

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

451 Seventh Street, SW Washington, DC 20410 www.hud.gov espanol.hud.gov

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

# **Project Information**

**Project Name:** PR-SBF-00562-E-Re-Evaluation

**HEROS Number:** 900000010485073

**Start Date:** 07/21/2025

State / Local Identifier:

**Project Location:** 219 Calle Eleonor Roosevelt, San Juan, PR 00918

# **Additional Location Information:**

The project is located at latitude 18.420507, longitude -66.060993 at the address given above. Tax ID

Number: 063-041-135-46-001

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

This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Roger Iglesias Suarez HNC Susos Bar Y Restaurant, a restaurant, at 219 Calle Eleanor Roosevelt, San Juan, PR 00918. The original scope of work for this project included the payment of employee salaries, rent/mortgage, utilities, purchase of inventory, and the purchase and installation of new generator on roof of business and new ice machine with new water lines and filters. The extended benefits scope of work for this project includes the payment of employee salaries, rent/mortgage, utilities, purchase of inventory, and purchase of a cargo van. The scope of work for this extended benefits case is covered by a Categorically Excluded Not Subject to s.58.5 Related Laws and Authorities environmental review. No ground disturbance occurred nor is anticipated; the structure was built ca. 1965.

#### **Level of Environment Review Determination:**

Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5: 58.35(a)(3)(iii)

#### **Funding Information**

Grant	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-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: \$100,000.00

**Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]:** \$100,000.00

#### 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,	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on	Complete
Authority, or		<b>Completed Measures</b>	
Factor			

#### **Determination:**

	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 and 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
	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)).
•	er Signature: Date: August 1, 2025
Name Respoi	/ Title/ Organization: Ricardo Espiet Lopez/ / Department of Housing - Puerto Rico  nsible Entity Agency Official Signature:
Name	Title: Pedro A. de León Rodríguez, MSEM/Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

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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-SBF-00562-E-Re-Evaluation

**HEROS Number:** 900000010485073

**Start Date:** 07/21/2025

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

Juan PR, 00928

State / Local Identifier:

**RE Preparer:** Ricardo Espiet Lopez

**Certifying Office** 

r:

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Ent** 

ity):

**Point of Contact:** 

Point of Contact: Blas Guernica 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: 219 Calle Eleonor Roosevelt, San Juan, PR 00918

#### Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.420507, longitude -66.060993 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 063-041-135-46-001

**Direct Comments to:** environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

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

This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Roger Iglesias Suarez HNC Susos Bar Y Restaurant, a restaurant, at 219 Calle Eleanor Roosevelt, San Juan, PR 00918. The original scope of work for this project included the payment of employee salaries, rent/mortgage, utilities, purchase of inventory, and the purchase and installation of new generator on roof of business and new ice machine with new water lines and filters. The extended benefits scope of work for this project includes the payment of employee salaries, rent/mortgage, utilities, purchase of inventory, and purchase of a cargo van. The scope of work for this extended benefits case is covered by a Categorically Excluded Not Subject to s.58.5 Related Laws and Authorities environmental review. No ground disturbance occurred nor is anticipated; the structure was built ca. 1965.

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

PR-SBF-00562 ATF CEST Memorandum.pdf

PR-SBF-00562-E Site Map.pdf

PR-SBF-00562-E Re-evaluation Form.docx

PR-SBF-00562-E IUGF.pdf

PR-SBF-00562 IUGF.pdf

PR-SBF-00562 EFOR.pdf

# **Level of Environmental Review Determination:**

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

#### **Determination:**

This categorically excluded activity/project converts to **EXEMPT** per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; **Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part** for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR

<b>V</b>	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:**

**7015.15** certified by Certifying Officer on:

**7015.16** certified by Authorizing Officer on:

# **Funding Information**

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

Estimated Total HUD Funded, \$100,000.00 Assisted or Insured Amount:

**Estimated Total Project Cost:** \$100,000.00

# 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 ORD	DERS, AND REGULATIO	NS 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 nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 14,279 feet away. The project is within 15,000 feet of a military airport or within 2,500 of a civilian airport. However, it is not within an APZ or RPZ/CZ. 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 27,516 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.		
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001- 4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	□ Yes ☑ No	Flood Map Number 72000C0370J, 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.		
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5				
Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	☐ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.		
Coastal Zone Management Act Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	□ Yes ☑ No	This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 1,954 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in		

		compliance with the Coastal Zone
		Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	□ Yes ☑ No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	□ Yes ☑ No	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.
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 the floodplain. 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 San Juan; However, the proposed project is not within an area where a PFIRM was developed. Therefore, PFIRM was not considered in the review. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988.

Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	☑ Yes □ No	(ca. 1965) 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	Based on the project description, the project consists of activities that are unlikely to have an adverse impact on groundwater resources. 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. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted. 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 103,171 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.	
HUD HO	OUSING ENVIRONMEN		
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE			
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	□ Yes ☑ No	On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts.	

Evaluation	
	Consequently, there is no longer a
	federal requirement to address
	environmental justice concerns in the
	environmental compliance review
	process.

90000010485073

San Juan, PR

# 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**

PR-SBF-00562-E-Re-

In accordance with Puerto Rican Permit requirements any generator above 10HP requires an Emergency Generators General Permit of the Puerto Rico Natural and Environmental Resources Department prior to installation.

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

✓ Yes

2. Is your project located within a Runway Protection Zone/Clear Zone (RPZ/CZ) or Accident Potential Zone (APZ) ?

Yes, project is in an APZ

Yes, project is an RPZ/CZ

✓ No, project is not within an APZ or RPZ/CZ

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload the map showing that the site is not within either zone below.

# **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 14,279 feet away. The project is within 15,000 feet of a military airport or within 2,500 of a civilian airport. However, it is not within an APZ or RPZ/CZ. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

# **Supporting documentation**

# PR-SBF-00562-E 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	<b>CBRS</b>	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 27,516 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

# **Supporting documentation**

# PR-SBF-00562-E CBRS.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **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-SBF-00562-E 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 72000C0370J, 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



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 1,954 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

# **Supporting documentation**

# PR-SBF-00562-E 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\* (excluding radon) found that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property? (Were any recognized environmental conditions or RECs identified in a Phase I ESA and confirmed in a Phase II ESA?)

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

<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.

