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

# **Project Information**

Project ID: PR-RGRW-01455

Project Name: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico / Utuado, PR

Preparer: Patricia Carmenatty

**Certifying Officer Name and Title:** Permit and Environmental Compliance Officers: Sally Acevedo Cosme, Pedro de León Rodriguez, María T. Torres Bregon, Ivelisse Lorenzo, Angel Gabriel Lopez Guzman, Janette Cambrelen, Santa Ramirez, Limary Vélez Marrero, Juan Carlos Perez Bofill and Mónica M. Machuca Ríos.

Consultant: Behar Ybarra & Associates LLC

**Direct Comments to:** Puerto Rico Department of Housing: (<u>environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov</u>)

### **Project Location:**

BO Tetuan II, Carr 613 km 8.6, Utuado, PR 00641

Warehouse and coffee pulper location: latitude 18.266226, longitude -66.611458

Parcel cadastral # 190-000-002-22-000

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01455 consist of the installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse, a coffee pulper and the purchase of a large fleet commercial truck. The installation of the warehouse and coffee pulper will be on top of a concrete slab and the warehouse will be anchored at the edges with foundations buried 2 feet deep so it will require ground disturbance. The concrete slab will have the same dimensions as the warehouse and will be provided by the applicant. The purpose of the warehouse is to locate coffee processing machinery and product storage. The water needed for the structure will be collected on the existing water cisterns that are supplied by a PRASA intake on the property and the water lines will be placed underground that will also

require ground disturbance. The approximate distance of the pipes is 25 feet from the cisterns to the warehouse. The power needed for the operation of the structure will be provided from an existing P.R.E.P.A./LUMA power outlet on the property. A new underground line for the power connection of approximately 30 feet will be installed and will run from the existing power outlet to the warehouse electrical panel. The project area is located at PR-613 km. 8.6 within the Municipality of Utuado. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been used for agricultural purposes for the past 8 years.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined as the area potentially impacted by ground disturbing activities related to the installation and construction of the warehouse and coffee pulper plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

A site Map is included in Figure 1, illustrating the location of the warehouse and coffee pulper on the property. Photos of the locations are included in the Section 106 documentation, Appendix 1. Refer to Appendix 3 for Site Inspection Report.

**Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal** [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]: The Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (RGRW) will increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island wide. This Program will enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. This agricultural project associated with the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck is in keeping with the overall objectives of the Economic Development Program.

# Existing Conditions and Trends [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:

The existing area for the proposed warehouse and where the pulper will be placed is in a small flat area covered with grass. The area is adjacent to the PR-613 road and to the east there is a steep slope. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with these placements.

# Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and	\$11,938,162,230.00
B-17-DP-72-0001	Development (CPD) /	
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Development	
B-18-DE-72-0001	Block Grant - Disaster	
	Recovery (CDBG-DR)	

### Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$137,857.00

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$137,857.00.

# Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

<b>Compliance Factors:</b> Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
<b>Airport Hazards</b> 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	This project of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck will have no impact on any Airports. The site is located 94,529 feet from the nearest major civil airport (Mercedita International Airport in Ponce) and 220,399 feet from the nearest military airport (Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan). This topic is in compliance with the HUD's Airport Hazard regulations without further evaluation. See the attached Airport map Runway Protection Zone, Figure 2.
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. The project is located 81,084 feet southeast of the nearest Coastal Barrier Resource System, PR-81. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. See the attached CBRS map, Figure 3.

Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a] STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,			The project is located in a Zone X, Panel 72000C0640H, 4/19/2005 on the FEMA FIRM. The project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance. See attached Flood Map, Figure 4 and 4.1.
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93		10	This project consists only of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck for an agricultural site and is not located in a nonattainment municipality of Puerto Rico (Arecibo, Bayamón, Cataño, Guaynabo, Salinas, San Juan, Toa Baja). The installation and operation of this project will have no impact and is in compliance with the Clean Air Act without further evaluation. See attached published list of Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for each country by year for all criteria pollutants in Appendix 2.
<b>Coastal Zone Management</b> Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes N	√0	The project is located 70,041 feet from the nearest Coastal Zone Management Area and 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. See the attached CZMA map, Figure 5.
<b>Contamination and Toxic Substances</b> 24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)	Yes N	10	This project consists of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck for an agricultural project. 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. There is no site of environmental concern identified within 3,000 feet from the project site. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements. See attached Toxics Map, Figure 6.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	The project could involve any activity that has an adverse effect on protected species or critical habitats. After reviewing data from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information and Planning Consultation (IPaC) and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) database, the PR boa (Chilabothrus inornatus), PR Broad- winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens), PR Parot (Amazona vittata) and PR Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita) could be found in the project area. The installation of the warehouse and coffee pulper will require ground disturbance; however, the scope of work includes continued agricultural use of the property with no intention to cut down trees or making major changes in the topography of the project area because the warehouse will be installed in a space that has been cleared and maintained that way for agricultural purposes. Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and analysis of the IPaC lists together with field direct observations of the area where the project will be developed, the proponent has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly since its
		critical habitat is approximately 21,756 feet from the proposed project site. Since

		the land is currently used for agricultural purposes and the surface is mostly exposed the proponent also determined a NLAA determination for the Puerto Rican parrot. Also, the Service acknowledge receipt of the DKey consistency letter with the No Effect (NE) determination for the Puerto Rican boa and NLAA determination for the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk.
		If a Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is found, follow the conservation measures recommended by the USFWS in the Determination Letter.
		If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the Construction Manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the Boa. As established by the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures Guideline.
		https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/guidelin e/design/population/156/office/41430.p df
		This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. See attached Endangered Species map, Figure 7. See attached Consultation Package and USFWS Determination Letter in Appendix 4.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No	This project consists of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck does not include development, construction or rehabilitation that will increase residential density. This project is in compliance with Explosive and Flammable Hazards without further evaluation.

Farmlands Protection		
Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use. All areas under the project site are farmland of statewide importance. The scope of work includes the installation of a warehouse and a coffee pulper, and this is a construction limited to on-farm structures needed for farm operations. Therefore, the project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act. See the attached Farmlands map, Figure 8.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes No	The project is located in a Zone X, Panel 72000C0640H, 4/19/2005 (Figure 4). The site is not located in a Preliminary Firm or an Advisory Base Flood Elevation special flood hazard area. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. See attached Flood Map (Figure 9).
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	The site was visited on September 6, 2023, by SOI-qualified archaeologist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE has been defined as the area potentially affected by ground-disturbing activities related to the warehouse and coffee pulper. Documentation with photographs and maps was subsequently submitted to SHPO (attached Appendix 1). In a response from PR SHPO dated October 2, 2023, SHPO concurred with a finding of <b>No Historic Properties Affected</b> within the project's Area of Potential Effects (see attached Appendix 1). The property is not considered historic or contributing to an historic district (See attached Historic map, Figure 10). Therefore, this activity is in compliance with National Historic Preservation Act.

Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No	This project consists only of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck for an agricultural site. The project does not include new construction for residential use or rehabilitation of an existing residential property. The site is rural in nature and there will be no impact to or from the surrounding area from a noise perspective. This topic is in compliance with Noise Abatement and Control without further evaluation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No	There are no EPA sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act without further evaluation.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No	There are no wetlands located within or near the project activity area. Therefore, wetlands will not be affected by the project undertaking. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. See the attached Wetlands map, Figure 11.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	This project is not within proximity of the NWSRS river. The project is located 286,436 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. See Map, Figure 12.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes No	Based on the scope of work for this project, there will be no additional impact on low-income or minority residents. This proposed activity will not have a negative impact on Environmental Justice. Therefore, the proposed activity complies with the Executive Order 12898.

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

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

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact May require mitigation

(4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOP	MENT	
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The proposed action is continued agricultural use of property which is compatible with a zoning code of N-C (No Rated) and the existing land use of SREP-A (Specially Protected Agricultural Rustic Land). There is no urban design associated with this rural, agricultural site.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	<u> </u>	The soil is currently being used for agriculture purposes. There is no change in land use since the land will continue to be used to agriculture purposes. The soil in the area has been classified as Humatas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes (HmE). This soil is deep and well drained and are on uplands. They formed in fine textured

		residuum weathered from basic volcanic rock. The permeability and available water capacity of this Humatas soil are moderate. Runoff is rapid, and fertility is medium. The landslide data indicates low to high landslide susceptibility, and no erosion is expected to occur from this project. The project will not affect the drainage in the area. There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project. See Landslide Susceptibility Map, Figure 13.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	There are no specific environmental hazards that have been identified for this site. The site is not in a high Noise Level area, nor will the project generate any additional noise. Additionally, the project does not include housing or such to where inhabitants would be affected.
Energy Consumption	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck on an existing agricultural farm and will not require any new expansion to existing power facilities. The power needed for the operation of the structure will be provided from an existing P.R.E.P.A./LUMA power outlet on the property.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
	Code	Impact Evaluation
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation The project will result in short-term benefit to employment when contractors are hired for the construction of the warehouse. After construction, there may be a net positive benefit for the farm, a small business receiving this funding for economic development recovery purposes, which will aid in the continued operations of the intended use of the farm which products will be used by Puerto Rico population. The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on Employment and Income Patterns, however, the project may help restore employment opportunities and income patterns.

		opportunities for the continuous agricultural growth of the business.
Environmental Justice	2	<ul> <li>In the project area within a one-mile radius:</li> <li>The people of color are 99 % compared to PR average of 96%</li> <li>93 % of the people are low income compared to PR average of 70%</li> <li>18 % of the people are unemployed compared to PR average of 15%</li> </ul> The proposed activities of the installation of the warehouse will have a positive impact on creating jobs for local people. Therefore, the proposed activity complies with this section. See EJScreen Report in Appendix 3.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation		
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES				
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck for an agricultural site and will have no impact on educational and cultural facilities.		
Commercial Facilities	2	The proposed project may aid in restoring the demand for local commercial services; however, not to the point of putting undue pressure on commercial facilities.		
Health Care and Social Services	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Health Care and Social Services.		
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The proposed project will have no impact on Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling services. The products and by-products are agricultural, and any waste would be biodegradable. The remaining construction solid waste		

		materials would be collected for transport to the local landfill.
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The purchase and installation of the warehouse and coffee pulper is not expected to result in any changes in wastewater or sanitary sewer generation. Wastewater from the project will not enter environmentally sensitive areas, nor will the project produce any noxious odors affecting the quality of life of nearby residents. The proposed project will have no impact on Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers.
Water Supply	2	The proposed project will not require an additional water supply. No new connections will be provided for municipal potable water. The water needed for the structure will be collected on the existing water cisterns that are supplied by a PRASA intake on the property. The water lines will be placed underground. The proposed project will have no impact on the water supply.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The project of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Public Safety.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The proposed project will have no impact to Parks, Open Space and Recreation. The property being used is agricultural and it will continue as agricultural use.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck for an agricultural site and will have no impact on transportation and accessibility.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The proposed project will be situated on previous agriculture property and will have no impact to unique natural features or water resources.

Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The proposed project will occur in land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. There may be wildlife attracted to the warehouse but no negative impact on wildlife.
Climate Change	2	The Re-Grow Program proposed project aims to increase resiliency in the agricultural industry to prepare for future climate related disasters. The project will not contribute to climate change and will provide a minor net benefit by allowing for increased fruit trees production. In case of drought, the well will provide the necessary water for crops.

Additional Studies Performed: Not applicable.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by): September 6, 2023, Jaqueline Lopez, SOI-Qualified Archaeologist

### List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

FAA, National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems:

www.faa.gov/airports/planning\_capacity/npias/reports/NPIAS-Report-2017-2021-Appendix-B-Part6.pdf

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, Puerto Rico map. www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Locator/PR.pdf

National Park Service, National Registry of Natural Landmarks. www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/docs/NNLRegistry.pdf

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wild and Scenic Rivers – correspondence to Agency on October 16, 2018

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

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

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

Sierra Research for Office of Mobile Sources. US Environmental Protection Agency. Report No. SR93-03-02, Evaluation of Methodologies to Estimate Nonroad Mobile Source Usage, March 19, 1993: http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=9100UR51.txt

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

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

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/reports/species-listed-by-state-report?state=PR&status=listed</u>

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Mapping Service: <u>https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home (compilation of numerous maps)</u>

Puerto Rico Planning Board, Communication regarding Floodplain Management, November 29, 2018.

