



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-SBF-04268

HEROS Number: 900000010481338

Start Date: 07/02/2025

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , Loiza, PR 00772

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.434669, longitude -65.87869 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 065-010-002-01-001.

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

This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Flor de Cahillo, Inc., an Other Performing Arts Companies business, at Calle San Patricio #16 Loiza PR, Loiza, PR 00772. The specific scope of work for this project includes the purchase and installation of 2 affixed AC units, 4 desktop computers, 4 computer monitors, 2 color printers, a trimmer, 4 desks, 4 chairs, 4 APC backups, a pressure washer, a hand-truck, and a blower.

Level of Environment Review Determination:

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

Funding Information

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

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$16,028.84

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$16,028.84

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	
Flood Insurance	For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less.	N/A	Buyer must purchase flood insurance because the grant exceeds \$5,000 and the site is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.	
Floodplain Management	The structure is located in the ABFE Zone A, but mitigation/minimization measures are not required as the project activities are not substantial improvement, and the building footprint is not being increased.	N/A		

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
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<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: August.11.2025

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

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:  Date: August 12, 2025

Name/ Title: Sally Z. Acevedo Cosme- Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

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

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

Project Information

Project Name: PR-SBF-04268

HEROS Number: 900000010481338

Start Date: 07/02/2025

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

State / Local Identifier:

RE Preparer: Ianmario Heredia Diadone

Certifying Officer Sally Acevedo Cosme
r:

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

Point of Contact:

Point of Contact: Chris Rickard
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: , Loiza, PR 00772

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.434669, longitude -65.87869 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 065-010-002-01-001.

Direct Comments to: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

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

This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Flor de Cahillo, Inc., an Other Performing Arts Companies business, at Calle San Patricio #16 Loiza PR, Loiza, PR 00772. The specific scope of work for this project includes the purchase and installation of 2 affixed AC units, 4 desktop computers, 4 computer monitors, 2 color printers, a trimmer, 4 desks, 4 chairs, 4 APC backups, a pressure washer, a hand-truck, and a blower.

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

[PR-SBF-04268 IUGF \(updated\).pdf](#)

Level of Environmental Review Determination:

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

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:[04268-SIG-PAGE.pdf](#)

**7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer
on:**

**7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer
on:**

Funding Information

Grant / Project Identification Number	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,507,179,000.00
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B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$277,853,230.00

**Estimated Total HUD Funded,
Assisted or Insured Amount:** \$16,028.84

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$16,028.84

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)
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STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6		
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 35,500 feet away. The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 3,455 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C0395J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. The community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. With flood insurance 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	The project is located in the coastal zone but will have no effect because it does not include new construction, conversion, major rehabilitation, or substantial improvement activities. This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Small Business Financing (SBF) program will have no significant impact on Puerto Rican Coastal Resources and does not require a Federal Consistency Review (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004).
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. 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. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project will have No Effect on listed species due to the nature of the activities involved in the project. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	This project is located in the floodplain. The 5-Step Process is required. With the 5-Step Process the project will be in compliance with Executive Orders 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 Loiza. However, the proposed project is not within an area where a PFIRM was developed. Therefore, PFIRM was not considered in the review.
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	(Circa 1980) Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, the project consists of activities that are unlikely to have an adverse impact on groundwater resources. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico.
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. Also, all the activities are within the existing structure.

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 51,265 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	On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 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
Flood Insurance	For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood	N/A	Buyer must purchase flood insurance because the grant exceeds \$5,000 and the site is	

	insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less.		located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.	
Floodplain Management	The structure is located in the ABFE Zone A, but mitigation/minimization measures are not required as the project activities are not substantial improvement, and the building footprint is not being increased.	N/A		

Project Mitigation Plan

Buyer must purchase flood insurance because the grant exceeds \$5,000 and the site is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

Supporting documentation on completed measures

APPENDIX A: Related Federal Laws and Authorities**Airport Hazards**

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 35,500 feet away. The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-04268 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 3,455 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-SBF-04268 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-SBF-04268 FIRM.pdf](#)

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

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

No

✓ Yes

3. Is the community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program or has less than one year passed since FEMA notification of Special Flood Hazards?

✓ Yes, the community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program must be obtained and maintained for the economic life of the project, in the amount of the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit, whichever is less.

Document and upload a copy of the flood insurance policy declaration or a paid receipt for the current annual flood insurance premium and a copy of the application for flood insurance below.

Yes, less than one year has passed since FEMA notification of Special Flood Hazards.

No. The community is not participating, or its participation has been suspended.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Flood Map Number 72000C0395J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. The community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. With flood insurance 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**

The project is located in the coastal zone but will have no effect because it does not include new construction, conversion, major rehabilitation, or substantial improvement activities. This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Small Business Financing (SBF) program will have no significant impact on Puerto Rican Coastal Resources and does not require a Federal Consistency Review (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004).

Supporting documentation

[Resolution JP-2024-004 \(Second Amendment\).pdf](#)
[CZM Resolution JP-2024-004 \(First Amendment Nov 20 2024\).pdf](#)
[PR-SBF-04268 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* (excluding radon) 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?)

Provide a map or other documentation of absence or presence of contamination** and explain evaluation of site contamination in the Screen Summary at the bottom of this screen.

☒ No

Explain:

Based on ECHO reports for the facilities, there is no impact for the intended use of this project. See attached table. The environmental field observation report 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 years is commercial.

Yes

* This question covers the presence of radioactive substances excluding radon. Radon is addressed in the Radon Exempt Question.

** Utilize EPA's Enviromapper, NEPAAssist, or state/tribal databases to identify nearby dumps, junk yards, landfills, hazardous waste sites, and industrial sites, including EPA National Priorities List Sites (Superfund sites), CERCLA or state-equivalent sites, RCRA Corrective Action sites with release(s) or suspected release(s) requiring clean-up action and/or further investigation. Additional supporting documentation may include other inspections and reports.

3. Evaluate the building(s) for radon. Do all buildings meet any of the exemptions* from having to consider radon in the contamination analysis listed in CPD Notice [CPD-23-103](#)?

Yes

Explain:

✓ No

* Notes:

- Buildings with no enclosed areas having ground contact.
- Buildings containing crawlspaces, utility tunnels, or parking garages would not be exempt, however buildings built on piers would be exempt, provided that there is open air between the lowest floor of the building and the ground.
- Buildings that are not residential and will not be occupied for more than 4 hours per day.
- Buildings with existing radon mitigation systems - document radon levels are below 4 pCi/L with test results dated within two years of submitting the application for HUD assistance and document the system includes an ongoing maintenance plan that includes periodic testing to ensure the system continues to meet the current EPA recommended levels. If the project does not require an application, document test results dated within two years of the date the environmental review is certified. Refer to program office guidance to ensure compliance with program requirements.
- Buildings tested within five years of the submission of application for HUD assistance: test results document indoor radon levels are below current the EPA's recommended action

levels of 4.0 pCi/L. For buildings with test data older than five years, any new environmental review must include a consideration of radon using one of the methods in Section A below.

4. Is the proposed project new construction or substantial rehabilitation where testing will be conducted but cannot yet occur because building construction has not been completed?

Yes

Compliance with this section is conditioned on post-construction testing being conducted, followed by mitigation, if needed. Radon test results, along with any needed mitigation plan, must be uploaded to the mitigation section within this screen.

✓ No

5. Was radon testing or a scientific data review conducted that provided a radon concentration level in pCi/L?

Yes

✓ No

If no testing was conducted and a review of science-based data offered a lack of science-based data for the project site, then document and upload the steps taken to look for documented test results and science-based data as well as the basis for the conclusion that testing would be infeasible or impracticable.

Explain:

Radon testing is not feasible or practicable for this case, please see the attached Radon Memorandum.

File Upload:

[PR-SBF-04268 Radon Memorandum\(1\).pdf](#)
[Radon Attachments.pdf](#)

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Screen Summary at the bottom of this screen.

Non-radon contamination was found in a previous question.

