Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5

Pursuant to 24 CFR 58.35(a)

Project Information

Project ID: PR-RGRW-00053

Project Name: SLJ Farm Corporation

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico / Yabucoa, PR

Preparer: Blas Guernica

Certifying Officer Name and Title: María T. Torres Bregón, Permit and Environmental Compliance Officer

Consultant: HORNE LLP

Project Location:

Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Veteranos

18.0728 -65.8217

353-000-010-50-000 and 353-000-009-17-000

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

The grant funds will be used to acquire farmland. The farm has been used in the past to grow plantains and graze livestock such as cows, sheep, and goats. The farm is currently used to grow plantains, but there are plans to return livestock grazing in the future. The size of the farm parcel is approximately 105 acres, but only 15 acres are used. The structure was built circa 1977. There will be no ground disturbance and the footprint will not be increased.

Level of Environmental Review Determination:

☑ Categorical Exclusion Subject to 58.5

Determination for Activities 24 CFR 58.35(a)

58.35(a) (1). Acquisition, repair, improvement, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of public facilities and improvements (other than buildings) when the facilities and improvements are in place and will be retained in the same use without change in size or capacity of more than 20 percent (e.g., replacement of water or sewer lines, reconstruction of curbs and sidewalks, repaving of streets);
58.35(a) (2). Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of and accessibility to elderly and handicapped persons;
58.35(a) (3). Rehabilitation of buildings and improvements when the following conditions are met:
58.35(a) (3) (i)In the case of a building for residential use (with one to four units), the density is not increased beyond four units, the land use is not changed, and the footprint of the building is not increased in a floodplain or in a wetland;
58.35(a) (3) (ii). In the case of multifamily residential buildings: (A) Unit density is not changed more than 20 percent; (B) The project does not involve changes in land use from residential to non-residential; and (C) The estimated cost of rehabilitation is less than 75 percent of the total estimated cost of replacement after rehabilitation.
 58.35(a) (3) (iii). In the case of non-residential structures, including commercial, industrial, and public buildings: (A) The facilities and improvements are in place and will not be changed in size or capacity by more than 20 percent; AND (B) The activity does not involve a change in land use, such as from non-residential to residential, commercial to industrial, or from one industrial use to another.
58.35(a) (4) (i) An individual action on up to four dwelling units where there is a maximum of four units on any one site. The units can be four one-unit buildings or one four-unit building or any combination in between; or
58.35(a)(4)(ii) An individual action on a project of five or more housing units developed on scattered sites when the sites are more than 2,000 feet apart and there are not more than four housing units on any one site. 58.35(a) (iii) Paragraphs (a) (4) (i) and (ii) of this section do not apply to rehabilitation of a building for residential use (with one to four units) (see paragraph (a) (3) (i) of this section).
58.35(a) (5). Acquisition (including leasing) or disposition of, or equity loans on an existing structure, or acquisition (including leasing) of vacant land provided that the structure or land acquired, financed, or disposed of will be retained for the same use.
58.35(a) (6). Combinations of the above activities.

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001	CDBG-DR Re-Grow Puerto	\$0.00
B-18-DP-72-0001	Rico Urban-Rural	\$ 149,000.00
	Agriculture Program	

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$149,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$149,000.00

Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

ComplianceFactors:Statutes, Executive Orders,and Regulations listed at 24CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	This project is in compliance with the HUD's Airport Hazard regulations without further evaluation. The site is located 79,579 feet from the nearest airport. See the attached Airport map.
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. The project is located 3,715 feet northwest of the nearest CBRS. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. See the attached CBRS map.
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 72000C1805J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is located in a FEMA- designated Special Flood Hazard Area. The community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the

			National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. With flood insurance the project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND RE	GULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes	No X	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 Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes	No	Based on the project description the project does not include any activities that would affect a Coastal Zone. The CZMP authority applies to new construction, conversion, major rehabilitation, and substantial improvement activities, none of which take place in this project. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. See the attached CZMA map.
ContaminationandToxicSubstances24CFRPart50.3(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. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes	No	This project will have No Effect on listed species due to the nature of the activities involved in the project. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The project is 17,245 feet from the nearest endangered species critical habitat.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards	Yes	No 🛛	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this

