



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

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

Project Information

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01253-W

HEROS Number: 900000010460005

Start Date: 03/20/2025

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , Cidra, PR 00739

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.191414, longitude -66.182411 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 249-000-006-31-000

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

This project (PR-RGRW-01253-W) entails the award of a grant to Hugo L. Varona Blanco, an agricultural business, at Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR 00739. Tax ID Number: 249-000-006-31-000. Coordinates (latitude 18.191414, longitude -66.182411). The proposed project includes the purchase of land, irrigation piping, fence improvements, a passion fruit structure, and water recollection plastic. The applicant will purchase land (parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000) using funds included in the Intended Use of Grant Funds (IUGF). All proposed project activities will take place on the land proposed for purchase. The existing fence follows the border of the property, along all sides, spanning 346 feet (ft). The applicant will be attaching barbed wire to the fence to keep feral pigs from entering the property. No ground disturbance is expected for the fence. However, if an existing fence post needs to be replaced, it will be at a maximum depth of 2 feet (ft) with a maximum width of 2 ft. The applicant will construct a water collection system in the eastern portion of the property. It will be constructed out of BTL-30 Mil Black AquaArmor Single Scrim RPE Liner (water recollection plastic), irrigation piping, and a water pump. The applicant will install water recollection plastic on the ground surface at a location on the east parcel boundary. The applicant will install aboveground irrigation piping using 2-inch (in) diameter by 10 ft long pipes connected to each other extending 118 ft west-southwest from the area of water collection. The piping will be used to transport rainwater collected to existing cisterns located at its west-southwest terminus. The irrigation piping will use a small electric in-line water pump to move the water to its destination. The water pump will be purchased with the applicant's own funding. The electrical connection to supply the pump will be situated aboveground and will extend from the applicant's house to the eastern terminus of the irrigation piping. The proposed project will also include the construction of a passionfruit structure to provide a framework for vine growth. It will be constructed of 39 metal posts at a maximum width and depth of 2 ft. The posts will be placed approximately 5 ft apart within an area of 10 ft by 60 ft (600 sq. ft.) within the east portion of the property.

These posts constitute the total ground disturbance associated with the structure. No grading or leveling is expected. The passionfruit structure will not require electric or water connections. No tree clearing is required for construction, and the project will have minimal ground disturbance. In overgrown areas, minor trimming of herbaceous and weedy undergrowth will be necessary. The applicant will purchase the property using HUD funds as described in the IUGF; therefore, no conversion is required. The project Hugo L. Varona Blanco., PR-RGRW-01253-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #1 - 1. 7 CFR 799.31(b) (2) (1): Existing fence repair. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Repair, improvement, or minor modification of existing Fences. CE: # 5 - 5. 7 CFR 799.32 (d) (2) (xiii): Trough or tank installation. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural water trough or tank installation without ground disturbance., and CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance have been classified as CENST and CEST under the waiver.

Level of Environment Review Determination:

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

Funding Information

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

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$150,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$150,510.78

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete
Endangered Species Act	The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS	N/A	

	<p>Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024.</p> <p>Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.</p> <p>In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.</p>			
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Determination:

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

Preparer Signature:  Date: March 24, 2025

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

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:  Date: 3/28/2025

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

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

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

Project Information

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01253-W

HEROS Number: 900000010460005

Start Date: 03/20/2025

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

State / Local Identifier:

RE Preparer: Ricardo Espiet Lopez

Certifying Office
r:

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

Point of Contact:

Point of Contact: Justin Neely
Consultant (if applicable): HORNE LLP

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

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

Project Location: , Cidra, PR 00739

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.191414, longitude -66.182411 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 249-000-006-31-000

Direct Comments to: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

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

This project (PR-RGRW-01253-W) entails the award of a grant to Hugo L. Varona Blanco, an agricultural business, at Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR 00739. Tax ID Number: 249-000-006-31-000. Coordinates (latitude 18.191414, longitude -66.182411). The proposed project includes the purchase of land, irrigation piping, fence improvements, a passion fruit structure, and water recollection plastic. The applicant will purchase land (parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000) using funds included in the Intended Use of Grant Funds (IUGF). All proposed project activities will take place on the land proposed for purchase. The existing fence follows the border of the property, along all sides, spanning 346 feet (ft). The applicant will be attaching barbed wire to the fence to keep feral pigs from entering the property. No ground disturbance is expected for the fence. However, if an existing fence post needs to be replaced, it will be at a maximum depth of 2 feet (ft) with a maximum width of 2 ft. The applicant will construct a water collection system in the eastern portion of the property. It will be constructed out of BTL-30 Mil Black AquaArmor Single Scrim RPE Liner (water recollection plastic), irrigation piping, and a water pump. The applicant will install water recollection plastic on the ground surface at a location on the east parcel boundary. The applicant will install aboveground irrigation piping using 2-inch (in) diameter by 10 ft long pipes connected to each other extending 118 ft west-southwest from the area of water collection. The piping will be used to transport rainwater collected to existing cisterns located at its west-southwest terminus. The irrigation piping will use a small electric in-line water pump to move the water to its destination. The water pump will be purchased with the applicant's own funding. The electrical connection to supply the pump will be situated aboveground and will extend from the applicant's house to the eastern terminus of the irrigation piping. The proposed project will also include the construction of a passionfruit structure to provide a framework for vine growth. It will be constructed of 39 metal posts at a maximum width and depth of 2 ft. The posts will be placed approximately 5 ft apart within an area of 10 ft by 60 ft (600 sq. ft.) within the east portion of the property. These posts constitute the total ground disturbance associated with the structure. No grading or leveling is expected. The passionfruit structure will not require electric or water connections. No tree clearing is required for construction, and the project will have minimal ground disturbance. In overgrown areas, minor trimming of herbaceous and weedy undergrowth will be necessary. The applicant will purchase the property using HUD funds as described in the IUGF; therefore, no conversion is required. The

project Hugo L. Varona Blanco., PR-RGRW-01253-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #1 - 1. 7 CFR 799.31(b) (2) (1): Existing fence repair. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Repair, improvement, or minor modification of existing Fences. CE: # 5 - 5. 7 CFR 799.32 (d) (2) (xiii): Trough or tank installation. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural water trough or tank installation without ground disturbance., and CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance have been classified as CENST and CEST under the waiver.

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

[PR-RGRW-01253-W Site Map.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01253-W IUGF.pdf](#)

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

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

[PR-RGRW-01253-W EFOR.pdf](#)

Level of Environmental Review Determination:

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

Determination:

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

Approval Documents:

[01253-SIG-PAGE.pdf](#)

**7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer
on:**

**7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer
on:**

Funding Information

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

Estimated Total HUD Funded, Assisted or Insured Amount: \$150,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$150,510.78

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6		
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Fernando Luis Ribas Dominicci, is located 99,421 ft (19 miles [mi]) from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 105,451 ft (20 mi) from the project site.

		The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 82,073 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C1185H, effective on 4/19/2005: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5		
Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
Coastal Zone Management Act Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 76,262 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. The project is in

		compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. Flood Map Number 72000C1185H, effective on 4/19/2005: The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. PFIRMS in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Cidra; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	(ca. 2005) Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.

Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 138,828 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
HUD HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS		
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

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

Summarized below are all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be

incorporated into project contracts, development agreements and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Mitigation Plan	Complete
Endangered Species Act	<p>The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024.</p> <p>Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.</p> <p>In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.</p>	N/A		

Project Mitigation Plan

Should new ground disturbance occur the Karst zone must be evaluated and when necessary DNER must be consulted prior to construction activities. The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024. Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action. In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.

Supporting documentation on completed measures

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

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Fernando Luis Ribas Dominicci, is located 99,421 ft (19 miles [mi]) from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 105,451 ft (20 mi) from the project site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W Airports.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Coastal Barrier Resources

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

1. Is the project located in a CBRS Unit?

✓ No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 82,073 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W CBRS.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Flood Insurance

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

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

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

✓ Yes

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

[PR-RGRW-01253-W FIRM.pdf](#)

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

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

Yes

✓ No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

Flood Map Number 72000C1185H, effective on 4/19/2005: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

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

Yes

✓ No

Air Quality

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

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

Yes

✓ No

Coastal Zone Management Act

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

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

Yes

☒ No

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 76,262 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Supporting documentation[PR-RGRW-01253-W CZM.pdf](#)**Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?**

Yes

☒ No

Contamination and Toxic Substances

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

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

ASTM Phase I ESA

ASTM Phase II ESA

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

☒ None of the above

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

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

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

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

☒ No

Explain:

Based on ECHO reports for the facilities, there is no impact for the intended use of this project. See attached table. The environmental field observation did not note any items of concern. See the attached environmental field observation report. A google earth review of the area shows no visible hazards. The past land use for the last 10-15 year is rural and agricultural.

Yes

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

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

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

Yes

Explain:

✓ No

* Notes:

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

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

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

Yes

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

✓ No

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Explain:

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

File Upload:

[Radon Attachments.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-01253-W Radon Memo.docx](#)

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

Non-radon contamination was found in a previous question.

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W Toxics\(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01253-W Toxics Table.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01253-W EFOR\(1\).pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Endangered Species

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

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

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

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

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

2. Are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area?

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

- ✓ Yes, there are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area.

3. What effects, if any, will your project have on federally listed species or designated critical habitat?

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

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

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

4. Informal Consultation is required

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

✓ Mitigation as follows will be implemented:

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

No mitigation is necessary.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W USFWS Consultation Package.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-01253-W USFWS Conservation Measures.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-01253-W USFWS Concurrence Letter.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

✓ Yes

No

Explosive and Flammable Hazards

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

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

☒ No

Yes

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

☒ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

☒ No

Farmlands Protection

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Project activities include new construction of a fence, water recollection system, and a passionfruit structure. The project site location(s) is classified as SREP-A(Specially Protected Rustic Land - Agricultural) land use. The proposed action is continued agricultural use of property, which is compatible with zoning and existing land use. Construction actions include new construction which increase the current function of the existing land use. There is no change in land use since the land will continue to be used for agriculture purposes.

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W Farmlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Floodplain Management

General Requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires Federal activities to avoid impacts to floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development to the extent practicable.	Executive Order 11988 * Executive Order 13690 * 42 USC 4001-4128 * 42 USC 5154a * only applies to screen 2047 and not 2046	24 CFR 55

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

Yes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Describe:

✓ No

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

Yes

Describe:

✓ No

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

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

Select one of the following three options:

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?

Yes

✓ No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. Flood Map Number 72000C1185H, effective on 4/19/2005: The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Cidra; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W ABFE.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Historic Preservation

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

Threshold

Is Section 106 review required for your project?

No, because the project consists solely of activities listed as exempt in a Programmatic Agreement (PA). (See the PA Database to find applicable PAs.)

No, because the project consists solely of activities included in a No Potential to Cause Effects memo or other determination [36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)].

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

Step 1 – Initiate Consultation

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

- ✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

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

Other Consulting Parties

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

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

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

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

Yes

No

Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

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

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

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

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

Additional Notes:

No Historic Properties present within the APE

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

Yes

✓ No

Step 3 –Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

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

per guidance on direct and indirect effects.

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

☒ No Historic Properties Affected

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

Document reason for finding:

☒ No historic properties present.

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

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

(ca. 2005) Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W SHPO Package.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

☒ No

Noise Abatement and Control

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

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

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

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

An interstate land sales registration

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

☒ None of the above

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

☒ No

Sole Source Aquifers

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

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

< No

✓

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

Yes

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

Yes

No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W Sole Source Aquifers.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wetlands Protection

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W Wetlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

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

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

✓ No

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

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 138,828 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01253-W Wild and Scenic.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Environmental Justice

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

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No



United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R4/CESFO/72041-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-01253 Hugo L.
Varona Blanco, Cidra Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated August 28, 2024, requesting informal consultation on the above referenced project. As per your request, our comments are provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is proposing the purchase of irrigation piping (118 feet (FT) long), fence improvements (346 FT long), a passion fruit structure (600 square feet (SF) with 39 posts), and water recollection plastic in a 11.3 acres property. The project will be located on State Road PR-172, Km 7.9 (18°11'31.5"N 66°11'02.5"W) in the municipality of Cidra, Puerto Rico. No tree clearing or vegetation removal is expected and the project will have minimal ground disturbance.

Using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, the PRDOH has determined that the proposed project site is located within the range of the Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*) and Puerto Rican plain pigeon (*Patagioenas inornata wetmorei*).

The Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) in the IPaC application was used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species for this project (Project code: 2024-0126862). Based on the answers provided, a consistency letter was obtained for the Puerto Rican boa, which determined that the proposed actions for this project may affect likely to adversely affect (MLAA) this species. As for the Puerto Rican plain pigeon a consultation is required.

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and analysis of the site (dense herbaceous vegetation interspersed with shrubs and trees and forested areas adjacent), PRDOH has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican boa instead of the MLAA obtained by using the DKey. Conservation measures will be implemented in case an encounter with these species occur. As for the Puerto Rican plain pigeon, PRDOH has determined that the proposed actions will have no effect (NE) on this species due to the lack of suitable habitat.

The Service acknowledge receipt of PRDOH's NE determination for the Puerto Rican plain pigeon. Currently, we do not have any information to refute that determination. Because PRDOH made a NE determination, PRDOH is not required to conduct formal or informal section 7 consultation with the Service and the Service is not required to concur with PRDOH's NE determination.

We have reviewed the information provided and in our files, and concur with PRDOH's determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican boa with the implementation of the conservation measures.

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 impact 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 caribbean_es@fws.gov or by phone at (786) 244-0081.

Sincerely,

LOURDES
MENA

Digitally signed by
LOURDES MENA
Date: 2024.09.20
16:42:26 -04'00'

Lourdes Mena
Field Supervisor

drr

cc:

Susan Fischer, SWCA
HUD

Contamination and Toxics Sites Summary
Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR

Database	Primary ID	Facility Name	Facility Address	Secondary ID	Latitude	Longitude	Distance (ft)	Status
Hazardous Waste	110007814918	PROFESSIONAL CAR CLINIC	RD 172 KM 8 6	PR0007001837	18.19	-66.18	1,951	Inactive; no violations identified within the last 12 quarters.
Hazardous Waste	110022530732	PRASA PRIMAVERA WASTEWATER PUMP STA	PR 172 KM 8 3 BO CERTENEJAS II	PRR000017822	18.19	-66.19	2,007	Active VSQG; no violations identified within the last 12 quarters.
Hazardous Waste	110022530741	CIDRA METALLIC CASKET INC	CARR 172 KM 7 9 BO CERTENSEJAS	PRR000017830	18.19	-66.19	2,642	Active VSQG; no violations identified within the last 12 quarters.



Detailed Facility Report

Facility Summary

PROFESSIONAL CAR CLINIC

RD 172 KM 8.6, CIDRA, PR 00739

FRS (Facility Registry Service) ID: 110007814918

EPA Region: 02

Latitude: 18.187072

Longitude: -66.184288

Locational Data Source: RCRAINFO

Industries: --

Indian Country: N

Enforcement and Compliance Summary

Statute	RCRA
Compliance Monitoring Activities (5 years)	--
Date of Last Compliance Monitoring Activity	05/28/1997
Compliance Status	No Violation Identified
Qtrs in Noncompliance (of 12)	0
Qtrs with Significant Violation	0
Informal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	--
Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	--
Penalties from Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	--
EPA Cases (5 years)	--
Penalties from EPA Cases (5 years)	--

Regulatory Information

Clean Air Act (CAA): No Information

Clean Water Act (CWA): No Information

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): Inactive Other, (PRO007001837)

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): No Information

Go To Enforcement/Compliance Details

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

Other Regulatory Reports

Air Emissions Inventory (EIS): No Information

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (eGGRT): No Information

Toxic Releases (TRI): No Information

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

Facility/System Characteristics

Facility/System Characteristics

System	Statute	Identifier	Universe	Status	Areas	Permit Expiration Date	Indian Country	Latitude	Longitude
FRS		110007814918					N	18.187072	-66.184288
RCRAInfo	RCRA	PRO007001837	Other	Inactive ()			N		

Facility Address

System	Statute	Identifier	Facility Name	Facility Address	Facility County
FRS		110007814918	PROFESSIONAL CAR CLINIC	RD 172 KM 8.6, CIDRA, PR 00739	Cidra Municipio
RCRAInfo	RCRA	PRO007001837	PROFESSIONAL CAR CLINIC	RD 172 KM 8.6, CIDRA, PR 00739	Cidra Municipio

Facility SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) Codes

System	Identifier	SIC Code	SIC Description
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No data records returned

Facility NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) Codes

System	Identifier	NAICS Code	NAICS Description
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No data records returned

Facility Tribe Information

Reservation Name	Tribe Name	EPA Tribal ID	Distance to Tribe (miles)
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No data records returned

Enforcement and Compliance

Compliance Monitoring History

Last 5 Years

Statute	Source ID	System	Activity Type	Compliance Monitoring Type	Lead Agency	Date	Finding (if applicable)
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No data records returned

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

Compliance Summary Data

Statute	Source ID	Current SNC (Significant Noncompliance)/HPV (High Priority Violation)	Current As Of	Qtrs with NC (Noncompliance) (of 12)	Data Last Refreshed
RCRA	PRO007001837	No	10/05/2024	0	10/04/2024

Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter

Statute	Program/Pollutant/Violation Type	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	QTR 5	QTR 6	QTR 7	QTR 8	QTR 9	QTR 10	QTR 11	QTR 12
	RCRA (Source ID: PRO007001837)	10/01-12/31/21	01/01-03/31/22	04/01-06/30/22	07/01-09/30/22	10/01-12/31/22	01/01-03/31/23	04/01-06/30/23	07/01-09/30/23	10/01-12/31/23	01/01-03/31/24	04/01-06/30/24	07/01-09/30/24
	Facility-Level Status	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified
	Violation												
	Agency												

Informal Enforcement Actions

Last 5 Years

Statute	System	Source ID	Type of Action	Lead Agency	Date
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No data records returned

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

Formal Enforcement Actions

Last 5 Years

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

No data records returned

Environmental Conditions

Watersheds

12-Digit WBD (Watershed Boundary Dataset) HUC (RAD (Reach Address Database))	WBD (Watershed Boundary Dataset) Subwatershed Name (RAD (Reach Address Database))	State Water Body Name (ICIS (Integrated Compliance Information System))	Beach Closures Within Last Year	Beach Closures Within Last Two Years	Pollutants Potentially Related to Impairment	Watershed with ESA (Endangered Species Act)-listed Aquatic Species?
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No data records returned

Assessed Waters From Latest State Submission (ATTAINS)

State	Report Cycle	Assessment Unit ID	Assessment Unit Name	Water Condition	Cause Groups Impaired	Drinking Water Use	Ecological Use	Fish Consumption Use	Recreation Use	Other Use
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No data records returned

Air Quality Nonattainment Areas

Pollutant	Within Nonattainment Status Area?	Nonattainment Status Applicable Standard(s)	Within Maintenance Status Area?	Maintenance Status Applicable Standard(s)
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No data records returned

Pollutants

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

TRI Facility ID	Year	Air Emissions	Surface Water Discharges	Off-Site Transfers to POTWs (Publicly Owned Treatment Works)	Underground Injections	Disposal to Land	Total On-Site Releases	Total Off-Site Transfers
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No data records returned

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

Chemical Name

No data records returned

Community

Environmental Justice

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

Potential Environmental Justice Concerns

US Territory

Supplemental/EJ index percentiles >= 90 (Census block group)

Supplemental/EJ index percentiles >= 90 (1-mile average)

