



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

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

Project Information

Project Name: PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE

HEROS Number: 900000010391914

Start Date: 04/11/2024

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , Utuado, PR 00650

Additional Location Information:

Arecibo site - is located at latitude 18.490129, longitude -66.636023 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 013-029-768-13-000 Utuado Site - is located at latitude 18.324220, longitude -66.654274 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 134-000-008-43-000 Yauco Site - is located at latitude 18.153617, longitude -66.849018 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 288-000-003-33-000

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

This project (PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social, an agricultural business, at Arecibo site - Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 Km. 8.5, Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612. Tax ID Number: 013-029-768-13-000. Coordinates (18.490129, -66.636023). Utuado Site - Bo. Limon, Carr. #146, Km. 2.8, Utuado, Puerto Rico 00650. Tax ID Number: 134-000-008-43-000. Coordinates (18.324220, -66.654274). Yauco Site - Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30, Street 374, km. 5 hm 3 Int., Yauco, Puerto Rico 00698. Tax ID Number: 288-000-003-33-000. Coordinates (18.153617, -66.849018). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of farm equipment including fruit trees, seeds, utility trailer, and a UTV for project cost of \$ 35,911.50. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes scope items previously considered as an EA level of review (arborist services, irrigation system, land conditioning, storage warehouses, and greenhouses) which are now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$ 64,088.50. The activities proposed consist of five separate activities on three different parcels. The proposed activities at the Arecibo Site include the installation of two storage warehouses and a greenhouse. The first warehouse will measure 10' x 10' x 6', and the second warehouse will measure 16' x 12' x 10'. Both warehouses will be constructed using 1 1/2-inch-wide galvalume tubes anchored two feet into the ground. The first warehouse will use six tubes, and the second will use eight tubes. The greenhouse will measure 20' x 40' and will be supported by eight metal tubes, also anchored two feet deep. The proposed activities the Utuado Site include the installation of a nursery-type greenhouse measuring 20' x 16'. This greenhouse will be constructed with six metal tubes, each anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the greenhouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of less than one acre, which involves

mowing and road improvement. The proposed activities the Yauco Site include the installation of a storage warehouse measuring 10' x 10' x 10', constructed with four 1 1/2-inch galvalume tubes anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the warehouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of approximately 2 acres, which involves mowing and road clearing and improvement. The project includes the purchase of an irrigation system consisting of hoses, tubes, and pumps. The materials for the irrigation system will be divided between the projects in the municipalities of Arecibo and Utuado. This irrigation system will not be anchored to the ground, with all its pipes installed above ground. Since both locations already have water and electricity services, no new connections will be necessary. The project Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social, PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, CE: #8 - 8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural efforts have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

Level of Environment Review Determination:

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

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Program Name	
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,507,179,000.00
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,932,347,000.00
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 Amount: \$64,088.50

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$64,088.50

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete
Endangered Species Act	(Yauco) Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly will be implemented. As for the bird species, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented. (Utuado) Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly will be implemented. As for the bird species, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented. (Arecibo) No mitigation required	N/A	
Historic Preservation	An archaeologist must conduct a shovel test pit excavation to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources in the project area prior to carrying out the project in Arecibo.	N/A	

Determination:

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

Preparer Signature:  Date: August 28, 2025

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

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:  Date: 9/3/2025

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

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

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

Project Information

Project Name: PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE

HEROS Number: 900000010391914

Start Date: 04/11/2024

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

State / Local Identifier:

RE Preparer: Ricardo Espiet Lopez

Certifying Office
r:

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Ent
ity):

Point of Contact:

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

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

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

Project Location: , Utuaado, PR 00650

Additional Location Information:

Arecibo site - is located at latitude 18.490129, longitude -66.636023 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 013-029-768-13-000 Utuaado Site - is located at latitude 18.324220, longitude -66.654274 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 134-000-008-43-000 Yauco Site - is located at latitude 18.153617, longitude -66.849018 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 288-000-003-33-000

Direct Comments to: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

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

This project (PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE) entails the award of a grant to Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social, an agricultural business, at Arecibo site - Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 Km. 8.5, Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612. Tax ID Number: 013-029-768-13-000. Coordinates (18.490129, -66.636023). Utuaado Site - Bo. Limon, Carr. #146, Km. 2.8, Utuaado, Puerto Rico 00650. Tax ID Number: 134-000-008-43-000. Coordinates (18.324220, -66.654274). Yauco Site - Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30, Street 374, km. 5 hm 3 Int., Yauco, Puerto Rico 00698. Tax ID Number: 288-000-003-33-000. Coordinates (18.153617, -66.849018). This project had an original CENST review which included the purchase of farm equipment including fruit trees, seeds, utility trailer, and a UTV for project cost of \$ 35,911.50. See attached CENST environmental review. This review includes scope items previously considered as an EA level of review (arborist services, irrigation system, land conditioning, storage warehouses, and greenhouses) which are now evaluated as CEST level of review in accordance with FR-6492-N-01 with a project cost of \$ 64,088.50. The activities proposed consist of five separate activities on three different parcels. The proposed activities at the Arecibo Site include the installation of two storage warehouses and a greenhouse. The first warehouse will measure 10' x 10' x 6', and the second warehouse will measure 16' x 12' x 10'. Both warehouses will be constructed using 1 1/2-inch-wide galvalume tubes anchored two feet into the ground. The first warehouse will use six tubes, and the second will use eight tubes. The greenhouse will measure 20' x 40' and will be supported by eight metal tubes, also anchored two feet deep. The proposed activities at the Utuaado Site include the installation of a nursery-type greenhouse measuring 20' x 16'. This greenhouse will be constructed with six metal tubes, each anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the greenhouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of less than one acre, which involves mowing and road improvement. The proposed activities at the Yauco Site include the installation of a storage warehouse measuring 10' x 10' x 10', constructed with four 1 1/2-inch galvalume tubes anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the warehouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of approximately 2 acres, which involves mowing

and road clearing and improvement. The project includes the purchase of an irrigation system consisting of hoses, tubes, and pumps. The materials for the irrigation system will be divided between the projects in the municipalities of Arecibo and Utuaado. This irrigation system will not be anchored to the ground, with all its pipes installed above ground. Since both locations already have water and electricity services, no new connections will be necessary. The project Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social, PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, CE: #8 - 8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural efforts have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

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

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) Site Map.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuaado\) Site Map.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Site Map.pdf](#)

[ReEvaluation Memo .docx](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE IUGF CEST.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326 CENST ERR.pdf](#)

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

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

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE EFOR_Yauco.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE EFOR_Utuaado.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE EFOR_Arecibo.pdf](#)

Level of Environmental Review Determination:

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

Determination:

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

	This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).
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Approval Documents:[02326-SIG-PAGE\(1\).pdf](#)

**7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer
on:**

**7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer
on:**

Reevaluation of a Completed Review

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

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

It was determined that the original findings were still valid.

Statement or memo documenting determination:

The project Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social, PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, CE: #8 - 8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural efforts have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

[ReEvaluation Memo \(1\).docx](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326 CENST ERR\(1\).pdf](#)

[PRDOH Regrow Puerto Rico Program - 5836 Waiver \(002\)\(1\).pdf](#)

[Farm Service Agency Adopted Categorical Exclusions Identified in FR-6492-N-01\(1\).pdf](#)

Funding Information

Grant / Project Identification Number	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,507,179,000.00
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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, Assisted or Insured Amount: \$64,088.50

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$64,088.50

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6		
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Arecibo Site - The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Rafael Hernandez, is located 165,449 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 215,756 ft from the

		<p>project site. Utuado Site - The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Mercedita, is located 116,631 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 225,185 ft from the project site. Yaucao Site - The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Eugenio Maria de Hostos, is located 108,225 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 306,921 ft from the project site. The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.</p>
<p>Coastal Barrier Resources Act Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<p>This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. Arecibo Site is at 21,960 feet from a protected area. Utuado Site is at 56,065 feet from a protected area. Yauco is at 70,051 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.</p>
<p>Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Arecibo Site - Flood Map Number 72000C02235J, effective on 11/18/2009: Utuado Site - Flood Map Number 72000C0610H, effective on 4/19/2005: Yauco Site - Flood Map Number 72000C1065J, 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.</p>
<p>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5</p>		

Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
Coastal Zone Management Act Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Arecibo Site - is located in the Coastal Zone; however, the Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Regrow Puerto Rico Program will have no significant impact on Puerto Rican Coastal Resources and does not require a Federal Consistency Review (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004). Utuado Site - is located 49,167 feet from the coastal zone. Yauco Site - is located 56,503 feet from the coastal zone. This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements. At the time of this review, this section has not been updated in HEROS to include questions regarding radon. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. See attached radon documents.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not occur in a floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipalities of Arecibo, Utuado, and Yauco; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Based on Section 106 consultation the project will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties. Conditions: null. Upon satisfactory implementation of the conditions, which should be monitored, the project is in compliance with Section 106.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this

		section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. Arecibo Site is located 301,260 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. Utuado Site is located 300,012 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. Yauco Site is located 371,573 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
HUD HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS		
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Mitigation Plan	Complete
Endangered Species Act	(Yauco) Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly will be implemented. As for the bird species, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented. (Utuaado) Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly will be implemented. As for the bird species, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented. (Arecibo) No mitigation required	N/A		
Historic Preservation	An archaeologist must conduct a shovel test pit excavation to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources in the project area prior to carrying out the project in Arecibo.	N/A		

Project Mitigation Plan

An archaeologist must conduct a shovel test pit excavation to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources in the project area prior to carrying out the project in Arecibo. (Yauco) Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly will be implemented. As for the bird species, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented. (Utuaado) Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly will be implemented. As for the bird species, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented. (Arecibo) No mitigation required
Should new ground disturbance occur the Karst zone must be evaluated and when necessary DNER must be consulted prior to construction activities.

Supporting documentation on completed measures

APPENDIX A: Related Federal Laws and Authorities

Airport Hazards

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Arecibo Site - The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Rafael Hernandez, is located 165,449 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 215,756 ft from the project site. Utuaado Site - The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Mercedita, is located 116,631 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 225,185 ft from the project site. Yaucao Site - The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Eugenio Maria de Hostos, is located 108,225 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 306,921 ft from the project site. The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) Airports.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuaado\) Airports.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Airports.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Coastal Barrier Resources

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

1. Is the project located in a CBRS Unit?

✓ No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. Arecibo Site is at 21,960 feet from a protected area. Utualdo Site is at 56,065 feet from a protected area. Yauco is at 70,051 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) CBRS.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utualdo\) CBRS.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) CBRS.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Flood Insurance

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

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

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

✓ Yes

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

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) FIRM.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuado\) FIRM.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) FIRM.pdf](#)

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

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

Yes

✓ No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

Arecibo Site - Flood Map Number 72000C02235J, effective on 11/18/2009: Utuado Site - Flood Map Number 72000C0610H, effective on 4/19/2005: Yauco Site - Flood Map Number 72000C1065J, 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

✓ No

Air Quality

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

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

Yes

✓ No

Coastal Zone Management Act

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

Arecibo Site - is located in the Coastal Zone; however, the Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Regrow Puerto Rico Program will have no significant impact on Puerto Rican Coastal Resources and does not require a Federal Consistency Review (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004). Utuado Site - is located 49,167 feet from the coastal zone. Yauco Site - is located 56,503 feet from the coastal zone. This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Supporting documentation

[Resolution JP-2024-004 \(Second Amendment\).pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) CZM.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuado\) CZM.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) CZM.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Contamination and Toxic Substances

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

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

ASTM Phase I ESA

ASTM Phase II ESA

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

☒ None of the above

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

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

2. Were any on-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances 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?)

☒ No

Explain:

Arecibo Site - Based on ECHO reports for the facilities, there is no impact for the intended use of this project. See attached table. Utuado and Yauco Sites - There are no toxic sites within 3,000 feet of the applicant location. The environmental field observation did not note any items of concern. See the attached environmental field observation report. A google earth review of the area shows no visible hazards. The past land use for the last 10-15 year is agricultural.

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[Radon Attachments.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) \(Utuado\) \(Yauco\) Radon Memo.docx](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE EFOR_Yauco\(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) Toxics.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE EFOR_Utuado\(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuado\) Toxics.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE EFOR_Arecibo\(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Toxics.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Toxic Table.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Endangered Species

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Informal Consultation is required

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

✓ Mitigation as follows will be implemented:

(Yauco) Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly will be implemented. As for the bird species, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented.

(Utuado) Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly will be implemented. As for the bird species, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented.

(Arecibo) No mitigation required

No mitigation is necessary.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[USFWS End Species Blanket Clearance Letter_2025.docx](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE IPaC_Arecibo.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Wetlands\(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Site Photos.docx](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Site Map\(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Endangered Species.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE Yauco USFWS Consultation Package PRDOH.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE Utuado USFWS Consultation Package PRDOH.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) USFWS Self-Certification-Form PRDOH.pdf](#)

[20250827_RGRW-02326-W-RE Yauco USFWS Concurrence.pdf](#)

[20250827_RGRW-02326-W-RE Utuado USFWS Concurrence.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Explosive and Flammable Hazards

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

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

☒ No

Yes

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

☒ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

☒ No

Farmlands Protection

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) Farmland.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuado\) Farmland.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Farmland.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Floodplain Management

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

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

- 55.12(c)(3)
- 55.12(c)(4)
- 55.12(c)(5)
- 55.12(c)(6)
- 55.12(c)(7)
- 55.12(c)(8)
- 55.12(c)(9)
- 55.12(c)(10)
- 55.12(c)(11)

☒ None of the above

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

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) FIRM.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuado\) FIRM.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) FIRM.pdf](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplains. The FEMA Map Service Center provides this information in the form of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). For projects in areas not mapped by FEMA, use **the best available information** to determine floodplain information. Include documentation, including a discussion of why this is the best available information for the site.

Does your project occur in a floodplain?

☒ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) ABFE.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuado\) ABFE.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) ABFE.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Historic Preservation

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

Threshold

Is Section 106 review required for your project?

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

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

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

Step 1 – Initiate Consultation

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

- ✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

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

Other Consulting Parties

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

Arecibo Site - Only SHPO was consulted as No Adverse Effect was determined and no Tribal Lands were identified. Utuado and Yauco Sites - Only SHPO was consulted as No Historic Properties Affected was determined and no Tribal Lands were identified.

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

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

Yes

No

Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

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

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

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

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

Additional Notes:

No Historic Properties present within the APE

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

Yes

✓ No

Step 3 –Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

Only properties that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places receive further consideration under Section 106. Assess the effect(s) of the project by applying the

Criteria of Adverse Effect. (36 CFR 800.5)] Consider direct and indirect effects as applicable as per guidance on direct and indirect effects.

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

No Historic Properties Affected

✓ No Adverse Effect

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

Document reason for finding:

After a review of all the documentation, the PRSHPO agrees with your finding that the proposed project with the established conditions, will have no adverse effect upon historic properties: 1. A Phase IA/IB survey in the Arecibo property. As for the Utualdo and Yauco properties, our records support your finding of no historic properties affected.

Does the No Adverse Effect finding contain conditions?

✓ Yes (check all that apply)

Avoidance

Modification of project

Other

Describe conditions here:

An archaeologist must conduct a shovel test pit excavation to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources in the project area prior to carrying out the project in Arecibo.

No

Adverse Effect

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

Based on Section 106 consultation the project will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties. Conditions: null. Upon satisfactory implementation of the conditions, which should be monitored, the project is in compliance with Section 106.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE SHPO Consultation Package.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) Historic.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuaado\) Historic.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Historic.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

✓ Yes

No

Noise Abatement and Control

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

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

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

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

An interstate land sales registration

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

☒ None of the above

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

☒ No

Sole Source Aquifers

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

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

< No

✓

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

Yes

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

Yes

No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) Sole Source Aquifers.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utado\) Sole Source Aquifers.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Sole Source Aquifers.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wetlands Protection

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) Wetlands.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuado\) Wetlands.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Wetlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

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

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

✓ No

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

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. Arecibo Site is located 301,260 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. Utuado Site is located 300,012 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. Yauco Site is located 371,573 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Yauco\) Wild and Scenic.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Utuado\) Wild and Scenic.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE \(Arecibo\) Wild and Scenic.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Environmental Justice

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

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

IPaC resource list

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

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

Location

Arecibo County, Puerto Rico



Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (939) 320-3135

📠 (787) 851-7440

✉ CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 491
Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

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

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

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

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

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

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

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

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

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2083	Threatened

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628	Endangered

Critical habitats

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

There are no critical habitats at this location.

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

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act [2](#) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) [1](#). 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).

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
<https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

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

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

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

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

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

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

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

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

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

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

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

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

Breeding Season ()

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

Survey Effort ()

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

No Data ()

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

Survey Timeframe

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

Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ 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 (FWS).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>

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

The [data](#) in this location indicates that no migratory birds of concern have been observed in this area. This does not mean [birds of concern](#) 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 what migratory birds of concern may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

Migratory Bird FAQs

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

[Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

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

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

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

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

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

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

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

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

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

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

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

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

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

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

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

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

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

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

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

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

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

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Survey Timeframe

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Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

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

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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

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

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

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

Data limitations

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

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

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

Data exclusions

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

Data precautions

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



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Lauren B Poche

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

SHPO-CF-02-05-25-07 **PR-RGRW-02326** (Arecibo/Utuado/ Yauco), Tierra Valiente
CRL con fin social

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.

After a review of all the documentation, the PRSHPO agrees with your finding that the proposed project with the established conditions, will have no adverse effect upon historic properties:

1. A Phase IA/IB survey in the Arecibo property.

As for the Utuado and Yauco properties, our records support your finding of no historic properties affected.

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/MB



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



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

April 30, 2024

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

February 5, 2025

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

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

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: **PR-RGRW-02326 – Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social – Arecibo, Utuado, and Yauco, Puerto Rico**

Municipality	Address	Recommendation
Arecibo	Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 Km. 8.5, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, 00612	Conditional No Adverse Effect
Utuado	Bo. Limón, Carr. #146, Km. 2.8, Utuado, Puerto Rico 00650	No Historic Properties Affected
Yauco	Bo. Río Prieto, Sector el 30, Street 374, km. 5 hm 3 Int., Yauco, Puerto Rico, 00698	No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, we are submitting documentation for activities proposed by Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social. The activities proposed consist of five separate activities on three different parcels: two storage warehouses will be built, and a greenhouse will be installed at Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 Km. 8.5 within the municipality of Arecibo; the installation of one greenhouse at Bo. Limón, Carr. #146, Km. 2.8 within the municipality of Utuado; and the installation of one storage warehouse

at Bo. Río Prieto, Sector el 30, Street 374, km. 5 hm 3 Int., within the municipality of Yauco, Puerto Rico. The project includes the purchase of an irrigation system consisting of hoses, tubes, and pumps.