24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C		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 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 is located in a 100-year floodplain. The 5-Step Process is applicable per 55.12(a)(1-4). With the 5- Step Process the project will be in compliance with Executive Order 11988. The project does not require elevation because it is not substantial rehabilitation or construction.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	Based on the project description, consultation with the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is not required. This property is not considered historic or contributing to an historic district. Therefore, this activity is in compliance. See the attached historic map. Based on the project description the project is covered by a Programmatic Agreement that includes an applicable exemption that exempts this project from the requirements of Section 106. Stipulation I.A.7.i - Funding the administrative action of acquisition or lease of existing facilities where planned uses conform to past use or local land use requirements. Stipulation I.A.7.j Funding the administrative action of acquiring properties in acquisition projects, including the real estate transaction https://www.hudexchange.info/sites/onecpd/assets/ File/PR-FEMA-Prototype-2019-PA-Section-106.pdf

		Structure was built circa 1977.
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	There are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with this citation without further evaluation.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No	Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. See the attached Wetlands map.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The project is located 60,375 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes No	Based on the scope of work for this project, there will be no additional impact on low-income or minority residents. This proposed activity will not have a negative impact on Environmental Justice. Therefore, the proposed activity complies with this section.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by): Not applicable.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions:

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

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
	Buyer must purchase flood insurance because the grant exceeds \$10,000 and the site is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

Determination:

- This categorically excluded activity/project converts to Exempt, per 58.34(a)(12) because there are no circumstances which require compliance with any of the federal laws and authorities cited at §58.5. Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
- This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt because there are circumstances which require compliance with one or more federal laws and authorities cited at §58.5. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, **publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds"** (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR
- This project is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).

Preparer: Blas Guernica

Signature:

Date: 10/04/22

Name/Title/Organization: Blas Guernica / Environmental Associate/ HORNE LLP

ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:

Date: Oct. 25, 2022

Nome/Title: María T. Torres Bregón, CDBG-DR Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

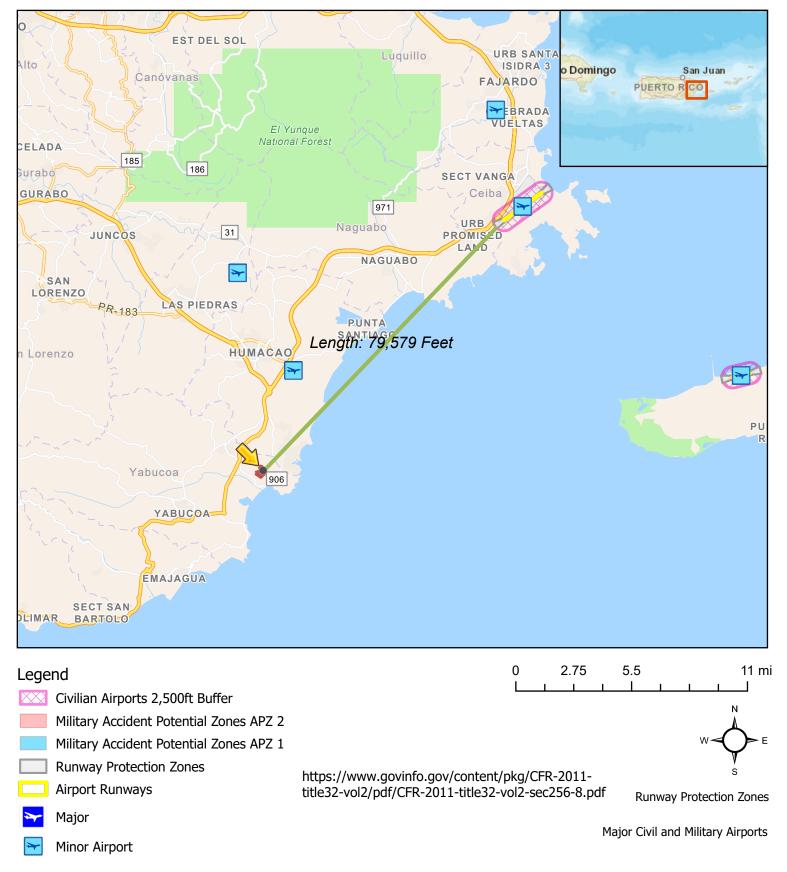
This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s). Figures



Department of Housing

SLJ Farm Corporation Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Yabucoa, PR 00791 353-000-010-50-000