✓ No

Explain:

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

Yes

- \* This question covers the presence of radioactive substances excluding radon. Radon is addressed in the Radon Exempt Question.
- \*\* Utilize EPA's Enviromapper, NEPAssist, or state/tribal databases to identify nearby dumps, junk yards, landfills, hazardous waste sites, and industrial sites, including EPA National Priorities List Sites (Superfund sites), CERCLA or state-equivalent sites, RCRA Corrective Action sites with release(s) or suspected release(s) requiring clean-up action and/or further investigation. Additional supporting documentation may include other inspections and reports.
- 3. Evaluate the building(s) for radon. Do all buildings meet any of the exemptions\* from having to consider radon in the contamination analysis listed in CPD Notice <a href="CPD-23-103">CPD-23-103</a>?

Yes

Explain:

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

- Buildings tested within five years of the submission of application for HUD assistance: test results document indoor radon levels are below current the EPA's recommended action levels of 4.0 pCi/L. For buildings with test data older than five years, any new environmental review must include a consideration of radon using one of the methods in Section A below.
- 4. Is the proposed project new construction or substantial rehabilitation where testing will be conducted but cannot yet occur because building construction has not been completed?

Yes

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

✓ No

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Explain:

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

File Upload:

Radon Attachments.pdf
PR-SBF-00562-E Radon Memorandum.docx

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

Non-radon contamination was found in a previous question.

# **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

# **Supporting documentation**

PR-SBF-00562 EFOR(1).pdf PR-SBF-00562-E Toxic Sites(1).pdf PR-SBF-00562-E Toxic Sites Table.xlsx

# Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

√ No

# **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 project criteria 14 and 27 of the USFWS Blanket Clearance Letter. See attached Endangered Species Act 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-SBF-00562-E USFWS Self Certification Form PRDOH.pdf

PR-SBF-00562-E Wetlands.pdf

PR-SBF-00562-E Site Photos.pdf

PR-SBF-00562-E ESA.pdf

USFWS End Species Blanket Clearance Letter 2025.pdf

PR-SBF-00562-E Species List.pdf

PR-SBF-00562-E Site Map(1).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
	Ves

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

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

✓ No

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

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

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

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

# **Supporting documentation**

PR-SBF-00562-E Farmlands.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,	* Executive Order 13690	
requires Federal activities to	* 42 USC 4001-4128	
avoid impacts to floodplains	* 42 USC 5154a	
and to avoid direct and	* only applies to screen 2047	
indirect support of floodplain	and not 2046	
development to the extent		
practicable.		

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

Yes

- (a) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 58.34 and 58.35(b).
- (b) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 50.19, except as otherwise indicated in § 50.19.
- (c) The approval of financial assistance for restoring and preserving the natural and beneficial functions and values of floodplains and wetlands, including through acquisition of such floodplain and wetland property, where a permanent covenant or comparable restriction is place on the property's continued use for flood control, wetland projection, open space, or park land, but only if:
- (1) The property is cleared of all existing buildings and walled structures; and
- (2) The property is cleared of related improvements except those which:
- (i) Are directly related to flood control, wetland protection, open space, or park land (including playgrounds and recreation areas);
- (ii) Do not modify existing wetland areas or involve fill, paving, or other ground disturbance beyond minimal trails or paths; and
- (iii) Are designed to be compatible with the beneficial floodplain or wetland function of the property.
- (d) An action involving a repossession, receivership, foreclosure, or similar acquisition of property to protect or enforce HUD's financial interests under previously approved loans, grants, mortgage insurance, or other HUD assistance.

- (e) Policy-level actions described at 24 CFR 50.16 that do not involve site-based decisions.
- (f) A minor amendment to a previously approved action with no additional adverse impact on or from a floodplain or wetland.
- (g) HUD's or the responsible entity's approval of a project site, an incidental portion of which is situated in the FFRMS floodplain (not including the floodway, LiMWA, or coastal high hazard area) but only if: (1) The proposed project site does not include any existing or proposed buildings or improvements that modify or occupy the FFRMS floodplain except de minimis improvements such as recreation areas and trails; and (2) the proposed project will not result in any new construction in or modifications of a wetland.
- (h) Issuance or use of Housing Vouchers, or other forms of rental subsidy where HUD, the awarding community, or the public housing agency that administers the contract awards rental subsidies that are not project-based (i.e., do not involve site-specific subsidies).
- (i) Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of and accessibility to elderly and persons with disabilities.

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✓ No

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

Yes

Describe:

✓ No

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

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain can be determined using a Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA), 0.2 percent flood approach (0.2 PFA), or freeboard value approach (FVA). For projects in areas without available CISA data or without FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) or Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs), use the best available information<sup>1</sup> to determine flood elevation. Include documentation and an explanation of why this is the best available information<sup>2</sup> for the site. Note that newly constructed and substantially improved<sup>3</sup> structures must be elevated to the FFRMS floodplain regardless of the approach chosen to determine the floodplain.

Select one of the following three options:

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

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

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> If you are using best available information, select the FVA option below and provide supporting documentation in the screen summary. Contact your <u>local environmental officer</u> with additional compliance questions.

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

5. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?

Yes

✓ No

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

This project does not occur in the floodplain. 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 San Juan; However, the proposed project is not within an area where a PFIRM was developed. Therefore, PFIRM was not considered in the review. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988.

# **Supporting documentation**

# PR-SBF-00562-E 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.

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:

219 Calle Eleanor Roosevelt, San Juan, PR 00918

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 within the APE.

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Only properties that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places receive

further consideration under Section 106. Assess the effect(s) of the project by applying the Criteria of Adverse Effect. (36 CFR 800.5)] Consider direct and indirect effects as applicable as per guidance on direct and indirect effects.

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

✓ No Historic Properties Affected

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

# **Document reason for finding:**

✓ No historic properties present.

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

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

# **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

(ca. 1965) Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.

# **Supporting documentation**

PR-SBF-00562 SHPO Consultation Package.pdf PR-SBF-00562-E Historic Sites.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)?



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

No

# **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

Based on the project description, the project consists of activities that are unlikely to have an adverse impact on groundwater resources. 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-SBF-00562-E SSA.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. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990.