The proposed activities in the municipality of Arecibo include the installation of two storage warehouses and a greenhouse. The first warehouse will measure 10' x 10' x 6', and the second warehouse will measure 16' x 12' x 10'. Both warehouses will be constructed using 1 1/2-inch-wide galvalume tubes anchored two feet into the ground. The first warehouse will use six tubes, and the second will use eight tubes. The greenhouse will measure 20' x 40' and will be supported by eight metal tubes, also anchored two feet deep. The location already has existing water (PRASA) and power (LUMA) connections.

The proposed activities in the municipality of Utuado include the installation of a nursery-type greenhouse measuring 20' x 16'. This greenhouse will be constructed with six metal tubes, each anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the greenhouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of less than one acre, which involves mowing and road improvement. Ground disturbance is expected as part of these activities. The property in the location already has existing water (PRASA) and power (LUMA) connections. The project includes the purchase of an irrigation system consisting of hoses, tubes, and pumps. This irrigation system will not be anchored to the ground, and piping will be installed above ground, as well as any extension of power lines.

The proposed activities in the municipality of Yauco include the installation of a storage warehouse measuring 10' x 10' x 10', constructed with four 1 1/2-inch galvalume tubes anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the warehouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of approximately 2 acres, which involves mowing and road clearing and improvement. Ground disturbance is expected during these activities. The connection of any utility will not be necessary for the proposed activity in this location. Some areas of the site are inaccessible due to dense weeds and vegetation. However, this will be addressed through arborist study and land conditioning efforts.

The project includes the purchase of an irrigation system consisting of hoses, tubes, and pumps. The materials for the irrigation system will be divided between the projects in the municipalities of Arecibo and Utuado. This irrigation system will not be anchored to the ground, with all its pipes installed above ground. Since both locations already have water and electricity services, no new connections will be necessary.

Based on the submitted documentation for the Utuado and Yauco portions of the project, the Program requests a concurrence that a finding of **no historic properties affected** is appropriate. Based on the provided documentation for the Arecibo portion of the project, the Program requests a concurrence with a determination that "**No Adverse Effect**" is appropriate for this undertaking, conditioned to a Phase IA/IB investigation conducted by a SOI-qualified archaeologist. A Phase IA/IB work plan will be prepared and submitted to the PRSHPO for review and approval.

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


Kindest regards,



Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager
LBP/JCO

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Utuado	

Project Location: Bo. Limón, Carr. #146, Km. 2.8, Utuado, Puerto Rico 00650	
Project Coordinates: 18.324220 -66.654274	
TPID (Número de Catastro): 134-000-008-43-000	
Type of Undertaking: <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size (acres): 0.28 (Utuado)

SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jaqueline López Meléndez
Date Reviewed: June 4, 2024, Revised on December 20, 2024

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


Project Description (Undertaking)

The activities proposed for **PR-RGRW-02326** consist of five separate activities on three different parcels: two storage warehouses will be built at 18.49024 -66.636106 and 18.490104 -66.635650 and a greenhouse installation at 18.490129 -66.636023 (Parcel: 013-029-768-13-000) in the municipality of Arecibo. A greenhouse nursery at 18.324220 -66.654274 (Parcel: 134-000-008-43-000) in the municipality of Utuado and installation of storage warehouse at 18.153617 -66.849018 (Parcel: 288-000-003-33-000) in the municipality of Yauco. For this document, the analysis will be conducted on the activities of the municipality of Utuado. The activities of the municipality of Arecibo and Yauco will be addressed separately.

The proposed activities in the municipality of Utuado include the installation of a nursery-type greenhouse measuring 20' x 16'. This greenhouse will be constructed with 6 metal tubes, each anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the greenhouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of less than one acre, which involves mowing and road improvement. Ground disturbance is expected as part of these activities. The property in the location already has existing water (PRASA) and power (LUMA) connections, therefore, no new utility connections will be needed. The project includes the purchase of an irrigation system consisting of hoses, tubes, and pumps. This irrigation system will not be anchored to the ground and all its pipes will be installed above ground, as well as any extension of power lines.

Area of Potential Effects

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Utuado

character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the greenhouse (nursery), land conditioning plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project locations. The area of the proposed items plus the APE is a total of approximately 0.19 acres.

Identification of Historic Properties – Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that there are no reported archaeological sites within a half-mile (0.50 miles) radius of the project location. The nearest cultural resource is the Pre-Columbian site Cueva Crozier (AR0100006), located 1.96 miles west. The proposed project is located in the mountainous area of Utuado at an elevation of 394 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses one mapped soils series: Caguabo-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes (CbF). The nearest water body to the project is Dos Bocas Lagoon located 0.07 miles south and 0.15 miles west. The north coast is approximately 11.31 miles (18.11 km) from the project area.

There are no cultural resource studies within a half-mile radius of the property.


The soil in this area has been classified as Caguabo-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes (CbF). This complex consists of shallow, steep and very steep soils and areas of exposed bedrock. The complex is on side slopes and ridgetops on volcanic uplands. Permeability is moderate in the Caguabo soil, and the available water capacity is low. Runoff is rapid, and the root zone is shallow.

Visual inspection of the APE and its surroundings found no evidence of cultural materials.

Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the project area is not within the boundaries of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center / Historic District.


The project area is in a rural and mountainous area of Utuado with mature vegetation. The area has an irregular topography. To the right of the area where the greenhouse will be installed is the applicant's house. The building appears in a 1994 aerial image but is absent

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Utuado	

from a 1977 aerial image. It is likely, based on information gathered in the field and through the review of aerials, the building was constructed ca. 1985. This structure is modern and does not meet the requirements to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Determination

Based on the results of our efforts to identify historic properties, the Program has determined that project actions in Utuado will not affect the historic properties that comprise the Area of Potential Effect. The project area in Utuado is not located within or adjacent to the boundaries of a historic district or Traditional Urban Center eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). There are no archaeological sites reported within 0.50 miles. The closest source of fresh water to the project in Utuado is Dos Bocas Lake located 0.07 miles south. The construction of public roads and residential structures/agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Utuado	

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

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

☒ No Historic Properties Affected -


☐ No Adverse Effect

☐ Adverse Effect

Proposed Resolution (if applicable)

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Utuado	

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

Project Coordinates: 18.324220 -66.654274

Table 1. Table of archaeological sites, historic properties and historic districts located within the project area or within a 0.50-miles radius

Name	SHPO id #	IPRC id #	Distance/Direction	Description	NRHP (listed, eligible, non-eligible, no data)

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

Author	Phase/Title	Year	SHPO / IPRC code	Results	Distance/Direction
None	-	-	-	-	-

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Utuado Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Correo: Iborra 1 Suite 2-3, Calle Ponce 554, Atravieso, San Juan, PR. 00929 Tel: 787-763-3280

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

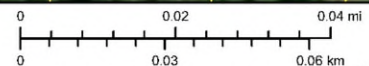
Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Area of Potential Effect
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- Structure-02326
- Roads Clearing
- Area of Potential Effect 15 mt
- Parcel-02326
- CRIM Parcels



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

Source

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



1:1,000

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Utuado Location - Aerial Map

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Cores, Iberia 1 Suite 4-3, Calle Ponce 55A, Atascadero, San Juan, P.R. 00950 Tel: 787-763-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Location Aerial Map
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Roads Clearing
- Parcel-02326
- CRIM Parcels

0 0.02 0.04 mi
0 0.03 0.06 km

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



Source

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

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Utuado

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Utuado Location - USGS Topographic Map

BYA BEJAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Corbal, Iberni 1 Suite 205, Calle Ponce 554, Arroyo, San Juan, P.R. 00923 Tel: (787) 575-0200

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social

Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,

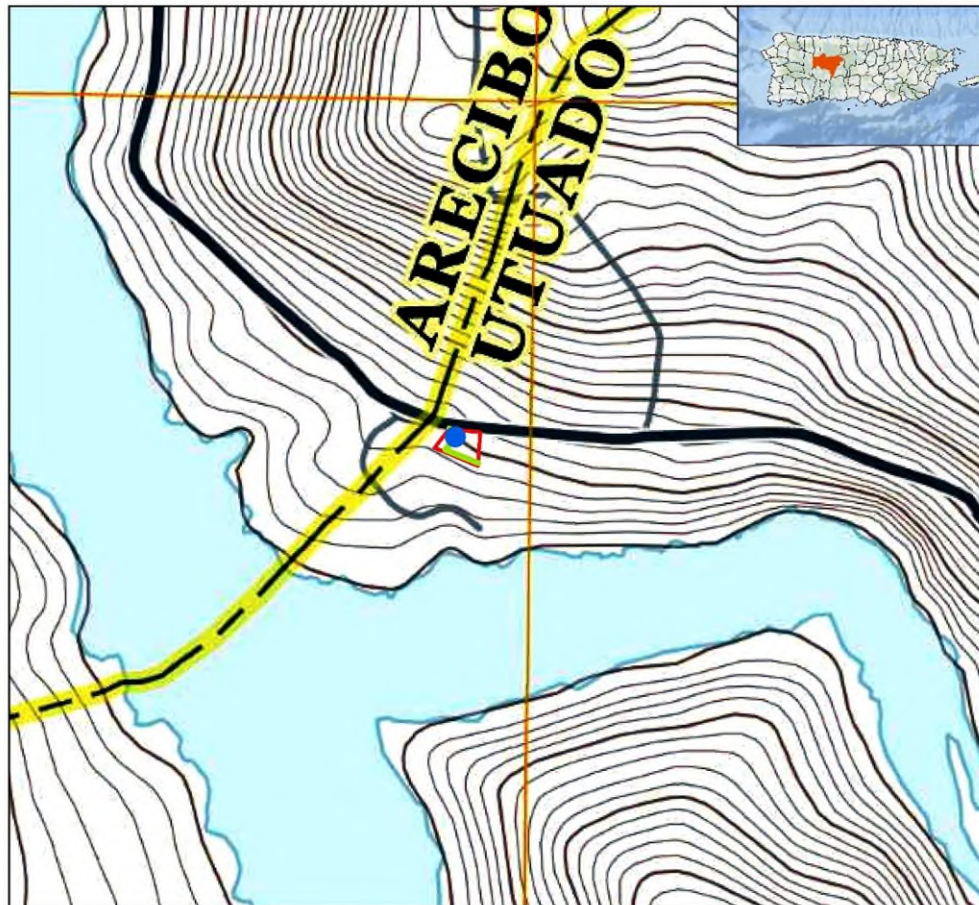
Utuado, PR, 00650

Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000

Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Location USGS Topographic Map

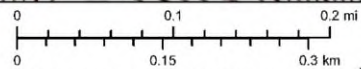
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Roads Clearing
- Parcel-02326

Quadrangle: Utuado



Service Layer Credits: Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



Source

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
National Geographic Map Database
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Utuado

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Utuado Location – Soils Map

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Corral, Iberia 1 Suite 4-3, Calle Ponce 554, Ararimo, San Juan, PR, 00923 Tel: (787) 783-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Soils Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

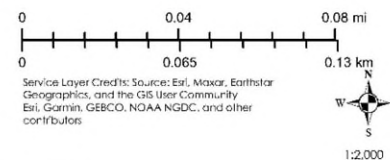


Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Road Clearing
- Parcel-02326
- Soil Map Unit Symbol

Soil Map Unit Symbol

CbF - Caguabo-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes
HmE - Humatas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes
HmF - Humatas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes
W - Water



Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM)
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdpprc/>

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Utuado

Project (PR-RGRW-02326**) Utuado Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map**

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
CORP. 1001 T. Suite 4-3, Calle Pintado 1001, Arecibo, San Juan, PR 00602 Tel: (787) 732-0280

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

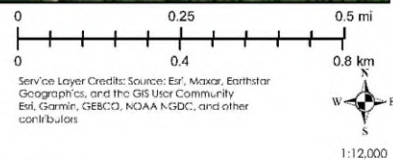
Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Previous Investigations Aerial Map
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Parcel-02326
- 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer



Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM)
<http://catastro.crimpr.net/cadpmp/>

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Utuado

Project (PR-RGRW-02326**) Utuado Location with Previously Investigation-
USGS Topographic Map**

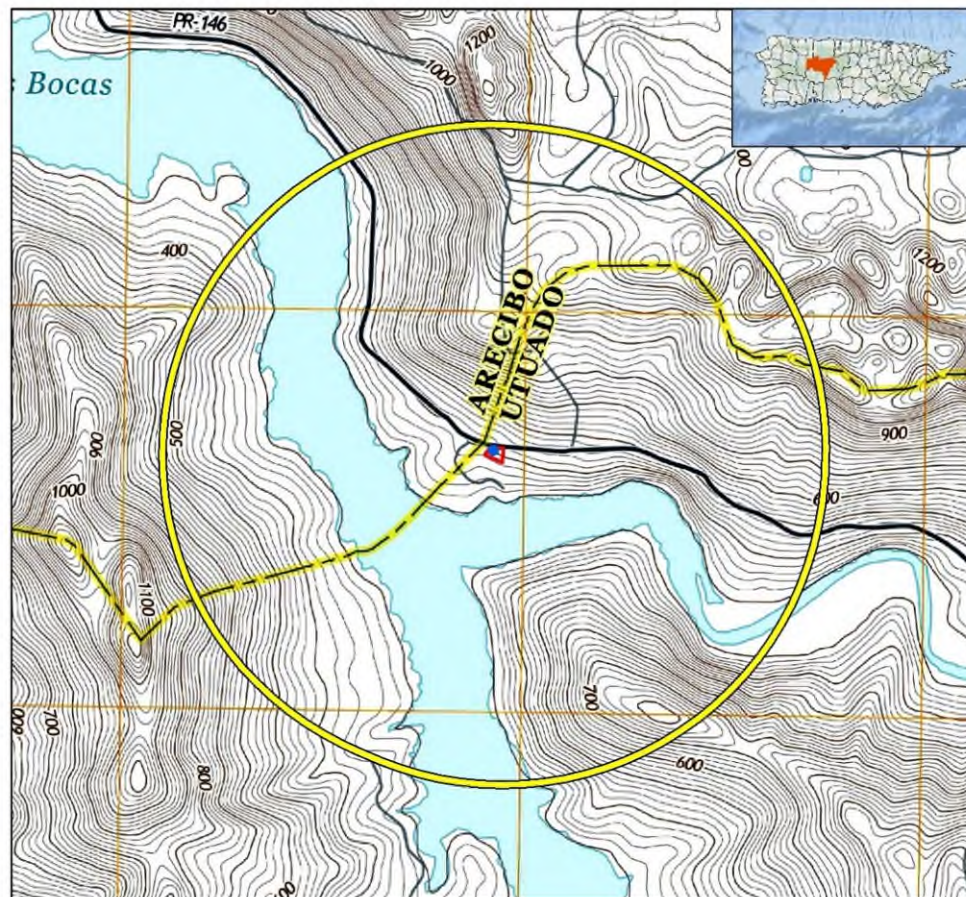
BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Corporación Autorizada y Registrada en el Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, inscrita en el Registro Público de la Corporación de Ingenieros, Arquitectos y Planificadores, No. 000003, del 02/07/2003 (000003)

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Previous Investigations Topographic Map

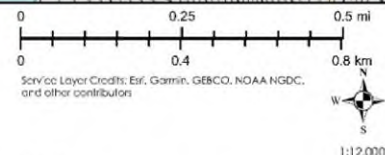
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Parcel-02326
- 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer

Quadrangle: Utuado



Source

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
National Geographic Map Database
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Utuado

Photograph Key-Utuado





Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Utuado



Photo #:1

Description: Area where the greenhouse nursery will be installed in Utuado, looking northwest.


Date: May 24, 2024





Photo #:2

Description: Area where land conditioning will take place in Utuado, looking southwest.

Date: May 24, 2024

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Utuado	

		
Photo #: 3	Description: Area where land conditioning will take place in Utuado, looking southeast.	
Date: May 24, 2024		

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Yauco	
Project Location: Bo. Río Prieto, Sector el 30, Street 374, km. 5 hm 3 Int., Yauco, Puerto Rico		
Project Coordinates: 18.153617 -66.849018		
TPID (Número de Catastro): 288-000-003-33-000		
Type of Undertaking: <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction		
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size (acres): 11.87	
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jaqueline López Meléndez		
Date Reviewed: June 4, 2024, Revised on December 20, 2024		

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


Project Description (Undertaking)

The activities proposed for **PR-RGRW-02326** consist of five separate activities on three different parcels: two storage warehouses will be built at 18.49024 -66.636106 and 18.490104 -66.635650 and a greenhouse installation at 18.490129 -66.636023 (Parcel: 013-029-768-13-000) in the municipality of Arecibo. A greenhouse nursery at 18.324220 -66.654274 (Parcel: 134-000-008-43-000) in the municipality of Utuado and installation of storage warehouse at 18.153617 -66.849018 (Parcel: 288-000-003-33-000) in the municipality of Yauco. For this document, the analysis will be conducted on the activities of the municipality of Yauco. The activities of the municipality of Arecibo and Utuado will be addressed separately.

The proposed activities in the municipality of Yauco include the installation of a storage warehouse measuring 10' x 10' x 10', constructed with four 1 1/2-inch galvalume tubes anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the warehouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of approximately 2 acres, which involves mowing and road clearing and improvement. Ground disturbance is expected during these activities. The connection of any utility will not be necessary for the proposed activity in this location. Some areas of the site are inaccessible due to dense weeds and vegetation. However, this will be addressed through arborist study and land conditioning efforts.

Area of Potential Effects

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Yauco	

APE for this project is the locations of the greenhouse (nursery), the storage warehouse and land conditioning plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project locations. The area of the proposed items plus the APE is a total of approximately 4 acres.


Identification of Historic Properties – Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting, the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that there are five (5) archaeological sites reported within 0.50 miles of the project location (Table 3). The five archaeological sites are ruined coffee plantations: Hacienda Salvación (Hacienda San Lorenzo) (YU0100019) located 0.13 miles northwest; Hacienda San Lorenzo (Deseada) (MI0100015) located 0.34 miles northwest; Hacienda La Vega (MR-29) located 0.40 miles northwest; Hacienda Santa Teresa (YU0100031) located 0.42 miles southwest and Hacienda San Lorenzo (MR-73) located 0.43 miles northwest of the project area. On the Hacienda Salvación form (YU0100019) it states that this hacienda is erroneously listed as Hacienda San Lorenzo on the 1952 topographic quadrangle. In the ICP digital information a Hacienda San Lorenzo (MR-73) appears at a distance of 0.43 miles northwest of the project, however, no record appears for Hacienda San Lorenzo (MR-73). According to the digital information this Hacienda is from the Spanish period and was reported by Pumarada in 1987. In Pumarada's report there is no information about this place either. The form of the site Hacienda San Lorenzo or Deseada located at 0.34 miles northwest says that this hacienda was erroneously denominated as Hacienda La Vega in the topographic quadrangle of 1952. Of Hacienda La Vega it only says that it is located in the topographic quadrangle. It is possible that the Hacienda La Vega that appears in the ICP as MR-29 and in SHPO as Hacienda San Lorenzo-Deseada (MI0100015) is the same hacienda.