PR-RGRW-00053 Airports

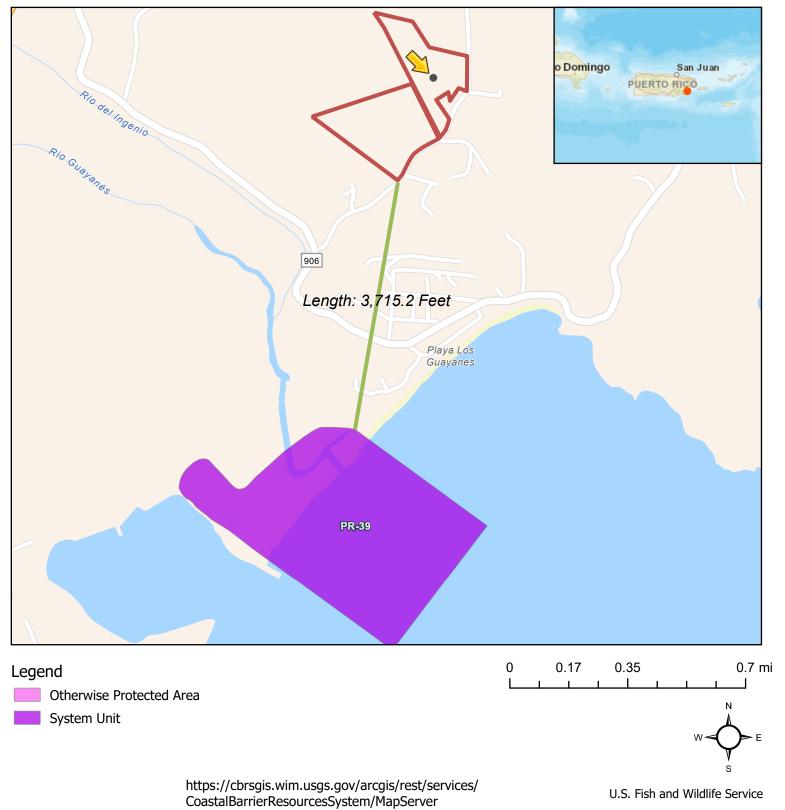




Department of Housing

SLJ Farm Corporation Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Yabucoa, PR 00791 353-000-010-50-000

PR-RGRW-00053 CBRS



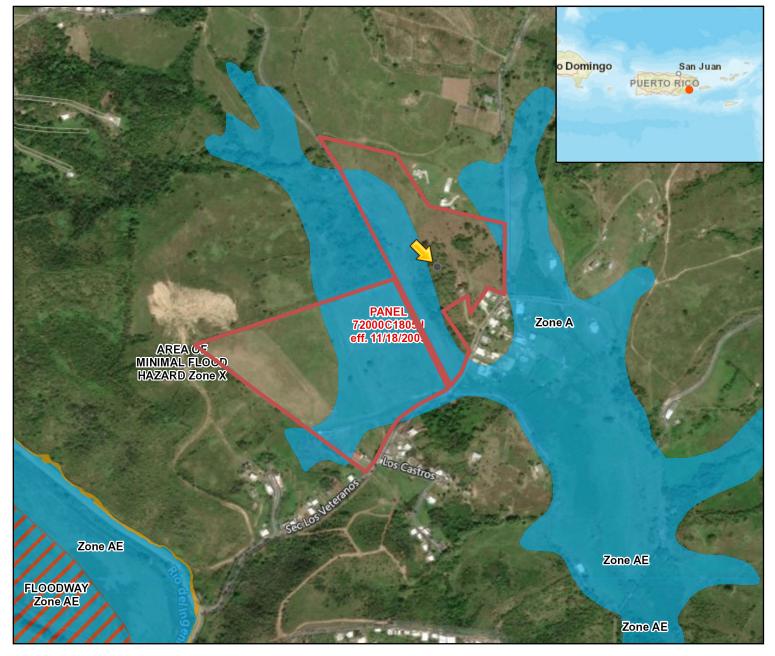
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program



Department of Housing

SLJ Farm Corporation Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Yabucoa, PR 00791 353-000-010-50-000

PR-RGRW-00053 Flood Map



0.3 mi 0 0.07 0.15 Legend 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard **Regulatory Floodway** Special Floodway Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard **FEMA Map Service** Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Flood Insurance Rate Maps Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee https://hazards.fema.gov/gis/nfhl/rest/services/public/ FEMA Floodzone Panels - Effective NFHL/MapServer

