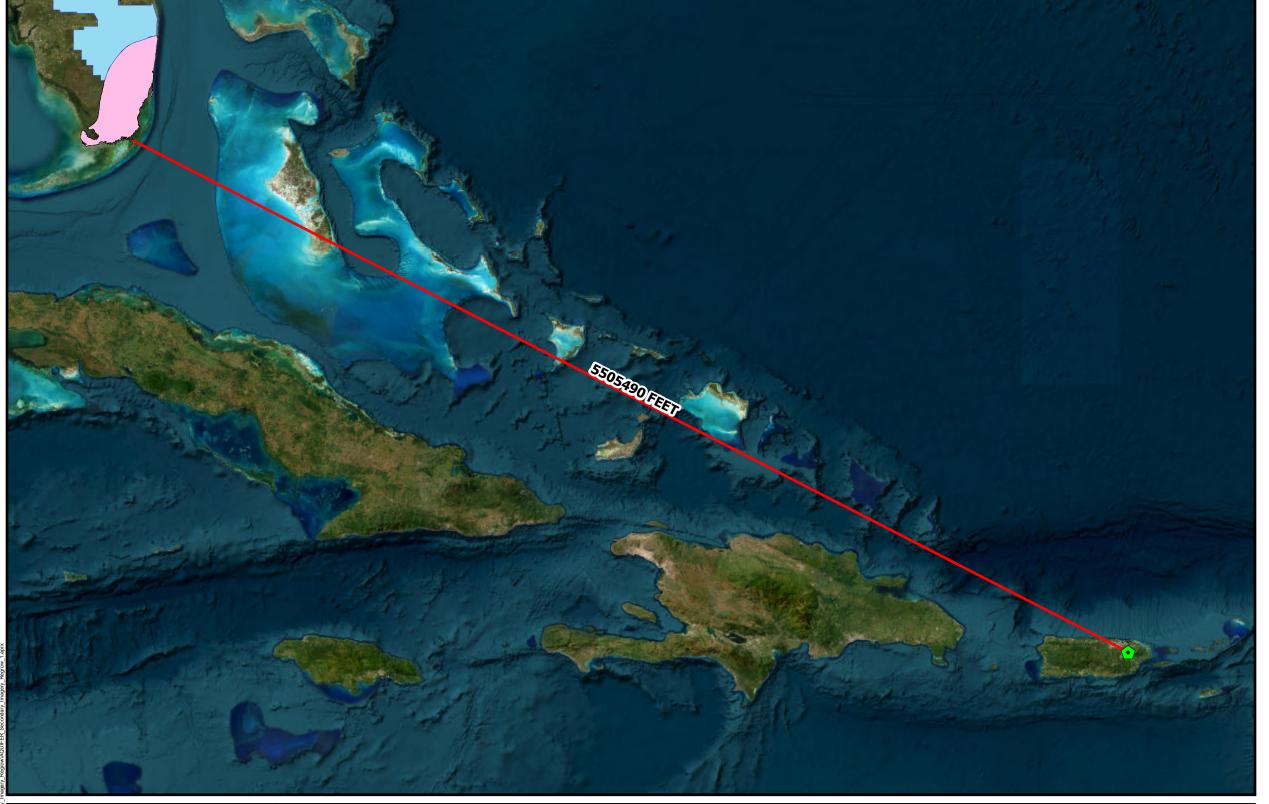
o Ponce

San Juan

Parcels

**TETRA TECH** https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/

Date: 3/22/2024



Project Parcel
Sole Source Aquifer
Biscayne Aquifer SSA

Biscayne Aquifer SSA
Streamflow and Recharge
Source Zones

Distance to Nearest Aquifer: 5,505,490 FT

#### **PUERTO RICO**

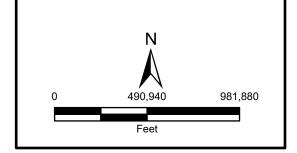


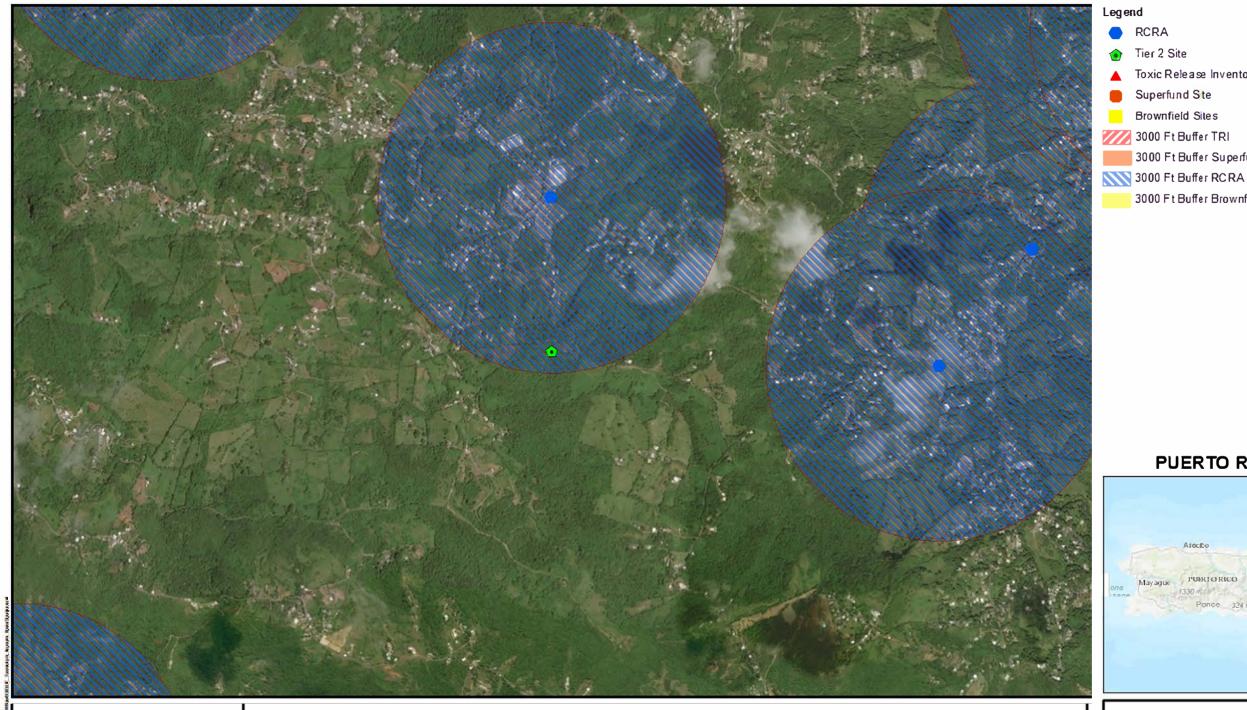


## Figure 17: SOLE SOURCE AQUIFERS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627

ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027

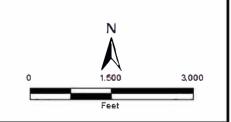




#### Figure 8: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND GASES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, **CONTAMINATION, AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES**

ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027



**PUERTO RICO** 

RCRA Tier 2 Site

Superfund Ste Brownfield Sites

Toxic Release Inventory Site

3000 Ft Buffer Superfund

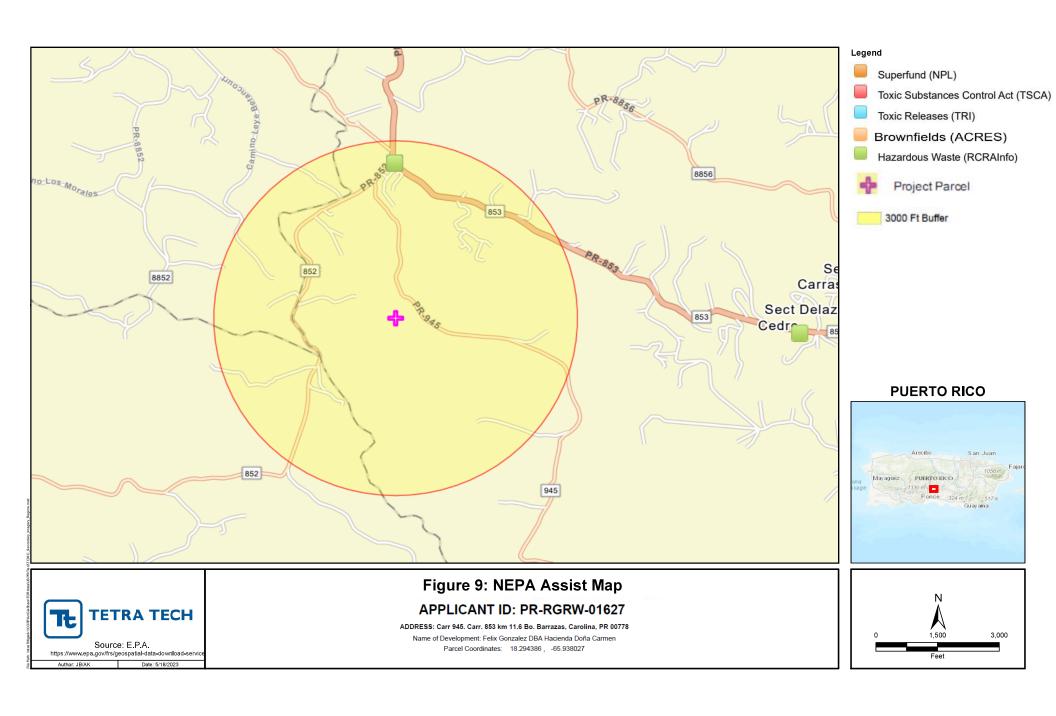
3000 Ft Buffer Brownfield

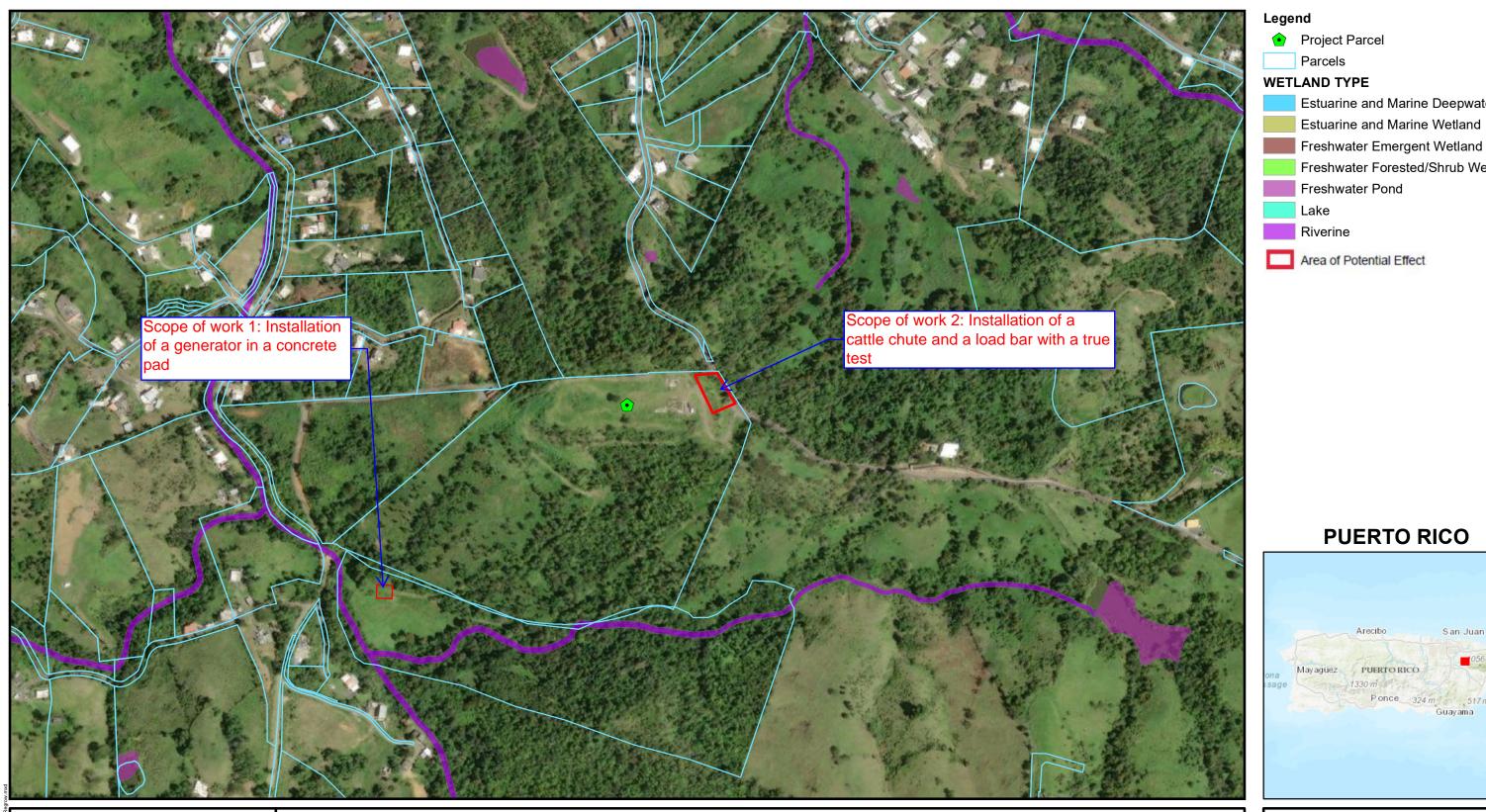
**APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627** 

