

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-02490-W-RE

**HEROS Number:** 900000010366636

**Start Date:** 11/20/2023

State / Local Identifier:

**Project Location:** , Sabana Grande, PR 00637

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

Location centroid: Latitude 18.114341, longitude -66.923524 at the address given above. Cadastral:

312-000-002-53-000

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

This project (PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan, an agricultural business, at BO TABONUCO SOLAR 3, Carr 365 km 6.4, Sabana Grande, PR 00637. Tax ID Number: 312-000-002-53-000. Coordinates (18.114341, -66.923524). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of an UTV for project cost of \$ 21,600.00. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes a scope item previously considered as an EA level of review (greenhouse) which is now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$ 26,460.00 + \$500 applicant funding for concrete slab = \$26,960 total. The proposed activities consist of the installation of a new 30 by 72 foot (ft; 9.14 by 22.3 meter [m]) greenhouse, two 1,000-gallon cisterns, and a solar panel system. The installation of these structures requires mechanical grading and leveling of the ground surface (size of clearance area). The stakes for the greenhouse will placed 2.5 to 3 ft (0.75 to 0.91m) deep within the prepared land surface. An 8 by 8 ft (2.43 by 2.43 m) concrete pad, measuring 4 inches (in; 10.16 cm) thick to be funded by the applicant for a cost of \$500.00, will also be placed in the prepared space for the cisterns. The solar panel system consists of two 420 watt panels mounted on 3 in (7.62 cm) diameter posts driven 24 in (0.61 m) deep. No electrical or water lines are required for the project. The project Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan, PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, CE: #8 - 8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural effort, and CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes

new ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

#### Level of Environment Review Determination:

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

### **Funding Information**

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

**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** \$26,460.00

**Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]:** \$26,960.00

# 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	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete
Factor		-	

#### **Determination:**

	This categorically excluded activity/project converts to <b>EXEMPT</b> per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; <b>Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part</b> for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
X	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, <b>publish NOI/RROF</b> and <b>obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds"</b> (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR

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		l Assessment ac		•	uded, is now subject to due to extraordinary
Prepar	er Signature:	A S	Syst-	Date: Au	ıgust 13, 2025
Name ,	/ Title/ Organization:	Ricardo Espiet Lo	opez /// Departm	nent of Housing - F	Puerto Rico
Respor	nsible Entity Agency Of	ficial Signature: _	fol A	. de la	Date: 8/15/2025
Name/	Title: Pedro A. de Leó	n Rodríguez, MSE	M/Permits and Er	าvironmental Comp	pliance Specialist

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

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# 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-02490-W-RE
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HEROS Number: 900000010366636

**Start Date:** 11/20/2023

**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 Ent** 

ity):

**Point of Contact:** 

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

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

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

**Project Location:**, Sabana Grande, PR 00637

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

Location centroid: Latitude 18.114341, longitude -66.923524 at the address given

above. Cadastral: 312-000-002-53-000

**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-02490-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan, an agricultural business, at BO TABONUCO SOLAR 3, Carr 365 km 6.4, Sabana Grande, PR 00637. Tax ID Number: 312-000-002-53-000. Coordinates (18.114341, -66.923524). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of an UTV for project cost of \$ 21,600.00. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes a scope item previously considered as an EA level of review (greenhouse) which is now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$ 26,460.00 + \$500 applicant funding for concrete slab = \$26,960 total. The proposed activities consist of the installation of a new 30 by 72 foot (ft; 9.14 by 22.3 meter [m]) greenhouse, two 1,000-gallon cisterns, and a solar panel system. The installation of these structures requires mechanical grading and leveling of the ground surface (size of clearance area). The stakes for the greenhouse will placed 2.5 to 3 ft (0.75 to 0.91m) deep within the prepared land surface. An 8 by 8 ft (2.43 by 2.43 m) concrete pad, measuring 4 inches (in; 10.16 cm) thick to be funded by the applicant for a cost of \$500.00, will also be placed in the prepared space for the cisterns. The solar panel system consists of two 420 watt panels mounted on 3 in (7.62 cm) diameter posts driven 24 in (0.61 m) deep. No electrical or water lines are required for the project. The project Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan, PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, CE: #8 - 8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural effort, and CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes new ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

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

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Site Map.pdf

ReEvaluation Memo .docx

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE IUGF.pdf

PR-RGRW-02490 CENST ERR.pdf

PRDOH Regrow Puerto Rico Program - 5836 Waiver (002).pdf

Farm Service Agency Adopted Categorical Exclusions Identified in FR-6492-N-01.pdf

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE EFOR.docx

# **Level of Environmental Review Determination:**

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

58.35(a)(3)(iii)

#### **Determination:**

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

#### **Approval Documents:**

02490-SIG-PAGE(1).pdf

7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer

on:

7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer

on:

**Reevaluation of a Completed Review** 

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

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

It was determined that the original findings were still valid.

## Statement or memo documenting determination:

The project Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan, PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, CE: #8 - 8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural effort, and CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes new ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

ReEvaluation Memo (1).docx
PR-RGRW-02490 CENST ERR(1).pdf
PRDOH Regrow Puerto Rico Program - 5836 Waiver (002)(1).pdf
Farm Service Agency Adopted Categorical Exclusions Identified in FR-6492-N-01(1).pdf

#### **Funding Information**

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

B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and	Community Development Block	\$1,932,347,000.00
	Development (CPD)	Grants (Disaster Recovery	
		Assistance)	
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and	Community Development Block	\$8,220,783,000.00
	Development (CPD)	Grants (Disaster Recovery	
		Assistance)	
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and	Community Development Block	\$277,853,230.00
	Development (CPD)	Grants (Disaster Recovery	
		Assistance)	

**Estimated Total HUD Funded, Assisted or Insured Amount:** 

\$26,460.00

**Estimated Total Project Cost:** 

\$26,960.00

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORE	DERS, AND REGULATIO	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	□ Yes ☑ No	The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Eugenio Maria De Hostos, is located 91,708 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 336,114 ft 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]	□ Yes ☑ No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is at 56,534 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	☐ Yes ☑ No	Flood Map Number 72000C1585J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard

Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-		Area. While flood insurance may not be
4128 and 42 USC 5154a]		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 ORD	DERS, AND REGULATION	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5
Air Quality	☐ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description, this
Clean Air Act, as amended,		project includes no activities that would
particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40		require further evaluation under the
CFR Parts 6, 51, 93		Clean Air Act. The project is in
		compliance with the Clean Air Act.
Coastal Zone Management Act	☐ Yes ☑ No	This project is not located in or does not
Coastal Zone Management Act,		affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the
sections 307(c) & (d)		state Coastal Management Plan. The
		project is located 41,697 feet from the
		coastal zone. The project is in
		compliance with the Coastal Zone
		Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic	☐ Yes ☑ No	Site contamination was evaluated as
Substances		follows: None of the above. On-site or
24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]		nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive
2 : 0: 11 30:5(1) & 30:5(1)(2)]		substances that could affect the health
		and safety of project occupants or
		conflict with the intended use of the
		property were not found. The project is
		in compliance with contamination and
		toxic substances requirements. At the
		•
		time of this review, this section has not
		been updated in HEROS to include
		questions regarding radon. A review of
		science-based radon data offered a lack
		of data for the project site and radon
		testing was determined to be infeasible
		or impracticable. See attached radon
		documents.
Endangered Species Act	☐ Yes ☑ No	This project will have No Effect on listed
Endangered Species Act of 1973,		species based on a letter of
particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part		understanding, memorandum of
402		agreement, programmatic agreement,
		or checklist provided by local HUD
		office. This project is in compliance with
		the Endangered Species Act.
		the Endangered Species Act.

Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	□ Yes ☑ 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	□ Yes ☑ 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	☐ Yes ☑ No	This project does not occur in a floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Sabana Grande; 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	☑ Yes □ No	Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	□ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	□ Yes ☑ No	The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	□ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	☐ Yes ☑ No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 397,639 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic
HUD HO	USING ENVIRONMEN	Rivers Act.  NTAL STANDARDS
	ENVIRONMENTAL .	JUSTICE
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	☐ Yes ☑ No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

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

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

Law,	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on	Mitigation	Complete
Authority,		Completed	Plan	
or Factor		Measures		

# **Project Mitigation Plan**

No mitigation required.

Supporting documentation on completed measures

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

# **Airport Hazards**

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

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

√ No

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

Yes

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Eugenio Maria De Hostos, is located 91,708 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 336,114 ft from the project site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

#### **Supporting documentation**

#### PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Airports.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Coastal Barrier Resources**

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

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

√ No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is at 56,534 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-02490-W-RE CBRS.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

√ No

# **Flood Insurance**

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

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

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

✓ Yes

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

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE FIRM.pdf

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

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

Yes

✓ No

# **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

Flood Map Number 72000C1585J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

# **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Air Quality**

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

# **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

# **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

**Coastal Zone Management Act** 

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

# 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 41,697 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

# **Supporting documentation**

# PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE CZM.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

√ No

# **Contamination and Toxic Substances**

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

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

**ASTM Phase I ESA** 

**ASTM Phase II ESA** 

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

✓ None of the above

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

_		
✓	N	_

Explain:

<sup>\*</sup> HUD regulations at 24 CFR § 58.5(i)(2)(ii) require that the environmental review for multifamily housing with five or more dwelling units or non-residential property include the evaluation of previous uses of the site or other evidence of contamination on or near the site. For acquisition and new construction of multifamily and nonresidential properties HUD strongly advises the review include an ASTM Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to meet real estate transaction standards of due diligence and to help ensure compliance with HUD's toxic policy at 24 CFR §58.5(i) and 24 CFR §50.3(i). Also note that some HUD programs require an ASTM Phase I ESA.

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

Yes

#### Screen Summary

# **Compliance Determination**

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

#### **Supporting documentation**

Radon Attachments.pdf
PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Radon Memo.docx
PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Toxics.pdf
PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE EFOR(1).docx

#### Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Endangered Species**

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

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

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

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

Explain your determination:

This project clears via criteria 25, 26, and 29 of the USFWS Blanket Clearance Letter. See attached USFWS Blanket Clearance Letter and Self-Certification Form.

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

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

# **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

This project will have No Effect on listed species based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

# **Supporting documentation**

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE USFWS Self-Certification Form.pdf

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Site Map(1).pdf

USFWS End Species Blanket Clearance Letter 2025.docx

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Wetlands.pdf

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Site Photos.docx

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE IPaC.pdf

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Critical Habitat.pdf

# Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

**Explosive and Flammable Hazards** 

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

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

✓	No
	Vac

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

✓	No
✓	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

# **Farmlands Protection**

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

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



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

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

# **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### **Supporting documentation**

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Farmland.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes



# Floodplain Management

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

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

55.12(c)(3)

55.12(c)(4)

55.12(c)(5)

55.12(c)(6)

55.12(c)(7)

55.12(c)(8)

55.12(c)(9)

55.12(c)(10)

55.12(c)(11)

✓ None of the above

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

#### PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE 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.

# Does your project occur in a floodplain?

✓ No

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

Yes

# **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

This project does not occur in a floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Sabana Grande; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.

#### **Supporting documentation**

# PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE ABFE.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Historic Preservation**

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

#### Threshold

# Is Section 106 review required for your project?

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

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

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

✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

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

**Other Consulting Parties** 

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

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

Sabana Grande, PR

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

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

Yes

No

### Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

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

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

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

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

#### **Additional Notes:**

No Historic Properties present within the APE

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

Yes

✓ No

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

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

per guidance on direct and indirect effects.

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

✓ No Historic Properties Affected

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

# **Document reason for finding:**

✓ No historic properties present.

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

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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-02490-W-RE SHPO Consultation Package.pdf PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Historic.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

✓ Yes

No

# **Noise Abatement and Control**

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

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

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

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

An interstate land sales registration

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

✓ None of the above

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

**Sole Source Aquifers** 

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

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

< No

✓

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-02490-W-RE Sole Source Aquifers.pdf

# Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Wetlands Protection**

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990.