US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory: <u>www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html</u> (compilation of numerous maps)

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Antilles Section, Communication regarding Wetlands Management, November 13, 2018.

Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program Plan, September 2009.

Puerto Rico Planning Board, Communication regarding Coastal Zone Management, November 16, 2018 (No response).

US EPA, Sole Source Aquifers. Esri HERE, Garmin, NOAA, USGS, EPA.

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office. E-mail communication regarding October 23, 2018 letter on Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitats.

NOAA Fisheries / National Marine Fisheries Service, NEPA Coordinator Southeast Regional Office. Communication on October 16, 2018 regarding designated critical habitat. (No response).

US Geological Survey, Data Release of May Showing Concentration of Landslides Caused by Hurricane Maria, <u>https://doi:10.5066/F7JD4VRF</u>

# List of Permits Obtained: None required.

**Public Outreach** [24 CFR 58.43]: Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the agricultural community. This project will include a FONSI/NOI-RROF in compliance with NEPA regulations for HUD.

**Cumulative Impact Analysis** [24 CFR 58.32]: In accordance with 24 CFR 58.32 (Aggregation), there are no cumulative impacts associated with the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck for an agricultural site.

### Alternatives [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]

The Regrow Program purpose is to enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities while promoting and increasing food security island wide. The "Alternative" action would mean that the applicant will be placing the warehouse and coffee pulper in a different area on the property. This "Alternative" would not be feasible since the applicant aims to plant the rest of the land with fruit trees and It is the only space that has the ground ready to install the warehouse and has the convenience of having connections for the utilities already connected. This alternative also mean that the Applicant will not have an additional capacity to expand his harvest. With this alternative, the applicant would not be able to experience the growth needed to recover and expand their agriculture activities.

## No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

The 'No-Action' alternative would mean that the applicant would not receive federal funding to provide of the purchase and installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse structure, coffee pulper and a large fleet commercial truck for an agricultural site which would inhibit the economic growth opportunity that the applicant would not otherwise have under the PRDOH Re-Grow Puerto Rico program. As a result, these owners may not be able to experience the growth needed to recover and expand their agriculture activities. A provision of the grant allows for economic development for businesses. The No-Action alternative would not allow for the economic development for this applicant.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusions:** The proposed activity has been found to not have any adverse effects on the environmental nor is there the requirement for further consultation with any agency. There are no environmental review topics addressed that result in the need for formal compliance steps or the requirement for mitigation.

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	The USFWS determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly since its critical habitat is approximately 21,756 feet from the proposed project site.
	If a Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is found, follow the conservation measures recommended by the USFWS in the Determination Letter (See Appendix 4).

#### Determination:

**Finding of No Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]

The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

**Finding of Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]

The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature: \_\_\_\_

Date: <u>12/22/2023</u>

Name/Title/Organization: <u>Patricia Carmenatty / Environmental Specialist/ Behar Ybarra</u> <u>& Associates LLC</u>

Certifying Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: January 9, 2024

Nome/Title: Santa D. Ramírez Lebrón / Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

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



Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects24 CFR Part 58

**Figures** 

#### Application ID: PR-RGRW-01455

BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC

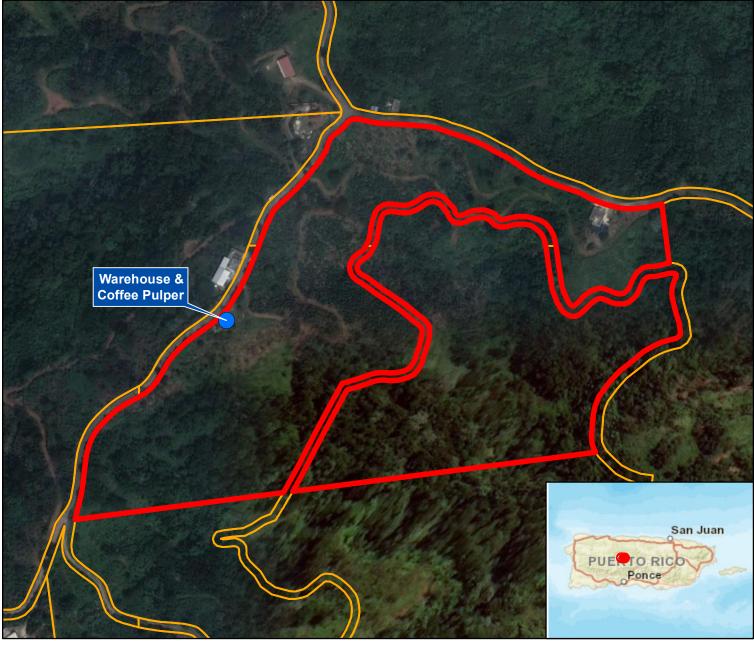


#### CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

n. P.R. 00920 Tel.(7 Figure 1

Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Hacienda Doña Luisa INC **BO** Tetuan II Carr 613 km 8.6 Utuado, PR 00641 Catastro: 190-000-002-22-000 Lat: 18.266226, Lon: -66.611458



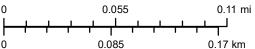
#### Legend



PR-RGRW-01455

PR-RGRW-01455 Parcel

**CRIM** Parcels



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth



#### Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/



# Figure 2 PR-RGRW-01455 Airport



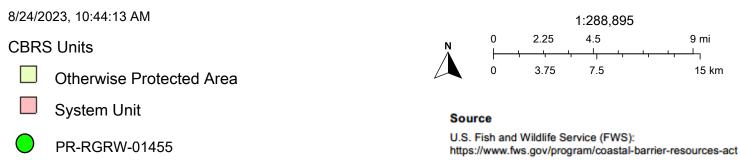
Major Civil and Military Airports

BYA



# Figure 3 PR-RGRW-01455 CBRS





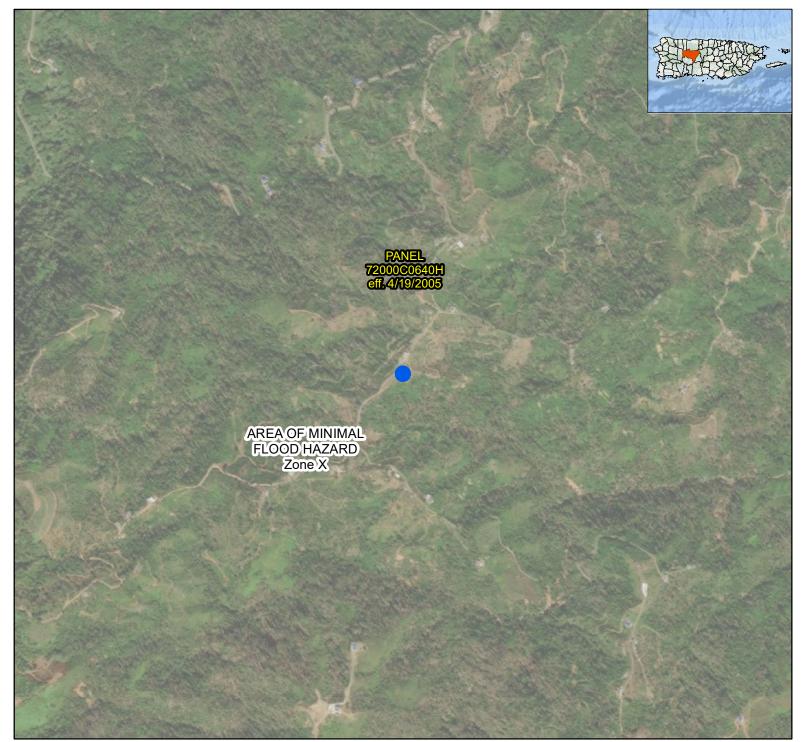
BYA



# Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Hacienda Doña Luisa INC BO Tetuan II Carr 613 km 8.6 Utuado, PR 00641 Catastro: 190-000-001-44-000 Lat: 18.266226, Lon: -66.611458



# Legend:



PR-RGRW-01455

Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X



0.1 0.2 mi 0.1 0.2 mi 0.1 0.2 mi 0.

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



1:10,000

Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home



# Figure 5 PR-RGRW-01455 CZM

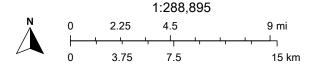


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Coastal Zone M anagement



PR-RGRW-01455

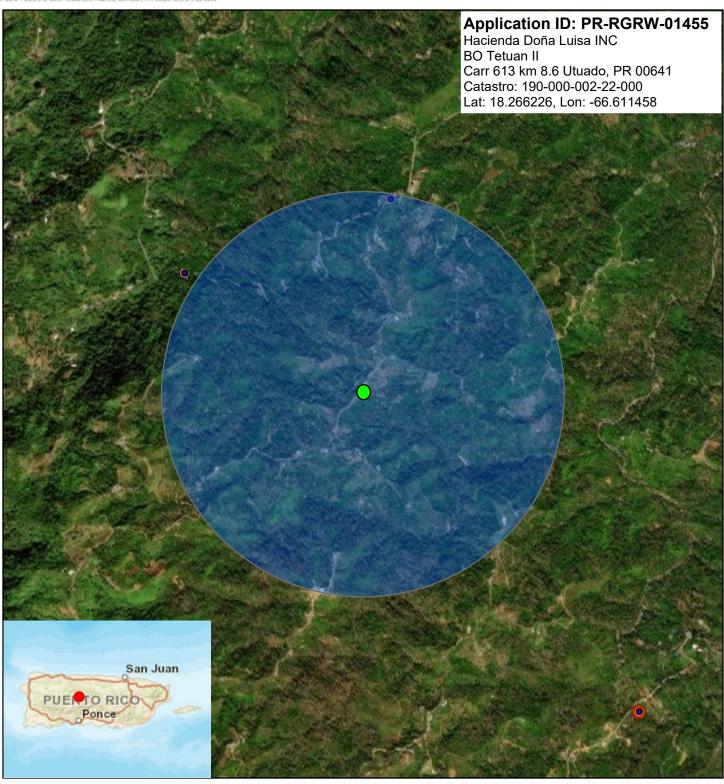


Source

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NOAA Office for Coastal Management (NOAA/OCM) https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/53132



# Figure 6 PR-RGRW-01455 Toxic



8/24/2023, 10:53:15 AM 1:18,056 0.25 0.13 0 3000ft Buffer 0.23 0.45 FACILITY INTERESTS Source ICIS U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **NPDES** Facility Registry Service (FRS) https://www.epa.gov/frs **PR-RGRW-01455** 

Maxar | Google Earth Image 2021 @ Maxar Technologies; @ Image 2021 CNES/Airbus | GoogleEarth | FEMA | US Forest Service Enterprise Map Services Program | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

0.5 mi

0.9 km



**PR-RGRW-01455** 

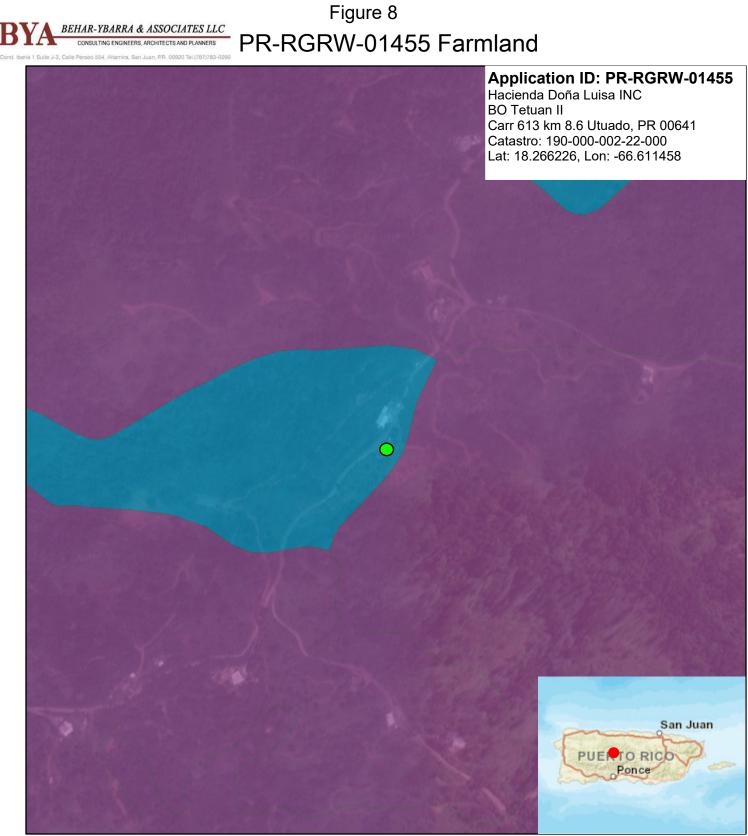
# Figure 7 PR-RGRW-01455 Endangered Species