The proposed project is located in the mountainous area of Yauco, at an altitude of 2,001 to 2,296 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses two mapped soils series: Cuchillas silty clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes (CvF) and Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes (MkF). The nearest water body to the project is Prieto River located 0.05 miles east and 0.05 miles north. The south coast is 11.52 miles (18.54) kilometers southeast

There are no cultural resource studies within a half-mile radius of the property.


The soil in this area has been classified as the project area crosses two mapped soils series: Cuchillas silty clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes (CvF) and Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes (MkF). This soil is on strongly dissected side slopes and ridgetops in the higher areas of the volcanic uplands. Runoff is rapid, and erosion is a hazard.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Yauco	

During the visual inspection of the APE and its surroundings we found the Hacienda Salvación water canal. This canal is located approximately 35 feet outside the APE. It is a stone and concrete canal located adjacent to the Prieto River.

Determination

Based on the results of our efforts to identify historic properties, the Program has determined that project actions in Yauco will not affect the historic properties that comprise the Area of Potential Effect. The project area in Yauco is not located within or adjacent to the boundaries of a historic district or Traditional Urban Center eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In Yauco we have five reported haciendas. The Salvación hacienda (SHPO: YU0100019) is the closest to the project area. It is located 0.13 miles northwest. However, during our surface walkover we encountered the Salvation Hacienda water channel adjacent to the PR- RGRW-02326 project parcel. At the closest part of the project the canal is located at 18.153835 -66.84848. The channel is approximately 3 meters northeast of the APE, 11 to 12 meters northeast of the nearest road to be clearing and 62 meters northeast of the warehouse. This channel will not be affected by the warehouse installation work or during road clearing. The channel is located on a slope bordering the Prieto River outside the APE of the PR-RGRW-02326 project. The closest source of fresh water to the project in Yauco is Prieto River located 0.05 miles east. The construction of public roads and residential structures/agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326		City: Yauco

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

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

☒ No Historic Properties Affected


☐ No Adverse Effect

☐ Adverse Effect

Proposed Resolution (if applicable)

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

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


PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination			GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social			
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326		City: Yauco	

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

Project Coordinates: 18.153617 -66.849018

Table 1. Table of archaeological sites, historic properties and historic districts located within the project area or within a 0.50-miles radius - Yauco: 18.153617, -66.849018

Name	SHPO id #	IPRC id #	Distance/Direction	Description	NRHP (listed, eligible, non-eligible, no data)
Hacienda Salvación	YU0100019	YA-54	0.13 mi NW	19 th Century Coffee plantation erroneously identified as Hacienda San Lorenzo in the topographic map. Coffee hacienda in ruins, inactive with facilities and machinery. This hacienda has the best-preserved machinery in Puerto Rico. This hacienda also has a water canal built with stones and concrete.	No data
Hacienda San Lorenzo	-	MR-73	0.43 mi NW	In the ICP form it says that this site is discussed by Pumarada in HAER. There is no information on this site in HAER.	No data
Hacienda San Lorenzo (Deseada)	MI0100015		0.34 mi NW	19 th Century Coffee plantation in ruins erroneously identified as Hacienda La Vega in the topographic map. Plantation inactive with facilities and machinery	No data
Hacienda La Vega		MR-29	0.40 mi NW	Located on the topographic map, there is no additional information	No data

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Yauco	

Name	SHPO id #	IPRC id #	Distance/Direction	Description	NRHP (listed, eligible, non-eligible, no data)
Hacienda Santa Teresa	YU0100031	YA-42	0.42 mi SW	19 th Century coffee plantation in ruins. Some machinery remains abandoned.	No data

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

Author	Phase/Title	Year	SHPO / IPRC code	Results	Distance/Direction
None	-	-	-	-	-

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Yauco

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Yauco Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)

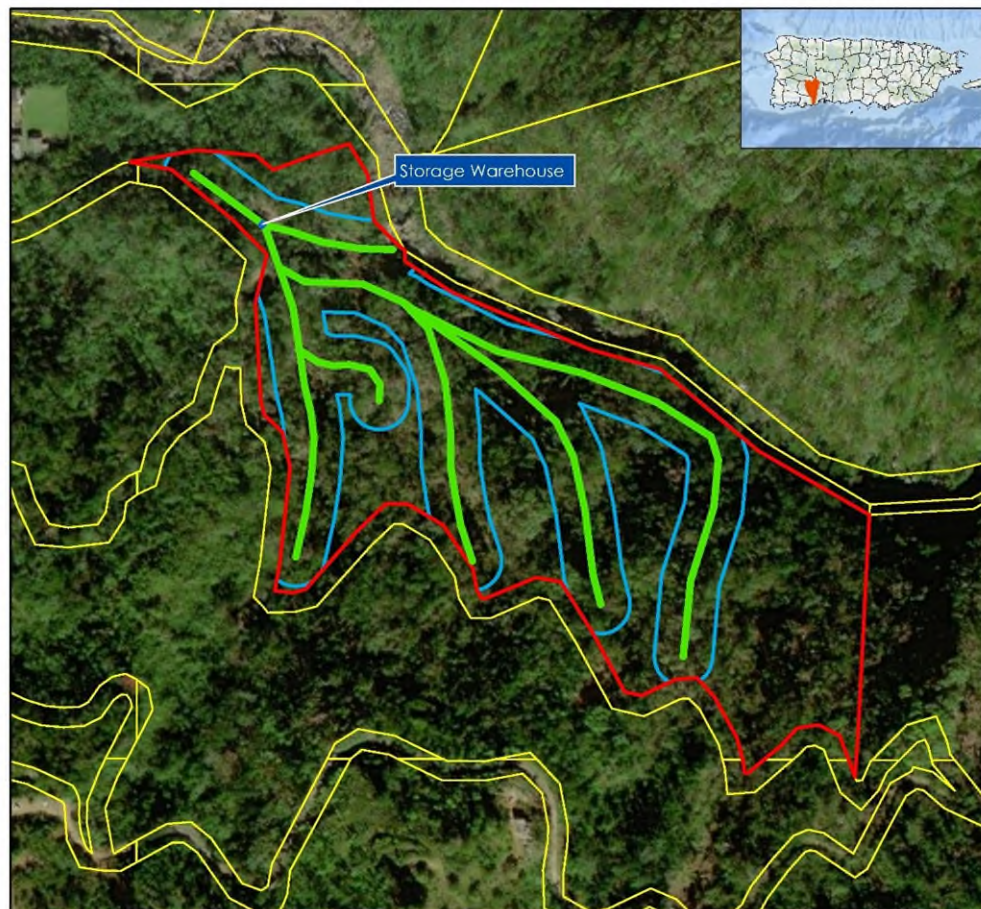
BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Ciudad, Ikeria 1, Suite A-3, Calle Ponce 354, Arroyito, San Juan, PR 00920 Tel: (787) 723-0280

Application ID: PR-RGRW-02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int.
Yauco, PR, 00698
Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000
Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018

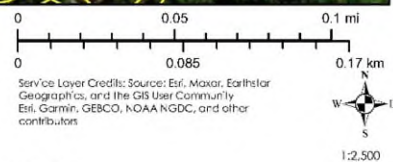
Area of Potential Effect

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- Structure-02326
- Road Clearing
- Parcel
- Area of Potential Effect 15mt
- CRIM Parcels



Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM)
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdppp/>

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Yauco

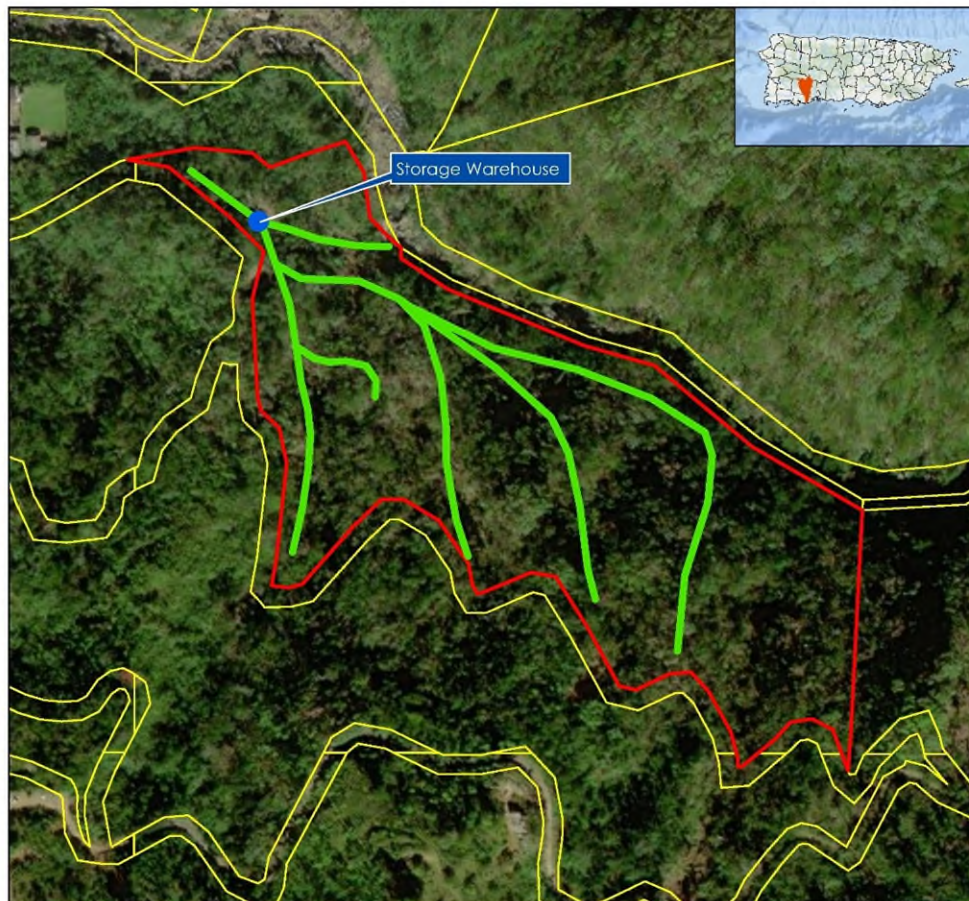
Project (PR-RGRW-02326) Yauco Location - Aerial Map

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
CORPORATE: 1 Suite 2-3, Calle Prieto 504, Arroyo, San Juan, PR 00920 Tel: (787) 789-0280

Application ID: PR-RGRW-02326

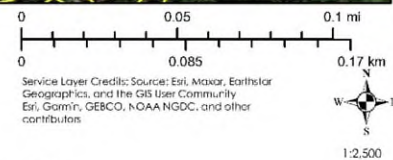
Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int.
Yauco, PR, 00698
Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000
Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018

Location Aerial Map
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Road Clearing
- Parcel
- CRIM Parcels



Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM)
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cadpcc/>

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Yauco

Project (PR-RGRW-02326**) Yauco Location - USGS Topographic Map**

BYA BEJAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
David, Maria T. Suarez, J. S. Carlos, Patricia Sosa, Aracelis, Sara Juarbe, CPA, SCEDP, INC. (2017) (2018) (2019)

Application ID: PR-RGRW-02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social

Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,

Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,

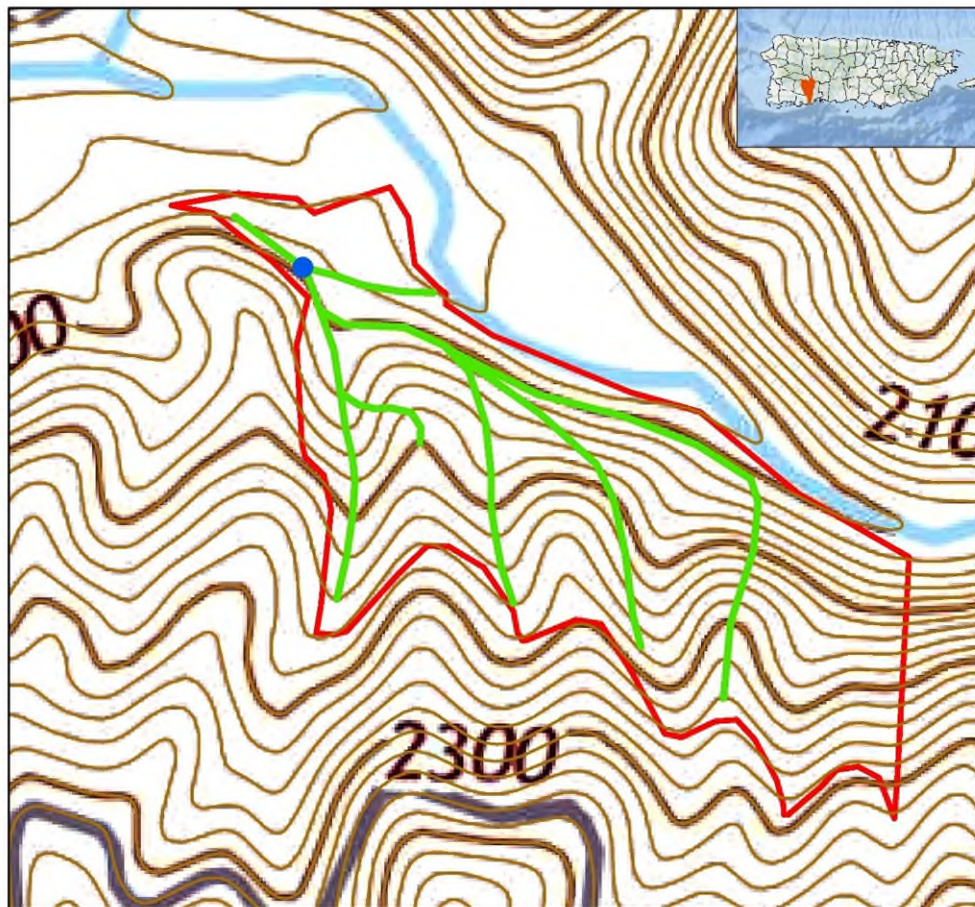
Yauco, PR, 00698

Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000

Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018

Location USGS Topographic Map

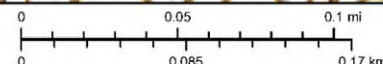
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Road Clearing
- Contour Interval 20 Feet
- Parcel

Quadrangle: Monte Guilarte



Service Layer Credits: Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
National Geologic Map Database
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.htm

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Yauco

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Yauco Location – Soils Map

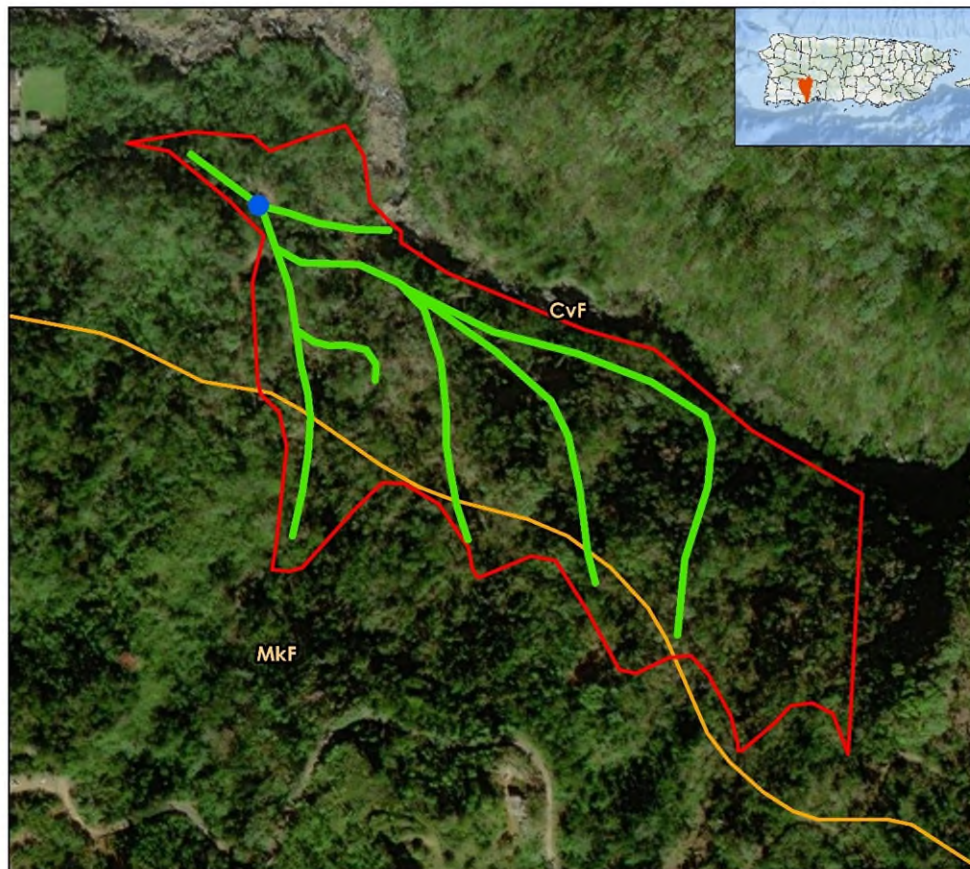
BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
CORPORATE: 1 Suite 2-3, Calle Ponce de León, Arroyo, San Juan, PR 00980-1044 (787) 939-1234

Application ID: PR-RGRW-02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Río Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int.
Yauco, PR, 00698
Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000
Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018

Soils Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

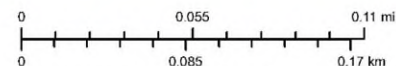


Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Road Clearing
- Parcel
- Soil Map Unit Symbol

Soil Map Unit Symbol

CvF - Cuchillas silty clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes
MkF - Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes



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

Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM)
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cadpmp/>

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Yauco

Project (PR-RGRW-02326**) Yauco Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map**