#### Supporting documentation

# PR-SBF-00562-E Wetlands(1).pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

## 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 103,171 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

## **Supporting documentation**

# PR-SBF-00562-E WSR.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

## **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**

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

#### Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No





# **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 Roger Iglesias Suarez HNC Susos Bar Y Restaurant [PR-SBF-00562-E], under the CDBG-DR Small Business Financing Program, consisting of payment of employee salaries, rent/mortgage, utilities, purchase of inventory, and the purchase and installation of new generator on roof of business and new ice machine with new water lines and filters, located at 219 Calle Eleanor Roosevelt, San Juan, PR 00918, 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>		
	Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct and/or rehabilitate facilities in already established public transportation systems (signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).		
	Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, rehabilitate and/or expanding existing public transportation facilities located in urban or developed areas.		
	<ol> <li>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.</li> </ol>		
	5. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, or rehabilitate existing bridges or rip-rap.  We recommend following FWS rip-rap guidance for design:		

	https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-
	structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us
	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%.
$\boxtimes$	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.
	<ol> <li>Construction of electrical system infrastructure and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.</li> </ol>
	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. <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.
$\boxtimes$	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

Programa CDBG-DR/MIT Puerto Rico | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 | infoCDBG@vivienda.pr.gov | recuperacion.pr.gov | 787-274-2527

USFWS Self-Certification PR-SBF-00562-E Page 4 / 3

## Attachments:

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



# PR-SBF-00562-E ESA

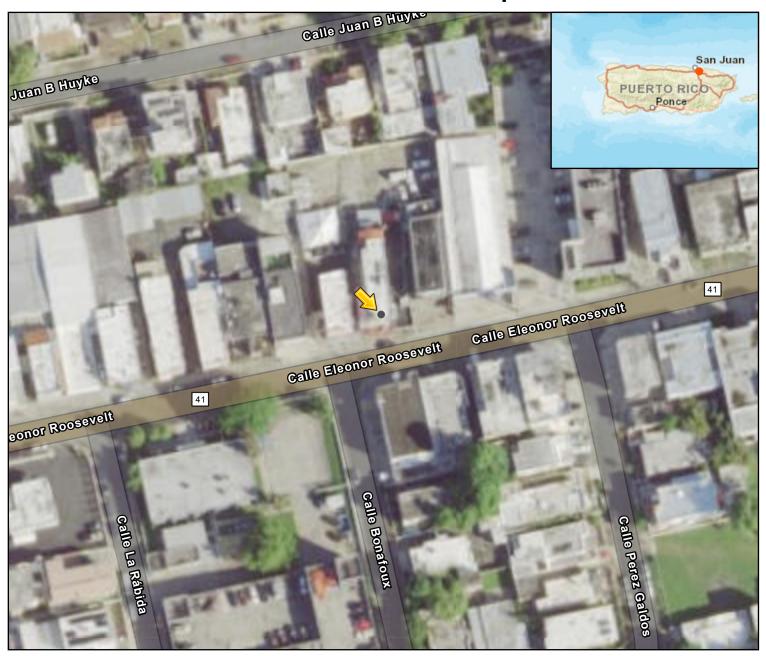


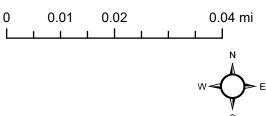
**Endangered Species Habitat** 

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



# PR-SBF-00562-E Site Map





































# United States Department of the Interior



#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440

Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>

In Reply Refer To: 07/21/2025 17:15:56 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0124317 Project Name: PR-SBF-00562-E

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Once a species list is obtained for the proposed project, an effect determination for endangered and threatened species should be made. The applicant could make an effect determination by using available keys on IPaC for specific species. For species with no determination keys, the applicant should request concurrence from the Service by sending a project package

to <u>caribbean es@fws.gov</u>. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

 $\frac{https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/consultation-under-section-7-of-the-endangered-species-act-with-the-caribbean-ecological\%20Services-field-office-template-letter.pdf$ 

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

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

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

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

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

This species list is provided by:

Project code: 2025-0124317

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

## Attachment(s):

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

# **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 (939) 320-3135

# **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project code: 2025-0124317

Project Code: 2025-0124317
Project Name: PR-SBF-00562-E
Project Type: Disaster-related Grants

Project Description: This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Roger

Iglesias Suarez HNC Susos Bar Y Restaurant, a restaurant, at 219 Calle

Eleanor Roosevelt, San Juan, PR 00918.

The original scope of work for this project included the payment of employee salaries, rent/mortgage, utilities, purchase of inventory, and the purchase and installation of new generator on roof of business and new

ice machine with new water lines and filters.

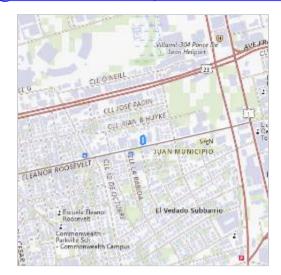
The extended benefits scope of work for this project includes the payment of employee salaries, rent/mortgage, utilities, purchase of inventory, and purchase of a cargo van. The scope of work for this extended benefits case is covered by a Categorically Excluded Not Subject to s.58.5 Related

Laws and Authorities environmental review.

No ground disturbance occurred nor is anticipated; the structure was built ca. 1965.

# **Project Location:**

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@18.42063689999998">https://www.google.com/maps/@18.42063689999998</a>,-66.06100935259218,14z



Counties: San Juan County, Puerto Rico

# **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

Project code: 2025-0124317

There is a total of 1 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

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

# **REPTILES**

NAME STATUS

#### Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</a>

General project design guidelines:

 $\frac{https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/BEJ7FEH57RBGJHE53LO2MVACGM/documents/generated/7159.pdf}{}$ 

# CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

# USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

# **BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES**

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>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 habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

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

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). 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 data 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 Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document 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).

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

# **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Project code: 2025-0124317

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 authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

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

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

# **WETLANDS**

Impacts to <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</u> Engineers District.

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Project code: 2025-0124317 07/21/2025 17:15:56 UTC

# **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: HORNE Government Services

Name: Blas Guernica

Address: 269 Av. Juan Ponce de León

City: San Juan

State: PR Zip: 00917

Email blas.guernica@horne.com

Phone: 9392144221



# PR-SBF-00562-E Wetlands



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



# 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

Mr. Maldonado 2

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.

Last Revised: April 2025

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

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

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# **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.

