



**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-01647-W-RE

HEROS Number: 900000010367173

Start Date: 11/22/2023

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , Adjuntas, PR 00601

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.151592, longitude -66.80929 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 289-000-001-19-000

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

This project (PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to FINCA/Marcos Morales Santiago, an agricultural business, at Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Adjuntas, PR 00601. Tax ID Number: 289-000-001-19-000. Coordinates (18.151592, -66.80929). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of farm equipment including an UTV, fertilizers and herbicides for project cost of \$28,573.00. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes scope items previously considered as an EA level of review (water pump, water tank and photovoltaic system) which are now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$7,100.35. The Scope of work-1 (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of a solar panel system at 18.151681, -66.809198. The photovoltaic system will consist of 6 solar panels with an approximate footprint of 10-foot (ft) X 10 ft to be installed aboveground on wood poles. The structural supporting poles will be anchored to ground at an approximate depth of 3 ft. The batteries and transfer switch for the solar panels will be installed in an existing structure, located at coordinates 18.151662, -66.809277, next to SOW-1 location area. All electrical connections needed for the system will be aboveground. The Scope of work 2 (SOW-2) for this project consists of the purchase and installation of a 410 gallons water tank with a 0.5 hp water pump at coordinates 18.151731, -66.809091. The purpose of the SOW-2 is to use the stored water to provide the water needed for agricultural purposes. Applicant plans to fill the storage water tank by transporting and manually filling the tank with water from the existing well. Water needed for irrigation and other purposes will be dispensed from the storage tank with the use a hose. The water cistern will be installed directly on the ground, no concrete or prefabricated pad is included as part of the SOW-2. The proposed project does not include power or water utility connection to local utility services. The agricultural activities of the farm will be powered with the use of the proposed solar system and the water demand will be supplied with the use of the water stored in the proposed tank. The project site will require clearing, grading, and vegetation removal. However, the proposal does not contemplate cutting,

pruning or transplanting of trees. The project FINCA/Marcos Morales Santiago, PR-RGRW-01647-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, 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

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

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$7,100.35

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$7,100.35

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 Species Act	The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office reviewed the information provided and their files, and on December 12, 2024, concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, Puerto	N/A	

	<p>Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk, Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly, West Indian Walnut, Elfin Tree Fern, and Polystichum calderonense.</p> <p>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 Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (4) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (5) if a Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (6) areas will be re-inspected before any vegetation clearing or earth work starts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
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Determination:

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

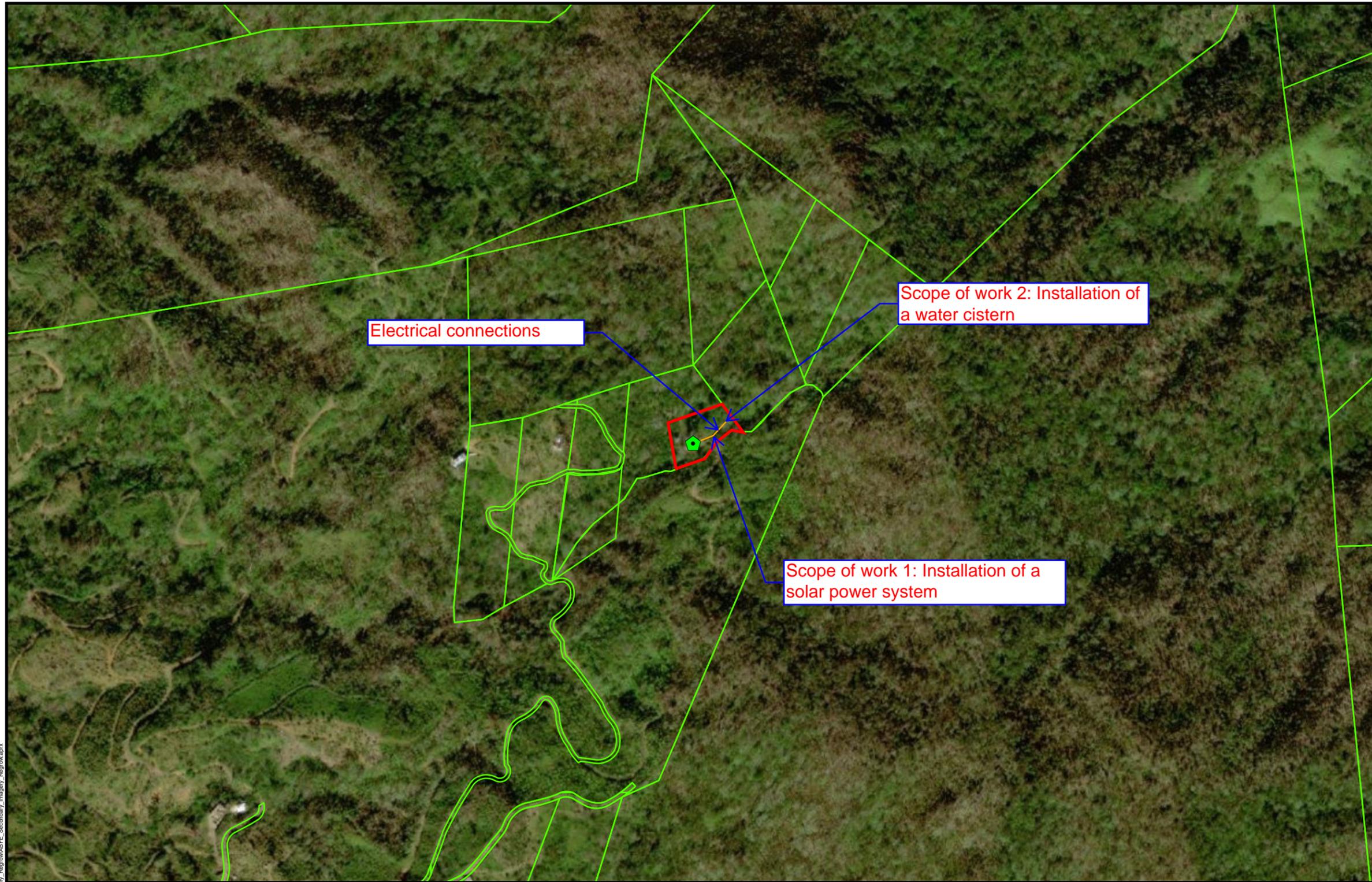
Preparer Signature:  Date: April.24.2025

Name / Title/ Organization: Ianmario Heredia / /Department of Housing - Puerto Rico

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:  Date: 6/12/2025

Name/ Title: _____

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).



- Legend**
- ◆ Project Parcel
 - Parcels
- Legend**
- ◆ Project Parcel
 - Parcels
 - ABFE Flood Zone
 - A
 - AE
 - AO
 - VE
 - X (0.2% ACF)
 - Area of Potential Effect
 - Power connections

PUERTO RICO



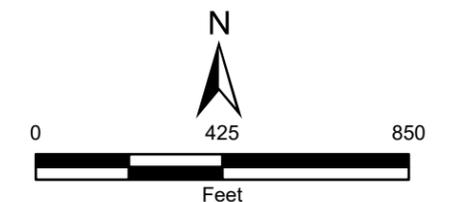
**Figure 6: ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (ABFE) MAP
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647**

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601
 Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago
 Parcel Coordinates :18.151592 , -66.80929



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

Author: TG Date: 2/13/2024



File Path: Z:\data\USRT\Tier2\Regrow\pr\ABFE_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\ABFE_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



Legend

-  Project Parcel
-  Civilian Runway Protection Zones
-  Military Accident Potential Zones
-  Airport Runways
-  Civilian Airport 2,500 Feet Buffer
-  Military Airport 15,000 Feet Buffer

**Distance to Nearest Airport
in Feet: 95,670**

**Distance to Nearest Civilian Airport
in Feet: 95,670**

**Distance to Nearest Military Airport
in Feet: 294,227**

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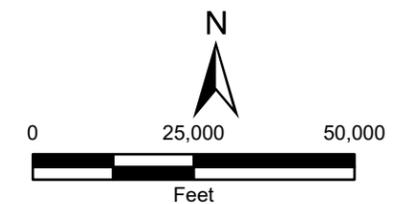
Figure 2: AIRPORT ZONES
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601
Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago
Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592 , -66.809290