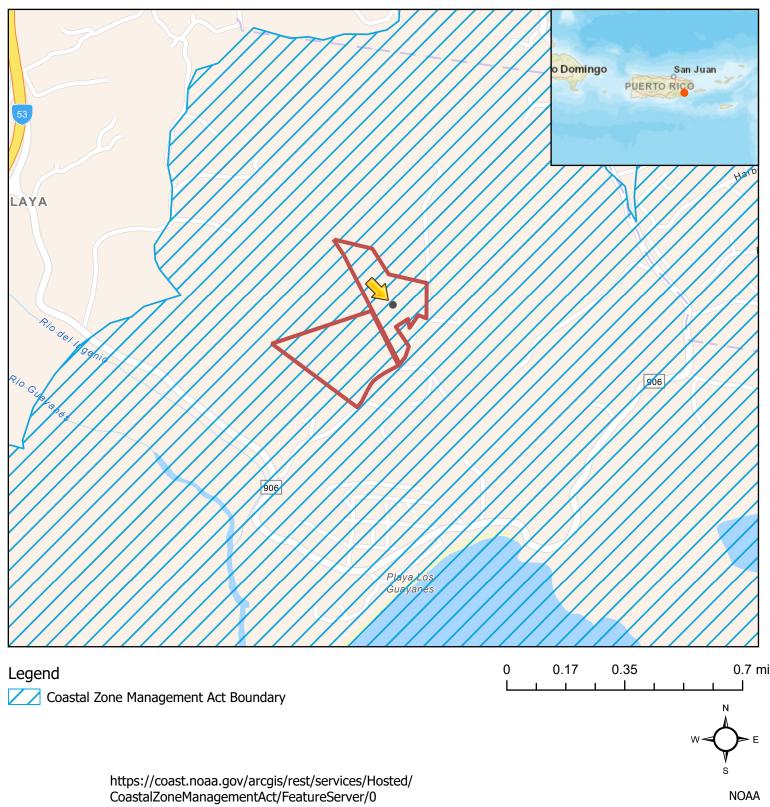
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Department of Housing

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PR-RGRW-00053 CZM



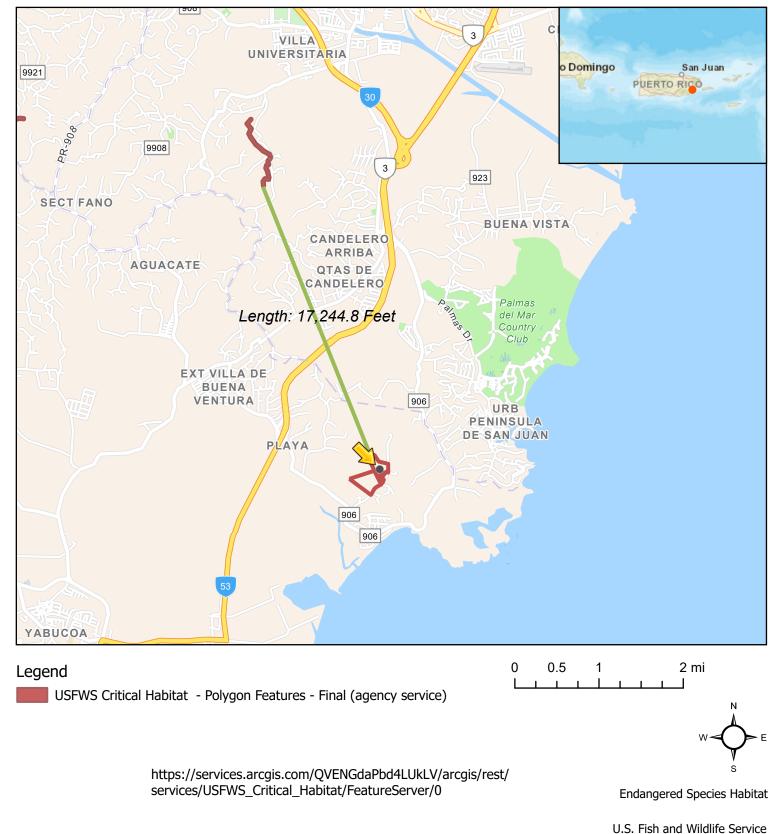
Coastal Zone Management Act



Department of Housing

SLJ Farm Corporation Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Yabucoa, PR 00791 353-000-010-50-000

PR-RGRW-00053 ESA





Department of Housing

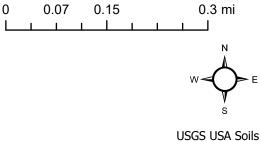
SLJ Farm Corporation Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Yabucoa, PR 00791 353-000-010-50-000