#### **Supporting documentation**

# PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Wetlands(1).pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

√ No

# Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

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

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

✓ No

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

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

#### **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 397,639 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

## **Supporting documentation**

PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Wild and Scenic Rivers.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

#### **Environmental Justice**

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

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

#### Screen Summary

# **Compliance Determination**

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

# **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

√ No





## **Memorandum to File**

**Date:** 8/6/2025

From: Justin Neely

**Environmental Manager** 

SKNeely

CDBG-DR Program

Regrow Puerto Rico Program

Puerto Rico Department of Housing

**Application Number: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE** 

**Project:** Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan

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

After reviewing Application Number PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE under the Regrow Puerto Rico Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

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

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

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

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

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

CDBG-DR Program
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Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing
Page 3 of 3

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

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

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

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

Thursday, June 26, 2025

## Lauren B Poche

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

SHPO-CF-06-25-25-02 PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE (Sabana Grande), Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan

Dear Ms. Poche,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/ MB





Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

Executive Director Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office Cuartel de Ballajá, Third Floor San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents for Consultation

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela,

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

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

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

Cordially,

Aldo A. Rivera Vázquez, PE

Director

Division of Environmental Permitting and Compliance

Office of Disaster Recovery



June 25, 2025

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

PUERTO RICO DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR RE-GROW PR URBAN-RURAL AGRICULTURAL (RE-GROW PR) PROGRAM

SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE – INEABELLE RODRIGUEZ PAGAN – BO TABONUCO SOLAR 3, CARR 365 KM 6.4, SABANA GRANDE, PUERTO RICO – NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED

## Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, HORNE is submitting documentation for activities proposed by Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan located at Bo Tabonuco Solar 3, Carr 365 Km 6.4, in the municipality of Sabana Grande. The undertaking for this project involves installing a new 30-by-72-foot greenhouse, two 1,000-gallon cisterns, and a solar panel system on the greenhouse. The installation of the greenhouse and cistern requires vegetation and stump removal, mechanical grading, and leveling of the ground surface (size of clearance area). The stakes for the greenhouse will be placed 2.5 to 3 ft deep within the



prepared land surface. An 8 x 8 ft concrete pad, measuring 4 inches thick, will also be placed in the prepared space for the cisterns.

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

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

Kindest regards,

Januar D. Yocke

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager LBP/JCO

**Attachments** 

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program ReGrow Puerto Rico Program Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  GOVERNMENT OF PUETTO BICCO
APPLICANT: Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan	
CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE	CITY: Sabana Grande

PROJECT LOCATION: Bo Tabonuco Solar 3, Carr 365 Km 6.4		
PROJECT COORDINATES: 18.114393, -66.923439		
TPID (Número de Catastro): 312-000-002-53-000		
Type of Undertaking:		
□ Substantial Repair/Improvements		
CONSTRUCTION DATE (AH est.): N/A	PROPERTY SIZE (acres): 0.99	
	Direct APE: 0.49	

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: N/A
DATE REVIEWED: Click or tap to enter a date.
SOI-QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGIST: Teresa L. Brown, M.A., R.P.A.
DATE REVIEWED: June 24, 2025

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

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION (UNDERTAKING)

The proposed activities for Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan consist of the installation of a new 30 by 72 foot (ft; 9.14 by 22.3 meter [m]) greenhouse, two 1,000-gallon cisterns, and a solar panel system. The installation of these structures requires mechanical grading and leveling of the ground surface (size of clearance area). The stakes for the greenhouse will placed 2.5 to 3 ft (0.75 to 0.91 m) deep within the prepared land surface. An 8 by 8 ft (2.43 by 2.43 m) concrete pad, measuring 4 inches (in; 10.16 cm) thick, will also be placed in the prepared space for the cisterns. The solar panel system consists of two 420 watt panels mounted on 3 in (7.62 cm) diameter posts driven 24 in (0.61 m) deep. No electrical or water lines are required for the project.

The project area is located at Carr 365 km 6.4, Sabana Grande, PR 00637 within the Municipality of Sabana Grande. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been rural and sparsely developed throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

#### 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

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program ReGrow Puerto Rico Program Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



APPLICANT: Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande

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 greenhouse, solar panel system, and cisterns plus a 15-meter buffer 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 Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that there is one reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties within a half-mile (mi) radius of the project location. Historic site Hacienda Gaztambide (SG0200006) is located 0.5 mi (0.8 kilometers [km]) north – northwest of the project area.

The proposed project is located in the Municipality of Sabana Grande at an elevation of 2,099 ft (640 m) above modern sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, soils in the project area are Caguabo clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes, which are bedrock-derived clay loam found on the slopes and summits of hills and mountains. The project APE lies on the slope of a peak in the Mountainous Interior physiographic zone. The closest freshwater source is an unnamed intermittent drainage of the Río Loco located 0.4 miles (mi; 0.06 km) southeast of the project area. The southern coast is approximately 11.84 mi (19.05 km) south of 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 not within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center.

#### **DETERMINATION**

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

- Direct Effect:
  - o n/a
- Indirect Effect:

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program
ReGrow Puerto Rico Program
SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION



CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE CITY: Sabana Grande

o n/a

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 is one reported archaeological site or significant cultural properties, Hacienda Gaztambide (SG0200006), 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 and the closest historic property is located 0.5 mi (0.8 km) NNW from PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE. The closest freshwater body is an intermittent drainage approximately 0.4 miles (mi; 0.06 km) southeast of the project area. The construction of public roads and residential structures/agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no impact to cultural properties is anticipated for this reconstruction project.

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program	DEPARTMENT OF
ReGrow Puerto Rico Program	HOUSING
SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
APPLICANT: Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan	
CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE	CITY: Sabana Grande

## RECOMMENDATION (PLEASE KEEP ON SAME PAGE AS SHPO STAFF SECTION)

Proposed Resolution (if appliable)

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the Puerto Rico SHPO concur that th
following determination is appropriate for the undertaking (Choose One):
⊠ No Historic Properties Affected
□ No Adverse Effect
Condition (if applicable):
□ Adverse Effect

THIS SECTION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY SHPO STA	AFF ONLY
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the c	bove information and:
□ <b>Concurs</b> with the information provided.	
□ <b>Does not concur</b> with the information provided.	
Comments:	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:



CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande

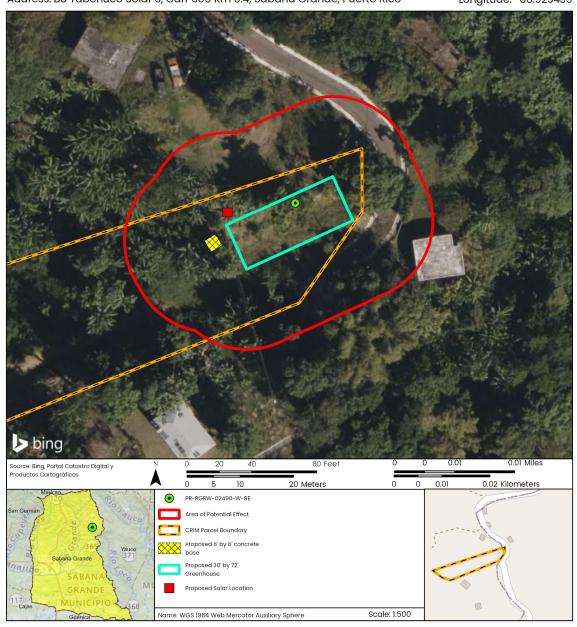
# PROJECT (PARCEL) LOCATION - AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)



PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING RE-GROW PROGRAM



Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Address: Bo Tabonuco Solar 3, Carr 365 Km 6.4, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico





CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande

## PROJECT (PARCEL) LOCATION - AERIAL BASE

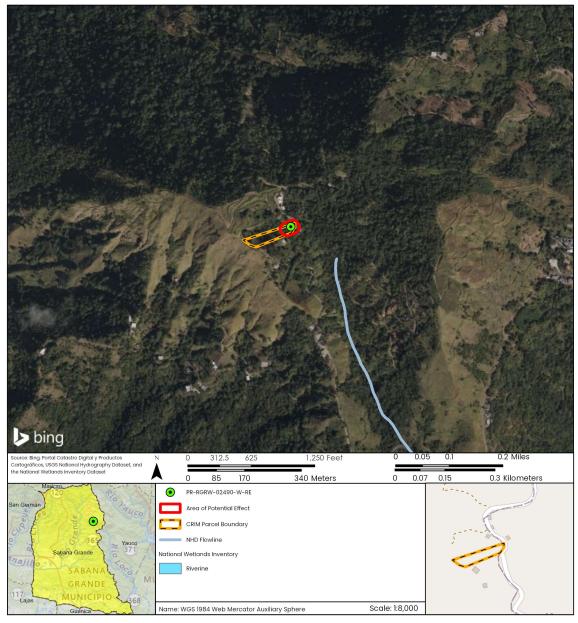


PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING RE-GROW PROGRAM



Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

Address: Bo Tabonuco Solar 3, Carr 365 Km 6.4, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico





CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande

## PROJECT (PARCEL) LOCATION - TOPOGRAPHIC BASE

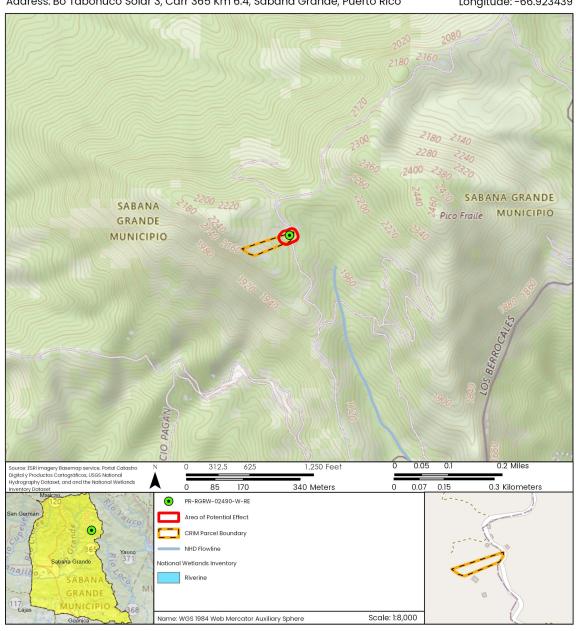


PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING RE-GROW PROGRAM



Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

Address: Bo Tabonuco Solar 3, Carr 365 Km 6.4, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico





CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande

## PROJECT (PARCEL) LOCATION - SOILS MAP

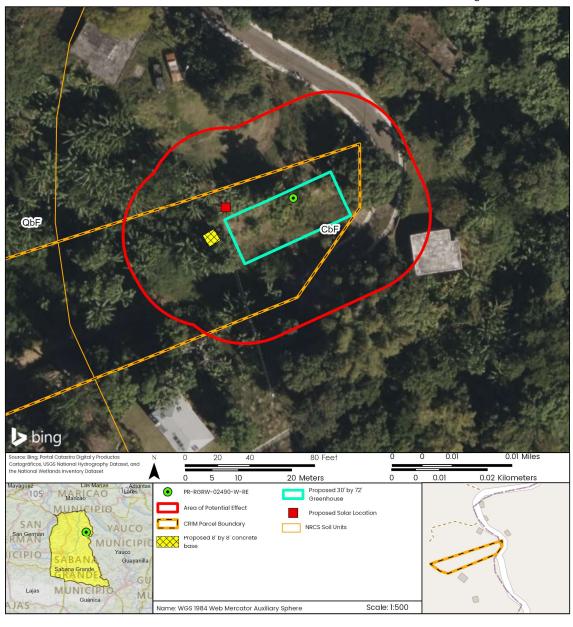
HOUSING

PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING RE-GROW PROGRAM

(I) HORNE

Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

Address: Bo Tabonuco Solar 3, Carr 365 Km 6.4, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico





CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande

## HISTORIC PROPERTIES - AERIAL BASE

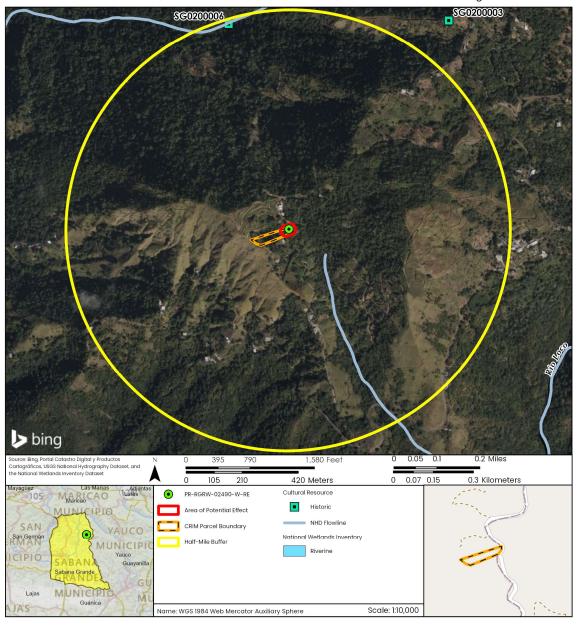
HOUSING

PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING RE-GROW PROGRAM

(H) HORNE

Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

Address: Bo Tabonuco Solar 3, Carr 365 Km 6.4, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico





CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande

## HOUSING HISTORIC PROPERTIES - TOPOGRAPHIC BASE (H) HORNE PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING **RE-GROW PROGRAM** Application ID#: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Latitude: 18.114393 Address: Bo Tabonuco Solar 3, Carr 365 Km 6.4, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico Longitude: -66.923439 SG0200003 SG0200006 0.05 Source: ESRI Imagery Basemap service, Portal Catastro Digital y Productos Cartográficos, USGS National Hydrography Dataset, and and the National Wetlands 420 Meters 0.07 0.15 0.3 Kilometers Adjunta Lares PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Cultural Resource Historic Area of Potential Effect NHD Flowline CRIM Parcel Boundary YAUCO Half-Mile Buffer MUNICIPIO MUNICIPIO Scale: 1:10,000 Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION



APPLICANT: Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande



Рното #: 1

ا

DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE DIRECTION): General overview of project area. Facing west-northwest.