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. 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. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-04268 Toxic Table.docx](#)

[PR-SBF-04268 Toxic Sites.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-04268 EFOR \(updated\).docx](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Endangered Species

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

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

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

This selection is only appropriate if none of the activities involved in the project have potential to affect species or habitats. Examples of actions without potential to affect listed species may include: purchasing existing buildings, completing interior renovations to existing buildings, and replacing exterior paint or siding on existing buildings.

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

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.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project will have No Effect on listed species due to the nature of the activities involved in the project. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-04268 Horne USFWS NE MEMO updated_encrypted_.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-04268 EFOR\(1\).docx](#)

[PR-SBF-04268 ESA.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-04268 Site Map.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Explosive and Flammable Hazards

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

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

☒ No

Yes

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

☒ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

☒ No

Farmlands Protection

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-04268 Farmland.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 * Executive Order 13690 * 42 USC 4001-4128 * 42 USC 5154a * only applies to screen 2047 and not 2046	24 CFR 55

1. Does this project meet an exemption at 24 CFR 55.12 from compliance with HUD's floodplain management regulations in Part 55?

Yes

(a) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 58.34 and 58.35(b).

(b) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 50.19, except as otherwise indicated in § 50.19.

(c) The approval of financial assistance for restoring and preserving the natural and beneficial functions and values of floodplains and wetlands, including through acquisition of such floodplain and wetland property, where a permanent covenant or comparable restriction is place on the property's continued use for flood control, wetland projection, open space, or park land, but only if:

(1) The property is cleared of all existing buildings and walled structures; and

(2) The property is cleared of related improvements except those which:

(i) Are directly related to flood control, wetland protection, open space, or park land (including playgrounds and recreation areas);

(ii) Do not modify existing wetland areas or involve fill, paving, or other ground disturbance beyond minimal trails or paths; and

(iii) Are designed to be compatible with the beneficial floodplain or wetland function of the property.

(d) An action involving a repossession, receivership, foreclosure, or similar acquisition of property to protect or enforce HUD's financial interests under previously approved loans, grants, mortgage insurance, or other HUD assistance.

(e) Policy-level actions described at 24 CFR 50.16 that do not involve site-based decisions.

(f) A minor amendment to a previously approved action with no additional adverse impact on or from a floodplain or wetland.

(g) HUD's or the responsible entity's approval of a project site, an incidental portion of which is situated in the FFRMS floodplain (not including the floodway, LiMWA, or coastal high hazard area) but only if: (1) The proposed project site does not include any existing or proposed buildings or improvements that modify or occupy the FFRMS floodplain except de minimis improvements such as recreation areas and trails; and (2) the proposed project will not result in any new construction in or modifications of a wetland .

(h) Issuance or use of Housing Vouchers, or other forms of rental subsidy where HUD, the awarding community, or the public housing agency that administers the contract awards rental subsidies that are not project-based (i.e., do not involve site-specific subsidies).

(i) Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of and accessibility to elderly and persons with disabilities.

Describe:

✓ No

2. Does the project include a Critical Action? Examples of Critical Actions include projects involving hospitals, fire and police stations, nursing homes, hazardous chemical storage, storage of valuable records, and utility plants.

Yes

Describe:

✓ No

3. Determine the extent of the FFRMS floodplain and provide mapping documentation in support of that determination

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain can be determined using a Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA), 0.2 percent flood approach (0.2 PFA), or freeboard value approach (FVA). For projects in areas without available CISA data or without FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) or Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs), use the best available information¹ to determine flood elevation. Include documentation and an explanation of why this is the best available information² for the site. Note that newly constructed and substantially improved³ structures must be elevated to the FFRMS floodplain regardless of the approach chosen to determine the floodplain.

Select one of the following three options:

CISA for non-critical actions. If using a local tool, data, or resources, ensure that the FFRMS elevation is higher than would have been determined using the 0.2 PFA or the FVA.

- ✓ 0.2-PFA. Where FEMA has defined the 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain, the FFRMS floodplain is the area that FEMA has designated as within the 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain.

FVA. If neither CISA nor 0.2-PFA is available, for non-critical actions, the FFRMS floodplain is the area that results from adding two feet to the base flood elevation as established by the effective FIRM or FIS or — if available — a FEMA-provided preliminary or pending FIRM or FIS or advisory base flood elevations, whether regulatory or informational in nature. However, an interim or preliminary FEMA map cannot be used if it is lower than the current FIRM or FIS.

¹ Sources which merit investigation include the files and studies of other federal agencies, such as the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Soil Conservation Service and the U. S. Geological Survey. These agencies have prepared flood hazard studies for several thousand localities and, through their technical assistance programs, hydrologic studies, soil surveys, and other investigations have collected or developed other floodplain information for numerous sites and areas. States and communities are also sources of information on past flood 'experiences within their boundaries and are particularly knowledgeable about areas subject to high-risk flood hazards such as alluvial fans, high velocity flows, mudflows and mudslides, ice jams, subsidence and liquefaction.

² If you are using best available information, select the FVA option below and provide supporting documentation in the screen summary. Contact your [local environmental officer](#) with additional compliance questions.

³ Substantial improvement means any repair or improvement of a structure which costs at least 50 percent of the market value of the structure before repair or improvement or results in an increase of more than 20 percent of the number of dwelling units. The full definition can be found at [24 CFR 55.2\(b\)\(12\)](#).

5. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?

☒ Yes

No

6. Is your project located in any of the floodplain categories below?

Select all that apply:

Floodway.

Do the floodway exemptions at 55.8 or 55.21 apply?

Yes

No

Coastal High Hazard Area (V Zone) or Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA).

Yes

No

☒ None of the above.

7. Does the 8-Step Process apply? Select one of the following options:

8-Step Process is inapplicable per 55.13.

(a) HUD's mortgage insurance actions and other financial assistance for the purchasing, mortgaging, or refinancing of existing one- to four-family properties in communities that are in the Regular Program of the NFIP and in good standing (i.e., not suspended from program eligibility or placed on probation under 44 CFR 59.24), where the action is not a critical action and the property is not located in a floodway, coastal high hazard area, or LiMWA;

(b) Financial assistance for minor repairs or improvements on one- to four-family properties that do not meet the thresholds for "substantial improvement" under § 55.2(b)(12);

(c) HUD or a recipient's actions involving the disposition of individual

HUD or recipient held, one- to four-family properties;

(d) HUD guarantees under the Loan Guarantee Recovery Fund Program (24 CFR part 573), where any new construction or rehabilitation financed by the existing loan or mortgage has been completed prior to the filing of an application under the program, and the refinancing will not allow further construction or rehabilitation, nor result in any physical impacts or changes except for routine maintenance;

(e) The approval of financial assistance to lease units within an existing structure located within the floodplain, but only if;

(1) The structure is located outside the floodway or coastal high hazard area, and is in a community that is in the Regular Program of the NFIP and in good standing (i.e., not suspended from program eligibility or placed on probation under 44 CFR 59.24); and

(2) The project is not a critical action; and.

(3) The entire structure is or will be fully insured or insured to the maximum extent available under the NFIP for at least the term of the lease.

(f) Special projects for the purpose of improving efficiency of utilities or installing renewable energy that involve the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing structures or infrastructure, do not meet the thresholds for "substantial improvement" under § 55.2(b)(12), and do not include the installation of equipment below the FFRMS floodplain elevation;

✓ 5-Step Process is applicable per 55.14.

(a) HUD actions involving the disposition of HUD-acquired multifamily housing projects or "bulk sales" of HUD-acquired one- to four-family properties in communities that are in the Regular Program of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and in good standing (i.e., not suspended from program eligibility or placed on probation under 44 CFR 59.24).

(b) HUD's actions under the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701) for the purchase or refinancing of existing multifamily housing projects, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, board and care facilities, and intermediate care facilities, in communities that are in good standing under the NFIP.

(c) HUD's or the recipient's actions under any HUD program involving

the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing multifamily housing projects, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, board and care facilities, intermediate care facilities, and one- to four-family properties, in communities that are in the Regular Program of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and are in good standing, provided that the number of units is not increased more than 20 percent, the action does not involve a conversion from nonresidential to residential land use, the action does not meet the thresholds for “substantial improvement” under § 55.2(b)(10), and the footprint of the structure and paved areas is not increased by more than 20 percent.