EJScreen Indexes Shown

Index Type

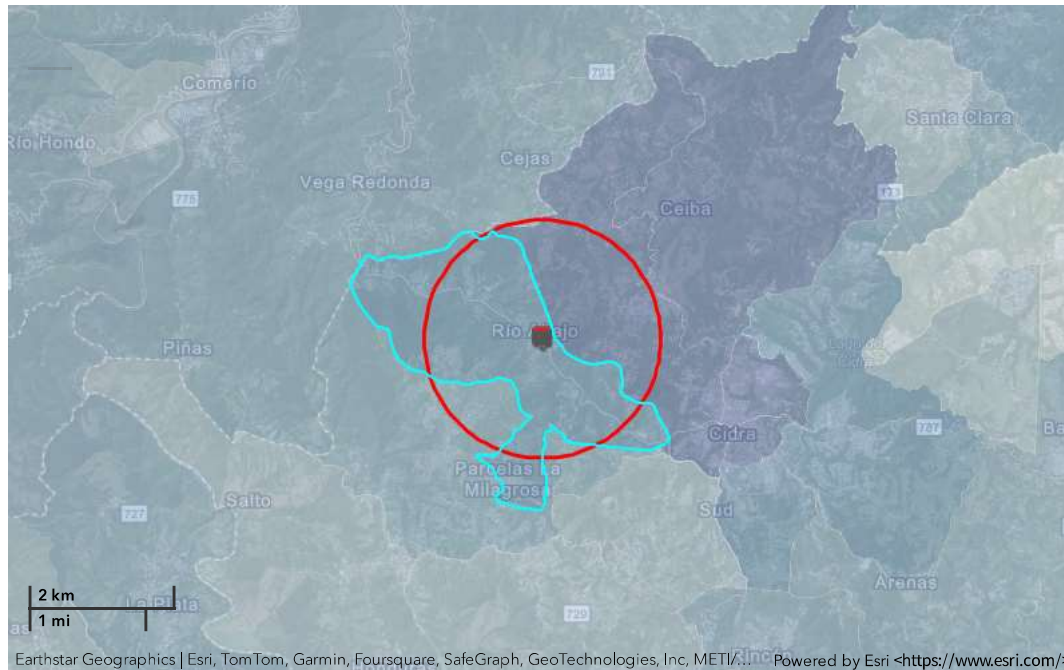
Supplemental (default)

Related Reports

EJScreen Community Report

Download Data

Census Block Group ID: 720412402012	US (Percentile)			State (Percentile)		
Supplemental Indexes	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max
Count of Indexes At or Above 90th Percentile	6	7	7	1	1	2
Particulate Matter 2.5	--	N/A	--	--	N/A	--
Ozone	--	N/A	--	--	N/A	--
Diesel Particulate Matter	5	5	5	40	52	59
Air Toxics Cancer Risk	54	36	55	76	0	86
Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index	37	38	39	76	82	86
Toxic Releases to Air	98	98	99	66	68	71
Traffic Proximity	70	90	96	19	44	62
Lead Paint	95	94	95	76	70	76
Risk Management Plan (RMP) Facility Proximity	53	60	71	8	11	20
Hazardous Waste Proximity	95	98	99	62	79	88
Superfund Proximity	99	99	99	95	97	98
Underground Storage Tanks (UST)	94	98	99	80	88	92
Wastewater Discharge	99	99	99	74	83	89

Map Display Based on: ☒ US ☐ StateDisplay Map Layer ☐ Facility 1-mile Radius ☐ Facility Census Block Group

Demographic Profile of Surrounding Area (1-Mile Radius)

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

General Statistics (ACS (American Community Survey))

Total Persons	3,091
Population Density	990/sq.mi.
Housing Units in Area	1,157
Percent People of Color	100%
Households in Area	966
Households on Public Assistance	48
Persons With Low Income	2,612
Percent With Low Income	85%

Geography

Radius of Selected Area	1 mi.
Center Latitude	18.187072
Center Longitude	-66.184288
Land Area	100%
Water Area	0%

Income Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Households (%)

Less than \$15,000	455 (47.1%)
\$15,000 - \$25,000	165 (17.08%)
\$25,000 - \$50,000	238 (24.64%)
\$50,000 - \$75,000	84 (8.7%)
Greater than \$75,000	24 (2.48%)

Age Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Persons (%)

Children 5 years and younger	206 (7%)
Minors 17 years and younger	585 (19%)
Adults 18 years and older	2,506 (81%)
Seniors 65 years and older	679 (22%)

Race Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Persons (%)

White	1,668 (54%)
African-American	0 (0%)
Hispanic-Origin	3,091 (100%)
Asian	0 (0%)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0 (0%)
American Indian	0 (0%)
Other/Multiracial	548 (18%)

Education Level (Persons 25 & older) (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Persons (%)

Less than 9th Grade	731 (32.87%)
9th through 12th Grade	130 (5.85%)
High School Diploma	740 (33.27%)
Some College/2-year	98 (4.41%)
B.S./B.A. (Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts) or More	350 (15.74%)



Detailed Facility Report

Facility Summary

PRASA - PRIMAVERA WASTEWATER PUMP STA
PR-172 KM 8.3 BO CERTENEJAS II, CIDRA, PR 00739

FRS (Facility Registry Service) ID: 110022530732
EPA Region: 02
Latitude: 18.18836
Longitude: -66.186713
Locational Data Source: RCRAINFO
Industries: Utilities
Indian Country: N

Enforcement and Compliance Summary

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

Regulatory Information

Clean Air Act (CAA): No Information
Clean Water Act (CWA): No Information
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): Active VSQG, (PRR000017822)
Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): No Information

Other Regulatory Reports

Air Emissions Inventory (EIS): No Information
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (eGGRT): No Information
Toxic Releases (TRI): No Information
Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI): No Information

Go To Enforcement/Compliance Details
Known Data Problems <<https://epa.gov/resources/echo-data/known-data-problems>>

Facility/System Characteristics

Facility/System Characteristics

System	Statute	Identifier	Universe	Status	Areas	Permit Expiration Date	Indian Country	Latitude	Longitude
FRS		110022530732					N	18.18836	-66.186713
RCRAInfo	RCRA	PRR000017822	VSQG	Active (H)			N	18.18836	-66.186713

Facility Address

System	Statute	Identifier	Facility Name	Facility Address	Facility County
FRS		110022530732	PRASA - PRIMAVERA WASTEWATER PUMP STA	PR-172 KM 8.3 BO CERTENEJAS II, CIDRA, PR 00739	Cidra Municipio
RCRAInfo	RCRA	PRR000017822	PRASA - PRIMAVERA WASTEWATER PUMP STA	PR 172 KM 8.3 BO CERTENEJAS II, CIDRA, PR 00739	Cidra Municipio

Facility SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) Codes

System	Identifier	SIC Code	SIC Description
No data records returned			

Facility NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) Codes

System	Identifier	NAICS Code	NAICS Description
RCRAInfo	PRR000017822	22132	Sewage Treatment Facilities

Facility Tribe Information

Reservation Name	Tribe Name	EPA Tribal ID	Distance to Tribe (miles)
No data records returned			

Enforcement and Compliance

Compliance Monitoring History

Last 5 Years

Statute	Source ID	System	Activity Type	Compliance Monitoring Type	Lead Agency	Date	Finding (if applicable)
No data records returned							

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

Compliance Summary Data

Statute	Source ID	Current SNC (Significant Noncompliance)/HPV (High Priority Violation)	Current As Of	Qtrs with NC (Noncompliance) (of 12)	Data Last Refreshed
RCRA	PRR000017822	No	10/05/2024	0	10/04/2024

Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter

Statute	Program/Pollutant/Violation Type	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	QTR 5	QTR 6	QTR 7	QTR 8	QTR 9	QTR 10	QTR 11	QTR 12
RCRA (Source ID: PRR000017822)		10/01-12/31/21	01/01-03/31/22	04/01-06/30/22	07/01-09/30/22	10/01-12/31/22	01/01-03/31/23	04/01-06/30/23	07/01-09/30/23	10/01-12/31/23	01/01-03/31/24	04/01-06/30/24	07/01-09/30/24
	Facility-Level Status	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified
	Violation												
	Agency												

Informal Enforcement Actions

Last 5 Years

Statute	System	Source ID	Type of Action	Lead Agency	Date
No data records returned					

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

Formal Enforcement Actions

Last 5 Years

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

Environmental Conditions

Watersheds

12-Digit WBD (Watershed Boundary Dataset) HUC (RAD (Reach Address Database))	WBD (Watershed Boundary Dataset) Subwatershed Name (RAD (Reach Address Database))	State Water Body Name (ICIS (Integrated Compliance Information System))	Beach Closures Within Last Year	Beach Closures Within Last Two Years	Pollutants Potentially Related to Impairment	Watershed with ESA (Endangered Species Act)-listed Aquatic Species?
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No data records returned

Assessed Waters From Latest State Submission (ATTAINS)

State	Report Cycle	Assessment Unit ID	Assessment Unit Name	Water Condition	Cause Groups Impaired	Drinking Water Use	Ecological Use	Fish Consumption Use	Recreation Use	Other Use
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No data records returned

Air Quality Nonattainment Areas

Pollutant	Within Nonattainment Status Area?	Nonattainment Status Applicable Standard(s)	Within Maintenance Status Area?	Maintenance Status Applicable Standard(s)
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No data records returned

Pollutants

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

TRI Facility ID	Year	Air Emissions	Surface Water Discharges	Off-Site Transfers to POTWs (Publicly Owned Treatment Works)	Underground Injections	Disposal to Land	Total On-Site Releases	Total Off-Site Transfers
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No data records returned

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

Chemical Name

No data records returned

Community

Environmental Justice

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

Potential Environmental Justice Concerns

- US Territory
- Supplemental/EJ index percentiles >= 90 (Census block group)
- Supplemental/EJ index percentiles >= 90 (1-mile average)

EJScreen Indexes Shown

Index Type

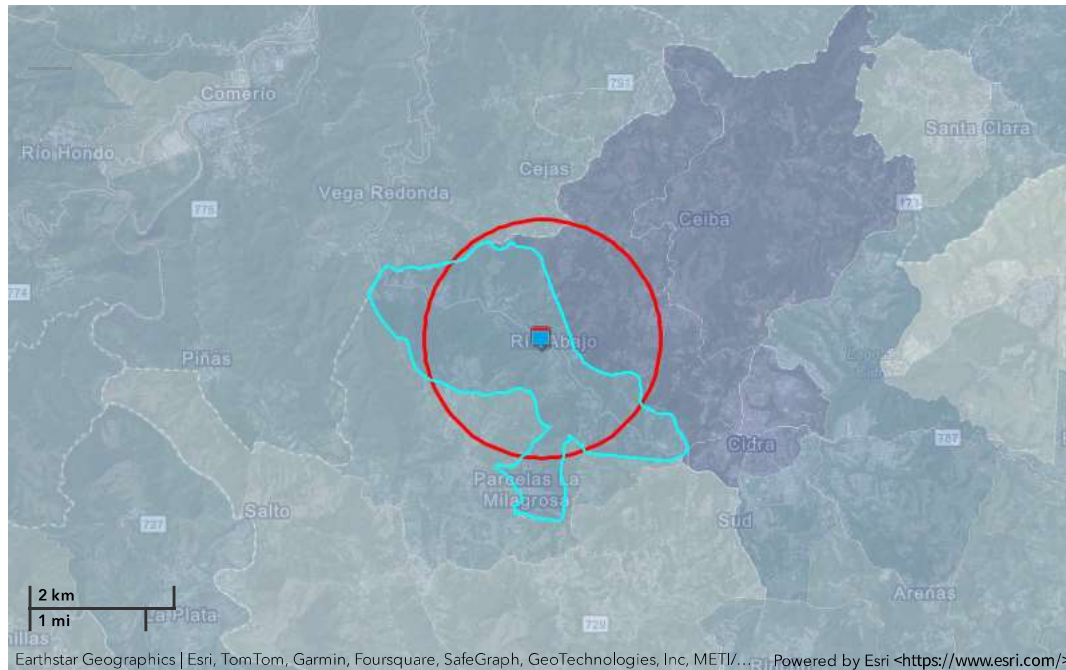
Supplemental (default)

Related Reports

EJScreen Community Report

Download Data

Census Block Group ID: 720412402012	US (Percentile)			State (Percentile)		
Supplemental Indexes	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max
Count of Indexes At or Above 90th Percentile	6	6	7	1	1	2
Particulate Matter 2.5	--	N/A	--	--	N/A	--
Ozone	--	N/A	--	--	N/A	--
Diesel Particulate Matter	5	5	5	40	46	59
Air Toxics Cancer Risk	54	36	55	76	0	86
Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index	37	37	39	76	79	86
Toxic Releases to Air	98	98	99	66	67	71
Traffic Proximity	70	83	96	19	31	62
Lead Paint	95	94	95	76	71	76
Risk Management Plan (RMP) Facility Proximity	53	56	66	8	9	15
Hazardous Waste Proximity	95	96	99	62	71	88
Superfund Proximity	99	99	99	95	96	98
Underground Storage Tanks (UST)	94	97	99	80	84	92
Wastewater Discharge	99	99	99	74	77	89

Map Display Based on: ☒ US ☐ StateDisplay Map Layer ☐ Facility 1-mile Radius ☐ Facility Census Block Group

Demographic Profile of Surrounding Area (1-Mile Radius)

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

General Statistics (ACS (American Community Survey))

Total Persons	2,999
Population Density	961/sq.mi.
Housing Units in Area	1,129
Percent People of Color	100%
Households in Area	936
Households on Public Assistance	50
Persons With Low Income	2,524
Percent With Low Income	84%

Geography

Radius of Selected Area	1 mi.
Center Latitude	18.18836
Center Longitude	-66.186713
Land Area	100%
Water Area	0%

Income Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Households (%)

Less than \$15,000	441 (47.17%)
\$15,000 - \$25,000	162 (17.33%)
\$25,000 - \$50,000	223 (23.85%)
\$50,000 - \$75,000	84 (8.98%)
Greater than \$75,000	25 (2.67%)

Age Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Persons (%)

Children 5 years and younger	204 (7%)
Minors 17 years and younger	568 (19%)
Adults 18 years and older	2,431 (81%)
Seniors 65 years and older	674 (22%)

Race Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Persons (%)

White	1,604 (53%)
African-American	0 (0%)
Hispanic-Origin	2,999 (100%)
Asian	0 (0%)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0 (0%)
American Indian	0 (0%)
Other/Multiracial	556 (19%)

Education Level (Persons 25 & older) (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Persons (%)

Less than 9th Grade	723 (33.13%)
9th through 12th Grade	124 (5.68%)
High School Diploma	720 (33%)
Some College/2-year	95 (4.35%)
B.S./B.A. (Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts) or More	348 (15.95%)



Detailed Facility Report

Facility Summary
CIDRA METALLIC CASKETS

CARR 172 KM 7.9 BO CERTENSEJAS, CIDRA, PR 00739

FRS (Facility Registry Service) ID: 110022530741

EPA Region: 02

Latitude: 18.190087

Longitude: -66.189663

Locational Data Source: RCRAINFO

Industries: Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing

Indian Country: N

Enforcement and Compliance Summary

Statute	RCRA
Compliance Monitoring Activities (5 years)	--
Date of Last Compliance Monitoring Activity	09/06/2013
Compliance Status	No Violation Identified
Qtrs in Noncompliance (of 12)	0
Qtrs with Significant Violation	0
Informal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	--
Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	--
Penalties from Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	--
EPA Cases (5 years)	--
Penalties from EPA Cases (5 years)	--

Regulatory Information

Clean Air Act (CAA): No Information

Clean Water Act (CWA): No Information

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): Active VSQG,
(PRR000017830)

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): No Information

Other Regulatory Reports

Air Emissions Inventory (EIS): No Information

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (eGGRT): No Information

Toxic Releases (TRI): No Information

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

Go To Enforcement/Compliance Details
Known Data Problems <<https://epa.gov/resources/echo-data/known-data-problems>>

Facility/System Characteristics

Facility/System Characteristics

System	Statute	Identifier	Universe	Status	Areas	Permit Expiration Date	Indian Country	Latitude	Longitude
FRS		110022530741					N	18.190087	-66.189663
RCRAInfo	RCRA	PRR000017830	VSQG	Active (H)			N	18.190087	-66.189663

Facility Address

System	Statute	Identifier	Facility Name	Facility Address	Facility County
FRS		110022530741	CIDRA METALLIC CASKETS	CARR 172 KM 7.9 BO CERTENSEJAS, CIDRA, PR 00739	Cidra Municipio
RCRAInfo	RCRA	PRR000017830	CIDRA METALLIC CASKET INC	CARR 172 KM 7.9 BO CERTENSEJAS, CIDRA, PR 00739	Cidra Municipio

Facility SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) Codes

System	Identifier	SIC Code	SIC Description
No data records returned			

Facility NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) Codes

System	Identifier	NAICS Code	NAICS Description
RCRAInfo	PRR000017830	33251	Hardware Manufacturing

Facility Tribe Information

Reservation Name	Tribe Name	EPA Tribal ID	Distance to Tribe (miles)
No data records returned			

Enforcement and Compliance

Compliance Monitoring History

Last 5 Years

Statute	Source ID	System	Activity Type	Compliance Monitoring Type	Lead Agency	Date	Finding (if applicable)
No data records returned							

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

Compliance Summary Data

Statute	Source ID	Current SNC (Significant Noncompliance)/HPV (High Priority Violation)	Current As Of	Qtrs with NC (Noncompliance) (of 12)	Data Last Refreshed
RCRA	PRR000017830	No	10/05/2024	0	10/04/2024

Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter

Statute	Program/Pollutant/Violation Type	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	QTR 5	QTR 6	QTR 7	QTR 8	QTR 9	QTR 10	QTR 11	QTR 12
RCRA (Source ID: PRR000017830)		10/01-12/31/21	01/01-03/31/22	04/01-06/30/22	07/01-09/30/22	10/01-12/31/22	01/01-03/31/23	04/01-06/30/23	07/01-09/30/23	10/01-12/31/23	01/01-03/31/24	04/01-06/30/24	07/01-09/30/24
	Facility-Level Status	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified	No Violation Identified
	Violation												
	Agency												

Informal Enforcement Actions

Last 5 Years

Statute	System	Source ID	Type of Action	Lead Agency	Date
No data records returned					

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

Formal Enforcement Actions

Last 5 Years

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

Environmental Conditions

Watersheds

12-Digit WBD (Watershed Boundary Dataset) HUC (RAD (Reach Address Database))	WBD (Watershed Boundary Dataset) Subwatershed Name (RAD (Reach Address Database))	State Water Body Name (ICIS (Integrated Compliance Information System))	Beach Closures Within Last Year	Beach Closures Within Last Two Years	Pollutants Potentially Related to Impairment	Watershed with ESA (Endangered Species Act)-listed Aquatic Species?
No data records returned						

Assessed Waters From Latest State Submission (ATTAINS)

State	Report Cycle	Assessment Unit ID	Assessment Unit Name	Water Condition	Cause Groups Impaired	Drinking Water Use	Ecological Use	Fish Consumption Use	Recreation Use	Other Use
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No data records returned

Air Quality Nonattainment Areas

Pollutant	Within Nonattainment Status Area?	Nonattainment Status Applicable Standard(s)	Within Maintenance Status Area?	Maintenance Status Applicable Standard(s)
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No data records returned

Pollutants

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

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

No data records returned

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

Chemical Name

No data records returned

Community

Environmental Justice

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

Potential Environmental Justice Concerns

- US Territory
- Supplemental/EJ index percentiles >= 90 (Census block group)
- Supplemental/EJ index percentiles >= 90 (1-mile average)

EJScreen Indexes Shown

Index Type

Supplemental (default)