DATE: 7/21/2023

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program ReGrow Puerto Rico Program Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



APPLICANT: Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande



PHOTO #: 2

DATE: 5/28/2025

**DESCRIPTION** (INCLUDE DIRECTION): General overview of project area. Facing west-southwest.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION



APPLICANT: Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande



PHOTO #: 3

DATE: 5/28/2025

**DESCRIPTION** (INCLUDE DIRECTION): General overview of project area. Facing east-northeast.

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program ReGrow Puerto Rico Program Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



APPLICANT: Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande



Рното #: 4

DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE DIRECTION): Area requiring leveling. Facing southwest.

DATE: 5/28/2025

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program ReGrow Puerto Rico Program Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



APPLICANT: Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan

CASE ID: PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE

CITY: Sabana Grande



D.	ТΤ	$\sim$	~	$\sim$	ш.	_
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**DESCRIPTION (INCLUDE DIRECTION):** Stumps requiring removal. Facing northwest.

DATE: 5/28/2025





## **Self-Certification**

https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services

## **Endangered Species Act Certification**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office developed a Blanket Clearance Letter in compliance with Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for federally funded projects.

The Service determined that projects in compliance with the following criteria are not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species.

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) certifies that the following project **Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan (PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE)**, under the CDBG-DR Re-Grow PR Urban-rural Agriculture Program, consisting of installing a new 30-by-72-foot greenhouse, two 1,000-gallon cisterns, and a solar panel system on the greenhouse located at BO TABONUCO SOLAR 3, Carr 365 km 6.4, Sabana Grande, PR 00637 complies with:

Check	Project Criteria
	<ol> <li>Activities related to the resurfacing existing streets or roads; maintenance of existing upland gabion or reinforced concrete retention walls; construction, reconstruction or repair of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.</li> </ol>
	2. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct and/or rehabilitate facilities in already established public transportation systems (signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
	3. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, rehabilitate and/or expanding existing public transportation facilities located in urban or developed areas.
	4. Construction of new facilities for public transportation systems (e.g. school bus stops, city buses, trolleybuses, public car stops, public car terminal) in urban or developed areas.
	5. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, or rehabilitate existing bridges or rip-rap.  We recommend following FWS rip-rap guidance for design: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us">https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us</a>

6. Reconstruction, or emergency repairs, of existing structures, including but not limited to buildings, facilities and homes.
7. Demolition of dilapidated single-family homes or buildings.
8. Rebuilding of demolished single-family homes or buildings.
9. Retrofitting existing buildings.
10. Construction of residential and/or commercial facilities.
11. Construction, repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, and/or rehabilitate recreational facilities.
12. Addition of concrete pads to the existing footprint of a residential and/or commercial structure, provided that the resulting addition is less than 20% of the size of the existing structure.
13. Improvement or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior) renovations resulting in an exterior increase greater than 20%.
14. Improvements or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior renovations) resulting in an exterior increase of less than 20%.
15. Acquisition of residential and/or commercial properties in urban or developed areas for the relocation of families and/or activities.
16. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of cemeteries.
17. Installation/drilling of new water well and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
18. Establishment of power facilities, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
19. Construction of electrical system infrastructure and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
20. Construction of land based small electric generating facilities, including those fueled with wind, sun, or biomass, capable of producing no more than 10 MW.
21. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) related to water and sanitary infrastructure; communication infrastructure; roads, bridges and highways without the removal of native vegetation and/or major earth movement.
22. Construction of rooftop or urban telecommunications systems and associated
components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.

	24. Establishment and/or closure of solid waste management facilities. <b>But not new landfills</b> .
×	25. Installation of water storage systems (cisterns) and associated infrastructure, either above ground or underground, including but not limited to installations on existing or new concrete pads, or existing or new roofs.
×	26. Installation of solar panels, battery storage systems and/or associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground, on existing or new concrete pads, existing or new roofs, ground or pole mounted.
	27. Installation of generators on existing or new concrete slabs, and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
	28. Repair of existing agricultural structures including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with less than 20% expansion of footprint.
×	29. New construction of agricultural structures in established farms including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with or without underground and/or aboveground infrastructure utility connections.
	30. Construction of fences, cattle corrals, concrete slabs.
	31. Installation of storage containers on new concrete slab.
	32. New construction or work which expands the footprint of an existing structure and occurs entirely on disturbed, regularly maintained, upland property, including the staging of equipment.

Angel G. López-Guzmán

**Deputy Director** 

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Disaster Recovery Office, CDBG-DR/MIT

Address: P.O. Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928

Telephone and Ext: 787-274-2527 ext. 4320
Email: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

## Attachments:

- 1. Project Site Map (Location Map)
- 2. Project Site Photos

8-14-2015 Date USFWS Self-Certification PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Page 4 / 3

- 3. Copy of the Blanket Clearance Letter
- 4. Others, as necessary to demonstrate compliance with the criteria (e.g. Explanatory Memorandum, Critical Habitat Map, National Wetlands Inventory Map, etc.)

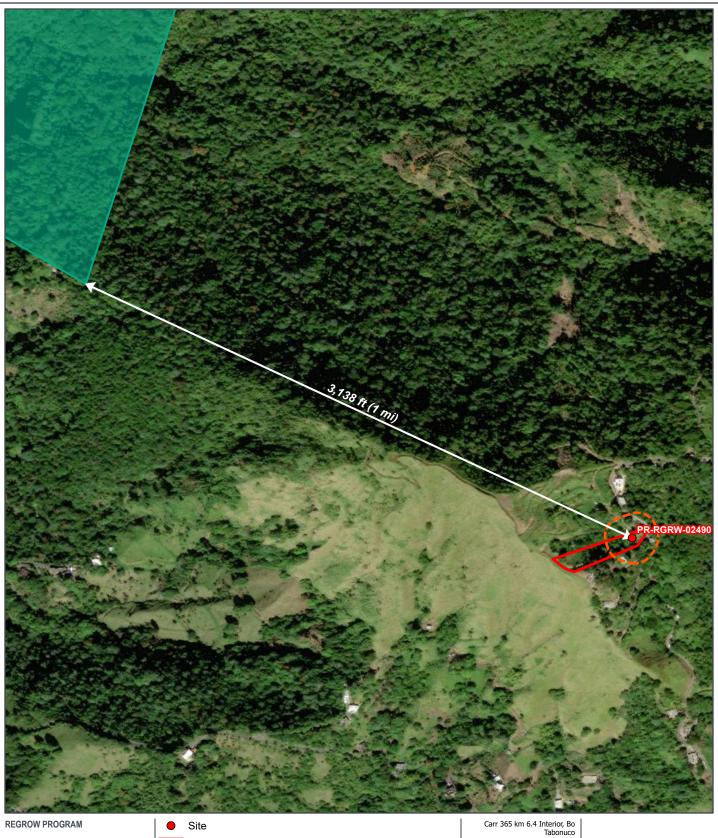


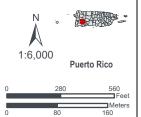
Figure B 7-1: Critical Habitat Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-02490

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

Carr 365 km 6.4 Interior, Bo Tabonuco Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico 00637 Parcel ID: 312-000-002-53-000 Center of Map: 66.923524°W 18.114341°N

Data Source: https://services.arcgis. com/QVENGdaPbd4LUKLV/arcgis/ rest/services/USFWS\_Critical\_Habitat/ Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed January 2025 Updated: 1/9/2025 Layout: Critical Habitat Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps





## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

## Location





## Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

**(**939) 320-3135

**(787)** 851-7440

✓ CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV

**MAILING ADDRESS** 

NOT FOR CONSULTATIO

Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Office Park I
State Road #2 Km 156.5, Suite 303}
Mayaguez, PR 00680

# Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

- 1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
- 2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
- 3. Log in (if directed to do so).
- 4. Provide a name and description for your project.
- 5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species<sup>1</sup> and their critical habitats are managed by the <u>Ecological Services Program</u> of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries<sup>2</sup>).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact <u>NOAA Fisheries</u> for <u>species under their jurisdiction</u>.

- 1. Species listed under the <u>Endangered Species Act</u> are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the <u>listing status page</u> for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
- 2. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

## **Birds**

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk Buteo platypterus

Endangered

brunnescens

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512

Puerto Rican Nightjar Antrostomus noctitherus

Endangered

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6972

Puerto Rican Parrot Amazona vittata

Endangered

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067

Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk Accipiter striatus venator

Wherever found

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/604

## Reptiles

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

Endangered

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628

## Insects

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Atlantea tulita

Threatened

Wherever found

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005

## Flowering Plants

NAME STATUS

Cordia bellonis

Endangered

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7228

## Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

# Bald & Golden Eagles Bald and Golden Eagle

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>2</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup>. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their nests, should follow appropriate regulations and implement required avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

The <u>data</u> in this location indicates that no eagles have been observed in this area. This does not mean eagles are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the <u>Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document</u> to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if eagles may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
   https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds

- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</a>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action">https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action</a>

## Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

# What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u> and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are an eagle (<u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> requirements may apply).

## Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort line or no data line (red horizontal) means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide you in knowing when to implement avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities or get the appropriate permits should presence be confirmed.

## How do I know if eagles are breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

## Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

#### How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

## **Breeding Season ()**

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

## Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

#### No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

## **Survey Timeframe**

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

# Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup> prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior <u>authorization</u> by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

- 1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management">https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management</a>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
   <u>https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</u>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
   <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action">https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action</a>

The <u>data</u> in this location indicates that no migratory birds of concern have been observed in this area. This does not mean <u>birds of concern</u> are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the <u>Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document</u> to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine what migratory birds of concern may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

## Migratory Bird FAQs

Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary.

Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

# What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of <u>Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC)</u> and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location, such as those listed under the Endangered Species Act or the <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> and those species marked as "Vulnerable". See the FAQ "What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?" for more information on the levels of concern covered in the IPaC migratory bird species list.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u> and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) with which your project intersects. These species have been identified as warranting special attention because they are BCC species in that area, an eagle (<u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, and to verify survey effort when no results present, please visit the <u>Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool</u>.

## Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

Subspecies profiles are included on the list of species present in your project area because observations in the AKN for **the species** are being detected. If the species are present, that means that the subspecies may also be present. If a subspecies shows up on your list, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if that subspecies may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

# What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. This data is derived from a growing collection of <u>survey, banding, and citizen science datasets</u>.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

## How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

## What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

- 1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
- 2. "BCC BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
- 3. "Non-BCC Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially BCC species. For more information on avoidance and minimization measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts, please see the FAQ "Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

#### Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the <u>Northeast Ocean Data Portal</u>. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the <u>NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.</u>

#### Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided. please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list does not represent all birds present in your project area. It is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps quide implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about avoidance and minimization measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

# Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

### How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

### **Breeding Season ()**

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

### Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

# **Survey Timeframe**

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

# **Facilities**

# National Wildlife Refuge lands

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

There are no refuge lands at this location.

# Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

# Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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

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

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

**NOTE:** This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

### **Data limitations**

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

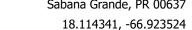
### **Data exclusions**

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

# **Data precautions**

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

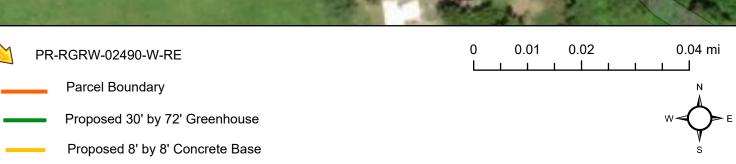
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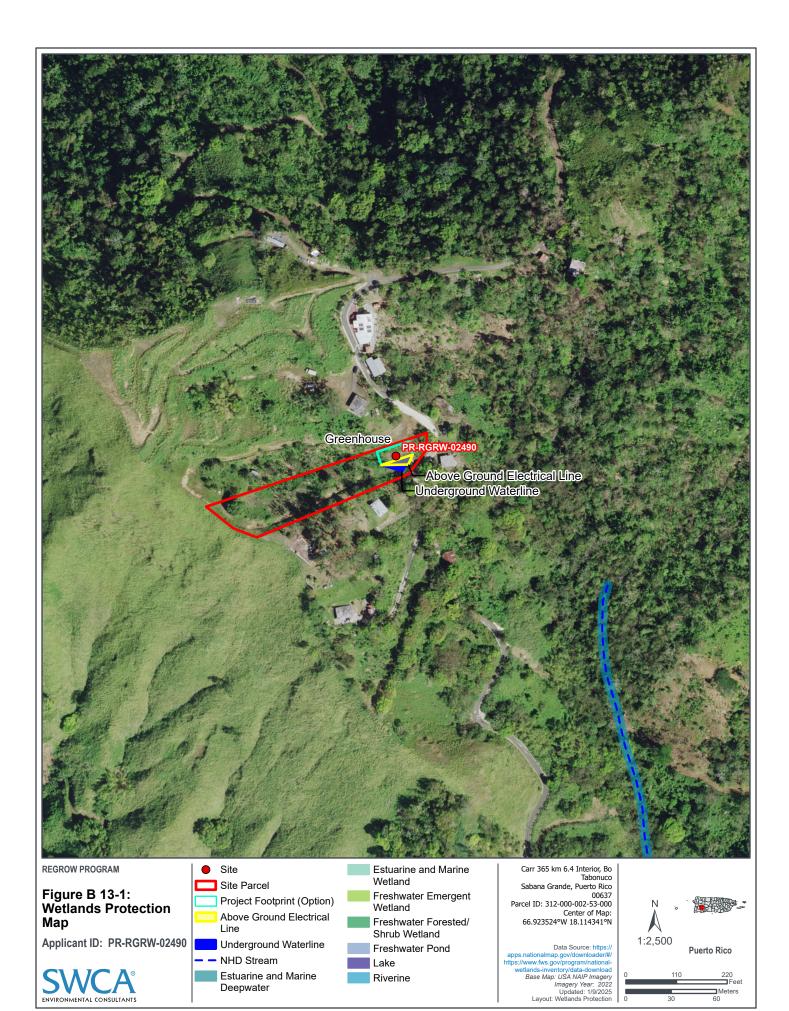


# PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Site Map





**Proposed Solar Location** 



# PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Site Photos



Area for greenhouse



Area for greenhouse



Area for cisterns and concrete base



# 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/BKT/HUD

Mr. Efrain Maldonado Field Office Director U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 235 Federico Costa Street, Suite 200 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918

Re: Blanket Clearance Letter for Federally sponsored projects, Housing and Urban Development

# Dear Mr. Maldonado:

On January 14, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), signed the Blanket Clearance Letter (BCL) to expedite the consultation process, for federally sponsored projects. On March 20, 2025, the USFWS and the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) acting as the responsible entity designated by HUD decided to review and update the BCL to ensure that new available information regarding the consultation process is included. This letter replaces the January 14, 2013, Blanket Clearance Letter for HUD sponsored projects.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is one of two lead Federal Agencies responsible for the protection and conservation of Federal Trust Resources, including threatened or endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA). In the U.S. Caribbean, the USFWS has jurisdiction over terrestrial plants and animals, the Antillean manatee and sea turtles when nesting. The National Marine Fisheries Service has jurisdiction over marine species, except for the manatee. The ESA directs all Federal agencies to participate in conserving these species. Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to consult with the USFWS to ensure that actions they fund authorize, permit, or otherwise carry out will not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

The USFWS issued regulations in 1986 detailing the consultation process. As part of this consultation process, the USFWS reviews development projects to assist Federal agencies on the compliance of the ESA. Since HUD typically allocate grant funds for rural and urban development projects, obligations under the ESA, as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), require HUD to perform consultation and an environmental impact review prior to the project's

authorization. Primarily, these projects involve repair or reconstruction of existing facilities associated with developed land.

In order to expedite the consultation process, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (CESFO) has developed this BCL to cover for activities and projects that typically result in no adverse effects to federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. The proposed project criteria discussed below are subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The project is located within an urban or developed area.
  - An urban or developed area is defined as an area that 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 neighborhood 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<sup>1</sup>.
- 2. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is located within a disturbed area that does not require additional clearing of forested (trees) areas.
- 3. The project is not located within (or adjacent to) drainages, rivers, streams, wetlands, aquatic systems, or coastal areas.
- 4. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is not located immediately adjacent to forested areas (e.g., 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<sup>2</sup>).
- 5. The lighting associated to the facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from the shoreline or beach area.

Proposed projects that **do not** meet the above conditions **Do Not Qualify** for review under the Blanket Clearance Letter developed for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This is the definition used by the USFWS in IPaC.

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

# **Project Criteria:**

1. Activities related to the resurfacing existing streets or roads; maintenance of existing upland gabion or reinforced concrete retention walls; construction, reconstruction or repair of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.

- 2. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct and/or rehabilitate facilities in already established public transportation systems (Signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
- 3. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, rehabilitate and/or expanding existing public transportation facilities located in urban or developed areas.
- 4. Construction of new facilities for public transportation systems (e.g. School bus stops, city buses, trolleybuses, public car stops, Public car terminal) in urban or developed areas.
- 5. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, or rehabilitate existing bridges or rip-rap. (follow FWS rip-rap guidance for design).
- 6. Reconstruction, or emergency repairs, of existing structures, including but not limited to buildings, facilities and homes.
- 7. Demolition of dilapidated single-family homes or buildings.
- 8. Rebuilding of demolished single-family homes or buildings.
- 9. Retrofitting existing buildings.
- 10. Construction of residential and/or commercial facilities.
- 11. Construction, repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, and/or rehabilitate recreational facilities.
- 12. Addition of concrete pads to the existing footprint of a residential and/or commercial structure, provided that the resulting addition is less than 20% of the size of the existing structure.
- 13. Improvement or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior) renovations resulting in an exterior increase greater than 20%.
- 14. Improvements or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior renovations) resulting in an exterior increase of less than 20%.
- 15. Acquisition of residential and/or commercial properties in urban or developed areas for the relocation of families and/or activities.
- 16. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of cemeteries.

17. Installation/drilling of new water well and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.

- 18. Establishment of power facilities, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 19. Construction of electrical system infrastructure and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 20. Construction of land based small electric generating facilities, including those fueled with wind, sun, or biomass, capable of producing no more than 10 MW. \*
- 21. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) related to water and sanitary infrastructure; communication infrastructure; roads, bridges and highways without the removal of native vegetation and/or major earth movement.
- 22. Construction of rooftop or urban telecommunications systems and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 23. Establishment of temporary debris storage (TDS) facilities.
- 24. Establishment and/or closure of solid waste management facilities. But not new landfills.
- 25. Installation of water storage systems (cisterns) and associated infrastructure, either above ground or underground, including but not limited to installations on existing or new concrete pads, or existing or new roofs.
- 26. Installation of solar panels, battery storage systems and/or associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground, on existing or new concrete pads, existing or new roofs, ground or pole mounted.
- 27. Installation of generators on existing or new concrete slabs, and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
- 28. Repair of existing agricultural structures including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with less than 20% expansion of footprint.
- 29. New construction of agricultural structures in established farms including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with or without underground and/or aboveground infrastructure utility connections.
- 30. Construction of fences, cattle corrals, concrete slabs.
- 31. Installation of storage containers on new concrete slab.

32. New construction or work which expands the footprint of an existing structure and occurs entirely on disturbed, regularly maintained, upland property, including the staging of equipment.

\*Comply with USFWS wind energy guidelines if more than one wind turbine, consider painting one blade black to help birds see the blades. <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines">https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines</a>

# **Determination:**

Based on the nature of the projects described above and habitat characteristics described on project criteria, we have determined that the actions and type of projects described above may be conducted within this BCL without adversely affecting federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. Thus, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

For all projects, HUD and its funded partners (municipalities) are expected to implement Best Management Practices to enhance the conservation of our trust resources (i.e.; listed species, wetlands, aquatic habitats, migratory birds and marine mammals) and avoid impacts from project development to aquatic habitat such as erosion and stream sedimentation. The Service provides the following recommendations that have proven to help achieve this effort.

# **Water Crossing Structures:**

- 1. Use of bottomless culverts or single span bridges instead of traditional box or RCP culverts or any other water crossing structure that impacts the stream bottom, particularly in streams which support native fish. The use of bottomless culverts or a short span bridge would provide a more stable crossing and would not alter the stream habitat. However, if bottomless structures or bridges are not feasible due to cost or engineering constraints, we recommend the following criteria be used to maintain good habitat in the streams:
  - **a.** The stream should not be widened to fit the bridge since this can lead to sedimentation during low flows and possible bank erosion during high flows. Rather, the bridge should be designed to fit the stream channel at the point of crossing. Culverts should be sized to carry natural bank full flow. Additional flow can be capture by culverts placed at a higher elevation so as not to impact bank full flows.
  - **b.** Bridge abutments, wing walls or any other structures should not intrude into the active stream channel.
  - c. All culvert footings must be countersunk into the stream channel at both the invert and outlet ends at a minimum of 10% of the culvert height. This will align the water crossing structure with the slope of the stream.
  - **d.** Waterways must not be blocked as to impede the free movement of water and fish. Materials moved during construction, such as grubbing, earth fills, and earth cut

Last Revised: April 2025

materials must not be piled where they can fall back into the stream and block the drainage courses.

- e. Appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation controls measures are to be undertaken to protect water quality until riverbanks are re-vegetated. It has been our experience that appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation control measures are not implemented properly by project contractors. In order to function properly, silt fences need to be buried 6" (proper depth is marked by a line on the silt fence) and suppolted at regular intervals by wood stakes. For that reason we are recommending that the enclosed drawing of proper silt fence installation is included in all final project construction plans.
- **f.** Upon completion of a water crossing construction, any temporary fill, must be removed from the construction area and disposed in a landfill.

For a detailed guide to water crossing structures, the Service developed a detailed guide to water crossing structures for regulatory review by permitting agencies, protect damaged structures, reduce future damages, and prevent or minimize damage to natural resources. The document is titled "Guidance for Repair, Replacement, and Clean-up Projects in Streams and Waterways of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands" and is available at:

https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us

### **Limitations:**

Actions that do not meet the above project criteria, such as actions requiring placement of fill, disturbance, or modification to land outside of an existing access road or ROW; actions that occur on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forest vegetation; actions requiring excavation, clearing of native vegetation, or alteration of storm water drainage patterns; or actions that require lighting which can be directly or indirectly seen from a beach, must be individually coordinated through the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

# The Service reserves the right to revoke or modify this BCL if:

- 1. New information reveals that the categories of work covered in this BCL may affect listed or designated critical habitat in a manner, or to an extent, not previously considered.
- **2.** The categories of work included in this BCL are subsequently modified to include activities not considered in this review.
- 3. New species are listed, or designated critical habitat may be affected.
- 4. Lack of compliance with criteria in this BCL.

To obtain additional information on threatened and endangered species, you may visit our website <a href="https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services">https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services</a> where you will also find the Map of the Species by Municipality and the Map of Critical Habitat. These maps provide information on the species/habitat relations within a municipality and could provide the applicants an insight if the proposed action is covered under this BCL or may affect a species, thus requiring individual review

The USFWS has also developed a web based tool called the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). Please visit <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/</a> and familiarize yourself with the features we offer. We encourage you to begin your project planning process by requesting an Official Species List for your individual project that will include all species that may occur in the vicinity of the action area and includes a map of the action area. The site will also identify designated critical habitat, or other natural resources of concern that may be affected by your proposed project. Best management practices or conservation measures are available at the site for some species, but we expect the site to continue growing in its offering.

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. It is our 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 additional questions regarding this BCL, please do not hesitate to contact us at (786) 244-0081 or via email at caribbean es@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

LOURDES MENA

Digitally signed by LOURDES MENA Date: 2025.04.24 09:11:24 -04'00'

Lourdes Mena

Field Supervisor





V1.0 | 2023-09-21

# **CDBG-DR PROGRAM**

Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture (RGRW) Program

# **ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT**

APPLICATION GENERAL INFORMATION						
Application No.:	PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE	Applicant Name: Inea	belle Rodriguez Pagan			
PROPERTY INFORMATION	ON					
Property Address: BO TABONUCO SOLAR 3, C	arr 365 km 6.4, Sabana Grande, PR 00	637				
Latitude:	18.1143653	Longitude:	-66.9235172			
Property Type:	Farm	Year Built:	NA			
Number of Buildings:	0	Are Utilities Connected?	NA			
Property Remarks:						
Is there evidence of damage from a previous disaster?		No				
Damage Remarks:						
SIGNATURES OF INSPEC	TION PEROPT					
OIONATORES OF INSPEC	HONKEPOKI					
Environmental		12	<i>I</i>			
Inspector:	Blas Guernica	g <u>5-28-2</u>				
	Printed Name	Signature	Date			



# 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/BKT/HUD

Mr. Efrain Maldonado Field Office Director U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 235 Federico Costa Street, Suite 200 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918

Re: Blanket Clearance Letter for Federally sponsored projects, Housing and Urban Development

# Dear Mr. Maldonado:

On January 14, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), signed the Blanket Clearance Letter (BCL) to expedite the consultation process, for federally sponsored projects. On March 20, 2025, the USFWS and the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) acting as the responsible entity designated by HUD decided to review and update the BCL to ensure that new available information regarding the consultation process is included. This letter replaces the January 14, 2013, Blanket Clearance Letter for HUD sponsored projects.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is one of two lead Federal Agencies responsible for the protection and conservation of Federal Trust Resources, including threatened or endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA). In the U.S. Caribbean, the USFWS has jurisdiction over terrestrial plants and animals, the Antillean manatee and sea turtles when nesting. The National Marine Fisheries Service has jurisdiction over marine species, except for the manatee. The ESA directs all Federal agencies to participate in conserving these species. Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to consult with the USFWS to ensure that actions they fund authorize, permit, or otherwise carry out will not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

The USFWS issued regulations in 1986 detailing the consultation process. As part of this consultation process, the USFWS reviews development projects to assist Federal agencies on the compliance of the ESA. Since HUD typically allocate grant funds for rural and urban development projects, obligations under the ESA, as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), require HUD to perform consultation and an environmental impact review prior to the project's

authorization. Primarily, these projects involve repair or reconstruction of existing facilities associated with developed land.