Mr. Maldonado 4

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:

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

#### 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 <a href="mailto:caribbean\_es@fws.gov">caribbean\_es@fws.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Mena Field Supervisor



## United States Department of the Interior



#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440

Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>

In Reply Refer To: 07/21/2025 17:15:56 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0124317 Project Name: PR-SBF-00562-E

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Once a species list is obtained for the proposed project, an effect determination for endangered and threatened species should be made. The applicant could make an effect determination by using available keys on IPaC for specific species. For species with no determination keys, the applicant should request concurrence from the Service by sending a project package

to <u>caribbean es@fws.gov</u>. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

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

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

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

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

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

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

This species list is provided by:

Project code: 2025-0124317

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

#### Attachment(s):

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

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 (939) 320-3135

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project code: 2025-0124317

Project Code: 2025-0124317
Project Name: PR-SBF-00562-E
Project Type: Disaster-related Grants

Project Description: This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Roger

Iglesias Suarez HNC Susos Bar Y Restaurant, a restaurant, at 219 Calle

Eleanor Roosevelt, San Juan, PR 00918.

The original scope of work for this project included the payment of employee salaries, rent/mortgage, utilities, purchase of inventory, and the purchase and installation of new generator on roof of business and new

ice machine with new water lines and filters.

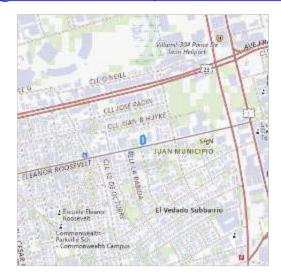
The extended benefits scope of work for this project includes the payment of employee salaries, rent/mortgage, utilities, purchase of inventory, and purchase of a cargo van. The scope of work for this extended benefits case is covered by a Categorically Excluded Not Subject to s.58.5 Related

Laws and Authorities environmental review.

No ground disturbance occurred nor is anticipated; the structure was built ca. 1965.

#### **Project Location:**

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@18.42063689999998">https://www.google.com/maps/@18.42063689999998</a>,-66.06100935259218,14z



Counties: San Juan County, Puerto Rico

#### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

Project code: 2025-0124317

There is a total of 1 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

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

#### **REPTILES**

NAME STATUS

#### Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</a>

General project design guidelines:

https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/BEJ7FEH57RBGJHE53LO2MVACGM/documents/generated/7159.pdf

#### CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

# USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

## **BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES**

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>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 habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

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

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The data 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 Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document 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).

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

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Project code: 2025-0124317

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 authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

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

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

## **WETLANDS**

Impacts to <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</u> Engineers District.

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Project code: 2025-0124317 07/21/2025 17:15:56 UTC

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: HORNE Government Services

Name: Blas Guernica

Address: 269 Av. Juan Ponce de León

City: San Juan

State: PR Zip: 00917

Email blas.guernica@horne.com

Phone: 9392144221



## 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.

Last Revised: April 2025

<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:

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

#### 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





#### MEMORANDUM TO FILE

**Date:** July 21, 2025

From: Blas Guernica

Senior Environmental Associate

CDBG-DR Program

Small Business Financing Program Puerto Rico Department of Housing

**Application Number: PR-SBF-00562-E** 

**Project:** Roger Iglesias Suarez HNC Susos Bar Y Restaurant

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

After reviewing Application Number PR-SBF-00562-E under the Small Business Financing Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

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

 As required by the CPD Notice 23-103, the scientific data reviewed in lieu of testing must consist of a minimum of ten documented test results over the previous ten years. If there are less than ten documented results over this period, it is understood that there is a lack of scientific data. The latest report

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Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing
Page 2 of 3

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.

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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.





V1.0 | 2023-09-21

#### **CDBG-DR PROGRAM**

Small Business Financing (SBF) Program

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT**

APPLICATION GENERAL	. Inform	IATION						
Application No.: PR-SBF-		-00562	Applicant Name:	Roger	er Iglesias-Suarez			
PROPERTY INFORMATION	ON							
Property Address: 219 Calle Eleanor Rooseve San Juan P.R., 00918	elt							
Latitude:		18.42051	Longitude:		-66.0609	99		
Property Type:		Commercial	Year Built:		1970			
Number of Buildings:		1	Are Utilities Connected?		Yes			
Property Remarks:								
Is there evidence of dame	age from	a previous disaster?	No					
Damage Remarks:								
SIGNATURES OF INSPEC	TION RE	PORT						
Environmental Inspector:		C. Colón	Juon C	Co	lón	5-2-2025		
	Printe	ed Name	Signature			Date		

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	(2) - 55 Gallon Drum used as an oil bin and (1) used as a trash bin.
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	(2) Generators, Cistern and Gas Tank
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	Applicant believe it was built around 1970.
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	

#### REQUIRED PHOTOS



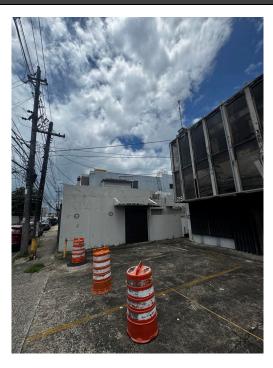


**Front of Property** 

**Rear of Property** 



**Left Side of Property** 



**Right Side of Property** 

#### PHOTOS OF RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS





Front of Property

**Front of Property** 





**Front of Property Outwards** 

**Front of Property Outwards** 





**Rear of Property** 

**Rear of Property** 





**Rear of Property Outwards** 

**Rear of Property Outwards** 





**Left Side of Property** 

**Left Side of Property** 





**Left Side of Property Outwards** 

**Left Side of Property Outwards** 



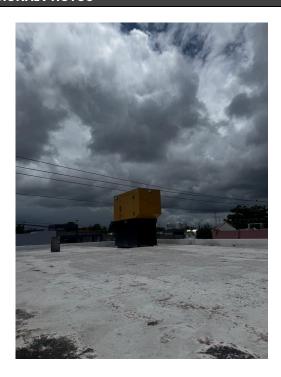


Right Side of Property | Arrow use for reference since there Right Side of Property | Arrow use for reference since there is no space between applicant property and neighbor is no space between applicant property and neighbor





AST AST



**AST | New Generator** 



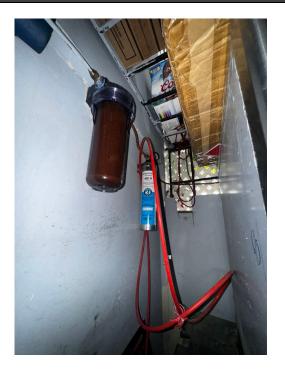
AST | This generator belongs to neighbor's property |
Located at Rear of the property



55 – Gallon Drum



55 – Gallon Drum



**New Water Lines & Filters** 



**New Water Lines & Filters** 



Ice Machine | Applicant doesn't have photos of the area prior water lines installment.



Ice Machine



Applicant didn't have a photo of the roof prior generator installment | This is as reference from google earth.