8/24/2023, 10:55:14 AM 1:288,895 2.25 4.5 9 mi Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species 3.75 7.5 15 km Final **USFWS Critical Habitat - Final** 

Source

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/



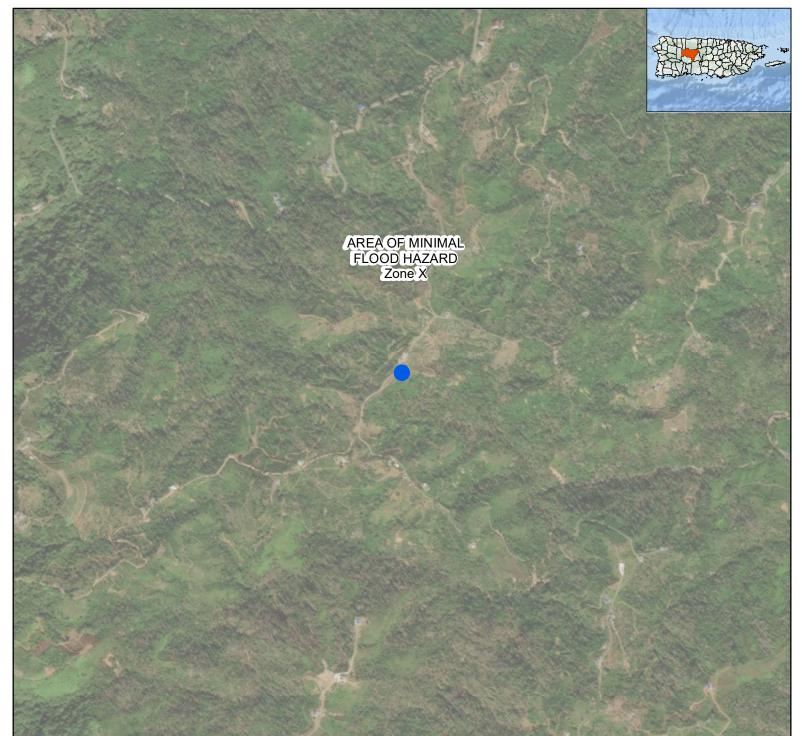
8/24/2023, 11:07:25 AM 1:4,514 0.07 0.04 0.14 mi 0 **Farmland Protection** 0.05 0.2 km 0 0.1 Farmland of statewide importance Not prime farmland Source Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Gridded Soil Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO) **PR-RGRW-01455** https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/soil-survey-geographic-database-ssurgo BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

# Figure 9: Advisory Base Flood Elevation Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Hacienda Doña Luisa INC Bo.Tetuán II Carr. 613 km 8.6 Utuado, PR 00641 Catastro: 190-000-001-44-000 Lat: 18.266226, Lon: -66.611458

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01455



# Legend:

PR-RGRW-01455

Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X



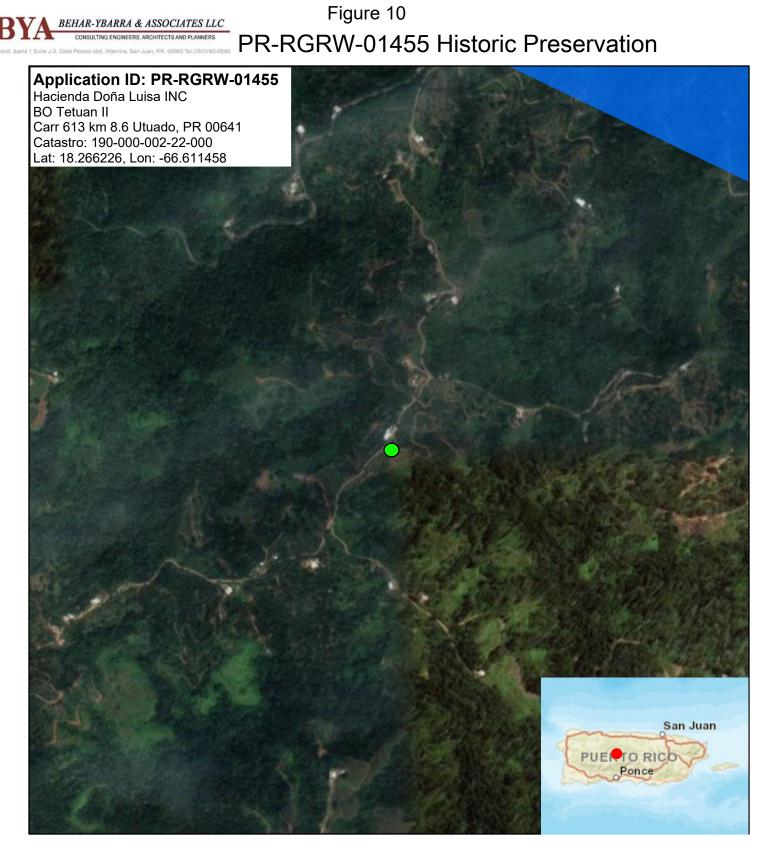
Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



1:11,000

Source

Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) https://jp.pr.gov/

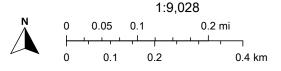


8/24/2023, 11:09:32 AM

Cultural\_Resourses - Archeological Resourses

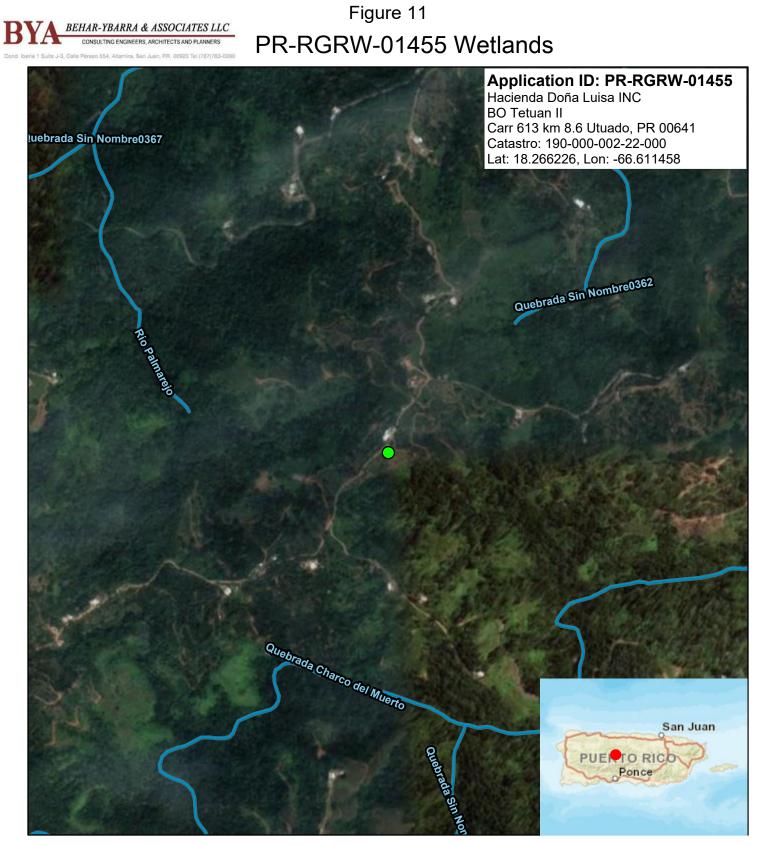


PR-RGRW-01455



Source

National Park Service (NPS) - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) https://oech.pr.gov/Pages/default.aspx



8/24/2023, 11:11:08 AM

WETLANDS - National Wetlands Inventory



Hidrografia - Oficina Plan de Agua

PR-RGRW-01455

#### Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): National Wetlands Inventory

https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory



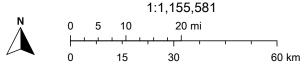
# Figure 12 PR-RGRW-01455 Wild and Scenic River



8/24/2023, 11:13:03 AM

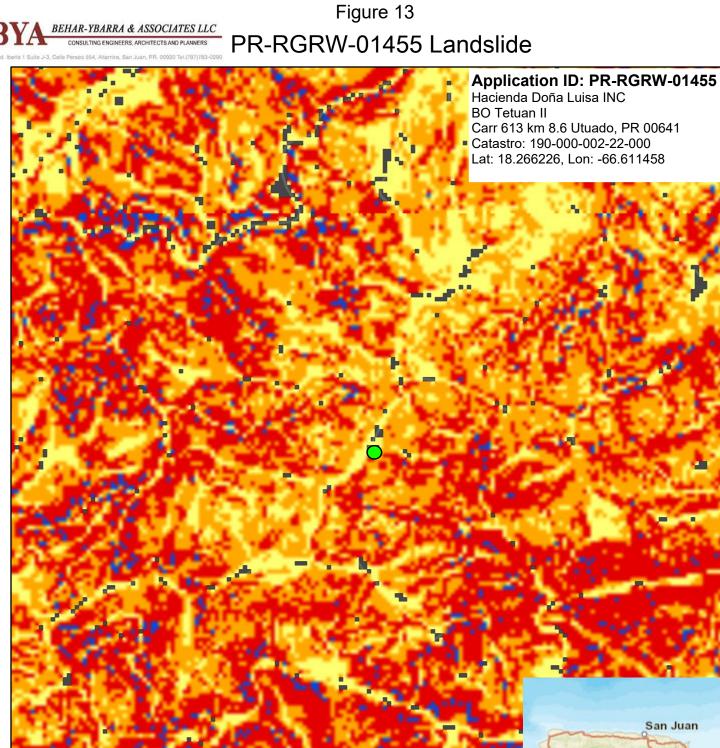
National Wild and Scenic River Line

PR-RGRW-01455

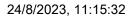


Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Wild and Scenic Rivers System https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php







Landslide Susceptibility

Low

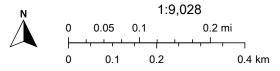
High

Very High

Extremely High

Moderate

PR-RGRW-01455



Source: Landslide data from USGS: Esri Imagery Basemap service.



Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects24 CFR Part 58

# Appendix 1



# GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

October 2, 2023

Lauren Bair Poche HORNE 10000 Perkins Rowe, Suite 610, Bldg G Baton Rouge, LA 70810

SHPO 09-27-23-04 SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL: PR-RGRW-01455- HACIENDA DOÑA LUISA INC- BO. TETUÁN II, CARR. 613, KM 8.6, UTUADO, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Bair,

Our Office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with 54 U.S.C. 306108 (commonly known as Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*) and 36 CFR Part 800: *Protection of Historic Properties*.

Our records support your finding of **no historic properties affected** for this undertaking.

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

Sincerely,

anty a Ruhi

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB



Cuartel de Ballajá (Tercer Piso), Calle Norzagaray, Esq. Beneficiencia, Viejo San Juan, PR 00901 | PO Box 9023935, San Juan, PR 00902-3935



September 27, 2023

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

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

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-01455 – Hacienda Doña Luisa INC – Bo. Tetuán II, Carr 613 Km 8.6, Utuado, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected* 

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, HORNE is providing information for your review and requesting your concurrence regarding the above-referenced projects on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH). On February 9, 2018, an allocation of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds was approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 28, 83 FR 5844, to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in meeting unmet needs in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. On August 14, 2018, an additional \$8.22 billion recovery allocation was allocated to Puerto Rico under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 157, 83 FR 40314. With these funding allocations, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (Housing) aims to lead a comprehensive and transparent recovery for the benefit of Puerto Rico residents.