In order to expedite the consultation process, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (CESFO) has developed this BCL to cover for activities and projects that typically result in no adverse effects to federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. The proposed project criteria discussed below are subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The project is located within an urban or developed area.
  - An urban or developed area is defined as an area that 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 neighborhood 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<sup>1</sup>.
- 2. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is located within a disturbed area that does not require additional clearing of forested (trees) areas.
- 3. The project is not located within (or adjacent to) drainages, rivers, streams, wetlands, aquatic systems, or coastal areas.
- 4. If the project is located in a rural area, and the project is not located immediately adjacent to forested areas (e.g., 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<sup>2</sup>).
- 5. The lighting associated to the facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from the shoreline or beach area.

Proposed projects that **do not** meet the above conditions **Do Not Qualify** for review under the Blanket Clearance Letter developed for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This is the definition used by the USFWS in IPaC.

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

# **Project Criteria:**

1. Activities related to the resurfacing existing streets or roads; maintenance of existing upland gabion or reinforced concrete retention walls; construction, reconstruction or repair of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.

- 2. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct and/or rehabilitate facilities in already established public transportation systems (Signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
- 3. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, rehabilitate and/or expanding existing public transportation facilities located in urban or developed areas.
- 4. Construction of new facilities for public transportation systems (e.g. School bus stops, city buses, trolleybuses, public car stops, Public car terminal) in urban or developed areas.
- 5. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, or rehabilitate existing bridges or rip-rap. (follow FWS rip-rap guidance for design).
- 6. Reconstruction, or emergency repairs, of existing structures, including but not limited to buildings, facilities and homes.
- 7. Demolition of dilapidated single-family homes or buildings.
- 8. Rebuilding of demolished single-family homes or buildings.
- 9. Retrofitting existing buildings.
- 10. Construction of residential and/or commercial facilities.
- 11. Construction, repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, and/or rehabilitate recreational facilities.
- 12. Addition of concrete pads to the existing footprint of a residential and/or commercial structure, provided that the resulting addition is less than 20% of the size of the existing structure.
- 13. Improvement or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior) renovations resulting in an exterior increase greater than 20%.
- 14. Improvements or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior renovations) resulting in an exterior increase of less than 20%.
- 15. Acquisition of residential and/or commercial properties in urban or developed areas for the relocation of families and/or activities.
- 16. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of cemeteries.

17. Installation/drilling of new water well and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.

- 18. Establishment of power facilities, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 19. Construction of electrical system infrastructure and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 20. Construction of land based small electric generating facilities, including those fueled with wind, sun, or biomass, capable of producing no more than 10 MW. \*
- 21. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) related to water and sanitary infrastructure; communication infrastructure; roads, bridges and highways without the removal of native vegetation and/or major earth movement.
- 22. Construction of rooftop or urban telecommunications systems and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
- 23. Establishment of temporary debris storage (TDS) facilities.
- 24. Establishment and/or closure of solid waste management facilities. But not new landfills.
- 25. Installation of water storage systems (cisterns) and associated infrastructure, either above ground or underground, including but not limited to installations on existing or new concrete pads, or existing or new roofs.
- 26. Installation of solar panels, battery storage systems and/or associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground, on existing or new concrete pads, existing or new roofs, ground or pole mounted.
- 27. Installation of generators on existing or new concrete slabs, and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
- 28. Repair of existing agricultural structures including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with less than 20% expansion of footprint.
- 29. New construction of agricultural structures in established farms including but not limited to greenhouses, warehouses, canopies, fences, corrals, and shade structures with or without underground and/or aboveground infrastructure utility connections.
- 30. Construction of fences, cattle corrals, concrete slabs.
- 31. Installation of storage containers on new concrete slab.

32. New construction or work which expands the footprint of an existing structure and occurs entirely on disturbed, regularly maintained, upland property, including the staging of equipment.

\*Comply with USFWS wind energy guidelines if more than one wind turbine, consider painting one blade black to help birds see the blades. <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines">https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines</a>

# **Determination:**

Based on the nature of the projects described above and habitat characteristics described on project criteria, we have determined that the actions and type of projects described above may be conducted within this BCL without adversely affecting federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. Thus, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

For all projects, HUD and its funded partners (municipalities) are expected to implement Best Management Practices to enhance the conservation of our trust resources (i.e.; listed species, wetlands, aquatic habitats, migratory birds and marine mammals) and avoid impacts from project development to aquatic habitat such as erosion and stream sedimentation. The Service provides the following recommendations that have proven to help achieve this effort.

# **Water Crossing Structures:**

- 1. Use of bottomless culverts or single span bridges instead of traditional box or RCP culverts or any other water crossing structure that impacts the stream bottom, particularly in streams which support native fish. The use of bottomless culverts or a short span bridge would provide a more stable crossing and would not alter the stream habitat. However, if bottomless structures or bridges are not feasible due to cost or engineering constraints, we recommend the following criteria be used to maintain good habitat in the streams:
  - **a.** The stream should not be widened to fit the bridge since this can lead to sedimentation during low flows and possible bank erosion during high flows. Rather, the bridge should be designed to fit the stream channel at the point of crossing. Culverts should be sized to carry natural bank full flow. Additional flow can be capture by culverts placed at a higher elevation so as not to impact bank full flows.
  - **b.** Bridge abutments, wing walls or any other structures should not intrude into the active stream channel.
  - c. All culvert footings must be countersunk into the stream channel at both the invert and outlet ends at a minimum of 10% of the culvert height. This will align the water crossing structure with the slope of the stream.
  - **d.** Waterways must not be blocked as to impede the free movement of water and fish. Materials moved during construction, such as grubbing, earth fills, and earth cut

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materials must not be piled where they can fall back into the stream and block the drainage courses.

- e. Appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation controls measures are to be undertaken to protect water quality until riverbanks are re-vegetated. It has been our experience that appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation control measures are not implemented properly by project contractors. In order to function properly, silt fences need to be buried 6" (proper depth is marked by a line on the silt fence) and suppolted at regular intervals by wood stakes. For that reason we are recommending that the enclosed drawing of proper silt fence installation is included in all final project construction plans.
- **f.** Upon completion of a water crossing construction, any temporary fill, must be removed from the construction area and disposed in a landfill.

For a detailed guide to water crossing structures, the Service developed a detailed guide to water crossing structures for regulatory review by permitting agencies, protect damaged structures, reduce future damages, and prevent or minimize damage to natural resources. The document is titled "Guidance for Repair, Replacement, and Clean-up Projects in Streams and Waterways of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands" and is available at:

https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us

### **Limitations:**

Actions that do not meet the above project criteria, such as actions requiring placement of fill, disturbance, or modification to land outside of an existing access road or ROW; actions that occur on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forest vegetation; actions requiring excavation, clearing of native vegetation, or alteration of storm water drainage patterns; or actions that require lighting which can be directly or indirectly seen from a beach, must be individually coordinated through the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

# The Service reserves the right to revoke or modify this BCL if:

- 1. New information reveals that the categories of work covered in this BCL may affect listed or designated critical habitat in a manner, or to an extent, not previously considered.
- **2.** The categories of work included in this BCL are subsequently modified to include activities not considered in this review.
- 3. New species are listed, or designated critical habitat may be affected.
- 4. Lack of compliance with criteria in this BCL.

To obtain additional information on threatened and endangered species, you may visit our website <a href="https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services">https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services</a> where you will also find the Map of the Species by Municipality and the Map of Critical Habitat. These maps provide information on the species/habitat relations within a municipality and could provide the applicants an insight if the proposed action is covered under this BCL or may affect a species, thus requiring individual review

The USFWS has also developed a web based tool called the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). Please visit <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/</a> and familiarize yourself with the features we offer. We encourage you to begin your project planning process by requesting an Official Species List for your individual project that will include all species that may occur in the vicinity of the action area and includes a map of the action area. The site will also identify designated critical habitat, or other natural resources of concern that may be affected by your proposed project. Best management practices or conservation measures are available at the site for some species, but we expect the site to continue growing in its offering.

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. It is our 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 additional questions regarding this BCL, please do not hesitate to contact us at (786) 244-0081 or via email at caribbean es@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

LOURDES MENA Digitally signed by LOURDES MENA Date: 2025.04.24 09:11:24 -04'00'

Lourdes Mena Field Supervisor

# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

# Location





# Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

**(**939) 320-3135

**(787)** 851-7440

✓ CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV

**MAILING ADDRESS** 

NOT FOR CONSULTATIO

Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Office Park I
State Road #2 Km 156.5, Suite 303}
Mayaguez, PR 00680

# Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

- 1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
- 2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
- 3. Log in (if directed to do so).
- 4. Provide a name and description for your project.
- 5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species<sup>1</sup> and their critical habitats are managed by the <u>Ecological Services Program</u> of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries<sup>2</sup>).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact <u>NOAA Fisheries</u> for <u>species under their jurisdiction</u>.

- 1. Species listed under the <u>Endangered Species Act</u> are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the <u>listing status page</u> for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
- 2. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

# **Birds**

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk Buteo platypterus

Endangered

brunnescens

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512

Puerto Rican Nightjar Antrostomus noctitherus

Endangered

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6972

Puerto Rican Parrot Amazona vittata

Endangered

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067

Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk Accipiter striatus venator

Wherever found

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/604

# Reptiles

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

Endangered

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628

# Insects

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Atlantea tulita

Threatened

Wherever found

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005

# Flowering Plants

NAME STATUS

Cordia bellonis

Endangered

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7228

# Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

# Bald & Golden Eagles Bald and Golden Eagle

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>2</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup>. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their nests, should follow appropriate regulations and implement required avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

The <u>data</u> in this location indicates that no eagles have been observed in this area. This does not mean eagles are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the <u>Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document</u> to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if eagles may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
   https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds

- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</a>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action">https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action</a>

# Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

# What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u> and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are an eagle (<u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> requirements may apply).

# Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort line or no data line (red horizontal) means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide you in knowing when to implement avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities or get the appropriate permits should presence be confirmed.

# How do I know if eagles are breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

# Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

### How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

# **Breeding Season ()**

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

# Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

# **Survey Timeframe**

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

# Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup> prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior <u>authorization</u> by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

- 1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management">https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management</a>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
   <u>https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</u>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
   <a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action">https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action</a>

The <u>data</u> in this location indicates that no migratory birds of concern have been observed in this area. This does not mean <u>birds of concern</u> are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the <u>Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document</u> to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine what migratory birds of concern may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

# Migratory Bird FAQs

Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary.

Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

# What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of <u>Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC)</u> and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location, such as those listed under the Endangered Species Act or the <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> and those species marked as "Vulnerable". See the FAQ "What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?" for more information on the levels of concern covered in the IPaC migratory bird species list.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u> and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) with which your project intersects. These species have been identified as warranting special attention because they are BCC species in that area, an eagle (<u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, and to verify survey effort when no results present, please visit the <u>Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool</u>.

# Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

Subspecies profiles are included on the list of species present in your project area because observations in the AKN for **the species** are being detected. If the species are present, that means that the subspecies may also be present. If a subspecies shows up on your list, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if that subspecies may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

# What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. This data is derived from a growing collection of <u>survey, banding, and citizen science datasets</u>.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

# How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

# What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

- 1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
- 2. "BCC BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
- 3. "Non-BCC Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially BCC species. For more information on avoidance and minimization measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts, please see the FAQ "Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

### Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the <u>Northeast Ocean Data Portal</u>. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the <u>NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.</u>

### Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided. please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list does not represent all birds present in your project area. It is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps quide implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about avoidance and minimization measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

# Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

### How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

### **Breeding Season ()**

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

### Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

# **Survey Timeframe**

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

# **Facilities**

# National Wildlife Refuge lands

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

There are no refuge lands at this location.

# Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

# Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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

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

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

**NOTE:** This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

### **Data limitations**

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

### **Data exclusions**

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

# **Data precautions**

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

TFOR

## Radon Attachments



August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: guerrero.carmen@epa.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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



August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

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

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Barbosa Ave. #606 , Building Juan C. Cordeto Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel. (767) 274-2527 | <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/j.com/noenda.pr.g.gg/">https://doi.org/10.1002/j.com/noenda.pr.g.gg/</a>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

llmn ( rez Rodfiguez, Esq.

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Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerto Rico
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Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. We look forward to working together on this critical initiative.

Sincerely.

My Rodríguez, Esq.

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: OIA@cdc.gov

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

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

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

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following

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

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August 20, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

D. Rodríguez, Esq

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

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William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.

Secretary

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



August 20, 2024

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

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

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

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

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August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: hsweyers@usgs.gov

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

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

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

Sincerely.

Ladriguez Rodriguez, Esq.

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

CDBG-DR/MIT Program
Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerto Rico
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Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. We look forward to working together on this critical initiative

Sincerely

Ariauez Rodriguez, Esq.

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

From: Charp, Paul (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP) <pac4@cdc.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 6:36 AM

To: Miranda, Sandra (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Irizarry, Jessica (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Rzeszotarski, Peter

(CDC/NCEH/DEHSP); Vinson, D. Aaron (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)

Cc: Kostak, Liana (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Vazquez, Germaine (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)

Subject: RE; REHi: Puerto Rico Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

#### Good morning, Sandra and others,

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

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

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

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



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

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

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

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

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

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

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

Best regards,

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

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

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

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

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

Good afternoon, Ms. Medina

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

Raul Hernandez Doble
Director, Seccion Salud Radiologica
Division de Salud Ambiental
Secretaria Auxiliar para la Vigilancia y la Proteccion de la Salud Publica
rhernandez2@salud.gov.pr

Phone: (787)765-2929 ext. 3210

From: Reyes, Brenda < Reyes. Brenda@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:48 AM

To: Cesar O Rodriguez Santos <cesarrodriguez@drna.pr.gov>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov>;

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

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

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

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

#### Saludos.

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

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

\_\_\_

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

Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 15:04

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

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

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

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

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

#### Estimada Melanie Medina

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

### Atentamente

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





September 23, 2024

#### VIA EMAIL

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

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

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodríguez Rodríguez

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

CARMEN **GUERRERO** PEREZ

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

Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez Director

Roberto Mendez, Esq (Acting Secretary, PR Department of Natural and Env. Resources)

Melany Medina: mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov Elaine Dume Mejia: Edume@vivienda.pr.gov Luz S Colon Ortiz: Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov
Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez: aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov Cesar O. Rodriguez: cesarrodriguez@drna.pr.gov Marita Rosa Olivares: maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov

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

Environmental Observations				
Item	Observation Remarks			
Are there any signs of poor housekeeping on the site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, or solid waste or improperly stored household quantities of petroleum products, pesticides, paints, thinners, cleaning fluids, automotive batteries, damaged, abandoned, and/or dangerous vehicles or other motorized equipment; pits, pools, lagoons, or ponds of hazardous substances or petroleum products located on the site)	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Are there any 55-gallon drums or containers visible on the site?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
If drums located, are they leaking?	N/A  ☐ Yes ☐ No			
Are there any signs of petroleum underground storage tanks (PUSTs) on the site?	☐ Yes ☑ No			
Are there any UST locations visible from the site?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Are there any signs of above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) on the site, or immediate adjacent visible sites?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Are there any signs of surface staining?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Are there any ground water monitoring or injection wells on the site?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Is there evidence of a faulty septic system on the site?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site?  (Do not include run-off or ponding from recent weather events.)	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Is there any distressed vegetation on the site?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Does the subject lot have water frontage?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Is there any visible apparent indication of other environmental conditions?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Is there any visible apparent evidence of deteriorated paint (chipping, peeling, cracking) present in the structure?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Are there other unusual conditions on site? (Explain in attached supporting material. Please take photographs, if possible.)	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Is the structure 45 years or older?	☐ Yes ☐ No			
Is the applicant aware of any significant historical events or persons associated with the structure; or does the home have a historic marker?	☐ Yes ☑ No			



Ineabelle Rodriguez Pagan BO TABONUCO SOLAR 3, Carr 365 km 6.4 Sabana Grande, PR 00637

18.114341, -66.923524

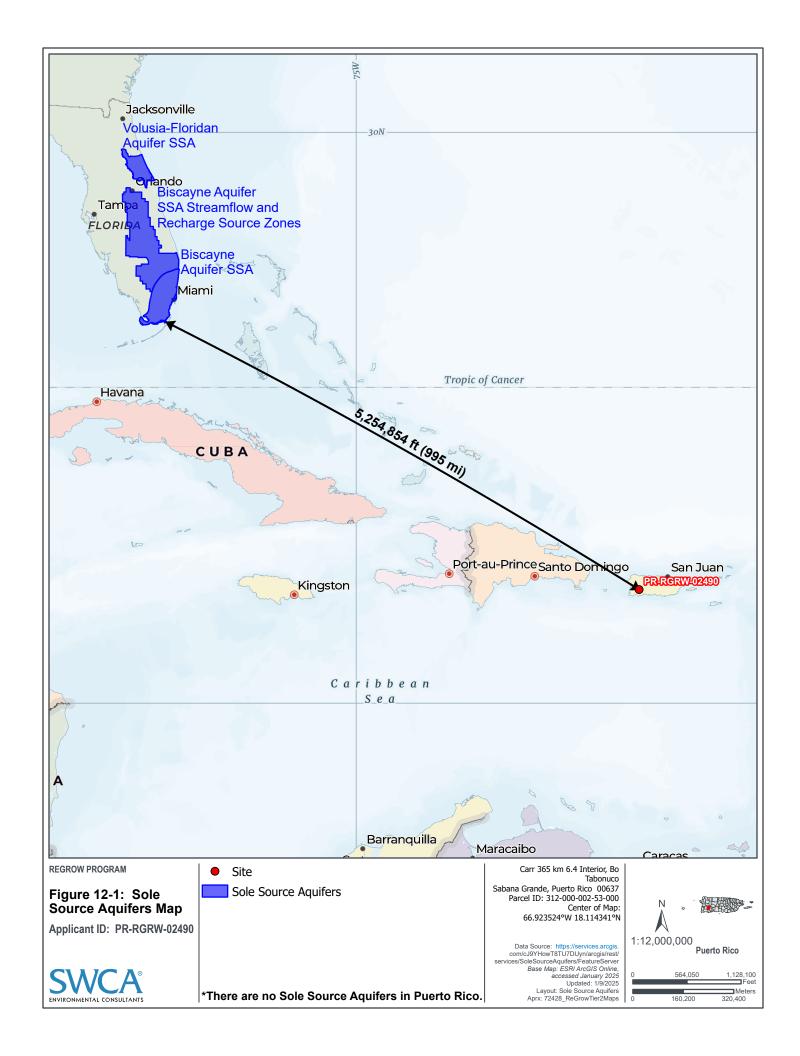
## PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Historic



National Register of Historic Places

https://arcgis.home.com/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=883eb165a91d411996af67b92f45a429 https://sigejp.pr.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b36c00df6e064b6a8f70a6593df64b7e https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466