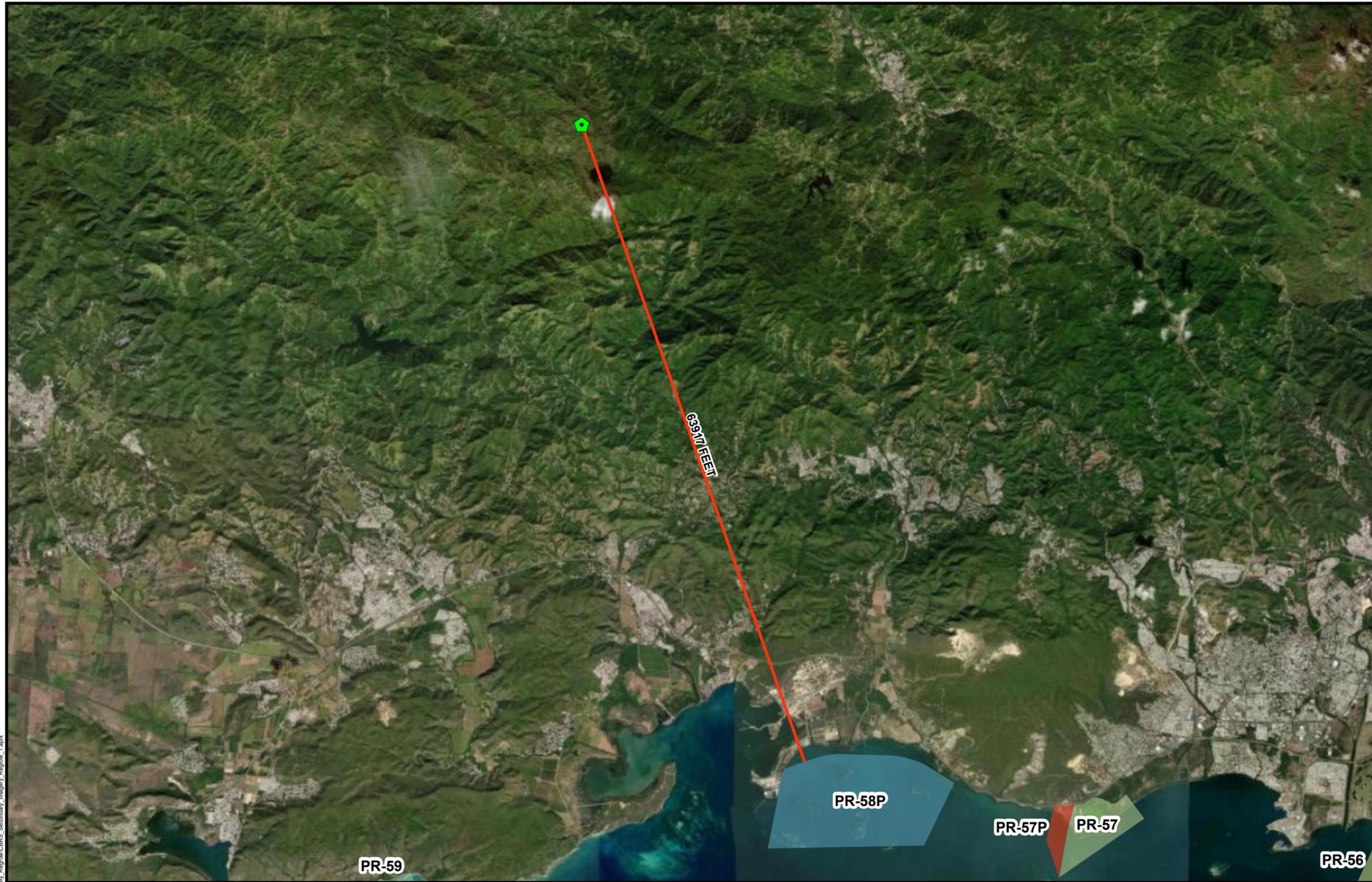


Source: USDOT
<https://www.faa.gov>

Author: TG Date: 2/14/2024



File Path: Z:\data\USRT\Tier2\Regrow\APRZ_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\APRZ_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow_5.aprx



Legend

Project Parcel

Coastal Barrier Resources System Boundary

Unit

- PR-56
- PR-57
- PR-57P
- PR-58P
- PR-59

Distance to Nearest Coastal Barrier Resources System:
63917 Feet

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File Path: Z:\data\USFWS\Regrow\CBRS_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow_L1.apr



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

Author: TG

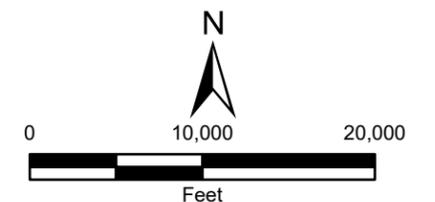
Date: 10/17/2023

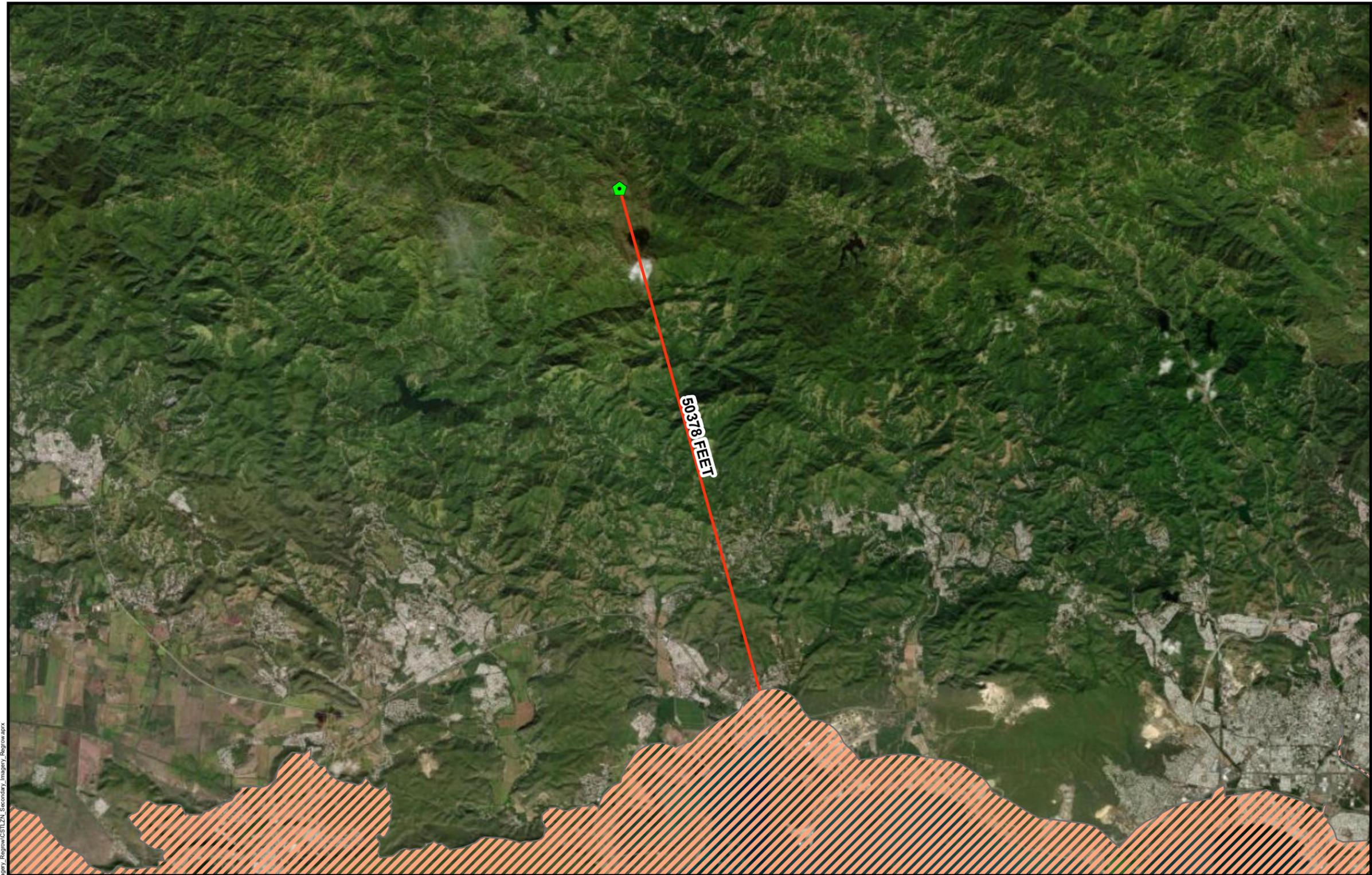
Figure 3: COASTAL BARRIERS IMPROVEMENT ACT
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601

Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago

Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592, -66.809290



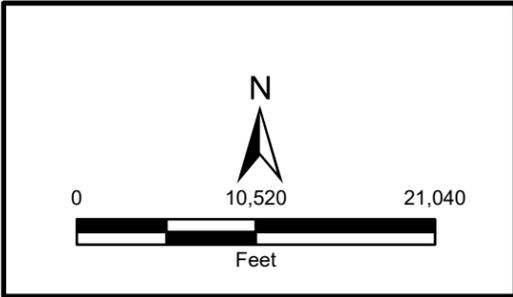


Legend

-  Project Parcel
-  Coastal Zone Management Boundary

Distance to Nearest Coastal Zone:
50378 Feet

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**Figure 7: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647**

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601
Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago
Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592, -66.809290



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

Author: TG Date: 10/17/2023

File Path: Z:\data\USRT\Tier2\Regrow\pr\CSLZN_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\CSLZN_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx

Environmental Field Observation - Puerto Rico Department of Housing

APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Application ID	PR-RGRW-01647		
Applicant Name	FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago		
Property Address	Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní		
Parcel ID	289-000-001-19		
Coordinates	18.151592, -66.80929		
Inspector Name	Javier Ramos		
Inspection Date	12/27/2023		
Building Type	Wooden Frame		
Number of Units	0		
Number of Stories	0		
Year Built; Data Source	----; Historian		
ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS (attach photos and notes, as necessary, for any YES answers)			
OBSERVATION ITEMS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
A. Is the structure in use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	House Scope area
B. Is structure a greenhouse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
C. Is Electricity connected?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
D. Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1. Are there signs of poor housekeeping on site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, storm debris, solid waste, petroleum products, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, vehicle batteries, abandoned vehicles, pits, pools, ponds of hazardous substances, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Are there any 55-gallon drums visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Are there any (or signs of any) underground storage tanks on the property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Are there signs of ASTs on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5. Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. Is a water drainage system in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is a warehouse in use for storage of Fertilizer or Pesticides ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9. Is there evidence of a faulty septic system ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is there any visible indication of MOLD ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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

Additional Notes:

Case: PR-RGW-01647
Project Name: FINCA/ Marcos Morales Santiago
Coordinates: 18.151681, -66.809198

Is the field graded? For what purpose the field was graded? Month, Year: None

Scope of Work: The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of a solar panel system and water cistern.

Land current in use for: The farm is used for growing citrus trees and bees

Past Land use was: The farm was used for growing coffee.

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

Scope of work 1: 18.151681, -66.809198, The purchase and installation of a solar panel system, of 8 solar panels to power the farm. Approximately the footprint for the installation of the system will be 10' X 10. The project will be installed over the ground, on wood poles. The batteries and transfer switch for the solar panels will be installed in a small structure next to this scope of work in the coordinates: 18.151662, -66.809277

Scope of work 2: 18.151731, -66.809091, The purchase and installation of a water cistern of 500 gallons and a water pump, to provide water to the farm. Applicant informed he will collected water from existing wells and carry the water to the cistern in vehicle. He will use a hose for water dispense. The water cistern will be installed in the ground.