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

Friday, May 30, 2025

### Lauren B Poche

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

SHPO-CF-05-28-25-10 PRDOH CDBG-DR\_SBF Program\_20250528\_ 1 Case NHPA

Dear Ms. Poche,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/ EVR





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



May 28, 2025

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

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

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal – One (1) Non-Historic Case with Improvements – *No Historic Properties Affected* 

#### Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

On February 9, 2018, an allocation of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds was approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 28, 83 FR 5844, to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in meeting unmet needs in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. On August 14, 2018, an additional \$8.22 billion recovery allocation was allocated to Puerto Rico under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 157, 83 FR 40314. With these funding allocations, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) aims to lead a comprehensive and transparent recovery for the benefit of Puerto Rico residents. To faithfully comply with HUD's environmental requirements, the PRDOH contracted Horne Federal, LLC (HORNE) to provide environmental records review services that will support their objectives for CDBG-DR.

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



MUNICIPALITY CASE ID		STREET ADDRESS						
San Juan	PR-SBF-00562	219 Calle Eleanor Roosevelt						

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

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

Kindest regards,

Lauren Bair Poche, MA

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager

LBP/EA

**Attachments** 



PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

CDBG-DR SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING (SBF) PROGRAM

IMPROVEMENTS TO NON-HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP), AND NEITHER ADJACENT TO NOR LOCATED WITHIN AN ELIGIBLE OR LISTED NRHP HISTORIC DISTRICT

SUBMITTAL DATE: MAY 28, 2025 - 1 CASE

CASE OF THE STATE OF TH

			PROPERTY INFORMATION						NATIONAL REGIS	TER ELIGIBILITY							
	UNICPALITY	CASE ID	STREET ADDRESS	PARCEL ID	LATITUDE	LONGITUD	PROPOSED WORK	PHOTO (CURRENT AERIAL IMAGERY AND UP TO 3 PHOTOS: FRONT, RIGHT, LEFT)		KEY E VERIFIED BY GOOGLE EART USGS	THE PRO APPLAL PHOTO AND	PROOH ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION	SHPO CONCURRENCE (SHPO USE ONLY)	PRDOH EFFECT DETERMINATION	SHPO CONCURRENCE (SHPO USE ONLY)	PRDOH COMMENTS	SHPO COMMENTS
5	Juan	PR-58F-00562	219 Calle Eleanor Roosevelt	063-041-135-46-001	18.420507	-66.060993	installation of new generator on roof of business and new ice machine with new water lines and filters.		https://maps.app.goo.gl hr/ls/Gydkr/ZnhovkCiii	Building is prese on 1967 cerial ca. 1965 imagery, but not on 1962 cerial imagery.	ant to the state of the state o	ineligible	Select Eligibity	No Historic Properties Affected	Select Effect	Prepared by Efzabeth Atláns, M.A. on 5/23/2025.	

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CaseID
         Registry II PGM SYS ID
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- PR-SBF-0( 1.1E+11 PRC200400166

Name	Location Municipio	_atitude
SUPREME QUALITY CLEANERS	208 AVENIDA ELEAN	
CELIA'S LAUNDRY	247 ELEANOR ROOS	18.42004
CELIA'S LAUNDRY	247 ELEANOR ROOS	18.42004
PARQUE GANDARA	PARQUE JOSE NAR(	18.4223
PARQUE GANDARA	PARQUE JOSE NAR(	18.4223
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL PLAZA, ETHYLENE GLYCOL RELEAS	250 MUNOZ RIVERA	18.42135
LABORATORIO DE PATOLOGIA DR NOY	123 RODRIGO DE TF	
BISMARCK TRADING INC	211 CALLE O'NEILL	18.42243
INDUSTRIAL LECHERA DE PUERTO RICO INC	209 CALLE O'NEILL	18.42258
INDUSTRIAL LECHERA DE PUERTO RICO INC	209 CALLE O'NEILL	18.42258
INDUSTRIAL LECHERA DE PUERTO RICO INC	209 CALLE O'NEILL	18.42258
FERNANDEZ GARCIA CLINIC	MUNOZ RIVERA & RO	
ORGANIZATIONAL MAINT SHOP #6	ROOSEVELT AVE	18.42345
CVS PHARMACY #10314	374 AVE PONCE DE	
FEDERAL PARKING GARAGE (CONSTRUCTION PROJECT)	CHARDON STREET #	
FEDERAL PARKING GARAGE (CONSTRUCTION PROJECT)	CHARDON STREET #	
FUTURE ATLANTIS CONDOMINIUM	404 PONCE DE LEON	
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF PR	377 PONCE DE LEON	
TROPICOLOR PUERTA DE TIERRA	406 PONCE DE LEON	
ABILIO AUTO AIRE	372 AVE PONCE DE	18.4224
CHICO SHELL SERVICE STATION	359 PONCE DE LEON	
CHICO SHELL SERVICE STATION TISCHER & CO INC	359 PONCE DE LEON 362 PONCE DE LEON	
HOSPITAL PAVIA	431 PONCE DE LEON	
UNION ASSET MANAGEMENT	416 AVE PONCE DE	
SHELL CO PR LTD SHELL SS 0124 GARAJE BER	351 AVE PONCE DE	
UNIV OF PUERTO RICO	431 PONCE DE LEON	
UNIV OF PUERTO RICO	431 PONCE DE LEON	
UNIV OF PUERTO RICO	431 PONCE DE LEON	
EDUCLEAN INC	110 CALLE LOAIZA C	
ASOCIACION MAESTROS DE PUERTO RICO	452 AVE PONCE DE	
INDULAC	AVE CARLOS CHARI	
AUTORIDAD PARA EL FINANCIAMIENTO DE LA INFRAESTRUCTU		
INDUSTRIA LECHERA DE PR, INC	198 CHARDON AVE.	
AEELA MAIN BLDG HATO REY	459 PONCE DE LEON	_
FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND CLEMENTE RUIZ		
FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND CLEMENTE RUIZ		
FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND CLEMENTE RUIZ		
FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND CLEMENTE RUIZ	150 CARLOS CHARD	18.42469
CARIBE VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ( PASEO CARIBE	PONCE DE LEON AV	18.41806
SHELL CO PR LTD SS 804975 MARTIN PENA	PONCE DE LEON AV	
DRY CLEAN USA	15 CALLE CARLOS F	18.42457
TROPICOLOR LBA	268 PONCE DE LEON	18.42508
CHASE MANHATTAN BANK NA THE	254 MUNOZ RIVERA	18.42593
INDULAC	198 CHARDON AVEN	18.42359
INDULAC	198 CHARDON AVEN	18.42359
SHELL CO PR LTD SS 0787 REGIS SVC CTR	DOMENECH AVE & F	18.41464
DOMENECH PATHOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY	255 CALLE MANUEL	18.41446