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, HORNE is submitting documentation for activities proposed by Hacienda Doña Luisa INC at Carr 613 Km 8.6 in Bo. Tetuán II in the municipality of Utuado. The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01455 consist of the installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse, a coffee pulper and the purchase of a large fleet commercial truck. The installation of the warehouse and coffee pulper will be on top of a new concrete slab and the warehouse will be anchored at the edges with foundations buried 2 feet deep so it will require ground disturbance. The purpose of the warehouse is to locate coffee processing machinery and product storage. The water needed for the structure will be collected on the existing water cisterns and the water lines will be placed underground that will also require ground disturbance. The power needed for the operation of the structure will be provided from an existing P.R.E.P.A./LUMA power outlet on the property.



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

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

Kindest regards, Jauan B. Padu Lauren Bair Poche, M.A. Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Senior Manager

Attachments

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



Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455

City: Utuado

Project Location: Bo. Tetuán II, Carr 613 km 8.6, L	Ituado, PR 00641
Project Coordinates: 18.266226 -66.611458	
<b>TPID</b> (Número de Catastro): 190-000-002-22	
Type of Undertaking:	
Substantial Repair/Improvements	
☑ New Construction	
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size (acres): 21.47

SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jaqueline López Meléndez
Date Reviewed: September 5, 2023

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

### Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01455 consist of the installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse, a coffee pulper and the purchase of a large fleet commercial truck. The installation of the warehouse and coffee pulper will be on top of a new concrete slab and the warehouse will be anchored at the edges with foundations buried 2 feet deep so it will require ground disturbance. The purpose of the warehouse is to locate coffee processing machinery and product storage. The water needed for the structure will be collected on the existing water cisterns and the water lines will be placed underground that will also require ground disturbance. The power needed for the operation of the structure will be provided from an existing P.R.E.P.A./LUMA power outlet on the property. The project area is located at PR-613 km. 8.6 within the Municipality of Utuado. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been used for agricultural purposes for the past 8 years.

### Area of Potential Effects

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the warehouse and coffee pulper plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	
ReGrow Puerto Rico Program	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455	City: Utuado

#### Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that there are no reported archaeological sites, archaeological materials of significant cultural properties within a half-mile (0.50 miles) radius of the project location. The closest reported archaeological site to the PR-RGRW-01455 project area is Finca Polito Parcela 14 (SHPO: UA0100089) located 0.83 miles northwest. The proposed project is located in Utuado, at an elevation of 2,198 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area is within mapped soil series: Humatas. The project area APE is in HmE. The nearest water bodies are Charco del Muerto creek located 0.32 miles southwest and two unnamed streams, one at 0.29 miles northwest and the other at 0.32 miles northeast. The project area.

There is one (1) archaeological study within a 0.50-miles radius of the proposed project area, with positive results (see table).

The project area does not have cultural resources that are listed either on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or in a Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. On September 4, 2023, we visually inspected the project area. The property is located in the mountainous area of Utuado. The warehouse and the pulper will be placed in a small flat area covered with grass. The area is adjacent to the PR-613 road and to the east there is a steep slope. No cultural remains can be observed on the surface of the parcel.

The soil in the area has been classified as Humatas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes (HmE). This soil is deep and well drained and are on uplands. They formed in fine textured residuum weathered from basic volcanic rock. The permeability and available water capacity of this Humatas soil are moderate. Runoff is rapid, and fertility is medium.

#### Determination

The project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. There are no reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties within a half-mile radius of the proposed project location. There are no known archaeological sites or NRHP listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel in which the Area of Potential Effect of case PR-RGRW-01455 is located. The impact of the warehouse and coffee pulper installation is minimal. The construction of public roads and agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by this reconstruction project.

 PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

 REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

 Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

 Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

 Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455

 City: Utuado

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

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

 $\boxtimes$  No Historic Properties Affected

 $\Box$  No Adverse Effect

Condition (if applicable):

□ Adverse Effect

Proposed Resolution (if appliable)

### This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above information and:

□ **Concurs** with the information provided.

**Does not concur** with the information provided.

Comments:

Carlos Rubio-Cancela	Data
State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455	City: Utuado
Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC	
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	

# Table of archaeological sites, historic properties and historic districts located within the projectarea or within a 0.50-miles radius

Name	SHPO id #	IPRC id #	Distance/Direction	Description	NRHP (listed, eligible, non- eligible, no data)
None	-	-	-	-	-

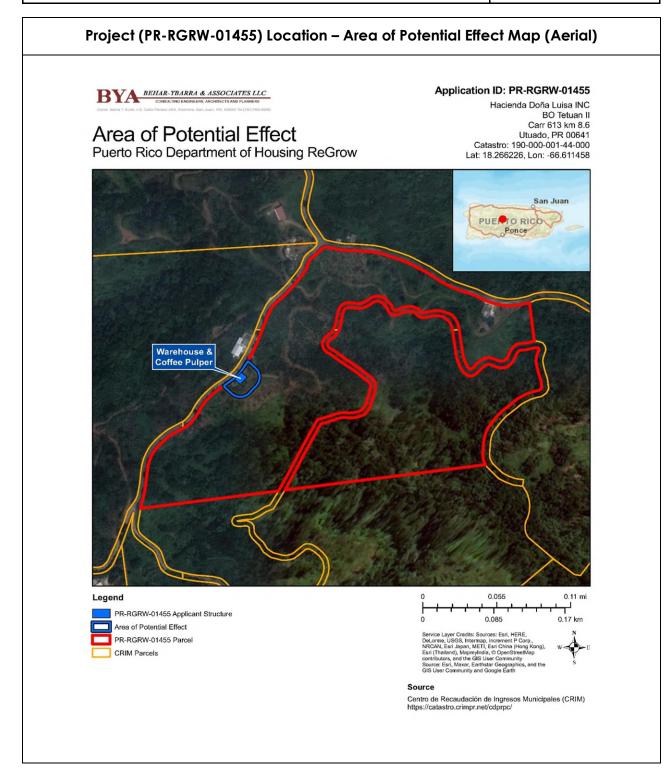
# Table of cultural resources surveys conducted within the project area or within a 0.50-miles radius.

Autl	hor	Phase/Title	Year	SHPO / IPRC code	Results	Distance/ Direction
Ethel So	chlafer	IA-IB/ Finca Apolinar Montero Saldaña "Polito"	1991	SHPO: 09- 10-89-09	Positive. Pre-Columbian site (UA0100089) located more than 0.50 miles away	0.48 mi W



Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

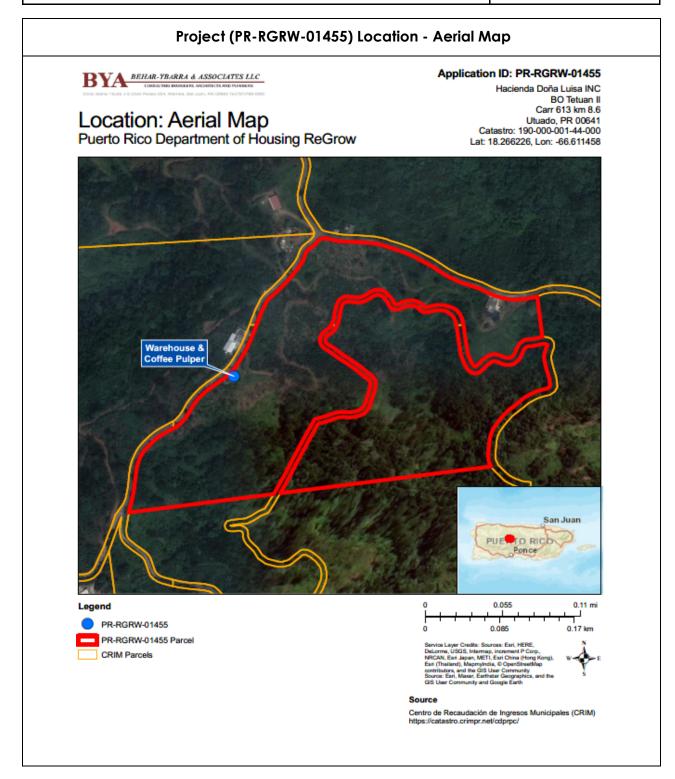
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455





Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

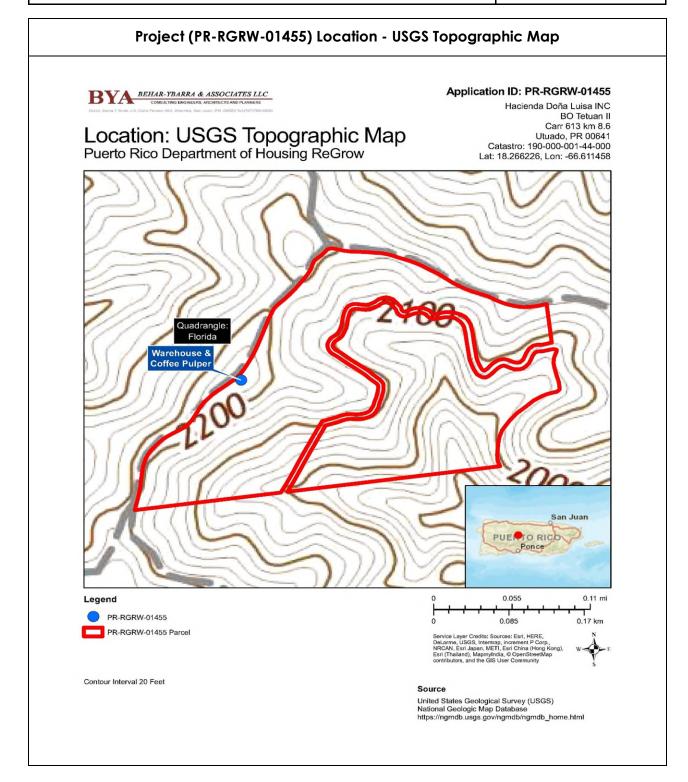
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455





Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455





Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

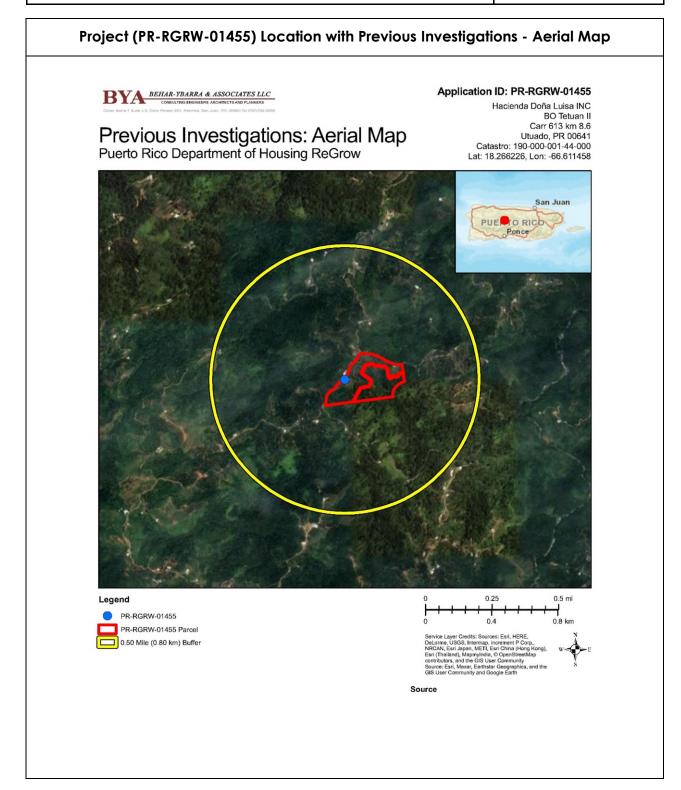
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455





Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

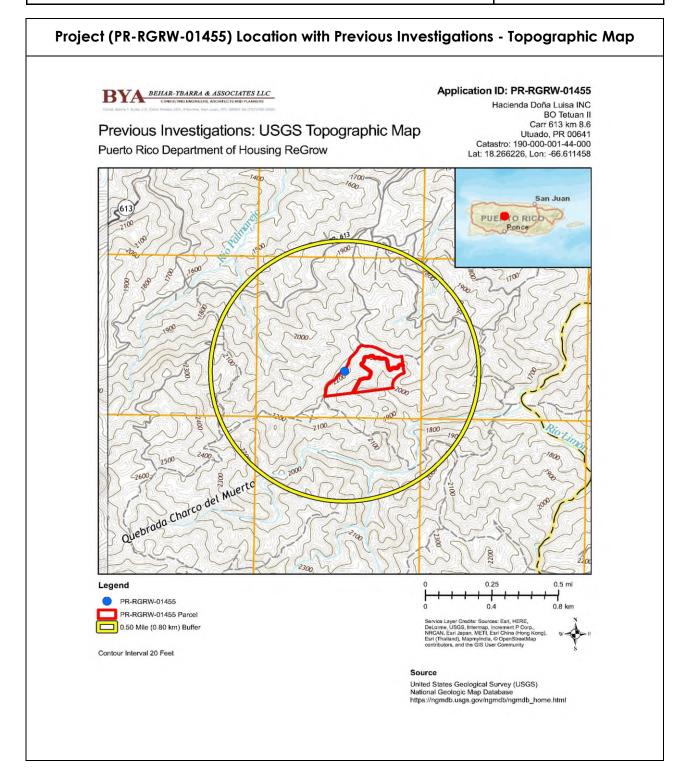
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455





Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

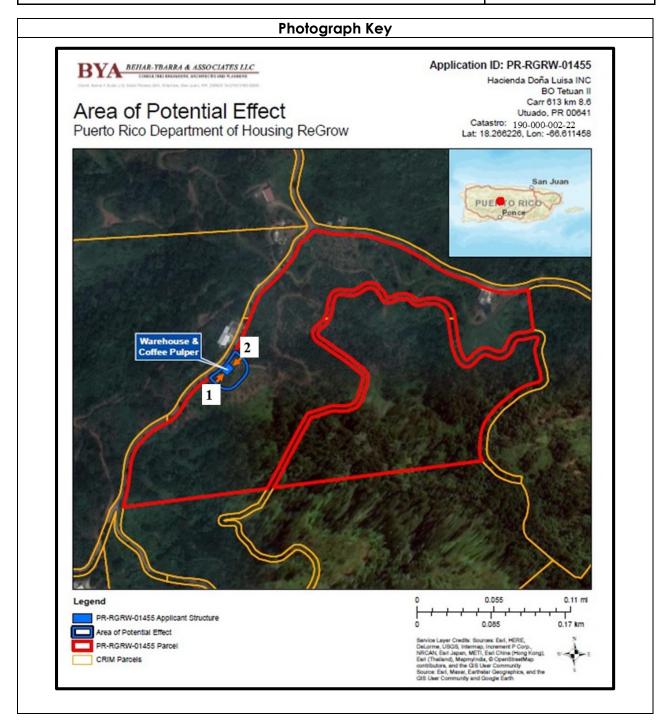
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455





Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455





City: Utuado

Applicant: Hacienda Doña Luisa INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01455

Photo #: 1       Description (include direction): General area where the warehouse and pulper will be installed, looking northeast.         Date: September 4, 2023       Excription (include direction): General area where the warehouse and pulper will be installed, looking northeast.         Photo #: 2       Description (include direction): General area where the warehouse and pulper will be installed, looking southwest.         Photo #: 2       Description (include direction): General area where the warehouse and pulper will be installed, looking southwest.		
Date: September 4, 2023       warehouse and pulper will be installed, looking northeast.         Image: September 4, 2023       Image: September 4, 2023         Im		
Date: September 4, 2023         Image: Sep	Photo #: 1	
warehouse and pulper will be installed, looking southwest.	Date: September 4, 2023	warenouse and pulper will be installed, looking northeast.
warehouse and pulper will be installed, looking southwest.		
Date: September 4, 2023	Photo #: 2	
	Date: September 4, 2023	warenouse and pulper will be installed, looking southwest.





October 20, 2022

### Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

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

### **Re:** Authorization to Submit Documents

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela:

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

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

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

Cordially,

Juan C Pérez Bofill, P.E. M.Eng Director of Disaster Recovery CDBG DR-MIT

CDBG-DR FUNDS I HOUSING



Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects24 CFR Part 58

# Appendix 2

You are here: EPA Home > Green Book > >National Area and County-Level Multi-Pollutant Information >Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants

### Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants

Data is current as of March 31, 2023

Listed by County, NAAQS, Area. The 8-hour Ozone (1997) standard was revoked on April 6, 2015 and the 1-hour Ozone (1979) standard was revoked on June 15, 2005.

\* The 1997 Primary Annual PM-2.5 NAAQS (level of 15 μg/m<sup>3</sup>) is revoked in attainment and maintenance areas for that NAAQS. For additional information see the PM-2.5 NAAQS SIP Requirements Final Rule, effective October 24, 2016. (81 FR 58009)

Change	the	State:
Change	uie	State.

PUERIO RICO • GO	PUERTO RICO 🗸	GO
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Important	Notes		Download	d National Datas	et: dbf   xls	Data	dictionary	(PDF)
	NAAQS	Area Name	Nonattainment in Year	Redesignation to Maintenance	Classification	Whole or/ Part County	Population (2010)	State/ County FIPS Codes
PUERTO	RICO							
Arecibo Municipic	Lead (2008)	Arecibo, PR	11121314151617181920212223			Part	32,185	72/013
Bayamon Municipic	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	22,921	72/021
Catano Municipic	Sulfur	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Whole	28,140	72/033
Guaynabo Municipio		Mun. of Guaynabo, PR	929394959697989900010203040506070809	02/11/2010	Moderate	Part	90,470	72/061
Guaynabo Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223			Part	23,802	72/061
Salinas Municipio	Sulfur	Guayama-		/ /		Part	23,401	72/123
San Juan Municipic	Sulfur	San Juan, PR	181920212223	/ /		Part	147,963	72/127
Toa Baja Municipic	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR		//		Part	52,441	72/137

Important Notes



Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects24 CFR Part 58

### Appendix 3

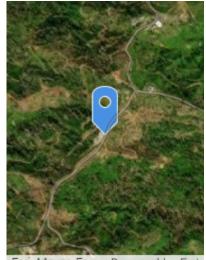


BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

#### **APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION**

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-01455
Applicant Name:	Hacienda Doña Luisa
Parcel ID:	190-000-001-44-000
Latitude:	18.266226
Longitude:	-66.6114578
Street Address:	BO Tetuan II, Carr 613 km 8.6
Municipio:	18.26611, -66.611389
Zip Code:	00641
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez
Date of Visit:	August 21, 2023
Time of Visit:	14:05
Building Type:	Warehouse

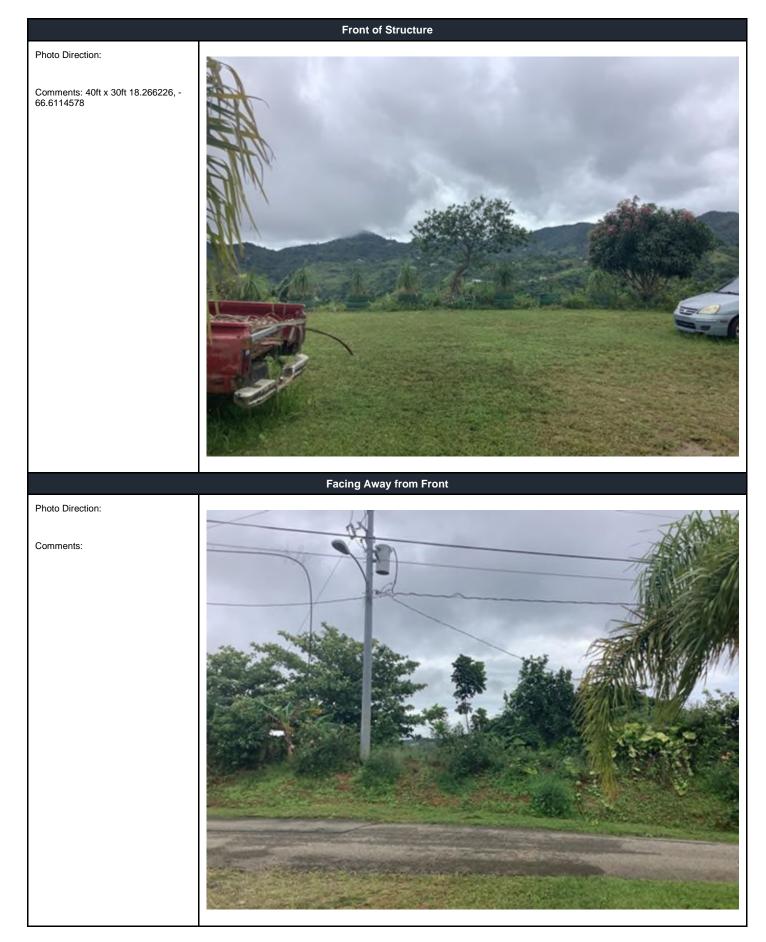




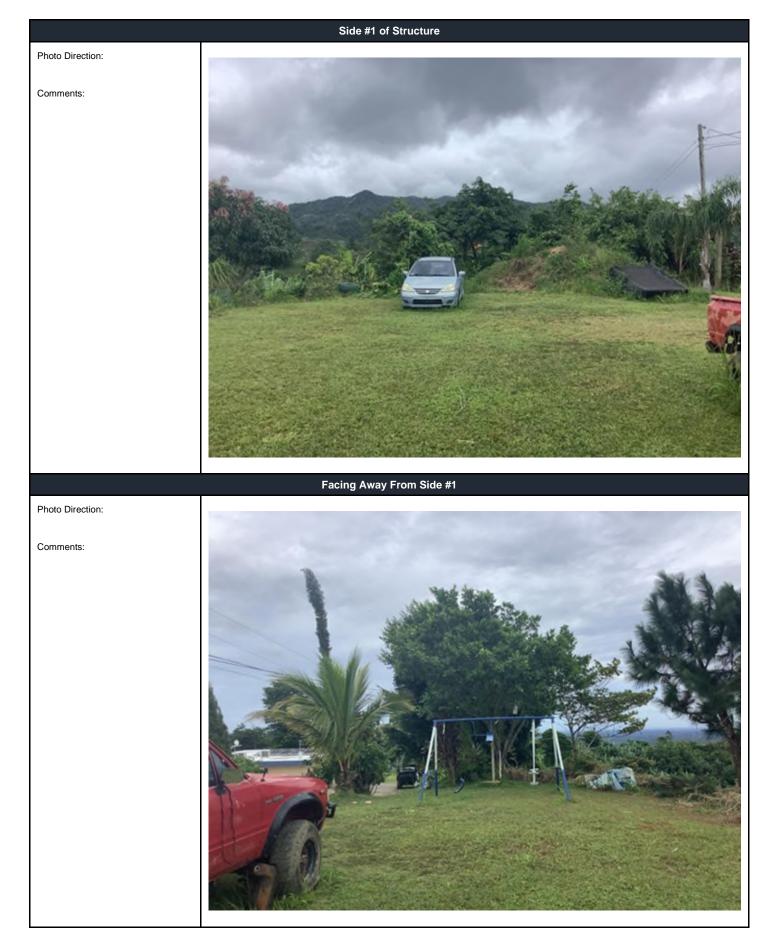
Esri, Maxar, Ea... Powered by Esri

	FIELD OBSERVATIONS							
	Question	Answer	Notes					
Α.	Is the structure in use?	No						
В.	Is the structure a greenhouse?	No	Structure is a warehouse					
C.	Is Electricity connected? (Utilities or Well)	Yes	Electricity is connected					
D.	Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	Yes	Water is connected					
1.	Are there signs of poor housekeeping on site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, strom debris, solid waste, petroleum products, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, vehicle batteries, abandoned vehicles, pits, pools, ponds of hazardous substances, etc.)	No						
2.	Are there any 55-gallon drums visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?	No						
3.	Are there any (or signs of any) underground storage tanks on the property?	No						
4.	Are there signs of AST on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.	No						
5.	Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?	No						
6.	Is a water drainage system in use?	No						
7.	Is a warehouse in use for storage of Fertilizer or Pesticides?	Yes						
8.	Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?	No						
9.	Is there evidence of a faulty septic system?	No						
10.	Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?	No						
11.	Is there any visible indication of mold?	No						
12.	Is there any visible evidence of asbestos, chipping, and flaking or peeling paint, or hazardous materials present in or on the structure?	No						
13.	Are any additional site hazards observed?	No						
14.	Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site(do not include ponding from recent rain / weather events)?	Yes	Eye of water					
15.	Does the subject property have water frontage?	No						
16.	Is there any indication of the presence of wetlands?	No						
17.	Are there any obvious signs of animals or birds nesting on or near the site?	No						
18.	Is the applicant aware of any signifcant historcal event or persons associated with the structure, or of it being located in a historic district/ area?	No						
19.	Is a historic marker present?	No						