Any new water connection or power connection?

Water and power infrastructure doesn't not exist in the farm. New water connection with a cistern and the new power connection with solar panels.

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

Front of Structure

Photo Direction: Northwest



Facing Away From Front

Photo Direction: Southeast



Side #1 of Structure

Photo Direction: Northeast



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction: Southwest



Back of Structure

Photo Direction: Southwest



Facing Away From Back

Photo Direction: Northeast



Side #2 of Structure

Photo Direction: Southwest



Facing Away From Side #2

Photo Direction: Northeast



Streetscape #1

Photo Direction: Northeast



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction: Southwest



Address

Photo Direction: Southeast



Outbuildings

Photo Description: House

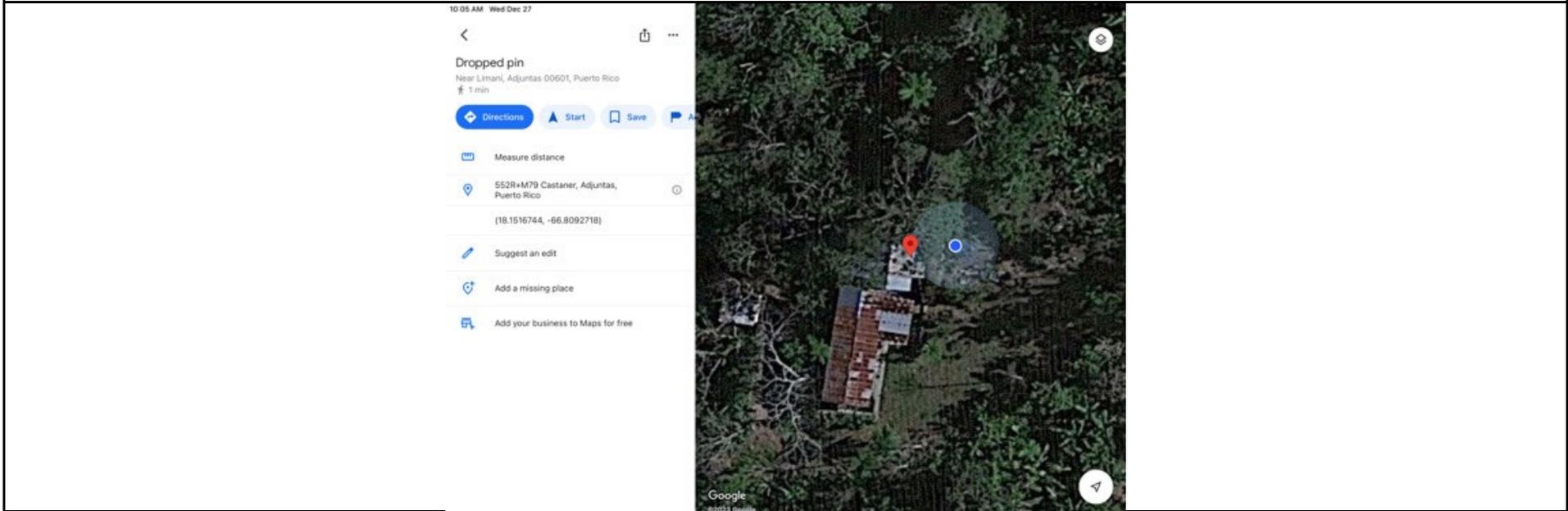
Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North



Structure Occupied

Photo Description: House

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structure Occupied

Photo Description: Scope structure

Photo Direction: North



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 1: Solar panels system

Photo Direction: Southwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 1: Solar panels system

Photo Direction: Northwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work 2: Cistern installation

Photo Direction: Northeast



**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-01647-W-RE

HEROS Number: 900000010367173

Start Date: 11/22/2023

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: , Adjuntas, PR 00601

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.151592, longitude -66.80929 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 289-000-001-19-000

Direct Comments to: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

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

This project (PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to FINCA/Marcos Morales Santiago, an agricultural business, at Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Adjuntas, PR 00601. Tax ID Number: 289-000-001-19-000. Coordinates (18.151592, -66.80929). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of farm equipment including an UTV, fertilizers and herbicides for project cost of \$28,573.00. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes scope items previously considered as an EA level of review (water pump, water tank and photovoltaic system) which are now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$7,100.35. The Scope of work-1 (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of a solar panel system at 18.151681, -66.809198. The photovoltaic system will consist of 6 solar panels with an approximate footprint of 10-foot (ft) X 10 ft to be installed aboveground on wood poles. The structural supporting poles will be anchored to ground at an approximate depth of 3 ft. The batteries and transfer switch for the solar panels will be installed in an existing structure, located at coordinates 18.151662, -66.809277, next to SOW-1 location area. All electrical connections needed for the system will be aboveground. The Scope of work 2 (SOW-2) for this project consists of the purchase and installation of a 410 gallons water tank with a 0.5 hp water pump at coordinates 18.151731, -66.809091. The purpose of the SOW-2 is to use the stored water to provide the water needed for agricultural purposes. Applicant plans to fill the storage water tank by transporting and manually filling the tank with water from the existing well. Water needed for irrigation and other purposes will be dispensed from the storage tank with the use a hose. The water cistern will be installed directly on the ground, no concrete or prefabricated pad is included as part of the SOW-2. The proposed project does not include power or water utility connection to local utility services. The agricultural activities of the farm will be powered with the use of the proposed solar system and the water demand will be supplied with the use of the water stored in the proposed tank. The project site will require clearing, grading, and vegetation removal. However, the proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees. The project FINCA/Marcos Morales Santiago, PR-RGRW-01647-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, 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-01647-W-RE Site Map.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE IUGF CEST.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01647 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-01647-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 EXEMPT per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
✓	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds" (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR
	This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).

Approval Documents:

[01647-SIG-PAGE\(1\).pdf](#)

7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer on:

7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer on:

Reevaluation of a Completed Review

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

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

It was determined that the original findings were still valid.

Statement or memo documenting determination:

The project FINCA/Marcos Morales Santiago, PR-RGRW-01647-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, 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-01647 CENST ERR\(1\).pdf](#)

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

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

Funding Information

Grant / Project Identification Number	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount

B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded, Assisted or Insured Amount: \$7,100.35

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$7,100.35

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6		
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil airport, "Mercedita International Airport (PSE)", is approximately 95,670 feet from the proposed site. The nearest military airport, "Aeropuerto Internacional Luis Munoz Marin", is approximately 294,227 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]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is at 63,917 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C1070H, effective on 4/19/2005: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be

		mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5		
Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
Coastal Zone Management Act Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	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 50,378 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)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements. At the time of this review, this section has not been updated in HEROS to include questions regarding radon. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. See attached radon documents.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	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.

Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C1070H, effective on 4/19/2005: 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 Adjuntas; 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.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in

amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149		Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. 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)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 356,069 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
HUD HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS		
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Mitigation Plan	Complete
Endangered Species Act	<p>The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office reviewed the information provided and their files, and on December 12, 2024, concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk, Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly, West Indian Walnut, Elfin Tree Fern, and Polystichum calderonense.</p> <p>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 Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (4) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (5) if a Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (6) areas will be re-inspected before any</p>	N/A		

	<p>vegetation clearing or earth work starts.</p> <p>Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if:</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>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.</p>			
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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. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office reviewed the information provided and their files, and on December 12, 2024, concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk, Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly, West Indian Walnut, Elfin Tree Fern, and Polystichum calderonense. 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 Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (4) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (5) if a Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (6) areas will be re-inspected before any vegetation clearing or earth work starts. 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 prevent incompatible development around civil airports and military airfields.		24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D

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

No

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil airport, "Mercedita International Airport (PSE)", is approximately 95,670 feet from the proposed site. The nearest military airport, "Aeropuerto Internacional Luis Munoz Marin", is approximately 294,227 feet from the proposed site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE Airports.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Coastal Barrier Resources

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

1. Is the project located in a CBRS Unit?

No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is at 63,917 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-01647-W-RE CBRS.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Flood Insurance

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

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

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

✓ Yes

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

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE FIRM 2.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01647-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. 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 72000C1070H, effective on 4/19/2005: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

Supporting documentation**Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?**

Yes

✓ No

Air Quality

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Coastal Zone Management Act

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

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

Yes

No

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 50,378 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE CZM.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Contamination and Toxic Substances

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

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

ASTM Phase I ESA

ASTM Phase II ESA

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

None of the above

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

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

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

No

Explain:

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[Radon Attachments.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE Toxics 2.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE Toxics 1.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE Radon Memo.docx](#)

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE EFOR\(1\).pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Endangered Species

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

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

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

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

- ✓ 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 December 12, 2024, concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk, Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly, West Indian Walnut, Elfin Tree Fern, and Polystichum calderonense. 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 Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (4) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (5) if a Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (6) areas will be re-inspected before any vegetation clearing or earth work starts. 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-01647-W-RE USFWS Consultation Package.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE USFWS Conservation Measures.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-01647-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 Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD) requirements to protect them from explosive and flammable hazards.	N/A	24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C

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

No

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Farmlands Protection

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

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

Yes

No

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

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-01647-W-RE Farmlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Floodplain Management

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

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

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

None of the above

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

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE FIRM 2.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-01647-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 72000C1070H, effective on 4/19/2005: 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 Adjuntas; 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-01647-W-RE ABFE.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Historic Preservation

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

Threshold

Is Section 106 review required for your project?

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

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

Step 1 – Initiate Consultation

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

- ✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

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

Other Consulting Parties

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

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

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

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

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

Additional Notes:

No Historic Properties present within the APE

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

- Yes
- ✓ No

Step 3 –Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

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

per guidance on direct and indirect effects.

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

No Historic Properties Affected

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

Document reason for finding:

No historic properties present.