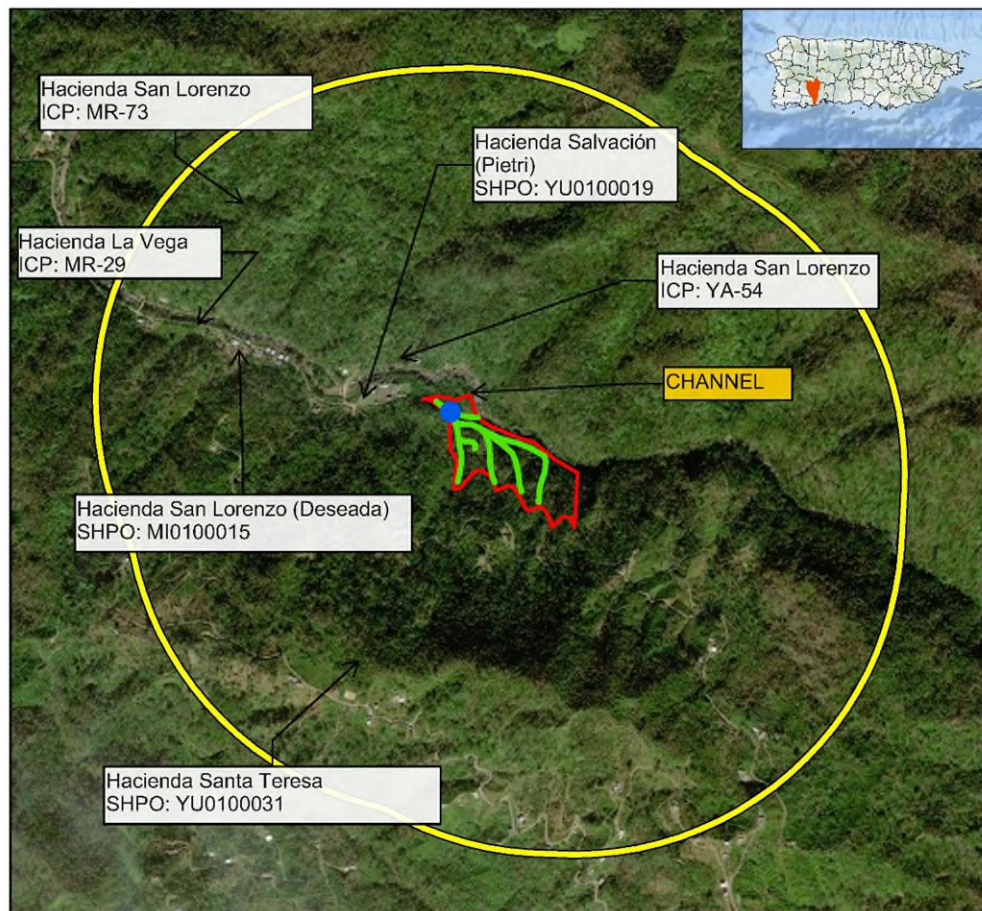
BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Ciudad, Miraflores 1, Suite 2-3, Calle Portales 1064, Alhambra, San Juan, P.R. 00902 Tel: (787) 783-0280

Application ID: PR-RGRW-02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int.
Yauco, PR, 00698
Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000
Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018

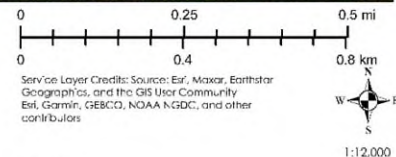
Previous Investigations Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Road Clearing
- 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer
- Parcel



Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM)
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdpprc/>

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Yauco Location with Previously Investigation-
USGS Topographic Map

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Calle, 1000 1/2 Suite 4-5, Calle Ponce 100, Ponce, PR 00731 Tel: 787-703-0230

Application ID: PR-RGRW-02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social

Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30.

Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int.

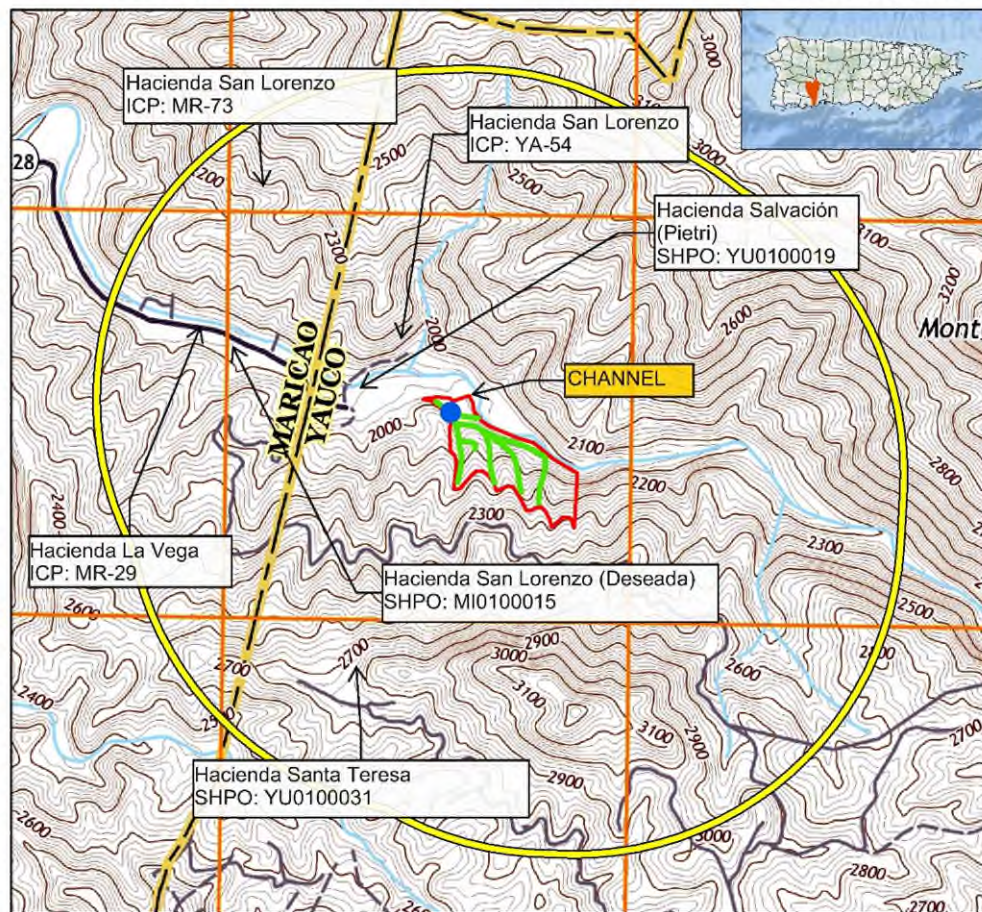
Yauco, PR, 00698

Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000

Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018

Previous Investigations Topographic Map

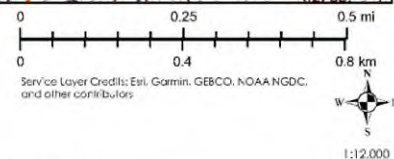
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Road Clearing
- 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer
- Parcel

Quadrangle: Monte Guilarte



Source

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
National Geologic Map Database
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html

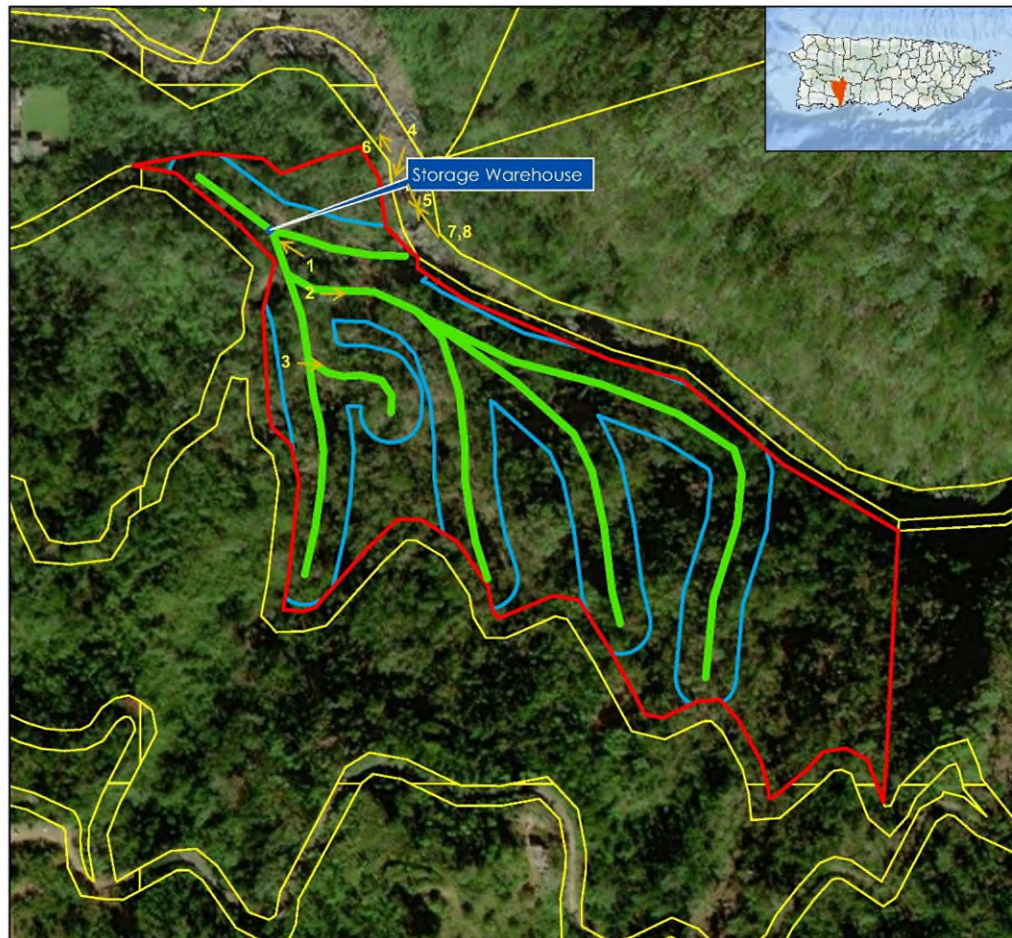
Photograph Key-Yauco

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Cond. Series 1 Suite 2-3, Calle Ponce 354, Arterials, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel: (787) 53-0260

Application ID: PR-RGRW-02326

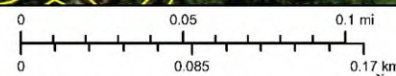
Area of Potential Effect Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int.
Yauco, PR, 00698
Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000
Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018



Legend:


- Structure-02326
- Road Clearing
- Parcel
- Area of Potential Effect 15mt
- CRIM Parcels






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

Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM)
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cadprpc/>

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Yauco	

	
Photo #:1	Description: Area where the storage warehouse will be installed in Yauco, looking northwest.
Date: May 28, 2024	
	
Photo #:2	Description: Area where road cleaning will take place in Yauco looking east.
Date: May 28, 2024	

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGrow PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Yauco	

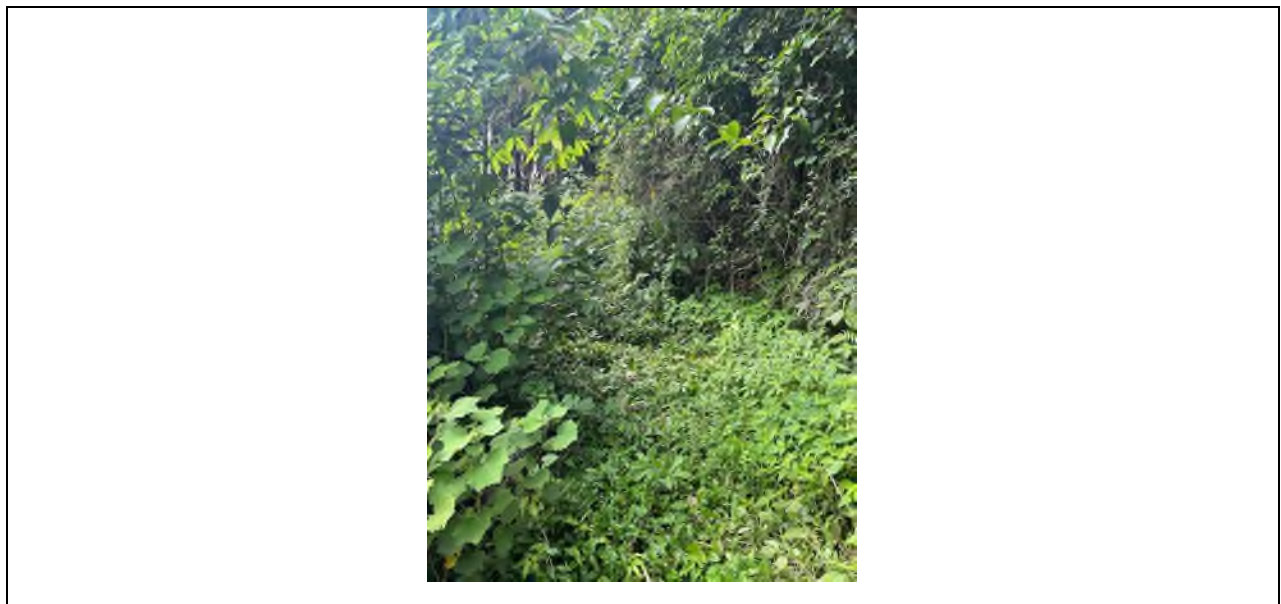


Photo #:3	Description: Area where road cleaning will take place in Yauco looking southeast.
Date: May 28, 2024	



Photo #:4	Description: Hacienda Salvación channel, looking southwest (Yauco).
Date: May 28, 2024	



Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Yauco



Photo #:5

Description: Hacienda Salvación channel, looking southeast.

Date: May 28, 2024



Photo #:6

Description: Hacienda Salvación channel, looking northwest.

Date: May 28, 2024



Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Yauco



Photo #:7

Description: Detail of Hacienda Salvación channel, looking northwest.


Date: May 28, 2024



Photo #:8

Description: Hacienda Salvación channel, looking northwest.

Date: May 28, 2024

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Arecibo	

Project Location: Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 Km. 8.5, Arecibo, Puerto Rico	
Project Coordinates: 18.49024 -66.636106, 18.490104 -66.635650, 18.490129 -66.636023	
TPID (Número de Catastro): 013-029-768-13-000	
Type of Undertaking: <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size (acres): 0.32 (Arecibo)

SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jaqueline López Meléndez
Date Reviewed: June 4, 2024


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

Project Description (Undertaking)

The activities proposed for **PR-RGRW-02326** consist of five separate activities on three different parcels: two storage warehouses will be built at 18.49024 -66.636106 and 18.490104 -66.635650 and a greenhouse installation at 18.490129 -66.636023 (Parcel: 013-029-768-13-000). A greenhouse nursery at 18.324220 -66.654274 (Parcel: 134-000-008-43-000) and installation of storage warehouse at 18.153617 -66.849018 (Parcel: 288-000-003-33-000). For this document, the analysis will be conducted on the activities of the municipality of Arecibo. The activities of the municipality of Utuado and Yauco will be addressed separately, since it includes a different recommendation.

The proposed activities in the municipality of Arecibo include the installation of two storage warehouses and a greenhouse (coordinates: 18.49024 -66.636106, 18.490104 -66.635650, 18.490129 -66.636023). The first warehouse will measure 10' x 10' x 6' and the second warehouse will measure 16' x 12' x 10'. Both warehouses will be constructed using 1 1/2-inch-wide galvalume tubes anchored two feet into the ground. The first warehouse will be using 6 tubes and the second using 8 tubes. The greenhouse will measure 20' x 40' and will be supported by 8 metal tubes, also anchored two feet deep. The location already has existing water (PRASA) and power (LUMA) connections, so no new utility connections will be needed.

Additionally, the project includes the purchase of an irrigation system consisting of hoses, tubes, and pumps. The materials for the irrigation system will be divided between the projects in the municipalities of Arecibo and Utuado. This irrigation system will not be anchored to the ground, with all its pipes installed above ground. Since both locations already have water and electricity services, no new connections will be necessary.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Arecibo


Area of Potential Effects

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the greenhouse and two storage warehouses plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project locations. The area of the proposed items plus the APE is a total of 0.32 acres.

Identification of Historic Properties – Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that there are four (4) archaeological sites reported within 0.50 miles of the project location, three of them are Pre-Columbians (Table 1). The three Pre-Columbian archaeological sites are: Islote III (AR0100063) located 0.07 miles northwest; Solar Sr. Benito Irrizarry (AR0100015) located 0.19 miles northwest and Cueva del Indio (AR0100003) located 0.41 miles northwest. The 1942 topographic quadrangle shows the Plazuela Central Railroad line located 0.30 miles south of the project area. The proposed project is located in the coastal area of Arecibo, at an altitude of 16 to 20 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area is within mapped soil series: Islote sandy. The project area APE is in IsC. The nearest water bodies to the project are the Atlantic Ocean located 0.20 miles (0.32 km) north and Caño Tiburones located 0.88 miles (1.41 km) south.

Within the 0.50 miles radius we have twelve (12) archaeological studies, two with positive results (Table 2). At a distance of 0.07 miles north of the site, archaeologist Miguel Rodríguez conducted an archaeological survey in 1998, Phases IA-IB, for the Arecibo Municipal Water Supply System Improvements project. This study yielded positive results for Pre-Columbian and historic resources. In the area closest to the PR-RGRW-02326 project in Arecibo, Rodríguez dug 74 wells at 20-meter interval (Wells 366 to 440, Zone C in Transect A) (Figure 1). Twenty-one (21) of the wells yielded positive results. The maximum depth of the excavated pits ranged from 32 to 67 centimeters. The cultural resources in the twenty-one positive pits ranged in depth from 0 to 64 centimeters. In Rodríguez's report there is no plan with the location of the test pits. The archaeological site reported by Rodríguez is identified in ICP as AR-61 and in SHPO as AR0100063. In Zone C the amounts of ceramics are less than in Zones A and B. In addition to ceramics, he also reported shells, glass, historic ceramics and others. The ceramics in this Zone are small fragments, coarse and simple. Without decorative or diagnostic elements. In this zone there is a more geographically extensive ceramic assemblage, although in lower artifactual density. According to Rodríguez this site is a Period II (possibly Period IIA) residuary, with estimated dates between 600 and 900 A.D., belonging to the "Ostionan Ostionoid" component. Rodríguez recommends that a Phase II

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Arecibo

be conducted for Zone C, because the vertical and horizontal extent of the site is unknown as well as its integrity.