- ✓ (d) HUD’s (or the recipient’s) actions under any HUD program involving the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing nonresidential buildings and structures, in communities that are in the Regular Program of the NFIP and are in good standing, provided that the action does not meet the thresholds for “substantial improvement” under § 55.2(b)(10) and that the footprint of the structure and paved areas is not increased by more than 20 percent.

(e) HUD's or the recipient's actions under any HUD program involving the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing nonstructural improvements including streets, curbs and gutters, where any increase of the total impervious surface area of the facility is de minimis. This provision does not include critical actions, levee systems, chemical storage facilities (including any tanks), wastewater facilities, or sewer lagoons.

8-Step Process applies.

8. Mitigation

For the project to comply with this section, all adverse impacts must be mitigated. Explain in detail the measures that must be implemented to mitigate the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation. Note: newly constructed and substantially improved structures within the FFRMS floodplain must be elevated to the FFRMS floodplain elevation or floodproofed, if applicable.

Explain:

The structure is located in the ABFE Zone A, but mitigation/minimization measures are not required as the project activities are not substantial improvement, and the building

footprint is not being increased.

Which of the following if any mitigation/minimization measures have been identified for this project in the 8-Step or 5-Step Process?

Buyout and demolition or other supported clearance of floodplain structures.

Insurance purchased in excess of statutory requirement th eunder the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

Permeable surfaces.

Natural landscape enhancements that maintain or restore natural hydrology.

Planting or restoring native plant species.

Bioswales.

Stormwater capture and reuse.

Green or vegetative roofs with drainage provisions.

Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation easements or similar easements.

Floodproofing of structures as allowable (e.g. non-residential floors) .

Elevating structures (including freeboard above the required base flood elevations) .

Levee or structural protection from flooding.

Channelizing or redefining the floodway or floodplain through a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is located in the floodplain. The 5-Step Process is required. With the 5-Step Process the project will be in compliance with Executive Orders 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 Loiza. However, the proposed project is not within an area where a PFIRM was developed. Therefore, PFIRM was not considered in the review.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-04268 5-Step Process\(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-04268 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:

Calle San Patricio #16 Loiza PR, Loiza, PR 00772

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:

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

(Circa 1980) 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-SBF-04268 Historic Sites.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-04268 SHPO 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

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

No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

Based on the project description, the project consists of activities that are unlikely to have an adverse impact on groundwater resources. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-04268 SSA.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. Also, all the activities are within the existing structure.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-04268 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 51,265 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-04268 WSR.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**

On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 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

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO PLANNING BOARD

November 20, 2024

RESOLUTION JP-2024-004
First Amendment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A. The following activities or projects to be financed under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs have no significant impact on Puerto Coastal Resources and do not require Federal Consistency review:
 - 1. Activities to be financed under the following subprograms:
 - a. **Community Energy and Water Resilience Installations Program (CEWRI)**: The Program provide single-family homeowners energy and water efficiency improvements to promote resilience by installing PV systems with battery backup for critical loads and water storage systems.
 - b. **The Workforce Training Program (WFT)**: supports entities throughout the Island to offer training in job skills related to the reconstruction and economic growth of Puerto Rico. Also, those skills necessary to situate the Island in the economy of the future.
 - c. **Small Business Financing Program (SBF)**: will provide a Recovery Grants phase (grants awards of up to \$150,000) for working capital and movable equipment for small businesses and microenterprises that suffered physical and/or financial losses due to the Hurricanes. Start-ups created after the Hurricanes are also eligible if they can show their creation was the result of a closure of a previous business of same owner(s), after damages caused by the Hurricanes.
 - d. **Re-grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program**: Develop, Increase and improve agricultural capacity and addresses the needs created by Hurricanes Irma and María with a substantial investment of CDBG-DR funds for a wide variety of viable and sustainable agricultural activities.
 - 2. Projects or activities that are exempt from construction permits according to Act 161-2009, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Permit Process Reform Act" and the "Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation" (Regulation Number 9473).
- B. Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for demolition of structures with the purpose of restoring green areas, beaches, water retention areas and habitat recovery is consistent with the PRCZMP.
- C. Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for projects that involve demolition for reconstruction, reconstruction or construction of a new structure is consistent with the PRCZMP if the project fulfills the following requirements:
 - 1. The project must comply with land use regulations established under the PR Land Use Plan, Territorial Plans and special plans that apply according to the location of the project.
 - 2. The structure to be constructed or reconstructed must comply with applicable regulations and parameters established in the "Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation" (Regulation Number 9473).

3. Each project must provide evidence of compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing copy of the Environmental Compliance Determination emitted by OGPe.
 4. The structure to be built or rehabilitated must be located outside flood risk zones according to the “Recommended Base Flood Level Maps” (FEMA Advisory Maps) effective on April 13, 2018, or the most recent FEMA map that applies according to the location of the project.
 5. Structures located within a flood hazard zone must evidence compliance with the Special Flood Hazard Zone Regulations (Planning Regulation Number 13) by providing copy of the FEMA Elevation Certificate (form ff-206-fy22-152) completed and signed by an engineer or surveyor.
 6. In the case of projects that are located within Historic Zones designated by the PR Planning Board, or if the structure was designated as a Historic Site, the project must have the endorsement of the Puerto Rican Culture Institute and the State Historic Preservation Office.
- D. Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for infrastructure projects (sidewalks, roads, highways, service lines, public squares) are consistent with the PRCZMP with the condition that the applicant fulfill the following requirements before the construction phase of the project:
1. Evidence compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing copy of the Environmental Compliance Determination emitted by the PR Permit Management Office (OGPe).
 2. Evidence compliance with the Special Flood Hazard Zone Regulations (Planning Regulation Number 13) when it is required depending on the nature and location of the project.
 3. In the case of projects that are located within Historic Zones designated by the PR Planning Board, the project must have the endorsement of the Puerto Rican Culture Institute.

The Office of Geology and Hydrogeology (OGH) of the Puerto Rico Planning Board will provide a conditioned certification letter which will allow the applicant to have access to the funds to finance the design and permitting phase. The Puerto Rico Planning Board in its meeting of November 20, 2024 determined that the applicant must fulfill the above mentioned requirements **120 days from receipt of the OGH Conditioned Certification letter**. If the applicant needs additional time to fulfill the required documents, it must be justified and requested referring to the assigned case number through comentariosjp.pr.gov.

- E. Furthermore, The PR Planning Board on February 1, 2023, issued Resolution JP-339 that covers Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Public Assistance Program (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Therefore, federal assistance awarded through the “Infrastructure Coordination Program” to match the non-federal items that are required for projects under PA and HMGP programs **are covered by Resolution JP-339 and will not require to be submitted to the PRPB for federal consistency review**.

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

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

The following parties shall be notified: William Rodríguez, Secretary, PR Department of Housing (PRDH); **Angel G. López Guzmán**, Permits and Environmental Compliance Division, PRDH; **Juan C. Perez Bofill**, PRDH; **Aldo A. Rivera**, PRDH; Alberto Mercado, **Jose A. Cedeño Maldonado**, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), **Donna M. Mahon**, HUD and **Magaly Massanet Rodríguez**, Director, Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program, DNER.

ADOPTED in San Juan, Puerto Rico on July 24, 2024.

Amended today, November 20, 2024.