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

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE SHPO Consultation Package.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Noise Abatement and Control

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

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

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

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

An interstate land sales registration

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

None of the above

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Sole Source Aquifers

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

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

Yes

No

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

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

< No

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

Yes

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

Yes

No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE Sole Source Aquifers.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wetlands Protection

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

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

No

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01647-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 provides federal protection for certain free-flowing, wild, scenic and recreational rivers designated as components or potential components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) from the effects of construction or development.	The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287), particularly section 7(b) and (c) (16 U.S.C. 1278(b) and (c))	36 CFR Part 297

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

No

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

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 356,069 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE Wild and Scenic.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Environmental Justice

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

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

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

Yes

No

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

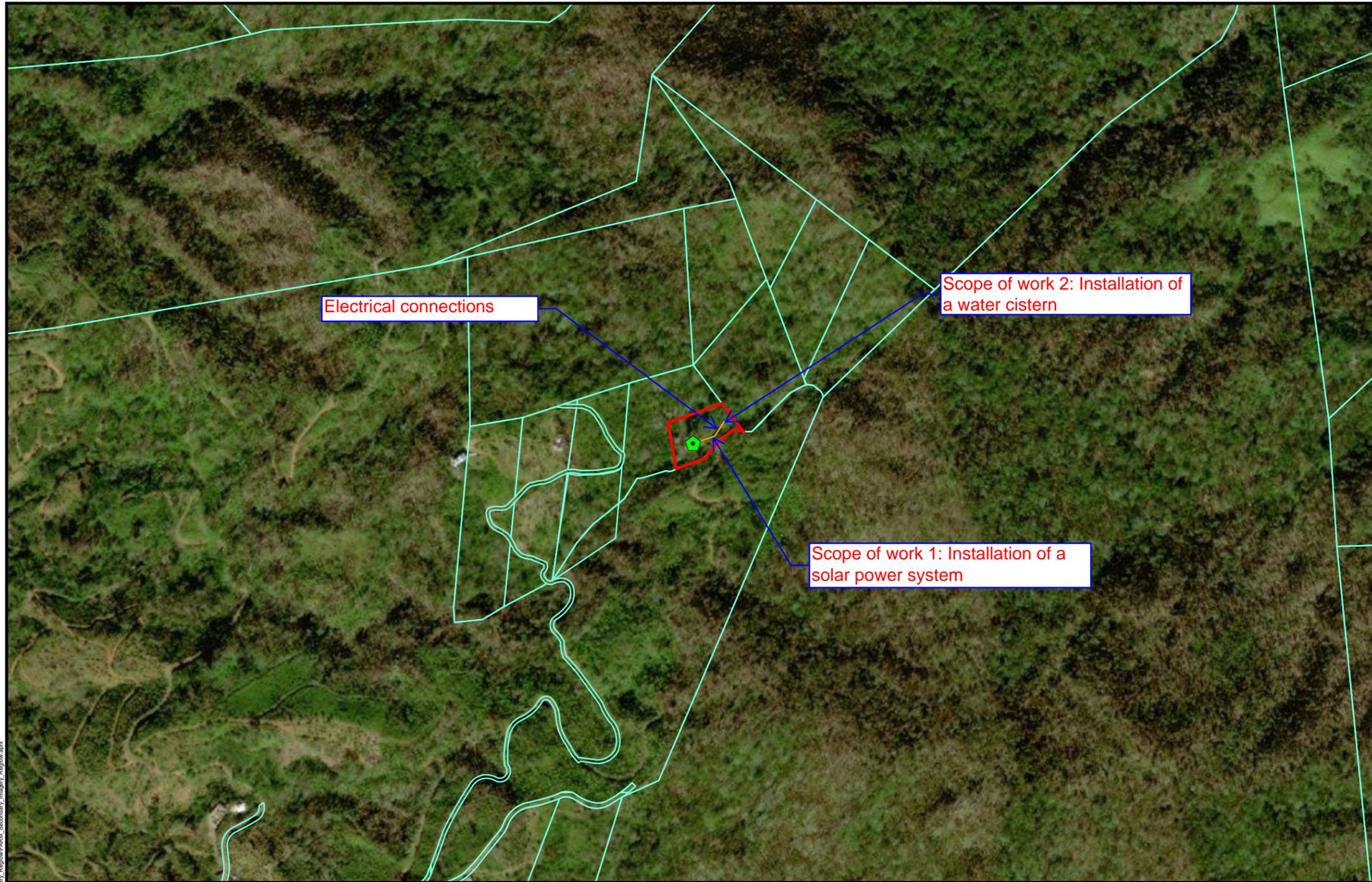
No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity",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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No



Legend

Project Parcel

Farm Class

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
- Prime farmland if drained
- Prime farmland if irrigated
- Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
- Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Area of Potential Effect

Power connections

PUERTO RICO



Figure 12: FARMLAND PROTECTION

APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601

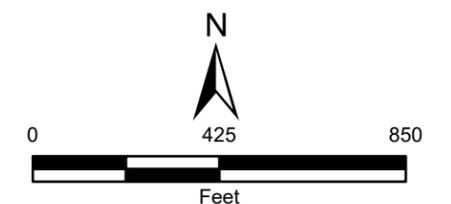
Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago

Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592, -66.80929



Source: USDA
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

Author: TG Date: 11/3/2023





- Legend**
- Project Parcel
 - Parcels
 - FIRM Panels
 - Floodway
 - 100 Yr Floodzone
 - 500 Yr Floodzone
 - Area Of Minimal Flood Hazard
 - Unmapped for Floodplain
 - Area of Potential Effect
 - Power connections



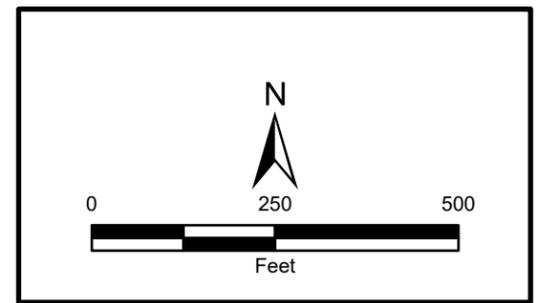
**Figure 4: FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM)
 APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647**

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601
 Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago
 Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592, -66.80929



Source: FEMA
<https://msc.fema.gov>

Author: TG Date: 1/4/2024



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DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



Memorandum to File

Date: 4/14/2025

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

Application Number: PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE

Project: FINCA/Marcos Morales Santiago

Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-RGRW-01647-W-RE under the Regrow Puerto Rico Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

April 28, 2023

Lauren Bair Poche

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

SHPO: 04-04-23-04 PUERTO RICO DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR RE-GROW PR URBAN-RURAL AGRICULTURAL RE-GROW PROGRAM, PR-RGRW-01647, FINCA, CARR. 374 KM 5.5 INT., BO. LIMANÍ, ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Poche,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela
State Historic Preservation Officer
CARC/GMO/LCC



April 4, 2023

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela
Director Ejecutivo
Oficina Estatal de Conservación Histórica
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-001647 – FINCA – Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int. Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected*

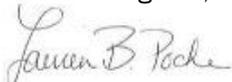
Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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 was approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 28, 83 FR 5844, to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in meeting unmet needs in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. On August 14, 2018, an additional \$8.22 billion recovery allocation was allocated to Puerto Rico under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 157, 83 FR 40314. With these funding allocations, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (Housing) aims to lead a comprehensive and transparent recovery for the benefit of Puerto Rico residents.

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, we are submitting documentation for activities proposed by FINCA at Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int. Bo. Limaní in the municipality of Adjuntas. The proposed activities for FINCA include the installation of new solar panels and the installation of a new cistern. These new utilities will require the construction of concrete bases in addition to new concrete bases for above-ground waterlines from the cistern, which will require ground disturbance. 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 lauren.poche@horne.com or phone at 225-405-7676 with any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards,



Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Senior Manager

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		
Applicant Name: FINCA		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647	City: Adjuntas	

Project Location: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int. Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, 00601	
Project Coordinates: 18.151592, -66.80929	
TPID (Número de Catastro): 289-000-001-19-000	
Type of Undertaking: <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size (acres): 3.1 acres

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: n/a
Date Reviewed: n/a
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jennifer Ort, M.S.
Date Reviewed: 3/10/2023

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

Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed activities for FINCA includes the installation of new solar panels at 18.151625, -66.809479 and the installation of a new cistern at 18.151766, -66.809107. These new utilities will require the construction of concrete bases in addition to new concrete bases for above-ground waterlines from the cistern, which will require ground disturbance. The project area is located at Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int. Bo. Limaní within the Municipality of Adjuntas in a rural residential setting. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery and topographic mapping, the general area was undeveloped, with ridgetops and side slopes consisting of secondary tree growth (1940 aerial imagery, the earliest available aerial imagery through 1959). By 1977, numerous roads are present, including the eventual road into the project area; however, no structures are present. A ca. 1995 structure is present within the project area, constructed between 1977 and 10/16/1993, per aerial imagery.

Area of Potential Effects

As defined in 36 CFR 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 a 15-meter buffer around the proposed locations of the cistern, solar panels, and around the structure to accommodate utility connections

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant Name: FINCA	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647	City: Adjuntas

(see attached Area of Potential Effect map). The visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this Undertaking. The review of this current information by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61) shows that there are no reported significant cultural properties within a half-mile (mi) radius of the project location. The proposed project is in a rural area within the Mountainous Interior physiographic zone, at an elevation of 3,382 feet (ft; 1,030.8 meters [m]) above modern sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses one mapped soil series: Los Guineos-Maricao association, steep (LyFX). The project area APE is an open field located within rural and mountainous setting. The closest freshwater source is an unnamed tributary of the Río Limani located 0.5 mi (0.8 km) northeast of the project area. The southern coast is approximately 13 mi (20.9 km) from the project area.