At 0.08 miles north archaeologist Carlos Ayes (RIP) conducted a Phase IA-IB archaeological survey for the Cliff Apartments Beach Villas project in 2007 where he documented a Pre-Columbian site. Ayes excavated 11 pits at 50 meters intervals (Figure 2). All of the pits excavated reached a maximum depth of 1 meter. Four of the pits yielded positive results for Pre-Columbian ceramics. The pottery documented belongs to the Ostionoid Phase of the Taino Culture. The report does not specify the depth of the finds nor the quantity. Ayes recommends additional studies to identify the vertical and horizontal parameters of the archaeological site that according to Ayes could be the same site reported by Rodríguez in 1998 and identified in SHPO as AR0100063.

Figure 1. Zone C location (Rodríguez:1998)

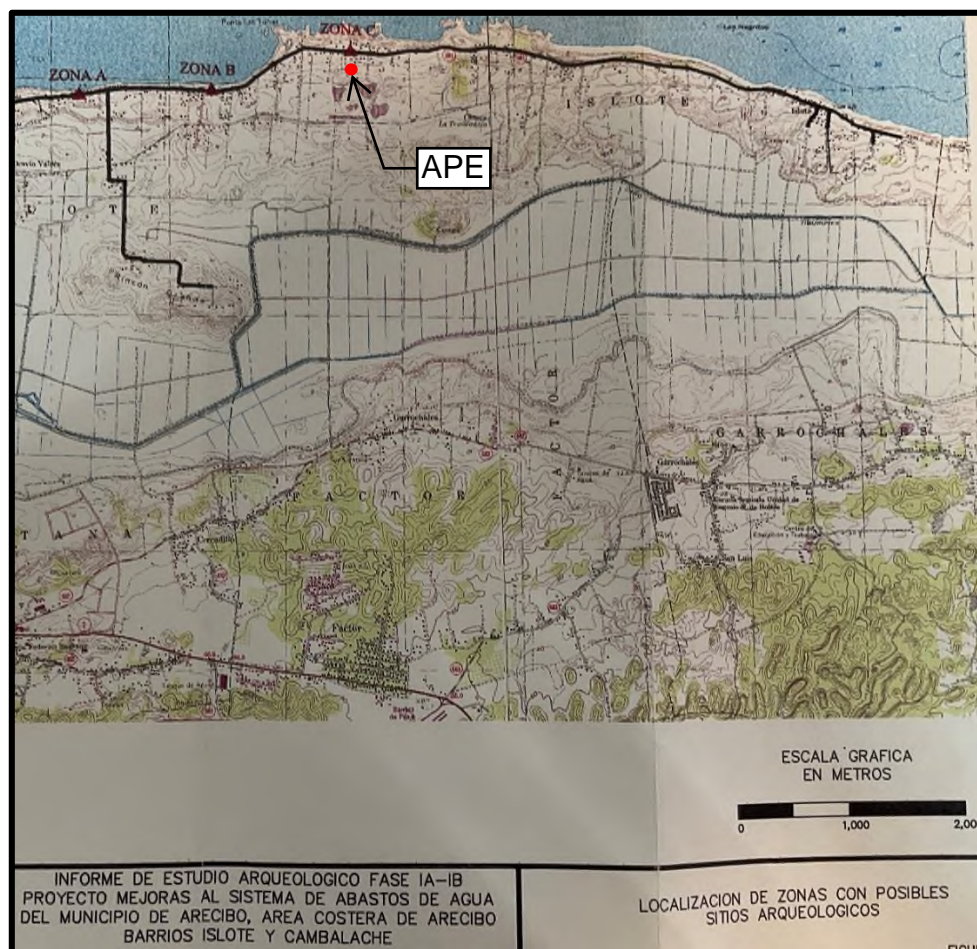
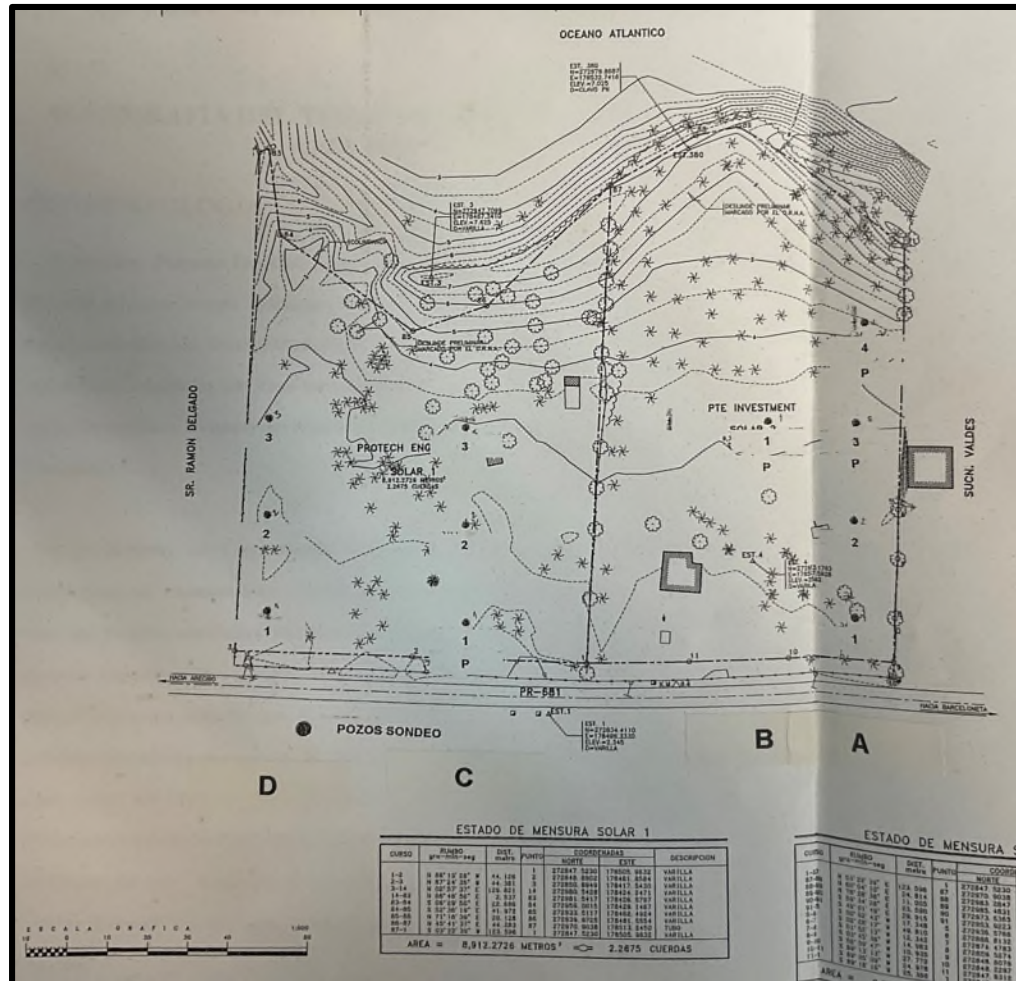





Figure 2. Shovel test pit location (Ayes: 2007) . PR-RGRW-02326 APE is south of PR-681.



The soil in this area has been classified as Isote sandy clay loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes. This soil is moderately deep, gently sloping to sloping, and well drained. It is on low hills and small terraces. The permeability of this Isote soil is moderately rapid in the surface layer and moderate in the subsoil. The available water capacity is moderate. Runoff is slow to medium. Natural fertility is medium.

Visual inspection of the APE and its surroundings found no evidence of cultural materials.


PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Arecibo

Determination

Within the 0.50-mile radius of the project in Arecibo there are three reported pre-Columbian archaeological sites. The closest is the Islote III site (SHPO: AR0100063) located 0.07 miles northwest. At a depth of between 0 to 64 centimeters Rodriguez documented fragments of Pre-Columbian ceramic, shell, glass and historic ceramics among others. Rodriguez recommended a Phase II to establish the horizontal and vertical parameters of the archaeological site. In 2007, archaeologist Carlos Ayes reported Pre-Columbian ceramics at 0.08 miles north of the project in Arecibo. It is possible that this is the same site reported by Rodriguez in 1998. Ayes also recommended additional studies. The project in Arecibo consists of the installation of two storage warehouses and a greenhouse for which they will have to excavate to place 14 posts. These excavations will have an approximate diameter of 1 5/8" and an approximate depth of 2 feet. The probability of adversely impacting site AR0100063 is high, so we recommend that shovel test pits be excavated in the areas where the two warehouses and the greenhouse will be installed.

The closest source of fresh water to the project in Arecibo is the Atlantic Ocean located 0.20 miles north.

The construction of public roads and residential structures/agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain, however, in the Arecibo area due to the proximity of the project to the Pre-Columbian site AR0100063 (112.6 meters) we recommend that test pits be excavated to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Arecibo	

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

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

- ☐ No Historic Properties Affected
☒ No Adverse Effect


Condition (if applicable): An archaeologist must conduct a shovel test pit excavation to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources in the project area prior to carrying out the project in Arecibo.

- ☐ Adverse Effect

Proposed Resolution (if applicable)

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Arecibo	

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

Project Coordinates: 18.49024 -66.636106, 18.490104 -66.635650, 18.490129 -66.636023

Table 1. Table of archaeological sites, historic properties and historic districts located within the project area or within a 0.50-miles radius - Arecibo

Name	SHPO id #	IPRC id #	Distance/Direction	Description	NRHP (listed, eligible, non-eligible, no data)
Islote III, Zone C	AR0100063	AR-61	0.07 mi NW	Pre-Columbian site, residuary, Pre-Columbian ceramic Chicoide and Ostiones style	No data
Cueva del Indio	AR0100003	AR-3	0.41 mi NW	Pre-Columbian site, abundant petroglyphs cave	No data
Solar Sr. Benito Irrizarry	AR0100015	-	0.19 mi NW	Pre-Columbian ceramic unknown style	No data
Central Plazuela RR	-	-	0.30 mi S	Train track Central Plazuela located in 1942 topographic quadrangle	No data

Table 2. Table of cultural resources surveys conducted within the project area or within a 0.50-miles radius- Arecibo

Author	Phase/Title	Year	SHPO / IPRC code	Results	Distance/Direction
Miguel Rodríguez	IA-IB/ Mejoras al Sistema de Abastos de Agua del Municipio de Arecibo	1998	ICP/CAT-AR-98-07-07	Positive. Three areas of high archaeological potential were identified Site AR0100063	0.07 mi N

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

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social**Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326****City: Arecibo**

Author	Phase/Title	Year	SHPO / IPRC code	Results	Distance/Direction
Carlos Ayes	IA-IB/ Cliff Apartments Beach Villas	2007	ICP/CAT-AR-07-18-03	Positive Pre-Columbian site recommends an extension of the evaluation to determine site parameters	0.08 mi N
Fernando Alvarado	IA-IB/ Proyecto de segregación de treinta y ocho (38) solares	2007	ICP/CAT-AR-07-18-01	Negative	0.28 mi SW
Iván Méndez	IA-IB/ Estación De Comunicaciones	1995	SHPO: 02-22-95-09	Negative	0.35 mi SE
Antonio Daubón	IB/ Urbanización Punta Tuna II	2005	ICP/CAT-AR-05-14-06	Negative	0.36 mi SW
Juan González	IA/ Urbanización Punta Tuna II	2005	ICP/CAT-AR-05-14-04	Negative	0.36 mi SW
Juan González	IA/ Residencial Comunidad La Tuna	2003	ICP/CAT-AR-03-13-02	Negative	0.36 mi SW
Carlos Ayes	IA-IB/ Segregación de 19 solares	2002	ICP/CAT-AR-02-12-01	Negative	0.37 mi SE
Eduardo Questell	IA-IB/ Brisas de Palma Roja	2006	ICP/CAT-AR-06-16-07	Negative	0.39 mi S
Carlos Ayes	IA-IB/ Brisas del Mar II	2005	ICP/CAT-AR-05-14-07	Negative	0.42 mi S
Aramis Font	IA-IB/ Columbus Park Parcela 2	2014	ICP/CAT-AR-14-20-07	Negative	0.43 mi E
Fernando Alvarado	I/ Telecommunication Facility Islote Site	2008	SHPO: 02-05-08-10	Negative	0.45 mi SE

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Arecibo

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Arecibo Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Cond. Iberia 1 Suite J-3, Calle Paseo 554, Altamira, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel: (787) 763-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

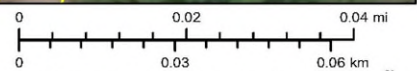
Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Isote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: See Below, Long: See Below

Area of Potential Effect
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Area of Potential Effect 15mt
- Parcel-02326
- CRIM Parcels



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



Source

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

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Arecibo

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Arecibo Location - Aerial Map

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Cond. I, Suite 1, Suite A-3, Calle Ponce 554, Arroyo, San Juan, PR, 00920 Tel: (787) 753-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: See Below, Long: See Below

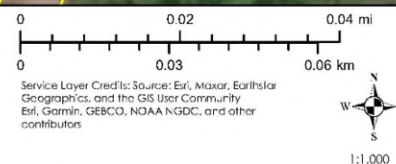
Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Parcel-02326
- CRIM Parcels



Source

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM)
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdpprc/>

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Arecibo

Project (PR-RGRW-02326) Arecibo Location - USGS Topographic Map

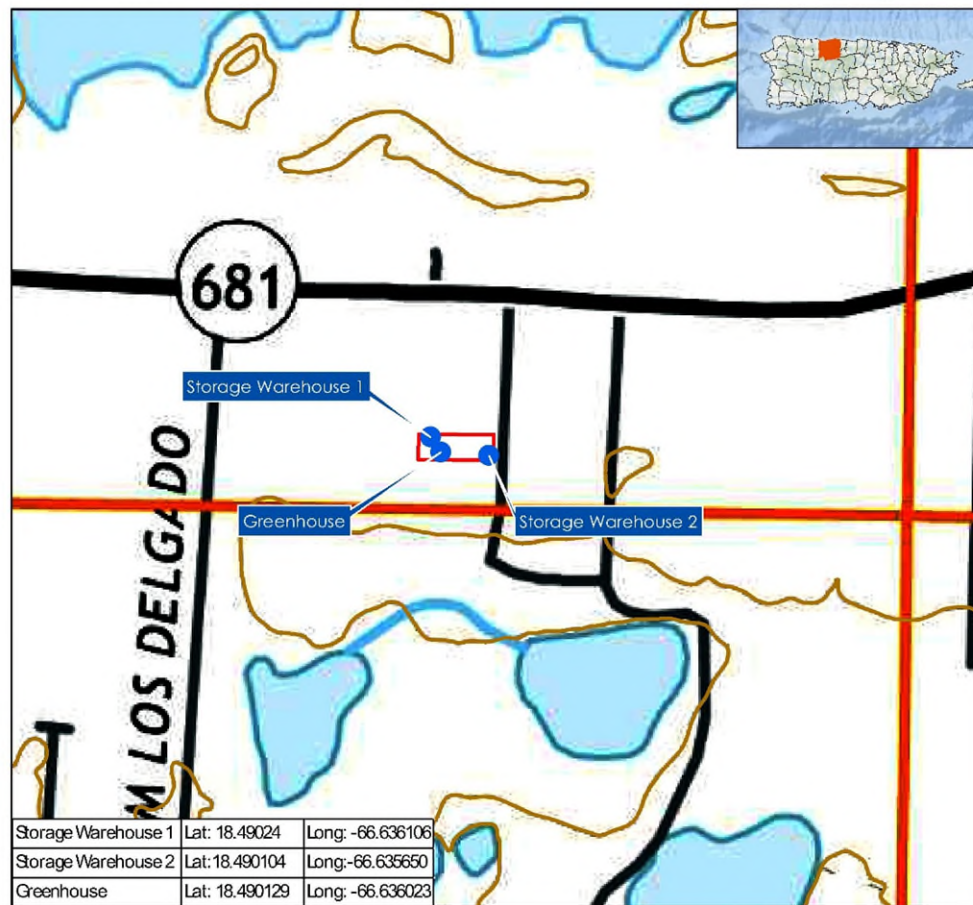
BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Office: Suite 1 Suite J-2, Calle Ponce de León, Arecibo, PR, 00623 Tel: 787-712-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

Location USGS Topographic Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

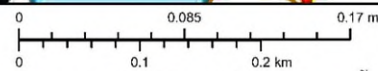
Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Isote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: See Below, Long: See Below



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Contour Interval 20 Feet
- Parcel-02326

Quadrangle: Arecibo



Source

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
National Geographic Map Database
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_tomo.html

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Arecibo

Project (**PR-RGRW-02326**) Arecibo Location – Soils Map

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Corred. Iberia 1 Suite J-3, Calle Persico 504, Atravesado, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel: 787/753-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Isote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: See Below, Long: See Below

Soils Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

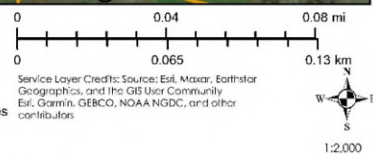


Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Soil Map Unit Symbol
- Parcel-02326

Soil Map Unit Symbol

- CcD - Caracoles loam, 5 to 20 percent slopes
- Cf - Catano sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- IsC - Isote sandy clay loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes
- SnC - Santa Clara clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes
- TP - Tropopsamments
- Vg - Vigla muck



Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Arecibo

Project (PR-RGRW-02326**) Arecibo Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map**

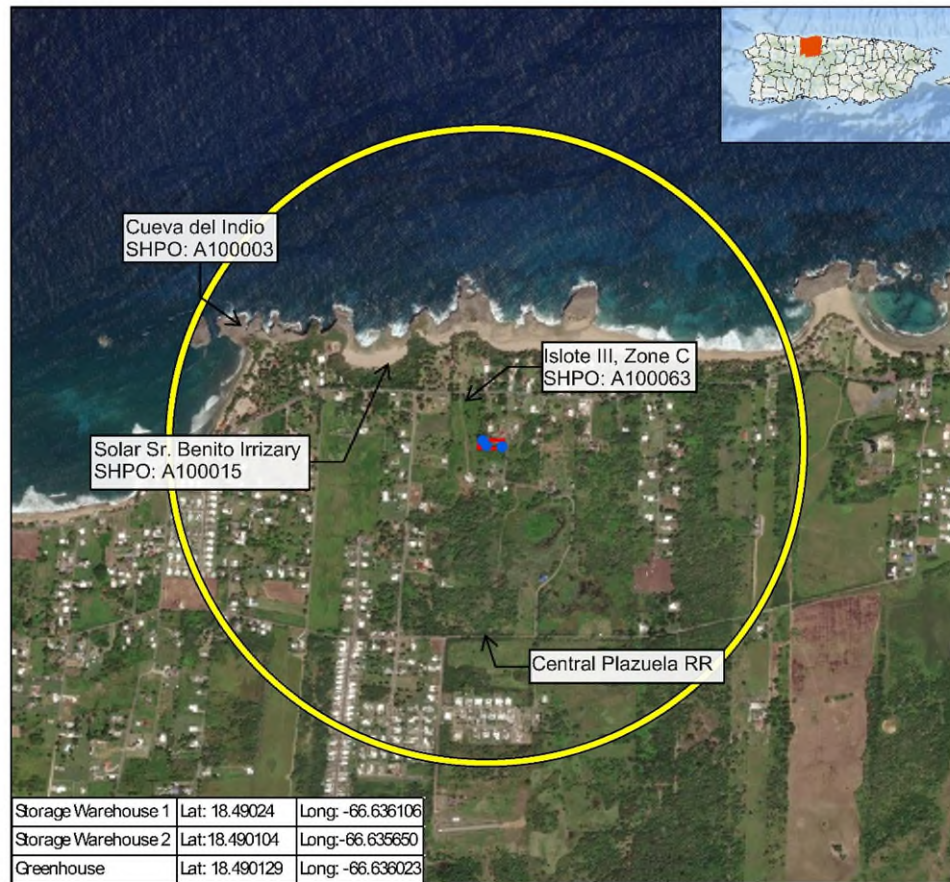
BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
Carril, Suite 1 Suite 1-3, Calle Ponce 554, Arecibo, San Juan, PR, 00623 Tel: (787) 759-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: See Below, Long: See Below