Related Reports

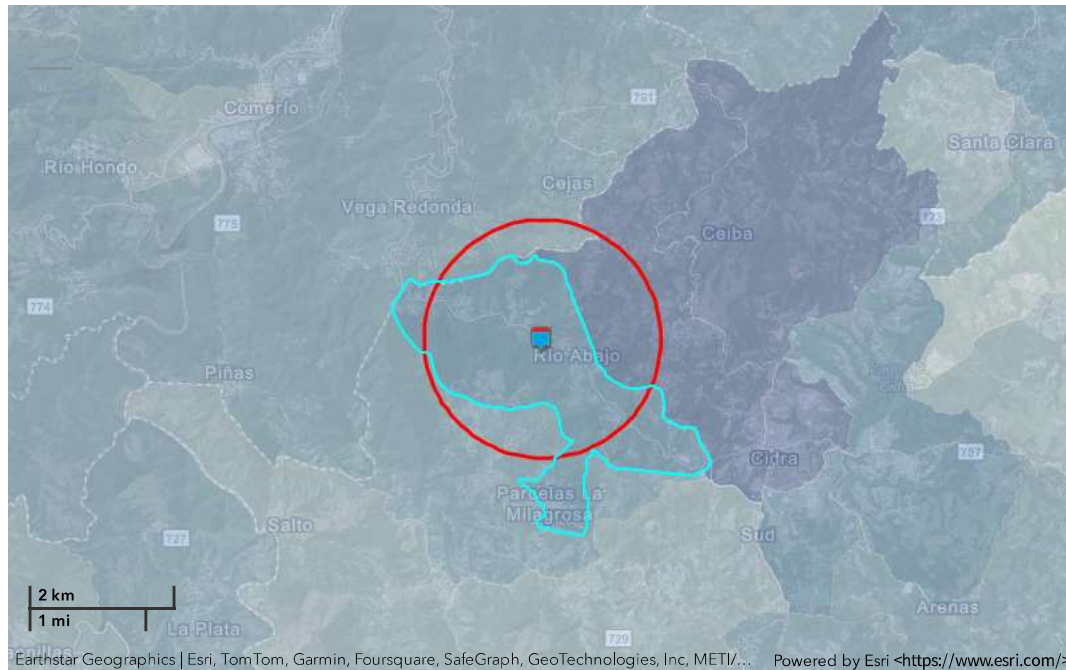
EJScreen Community Report

Download Data

Census Block Group ID: 720412402012	US (Percentile)			State (Percentile)		
Supplemental Indexes	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max	Facility Census Block Group	1-mile Avg	1-mile Max
Count of Indexes At or Above 90th Percentile	6	6	7	1	1	2
Particulate Matter 2.5	--	N/A	--	--	N/A	--
Ozone	--	N/A	--	--	N/A	--
Diesel Particulate Matter	5	5	5	40	45	59
Air Toxics Cancer Risk	54	36	55	76	0	86
Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index	37	37	39	76	77	86
Toxic Releases to Air	98	98	99	66	67	71
Traffic Proximity	70	81	96	19	29	62
Lead Paint	95	93	95	76	68	76
Risk Management Plan (RMP) Facility Proximity	53	56	66	8	9	15
Hazardous Waste Proximity	95	95	99	62	64	88
Superfund Proximity	99	99	99	95	94	98
Underground Storage Tanks (UST)	94	95	99	80	82	92
Wastewater Discharge	99	99	99	74	69	89

Map Display Based on: ☒ US ☐ StateDisplay Map Layer

Summary - Number of Indexes

☐ Facility 1-mile Radius ☐ Facility Census Block Group

Demographic Profile of Surrounding Area (1-Mile Radius)

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

General Statistics (ACS (American Community Survey))

Total Persons	2,857
Population Density	915/sq.mi.
Housing Units in Area	1,077
Percent People of Color	100%
Households in Area	882
Households on Public Assistance	51
Persons With Low Income	2,398
Percent With Low Income	84%

Geography

Radius of Selected Area	1 mi.
Center Latitude	18.190087
Center Longitude	-66.189663
Land Area	100%
Water Area	0%

Income Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Households (%)

Less than \$15,000	413 (46.93%)
\$15,000 - \$25,000	156 (17.73%)
\$25,000 - \$50,000	202 (22.95%)
\$50,000 - \$75,000	84 (9.55%)
Greater than \$75,000	25 (2.84%)

Age Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Persons (%)

Children 5 years and younger	192 (7%)
Minors 17 years and younger	537 (19%)
Adults 18 years and older	2,320 (81%)
Seniors 65 years and older	649 (23%)

Race Breakdown (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Persons (%)

White	1,529 (54%)
African-American	0 (0%)
Hispanic-Origin	2,857 (100%)
Asian	0 (0%)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0 (0%)
American Indian	0 (0%)
Other/Multiracial	548 (19%)

Education Level (Persons 25 & older) (ACS (American Community Survey)) - Persons (%)

Less than 9th Grade	689 (32.65%)
9th through 12th Grade	122 (5.78%)
High School Diploma	685 (32.46%)
Some College/2-year	103 (4.88%)
B.S./B.A. (Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts) or More	344 (16.3%)



ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW AND INSPECTION FORM

ReGrow

Applicant Name:	Hugo Varona		
App ID:	PR-RGRW-01253	ETO	30
Project Name:	Hugo L. Varona Blanco	Municipio:	Cidra
Address:	Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR	Zip Code:	00739
Parcel ID(s):	249-000-006-31-000	Lat:	18.191414
Project Budget:	\$150,000.00	Long:	-66.182411

*****Pay attention to the color coding – this will indicate what you are responsible for filling in*****

Task:	Name:	Date Completed:	Notes:
➤ Pre-Site Inspector	Armando Ramos	06/20/2024	
❖ Site-Inspector	Armando Ramos	06/21/2024	
Communication Log: (this is used by anyone who wants to record contact with the applicant)	Staff who called or emailed	Date & Time	Form of communication (email, phone, etc.) and which email /number/etc.used)

Canopy Document Notes/Summary:

▪ EA Preparer	Hannah Danek			
Scope of Work from IUGF:	Fence, Irrigation System piping, land, passionfruit structure, water recollection plastic			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What will the fence be constructed out of? - What will the fence be used for? - Where will the irrigation system get water from? - Will the irrigation system piping be underground or above? - Will the irrigation system require electricity? - What is a passionfruit structure? Will it require a foundation/ground disturbance? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will it require water and electricity? - Where is the land that is being purchased? How large? - Please provide details on the water recollection plastic 				
▪ GIS review Wetlands?	Within parcel	N	next to parcel	N
❖ Were any onsite wetlands identified?	N			



❖ Will project activities occur within any wetlands?				N			
▪ GIS review Floodplain?	Floodway on/near parcel	N	100-year on/near parcel	N	500-year on/near parcel	N	
❖ Will project activities occur within a Floodway?				N			
❖ Will project activities occur within a 100-year Floodplain?				N			

Pre-Site Environmental Questionnaire

(when this form is PDFd please remove this questionnaire from the record)

➤ Property Information	
What is the current use of the property?	Agricultural.
Is the site currently vacant/undeveloped? Are there any existing structures on the property that will be removed for the project? (are there images from Canopy to help answer and clarify this?)	Vacant except for the house.
Potential Site Access Issues:	does the site appear to have access issues based on current aerial imagery? Y/N
Existing Structures (e.g., residences, commercial buildings, etc.) {include the ones inside the property and in direct sight view of the site location}	
Built Date	Type of Construction
Notes:	
Existing Other Components Related to Project (e.g., gas tanks, cisterns, water tanks, abandoned vehicles, etc.)	
Type	Details
Notes:	
Are there any known environmental hazards on or adjacent to the property? (is the applicant aware of any illegal dumping? What do Canopy pictures show? What do the preliminary site maps show?)	No
Does applicant have any blueprints, sketches, or pictures of an example of any of the proposed project activities?	
Will any of the proposed project activities require the installation or improvement of new site infrastructure and utilities (i.e. roads, water/sewer/electric utility to the unit or	No



from the utility – ex: installing a greenhouse that needs water – where is it coming from)?		
Will any of the proposed project activities require connections to water and/or electricity? (If so, state which activities and provide information below regarding current water/electricity)		No
Current Electricity:		
Location:	Ex: by the road, next to the house & is this the source to the activity	
Type:		
Provider:		
Above or Below ground:		
Funded by:		
Notes:		
Current Water:		
Location:	Ex: by the road, next to the house & is this the source to the activity	
Type:		
Provider:		
Above or Below ground:		
Notes:		
➤ Project Activities		
What are <u>all</u> the proposed activities for this project according to the applicant? (what does the applicant think/say is the entire project – to include this funding and future funding?)	<i>List of proposed activities</i> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> Detailed/specific info of each activity (wells, greenhouse, solar, cisterns, warehouse, etc.) in separate boxes below </div>	
What is the purpose and need for the project?		
What does the applicant believe are all the proposed activities currently (CDBG) funded for this project? (what does the applicant think/say the federal funding will fund?) *if there are discrepancies discuss these with the applicant. Distinguish between CDBG-DR funded activities vs other activities. Have applicant call PRDOH Help Desk to discuss discrepancies.	Do the funding activities discussed by the applicant match the IUGF/RFA?	Y
	PRDOH Help Desk: PRDOH Economic Recovery Division (787) 274-2527 ext. 4276 ecoreccdbg@vivienda.pr.gov	
delete activity boxes that are not part of project		



Fence		
Question	➤ Pre-Site Questionnaire	❖ Site-Visit Determination
Location - is it following the property line, or will it enclose sections in the property?		It will follow the property line.
Is this a replacement and/or new fence.		The applicant is just adding a particular type of barbed wire on parts of the existing fence on the property to keep pigs away.
Dimensions of fence (LxDxH)		Applicant was unsure.
Materials of fence (this is important due to floodplain and T&E concerns)	Wired fence	Only barbed wire.
Materials, quantity, spacing, and depth of posts		The applicant will only add the barbed wire to the existing fence so the barbed wire would be the only material.
Are there trees along the intended route? (if applicant is planning to use trees as posts this should be assessed through T&E so please obtain alternative options for posts)	Yes	Yes.
***Take start/end/middle points of proposed fence. (Take points of changes in terrain, contamination, or other notable changes)		
If the area is not accessible, make a note and take pictures of the general area where is going to be installed.		
Detailed description of construction activities: (this should be as technical an answer as possible)		
Notes:		

Drainage Piping		
Question	➤ Pre-Site Questionnaire	❖ Site-Visit Determination



Location(s) (this can be specific or "by the road/house/etc")	"By the road"	Lat/long coords capturing the installation area:
Dimensions of the pipes (Length and Diameter)		500ft long and 2ft in diameter.
Underground or Aboveground? (if underground, what is the width and depth it will be installed at)		Aboveground.
Purpose of the drainage piping? (Where is the water draining to, what is the source of the water being drained, why is it being drained/how it assists the agricultural production/farm)		Pipes will collect rainwater that gathers in a certain area of the property and will bring that water up to some cisterns he has.
Environmental Impacts (Tree clearing, vegetation clearing, soil impacts, ground grading/leveling, etc.)		None.
Were alternate locations considered? (obtain details – how many, locations of each alternative, etc)		No, pipes need to go where the rainwater gathers.
Detailed description of construction activities: (this should be as technical an answer as possible)		Applicant will install a BTL-30 Mil Black AquaArmor Single Scrim RPE Liner to collect water and pipes will bring water to cisterns.
Notes:		

Total Project Summary		
Question	➤ Pre-Site Questionnaire	❖ Site-Visit Determination
What are the dimensions of all project components? (Total project footprint - acres, length, width, linear feet, sq ft – ex: the container is 20x8 on a foundation that is 25x10 with a water tank on a base that is 5x5 = project dimensions 25x15)		500ft piping
Will there be a need for additional workspace and construction work and where will it be located on the site? (workspaces will include staging and turn around areas for deliveries – for example, a container is typically delivered on a truck with a long flatbed which requires a radius to turn and maneuver; dumpsters, even temporary ones, will need to be placed somewhere outside of the project footprint; etc)		None required. All materials will be brought to the farm and installed in place.



How will each project item be connected to water and electricity? Will any of the items require new underground connections?		Applicant is connected to Luma in the house of the farm, but does not believe he has to make any electric connection except for the water pump he will have.
Will any tree clearing be required for the construction or installation of the project? (this should include the information needed for the previously mentioned staging and turn around areas)		None according to the applicant.
Vegetation removal (cutting, clearing via prescribed burns etc.) (this should include the information needed for the previously mentioned staging and turn around areas)		Some trimming will likely be required in overgrown areas.
What is the extent of ground disturbances in each activity location (grading, fill required – questionnaire person should summarize this back to the applicant)?		None. If any post needs to be added or replaced in the fence it would go 2ft deep.
Has any work been started on the project? If so, what activities have been performed, <u>include date started and completed</u>. (Please indicate which/any of these activities are CDBG funded)		No work has been started on this project.
How will construction debris from the project be disposed of? (there will always be construction debris)		Applicant will keep any remaining materials and dispose of any debris.
Notes:		
➤ Additional Studies		
Have any additional special studies (e.g., wetland delineation, cultural resources survey, asbestos, lead-based paint assessments, mold inspections, soil surveys etc.) been completed? If so, please include a copy of assessment results with your response		



❖ **Site-Visit Form**

❖ **General Site Conditions and Field Notes:**

Does the address match the parcel location?	Yes	Does the lat/long match the parcel location?	Yes
Comments on location:			
<u>Question</u>	<u>Yes /No</u>	<u>Comments:</u>	
Was property accessible by vehicle?	Yes		
Were there any access issues? Examples of access issues: Dogs, Locked gate, Traffic hazards, Uncooperative residents, Confrontational Neighbors, *If no access issues please indicate with "None"	No		
Are water wells present? *please include lat/long of water well so it can be denoted on the sitemap	No		
Are creeks or ponds present? *please include lat/long of water well so it can be denoted on the sitemap	No		
Are any potential wetlands on-site or visible on adjacent parcel? *please include lat/long of water well so it can be denoted on the sitemap	No		
<p align="center">❖ Parcel Conditions</p> <p align="center">Note – for Any Yes answers specify type, contents, and location (get photo points) (These questions are mostly concerned with contamination – all HUD activities must be “free and clear of contamination” and while it’s important to be able to show there is no site-contamination we also have to keep in mind what the HUD funded project is and the regulatory requirements of the activity)</p>			
Are commercial or industrial hazardous facilities at parcel or within visual sight?	No		



ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW AND INSPECTION FORM
ReGrow

Are there signs of underground storage tanks?	No	
Are any above-ground tanks (relevant to the activities in the IUGF *unless they are a source of contamination) >10 gallons present? If yes, what are the contents and conditions of each tank?	Yes	600-gallon cistern in good condition, applicant will use to store water.
Are 55-gallon drums present? If yes, what are the content and conditions of each tank?	No	
Are abandoned vehicles or electrical equipment present?	No	
Are there any signs of illegal dumping within or next to the applicant parcel?	No	
Is other potential environmentally hazardous debris on the parcel?	No	
Is there non-environmentally hazardous debris on the parcel?	No	
Are any leaks, soil stains, or stressed vegetation present? If yes, what is the source of the staining/stress?	No	



ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW AND INSPECTION FORM
ReGrow

Are there any pungent, foul or noxious odors?	No	
Other Components <u>Related to Project</u> (e.g., gas tanks, cisterns, water tanks, abandoned vehicles, etc.)		
Type	Details	
Are there any potentially hazardous trees that could fall?	No	
Are any bird nests visible?	No	
Are there any animal burrows visible?	No	
Are there any signs of potential/preferred T&E habitat in the area?	Yes	
Natural Resources (e.g., endemic plants, endangered species, water bodies, wetlands, etc.) {include the ones inside the property and in direct sight view of the site location}		
Type or Species	Description	
Are there any buildings in direct visual sight of the project locations? Take photo and ask applicant when the structure was built)	Yes	



Structures (e.g., residences, commercial buildings, etc.) {include the ones inside the property and in direct sight view of the site location}

Built Date

Type of Construction

❖ **Additional Environmental Hazards Analysis**

Based on the above findings, does additional information need to be obtained from the applicant to determine whether an environmental hazard is present?

No

☒ I verify that I have physically visited this property and that the findings outlined above are accurate.

Inspector Signature *Armando Ramos*

{Inspector Name} Armando Ramos

{Inspection Date} 06/21/2024

Following pages are used for:

Location Map with parcel boundaries and building point (Aerial base with streets labelled)

Photos taken during inspection, with Date / Type / Direction associated with the photo



Site-Visit Tips:

Tips before going to the field:

1. Confirm with the applicant the appointment the same week, the day prior, or the same day hours before leaving for the site inspection.
2. Check the vehicle, and equipment (e.g. did you download the field map)
3. Don't leave the field without the contact information of the applicant, you may need directions along the way.
4. Make sure you read the Pre-Site Environmental Questionnaire.
 - a. It is good practice to ask the EA writer and the Project Manager (PM) if they want us to pay attention or to ask something in particular.
5. The RFA document might give you what the funds were requested for, this is important because sometimes the applicants will keep talking about the projects, but not mention who's going to pay what.
6. Sign the JHA; make sure the PM has the time to prepare the document.

For the following always take pictures:

1. If there is a sign of site preparation, please ask when it happened and what they did (e.g. grading, filling, etc.)
2. Tree clearing – ask them about permits, and what type of tree it is.
3. When an applicant is not sure about the exact location of the project, make sure you take several overview pictures or a central point with N, E, S, and W views.
 1. Please be prepared to let the applicant know where wetlands are located within their parcel boundaries. This will help ensure they do not try and plan to locate any activities within wetlands (and/or ensure we know which permits will be required).
4. Ask about any organic debris (grasses, dirt, etc.) and other materials such as construction materials, buckets, tarps, etc., and what they plan to do to them.
5. Structures with a direct view of the project (ask when it was built).
6. Natural resources – water bodies, burrows, birds or nests, wetlands, erosion, landslides, etc.

Project #: PR-RGRW-01253	Photographer: Armando Ramos
Location Address: Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR, 00739	Coordinates: 18.191414, -66.182411

Frame #	View	Description
01	NE	Location where applicant will bring the water collected from water collection system.
02	S	Location where applicant will install water collection system to collect rainwater.
03	SE	Location where applicant will install water collection system to collect rainwater.
04	S	Location where applicant will add fencing.
05	E	Location where applicant will add fencing.
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Project #: PR-RGRW-01253	Photographer: Armando Ramos
Location Address: Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR, 00739	Coordinates: 18.191414, -66.182411

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Project #: PR-RGRW-01253	Photographer: Armando Ramos
Location Address: Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR, 00739	Coordinates: 18.191414, -66.182411

Project #: PR-RGRW-01253	Photographer: Armando Ramos
Location Address: Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR, 00739	Coordinates: 18.191414, -66.182411

Photo #: 01	Date: 06/21/2024	
Photo Direction: Northeast		
Description: Location where applicant will bring the water collected from water collection system.		

Photo #: 02	Date: 06/21/2024	
Photo Direction: South		
Description: Location where applicant will install water collection system to collect rainwater.		

Project #: PR-RGRW-01253	Photographer: Armando Ramos
Location Address: Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR, 00739	Coordinates: 18.191414, -66.182411

Photo #: 03	Date: 06/21/2024	
Photo Direction: Southeast		
Description: Location where applicant will install water collection system to collect rainwater.		

Photo #: 04	Date: 06/21/2024	
Photo Direction: South		
Description: Location where applicant will add fencing.		

Project #: PR-RGRW-01253	Photographer: Armando Ramos
Location Address: Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR, 00739	Coordinates: 18.191414, -66.182411

Photo #: 05	Date: 06/21/20 24	
Photo Direction: East		
Description: Location where applicant will add fencing.		



DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



Memorandum to File

Date: 3/20/2025

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

Application Number: PR-RGRW-01253-W

Project: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-RGRW-01253-W under the Regrow Puerto Rico Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253		City: Cidra

Project Location: Carretera 172 km 7.9, Cidra, Puerto Rico 00739	
Project Coordinates: (as provided by applicant during field visit)	
Fence: 18.191633, -66.182258	
Above Ground Waterline: 18.191532, -66.182434	
TPID (Número de Catastro): 249-000-006-31-000	
Type of Undertaking:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
Construction Date (AH est.): ca. 2005	Property Size (acres): 11.26 acres total Fence: 0.0079 acre (346 sq. ft.) Above Ground Waterline: 0.0027 acre (118 sq. ft.)

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Julia Russ, M.U.R.P., Ella McIntire, M.A.
Date Reviewed: July 12, 2024
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Delise Torres Ortiz
Date Reviewed: July 3, 2024

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


Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed project includes the purchase of land, irrigation piping, fence improvements, a passion fruit structure, and water recollection plastic. This Environmental Assessment (EA) also encompasses the CENST review requirements for the equipment.

The applicant will purchase land (parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000) using funds included in the Intended Use of Grant Funds (IUGF). All proposed project activities will take place on the land that is being purchased.

The fence follows the border of the property, along all sides, spanning 346 feet (ft). The applicant will be attaching barbed wire to the existing fence to keep wild pigs from entering the property. No ground disturbance is expected for the fence, however if an existing fence post needs to be replaced, it will be at a maximum depth of 2 feet (ft) with a maximum width of 2 ft.