Plan. Julio Lassús Ruiz, LLM, MP, PPL
President

Ing. José Díaz Díaz, MEM, BSIE
Associate Member

Lemuel Rivera Rivera, BSEE, CAPM
Associate Member

Plan. Rebecca Rivera Torres, MPR, PPL
Alternate Member

Certify: That this Resolution is copy of the agreement adopted by Puerto Rico Planning Board in its meeting of **November 20, 2024**. I expedite and notify this copy to the parties under my sign and official stamp of the Puerto Rico Planning Board stamp, for general use and knowledge.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today,

DEC 23 2024

Edgardo Vázquez
Secretary



GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO
JUNTA DE PLANIFICACIÓN

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO PLANNING BOARD

June 11, 2024

RESOLUTION JP-2024-004
Second Amendment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The following parties shall be notified: William Rodríguez, Secretary, PR Department of Housing (PRDOH); Angel G. López, Permits and Environmental Compliance Division, PRDOH; Juan C. Pérez Bofill, PRDH; Aldo A. Rivera, PRDH; Jose A. Cedeño Maldonado, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Donna M. Mahon, HUD and Magaly Massanet Rodríguez, Director, Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program, DNER.


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

Amended today, June 11, 2025.

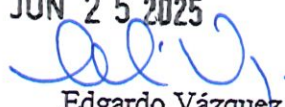

Lcdo. Hector Morales Martinez
President

SE INHIBE
Lcdo. Luis Lamboy Torres
Alternante Member


Plan. Rebecca Rivera Torres
Alternate Member


Plan. Emanuel Gomez
Alternate Member

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today, JUN 25 2025

Edgardo Vázquez
Secretary

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988 – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
FIVE-STEP PROCESS AS PROVIDED BY 24 CFR §55.20
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RELIEF (CDBG-DR)
PROGRAM

Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH)
Small Business Financing (SBF) Program Project No. PR-SBF-04268
Flor de Cahillo, Inc.

STEP 1: *DETERMINE WHETHER THE ACTION IS LOCATED IN A FLOODPLAIN*

The proposed project is intended to renovate the structure as part of the Economic Development portion of the CDBG-DR grant. The specific scope of work for this project includes purchase and installation of 2 affixed AC units, 4 desktop computers, 4 computer monitors, 2 color printers, a trimmer, 4 desks, 4 chairs, 4 APC bac ups, a pressure washer, a hand-truck, and a blower for the small business. The project is located at Calle San Patricio #16 Loiza PR, Loiza, PR 00772. The Tax Parcel ID of the site is 065-010-002-01-001. The Latitude is 18.434669 and the Longitude is -65.87869. The project is located entirely within the floodplain. The property is shown as being within Zone A on the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) Map.

Executive Order (EO) 11988 details floodplain management. The purpose of EO 11988 is “to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.” The project is located within the floodplain and for this reason, EO 11988 applies. The subject unit occupies 13,500 square feet of the floodplain. An evaluation of direct and indirect impacts associated with the construction, occupancy, and modification of the floodplain is required. The project is located in a wetland as determined by the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Mapper, but the project does not involve new construction. Thus, EO 11990 does not apply.

The project is a renovation of a non-residential structure. The renovation is not considered a substantial improvement in accordance with 24 CFR 55.2(b)(12) nor will the footprint be increased; therefore, per 24 CFR 55.14(d), public notification of the proposed activity (Step 2), identification and evaluation of practicable alternatives (Step 3) and the determination of no practicable alternative and publication of a final notice (Step 7) do not need to be conducted.

STEP 2: *NOTIFY THE PUBLIC FOR EARLY REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL AND INVOLVE THE AFFECTED AND INTERESTED PUBLIC IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.*

The project is a renovation of a non-residential structure. The renovation is not considered a substantial improvement, and the structure footprint is not being increased; therefore, per 24 CFR 55.14(d), public notification of the proposed activity (Step 2 of the 8-Step Process) does not need to be conducted.

STEP 3: IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVES TO LOCATING IN THE FLOODPLAIN.

The project is a renovation of a non-residential structure. The structure is not undergoing substantial improvement nor is the footprint increasing, therefore, per 24 CFR 55.14(d), identification, and evaluation of practicable alternatives to the proposed activity (Step 3 of the 8-Step Process) does not need to be conducted.

STEP 4: IDENTIFY POTENTIAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT.

The HUD-funded SBF program intends to provide economic stimulus to Small Businesses for economic development. HUD's regulations limit what actions can be considered under the SBF program, including the prohibition of any construction in the floodway. Descriptions of the potential impacts of the proposed action are below:

The project is a renovation of a non-residential structure. The structure is not undergoing substantial improvement, and the footprint will not increase. The proposal does include a minor renovation of equipment including 2 affixed AC units with no ground disturbance. There will be no anticipated impacts to lives and property as this is a minor improvement to a non-residential structure. As the footprint of the structure will not change there are no anticipated impacts to floodplain characteristics or natural and beneficial values.

STEP 5: WHERE PRACTICABLE, DESIGN OR MODIFY THE PROPOSED ACTION TO MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS TO AND FROM THE FLOODPLAIN OR WETLAND AND TO RESTORE AND PRESERVE THEIR NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS AND VALUES.

The PRDOH and the Puerto Rico Permits Management Office requires elevation or floodproofing of all "substantially damaged or improved" structures in the floodplain. When followed, these regulations will reduce the threat of flooding damage to properties located in the floodplain and reduce the impact of development on the floodplain. Applicants are required to adhere to the most recent floodplain elevation levels when considering reconstruction of their "substantially damaged or improved" property. It is noted; however, that because the property is not to be improved substantially and the footprint of the

structure is not increased, floodplain management options are not required. The footprint of the structure will not be increased, to minimize the potential harm to or within the floodplain.

STEP 6: HUD OR THE RESPONSIBLE ENTITY SHALL CONSIDER THE TOTALITY OF THE PREVIOUS STEPS AND THE CRITERIA IN THIS SECTION TO MAKE A DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO APPROVE, APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS, OR REJECT THE PROPOSED ACTION. ADVERSE IMPACTS TO FLOODPLAINS AND WETLANDS MUST BE AVOIDED IF THERE IS A PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE.

Option A would involve the renovation of the non-residential structure. This option would not adversely impact the floodplain and would help the small business benefit as part of the economic recovery needed because of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. This meets the program goals of revitalizing and supporting the economic development and recovery of Puerto Rico.

Option B would mean the applicant does not receive funding. Due to the great need for economic revitalization after hurricanes Irma and Maria, this would put undue hardship on the applicant; because of this option A was selected.

STEP 7: DETERMINATION OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE.

The project is a renovation of a non-residential structure. The structure is not undergoing substantial improvement nor is the footprint of the structure expanding; therefore, per 24 CFR 55.14(d), the determination of no practicable alternative and publication of a final notice (Step 7 of the 8-Step Process) does not need to be conducted.

STEP 8: IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED ACTION

Step eight is the implementation of the proposed action. There is a continuing responsibility on HUD (or on the responsible entity authorized by 24 CFR part 58) and the recipient (if other than the responsible entity) to ensure that the mitigating measures identified in the steps above are implemented.



DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



MEMORANDUM TO FILE

Date: July 8, 2025

From: Chris Rickard

Senior Environmental Associate

CDBG-DR Program

Small Business Financing Program

Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Application Number: PR-SBF-04268

Project: Flor de Cahillo, Inc.

Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-SBF-04268 under the Small Business Financing 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.



OFICINA ESTATAL DE

CONSERVACIÓN HISTÓRICA

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

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

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Lauren B Poche

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

SHPO-CF-04-17-25-15 PRDOH CDBG-DR_SBF Program_20250417_3
Cases_NHPA

Dear Ms. Poche,

Our Office has received and reviewed the information submitted for 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.

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

1. PR-SBF-02643, Caguas
2. PR-SBF-03261-E, Carolina
3. **PR-SBF-04268, Loíza**

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/MDC



OFICINA ESTATAL DE
CONSERVACIÓN HISTÓRICA
OFICINA DEL GOBERNADOR

STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 17, 2025

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

PUERTO RICO DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM: SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF)

SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL – THREE (3) NON-HISTORIC CASES WITH IMPROVEMENTS – *NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED*

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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 (PRDOH) aims to lead a comprehensive and transparent recovery for the benefit of Puerto Rico residents. To faithfully comply with HUD's environmental requirements, the PRDOH contracted Horne Federal, LLC (HORNE) to provide environmental records review services that will support their objectives for CDBG-DR.