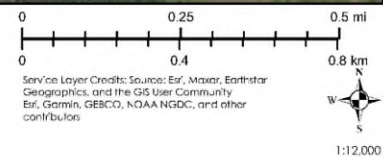
Previous Investigations Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Parcel-02326
- 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer



Source

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

Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**

City: Arecibo

**Project (PR-RGRW-02326) Arecibo Location with Previously Investigation-
USGS Topographic Map**

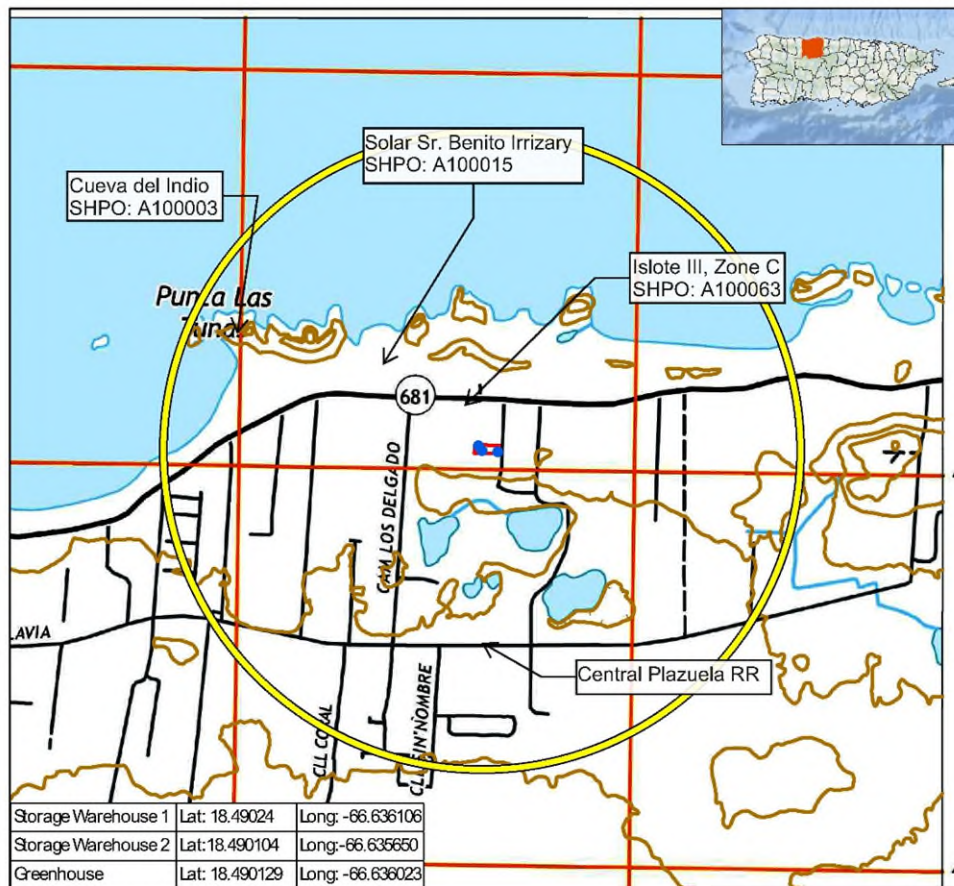
BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
COND. / obra 1 Suite A-15, Calle Perdomo 50A, Arecibo, San Juan, P.R. 00612 Tel: (787) 753-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW- 02326

Previous Investigations Topographic Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

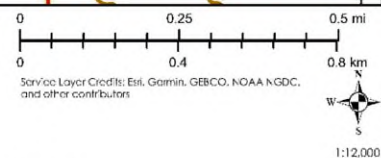
Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Isote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: See Below, Long: See Below



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Parcel-02326
- 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer
- Contour Interval 20 Feet

Quadrangle: Arecibo



Source

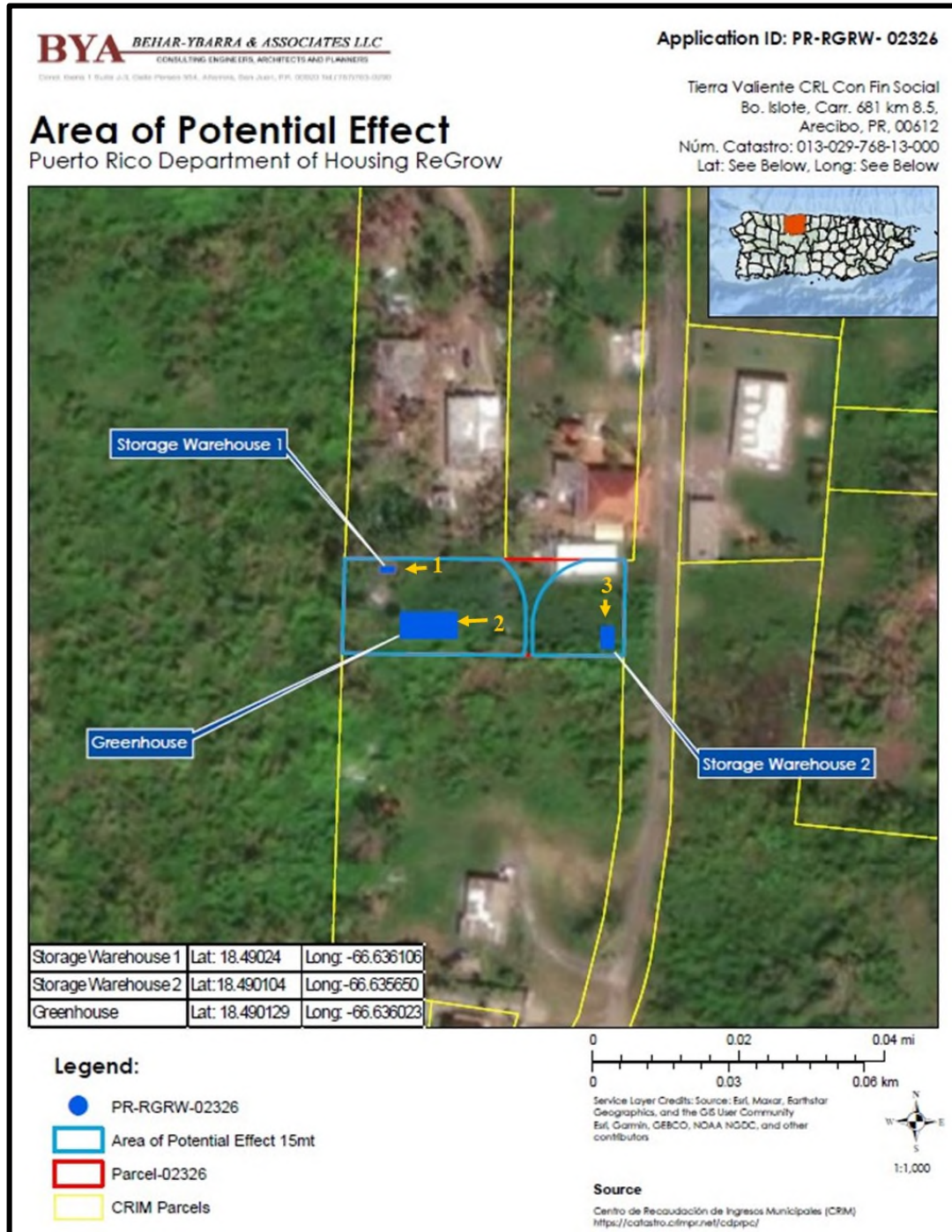
United States Geological Survey (USGS)
National Geographic Map Database
<https://ngmdb.usg.gov/ngmdb/home.htm>


Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social



Case ID: **PR-RGRW-02326**


City: Arecibo


Photograph Key-Arecibo



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGrow PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326	City: Arecibo	

	
Photo #:1	Description (include direction): Area where the storage warehouse 1 will be installed in Arecibo, looking west.
Date: May 24, 2024	
	
Photo #:2	Description (include direction): Area where the greenhouse will be installed in Arecibo, looking west.
Date: May 24, 2024	

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination			GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social			
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02326		City: Arecibo	

	
Photo #:3	Description (include direction): Area where the storage warehouse 2 will be installed in Arecibo, looking south.
Date: May 24, 2024	



DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



August 7, 2025

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

**RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing / CDBG-DR Re-Grow Program
PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Utuado) – Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Endangered Species Concurrence for NLAA Determination**

Dear Ms. Mena:

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is requesting an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Utuado), located at PR-146 Road Km. 2.8, Limón Ward, Utuado, PR 00650. The project's coordinates are latitude 18.324220 and longitude -66.654274. A map of the project site location can be found in Appendix A: Figure 1.

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Utuado) consist in the installation of a nursery type greenhouse measuring 20 feet by 16 feet. This greenhouse will be

constructed with 6 metal tubes, each anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the greenhouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of less than one acre, which involves mowing and road improvement. Ground disturbance is expected as part of these activities. The project includes the purchase of an irrigation system consisting of hoses, tubes, and pumps. This irrigation system will not be anchored to the ground and all its pipes will be installed above ground, as well as any extension of power lines. The property in the location already has existing water (PRASA) and power (LUMA) connections, therefore, no new utility connections will be needed.

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

Name of the species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	Endangered
Palo De Rosa (<i>Ottoschulzia rhodoxylon</i>)	Threatened
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (<i>Atlantea tulita</i>)	Threatened
Puerto Rican Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>)	Endangered
Critical Habitat	
There are no critical habitats at this location.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Existing Habitat Conditions at Project Area:

The project area where activities will be taking place consists of approximately 0.28-acres of land located at PR-146 Road Km. 2.8, Limón Ward, Utuado, PR 00650. According to the U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database (NLCD) (Appendix A: Figure 4) the majority of the project area consists of mostly evergreen forest land. A topographic map is included, see Appendix A: Figure 3. The project is

located in Zone X on the FEMA Flood Map, panel number 72000C0610H, dated 4/19/2005, and ABFE Map, see Appendix A: Figures 5–6. A Preliminary FIRM has not been developed for this area. There is a mapped NWI riverine, R5UBH, see we Appendix A: Figure 7. The nearest critical habitat is 834 feet away (Appendix A: Figure 2).

Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years. The soil in this area has been classified as Caguabo-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes (CbF). This complex consists of shallow, steep and very steep soils and areas of exposed bedrock. The complex is on side slopes and ridgetops on volcanic uplands. Permeability is moderate in the Caguabo soil, and the available water capacity is low. Runoff is rapid, and the root zone is shallow.

Species Effects Analysis:

A Species List of Caribbean Ecological Services can be found in Appendix C.

Puerto Rican Boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*)

Considered to be a habitat generalist, the Puerto Rican Boa tolerates a wide variety of terrestrial and arboreal habitats, including rocky areas, haystack hill, trees and branches, rotting stumps, caves, plantations, various types of forested areas such as karst and mangrove forests, forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges (Appendix E). The IPaC Determination Key (Dkey) for the Puerto Rican Boa, dated June 5, 2024, was used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on the answers inputted into the DKey along with the scope of work, which does include ground disturbance, services of a certified arborist, land conditioning of less than one acre, which involves mowing and road improvement, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” determination on the Puerto Rican Boa.

If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the Construction Manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the Boa.

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*)

The Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is dark brown and has a rufous-barred white ventral area (Appendix E). In adults, the tail is broadly banded with black and white, and the rufous (rust color) breast is characteristic. This species occurs in elfin

woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the Carite Commonwealth Forest, Toro Negro Forest, Los Tres Picachos Forest, and El Yunque National Forest, as well as within mature hardwood plantations, shade coffee plantations, and mature secondary forest of the northcentral karst region of Puerto Rico within and adjacent to the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest, and in the Río Encantado area (Florida – Ciales). The Broad-winged Hawk abundance and distribution is very limited. Any threat against the existing population and its habitat can be detrimental to the species. The Broad-winged Hawk has been included in the federal list of endangered species since 1994. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits the killing, harming, harassing, trapping, purchasing, or selling of any species, as well as parts and products derived from the species. Based on the answers inputted into the DKey along with the scope of work, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk.

Palo De Rosa (*Ottoschulzia rhodoxylon*)

Ottoschulzia rhodoxylon, commonly known as "palo de rosa" due to its pink colored wood, reaches up to approximately 49 feet in height. Its trunk can reach 16 inches in diameter. The leaves are alternate, elliptical or ovate, coriaceous and glossy with a slightly white margin. The flowers of this genus are small and composed of five sepals united at the base, and a corolla with a short tube in the shape of a cup and five lobes. The fruit is about 0.98 inches long and 0.86 inches wide, smooth and with a thin cover that turns dark purple when ripe. Although limited species distribution is no longer considered an imminent threat, the species still faces threats related to habitat destruction and modification in privately-owned lands (particularly along the northern coast of Puerto Rico), and other natural or manmade factors such as hurricanes, climate change, and habitat encroachment by invasive plant species. Furthermore, there are biological and ecological limiting factors for the species, such as populations consisting of isolated trees and the requirement of cross-pollination (transfer of pollen from the flowers of one individual to neighboring trees) to maintain viable populations. This is exacerbated by slow growth of the species seedlings, and the species' sporadic flowering and fruit production, which results in a low recruitment rate. Nonetheless, the slow growth of this tree and its reproductive biology suggest that Palo De Rosa is a late successional species, whose saplings stage might be prolonged under closed canopy conditions until a natural disturbance induces favorable conditions for their development to adulthood. Based on the answers inputted into the DKey along with the scope of work, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect"

determination on the Palo De Rosa.

Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*)

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior, the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly can be found in various parts of Puerto Rico. The butterflies are active during the daytime and their diet consists of nectar from specific tree species. They are known to be found within 0.6 miles from a water source as they depend on water for survival and rely on the tender new growth of the host plant, *Oplonia spinosa* (Prickly Bush), for both egg laying and feeding by caterpillars. The Harlequin Butterfly has a fragmented population among remnants of native forest, located in the northwestern and central portion of the island. There is no critical habitat for the Harlequin Butterfly on the parcel. Due to the vegetation removal it was determined that the project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on the Harlequin Butterfly if conservation measures are implemented (Appendix D).

Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*)

The Puerto Rican Parrot is a bright green bird, with a red forehead and white rings around its eyes, as well a blue covert and primary flight feathers. This parrot feeds on plants such as sierra palm, royal palm, Nance, María tree, guava, pacay, balsam apple, guarea, and trumpet tree, among others. The Puerto Rican Amazon, a native species, was once very abundant in the Island, including the nearby islands of Culebra, Vieques, and Mona. The Puerto Rican Amazon was classified as an endangered species in 1967 before the Endangered Species Act amendments went into effect in 1973. There is a Cooperative Agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, and the United States Forest Service, which work together to foster the Puerto Rican Amazon's recovery. The Endangered Species Act, amended in 1973, prohibits the killing, harassing, trapping, purchasing, or selling of any species, as well as parts and products derived from the species, which is listed as endangered. After a careful review of the scope of work which includes ground disturbance and vegetation removal, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on the Puerto Rican Parrot.

All literature cited can be found in Appendix E.

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, we have made the following effects determinations:

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will be implemented
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged Hawk
Palo De Rosa (<i>Ottoschulzia rhodoxylon</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	N/A
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (<i>Atlantea tulita</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly General Project Design Guidelines
Puerto Rican Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determinations included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species.

For any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information below.