The irrigation piping will be 118 ft long and 2 ft in diameter and will begin near the eastern border of the property. The piping will be used to collect rainwater that gathers in this portion of property and will transport it to water cisterns located to the southwest of the irrigation

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253	City: Cidra	

piping origin. The applicant will install a BTL-30 Mil Black AquaArmor Single Scrim RPE Liner (water recollection plastic) to the area that collects the water. The irrigation piping will utilize a water pump that does not require electricity to move the water to its destination. The piping will be located above ground.

The proposed project will also include the construction of a passionfruit structure. The passionfruit structure will be purchased with the applicant's own funding.

No tree clearing is required for construction, and the project will have minimal ground disturbance. The applicant will purchase the property using funds from the IUGF; therefore, no conversion is required.


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 irrigation piping, a fence, a passion fruit structure, and a water recollection plastic plus a 15-meter horizontal buffer to allow for some variation in final placement during construction and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61) who searched the records at the SHPO and the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña which shows that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within a half-mile (mi) radius of the project location. No archaeological evaluations or Section 106 studies have been conducted within the 0.5-mi review radius with no cultural resources found.

The proposed project is located in a rural, mountainous area in the central-eastern portion of the island at an elevation of 1,658 ft (505 meters [m]) above mean sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses two (2) mapped soil series: CaF (Caguabo clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes) and MxF (Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes). The project area APE is in the northwestern portion of the municipality of Cidra. The general project area is part of the Cordillera Central with mountains and side slopes with subtropical moist forest vegetation and sparse residential areas on the main highways and

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253	City: Cidra	

municipal roads. The closest freshwater source is a tributary of Río Arroyata located 0.28 mi (45 kilometers [km]) northwest of the project area. The south coast is approximately 18 mi (29 km) from the project area.

Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61) shows that the project area is not within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. No previous Section 106 Surveys have been conducted within 0.5 mi of the project area.


The surrounding area is rural and mountainous in nature. Aerial imagery from Google Earth Pro shows the construction of a warehouse on the project parcel ca. 2005. This imagery shows other developments in the area along major roads. Aerial imagery from 1994 shows a similar level of development in the area. Earth Explorer (<https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>) aerial imagery from 1977 shows less overall development in the surrounding area, but a few developed areas along major roads. Earth Explorer imagery from 1964 shows the development of a few major roads, but almost no structures in the area surrounding the project parcel. Thus, it can be determined that there are no historic properties in the APE.

Determination


The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

- Direct Effect:
 - None
- Indirect Effect:
 - None

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that project actions will not affect historic properties that compose the Area of Potential Effect. The project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. There are no reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties within a half-mile radius of the proposed project location. 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-01253 is located. The closest freshwater body is approximately 0.28 mi (45 km) of the project area. The size of the proposed project

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253	City: Cidra

activities is very small (0.011 acre or 464 sq. ft.) and construction of public roads, residential structures, agricultural infrastructure and practices has impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253		City: Cidra

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

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

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

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

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

Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253

City: Cidra

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



REGROW PROGRAM

Project Location Area of Potential Effects (APE) Map

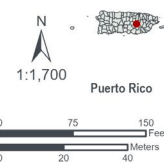
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- ▭ Above Ground Utilities Location
- ▭ APE (Buffer (15-meters))

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Base Map: USA NAIP Imagery
Imagery Year: 2022
Updated: 6/25/2024
Layout: APE
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

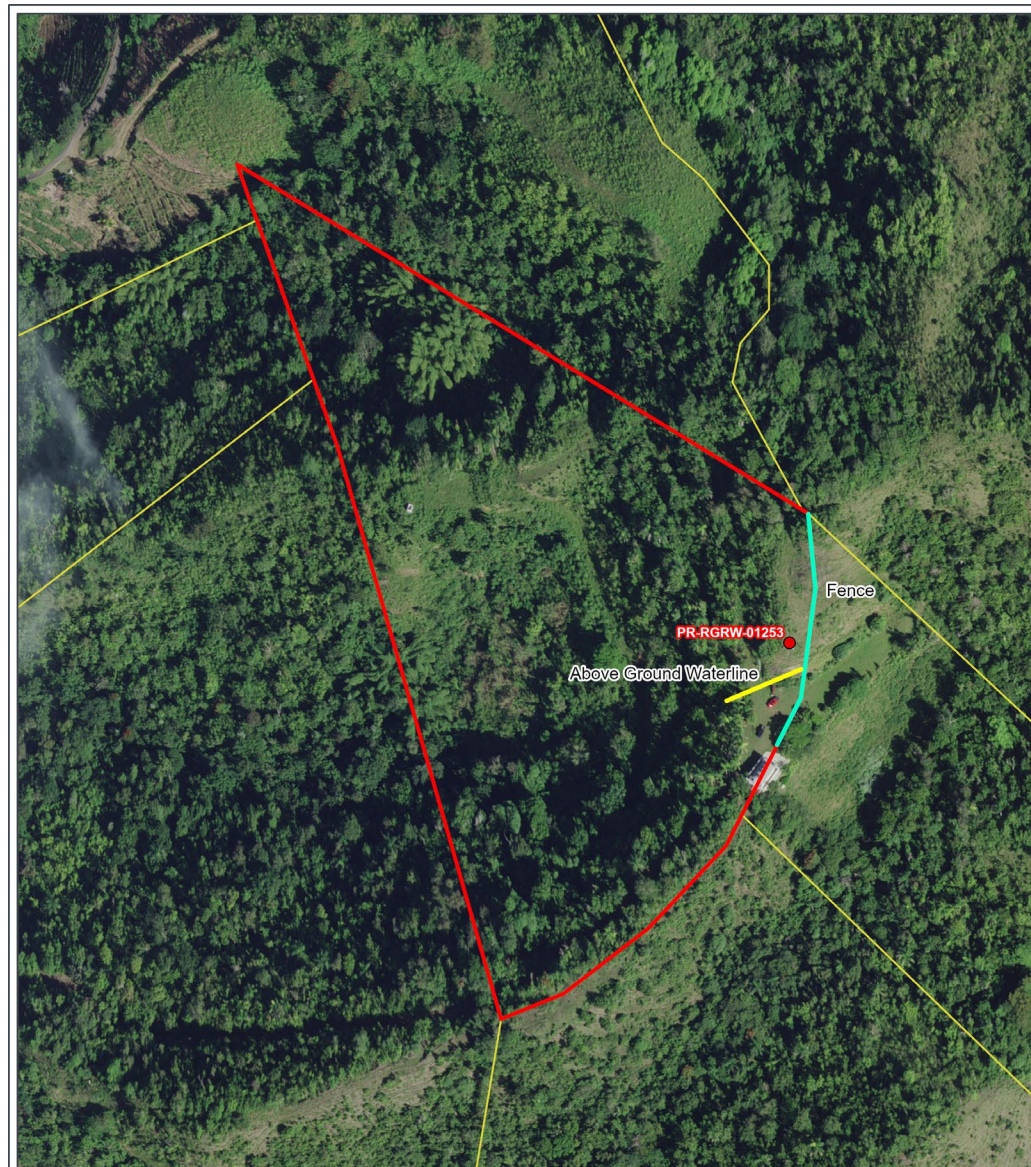


Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253

City: Cidra

Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure A-2:
Site Vicinity**

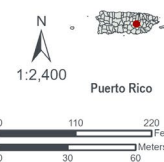
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Above Ground Utilities Location

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.183425°W 18.191907°N

Base Map: USA NAIP Imagery
Imagery Year: 2022
Updated: 6/25/2024
Layout: Site Vicinity
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

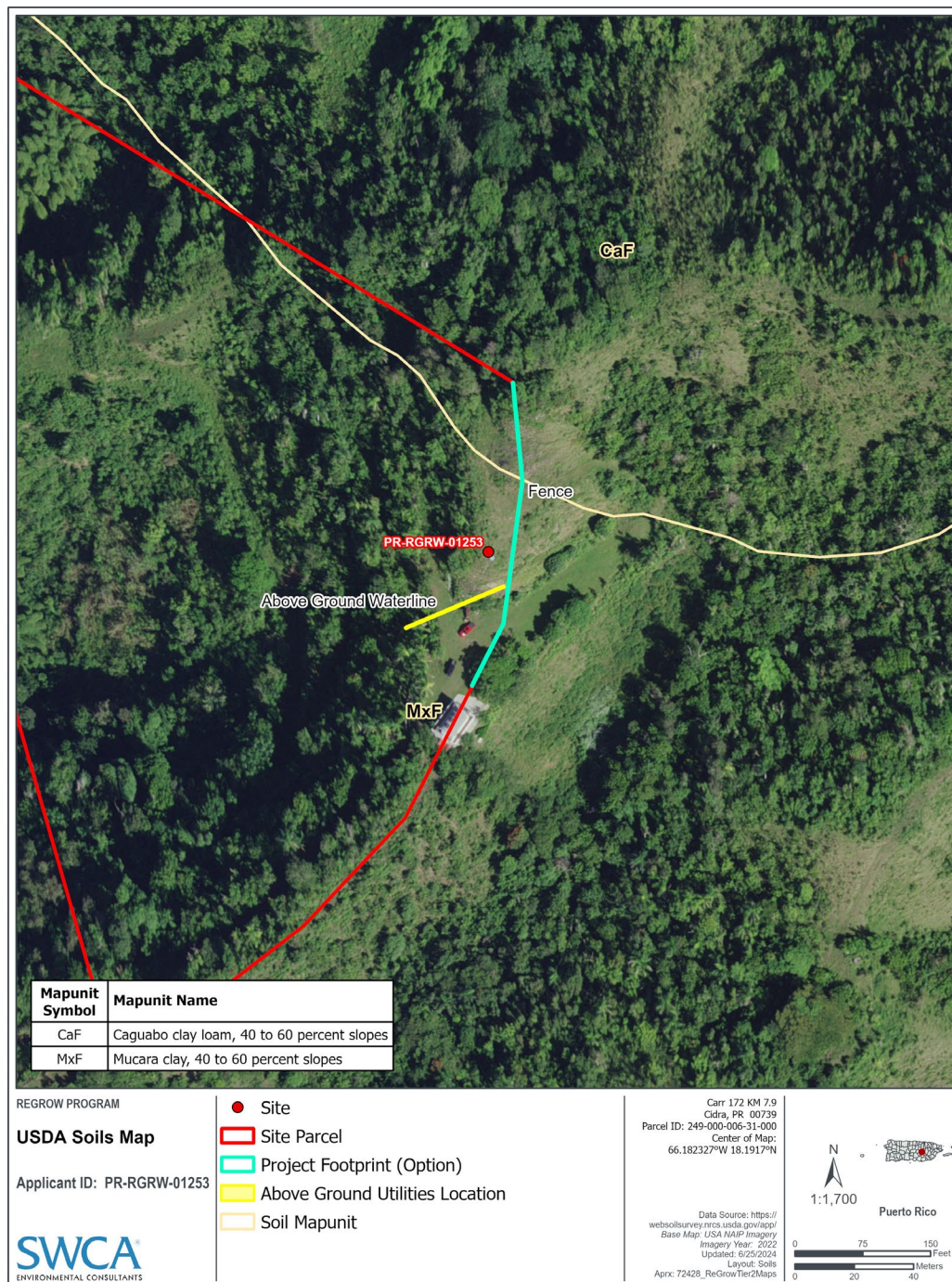


Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253

City: Cidra

Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map (Only if Archaeology Review is Required)



Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253

City: Cidra

Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Previous Investigation Map

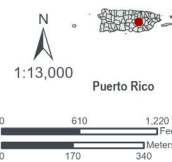
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253



- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- Buffer (0.5-mile)
- ▭ Previously Recorded Survey
- ▭ MIPR Arqueologia
- ▭ Traditional Urban Centers

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: State Historic
Preservation Office and Puerto Rico
Institute of Culture
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2024
Updated: 6/25/2024
Layout: Previous Investigation
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

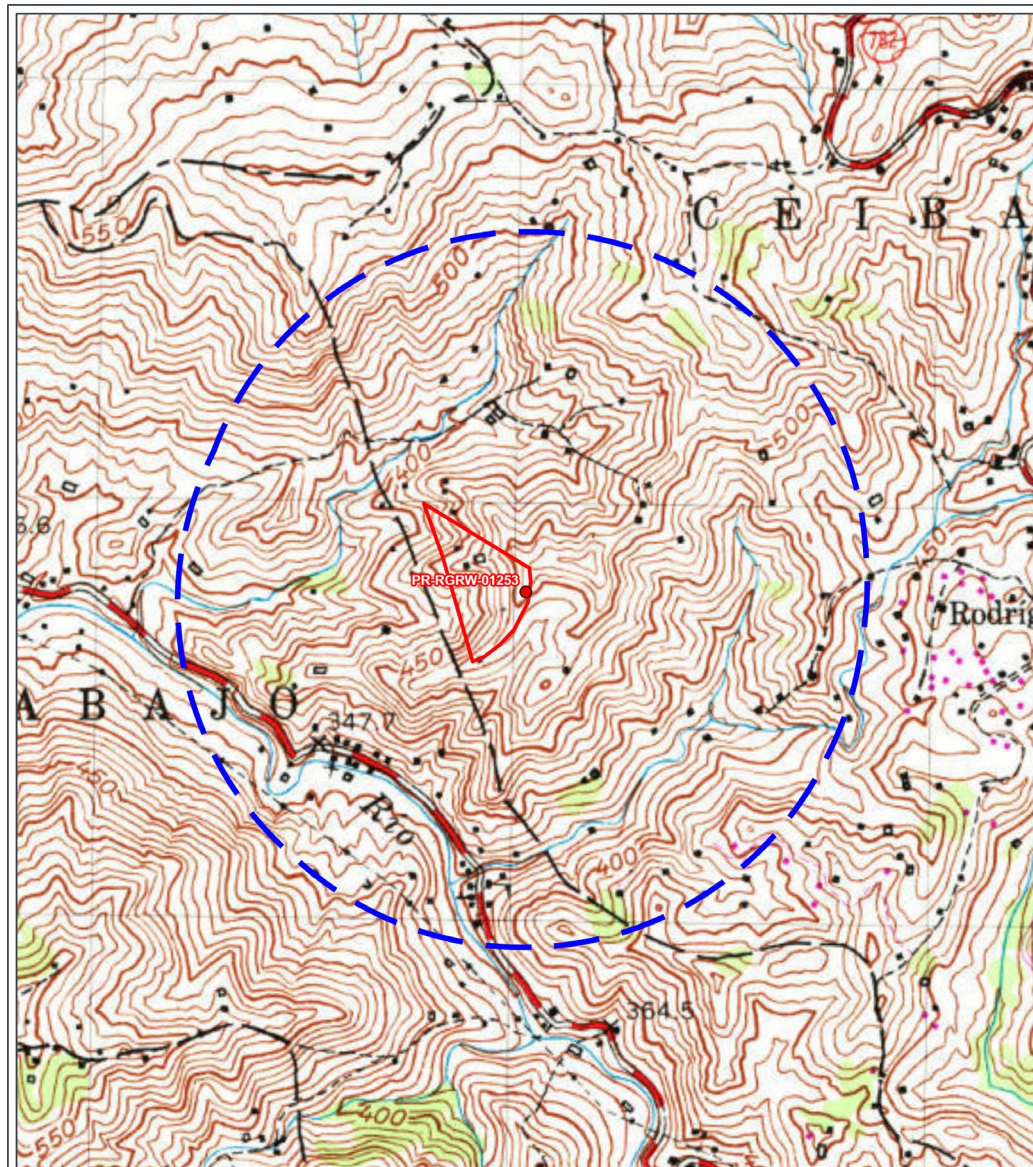


Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253

City: Cidra

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



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure B 11-1:
Previously Recorded
Cultural Resources
Map**

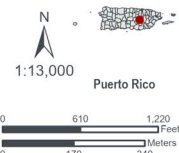
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Buffer (0.5-mile)
- ▲ Archaeological Site
- Historical Place
- ★ Historic Area Point
- JP Historical Sites
- National Register of Historic Places
- National Historic Landmark
- National Register of Historic Places
- Historic Community
- Historic District
- Arroyo Historic Zone
- Caguas Historic Zone
- Coamo Historic Zone
- Guayama Historic Zone
- Manati Historic Zone
- Miramar Historic Zone
- Ponce Historic Zone
- San German Historic Zone
- San Juan Historic Zone
- Vega Baja Historic Zone
- Traditional Urban Centers

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: State Historic
Preservation Office and Puerto Rico
Institute of Culture
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online
accessed June 2024
Updated: 6/26/2024
Layout: Cultural Resources
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

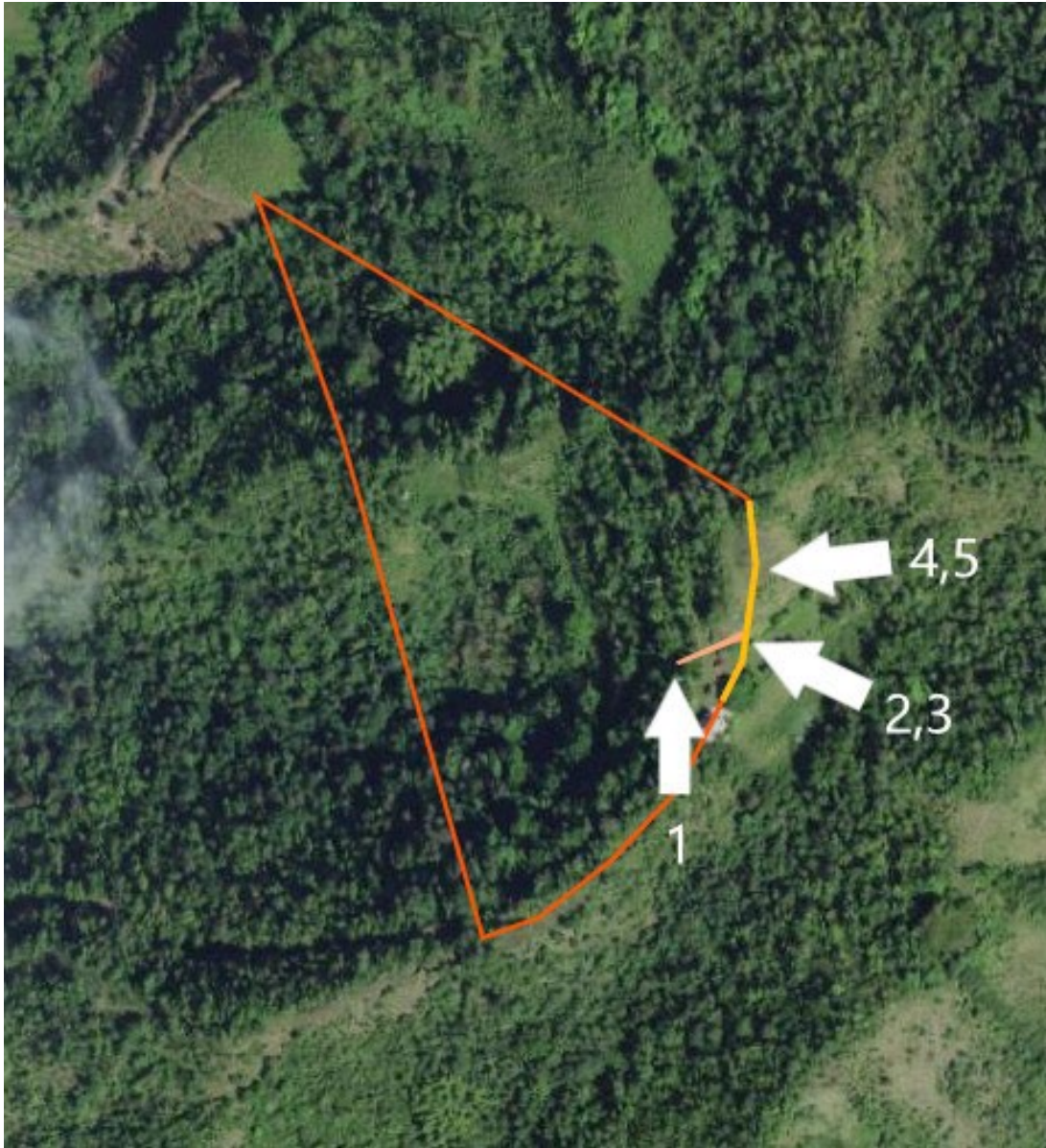


Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253

City: Cidra

Photograph Key



Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253

City: Cidra

Photo #:
01

Date:
6/21/24

Photo Direction:
Northeast

Description:
Location where applicant will bring the water collected from water collection system.