PR-RGRW-00053 Farmland



Legend

Prime Farmland
Farmland of Local Importance
Farmland of Statewide Importance
Farmland of Unique Importance
Not Prime Farmland



ESRI Living Atlas https://www.arcgis.com/home/ item.html?id=9708ede640c640aca1de362589e60f46

Farmland dataset

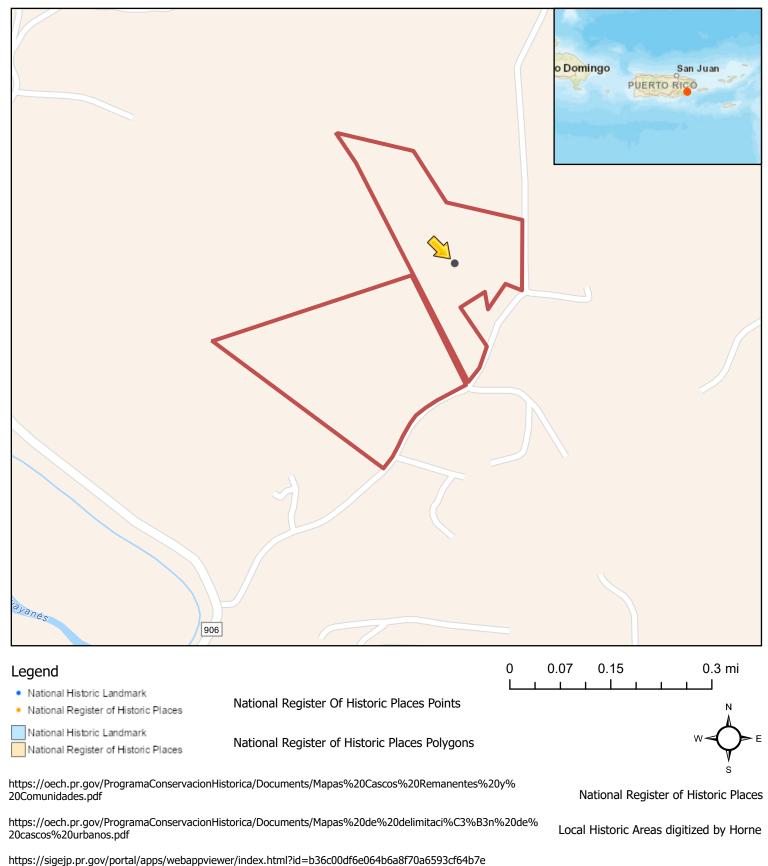
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Department of Housing

SLJ Farm Corporation Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Yabucoa, PR 00791 353-000-010-50-000

PR-RGRW-00053 Historic

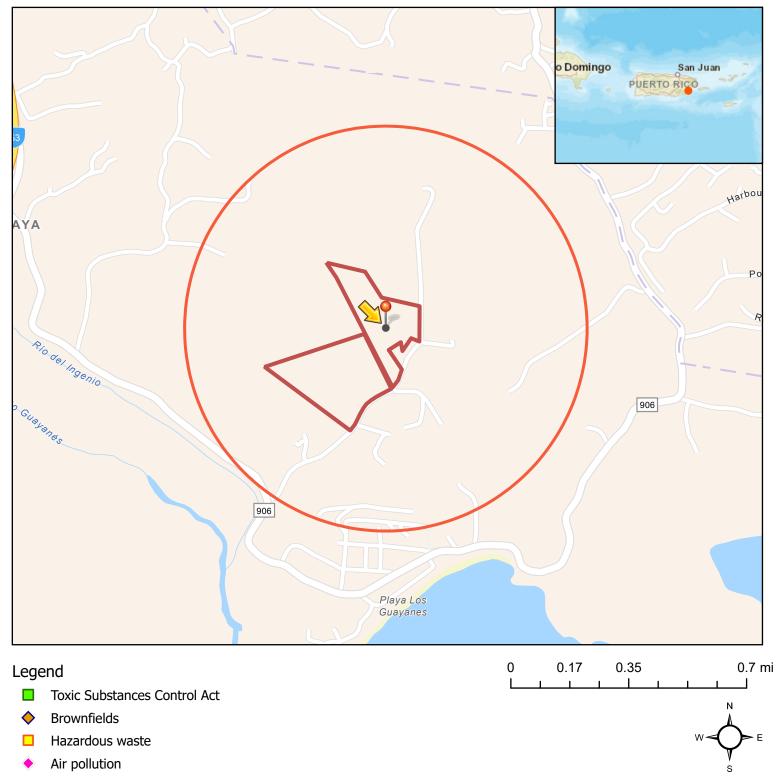




Department of Housing

SLJ Farm Corporation Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Yabucoa, PR 00791 353-000-010-50-000