FIREYE - ROCKWELL INTL	277 TENIETE CESAR	18.42207
DELTA MAINTENANCE SERVICES INC	250 AVE PONCE DE	18.42602
UNIVERSIDAD DEL SAGRADO CORAZON	STOP 25.5 PONCE D	18.42608
ALLIED MANAGEMENT	255 AVE PONCE DE	18.42608
TEXACO PR INC - PONCE DE LEON SS	510 AVE PONCE DE	18.41669
BORINQUEN PETROLEUM	429 PADRE RUFO S1	18.42002
NATION WIDE INSURANCE CO	16 MEXICO STREET	18.42501
PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTH	208 LUIS MUNOZ RI\	18.427
PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTH	208 LUIS MUNOZ RI\	18.427
COLISEO ROBERTO CLEMENTE	AVE FD ROOSEVELT	18.419
PRIDCO PROJECT L-091-0-52 LOTS 1, 2 & 3	AVE. FD ROOSEVEL	18.4205
PRIDCO PROJECT L-091-0-52 LOTS 1, 2 & 3	AVE. FD ROOSEVEL	18.4205
BANCO POPULAR OF PR	209 AVENIDA JUAN F	18.4271
BANCO POPULAR OF PR	209 AVENIDA JUAN F	18.4271
POLICIA DE PUERTO RICO	ROOSEVELT AVE #1	18.42468
BANCO POPULAR HATO REY CAMPUS - BRIDGE SITE	204 MUNOZ RIVERA	18.4275
BANCO POPULAR HATO REY CAMPUS - BRIDGE SITE	204 MUNOZ RIVERA	18.4275
BANCO POPULAR HATO REY CAMPUS - BRIDGE SITE	204 MUNOZ RIVERA	18.4275
BANCO POPULAR HATO REY CAMPUS - BRIDGE SITE	204 MUNOZ RIVERA	18.4275
NEXT DAY SIGNS INC	551 PONCE DE LEON	18.41581
TELEMUNDO OF PR	383 FD ROOSEVELT	18.42103
COMISION ESTATAL DE ELECCIONES	383 AVE FD ROOSE\	
COMPANIA PETROLERA CARIBE INC	530 PONCE DE LEON	18.41557
HATO REY PATHOLOGY ASSOCIATES INC	300 MANUEL DOMEN	
DIFFERENT CLEANERS	AVE. F. ROOSEVELT	18.42426
STYLING GARAGE	24 GUAYAMA ST	18.41609
EDP UNIVERSITY	560 AVENIDA JUAN F	18.41509
AUTOCENTRO TOYOTA	MUNOZ RIVERA AVE	
AQUABLUE TOWERS	50 AVE LUIS MUÑOZ	18.43051

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827.6683	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	Л
827.6683	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	Л
1048.074	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	И
1368.716	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	И
1381.964	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	И
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1439.862	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	Л
1447.423	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	Л
1516.304	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	И
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1545.603	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	И
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1629.005	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	И
1629.005	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	И
1629.005	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	M Clears on distance
1693.518	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	
1797.534	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	И
1854.776	No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM	И
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2146.908		7/13/2025, 8:00 PN	
2239.247		7/13/2025, 8:00 PN	
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0044 000 14	=/40/000= 000 ====
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2279.467 No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM
2295.27 No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM
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2790.011 No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM
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2907.206 No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM
3658.735 No	7/13/2025, 8:00 PM
3030.733 NO	11 13/2023, 0.00 PM

# 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 Milligation (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 milligation 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

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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CDBG-DR/MIT Program
Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerto Rico
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Reports and assessments – Any reports, studies, or assessments your agency has produced or commissioned that address radon testing or miligation.

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<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 ( nez Rodfiguez, Esq.

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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.

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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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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

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Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel. (787) 274-2527 | <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/noses/21365">https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/noses/21365</a> San Juan, PR 00928-1365



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

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Sincerely.

Ladriguez Rodriguez, Esq.

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

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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



Bubble Dynamics Lab



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

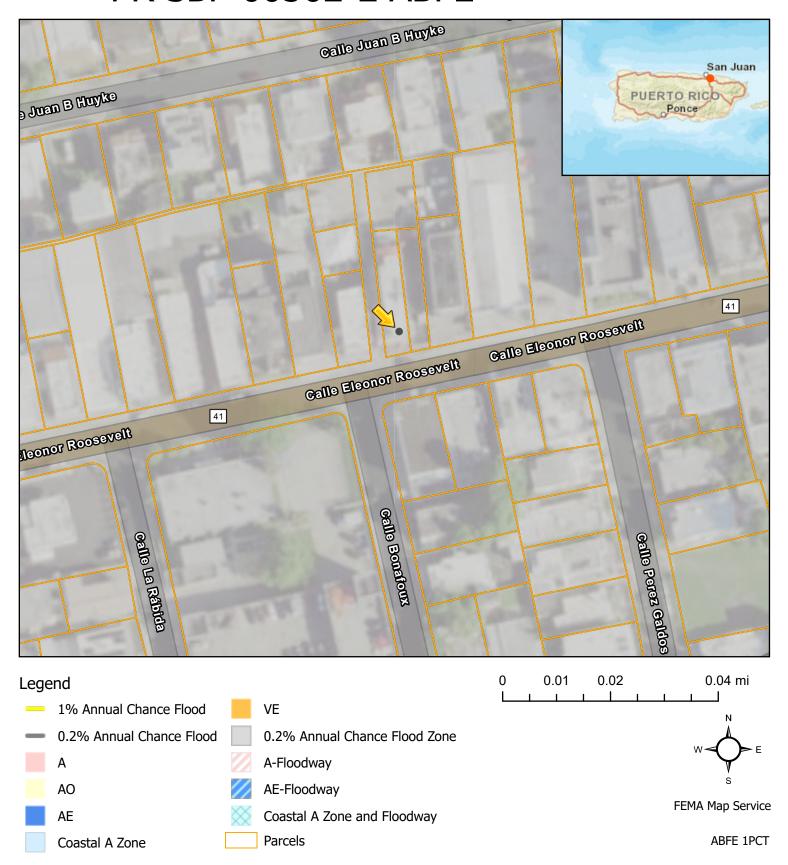
Roberto Mendez, Esq (Acting Secretary, PR Department of Natural and Env. Resources)

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.