Photo #:
02

Date:
6/21/24

Photo Direction:
South

Description:
Location where applicant will install water collection system to collect rainwater.



Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253

City: Cidra

Photo #:
03

Date:
6/21/24

Photo Direction:
Southeast

Description:
Location where applicant will install water collection system to collect rainwater.



Photo #:
04

Date:
6/21/24

Photo Direction:
South

Description:
Location where applicant will add fencing.



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Applicant: Hugo L. Varona Blanco

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01253

City: Cidra

Photo #:
05

Date:
6/21/24

Photo Direction:
East

Description:
Location where
applicant will add
fencing.





DEPARTAMENTO DE LA

VIVIENDA

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO



February 25, 2025

TO: José M. Olmo Terrasa, Esq.

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

**RE: Endangered Species Concurrence - Conservation Measures Implementation
Hugo L. Varona Blanco (PR-RGRW-01253)**

Dear Mr. Olmo:

This memorandum is to notify the CDBG-DR Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (Re-Grow Program) that on August 28, 2024, for the case **PR-RGRW-01253**, the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division submitted an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project which consist of the purchase of irrigation piping, fence improvements, a passion fruit structure and water recollection plastic, for Hugo L. Varona Blanco, an agricultural business, located at PR-172 Km 7.9, Toitas Ward, Parras Sector, Cayey, PR 00725; latitude 18.191414, longitude -66.182411.

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

Name of Species	Status
Puerto Rican Boa	Endangered
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon	Endangered
Critical Habitat	
There were no Critical Habitats noted within the project area.	

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office reviewed the information provided and their files, and on September 20, 2024 concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions will have **May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)** the Puerto Rican Boa.

The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024.

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

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

In order to facilitate the species identification, please, find attached the Caribbean Endangered and Threatened Animals Fact Sheets for: Puerto Rican Boa.

USFWS Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office key contact information:

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

Sincerely,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division Disaster
Recovery Office

Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

Puerto Rican Boa

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





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

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

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

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



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

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

Conservation Measures:

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

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

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

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



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www.swca.com

August 16, 2024

Lourdes Mena
Field Supervisor
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office Park I, Suite 303
State Road #2 Km 156.5
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico 00680
Email: Caribbean_es@fws.gov; Lourdes_Mena@fws.gov

**Re: Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation for the Puerto Rico
Department of Housing ReGrow PR-RGRW-01253 Project/ SWCA Project No. 72428**

Dear Ms. Mena:

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing, is requesting informal consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 *et seq.*), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) for the proposed ReGrow PR-RGRW-01253 Project (project). The Project is located on 11.3 acres at Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, Puerto Rico, 00739 (18.191532, -66.182434).

The proposed Project involves the purchase of irrigation piping, fence improvements, a passion fruit structure, and water recollection plastic. No tree clearing or vegetation removal is expected and the project will have minimal ground disturbance.

Using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, we have determined that the proposed project lies within the range of the following federally listed species:

Species	Listing Status
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (<i>Columba inornata wetmorei</i>)	Endangered

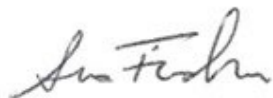
No designated or proposed critical habitat for any listed species was identified within the project area. Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, we have made the following effects determinations:

Species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures to be Implemented
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)	Puerto Rican Boa General Project Design Guidelines
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (<i>Columba inornata wetmorei</i>)	No effect (NE)	No Conservation Measures

In accordance with the 2024 Puerto Rican Boa General Project Design Guidelines, if a Puerto Rican Boa (PR Boa) is found in the project action site, work shall cease until the individual moves off on its own. If the PR 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 PR Boa.

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determinations included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at (346) 388-1157 or susan.fischer@swca.com.

Sincerely,



Susan Fischer
Wildlife Ecologist
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Attachments: Threatened and Endangered Species Technical Memorandum



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Houston, Texas 77040
Tel 281.617.3217 Fax 713.896.3189
www.swca.com

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 491
Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622

From: Susan Fischer, Project Biologist on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Date: August 16, 2024

Re: **Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation for the Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow PR-RGRW-01253 Project/ SWCA Project No. 72428**

Project Description

Hugo L. Varona Blanco, the applicant, is proposing the purchase of land, irrigation piping, fence improvements, a passion fruit structure, and water recollection plastic on a 11.3-acre property in the Municipio of Cidra, Puerto Rico (project) (Appendix A, Figure 1). The project is located at Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, Puerto Rico, 00739 in a rural area. The fence length is 346 feet long and the above ground irrigation piping will extend 118 feet. The passion fruit structure will be approximately 600 square feet and have about 39 posts. No optional locations were observed; all proposed activities will have one location each (Appendix A, Figure 2). No vegetation removal or tree clearing will be required and the project will have minimal ground disturbance.

Existing conditions

The existing habitat conditions at the proposed project area consists of dense herbaceous vegetation interspersed with shrubs and trees. Forested areas are adjacent to the north, west, and south. There were no wetlands or waterbodies mapped within or adjacent to the subject property (Appendix A, Figure 3). No vegetation removal or tree clearing will be required and the project will have minimal ground disturbance. Representative photographs of the proposed locations are provided in Appendix B.

Federally Protected Species

SWCA obtained a federal threatened and endangered species list from the USFWS (2024a) Information for Planning and Consultation ("IPaC") website for a 100-foot buffer around the irrigation piping, fence improvements, passion fruit structure, and water recollection plastic (review area) (Appendix C). The IPaC automatically generates a list of species and other resources of concern, such as critical habitat, that are known or expected to be in the specified area and could potentially be directly or indirectly affected. According to the IPaC query for the project, two federally listed endangered species has the potential to occur in the review area; the Puerto Rican plain pigeon (*Columba inornata wetmorei*) and the Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*). SWCA also evaluated the review area for potential habitat for bald eagles

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) as they are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (“BGEPA”).

The bald and golden eagle’s range do not extend into Puerto Rico (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2024); therefore, these species were eliminated from further analysis for this project. Table 1 identifies the species carried forward for further evaluation and summarizes each species’ habitat requirements, potential for occurrence in the project area, and determination of effects.

Table 1. Federally Listed Species Range and/or Habitat Requirements

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status*	Range or Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area	Determination of Effects/Impacts
Birds				
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (<i>Columba inornata wetmorei</i>)	FE	The Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon is found mostly in wooded ravines, second-growth areas, bamboo thickets, and patches of farmland and pasture within moist mountain forests (Birds of Puerto Rico 2023). The species nests in bamboo groves and hardwood canyons (USFWS 1982).	<i>Unlikely to occur.</i> There are no wooded ravines or bamboo thickets within the proposed project locations.	<i>No effect.</i> There is no suitable habitat for the Puerto Rican plain pigeon within the project area.
Reptiles				
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	FE	Considered to be a habitat generalist, the Puerto Rican boa tolerates a wide variety of terrestrial and arboreal habitats, including rocky areas, haystack hill, trees and branches, rotting stumps, caves, plantations, various types of forested areas such as karst and mangrove forests, forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges (USFWS 2011).	<i>May occur.</i> The project area is located within and adjacent to the forested areas and dense vegetative ground cover is present throughout the review area.	<i>May affect, but not likely to adversely affect.</i> See discussion below.

*Status Definitions:
FE = Federally listed endangered

Based on a site visit and habitat evaluations, the Puerto Rican plain pigeon is considered unlikely to occur due to lack of suitable habitat within the project areas. Therefore, the project will have *no effect* on this federally listed species. Due to the generalist nature of the Puerto Rican boa, forested habitat surrounding the project areas, and dense ground cover present throughout the review area, the Puerto Rican boa may occur within the project area. The applicant will employ the conservation measures outlined in the 2024 USFWS General Project Design Guidelines for the Puerto Rican boa (Appendix D), including but not limited to issuing a stop work if a Puerto Rican boa were to occur within the project area, and contacting the PRDNER for safe capture and relocation of the individual if such action is required. Consequently, it is anticipated that the project *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* the Puerto Rican boa. The USFWS Consistency Letter obtained through IPaC is included in Appendix E.

Critical Habitat and National Wildlife Refuges

Potential effects to habitat(s) within the project area critical to endangered species must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves, while any activity proposed on National Wildlife Refuge lands must undergo a compatibility determination conducted by the Refuge. No designated critical habitats are

present within 100-feet of any of the proposed project location options (Appendix A, Figure 4) (USFWS 2024b).

LITERATURE CITED

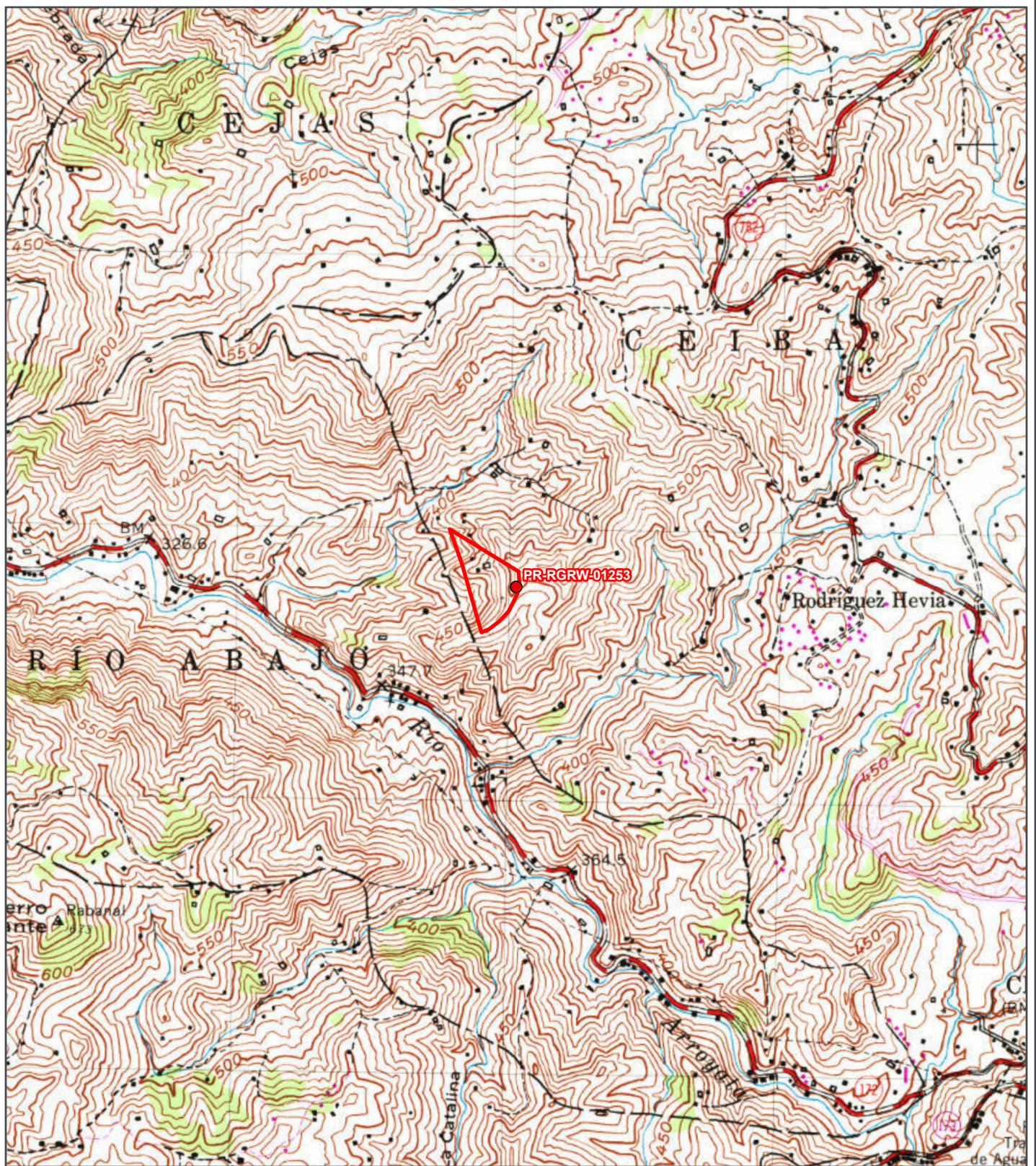
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- . 2024a. Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC). Available at: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed August 2024.
- . 2024b. Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species [USFWS]. Available at: <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77>. Accessed June 2024.

APPENDIX A

Maps

Figure 1

USGS Topographic Map



REGROW PROGRAM

USGS Topographic Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2024
Updated: 6/25/2024
Layout: USGS Topographic Map
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

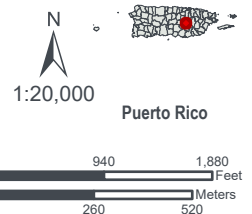
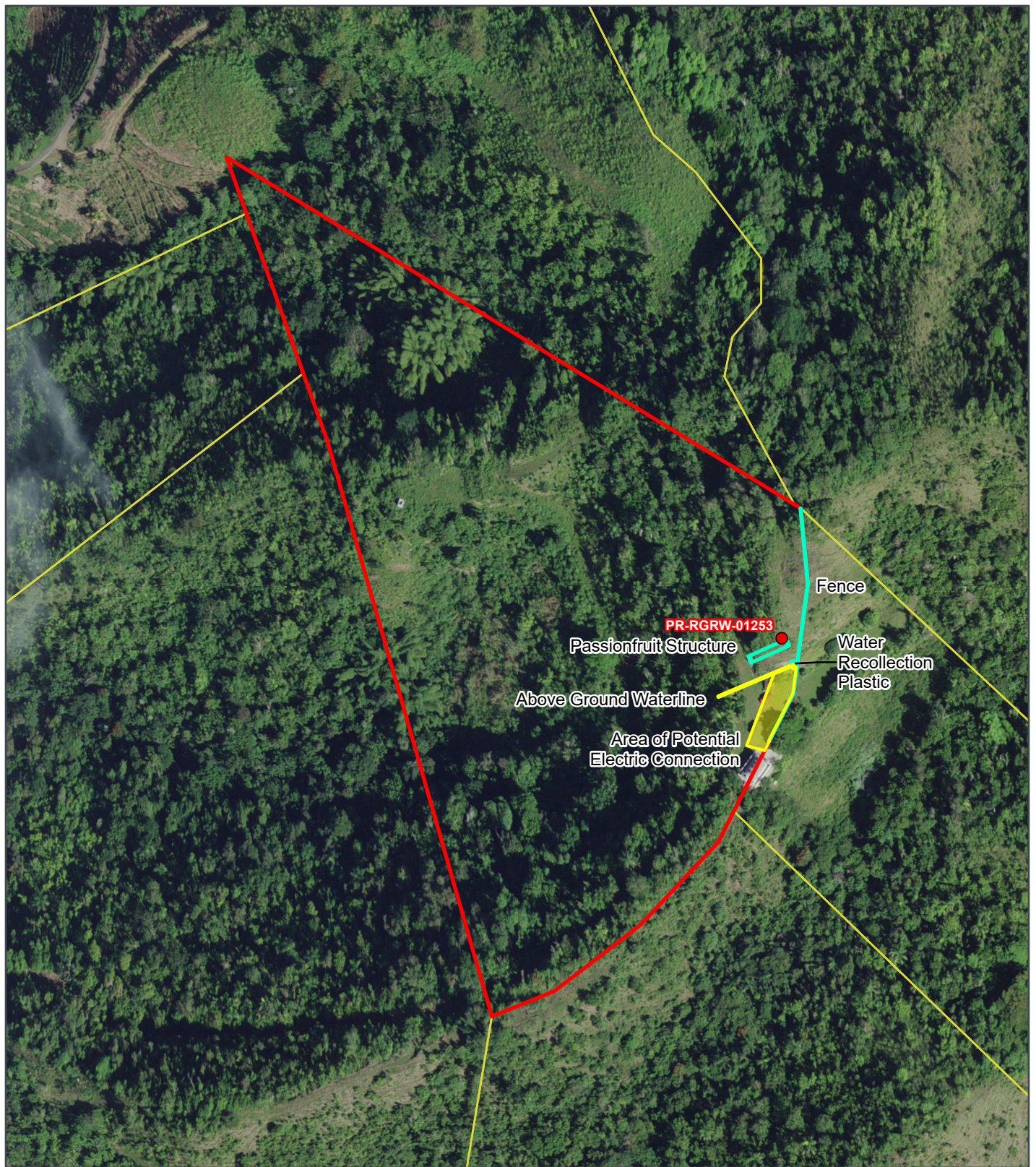


Figure 2
Site Vicinity Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure: Site Vicinity

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Potential Area of Disturbance

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.183425°W 18.191907°N

Base Map: USA NAIIP Imagery
Imagery Year: 2022
Updated: 8/7/2024
Layout: Site Vicinity
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

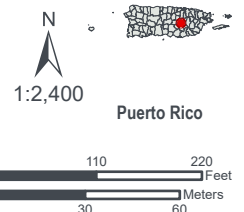
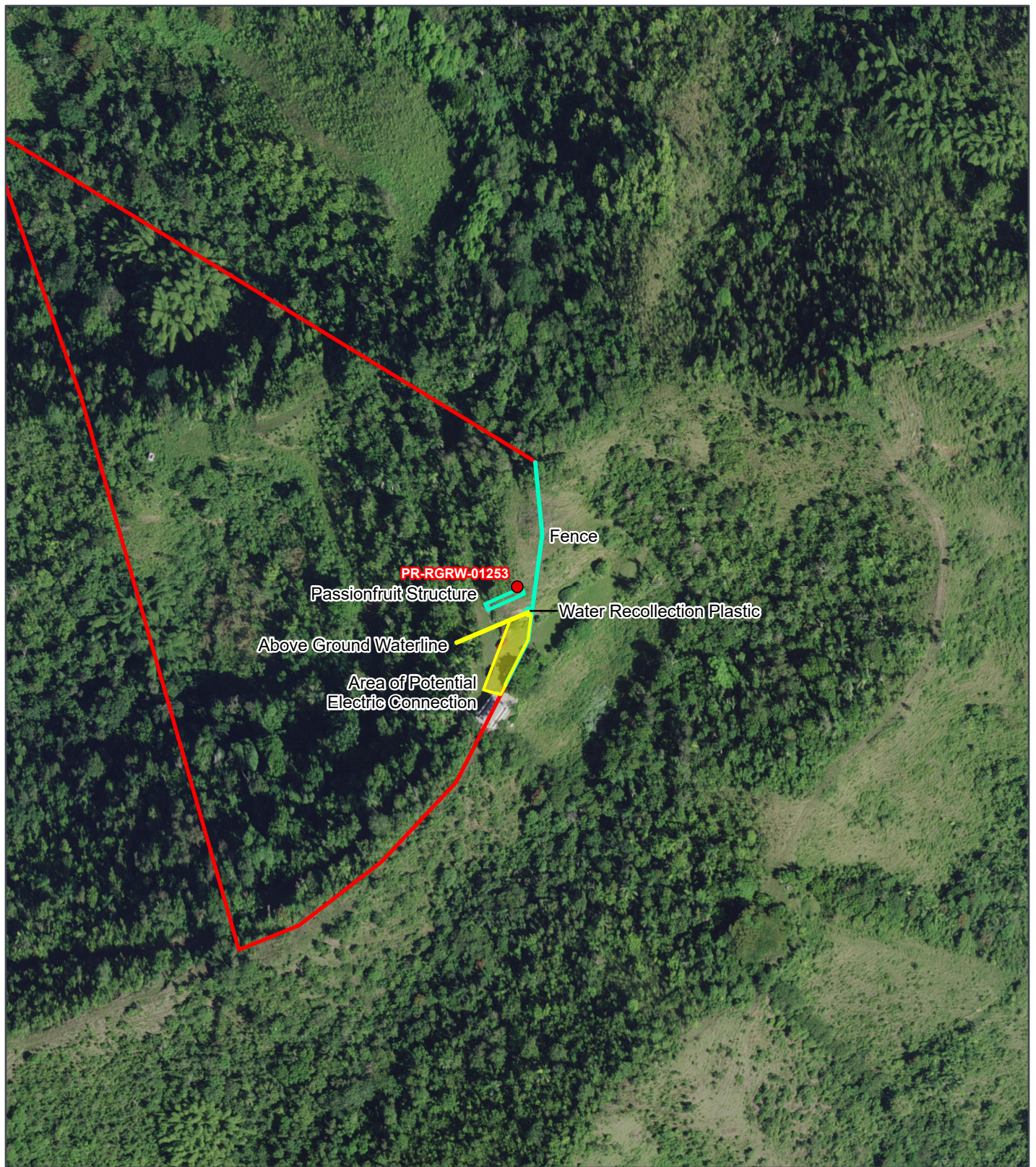