Determination

Based on our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that there are no historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect. 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 known archaeological sites or NRHP listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel in which the Area of Potential Effect of case PR-RGRW-01647 is located. The closest freshwater is 0.5 mi (0.8 km) south of the project area. The terrain is considered unsuitable for prehistoric occupations or land use. Therefore, no impact to cultural properties is anticipated for this reconstruction project.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGrow PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant Name: FINCA	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647	City: Adjuntas

Recommendation

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

- No Historic Properties Affected
- No Adverse Effect
 Condition (if applicable): n/a
- Adverse Effect

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

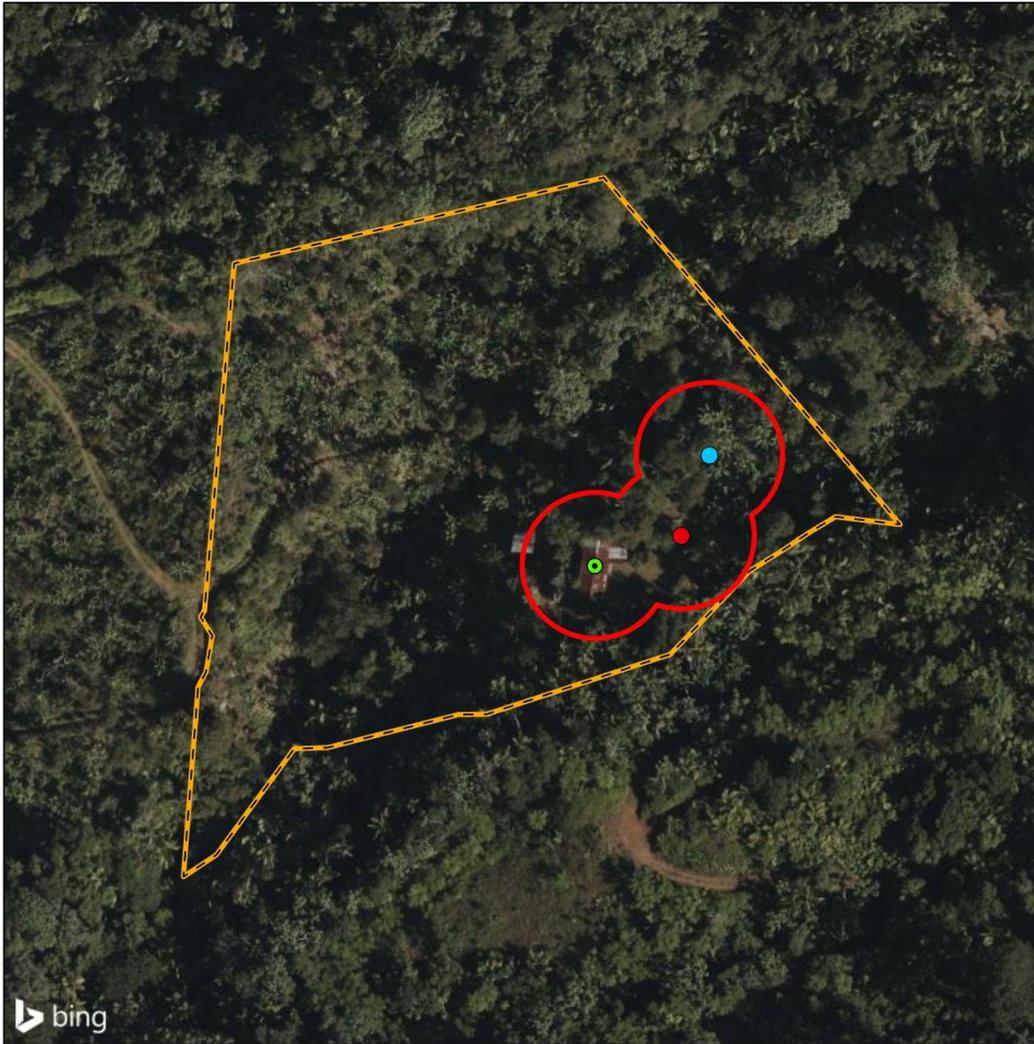
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above information and: <input type="checkbox"/> Concurs with the information provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not concur with the information provided.	
Comments: 	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:

Applicant Name: FINCA

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647

City: Adjuntas

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

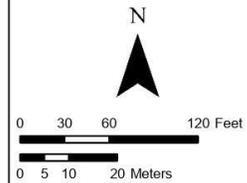


Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int. Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico



Legend

-  PR-RGRW-01647
-  Proposed Solar Panel Location
-  Proposed Cistern Location
-  CRIM Parcel Boundary
-  Area of Potential Effect



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

Scale: 1:1,000

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

REGrow PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Applicant Name: FINCA

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647

City: Adjuntas

Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map

Historic Properties - Aerial Base

Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Re-Grow Program

Application ID#: PR-RGRW-01647

Address: Carr 374 Km 5.5 Int Bo Limani, Adjuntas, PR 00601

Latitude: 18.1516
Longitude: -66.8093



-  Applicant Parcel
-  Parcels
-  Historic Districts
-  Historic Communities
-  Traditional Urban Centers



1:5,000
1 inch = 416.67 feet
0 220 440 Feet

Sources: Esri Imagery Basemap service.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

REGrow PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Applicant Name: FINCA

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647

City: Adjuntas

Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map

Historic Properties - Topographic Base

Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Re-Grow Program

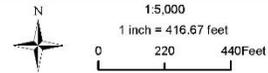
Application ID#: PR-RGRW-01647

Address: Carr 374 Km 5.5 Int Bo Limani, Adjuntas, PR 00601

Latitude: 18.1516
Longitude: -66.8093



-  Applicant Parcel
-  Parcels
-  Historic Districts
-  Historic Communities
-  Traditional Urban Centers



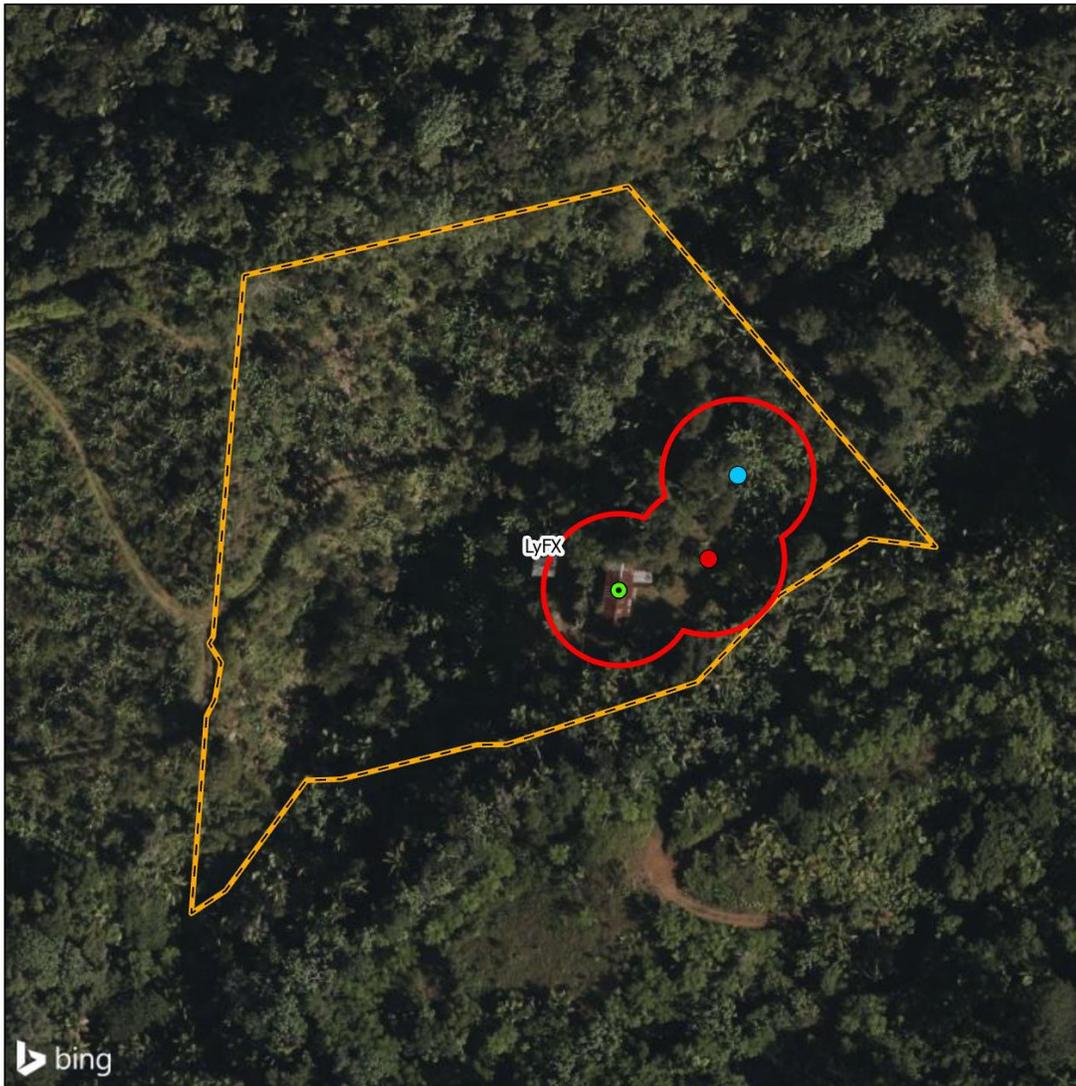
Sources: Esri Imagery Basemap service.