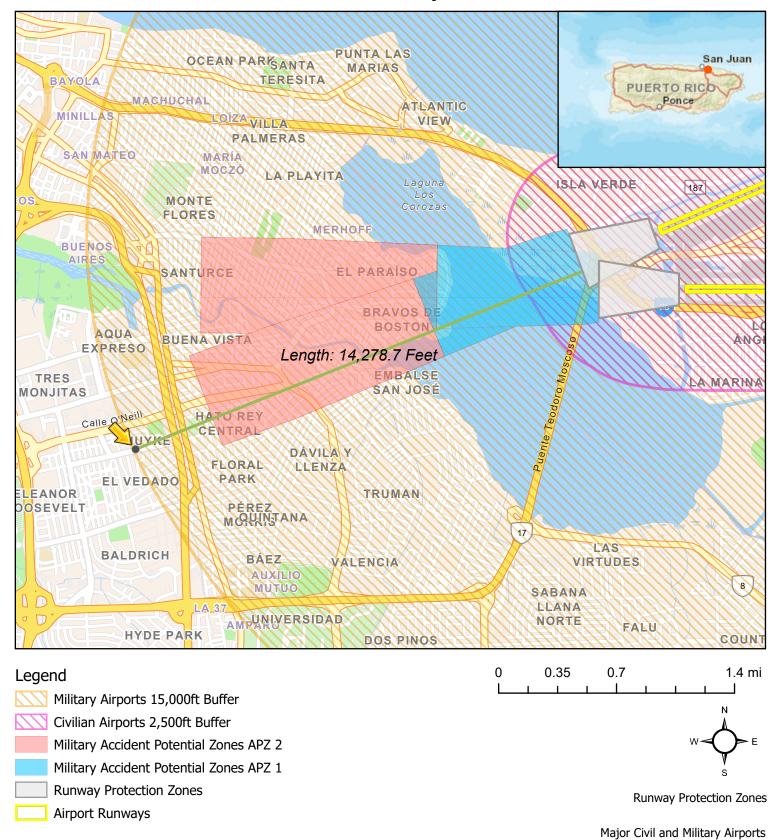


## PR-SBF-00562-E ABFE





## PR-SBF-00562-E Airports





### PR-SBF-00562-E CBRS



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program



## PR-SBF-00562-E CZM



Coastal Zone Management Act



## PR-SBF-00562-E ESA



**Endangered Species Habitat** 

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Farmland dataset



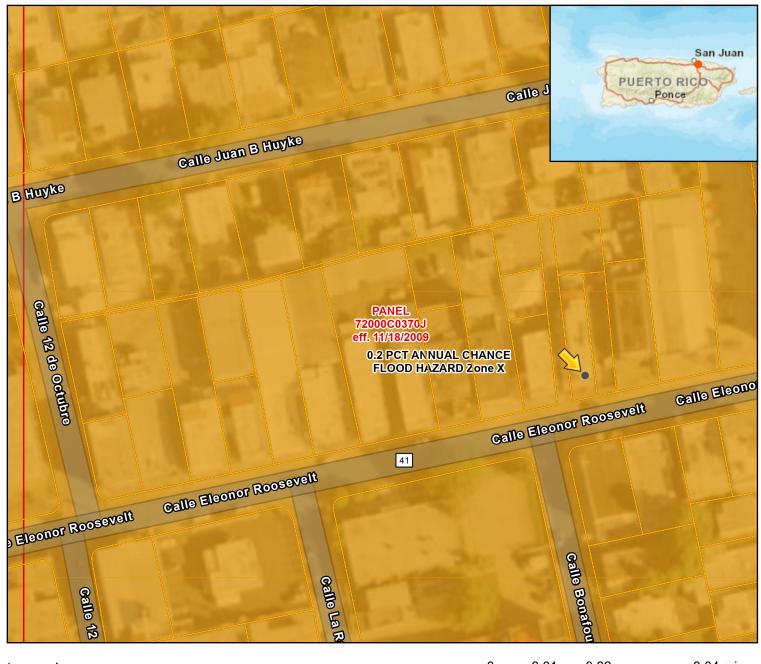
## PR-SBF-00562-E Farmlands



https://arcgis.horne.com/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=883eb165a91d411996af67b92f45a429 7/14/2025 9:22 AM