Figure 3
Wetlands Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure: Wetlands Protection Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Potential Area of Disturbance
- NHD Stream
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

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

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/>
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/data-download>
Base Map: USA NAIP Imagery
Imagery Year: 2022
Updated: 8/7/2024
Layout: Wetlands Protection

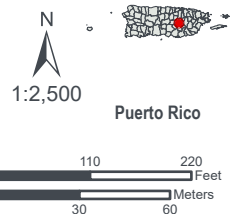
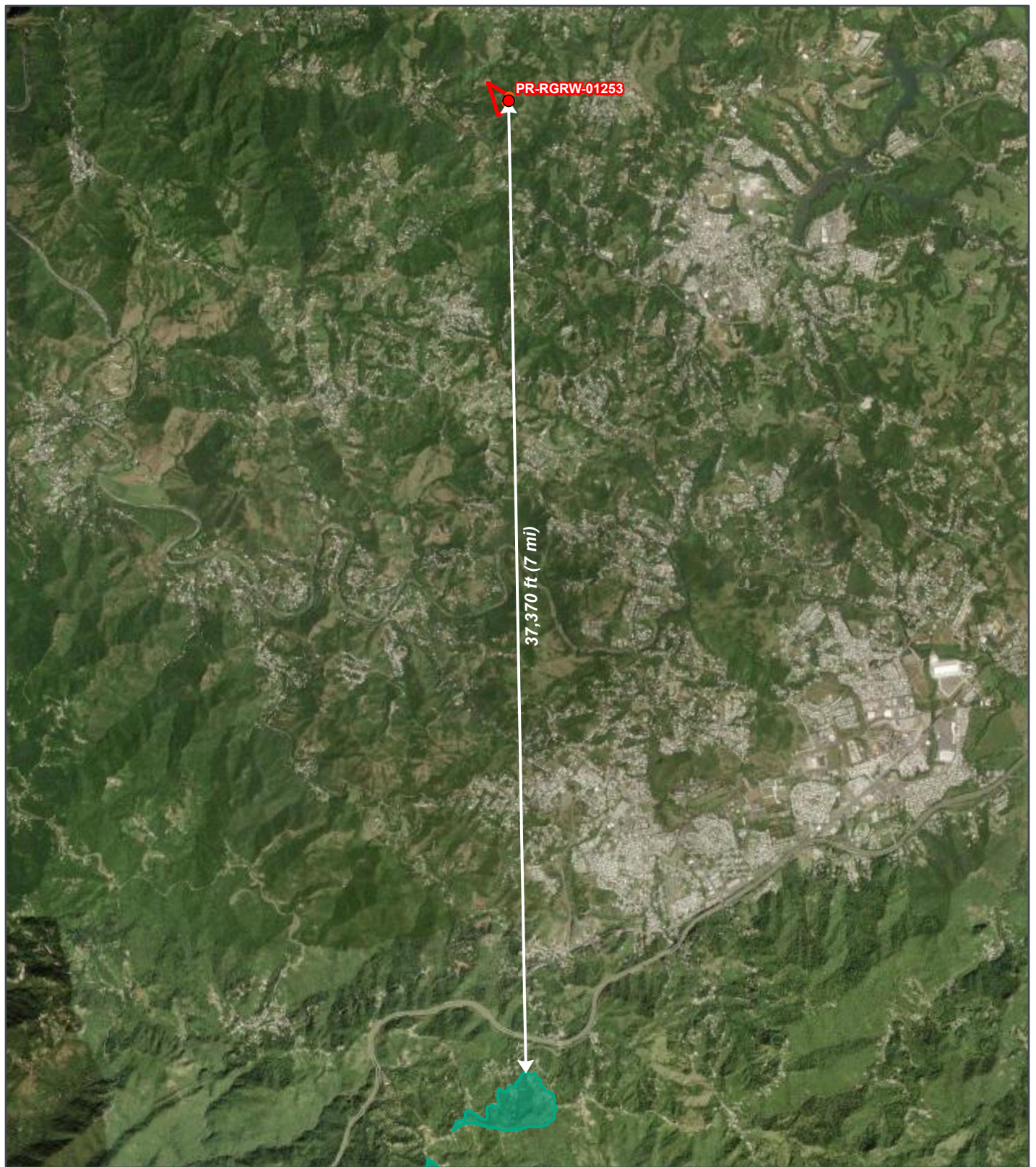


Figure 4
Critical Habitat Map



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure:
Critical Habitat Map**

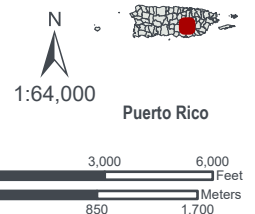
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253



- Site
- Site Parcel
- Buffer (100-ft)
- Critical Habitat - Final
- National Wildlife Refuges

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.181446°W 18.140252°N

Data Source: https://services.arcgis.com/QVENGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/USFWS_Critical_Habitat/Base_Map/ESRI/ArcGIS/Online,
accessed June 2024
Updated: 6/25/2024
Layout: Critical Habitat
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



APPENDIX B

Photographic Log

Project #: PR-RGRW-01253	Photographer: Armando Ramos
Location Address: Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR, 00739	Coordinates: 18.191414, -66.182411


Photo #: 01	Date: 06/21/2024	
Photo Direction: Northeast		
Description: Location where applicant will bring the water collected from water collection system.		


Photo #: 02	Date: 06/21/2024	
Photo Direction: South		
Description: Location where applicant will install water collection system to collect rainwater.		

Project #: PR-RGRW-01253	Photographer: Armando Ramos
Location Address: Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR, 00739	Coordinates: 18.191414, -66.182411

Photo #: 03	Date: 06/21/2024	
Photo Direction: Southeast		
Description: Location where applicant will install water collection system to collect rainwater.		

Photo #: 04	Date: 06/21/2024	
Photo Direction: South		
Description: Location where applicant will add fencing.		

Project #: PR-RGRW-01253	Photographer: Armando Ramos
Location Address: Carretera 172 KM 7.9, Cidra, PR, 00739	Coordinates: 18.191414, -66.182411

Photo #: 05	Date: 06/21/2024	
Photo Direction: East		
Description: Location where applicant will add fencing.		

APPENDIX C

USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
Post Office Box 491
Boqueron, PR 00622-0491
Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440
Email Address: CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

In Reply Refer To:

08/06/2024 20:54:42 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0126862

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01253 ETO-030

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 caribbean_es@fws.gov. 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-the-endangered-species-act-with-the-caribbean-ecological%20Services-field-office-template-letter.pdf>

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

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

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

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

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

caribbean_es@fws.gov

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(786) 244-0081

Attachment(s):

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

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(939) 320-3135

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0126862

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01253 ETO-030

Project Type: Disaster-related Grants

Project Description: The proposed project includes the purchase of land, irrigation piping, fence improvements, a passion fruit structure, and water recollection plastic.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1920913,-66.1840239,1681497,14z>



Counties: Cidra County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 2 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 Fisheries¹, 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. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon <i>Patagioenas inornata wetmorei</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7955	Endangered

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/JLT25R2C6RFRWLLMVKUPXJ4W3I/documents/generated/7159.pdf	Endangered

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

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

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act¹ and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#).

-
1. The [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 Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#).

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

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

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

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

RIVERINE

- R5UBH

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: SWCA

Name: Rachel Howsmon

Address: 13 Palafox Pl

City: Pensacola

State: FL

Zip: 32502

Email: rachel.howsmon@swca.com

Phone: 8504948710

APPENDIX D

Project Design Guidelines

General Project Design Guidelines (1 Species)

Generated August 16, 2024 05:38 PM UTC, IPaC v6.113.1-rc4

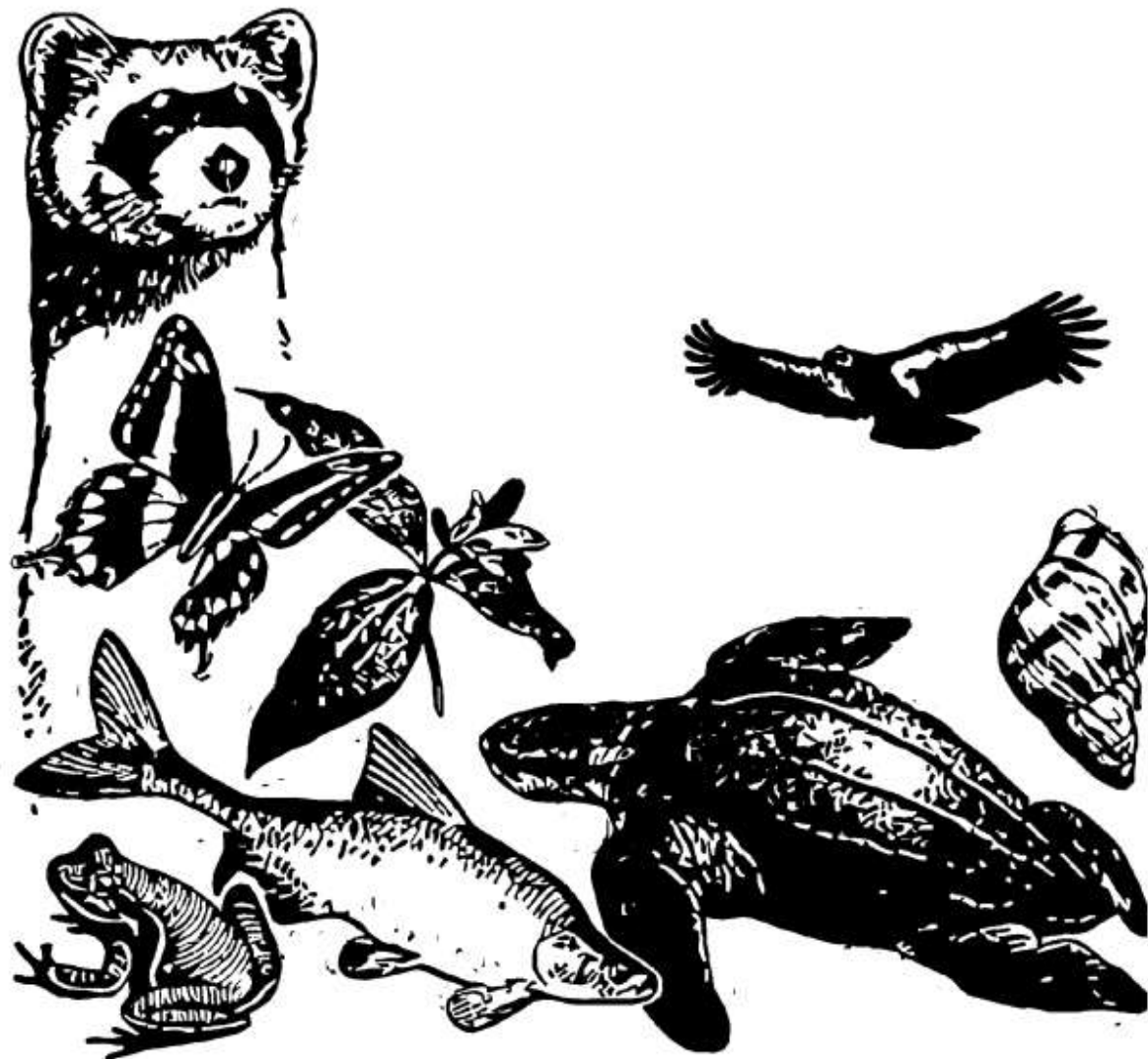


Table of Contents

Species Document Availability	<u>1</u>
Puerto Rican Boa - Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office	<u>2</u>

Species Document Availability

Species with general design guidelines

Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*

Species without general design guidelines available

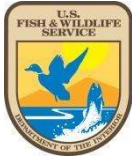
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon *Patagioenas inornata wetmorei*

General Project Design Guidelines - Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon and 1 more species

Published by Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office for the following species included in your project

Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon *Patagioenas inornata wetmorei*

Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*

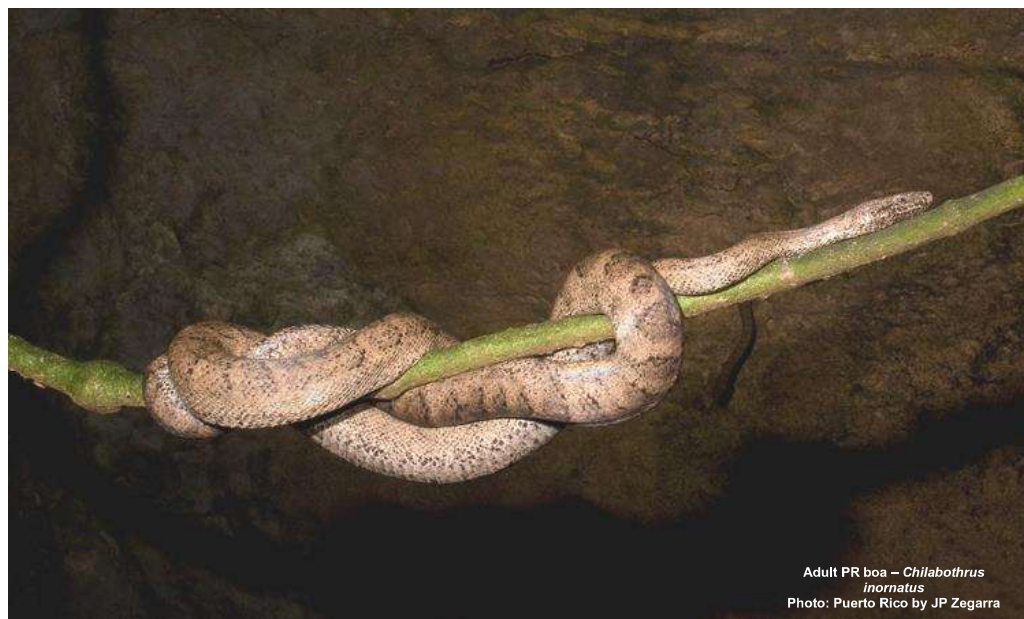


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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

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

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



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

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

Conservation Measures:

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX E

USFWS Consistency Letter



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
Post Office Box 491
Boqueron, PR 00622-0491
Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440
Email Address: CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

In Reply Refer To:

08/06/2024 20:59:44 UTC

Project code: 2024-0126862

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01253 ETO-030

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-01253 ETO-030' 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 August 06, 2024, Rachel Howsmon used the Caribbean DKey; dated April 03, 2024, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online [IPaC application](#) to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-01253 ETO-030'. The project is located in Cidra County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1920913,-66.18402391681497,14z>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01253 ETO-030':

The proposed project includes the purchase of land, irrigation piping, fence improvements, a passion fruit structure, and water recollection plastic.

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 (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered	May affect

Consultation with the Service is not complete. Further consultation with the Caribbean Ecological Services office is required for those species with a determination of "may affect" listed above. Please contact the Caribbean Ecological Services office to discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species.

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-01253 ETO-030

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01253 ETO-030':

The proposed project includes the purchase of land, irrigation piping, fence improvements, a passion fruit structure, and water recollection plastic.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1920913,-66.1840239,1681497,14z>



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")?

No

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

Note: Examples of immediately adjacent to forested areas are rock walls and haystack hills (“mogotes”), wet montane forest, lowland wet forest, remnant coastal, mangrove forest, damp and dry limestone karst forests, pastureland with patches of exotic trees.

Yes

11. Is the project area more than 1 acre?

No

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

No

13. Is the proposed project a new facility which would require earth moving, vegetation clearing, or debris removal using heavy machinery, the use of staging areas, construction of temporary access roads?

No

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

Automatically answered

Yes

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: SWCA

Name: Rachel Howsmon

Address: 13 Palafox Pl

City: Pensacola

State: FL

Zip: 32502

Email: rachel.howsmon@swca.com

Phone: 8504948710

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

Radon Attachments



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: guerrero.carmen@epa.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc:

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc:

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: OIA@cdc.gov

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


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary



August 20, 2024

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

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

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

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

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Sincerely,


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

August 20, 2024

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

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

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

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GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

August 20, 2024

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

Via email: hweyers@usgs.gov

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William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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

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


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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

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

Good morning, Sandra and others,

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

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

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

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



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

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

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

Best regards,

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

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

Good afternoon. Ms. Medina

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

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

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

Saludos.

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

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

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

Estimada Melanie Medina

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

Atentamente

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



Bubble Dynamics Lab
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez



EPA REGION 2
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

September 23, 2024

VIA EMAIL

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

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

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodríguez Rodríguez:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2

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

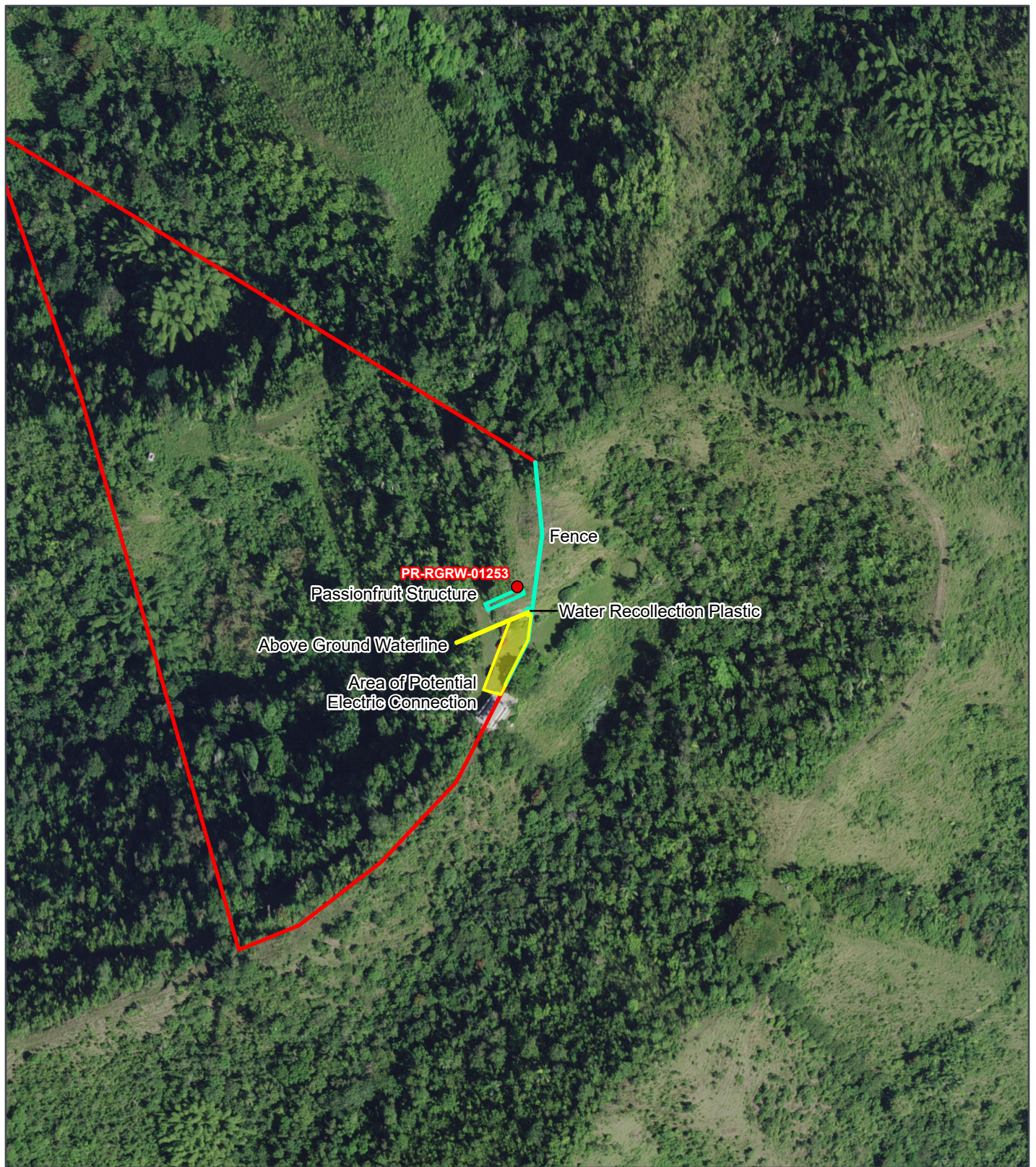
Sincerely,

**CARMEN
GUERRERO
PEREZ**

Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez
Director

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

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



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure: Wetlands Protection Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