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient for the Small Business Financing Program (SBF), the Economic Development Bank for Puerto Rico, we are submitting the following 3 cases for Section 106 consultation that have improvements proposed to the property. These buildings are 45 years in age or greater and are not individually eligible or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or located within or adjacent to a known eligible or listed Historic District.

MUNICIPALITY	CASE ID	STREET ADDRESS
Caguas	PR-SBF-02643	Calle 31, Ramal 796, Km 0.3, La Guasabara, Bo. Río Canas
Carolina	PR-SBF-03261-E	Carr 860 km 2.0 Bo Martín González
Loíza	PR-SBF-04268	Calle San Patricio #16

Recommendation of **“No Historic Properties Affected”**, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), have been made for the proposed project. The prepared excel file presents all information for the property for your review including the case ID, locational data, photographs, proposed improvements, a link to the google map, key dates and supporting imagery, and the PRDOH Eligibility and Effect Determination.

We look forward to your response. Please contact me with any questions or concerns by email at lauren.poché@horne.com or phone at 225-405-7676.














Kindest regards,



Lauren Bair Poche, MA

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager
LBP/EA

Attachments

		PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING CDBG-DR SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING (SBF) PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS TO NON-HISTORIC PROPERTIES: PROPERTIES 45 YEARS OR GREATER, NOT INDIVIDUALLY ELIGIBLE OR LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP), AND NEITHER ADJACENT TO NOR LOCATED WITHIN AN ELIGIBLE OR LISTED NRHP HISTORIC DISTRICT SUBMITTAL DATE: APRIL 17, 2025 - 3 CASES																				
PROPERTY INFORMATION																	NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY		DETERMINATION OF EFFECT			
MUNICIPALITY	CASE ID	STREET ADDRESS	PARCEL ID	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ACREAGE	FUNDING	PROPOSED WORK	PHOTO (CURRENT AERIAL IMAGERY AND UP TO 3 PHOTOS: FRONT, RIGHT, LEFT)			LINK TO GOOGLE MAP	VERIFIED BY GOOGLE EARTH PRO, AERIAL PHOTO AND USGS MAPS	KEY DATES	PRDHP ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION	SHPO CONCURRENCE (SHPO USE ONLY)	PRDHP EFFECT DETERMINATION	SHPO CONCURRENCE (SHPO USE ONLY)	PRDHP COMMENTS	SHPO COMMENTS		
Caguas	PR-SBF-02643	Calle 35, Barrio 796, Km 0.5, La Guadalupe, Bo. San Carlos	191-094-888-15-003	18.250772	-66.039894	1.27	68,29.43	10 new off-grid A/C units (with new electrical work), new off-grid exhaust hood, replacement off-grid kitchen sink, new off-grid gas food warmer, new off-grid gas stove/boiler, new off-grid gas pizza oven, and new off-grid gas fryer (new gas tank will be installed on existing 6'6" x 4'6" concrete slab)				https://maps.google.com/maps/@18.250772,-66.039894,6t/data=!3m1!1e3!1s0x880000000000000000:0x0000000000000000	ca. 1972	Eastern building is present on 1977 USGS North Explorer imagery, but not present on 1987 aerials.		Ineligible	Select Eligibility	No Historic Properties Affected	Select Effect	Reviewed by E. Atkins, M.A. and Approved by C. Womack, M.A. on 4/16/2025		
Carolina	PR-SBF-02281-E	Carr 850 km 2.0 Bo Martin Gonzalez	116-003-008-04-001	18.370987	-65.98558	0.71	10,964.93	New car lift and alignment system off-grid to existing concrete floor				https://maps.google.com/maps/@18.370987,-65.98558,6t/data=!3m1!1e3!1s0x880000000000000000:0x0000000000000000	ca. 1972	Structure is present on 1977 USGS North Explorer imagery, but absent from 1987 aerials.		Ineligible	Select Eligibility	No Historic Properties Affected	Select Effect	Reviewed by E. Atkins, M.A. and Approved by C. Womack, M.A. on 4/16/2025		
Lobos	PR-SBF-04008	Calle San Patricio #16	055-001-002-01-001	18.434659	-65.87869	0.3	10,028.84	Installation of two split AC units. There are three possible locations to accommodate the two AC units.				https://maps.google.com/maps/@18.434659,-65.87869,6t/data=!3m1!1e3!1s0x880000000000000000:0x0000000000000000	ca. 1980	Structure is present on 1985 USGS North Explorer imagery, but absent from 1977 aerials.		Ineligible	Select Eligibility	No Historic Properties Affected	Select Effect	Reviewed by E. Atkins, M.A. and Approved by C. Womack, M.A. on 4/16/2025		



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

April 30, 2024

Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

Executive Director

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

Cuartel de Ballajá, Third Floor

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents for Consultation

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela,

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

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

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

Cordially,

Aldo A. Rivera Vázquez, PE

Director

Division of Environmental Permitting and Compliance

Office of Disaster Recovery



CDBG-DR PROGRAM
Small Business Financing (SBF) Program

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

APPLICATION GENERAL INFORMATION

Application No.:	PR-SBF-04268	Applicant Name:	Flor de Cahillo, Inc.
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PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Address:
Calle San Patricio #16, Loíza, PR 00772

Latitude:	18.4346272	Longitude:	-65.8786928
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Property Type:	Commercial	Year Built:	1955
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Number of Buildings:	2	Are Utilities Connected?	Yes
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Property Remarks:
The requested air conditioning units will be installed in two adjacent buildings. Photos have been provided of the exteriors of both.

Is there evidence of damage from a previous disaster?	Yes
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Damage Remarks:
There used to be a wooden structure next to one of the buildings. It was destroyed during Hurricane Maria. Photos have been provided of the space where the structure used to be.

SIGNATURES OF INSPECTION REPORT

Environmental Inspector:	Blas Guernica		May 20, 2024
	Printed Name	Signature	Date

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

REQUIRED PHOTOS



Exterior



Exterior



Exterior



Exterior

PHOTOS OF RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (add additional pages as necessary)



Exterior



Exterior



Exterior



Exterior

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS (add additional pages as necessary)



Exterior



Exterior



Rear of Property Outward



Front of Property Outward

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS (add additional pages as necessary)



Right of Property Outward



Left of Property Outward



Streetscape



Streetscape (UST Site)



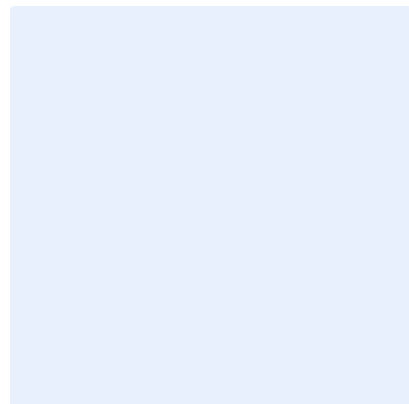
Hurricane Damage



Hurricane Damage



55-Gallon Drum



Name	Location	Municipio	Lat	Long	Type	Report	Distance (ft)	Impact?
MUNICIPALITY OF LOIZA	3 CALLE ESPIRITU SANTO	LOIZA	18.434593	-65.879229	FRS	https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110060367124	170.96	No
MUNICIPALITY OF LOÍZA	55 CALLE ESPIRITU SANTO	LOIZA	18.430779	-65.880944	FRS	https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110035859899	1,613.32	No
PR PUBLIC HOUSING ADMIN SAN PATRICIO	AVE CARLOS ESCOBAR	LOIZA	18.43333	-65.87992	FRS	https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110007820518	645.89	No

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.

Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Davila, Rio Piedras, PR 00981 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365
Tel: (787) 274-2527 | www.usenda.pr.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

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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 Pavetko, Pavetko.Oleg@epa.gov
Mr. Matthew Laitila, laitila.matthew@epa.gov

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: OIA@cdc.gov

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


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary



August 20, 2024

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

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

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


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

August 20, 2024

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

Via email: dr.carlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov

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GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

August 20, 2024

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

Via email: hweyers@usgs.gov

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

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CDBG-DR/MIT Program
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William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Raúl Hernández Dabla, rhernandez2@salud.pr.gov

CDBG-DR/MIT Program
Request for Information in relation with HUD CDP-23-103 for Puerto Rico
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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); Rzeszutarski, 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>; Silvina Cancelos Mancini <silvina.cancelos@upr.edu>; Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>
Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Povetko, Oleg (he/him/his) <Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Saludos.