Sincerely,



Aldo A. Rivera-Vázquez, PE
Director – Permits and Environmental Compliance Division
Disaster Recovery Office, CDBG-DR/MIT Program
environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320

Attachments:

Appendix A:

- Figure 1 – Location Map
- Figure 2 – Endangered Species Map
- Figure 3 – USGS Topographic Map
- Figure 4 – Land Cover Map

Figure 5 – Firm Map

Figure 6 – ABFE Map

Figure 7 – Wetlands Map

Appendix B: Field Observation Report

Appendix C: Species List Caribbean Ecological Services and Consistency Letter

Appendix D: Species Conservation Measures

Appendix E: Literature Cited

C: Angel López-Guzmán
 Deputy Director
 Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

Appendix A

Maps

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

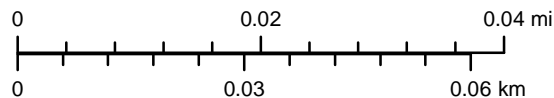
Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Roads Clearing
- Parcel-02326
- CRIM Parcels



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



Source

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

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Figure 7:Threatened & Endangered Species

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Critical Habitat

0 0.2 0.4 mi
0 0.35 0.7 km

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

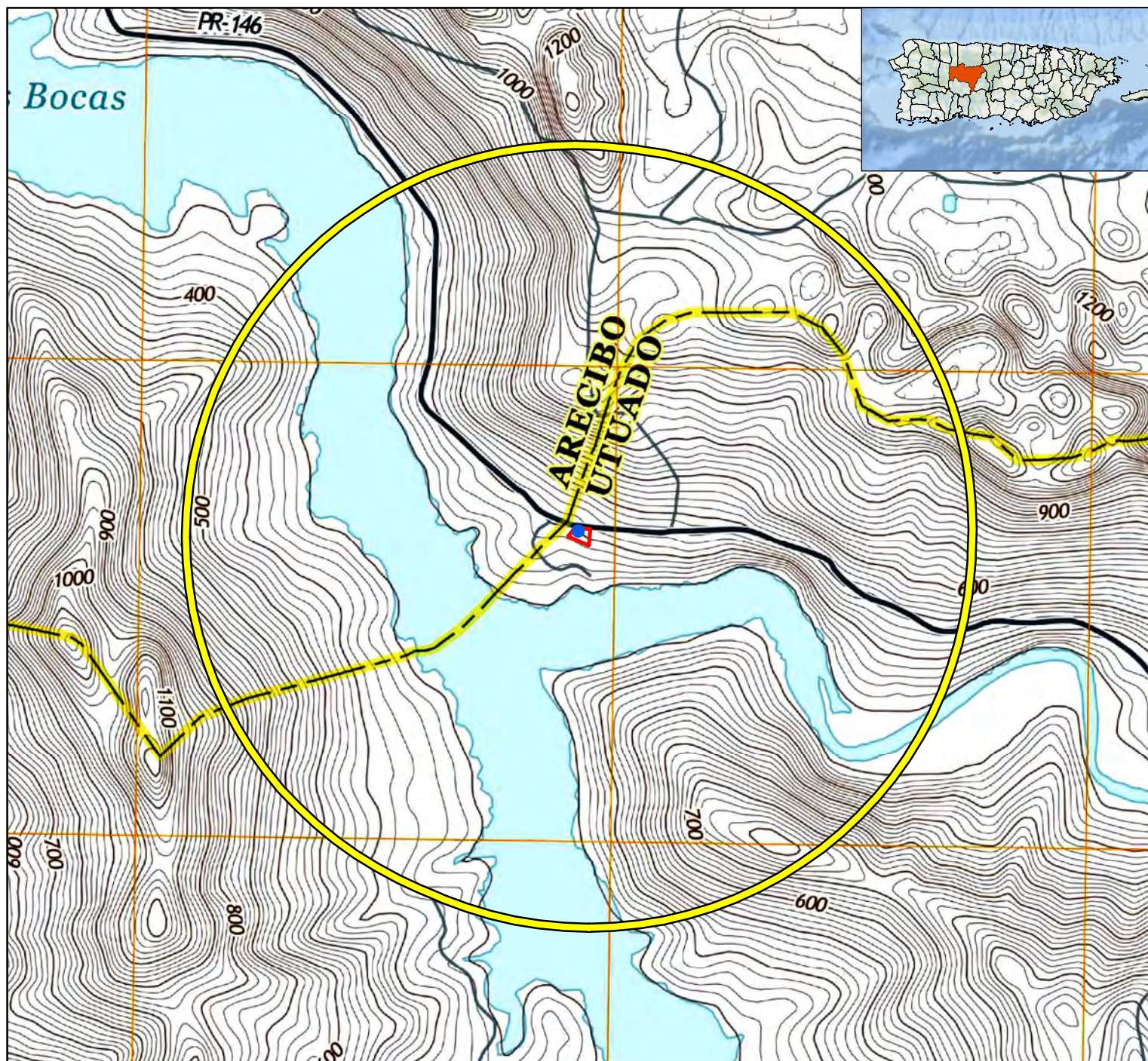
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>



Previous Investigations Topographic Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

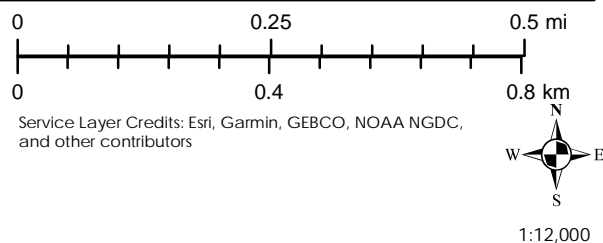
Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuaado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Parcel-02326
- 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer

Quadrangle: Utuaado



Source

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
National Geologic Map Database
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html

- Barren Land
- Cultivated Crops
- Developed, High Intensity
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, Open Space
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
- Evergreen Forest
- Hay/Pasture
- Herbaceous
- Open Water
- Shrub/Scrub
- Woody Wetlands

Parcel Boundary



Map Details

Datasets



National Land Cover Database, land cover - Puerto Rico

<https://databasin.org/datasets/e95aa06e05624f3087559eca884db034/>

Credits: USGS National Land Cover Database 2001

Layers: layer1

PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Utuado)
Bo. Limón, Carr. #146, Km. 2.8
Utuado, Puerto Rico 00650
18.324220 -66.654274

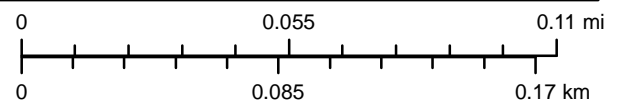
Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)-Zone A, V, A99 Zone A, V, A99
- Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
- FIRM Panel



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

Source

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



1:2,500

Figure 9: Advisory Base Flood Elevation

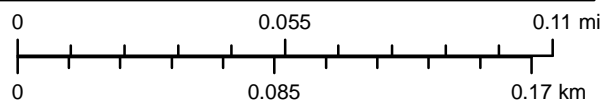
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
 - Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFE)
 - Hydrography
 - 0.2-percent annual chance flood
 - 1-percent annual chance flood
- | Flood Zone | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| | A |
| | 0.2% Annual Chance Flood |
| | Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X |



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

Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),
Junta de Planificación de Puerto Rico (JP),
Mapas de Niveles de Inundación Base Recomendados,
<https://maps.jp.pr.gov/>



Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Figure 12: Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

National Wetlands Inventory

■ Lake
■ Riverine

0 0.055 0.11 mi
0 0.085 0.17 km

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



Source

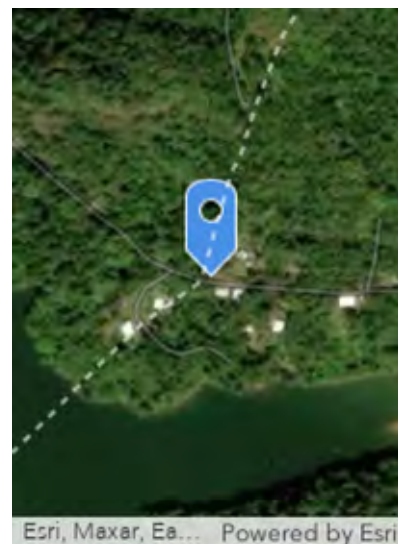
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wetlands Inventory
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>

Appendix B

Field Observation Report

APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-02326 (Utuado Site)
Applicant Name:	Tierra Valiente CRL con fin social
Parcel ID:	134-000-008-43-000
Latitude:	18.324374
Longitude:	-66.654299
Street Address:	Bo. Limon, Street #146, km 2.8
Municipio:	Utuado
Zip Code:	00650
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez
Date of Visit:	May 21, 2024
Time of Visit:	11:12
Building Type:	



FIELD OBSERVATIONS

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

Front of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments: NorthWest Nursery 20ft x
16ft Coordinates: 18.324220, -
66.654274



Facing Away from Front

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Side #1 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Back of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Back

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Side #2 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Side #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #1

Photo Direction:

Comments: West



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction:

Comments: East



Address

Photo Direction:

Comments: South



Architectural Details 1

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: East Overview



Architectural Details 2

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: North Overview



Architectural Details 3

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: East Overview



Architectural Details 4

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: NorthEast
Overview



Architectural Details 5

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: NorthWest
Overview



Architectural Details 6

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: East Overview



Architectural Details 7

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: West overview



Architectural Details 8

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: SW Overview



Architectural Details 9

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water Connection



Architectural Details 10

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview SE



Architectural Details 11

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Architectural Details 12

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Appendix C

USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation



United States Department of the Interior



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

In Reply Refer To:

06/05/2024 15:34:37 UTC

Project code: 2024-0099846

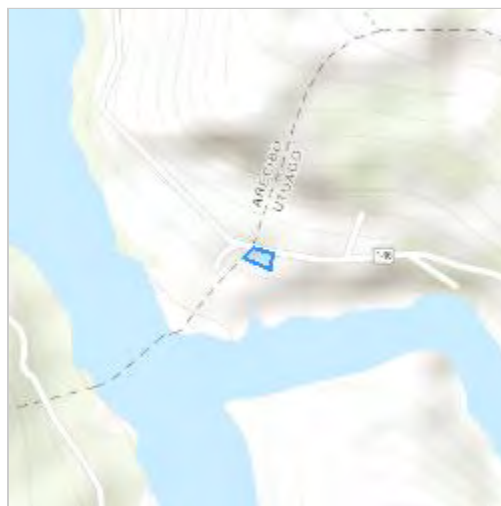
Project Name: PR-RGRW-02326 (Utuado)

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-02326 (Utuado)' for specified threatened and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to the IPaC determination key titled Caribbean Determination Key (DKey).

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the assisted evaluation keys in IPaC. This letter is provided pursuant to the Service's authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.). On June 05, 2024, Egon Gonzalez used the Caribbean DKey; dated April 03, 2024, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online [IPaC application](#) to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-02326 (Utuado)'. The project is located in Utuado County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.32421695,-66.65432745510527,14z>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-02326 (Utuado)':

The proposed project includes the purchase and construction of a new greenhouse(20ftx16ft), arbor services related to the greenhouse and land conditioning.

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

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	Endangered	NLAA

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

Please provide this consistency letter to the lead federal action agency or its designated non-federal representative with a request for its review, and as the agency deems appropriate, to submit for concurrence verification through the IPaC system. The lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative should log into IPaC using their agency email account and click "Search by record locator." They will need to enter the record locator **291-144403006**

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

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

- Palo De Rosa *Ottoschulzia rhodoxylon* Threatened
- Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly *Atlantea tulita* Threatened
- Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata* Endangered

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

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

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

Action Description

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

1. Name

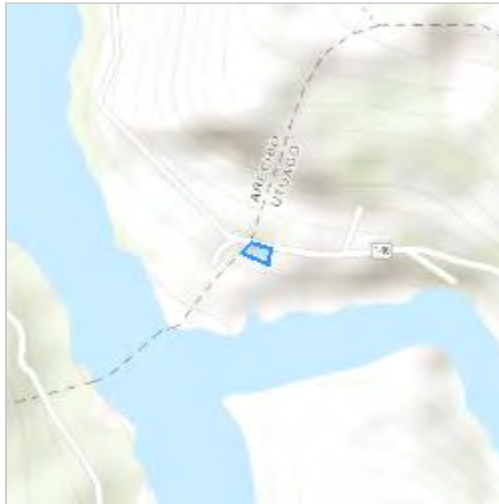
PR-RGRW-02326 (Utuado)

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-02326 (Utuado)':

The proposed project includes the purchase and construction of a new greenhouse(20ftx16ft), arbor services related to the greenhouse and land conditioning.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.32421695,-66.65432745510527,14z>



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

Yes

11. Is the project area more than 1 acre?

No

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

No

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

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

15. Will the proposed project implement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife [Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures](#)?

Yes

16. Will the proposed project be conducted during the Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk or Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk breeding season between December and July?

No

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

21. Are you the Federal agency or designated non-federal representative for the proposed action?

No

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Egon Gonzalez
Address: Calle 37 GG1 Jardines De Caparra
City: Bayamon
State: PR
Zip: 00959
Email: egonadrian94@yahoo.com
Phone: 7874617368



United States Department of the Interior



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

In Reply Refer To:

06/05/2024 15:28:08 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0099846

Project Name: PR-RGRW-02326 (Utuado)

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

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

to caribbean_es@fws.gov. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

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

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

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

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

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

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

caribbean_es@fws.gov

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(786) 244-0081

Attachment(s):

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

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(939) 320-3135

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0099846

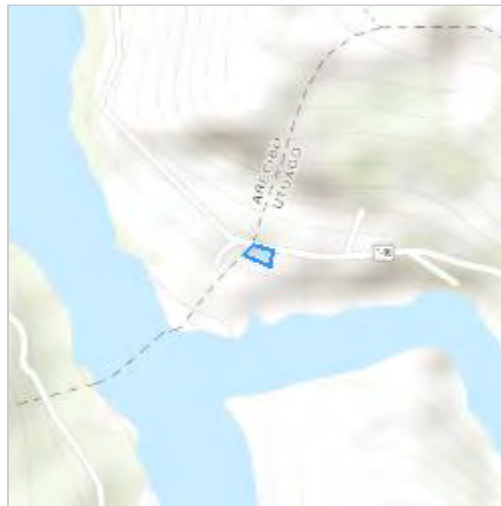
Project Name: PR-RGRW-02326 (Utado)

Project Type: Federal Grant / Loan Related

Project Description: The proposed project includes the purchase and construction of a new greenhouse(20ftx16ft), arbor services related to the greenhouse and land conditioning.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.32421695,-66.65432745510527,14z>



Counties: Utuado County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

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

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

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk <i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512	Endangered
Puerto Rican Parrot <i>Amazona vittata</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067	Endangered

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/7M44T3PQRFBJTJECAHBDRFWZN4/documents/generated/7159.pdf	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly <i>Atlantea tulita</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/7M44T3PQRFBJTJECAHBDRFWZN4/documents/generated/7168.pdf	Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Palo De Rosa <i>Ottoschulzia rhodoxylon</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5741	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

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

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

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

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

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

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

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

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

WETLANDS

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

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

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Egon Gonzalez
Address: Calle 37 GG1 Jardines De Caparra
City: Bayamon
State: PR
Zip: 00959
Email: egonadrian94@yahoo.com
Phone: 7874617368

Appendix D

Species Conservation Measures

Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

Puerto Rican Boa

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





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

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

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

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



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

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

Conservation Measures:

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

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

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

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



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

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) mandates Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of federally listed species. Section 7 (a)(2) requires the Federal agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or any other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, or destroy its eggs or any other of its life stage (caterpillars, chrysalis) is subject to penalties under the ESA. Thus, Federal Action agencies must initiate consultation with the Service under Section 7 of the ESA for any action that could affect the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, the Federal Action agency must submit a project package to the Service with the established minimum requirements (see below). The conservation measures included below should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly. Download the [project evaluations fact sheet](#) to learn more about the requirements or visit our [project evaluations webpage](#).



The Puerto Rican (PR) harlequin butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*), is a threatened species endemic to Puerto Rico, whose currently known range is limited to the Northern Karst

February 2024

physiographic region and the West-central Volcanic-serpentine physiographic region of the Island. Through this range, we have identified six areas occupied by the PR harlequin butterfly that we refer to as a populations: (1) along the coastal cliff in the municipalities of Oflabela, Quebradillas, and Camuy; (2) Guajataca in the municipality of Oflabela; (3) Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest between the municipalities of Arecibo and Utuado; (4) Río Encantado area along the municipalities of Arecibo, Florida and Ciales; (5) Maricao Commonwealth Forest in the municipality of Maricao; and (6) Susúa Commonwealth Forest between the municipalities of Sabana Grande and Yauco. In addition, adult PR harlequin butterflies have been anecdotally reported in other areas of Puerto Rico, including the municipalities of Aguadilla, Barceloneta, Ciales, Florida, Luquillo, Ceiba, Guánica, San Germán, Las Marias and Lares.

The PR harlequin butterfly is a medium sized butterfly with a life cycle includes four distinct anatomical stages: imago (adult), egg, larva (caterpillar, with several size phases called instars), and chrysalis. The species has a wingspan of about 5.1 to 6 centimeters (cm) (2 to 2.5 inches (in)) wide and is characterized by its orange, brownish-black and beige coloration patterns. The caterpillar (larva) is dark orange with a brownish black to black, thin sub-lateral line, over a thin line of white intermittent dots crossing the body from the head to the anal plate, and has spines with hairs on each body segment. The caterpillar is less than .476 centimeters (cm) (0.19 in) in the first instar (growth stage between molts) and about 3.3 cm (1.29 in) in the fifth instar. Both eggs and caterpillars have been found almost exclusively on the host plant prickly bush (*Oplonia spinosa*). The chrysalis (pupa from which the butterfly (adult, or imago) emerges) of the PR harlequin butterfly is black, with orange and white dashes, and yellow pimples. The size of chrysalis is around 3 cm (1.2 in). In the wild, the chrysalis is more often found attached to branches of plants located close to the host plant, but it has been observed attached to dried twigs of the host plant.

The **PR** harlequin butterfly is difficult to detect, and the species is easily misidentified with other common butterflies such as the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus portoricensis*), Antillean crescent (*Antillea pelops*), and Gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanilla insularis*). The PR harlequin butterfly adults seem to be more active in the morning, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, when they are often observed flying searching for food or patrolling their territory for mating or laying eggs. The species flies slowly and is weak and fragile; thus, it is considered a poor disperser. There is information that this butterfly can disperse up to 1,026 meters (m) (3366.1 feet (ft)), approximately 1 kilometer (km) (0.6 mile (mi)) from one breeding site to another. The species seems to have specific ecological requirements for reproduction and its dispersion.

The PR harlequin butterfly was federally listed as threatened on January 3, 2023 (87 FR 73655), due to threats related to habitat modification and loss, its small populations size, and because of analyses of projected effects on the species resulting from relevant factors like increment of urban development rate and climate changes, which may negatively influence the continued existence of the species in the foreseeable future.

The Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the PR harlequin butterfly and its

habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional recommendations can be made besides the ones presented in this document.

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

- o Establish a 10-meter (32-foot) buffer zone around the bush to protect it.
- o Eggs are typically found on the prickly bush's newly grown, tender branches. Once an egg hatches, the caterpillar moves and feeds throughout the plant. Therefore, avoid cutting off the prickly bush within the project site even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
- o Work within the 10-meter buffered area may resume when no signs of any live life stage of the butterfly are detected, which usually takes approximately 60 to 120 days.

8. For all PR harlequin butterfly sightings (all life stages), the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where the butterfly was found must be recorded. Data should also include a photo of the butterfly (if possible) and the habitat where it was observed, site GPS coordinates, and comments on how the butterfly was detected and its behavior. All PR harlequin butterfly sighting reports should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office at caribbean_es@fws.gov.

9. For questions regarding the PR harlequin butterfly, the Point of Contact is:

- José Cruz-Burgos, Threatened and Endangered Species Program Coordinator:
 - o Mobile: 305-304-1386
 - o Office phone: 786-244-0081
 - o Office Direct Line: 939-320-3120
 - o Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov

Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*)

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

The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk is a small hawk with dark chocolate-brown upperparts, heavily streaked rufous breast, and a broadly banded black and white tail. Adult male and female are similar in appearance, but the female is slightly larger. This species occurs in elfin woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest, Carite Commonwealth Forest, and El Yunque National Forest as well as within hardwood plantations, shade coffee plantations, and mature secondary forests. The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk population is estimated at about 125 individuals island-wide.