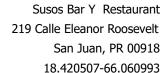
## PR-SBF-00562-E FIRM





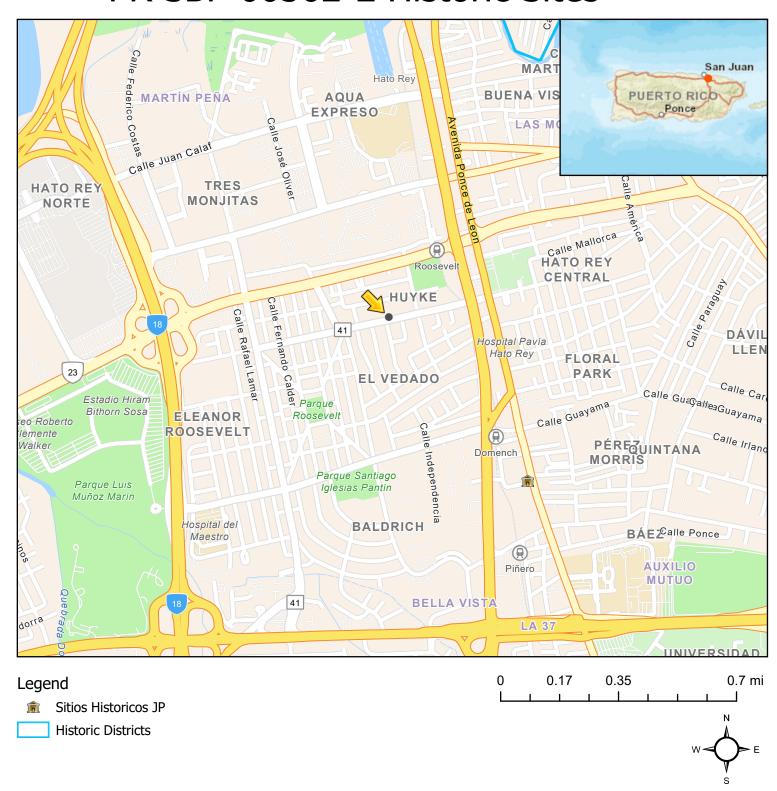
FEMA Map Service

Flood Insurance Rate Maps





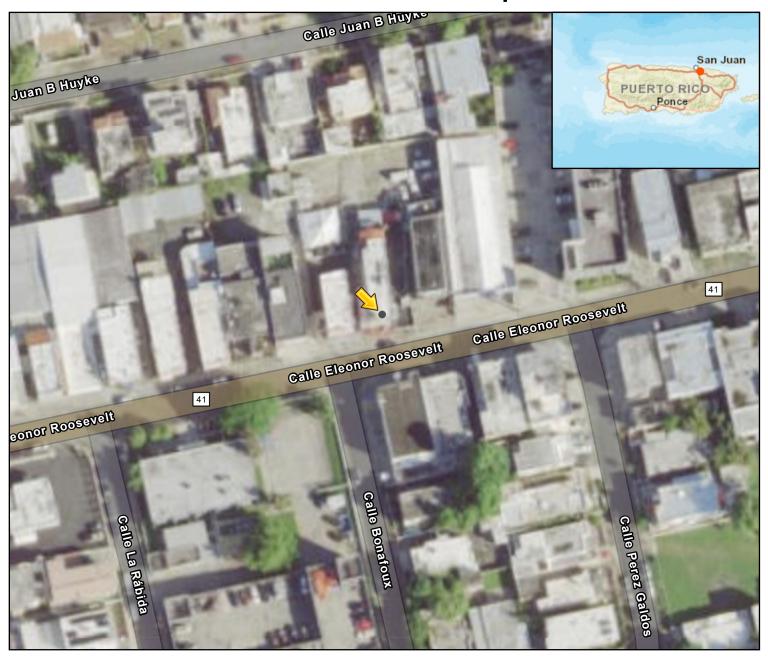
### PR-SBF-00562-E Historic Sites

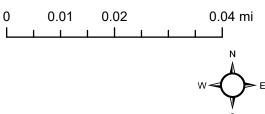


https://arcgis.home.com/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=883eb165a91d411996af67b92f45a429 https://sigejp.pr.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b36c00df6e064b6a8f70a6593cf64b7e https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466



# PR-SBF-00562-E Site Map





























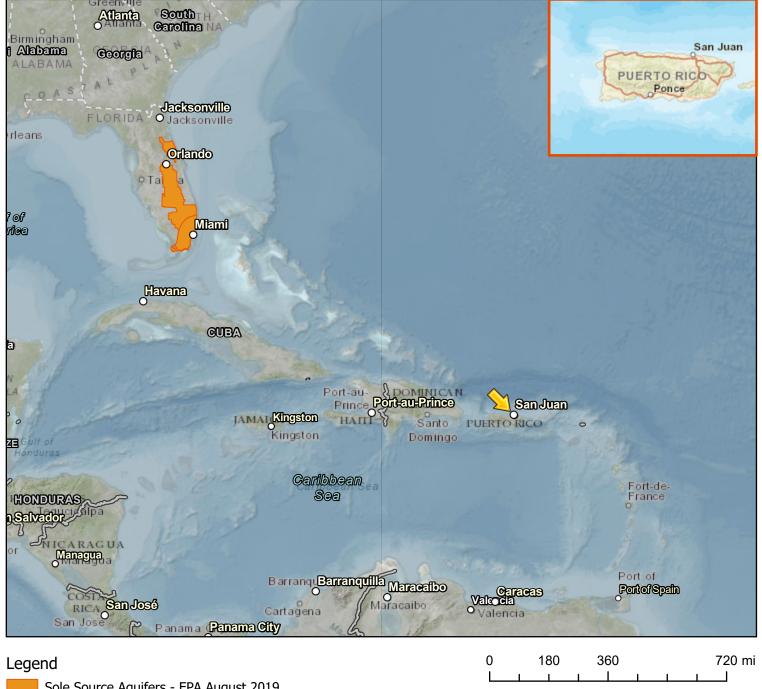








### PR-SBF-00562-E SSA



Sole Source Aguifers - EPA August 2019

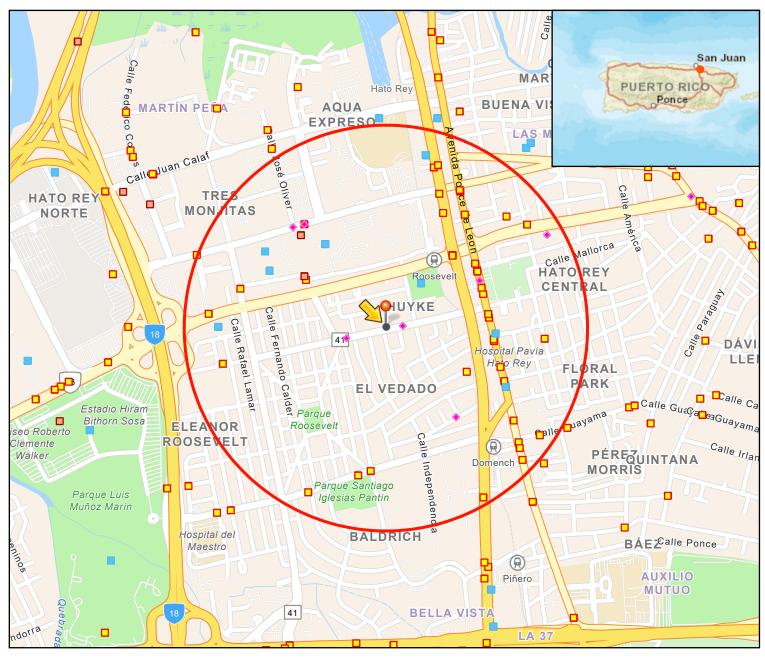


Sole Source Aquifers

**EPA** 

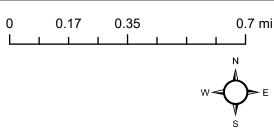


## PR-SBF-00532-E Toxic Sites



#### Legend

- Hazardous waste
- Air pollution
- Water dischargers
- Toxic releases



**Envirofacts Facility Locations** 

**EPA** 



## PR-SBF-00562-E Wetlands



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



## PR-SBF-00562-E Wetlands



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



## PR-SBF-00562-E WSR



National Wild and Scenic River System

National Park Service