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

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

From: Silvina Cancelos Mancini <silvina.cancelos@upr.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 15:04
To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>
Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <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 dejarle saber que recibimos su correo el 21 de agosto al igual que el de Maritza Rosa el pasado 4 de septiembre. Ya las personas involucradas de EPA, junto conmigo y el Dr. Marín estamos al tanto del asunto y estamos trabajando para poder enviarles la información.

Atentamente

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



Bubble Dynamics Lab
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez



EPA REGION 2
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

September 23, 2024

VIA EMAIL

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

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

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodriguez Rodriguez:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2

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

Sincerely,

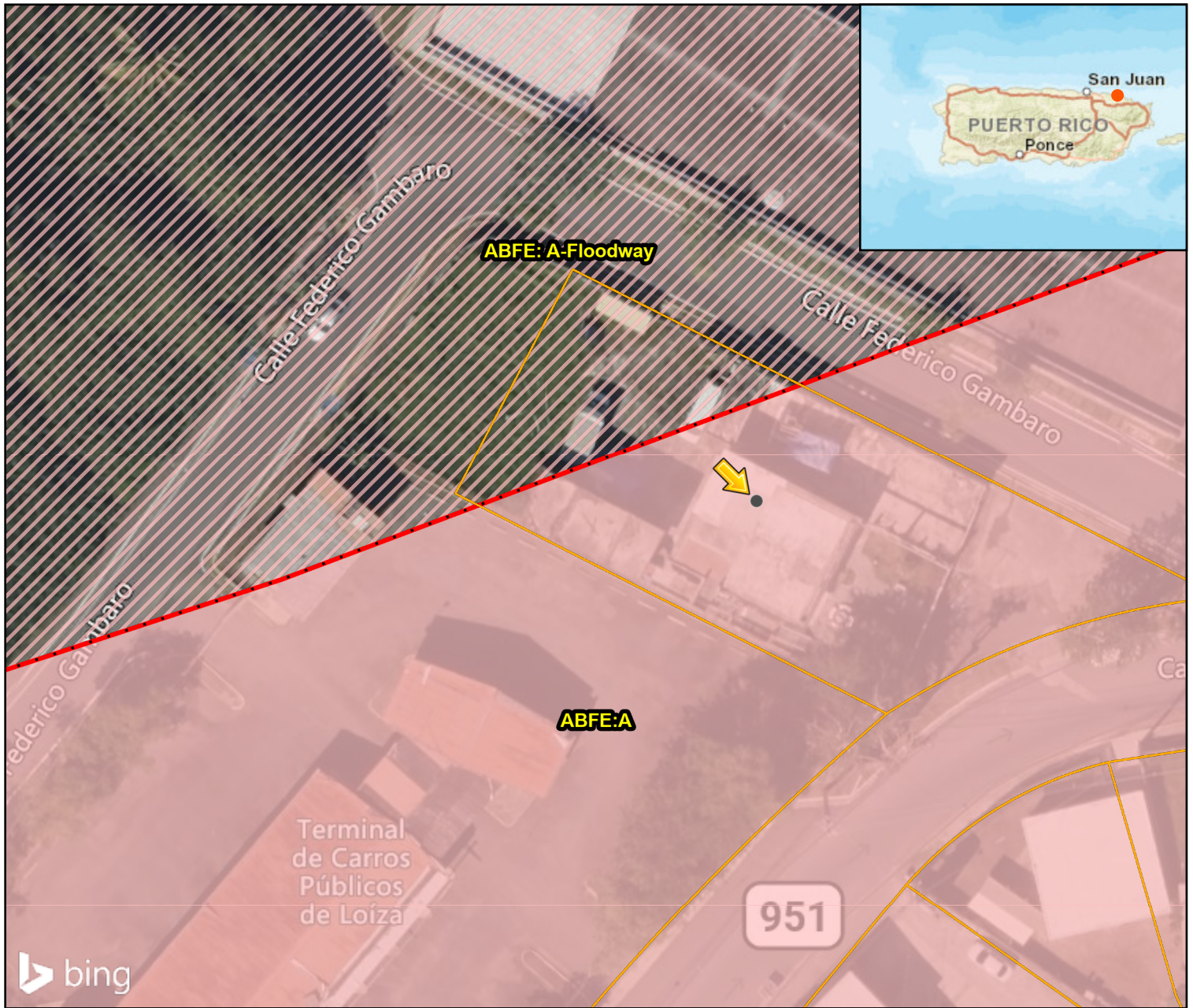
**CARMEN
GUERRERO
PEREZ**

Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez
Director

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

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

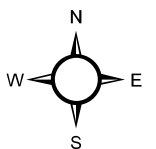
PR-SBF-04268 ABFE



Legend

- Parcels
- A
- A-Floodway
- Zone/BFE Boundary

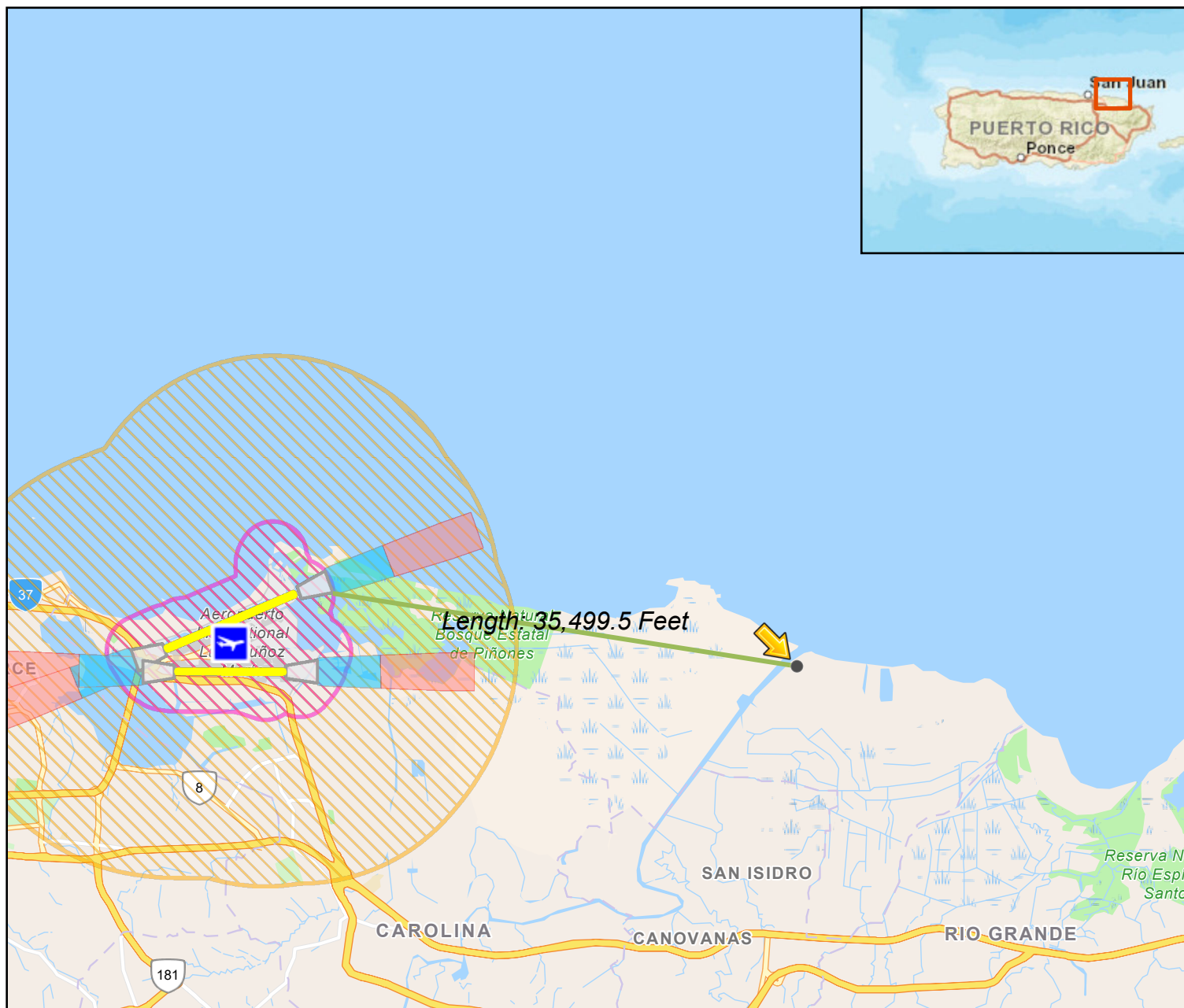
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FEMA Map Service