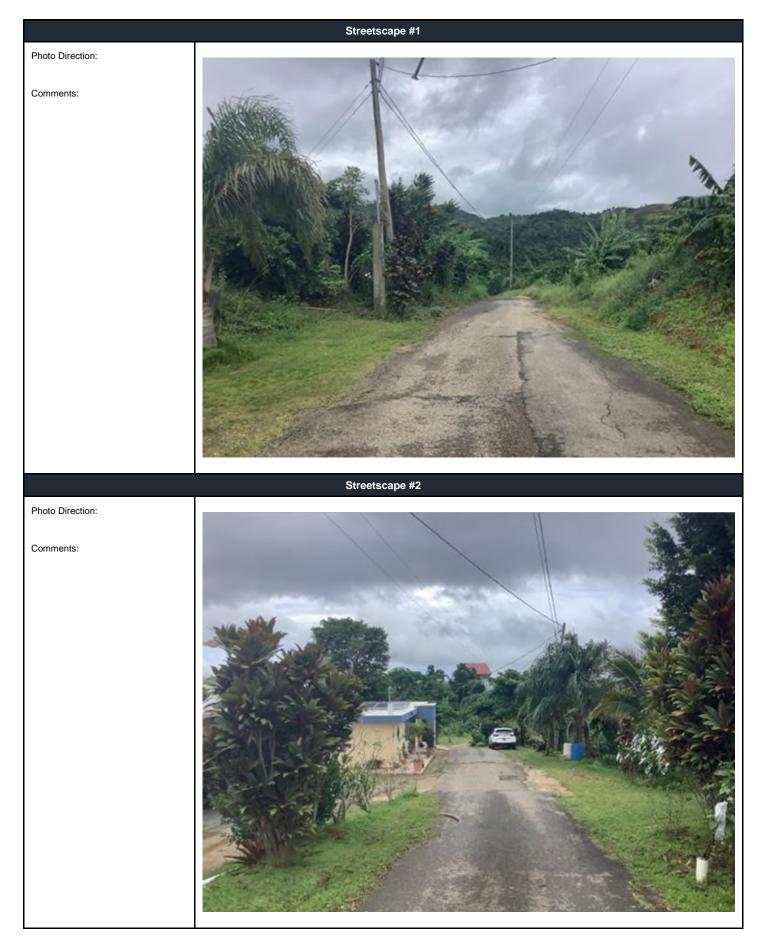




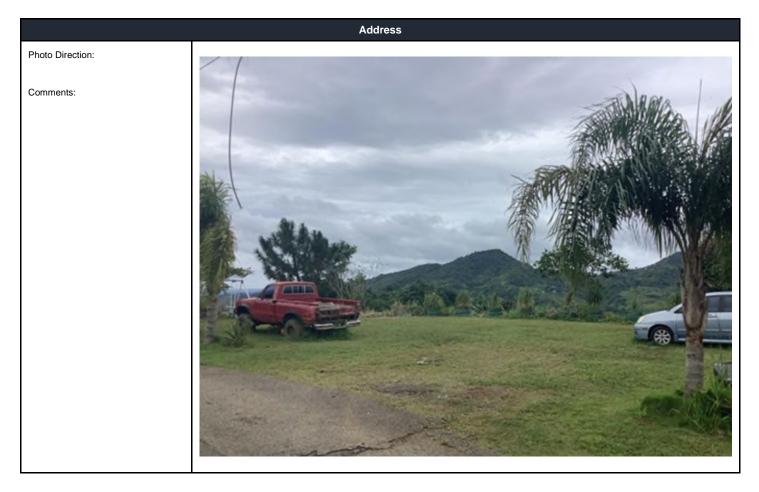
















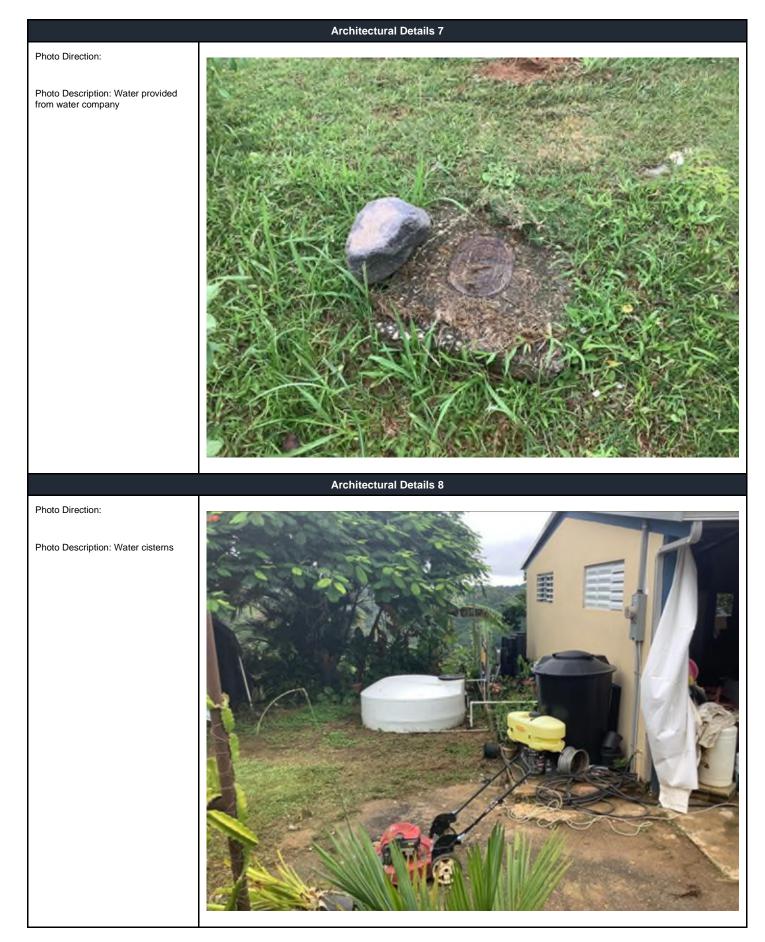




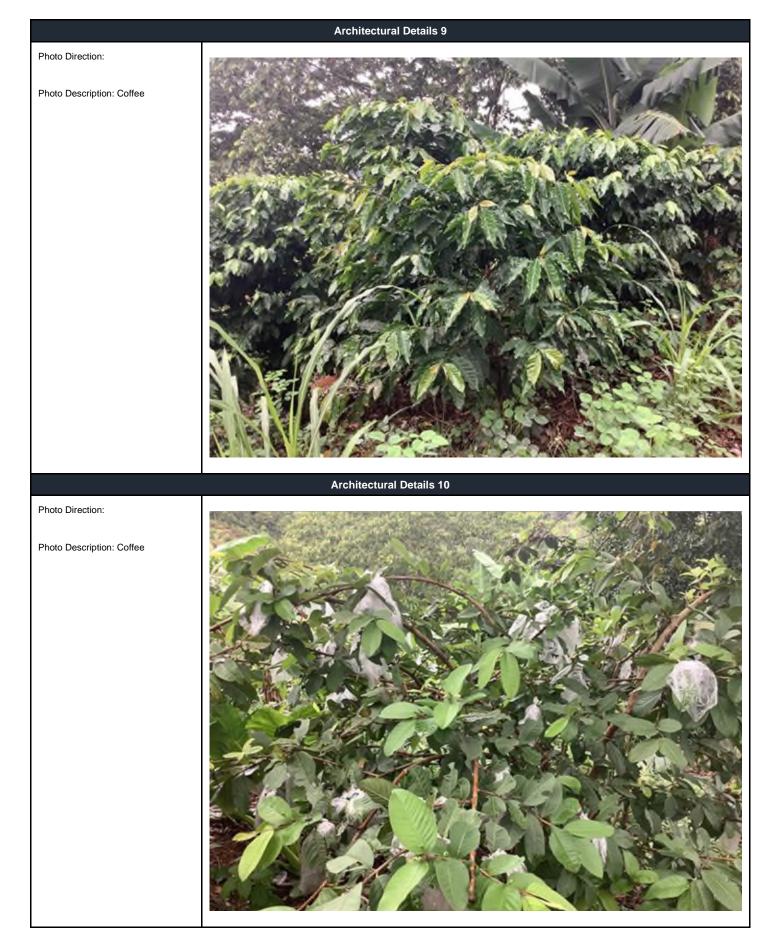




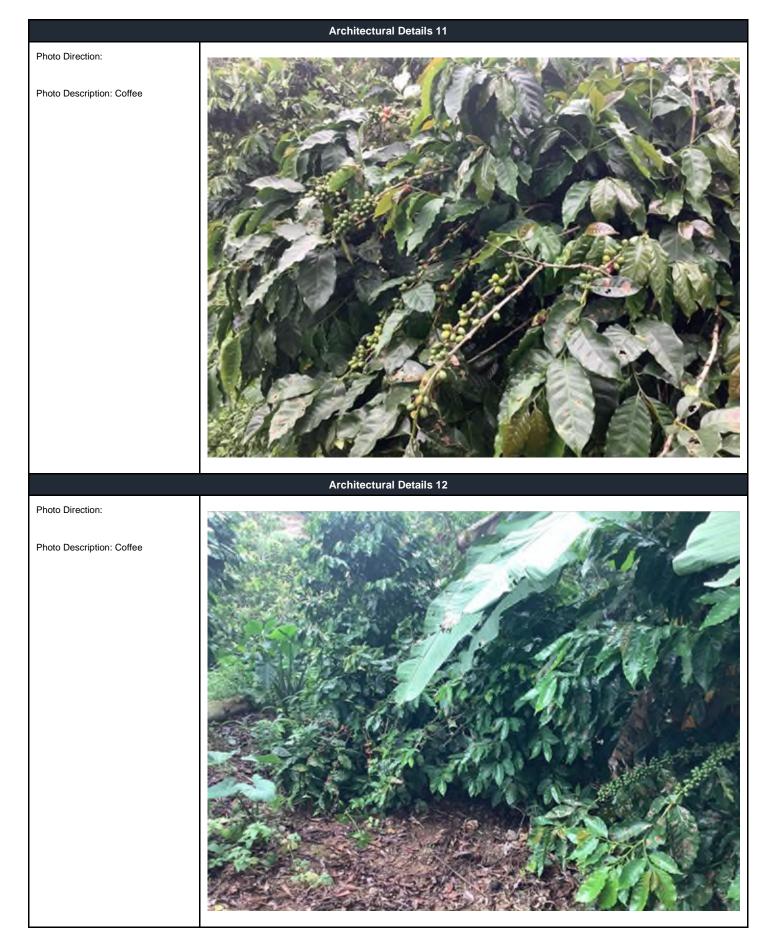
















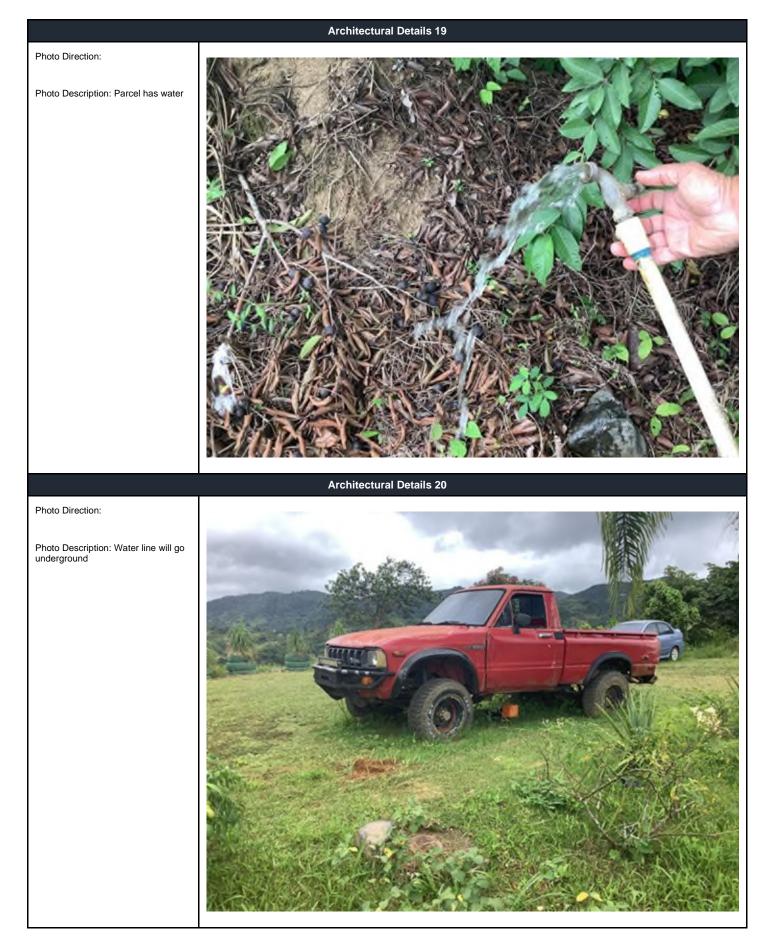






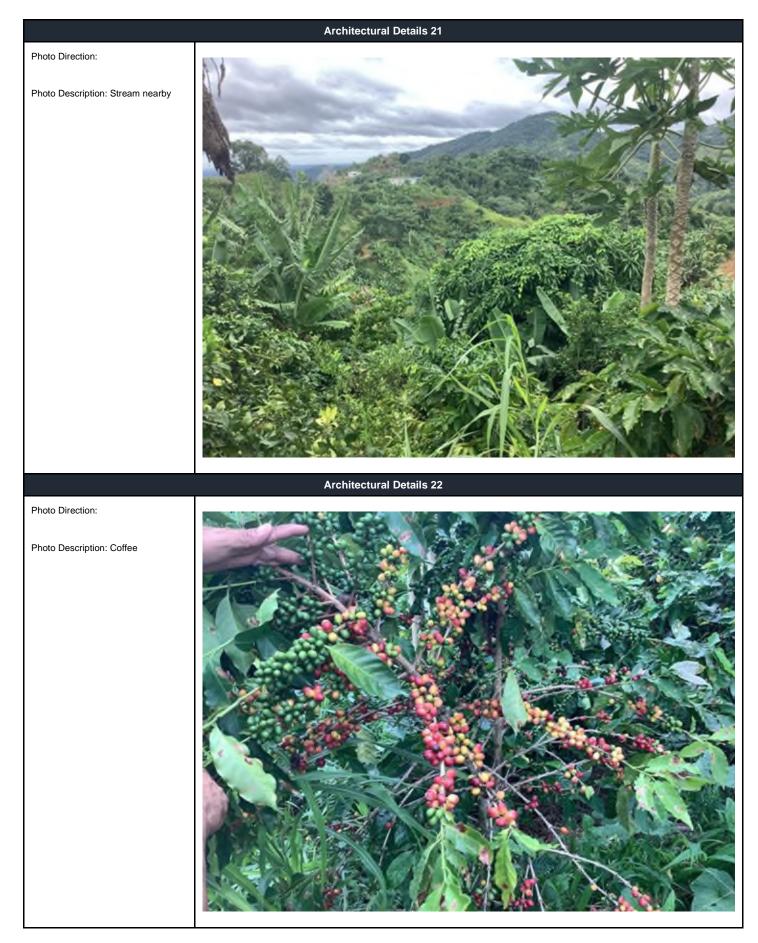












## **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA		
POLLUTION AND SOURCES							
Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.08	N/A		
Ozone (ppb)	N/A	N/A	N/A	<mark>61.6</mark>	N/A		
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.0166	0.0667	15	0.261	0		
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	20	20	15	25	5		
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.2	0.19	17	0.31	4		
Toxic Releases to Air	940	4,300	57	4,600	58		
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	2.6	180	2	210	1		
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.072	0.16	42	0.3	30		
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.14	0.15	73	0.13	76		
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.058	0.47	7	0.43	13		
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.16	0.76	29	1.9	29		
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	0	1.7	0	3.9	0		
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.079	2.3	70	22	81		
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS							
Demographic Index	96%	83%	86	35%	99		
Supplemental Demographic Index	58%	43%	88	14%	99		
People of Color	99%	96%	25	39%	96		
Low Income	93%	70%	87	31%	99		
Unemployment Rate	18%	15%	65	6%	94		
Limited English Speaking Households	85%	67%	85	5%	99		
Less Than High School Education	37%	21%	87	12%	95		
Under Age 5	15%	4%	98	6%	96		
Over Age 64	12%	22%	15	17%	36		
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A%	N/A	20%	N/A		

\*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update">https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update</a>.



Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects24 CFR Part 58

## Appendix 4



### United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer to: FWS/R4/CESFO/72141-Gen

Submitted Via Electronic Mail (jcperez@vivienda.pr.gov)

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

> Re: CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-01455 Hacienda Doña Luisa, Utuado, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated October 27, 2023, requesting comments on the above referenced project. As per your request, our comments are provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) on behalf of Hacienda Doña Luisa (the Applicant) is proposing the installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse, a coffee pulper and the purchase of a large fleet commercial truck. The installation of the warehouse and coffee pulper will be on top of a concrete slab and the warehouse will be anchored at the edges with foundations buried 2 feet deep so it will require ground disturbance. The project will be located at PR-140 R613, Km. 7.1, Bo. Tetuán (18°15'58.4"N 66°36'41.3"W) in the municipality of Utuado, Puerto Rico.

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

The Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (the Service) online IPaC application was used (project code: 2024-0004204) to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species for this project. Based on the answers provided, a consistency letter was obtained for the Puerto Rican boa which determined that the proposed actions for this project would have no effect (NE) on this specie and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) determination for the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk. As for the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly and Puerto Rican parrot a consultation is required.

#### Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and analysis of the IPaC lists together with field direct observations (conducted on 09/04/2023) of the area where the project will be developed, the proponent has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly since its critical habitat is approximately 21,756 feet from the proposed project site. Since the land is currently used for agricultural purposes and the surface is mostly exposed the proponent also determined a NLAA determination for the Puerto Rican parrot.

We have reviewed the information provided in your letter and our files and concur with your determination that the proposed actions may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican parrot and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly. The Service acknowledge receipt of the DKey consistency letter with the NE determination for the Puerto Rican boa and NLAA determination for the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk.

Please be aware that the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly measures were amended to clarify how they are appropriately applied. Therefore, the Service recommends the applicant to adopt the implementation of the below updated conservation measures for the proposed actions.

- 1. The contractor must inform all personnel about the potential presence of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly or its occupied host plant "prickly bush" (*Oplonia spinosa*) in the project areas. A pre-work meeting should inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming this butterfly and its occupied host plant. Educational material (e.g., posters, flyers or signs with photos or illustrations of all the life stages of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (i.e., eggs, caterpillar, chrysalids and adult, and its host plant) should be prepared and available to all personnel for reference.
- 2. Before starting any project activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement, the contractor must clearly delineate the boundaries of the working area in the field to avoid unnecessary habitat impacts. Once the project areas are clearly marked, and before any work activity, including site preparation, personnel with knowledge and ability to identify the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (all life stages) and the "prickly bush" must survey the areas where the work will be performed for the presence of the species and its host plant. It is important to note that the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly can be observed year-round in all its life stages; thus, oviposition (egg-laying) may occur at any time during the year.