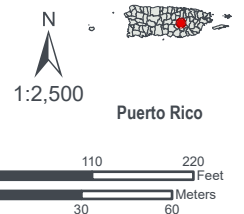
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

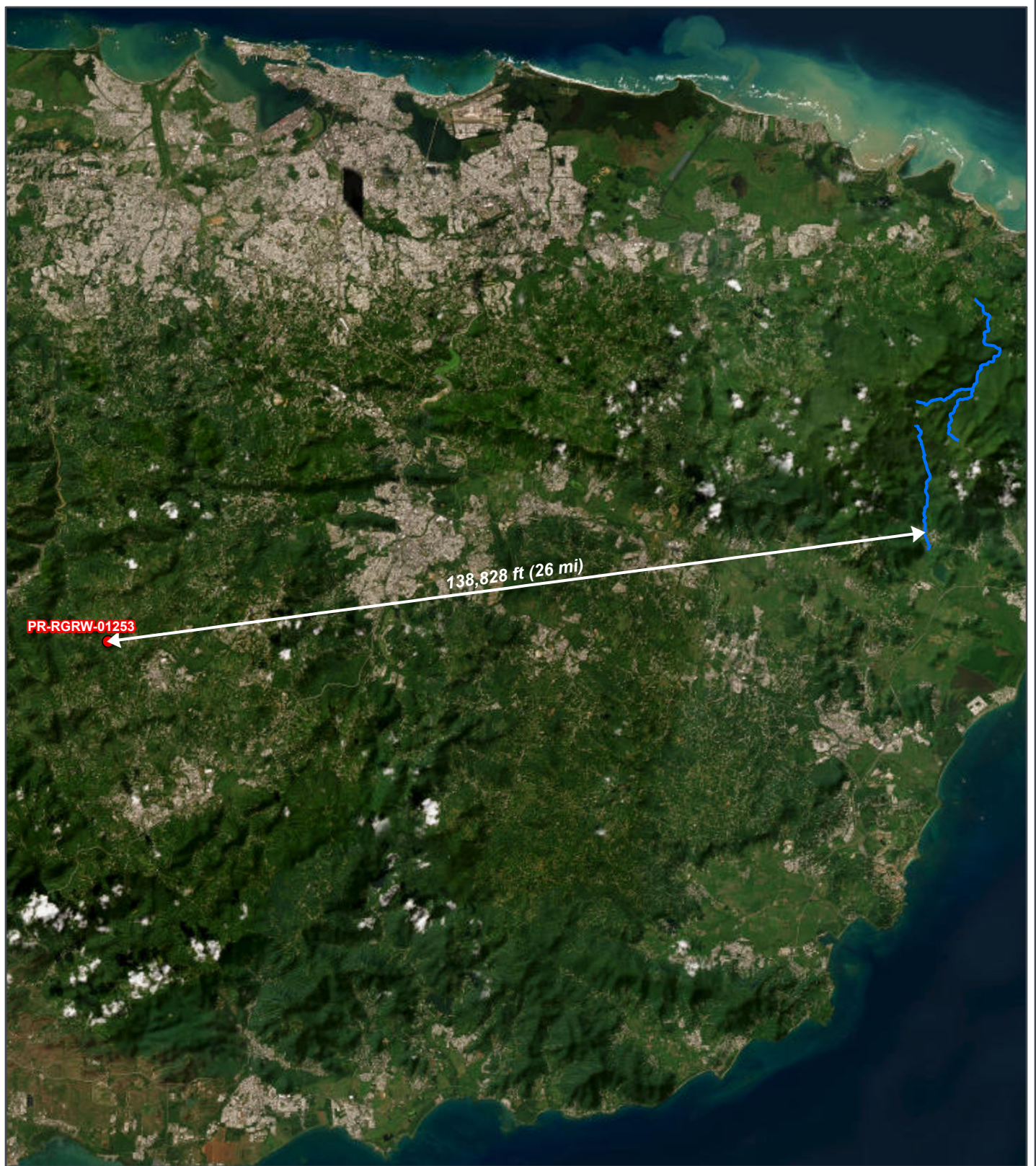
- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Potential Area of Disturbance
- NHD Stream
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

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

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/>
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/data-download>
Base Map: USA NAIP Imagery
Imagery Year: 2022
Updated: 8/7/2024
Layout: Wetlands Protection





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 14-1: National Wild and Scenic River Map

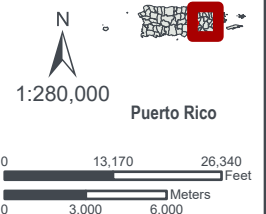
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

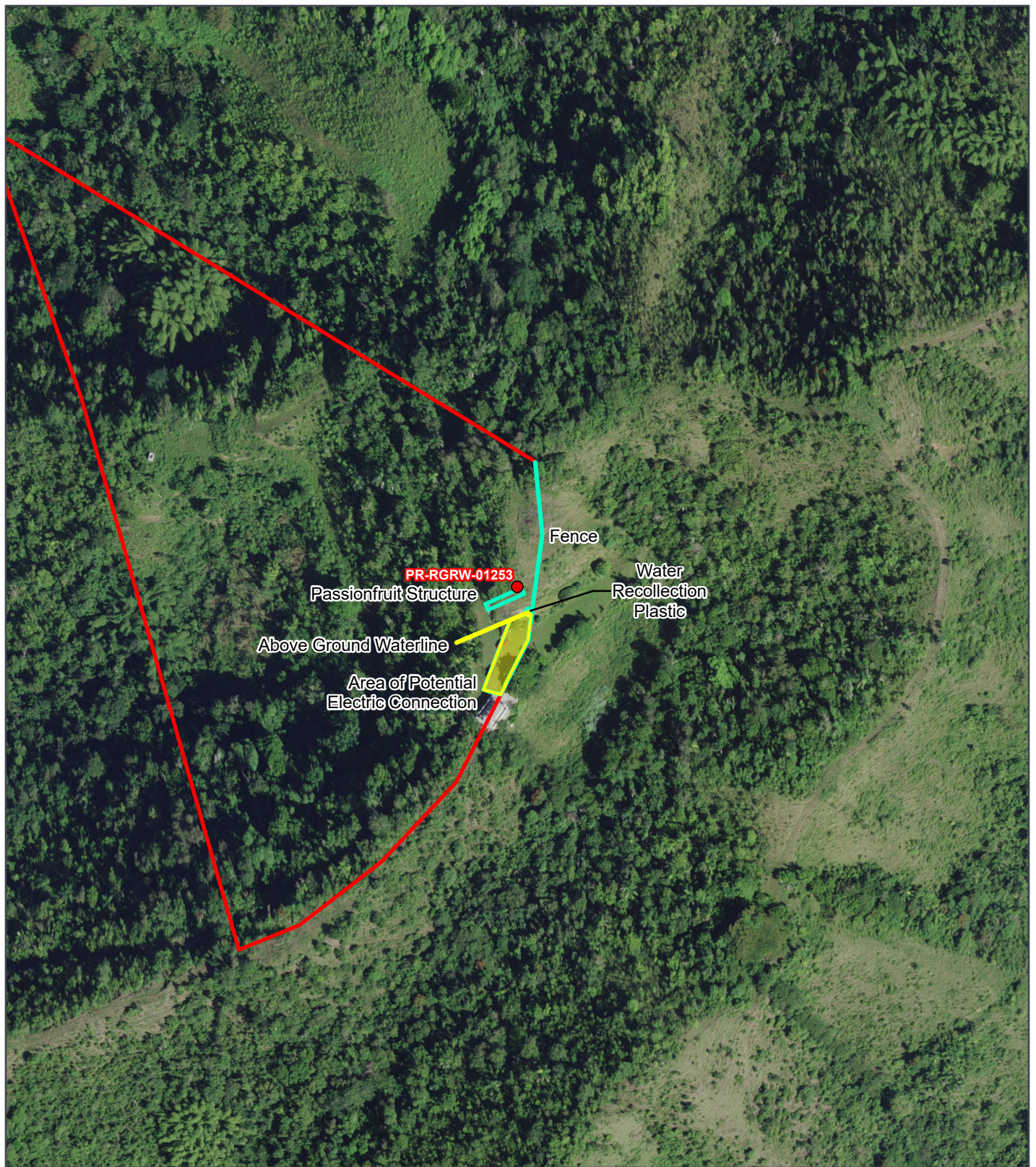
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- National Wild and Scenic River

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: https://apps.fs.usda.gov/arcx/rest/services/EDW/EDW_WildScenicRiverSegments_01/mapserver
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed June 2024
Updated: 6/25/2024





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 10-1: Advisory Base Flood Elevation For 100-Year Floodplain Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253



- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Potential Area of Disturbance
- ~ Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE)
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
- 1% Annual Chance Flood
- Zone A
- Zone A-Floodway
- Zone AE
- Coastal A Zone
- Coastal A Zone and Floodway
- Zone AE-Floodway
- Zone AO
- Zone VE
- Zone X (500-year floodplain)
- Zone/BFE Boundary

Carr 172 KM 7.9

Cidra, PR 00739

Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: https://gis.fema.gov/arcgis/rest/services/DR/PuertoRico_ABFE_1PCT/MapServer

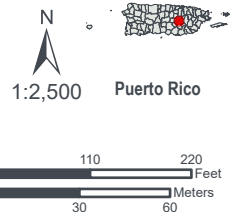
Base Map: USA NAIP Imagery

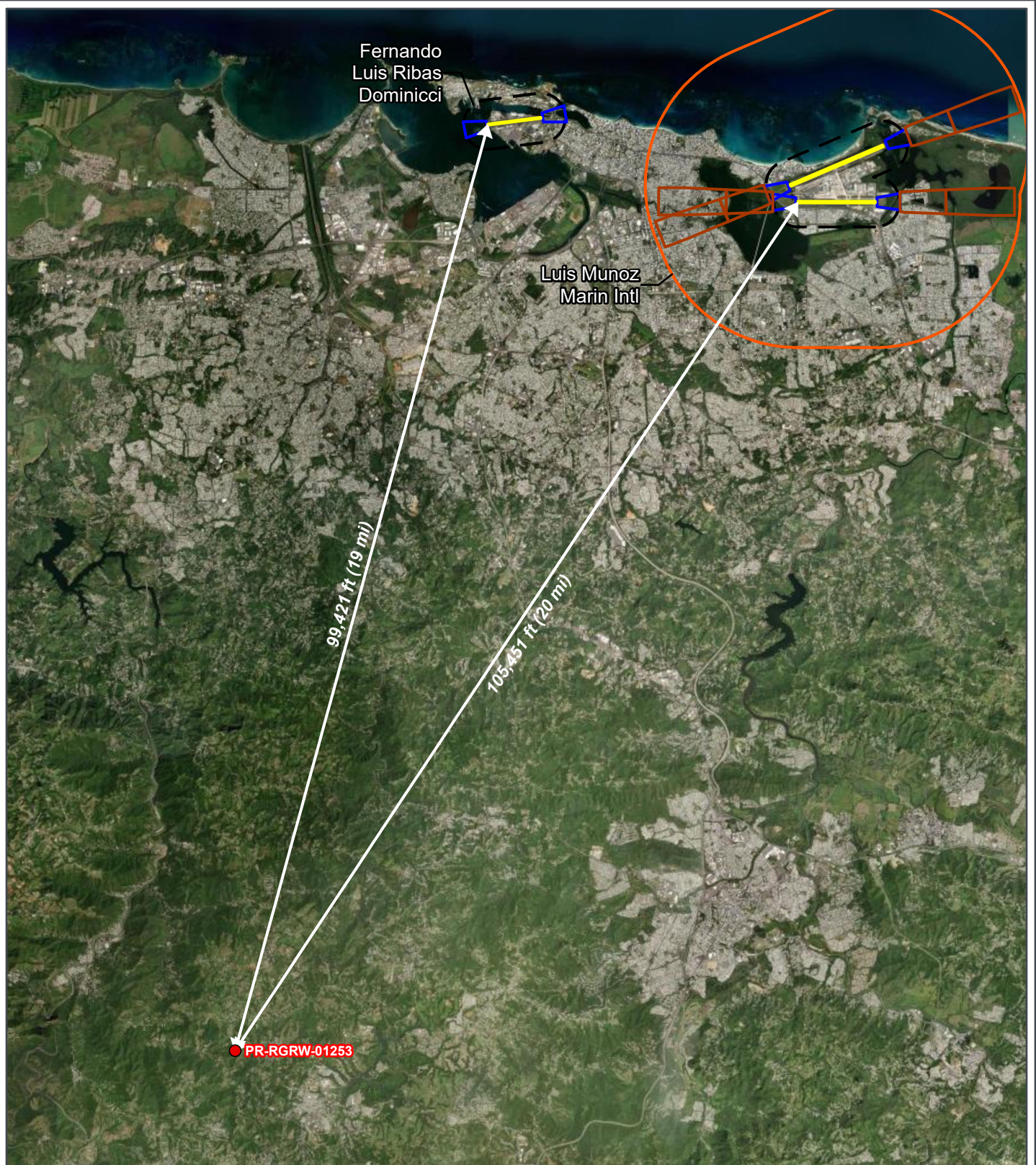
Imagery Year: 2022

Updated: 8/7/2024

Layout: ABFE 1Pct

Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 1-1: Airport Hazards Map

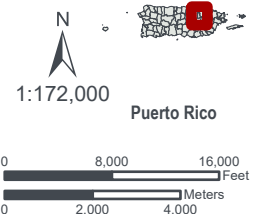
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

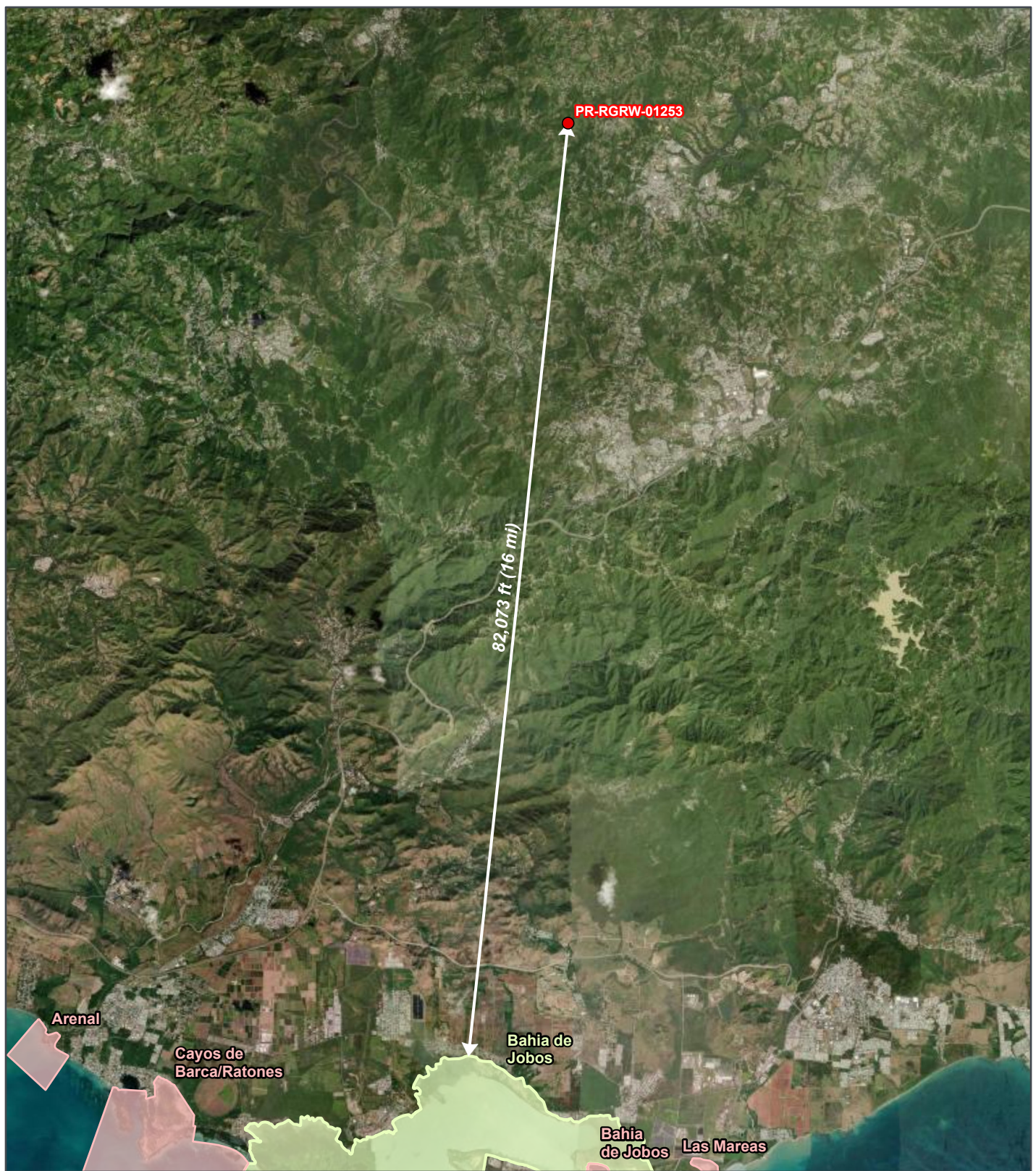
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- ▭ Airport Runway
- ▭ Accident Potential Zones (APZ)
- ▭ Runway Protection Zones (RPZ)
- ▭ 2,500-FT Civil Airport Buffer
- ▭ 15,000-FT Military Airport Buffer

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: <https://geodata.bts.gov/>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2024
Updated: 6/25/2024
Layout: Airport Hazards
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 2-1: Coastal Barrier Resources Map

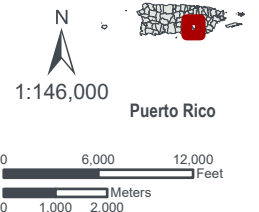
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