ABFE 1PCT

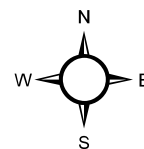
PR-SBF-04268 Airports



Legend

- Military Airports 15,000ft Buffer
- Civilian Airports 2,500ft Buffer
- Military Accident Potential Zones APZ 2
- Military Accident Potential Zones APZ 1
- Runway Protection Zones
- Airport Runways
- Major

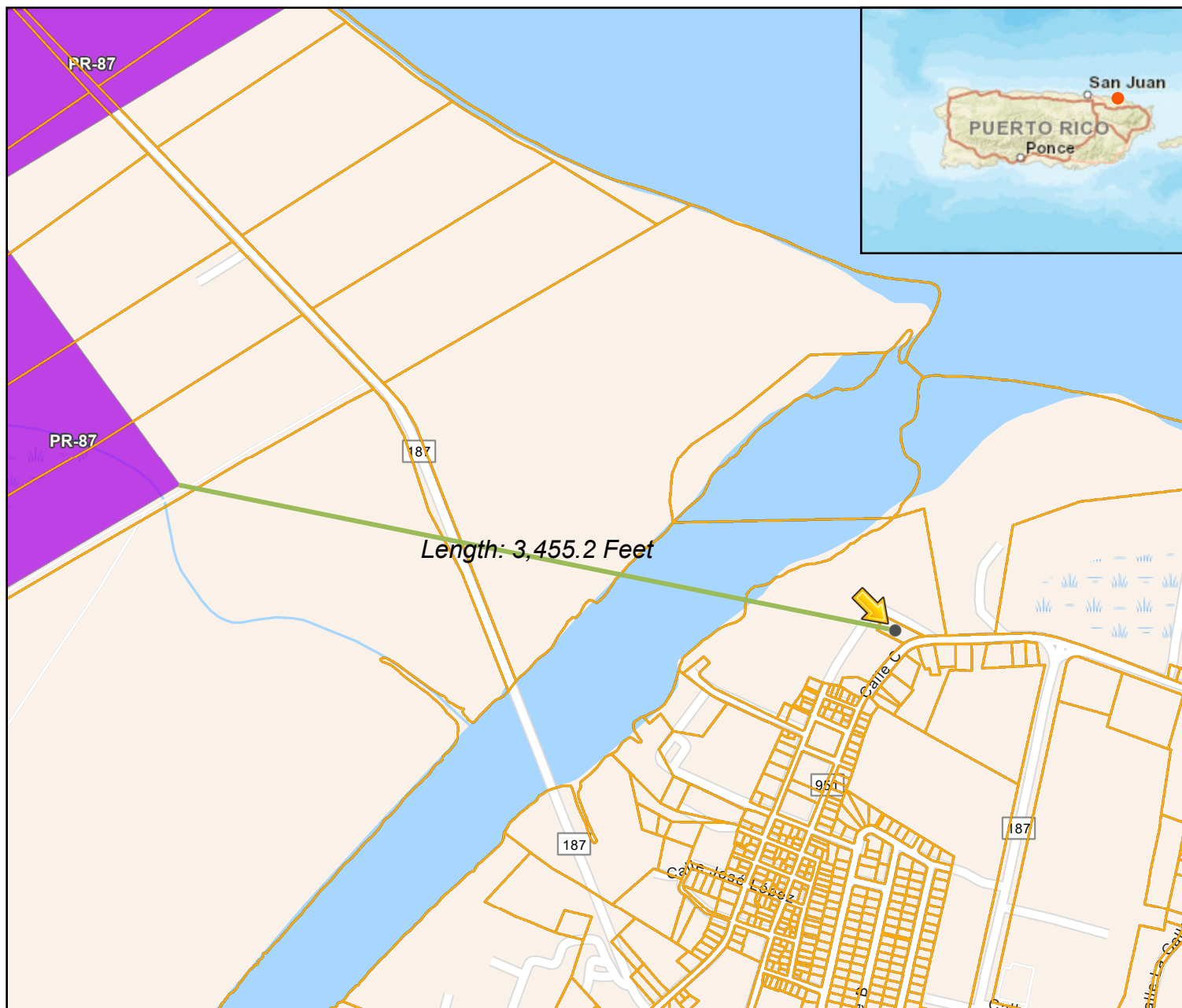
0 1.25 2.5 5 mi



Runway Protection Zones

Major Civil and Military Airports

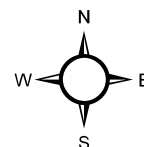
PR-SBF-04268 CBRs



Legend

- Parcels
- System Unit

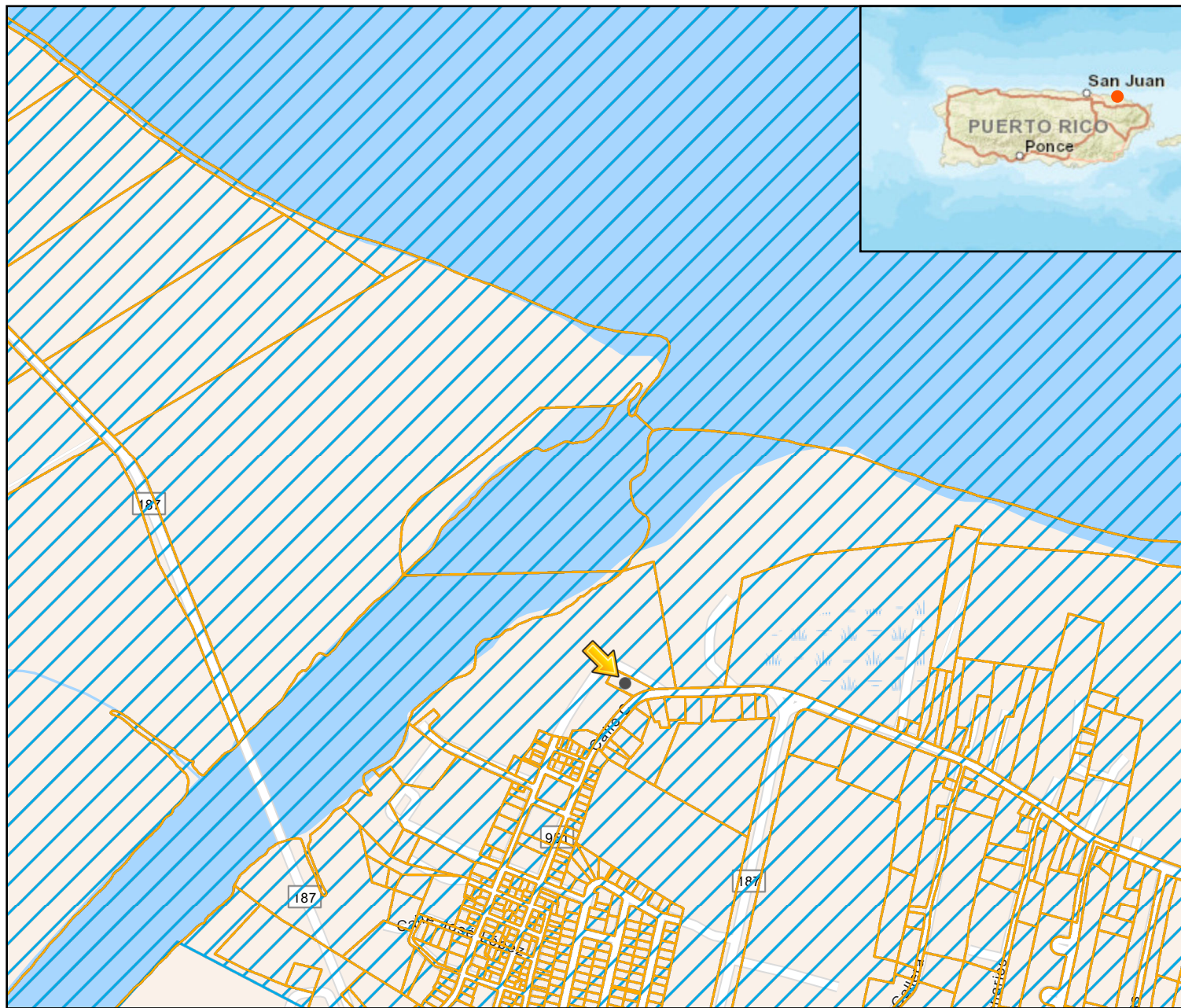
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program