PR-RGRW-00053 Toxics



- Water dischargers
- Toxic releases
- https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/EMEF/ efpoints/MapServer

O Superfund

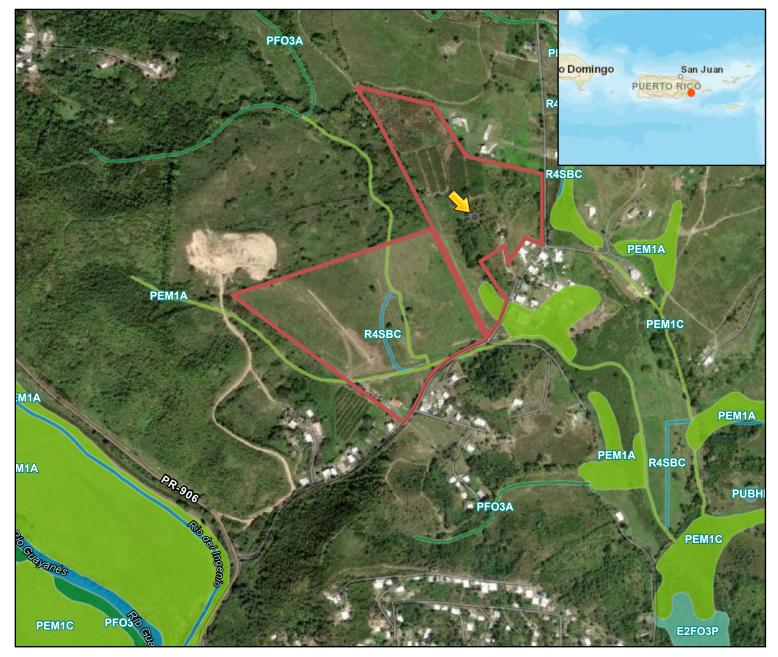
Envirofacts Facility Locations

EPA



Department of Housing

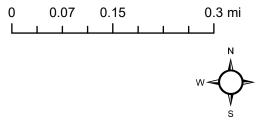
PR-RGRW-00053 Wetlands



Legend

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Riverine

Estuarine and Marine Wetland



National Wetlands Inventory

https://www.fws.gov/wetlandsmapservice/ rest/services/Wetlands/MapServer U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Department of Housing

SLJ Farm Corporation Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Yabucoa, PR 00791 353-000-010-50-000

PR-RGRW-00053 WSR



National Park Service

3/mar20/2022

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

DEPARTAMENTO DE AGRICULTURA DE PUERTO RICO PROGRAMA RENACER AGRÍCOLA DE PUERTO RICO – AGRICULTURA URBANA Y RURAL FORMULARIO SOBRE USO PREVISTO DE LOS FONDOS

Yo, Sheila Limary Ponce Rodríguez representante autorizado/a para el negocio SLI Farm Corporation, con el Caso Número PR-RGRW-00053 para el Programa Renacer Agrícola de Puerto Rico – Agricultura Urbana y Rural (Programa Renacer Agrícola), por la presente reconozco que fondos de subvención por la suma de \$149,000.00 se usarán de conformidad con el uso de fondos descrito a continuación.

Además, reconozco que, como parte del proceso de revisión de recibos, el Formulario sobre Uso Previsto de los Fondos será comparado con los recibos recopilados para verificar el cumplimiento con la información provista en dicho formulario.

Uso Previsto de los Fondos	Descripción	Total \$	Iniciales	
Compra Solar #3, 5.61cdas	Land (Regrow Only)	\$51,000.00	SPIZ	
Compra Solar #4, 5.47cdas	Land (Regrow Only)	\$49,000.00	SPR	
Compra solar #6, 5.02cdas	Land (Regrow Only)	\$49,000.00	SPR	

\$149,000.00 Total de Uso Previsto de los

Fondos

Además, reconozco y enfiendo que:

- El incumplimiento con el uso previsto de los fondos descrito en este Formulario podría requerir el pago de los fondos al Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico (DA).
- Los fondos del Programa Renacer Agrícola solo pueden ser utilizados para actividades elegibles y el uso permitido de los fondos, según se establece en las Guías del Programa Renacer Agrícola.
- El Formulario sobre Uso Previsto de los Fondos será revisado por el equipo del Programa Renacer Agrícola y, si es aprobado, será el formulario oficial que se utilizará durante el proceso de revisión de los recibos.