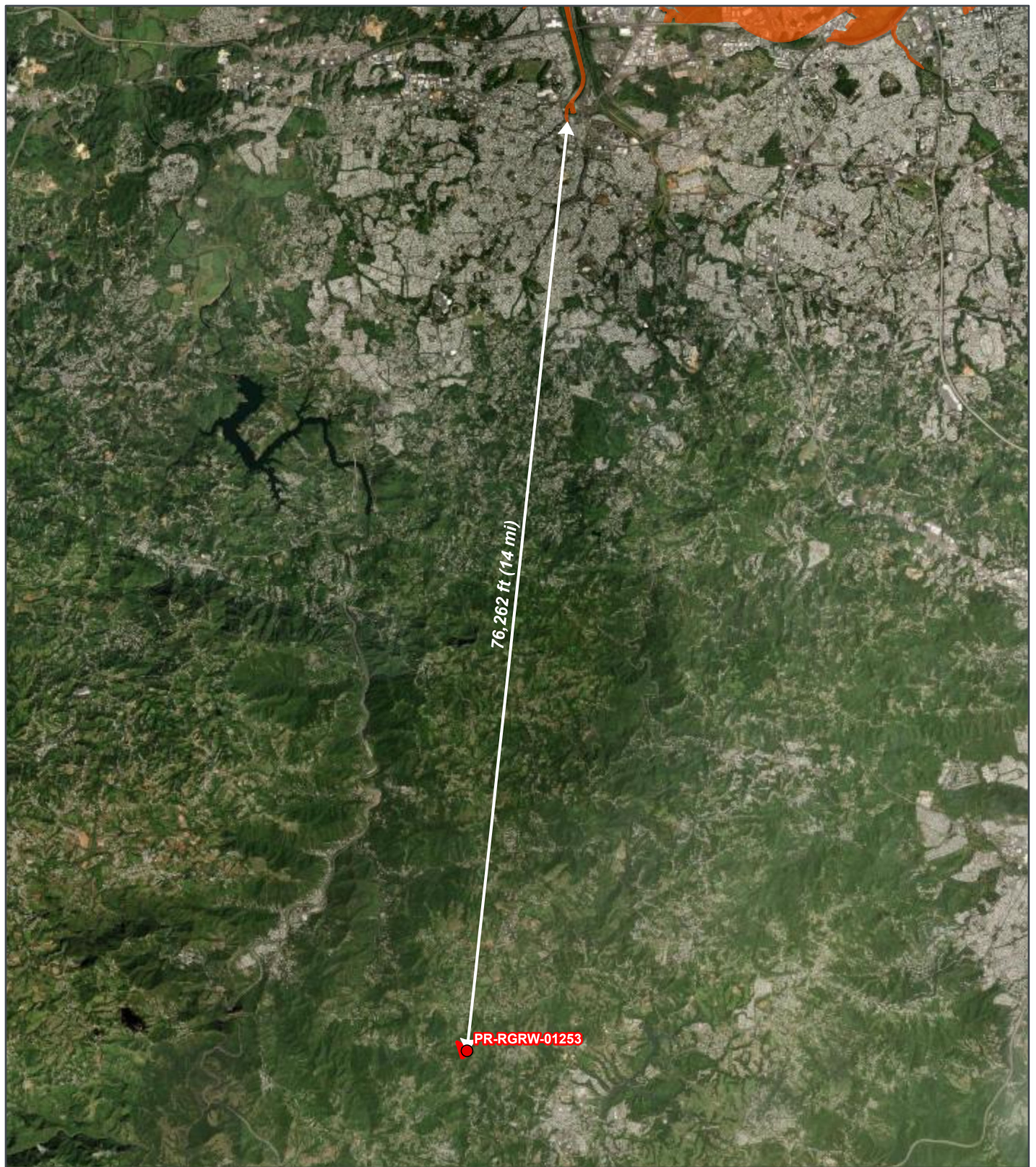
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Otherwise Protected Area
- System Unit

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR. 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: <https://cbrgis.wim.usgs.gov/arcgis/rest/services/CoastalBarrierResourcesSystem/MapServer>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed June 2024
Updated: 6/25/2024
Layout: Coastal Barrier Resources System





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 5-1: Coastal Zone Management Map

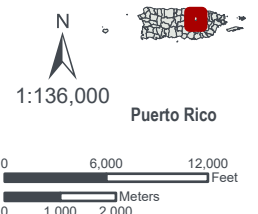
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

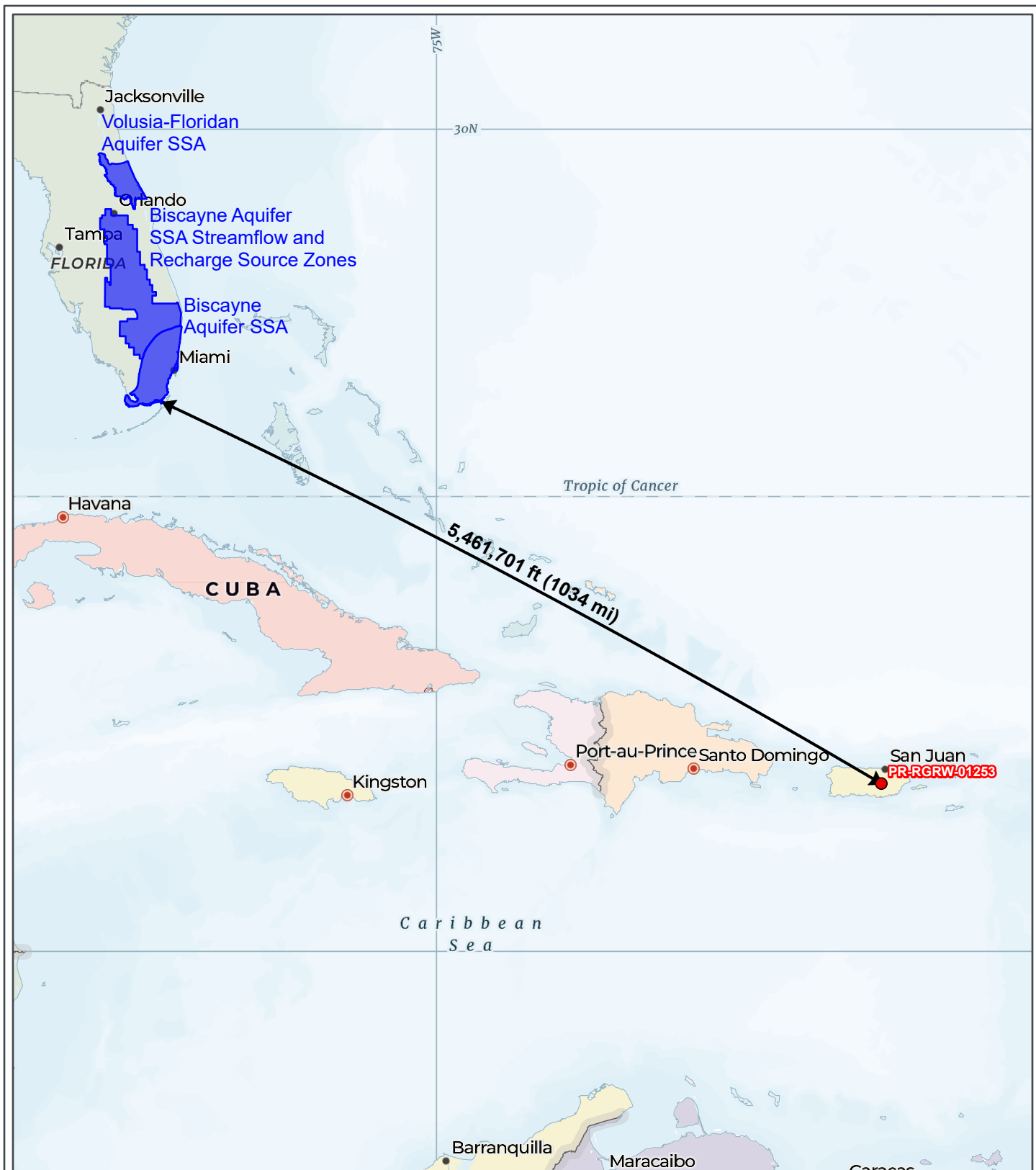
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Coastal Management Zone

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR. 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: <https://coast.noaa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Hosted/CoastalZoneManagementAct/BaseMap>
June 2024
Layout: Coastal Zone Management
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure 12-1: Sole Source Aquifers Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

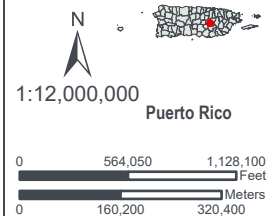
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

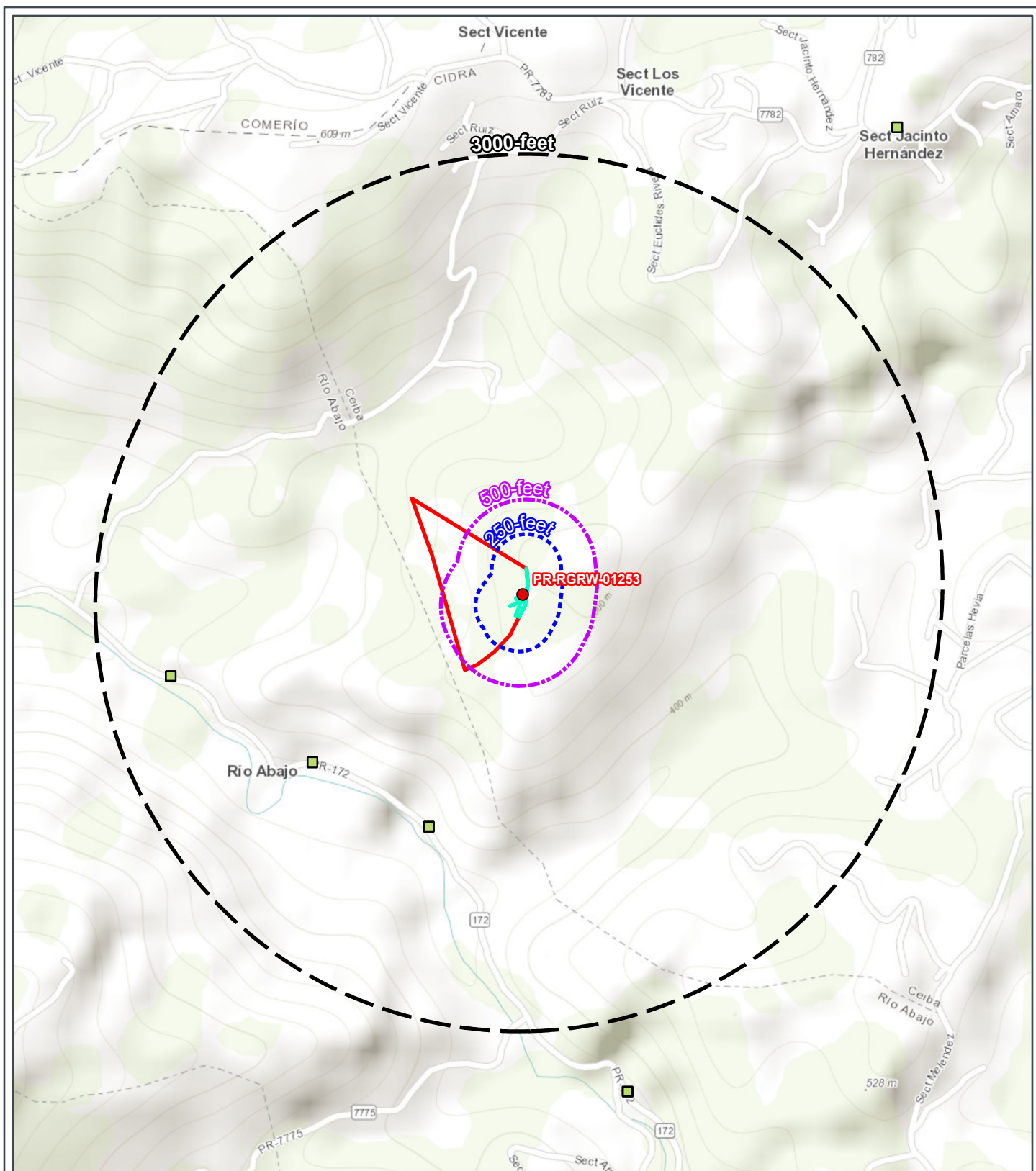
- Site
- Sole Source Aquifers

***There are no Sole Source Aquifers in Puerto Rico.**

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: <https://services.arcgis.com/cJ9YHowT8TU7DUyn/arcgis/rest/services/SoleSourceAquifers/FeatureServer>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed June 2024
Updated: 6/25/2024
Layout: Sole Source Aquifers
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 6-1: Contamination and Toxic Substances Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

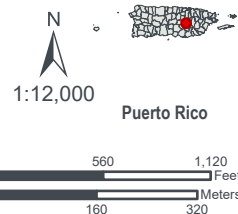
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

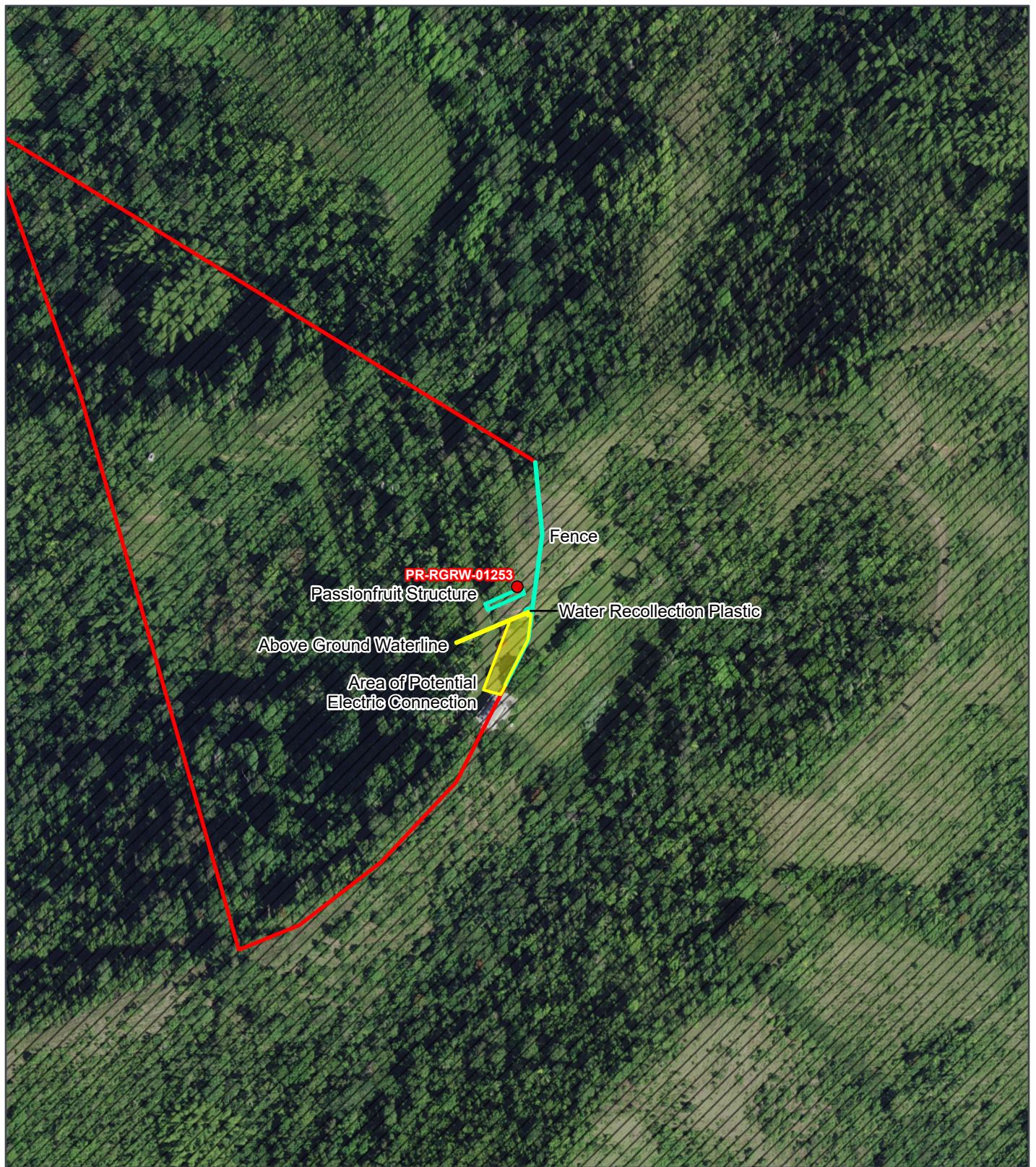
- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- ▭ Buffer (250-feet)
- ▭ Buffer (500-feet)
- ▭ Buffer (3000-feet)
- ▭ Water dischargers

- ▭ Toxic Substances Control Act
- ▭ Toxic releases
- ▭ Superfund
- ▭ Hazardous waste
- ▭ Brownfields
- ▭ Air pollution

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
Center of Map:
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: <https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/EMEF/le/points/MapServer>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed August 2024
Updated: 8/7/2024
Layout: Contamination and Toxic Substances





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 9-1: Prime Farmland Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

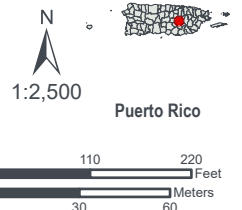
- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- ▭ Potential Area of Disturbance
- ▭ All areas are prime farmland
- ▭ Farmland of statewide importance
- ▭ Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated

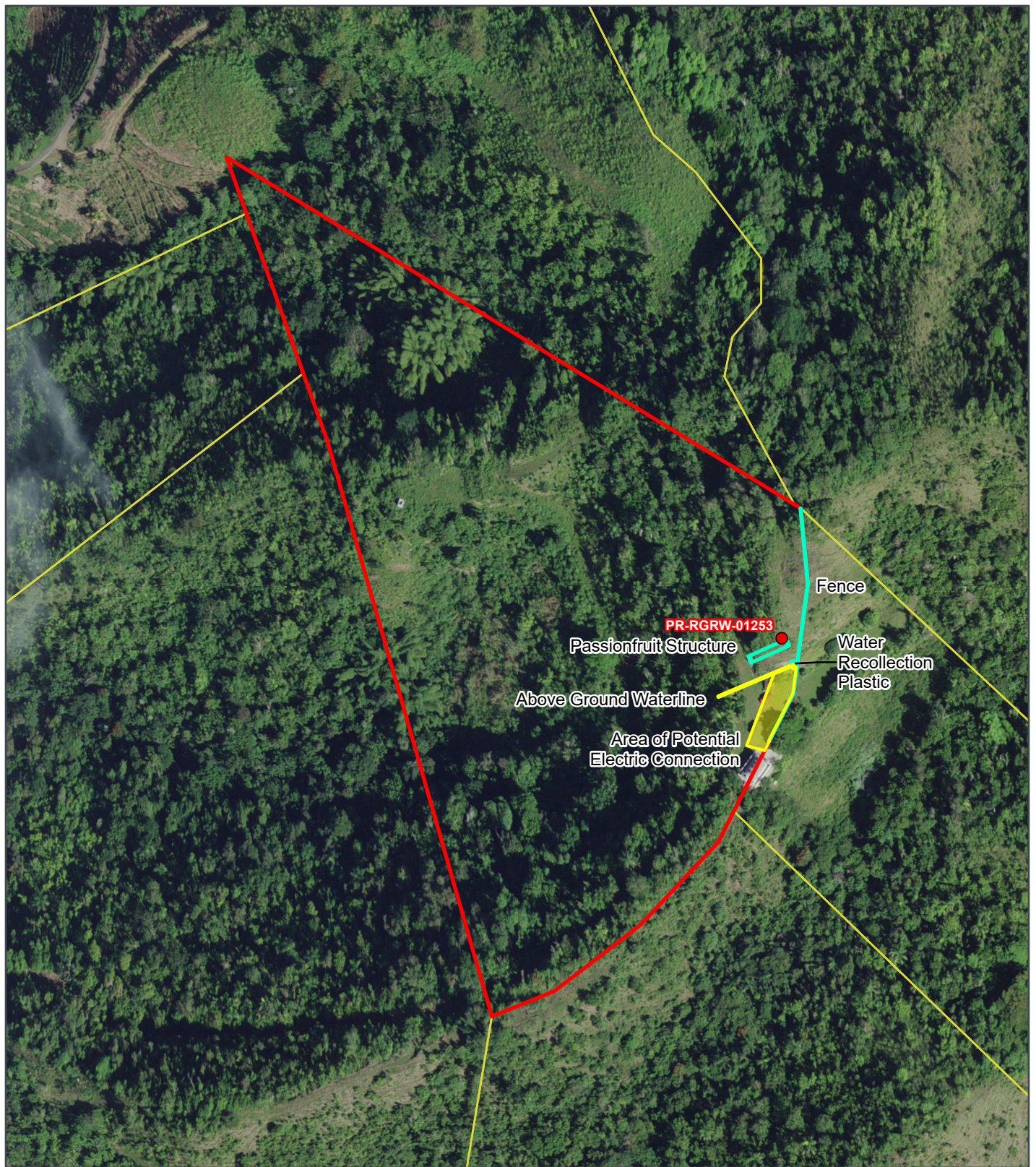
- ▭ Prime farmland if drained
- ▭ Prime farmland if irrigated
- ▭ Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
- ▭ Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- ▭ Not prime farmland
- ▭ Not Public Information

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000

66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Data Source: <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
Base Map: USA NAIP Imagery
Imagery Year: 2022
Updated: 8/7/2024
Layout: Prime Farmland
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure A-2: Site Vicinity

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01253

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- ▭ Potential Area of Disturbance

Carr 172 KM 7.9
Cidra, PR 00739
Parcel ID: 249-000-006-31-000
66.182327°W 18.1917°N

Base Map: USA NAIIP Imagery
Imagery Year: 2022
Updated: 8/7/2024
Layout: Site Vicinity
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