Source: E.P.A.
https://www.epa.gov/fis/geospatial-daia-download-service

**TETRA TECH** 

Date: 11/2/2022





**TETRA TECH** 

Date: 3/22/2024

Source: U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

https://www.fws.gov

Figure 14: WETLANDS **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627** 

ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen

Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027



Parcels

Lake Riverine

Freshwater Pond

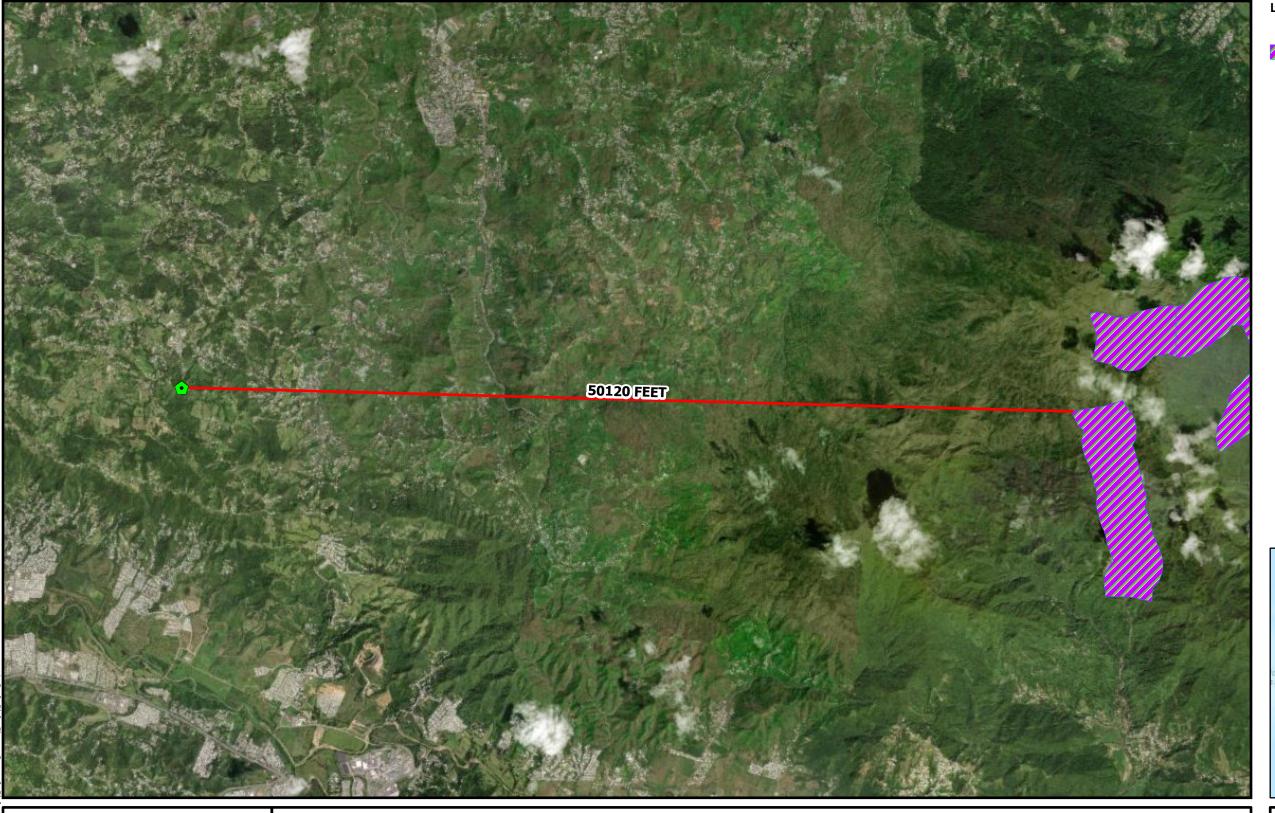
Estuarine and Marine Deepwater Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Ponce 324 m 517 m Guayama

**PUERTO RICO** 

Mayagüez PUERTO RICO



Legend
Project Parcel
Wild and Scenic Rivers

Distance to Nearest Wild and Scenic River: 50120 Feet

#### **PUERTO RICO**



## Figure 15: WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01627

ADDRESS: Carr 945. Carr. 853 km 11.6 Bo. Barrazas, Carolina, PR 00778

Name of Development: Felix Gonzalez DBA Hacienda Doña Carmen Parcel Coordinates: 18.294386, -65.938027



**TETRA TECH** 

Date: 10/23/2023

Source: U. S. Forest Service

https://www.fs.usda.gov

0 5,000 10,000 Feet