Applicant Name: FINCA

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647

City: Adjuntas

Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map



Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int. Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico

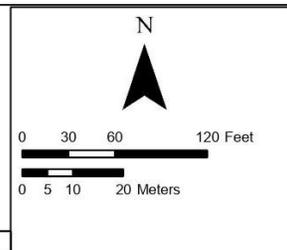


Legend

-  PR-RGRW-01647
-  Proposed Solar Panel Location
-  Proposed Cistern Location
-  CRIM Parcel Boundary
-  Area of Potential Effect
-  NRCS Soil Units

Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

Scale: 1:1,000

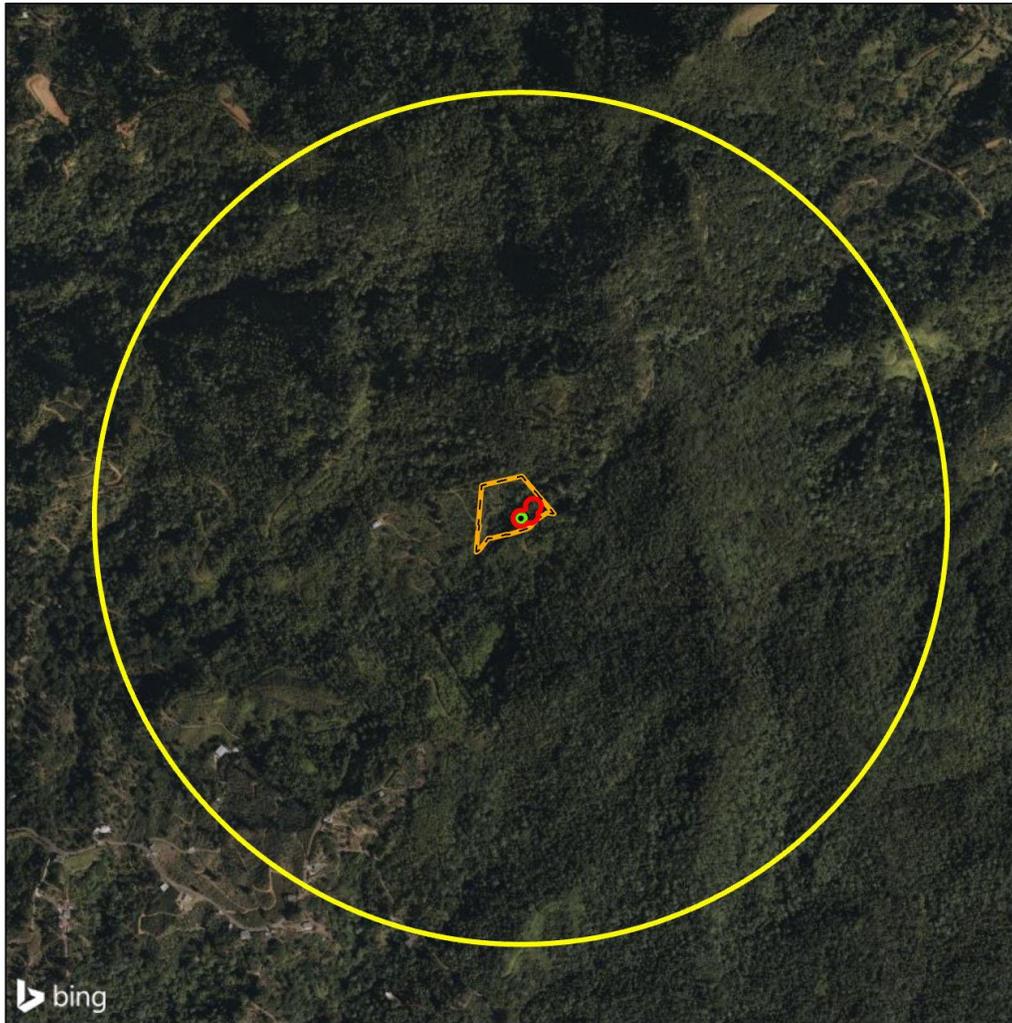


Applicant Name: FINCA

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647

City: Adjuntas

Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map

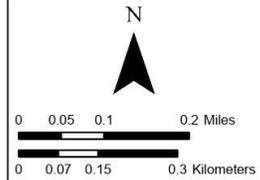


Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int. Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico



Legend

-  PR-RGRW-01647
-  CRIM Parcel Boundary
-  Area of Potential Effect
-  Half-Mile Buffer



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

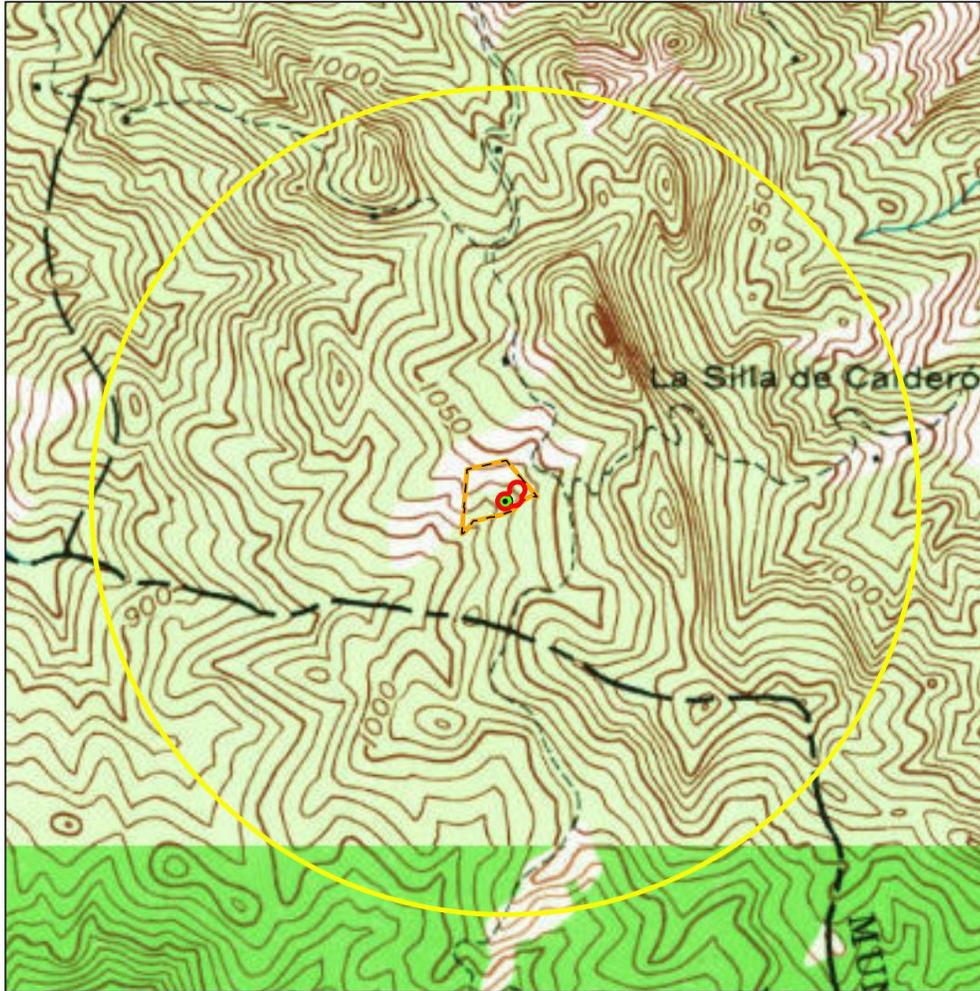
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Applicant Name: FINCA

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647

City: Adjuntas

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

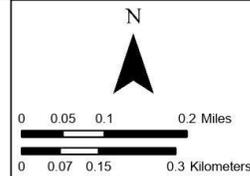


Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int. Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico



Legend

-  PR-RGRW-01647
-  CRIM Parcel Boundary
-  Area of Potential Effect
-  Half-Mile Buffer



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

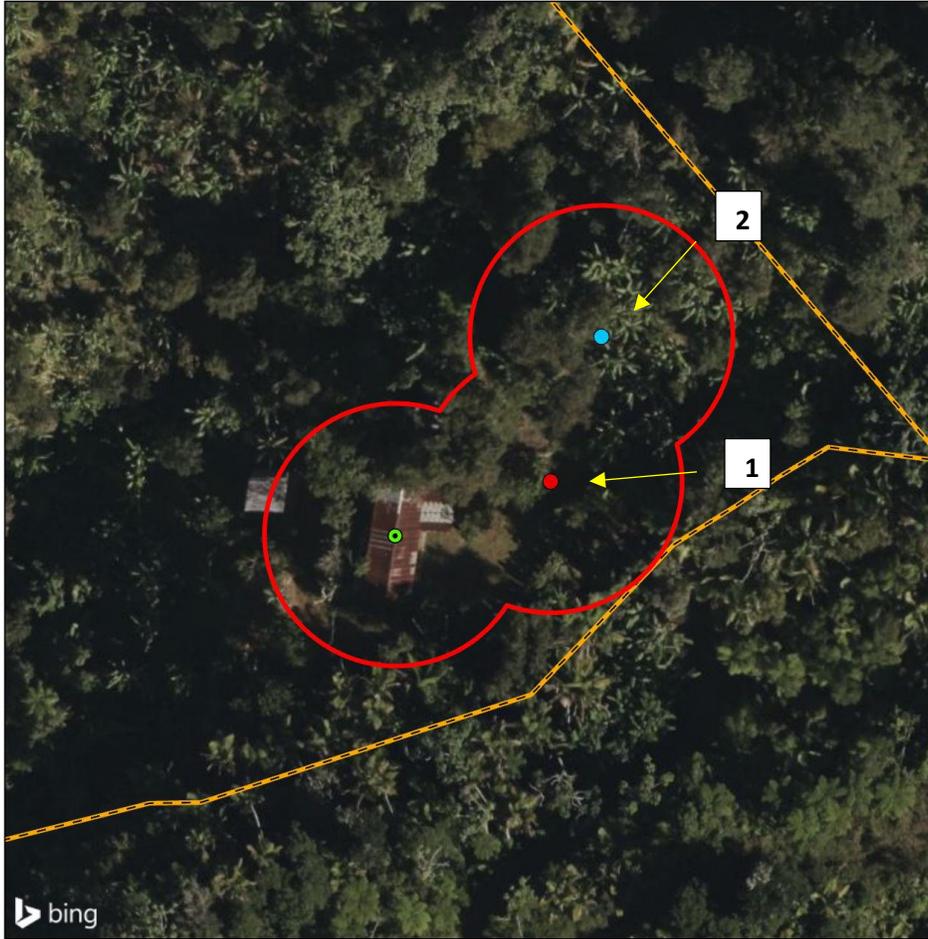
Scale: 1:9,000

Applicant Name: FINCA

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647

City: Adjuntas

Photograph Key



Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int. Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico

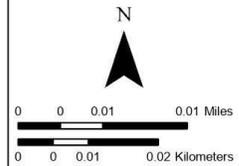


Legend

-  PR-RGRW-01647
-  Proposed Solar Panel Location
-  Proposed Cistern Location
-  CRIM Parcel Boundary
-  Area of Potential Effect

Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

Scale: 1:500



Applicant Name: FINCA

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01647

City: Adjuntas



Photo #: 1

Description (include direction): Overview of proposed solar panel location, looking west.