Sheila Limary Ponce Rodriguez Sheila Longuy Ponu Earlinguez [Representante Autorizado]

[Representante Autorizado

Nombre

Signature

Ave. Manuel Fernandez Juncos, Edificio 1309, San Juca Shor Tel. (787)721-2120 | https://www.agriculture.com

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

Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture (Re-Grow) Program Project No. PR-RGRW-00053 SLJ Farm Corporation

Step 1: Determine whether the action is located in a 100-year floodplain (or a 500-year floodplain for critical actions).

The proposed project is intended to purchase land as part of the Economic Development portion of the CDBG-DR grant. The purchase is intended to expand agricultural capability for the farm. The project is located at Carr 906 km 6.7 Bo. Playa Guayanes Sector Los Veteranos, Yabucoa, PR 00791. The Tax Parcel ID of the site is 353-000-010-50-000. The Latitude is 18.0728 and the Longitude is -65.8217. The project is located partially within the 100-year floodplain. The property is shown as being within Zone A on the Official Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel no. 72000C1805J, effective November 18, 2009.

Executive Order (EO) 11988 within HUD Regulations 24 CFR Part 55 details floodplain management. The purpose of EO 11988 is "to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative." The project is located within the 100-year floodplain and for this reason, EO 11988 applies. The subject unit occupies 1,254,591 square feet of the floodplain. An evaluation of direct and indirect impacts associated with construction, occupancy, and modification of the floodplain is required.

The project is acquisition of farmland. The acquisition is not considered substantial improvement in accordance with 24 CFR 55.2 nor is the footprint of a structure/paved area increased; therefore, per 24 CFR 55.12(a)(3), public notification of the proposed activity (Step 2), identification and evaluation of practicable alternatives (Step 3) and the determination of no practicable alternative and publication of a final notice (Step 7) do not need to be conducted.

Step 2: Notify the public for early review of the proposal and involve the affected and interested public in the decision-making process.

The project is acquisition of farmland. The acquisition is not considered substantial improvement and a building's footprint is not being increased; therefore, per 24 CFR 55.12(a)(3), public notification of the proposed activity (Step 2 of the 8-Step Process) does not need to be conducted.

Step 3: Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating in the base floodplain.

The project is acquisition of farmland. A structure is not undergoing substantial improvement nor having its footprint increased, therefore, per 24 CFR 55.12(a)(3), identification and evaluation of practicable alternatives to the proposed activity (Step 3 of the 8-Step Process) does not need to be conducted.

Step 4: Identify Potential Direct and Indirect Impacts of Associated with Floodplain Development.

The HUD-funded Re-Grow program is intended to provide economic stimulus to farms for economic development. HUD's regulations limit what actions can be considered under the Re-Grow program, including prohibition of any construction in the floodway. Descriptions of the potential impacts from the proposed action is below:

• Option A (Proposed Action) – This option would involve acquisition of farmland. A building is not undergoing substantial improvement nor is its footprint being increased; therefore, elevation is not required. The proposal does include acquisition of farmland with no ground disturbance.

Step 5: Where practicable, design or modify the proposed action to minimize the potential adverse impacts to lives, property, and natural values within the floodplain and to restore, and preserve the values of the floodplain.

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

Step 6: Reevaluate the Proposed Action.

Option A would involve acquisition of farmland. This option would not adversely impact the floodplain and would help the farm benefit as part of the economic recovery needed because of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. This meets the program goals of revitalizing and supporting the economic development and recovery of Puerto Rico.

Step 7: Determination of No Practicable Alternative.

The project is acquisition off farmland. A structure is not undergoing substantial improvement nor is its footprint expanding; therefore, per 24 CFR 55.12(a)(3), the determination of no practicable alternative and publication of a final notice (Step 7 of the 8-Step Process) does not need to be conducted.

Step 8: Implement the Proposed Action

Step eight is implementation of the proposed action. The PRDOH will ensure that all measures prescribed in the steps above will be followed, as required.