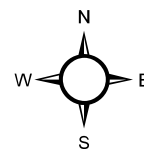
PR-SBF-04268 CZM



Legend

- Parcels
- Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary

0 0.07 0.15 0.3 mi



NOAA

Coastal Zone Management Act

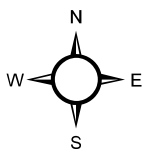
PR-SBF-04268 ESA



Legend

USFWS Critical Habitat - Polygon Features - Final (agency service)

0 1.25 2.5 5 mi



Endangered Species Habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PR-SBF-04268 Farmland



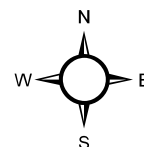
Legend

Parcels

ClassName

Not Prime Farmland

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USGS USA Soils

Farmland dataset

PR-SBF-04268 FIRM

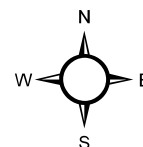


Legend

FEMA Flood Zones - Effective

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

0 0.02 0.04 0.08 mi





FEMA Map Service

Flood Insurance Rate Maps

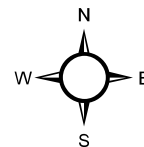
PR-SBF-04268 Historic Sites



Legend

-  Sitios Historicos JP
-  Traditional Urban Centers

0 0.04 0.09 0.17 mi



National Register of Historic Places

Local Historic Areas digitized by Horne

<https://arcgis.horne.com/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=883eb165a91d411996af67b92f45a429>

<https://sigejp.pr.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b36c00df6e064b6a8f70a6593cf64b7e>




<https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466>

5/21/2025 10:55 AM

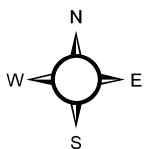
PR-SBF-04268 Site Map



Legend

-  Parcels
-  New AC Unit Compressors
-  Applicant Structure

0 0.01 0.01 0.02 mi



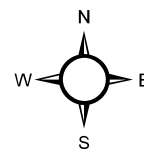
PR-SBF-04268 SSA



Legend

 Sole Source Aquifers (2019)

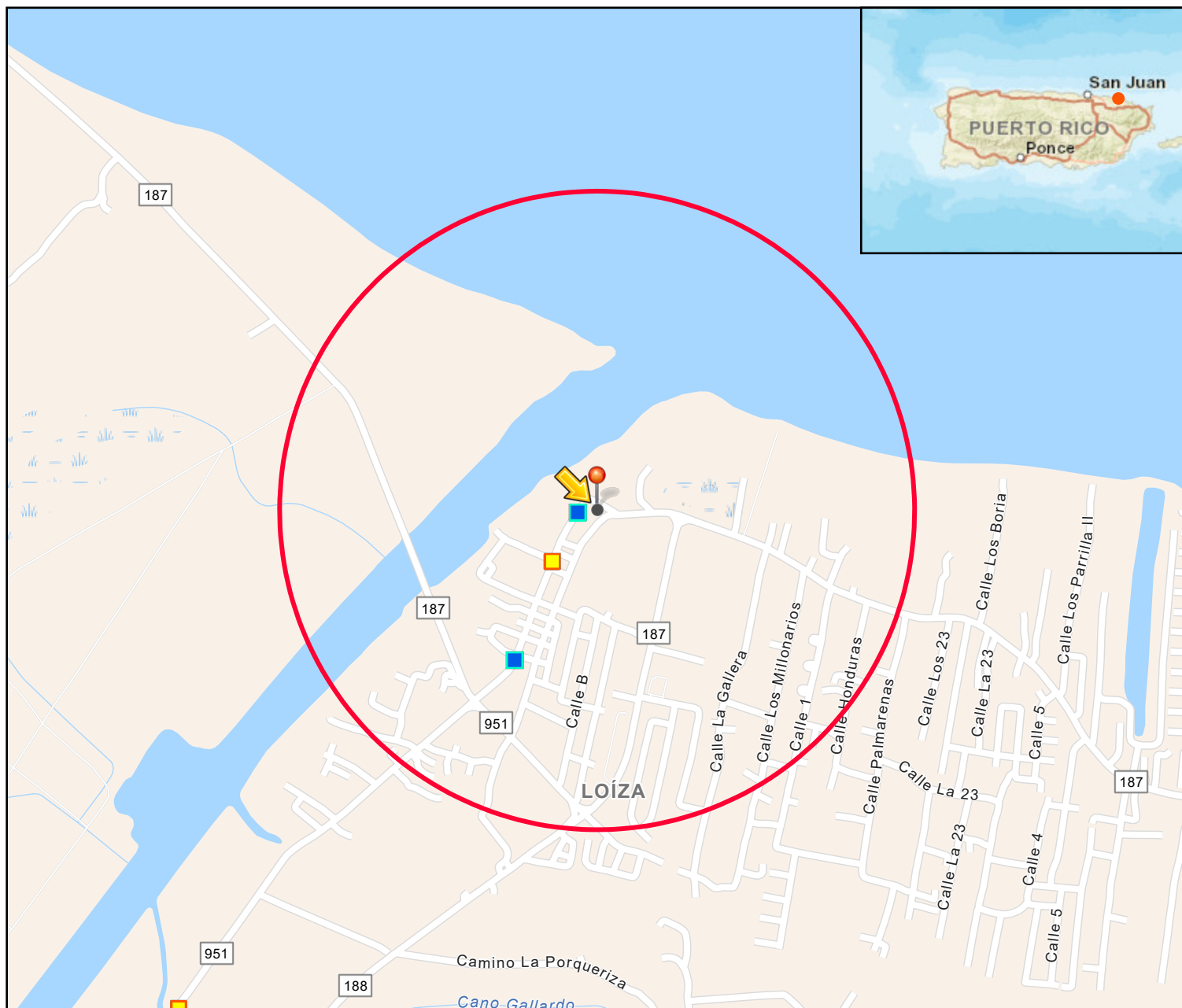
0 180 360 720 mi



Sole Source Aquifers

EPA

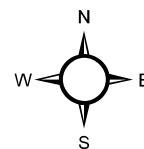
PR-SBF-04268 Toxic Sites



Legend

- Hazardous waste
- Water dischargers

0 0.17 0.35 0.7 mi



Envirofacts Facility Locations

EPA

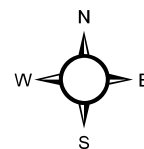
PR-SBF-04268 Wetlands



Legend

- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Parcels

0 0.01 0.01 0.02 mi



National Wetlands Inventory

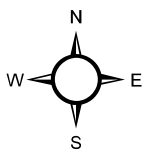
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PR-SBF-04268 WSR



Legend
— Wild and Scenic Rivers

0 1.25 2.5 5 mi



National Wild and Scenic River System

National Park Service