Date: 2/14/2023

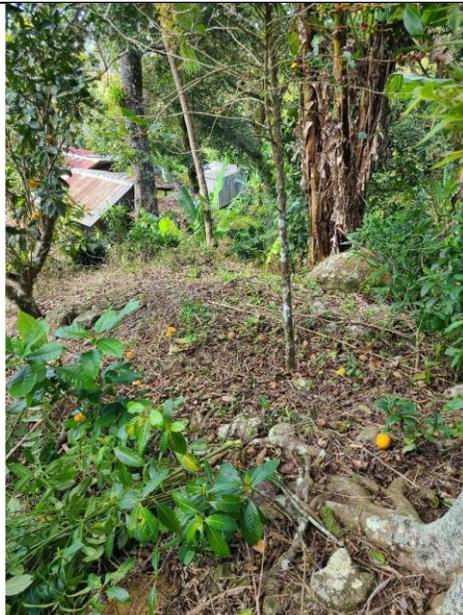


Photo #: 2

Description (include direction): Overview of proposed cistern location, looking southwest.

Date: 2/14/2023



October 20, 2022

Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

Cuartel de Ballajá Bldg.

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela:

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

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

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

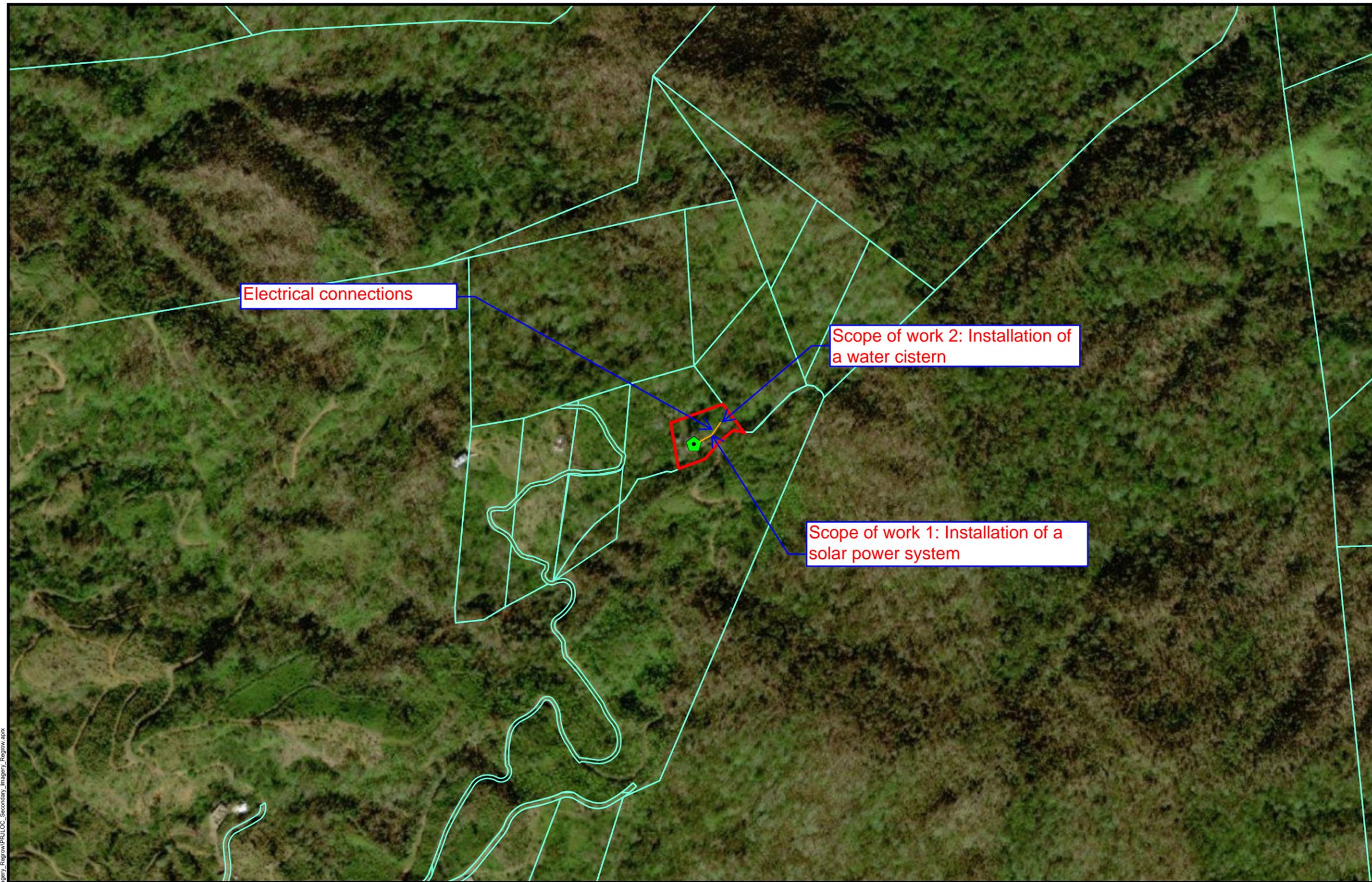
Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JB', is placed over the typed name of the signatory.

Juan C. Pérez Bofill, P.E. M.Eng

Director of Disaster Recovery

CDBG DR-MIT



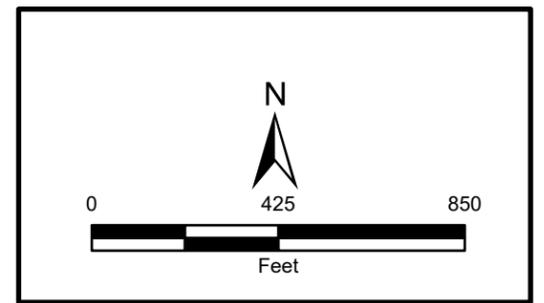
- Legend**
- Project Parcel
 - Parcels
 - Area of Potential Effect
 - Power connections

PUERTO RICO



Figure 1: PROJECT LOCATION
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limani, Adjuntas, PR 00601
 Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago
 Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592 , -66.80929



Source: CRIM
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/>
 Author: TG Date: 2/13/2024

File Path: Z:\data\USRT\TheRGRW\pr\PRLOC_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\PRLOC_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



- Legend**
- ◆ Project Parcel
 - Biscayne Aquifer SSA Streamflow and Recharge Source Zones
 - Sole Source Aquifer
 - Biscayne Aquifer SSA

Distance to Nearest Aquifer:
5,271,418 FT

PUERTO RICO



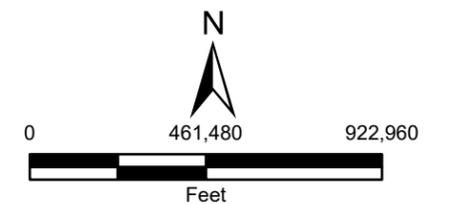
File Path: Z:\data\USRT\TheRegrow\SSA\AQUIFER_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\1.aprx