- 3. If the "prickly bush" is present on the project site, try to avoid cutting it off, even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
- 4. If there is no prickly bush within the project area, and the butterfly is observed flying within the project area, do not harass, harm, pursue, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct, the species.
- 5. Adult butterflies are often observed flying near the host plant as part of their mating behavior and laying eggs. Project-related activities must stop if the prickle bush is found in the project area and the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is observed flying in that same area. A temporary 50-meter (164 feet) buffer zone of no activity or human disturbance should be established and clearly marked around that prickly bush until the butterfly moves out on its own.
- 6. Once the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly has moved away, within a period of 24 to 36 hours, a search of the prickly bush that has been buffered should be conducted to determine the presence of any eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids of the butterfly on the plant. The contractor or the Applicant should send a report of the observation and its findings to caribbean\_es@fws.gov after the 36-hour search is concluded.

- 7. If, after the initial search or after the 24 to 36-hour search, any life stage of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is found in the prickly bush, take the following actions:
  - Clearly mark the host plant with flagging tape.
  - Establish a 10-meter (32-foot) buffer zone around the bush to protect it.
  - Eggs are typically found on the prickly bush's newly grown, tender branches. Once an egg hatches, the caterpillar moves and feeds throughout the bush. Therefore, avoid cutting off the prickly bush within the project site even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
  - Work within the 10-meter buffered area may resume when no signs of any live life stage of the butterfly are detected, which usually takes approximately 60 to 120 days.
- 8. For all Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly sightings (all life stages), the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where the butterfly was found must be recorded. Data should also include a photo of the butterfly (if possible) and the habitat where it was observed, site GPS coordinates, and comments on how the butterfly was detected and its behavior. All Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly sighting reports should be sent to the USFWS Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office at caribbean es@fws.gov.
- 9. For questions regarding the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, the Point of Contacts are: José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator:
  - Mobile: 305-304-1386
  - Office phone: 786-244-0081
  - Office Direct Line: 939-320-3120
  - o Email: jose cruz-burgos@fws.gov

Carlos Pacheco, Fish and Wildlife Biologist:

- o Mobile: 786-847-5951
- o Office Direct Line: 939-320-3113
- Email: <u>carlos\_pacheco@fws.gov</u>

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

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

Sincerely yours,

For Edwin E. Muñiz Field Supervisor



October 27, 2023

Mr. Edwin Muñiz Field Supervisor U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office PO Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622 Email: <u>caribbean\_es@fws.gov</u>; <u>edwin\_muniz@fws.gov</u>

### RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing Re-Grow PR-RGRW-01455 Project – Hacienda Doña Luisa – Endangered Species Evaluation

#### Dear Mr. Muniz:

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is requesting an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project PR-RGRW-01455, located at carr. PR-140 R613 km 7.1, bo. Tetuán II, Utuado, PR 00641; coordinates 18.266226, -66.611458, see Appendix A: Figure 1 and Figure 2.

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01455 consist of the installation of a 30' x 40' x 12' warehouse, a coffee pulper and the purchase of a large fleet commercial truck. The installation of the warehouse and coffee pulper will be on top of a concrete slab and the warehouse will be anchored at the edges with foundations buried 2 feet deep so it will require ground disturbance. The purpose of the warehouse is to locate coffee processing machinery and product storage. The water needed for the structure will be collected on the existing water cisterns and the water lines will be placed underground that will also require ground disturbance. The power needed for the operation of the structure will be provided from an existing P.R.E.P.A./LUMA power outlet on the property. The project area is located at Bo. Tetuán II, Carr 613 km 7.1, Utuado, PR 00641. Based on a review of

historical aerial imagery, the general area has been used for agricultural purposes for the past 8 years.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined as the area potentially impacted by ground disturbing activities related to the installation of the warehouse and coffee pulper, see Figure 3.

#### Existing Conditions and Trends:

The proposed project parcel 190-000-002-22 is designated as Farmland of statewide importance, See Figure 4. The project site for the proposed warehouse is located in the mountainous area of Utuado. The warehouse and the pulper will be placed in a small flat area covered with grass. The area is adjacent to the PR-613 road and to the east there is a steep slope, refer to Appendix C. The surface is mostly exposed and is used for agricultural purposes. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with these placements. In addition, the closer Final Critical Habitat is located at 21,756 feet from the project location, see Figure 5.