Local Historic Areas digitized by Horne



## PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Site Photos



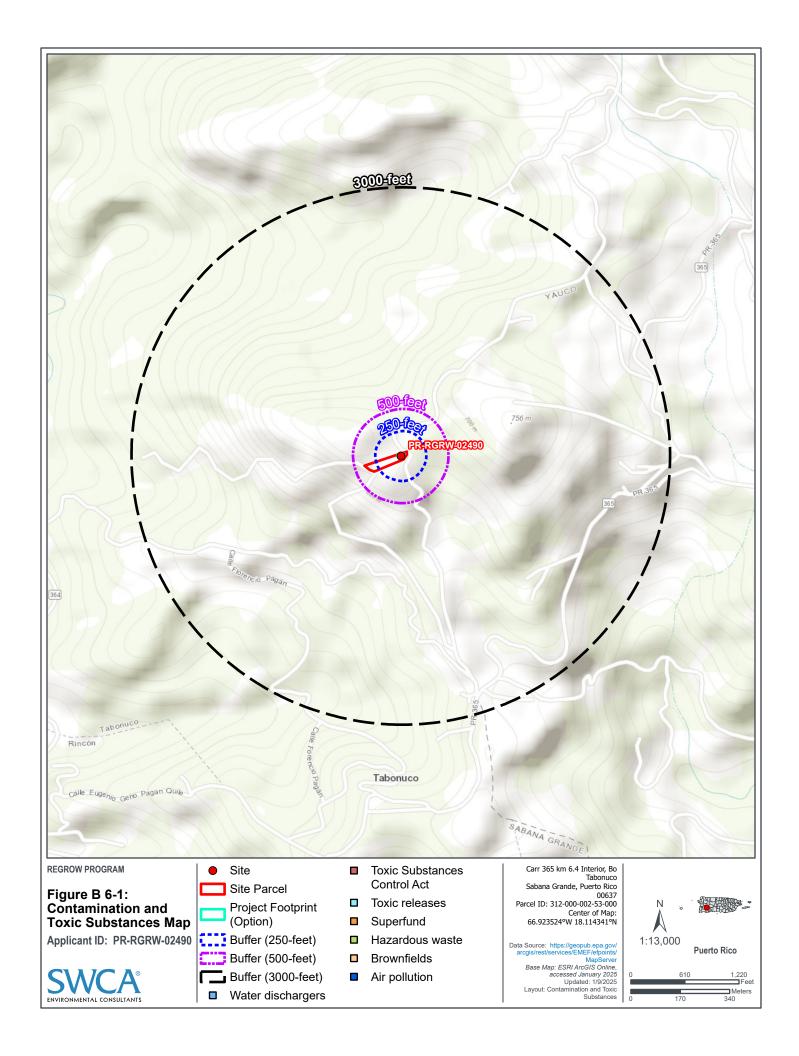
Area for greenhouse

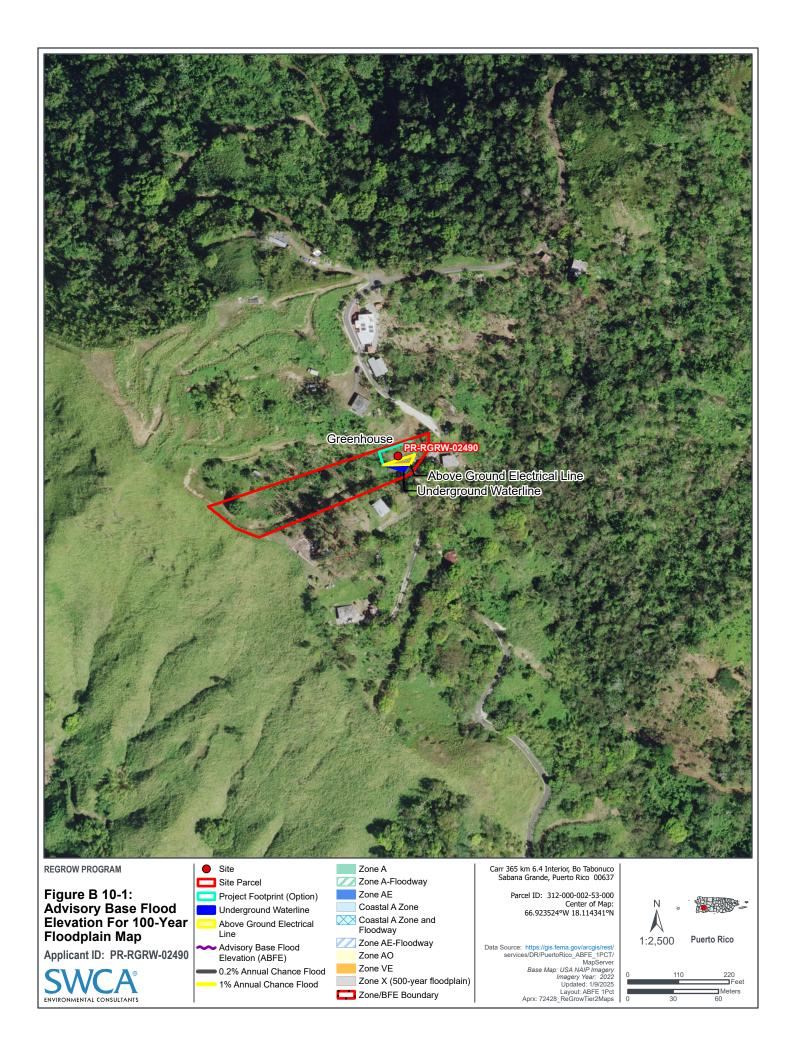


Area for greenhouse

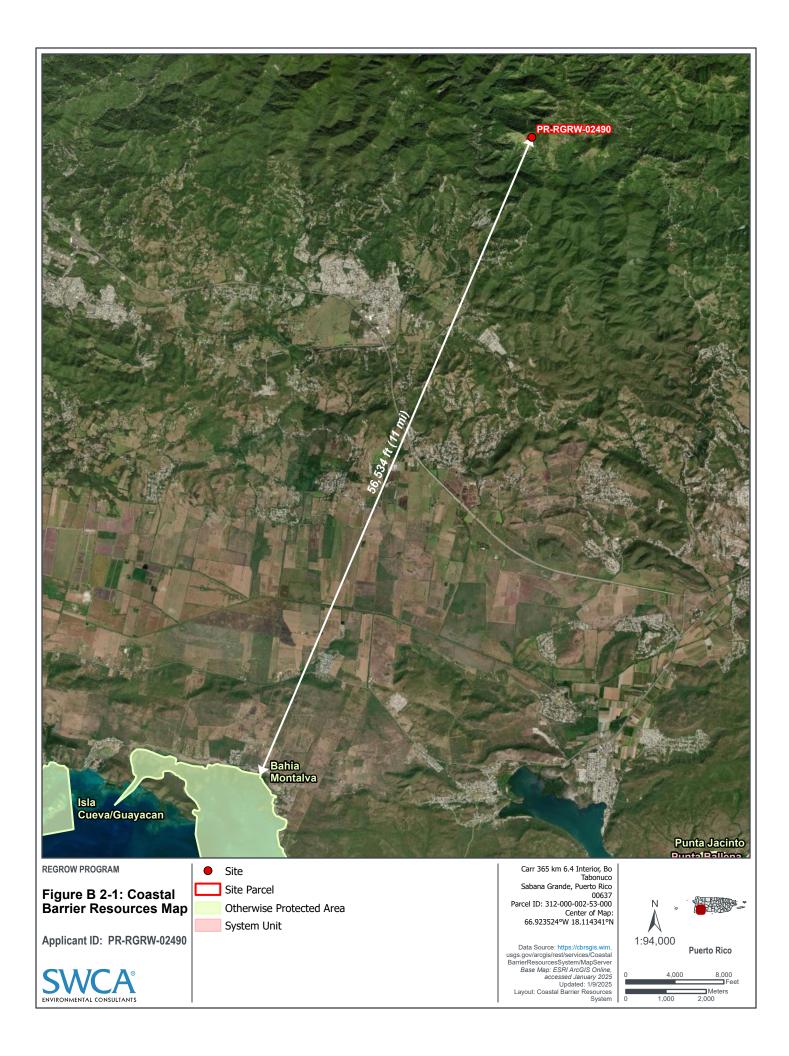


Area for cisterns and concrete base









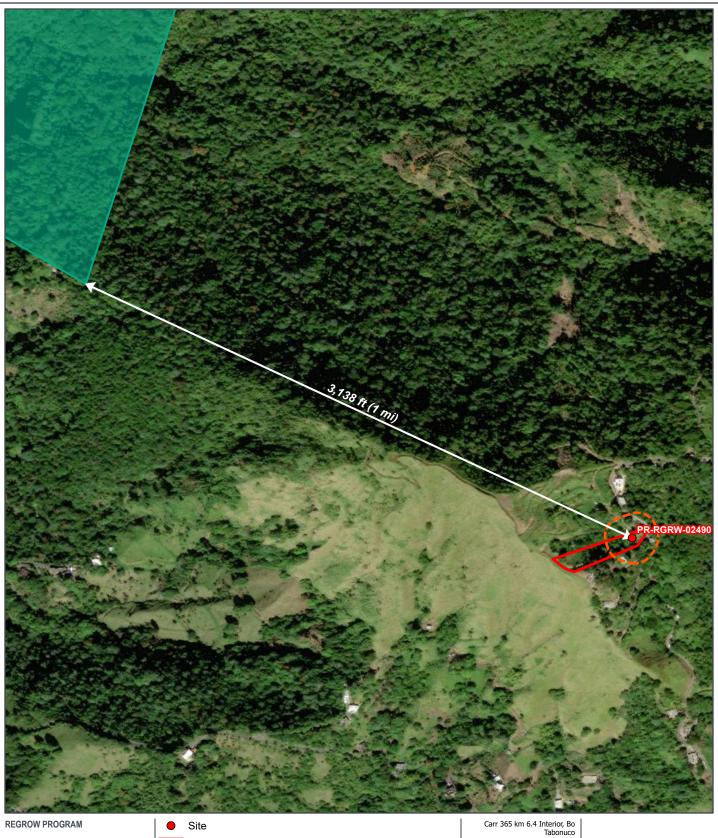


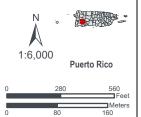
Figure B 7-1: Critical Habitat Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-02490

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

Carr 365 km 6.4 Interior, Bo Tabonuco Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico 00637 Parcel ID: 312-000-002-53-000 Center of Map: 66.923524°W 18.114341°N

Data Source: https://services.arcgis. com/QVENGdaPbd4LUKLV/arcgis/ rest/services/USFWS\_Critical\_Habitat/ Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed January 2025 Updated: 1/9/2025 Layout: Critical Habitat Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps





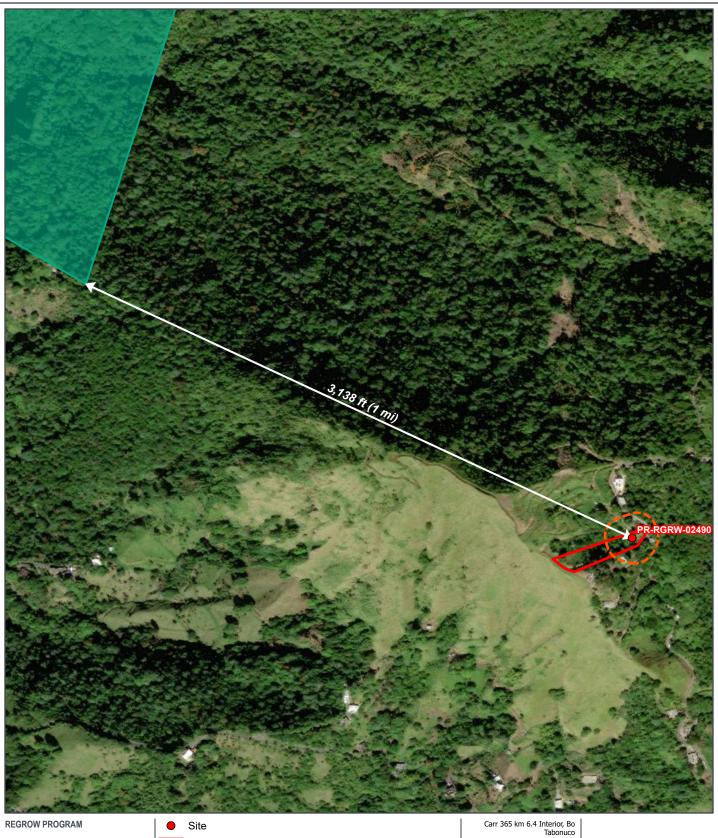


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Data Source: https://services.arcgis. com/QVENGdaPbd4LUKLV/arcgis/ rest/services/USFWS\_Critical\_Habitat/ Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed January 2025 Updated: 1/9/2025 Layout: Critical Habitat Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps

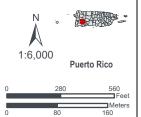






Figure B 5-1: Coastal Zone Management Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-02490

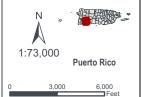


Site

Coastal Management Zone

Carr 365 km 6.4 Interior, Bo Tabonuco Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico 00637 Parcel ID: 312-000-002-53-000 Center of Map: 66.923524°W 18.114341°N

Data Source: https://coast.noaa.gov/ arcgis/rest/services/Hosted/ Coastal/ZoneManagementAct/ Base Map: ESRI Arc6IS Online, accessed January 2025 Updated: 1/9/2025 Layout: Coastal Zone Management Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