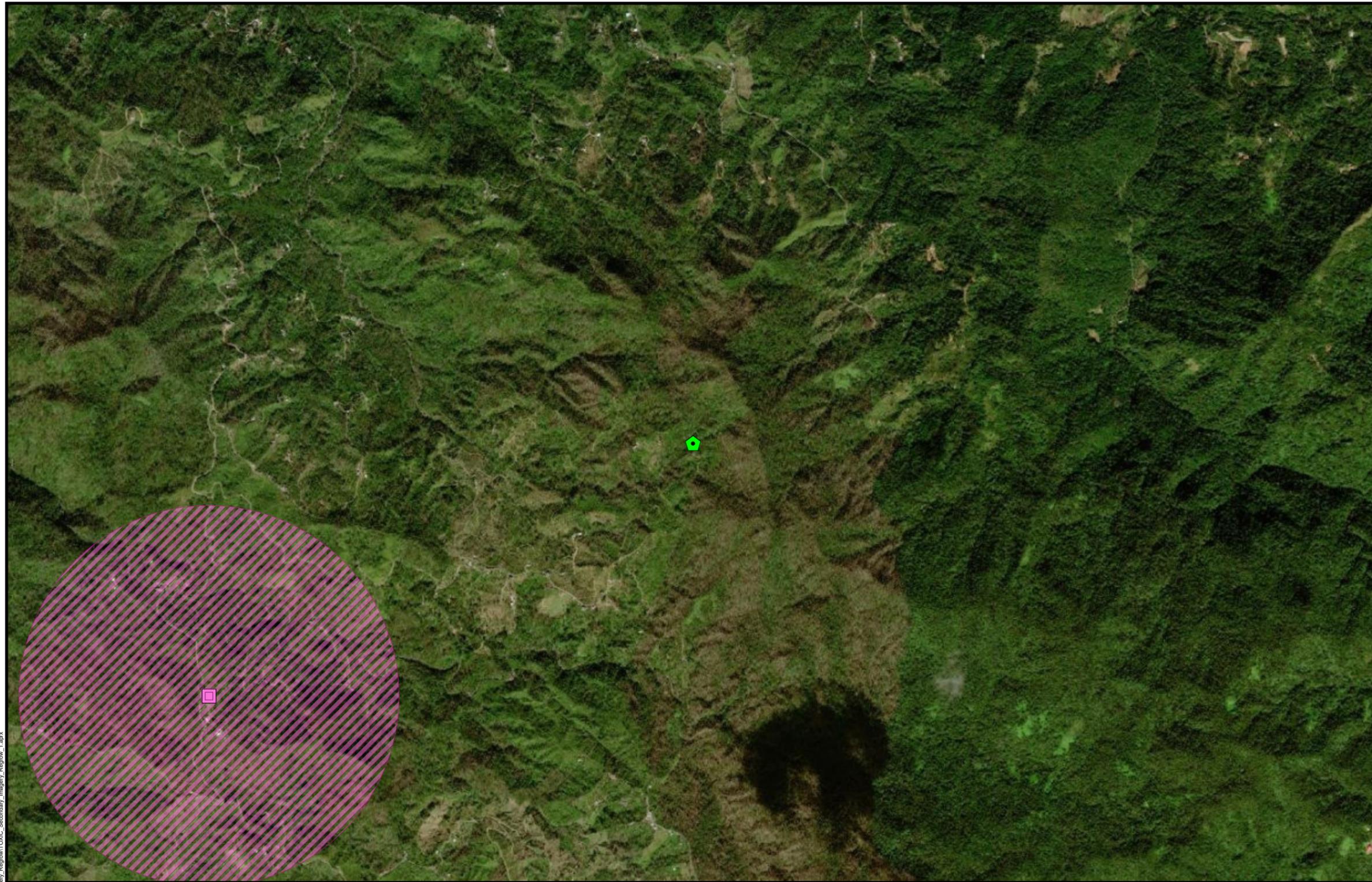


Source: USGS
<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/epa-sole-source-aquifers>
 Author: TG Date: 2/21/2024

Figure 17: SOLE SOURCE AQUIFERS
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601
 Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago
 Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592, -66.80929





- Legend**
- Project Parcel
 - AIR
 - NPDES
 - RCRA
 - Toxic Release Inventory Site
 - Superfund Site
 - Brownfield Sites
 - 3000 Ft Buffer AIR
 - 3000 Ft Buffer NPDES
 - 3000 Ft Buffer TRI
 - 3000 Ft Buffer Superfund
 - 3000 Ft Buffer RCRA
 - 3000 Ft Buffer Brownfield

PUERTO RICO

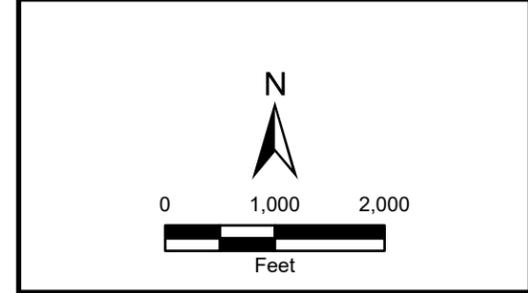


**Figure 8: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND GASES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS,
CONTAMINATION, AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES**
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601
 Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago
 Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592, -66.80929

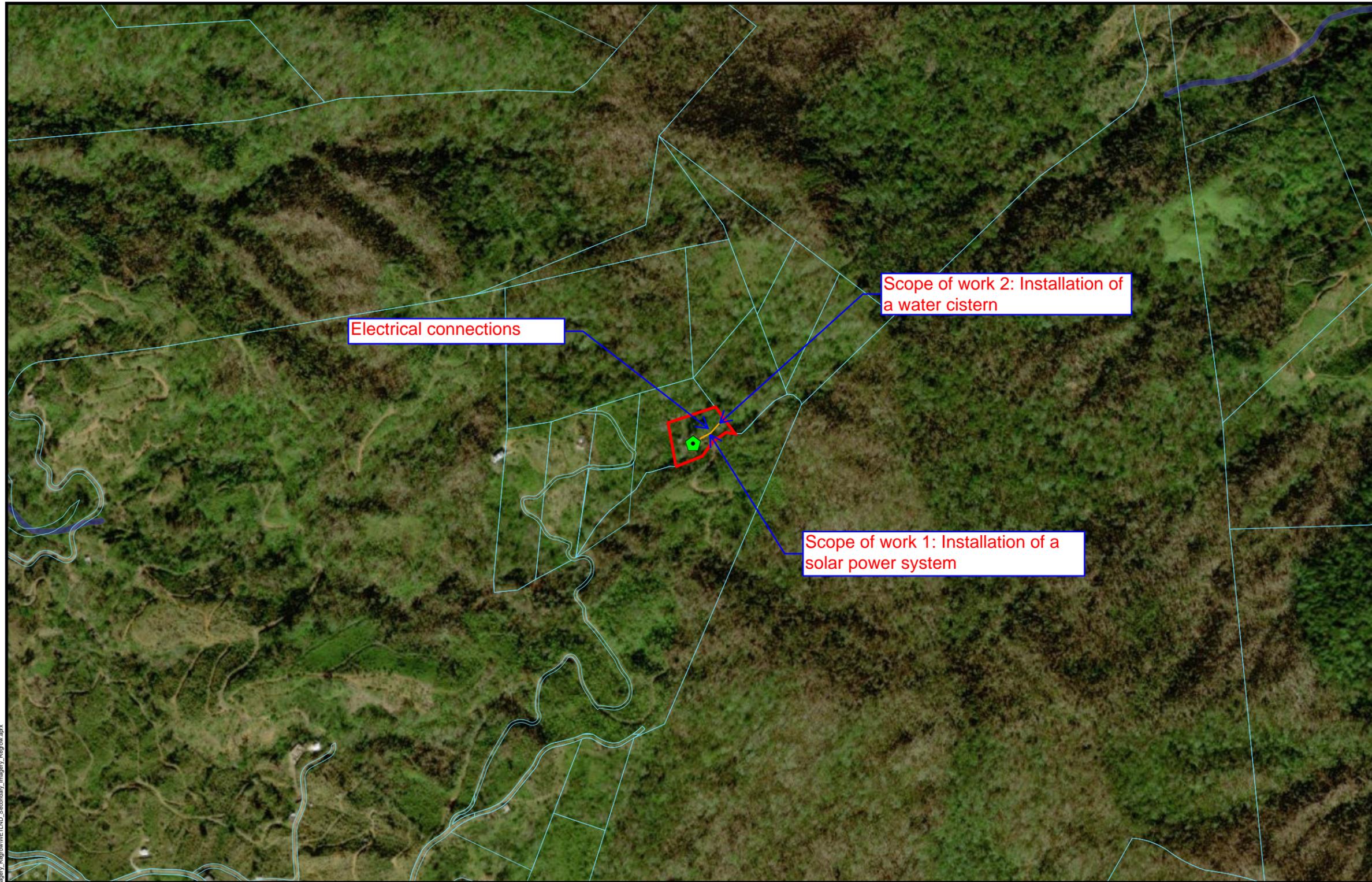


Source: E.P.A.
<https://www.epa.gov/frs/geospatial-data-download-service>



File Path: Z:\data\USRT\Tier2\Region\PR\TOXIC_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\1.aprx

Author: JB/AK Date: 1/10/2024



Legend

- Project Parcel
- Parcels

WETLAND TYPE

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine

- Area of Potential Effect
- Power connections

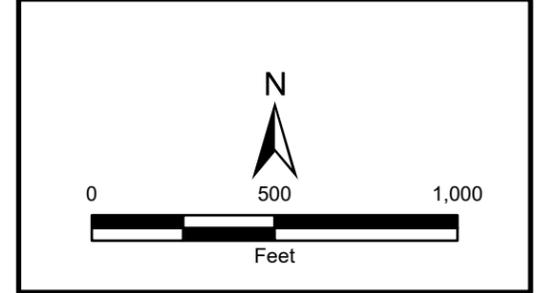
PUERTO RICO



Figure 14: WETLANDS
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647
 ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601
 Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago
 Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592, -66.80929



Source: U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<https://www.fws.gov>
 Author: TG Date: 11/3/2023



File Path: Z:\data\USFWS\Tier2\Regrow\WETLAND_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\WETLAND_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



Legend

-  Project Parcel
-  Wild and Scenic Rivers

Distance to Nearest Wild and Scenic River: 356069 Feet

PUERTO RICO



**Figure 15: WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT
 APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01647**

ADDRESS: Carr. 374 Km. 5.5 Int., Bo. Limaní, Adjuntas, PR 00601

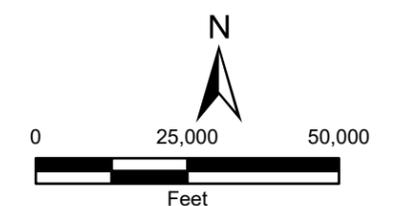
Name of Development: FINCA / Marcos Morales Santiago

Parcel Coordinates: 18.151592, -66.80929



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

Author: TG Date: 10/23/2023



File Path: Z:\data\USFR\Tier2\Regrow\SR_Secundary_Imagery_Regrow_1.aprx

**Radon
Attachments**



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: guerrero.carmen@epa.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: OIA@cdc.gov

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary



August 20, 2024

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

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

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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



August 20, 2024

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

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

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

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August 20, 2024

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

Via email: hsweyers@usgs.gov

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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

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

Good morning, Sandra and others,

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

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

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

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



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

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

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

Best regards,

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

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

Good afternoon. Ms. Medina

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

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

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

Saludos.

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

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

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

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

Atentamente

Silvana Cancelos
Professor
Associate Director
Mechanical Engineering Department
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez
Call BOX 9000 Mayaguez PR 00680
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Bubble Dynamics Lab
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez



EPA REGION 2
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

September 23, 2024

VIA EMAIL

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

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

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodriguez Rodriguez:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
CARMEN GUERRERO PEREZ
Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez
Director

Digitally signed by
CARMEN GUERRERO PEREZ
Date: 2024.09.23 09:41:39
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cc: Roberto Mendez, Esq (Acting Secretary, PR Department of Natural and Env. Resources)
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