Using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system (Appendix 2), we have determined that the proposed project lies within the range of the following federally listed species and critical habitats:

Name of species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate	
Rep	tiles	
Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered	
Bir	ds	
Puerto Rican parrot (Amazona vittata)	Endangered	
Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens)	Endangered	
Inse	ects	
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)	Threatened	
Critical	Habitat	
There are no critical habite	ats within the project area.	

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, a careful analysis of the IPaC, the Puerto Rico Boa conservation measures, the Caribbean Dkey dated October 12, 2023, in the US Fish and Wildlife Service's online IPaC application, and the observations during the field visit, were used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on that information and the answer

inputted into the Dkey, it was determined that the proposed action will have "No Effect" determination on the Puerto Rican Boa, and a "Not likely to Adversely Affect" on the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*), Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*), and the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita), see Appendix 2.

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will be implemented	
Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	No Effect (NE)	USFWS Puerto Rico Boa Conservation Measures 2020	
Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens)	Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)	No Conservation Measures	
Puerto Rican parrot (Amazona vittata)	Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)	No Conservation Measures	
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)	Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)	No Conservation Measures	
	Critical Habitats		
There are no c	ritical habitats within the p	project area.	

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determination included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information below.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue.

Cordially,

Juan Carlos Perez Bofill, PE, MEng. Director for Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program <u>environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov</u> | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320 PR-RGRW-01455 USFWS Consultation Page 4 / 4

#### Attachments:

Appendix A: Figure 1 – Location Site Map Figure 2 – Topographic Map Figure 3 – Area of Potential Effect Map Figure 4 – Farmland Protection Map Figure 5 – Critical Habitats Map Appendix B: Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Appendix C: Field Visit Photos

C: Angel G. López-Guzmán, MSEM Deputy Director Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

#### Literature Cited:

Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus) https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628 USFWS Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures

Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens) Species Profile for Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens) (fws.gov)

Puerto Rican parrot (Amazona vittata) Species Profile for Puerto Rican parrot (Amazona vittata) (fws.gov)

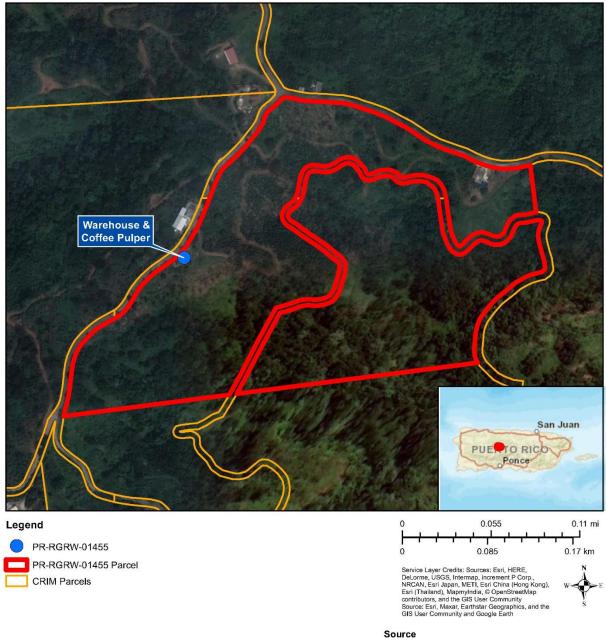
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita) Species Profile for Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (Atlantea tulita) (fws.gov) **Appendix A: Figures** 



#### Application ID: PR-RGRW-01455

Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Hacienda Doña Luisa INC BO Tetuan II Carr 613 km 8.6 Utuado, PR 00641 Catastro: 190-000-001-44-000 Lat: 18.266226, Lon: -66.611458



Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/

## Figure 1: PR-RGRW-01455 Location Map



### Application ID: PR-RGRW-01455

Location: USGS Topographic Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow Hacienda Doña Luisa INC BO Tetuan II Carr 613 km 8.6 Utuado, PR 00641 Catastro: 190-000-001-44-000 Lat: 18.266226, Lon: -66.611458

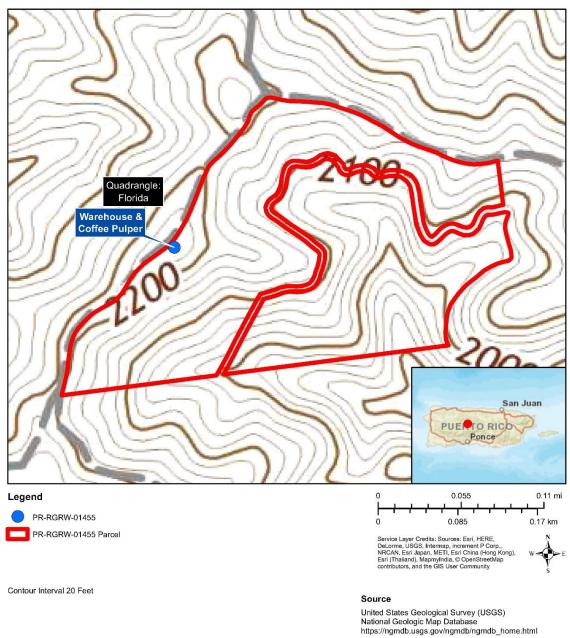


Figure 2: PR-RGRW-01455 Topographic Map

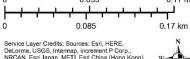
#### BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANINERS

#### Application ID: PR-RGRW-01455

Area of Potential Effect Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow Hacienda Doña Luisa INC BO Tetuan II Carr 613 km 8.6 Utuado, PR 00641 Catastro: 190-000-001-44-000 Lat: 18.266226, Lon: -66.611458







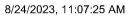
Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeJorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth

#### Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/

Figure 3: PR-RGRW-01455 Area of Potential Effect Map



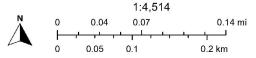


**Farmland Protection** 

Farmland of statewide importance

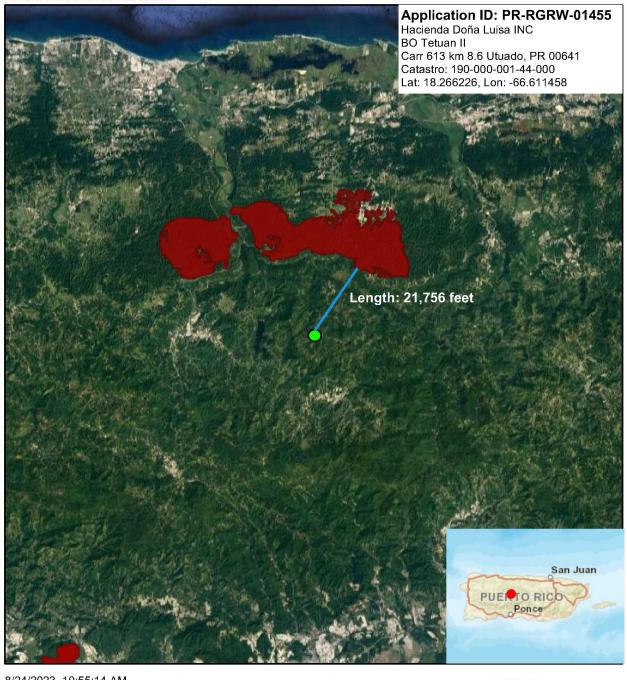
Not prime farmland

PR-RGRW-01455



Source Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Gridded Soil Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO) https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/soil-survey-geographic-database-ssurgo

Figure 4: PR-RGRW-01455 Farmland Protection Map



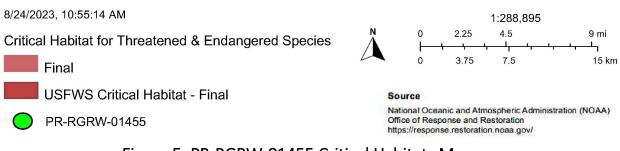


Figure 5: PR-RGRW-01455 Critical Habitats Map

**Appendix B: Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)** 



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (787) 834-1600 Fax: (787) 851-7440 Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>



In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2024-0004204 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01455 October 12, 2023

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Once a species list is obtained for the proposed project, an effect determination for endangered and threatened species should be made. The applicant could make an effect determination by using available keys on IPaC for specific species. For species with no determination keys, the applicant should request concurrence from the Service by sending a project package to <u>caribbean\_es@fws.gov</u>. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

### https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/consultation-under-section-7-of-theendangered-species-act-with-the-caribbean-ecological%20Services-field-office-templateletter.pdf

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

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

### https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultationhandbook.pdf

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

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

This species list is provided by:

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

Attachment(s):

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

# **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

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

This species list is provided by:

#### **Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office**

Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 (787) 834-1600

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code:2024-0004204Project Name:PR-RGRW-01455Project Type:Restoration / Enhancement - AgriculturalProject Description:Project: Bo. Tetuán II, Carr 613 km 8.6, Utuado, PR 00641Project Coordinates: 18.266226 -66.611458TPID (Número de Catastro): 190-000-002-22

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@18.266207299999998,-66.61148745615516,14z</u>



Counties: Utuado County, Puerto Rico

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

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

### BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk <i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512</u>	Endangered
Puerto Rican Parrot <i>Amazona vittata</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067</u>	Endangered
NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</u> General project design guidelines: <u>https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/SX3ZMVW7AZEW7O6IWRICX4X3CA/documents/generated/6941.pdf</u>	Endangered

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Atlantea tulita	Threatened
There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.	
Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005</u>	

## **CRITICAL HABITATS**

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

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

# USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

# **BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES**

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

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

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

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

# **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

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

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats<sup>3</sup> should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

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

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

# WETLANDS

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

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

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (787) 834-1600 Fax: (787) 851-7440 Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>



In Reply Refer To: Project code: 2024-0004204 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01455 October 12, 2023

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-01455' for specified threatened and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to the IPaC determination key titled Caribbean Determination Key (DKey).

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the assisted evaluation keys in IPaC. This letter is provided pursuant to the Service's authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.). On October 12, 2023, Yazmin Acevedo used the Caribbean DKey; dated September 28, 2023, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online <u>IPaC application</u> to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-01455'. The project is located in Utuado County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@18.266207299999998,-66.61148745615516,14z</u>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01455':

Project: Bo. Tetuán II, Carr 613 km 8.6, Utuado, PR 00641 Project Coordinates: 18.266226 -66.611458 TPID (Número de Catastro): 190-000-002-22

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

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered	No effect
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus	Endangered	NLAA
brunnescens)		

<u>Consultation with the Service is not complete.</u> The above effect determination(s) becomes applicable when the lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative submits them as a request to the Service to rely on the Caribbean DKey in order to satisfy the agency's consultation requirements for this project.

Please provide this consistency letter to the lead federal action agency or its designated non-federal representative with a request for its review, and as the agency deems appropriate, to submit for concurrence verification through the IPaC system. The lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative should log into IPaC using their agency email account and click "Search by record locator." They will need to enter the record locator **641-133203301** 

**Note:** Projects located within the range of the Puerto Rican boa or the Virgin Islands tree boa might encounter these species during project activities. **This letter does not provide take to handle or move these species**. If relocation of the species is needed, please contact either the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DNER) at 787-724-5700, 787-230-5550, or 787-771-1124 for projects in Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) at 340-775-6762 for projects in the Virgin Islands. Otherwise, contact the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (caribbean\_es@fws.gov) to determine whether the consultation needs to be reinitiated.

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

- Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Atlantea tulita Threatened
- Puerto Rican Parrot Amazona vittata Endangered

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

We appreciate your interest in protecting endangered species and their habitats. It is the Service's mission to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their

habitats for the continuing benefit of our people. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office at Caribbean\_es@fws.gov.

### **Action Description**

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

1. Name

PR-RGRW-01455

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01455':

Project: Bo. Tetuán II, Carr 613 km 8.6, Utuado, PR 00641 Project Coordinates: 18.266226 -66.611458 TPID (Número de Catastro): 190-000-002-22

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@18.266207299999998,-66.61148745615516,14z</u>



# **QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW**

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

Yes

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

Automatically answered *Yes* 

11. Will the proposed project be conducted during the Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk or Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk breeding season between December and July? No

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Automatically answered Yes Appendix C: Field Visit Photos