### REQUIRED PHOTOS





Property Property





Property Property

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



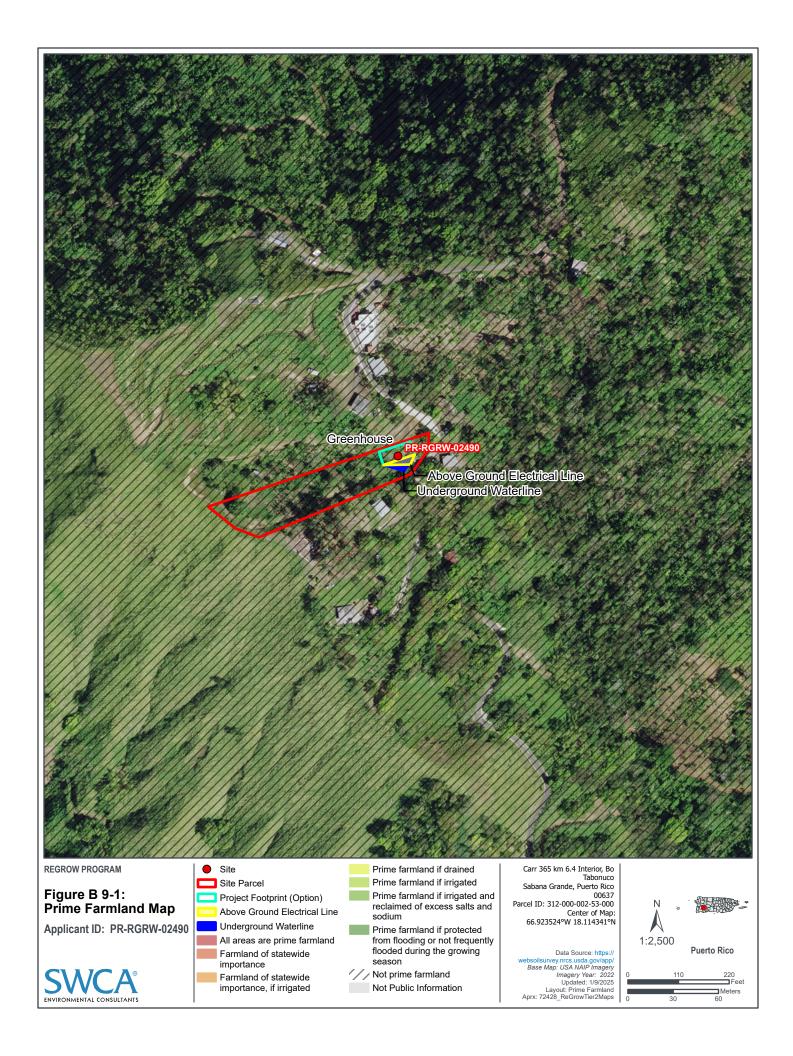


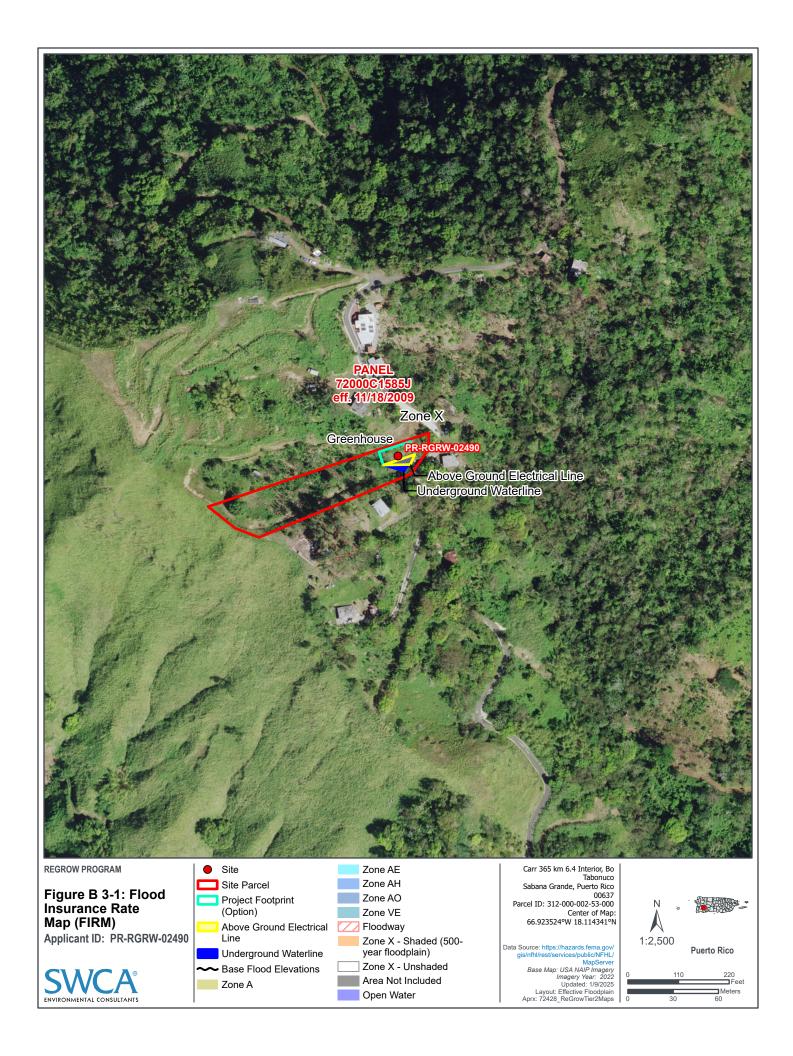
Tree Stumps will be Removed

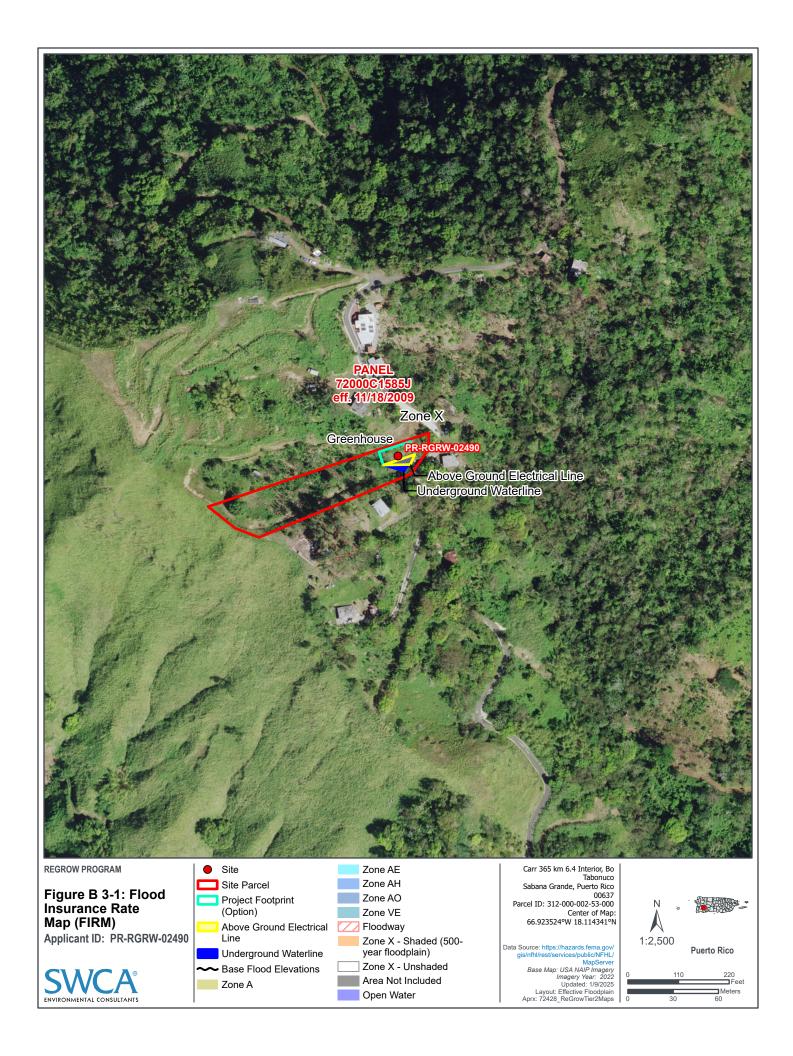
Streetscape

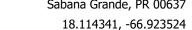


Streetscape





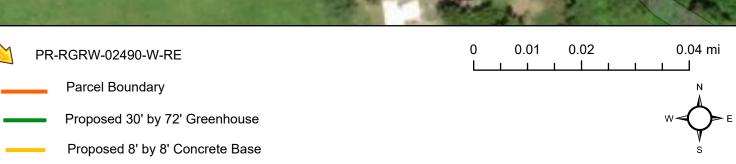




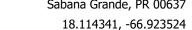


# PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Site Map





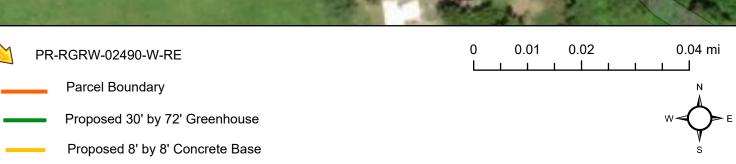
**Proposed Solar Location** 



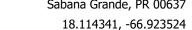


# PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Site Map





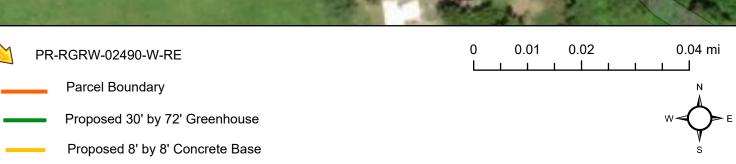
**Proposed Solar Location** 



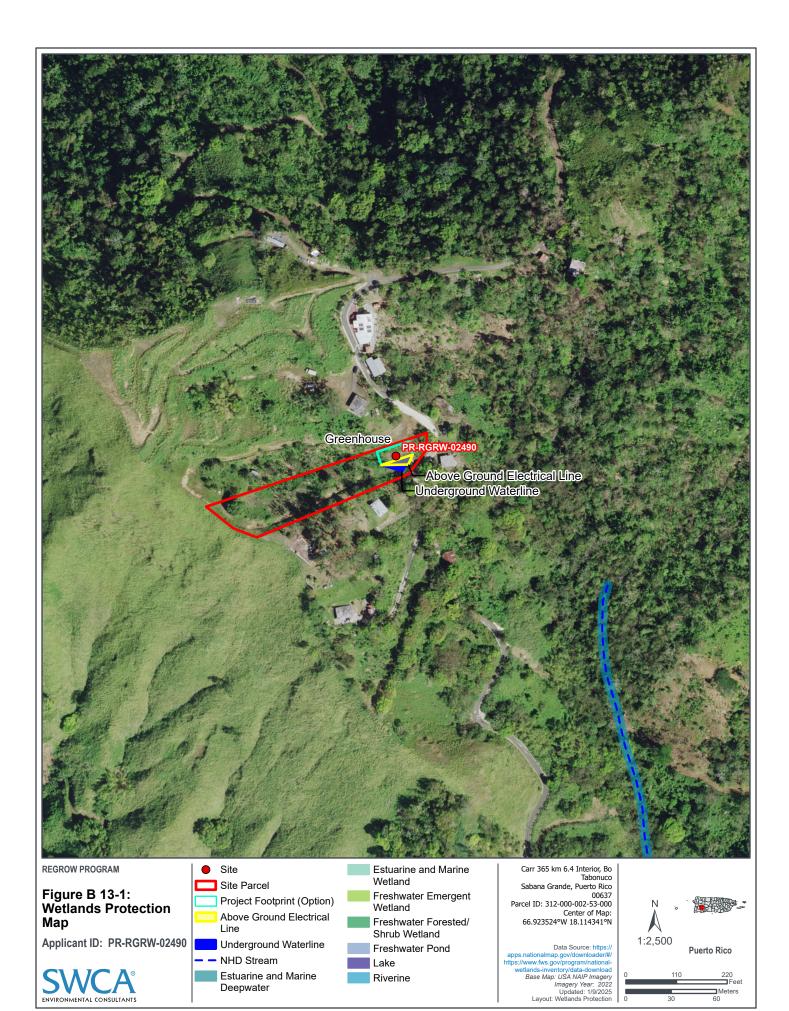


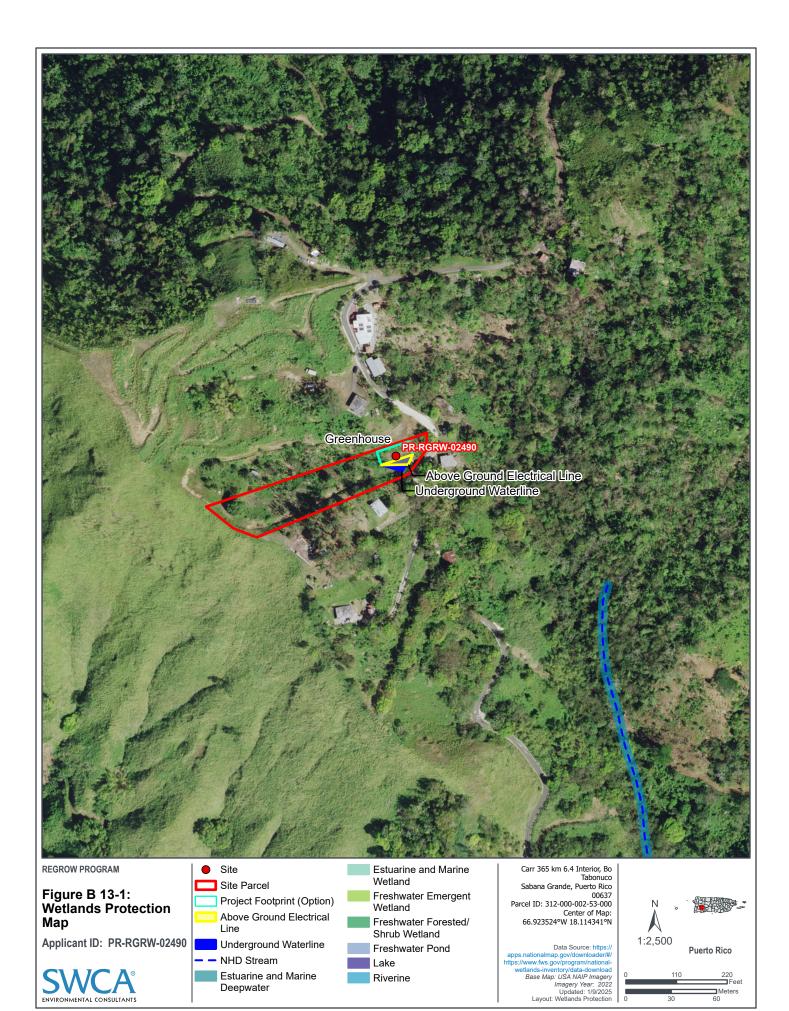
# PR-RGRW-02490-W-RE Site Map

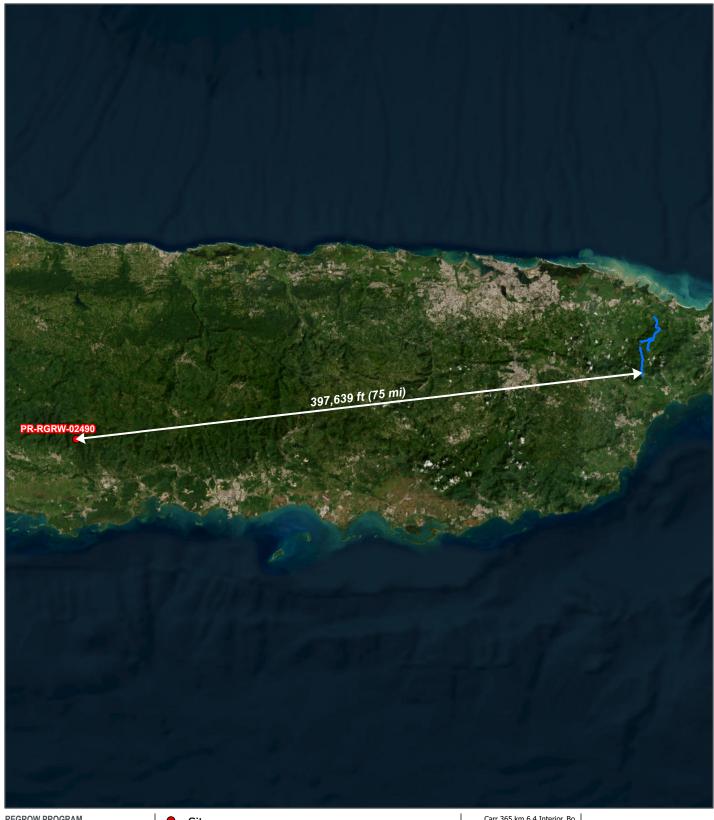




**Proposed Solar Location** 







REGROW PROGRAM

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

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-02490



National Wild and Scenic River

Carr 365 km 6.4 Interior, Bo Tabonuco Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico 00637 Parcel ID: 312-000-002-53-000 Parcel Center: 66.923524°W 18.114341°N

Data Source: https://apps.fs.usda.gov/ arcx/rest/services/EDW/ EDW\_WildScenicRiverSegments\_01/ mapserver Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed January 2025 Updated: 1/9/2025