The broad-winged hawk was federally listed in 1994. The broad-wing prefers to hunt from a perch under the forest canopy for a better view of potential prey in a forest clearing, trail or river below. Each hunting pair requires a range of 40 hectares (98 acres). The Broad-wing builds a nest of sticks in February and March, laying 2 to 4 white/brown-spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs for almost a month while the male searches for food. The young fledge around April or May about 1 month after hatching and can fly about 6 weeks after hatching. The parents feed the young for a few weeks after they leave the nest. The voice is a high-pitched whistle.

The hawk is an uncommon and local resident in the El Yunque National Forest, the Río Abajo State Forest, and the Toro Negro State Forest.

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

1. For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures

to follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency spill response protocols.

2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this hawk (February and March), if the hawk is determined to be present.
4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the USFWS and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
5. If a broad-winged hawk is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).
6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.
7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable environmental compliance and permitting requirements. This information shall be submitted to the PRDNER as shown in Number 5 above.
8. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact PRDNER for further guidance.

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

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
Email: marelisa_rivera@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon (Parrot) (*Amazona vittata*)

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

The Puerto Rican amazon (*Amazona vittata*), also known as the Puerto Rican parrot (Puerto Rican Spanish: cotorra puertorriqueña) or iguaca, is the only extant parrot endemic to the archipelago of Puerto Rico and belongs to the Neotropical genus *Amazona*. Measuring 28–30 cm (11.0–11.8 in), the bird is a predominantly green parrot with a red forehead and white rings around the eyes.



The parrot was federally listed as endangered in 1967. The parrot reaches sexual maturity at between three and four years of age. It reproduces once a year (between the months of February to June) and is a cavity nester. Once the female lays eggs, she will remain in the nest and continuously incubate them until hatching (about 24 to 28 days). The chicks are fed by both parents and will fledge 60 to 65 days after hatching. This parrot's diet is varied and consists of flowers, fruits, leaves, bark and nectar obtained from the forest canopy.

The species is the only remaining native parrot to Puerto Rico and has been listed as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union since 1994. Once widespread and abundant, the population declined drastically in the 19th and early 20th centuries with the removal of most of its native habitat; the species has completely vanished from Vieques and Mona Island. Conservation efforts commenced in 1968 to save the bird from extinction. The habitat of the parrot is generally identified as

the Palo Colorado, Palma de Sierra, and Tabonuco forests types of the upper zones of the Luquillo Mountains within the El Yunque National Forest.

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

1. For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures to follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency spill response protocols.
2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this parrot (January to July), if the parrot is determined to be present. The parrot selects a large, deep tree cavity, usually in a Palo Colorado tree. The parrot normally does not build its own nest but, many times, parrot biologists do build artificial cavities that are accepted by the parrot. A check with DNER should occur if large Palo Colorado trees are in the general construction area.
4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the DNER and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
5. If a parrot is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).
6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these

areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.

7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable environmental compliance and permitting requirements. This information shall be submitted to the PRDNER as shown in Number 5 above.
8. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact PRDNER for further guidance.

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

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
Email: marelisa_rivera@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386

Appendix E

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DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



August 7, 2025

Lourdes Mena
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**RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing / CDBG-DR Re-Grow Program
PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Yauco) – Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Endangered Species Concurrence for NLAA Determination**

Dear Ms. Mena:

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is requesting an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Yauco), located at Río Prieto Ward, El 30 Sector, Street 374, Km. 5.3 Int., Yauco, PR 00698. The project's coordinates are latitude 18.153617 and longitude -66.849018. A map of the project site location can be found in Appendix A: Figure 1.

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Yauco) consists in the installation of a storage warehouse measuring 10' x 10' x 10', constructed with four 1½-inch

galvalume tubes anchored two feet into the ground. As part of the warehouse installation, vegetation removal will be required. Additionally, the project includes the services of a certified arborist and land conditioning of approximately 2 acres, which involves mowing and road clearing and improvement. Ground disturbance is expected during these activities. The connection of any utility will not be necessary for the proposed activity in this location. Some areas of the site are inaccessible due to dense weeds and vegetation. However, this will be addressed through arborist study and land conditioning efforts.

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

Name of the species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus venator</i>)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (<i>Atlantea tulita</i>)	Threatened
Puerto Rican Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>)	Endangered
Critical Habitat	
There are no critical habitats at this location.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Existing Habitat Conditions at Project Area:

The project area where activities will be taking place consists of approximately 11.87-acres of land located at Río Prieto Ward, El 30 Sector, Street 374, Km. 5.3 Int., Yauco, PR 00698. According to the U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database (NLCD) (Appendix A: Figure 4), the majority of the project area consists of mostly evergreen forest land. A topographic map is included, see Appendix A: Figure 3. The project is located in Zone X on the FEMA Flood Map, Panel Number 72000C1065J, dated 11/18/2009, and ABFE Map (Appendix A: Figure 5-6). A Preliminary FIRM has not been

developed for this area. There is a mapped NWI riverine, R5UBH, see Appendix A: Figure 7. The nearest critical habitat is 25,713 feet away, see Appendix A: Figure 2.

Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years. The soil in this area has been classified as the project area crosses two mapped soils series: Cuchillas silty clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes (CvF) and Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes (MkF). This soil is on strongly dissected side slopes and ridgetops in the higher areas of the volcanic uplands. Runoff is rapid, and erosion is a hazard.

Species Effects Analysis:

A Species List of Caribbean Ecological Services can be found in Appendix C.

Puerto Rican Boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*)

Considered to be a habitat generalist, the Puerto Rican Boa tolerates a wide variety of terrestrial and arboreal habitats, including rocky areas, haystack hill, trees and branches, rotting stumps, caves, plantations, various types of forested areas such as karst and mangrove forests, forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges (Appendix E). The IPaC Determination Key (Dkey) for the Puerto Rican Boa, dated June 5, 2024, was used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on the answers inputted into the DKey along with the scope of work, which does include ground disturbance, services of a certified arborist, land conditioning of approximately 2 acres, which involves mowing and road improvement, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” determination on the Puerto Rican Boa (Appendix C).

If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the Construction Manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the Boa.

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*)

The Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is dark brown and has a rufous-barred white ventral area (Appendix E). In adults, the tail is broadly banded with black and white, and the rufous (rust color) breast is characteristic. This species occurs in elfin woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the Carite Commonwealth Forest, Toro Negro Forest, Los Tres Picachos Forest, and El Yunque National Forest, as well as within mature hardwood plantations, shade coffee

plantations, and mature secondary forest of the northcentral karst region of Puerto Rico within and adjacent to the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest, and in the Río Encantado area (Florida – Ciales). The Broad-winged Hawk abundance and distribution is very limited. Any threat against the existing population and its habitat can be detrimental to the species. The Broad-winged Hawk has been included in the federal list of endangered species since 1994. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits the killing, harming, harassing, trapping, purchasing, or selling of any species, as well as parts and products derived from the species. Based on the answers inputted into the DKey along with the scope of work, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk.

Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus venator*)

Habitat requirements per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997 Recovery plan are as follows: "In the Carite Commonwealth Forest, territorial and epigamic activities were reported by Hermindez (1980) in the northeastern and north-central parts. These areas are located in the caimitillo-granadillo forest type of the subtropical wet forest and subtropical lower montane wet forest life zones (Department of Natural Resources 1976). Delannoy (1992) reported that in the Maricao Commonwealth Forest, the center of Sharp-shinned Hawk epigamic and territorial activities was located in the north-central and eastern parts. All of these areas are located within the subtropical lower montane wet forest and subtropical wet forest life zones (Ewel and Whitmore 1973). The Podocarpus and caimitillo forest types dominate these life zones (Department of Natural Resources 1976). In Toro Negro, the Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk territorial and epigamic activities were reported in the eastern segment of the forest (Delannoy 1992). These activities took place in the elfin woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the subtropical wet forest and subtropical lower montane wet forest life zones (Department of Natural Resources 1976)." Based on the answers inputted into the DKey along with the scope of work, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on the Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*)

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Interior, the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly can be found in various parts of Puerto Rico. The butterflies are active during the daytime and their diet consists of nectar from specific tree species. They are known to be found within 0.6 miles from a water source as they depend on water for

survival and rely on the tender new growth of the host plant, *Oplonia spinosa* (Prickly Bush), for both egg laying and feeding by caterpillars. The Harlequin Butterfly has a fragmented population among remnants of native forest, located in the northwestern and central portion of the island. There is no critical habitat for the Harlequin Butterfly on the parcel. Due to the vegetation removal it was determined that the project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly if conservation measures are implemented (Appendix D).

Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*)

The Puerto Rican Parrot is a bright green bird, with a red forehead and white rings around its eyes, as well a blue covert and primary flight feathers. This parrot feeds on plants such as sierra palm, royal palm, Nance, María tree, guava, pacay, balsam apple, guarea, and trumpet tree, among others. The Puerto Rican Amazon, a native species, was once very abundant in the Island, including the nearby islands of Culebra, Vieques, and Mona. The Puerto Rican Amazon was classified as an endangered species in 1967 before the Endangered Species Act amendments went into effect in 1973. There is a Cooperative Agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, and the United States Forest Service, which work together to foster the Puerto Rican Amazon's recovery. The Endangered Species Act, amended in 1973, prohibits the killing, harassing, trapping, purchasing, or selling of any species, as well as parts and products derived from the species, which is listed as endangered. After a careful review of the scope of work which includes ground disturbance and vegetation removal, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on the Puerto Rican Parrot.

All literature cited can be found in Appendix E.

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, we have made the following effects determinations:

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will be implemented
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged Hawk
Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus venator</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures for the Sharp-shinned Hawk
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (<i>Atlantea tulita</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly General Project Design Guidelines
Puerto Rican Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determinations included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species.

For any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information below.

Sincerely,



Aldo A. Rivera-Vázquez, PE
Director – Permits and Environmental Compliance Division
Disaster Recovery Office, CDBG-DR/MIT Program
environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320

Attachments:

Appendix A:

- Figure 1 – Location Map
- Figure 2 – Endangered Species Map
- Figure 3 – USGS Topographic Map
- Figure 4 – Land Cover Map

Figure 5 – Firm Map

Figure 6 – ABFE Map

Figure 7 – Wetlands Map

Appendix B: Field Observation Report

Appendix C: Species List Caribbean Ecological Services and Consistency Letter

Appendix D: Species Conservation Measures

Appendix E: Literature Cited

C: Angel López-Guzmán
 Deputy Director
 Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

Appendix A

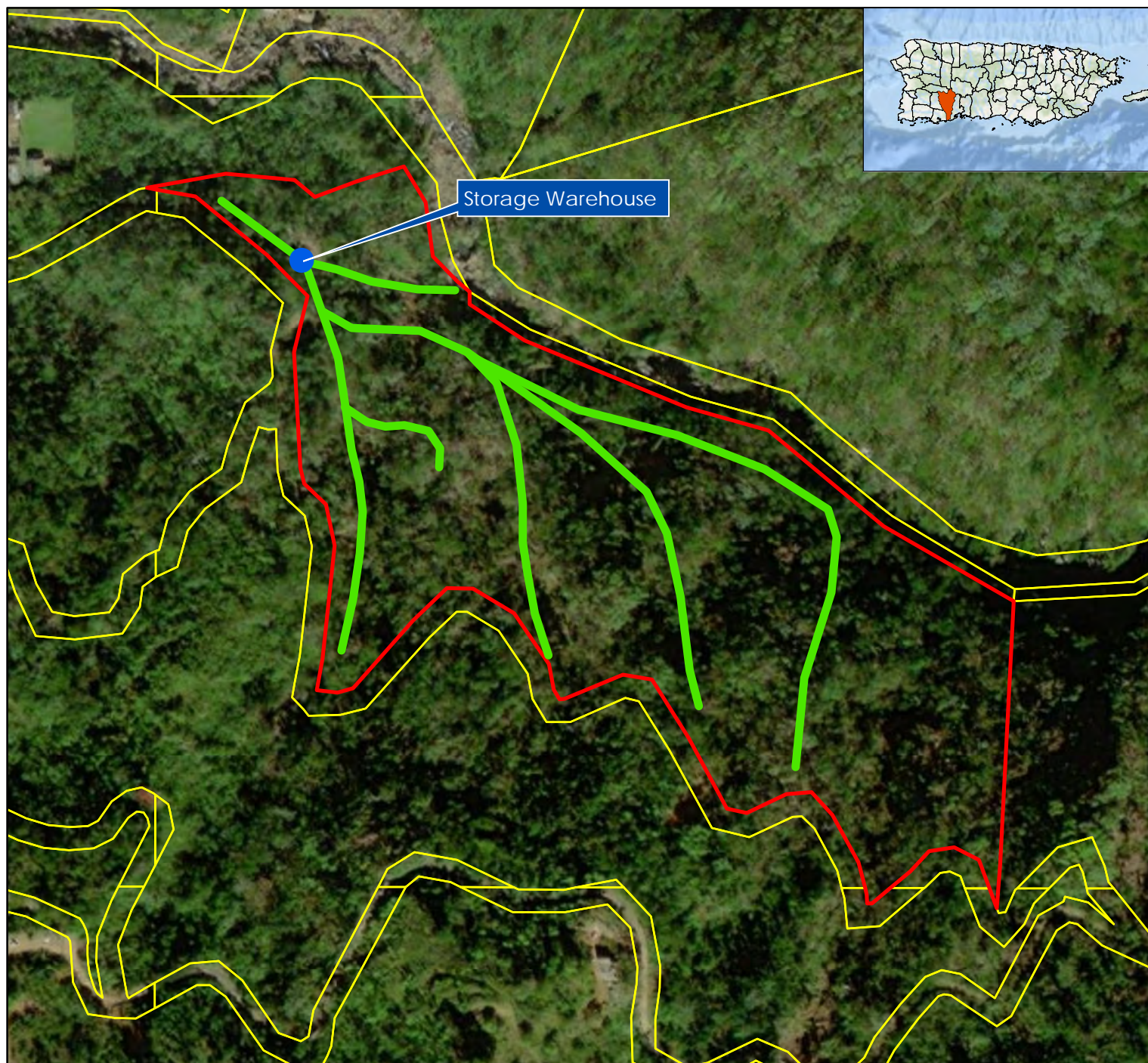
Maps

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Docial
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698





Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000
Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018

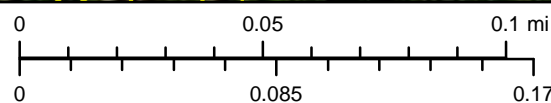
Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  Road Clearing
-  Parcel
-  CRIM Parcels



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



1:2,500

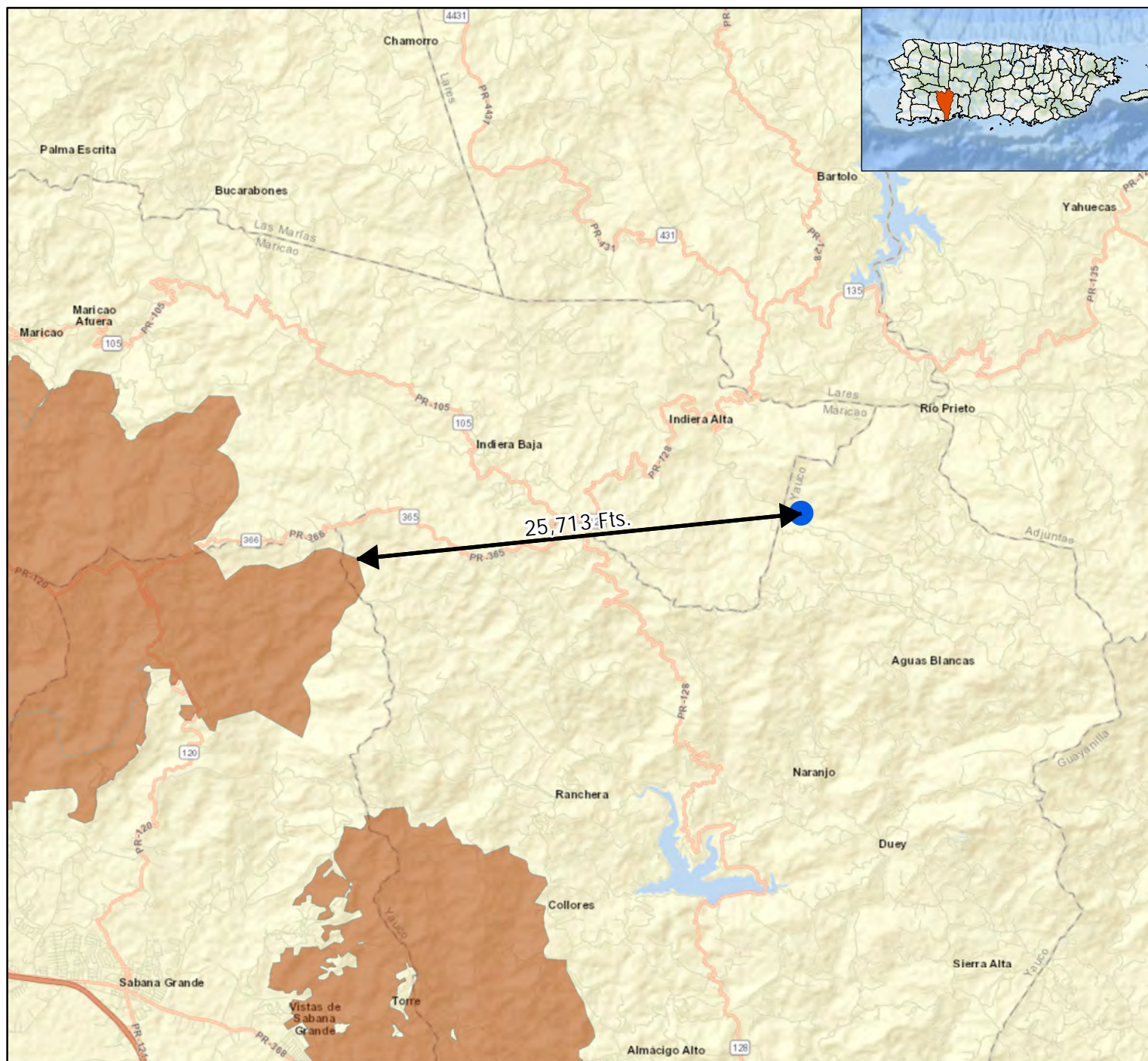
Source

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

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Docial
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698
Num. de Catastro:288-000-003-33-000
Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018

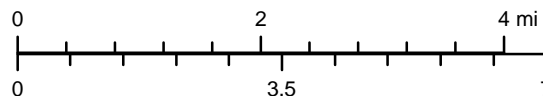
Figure 7:Threatened & Endangered Species

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Critical Habitat



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>



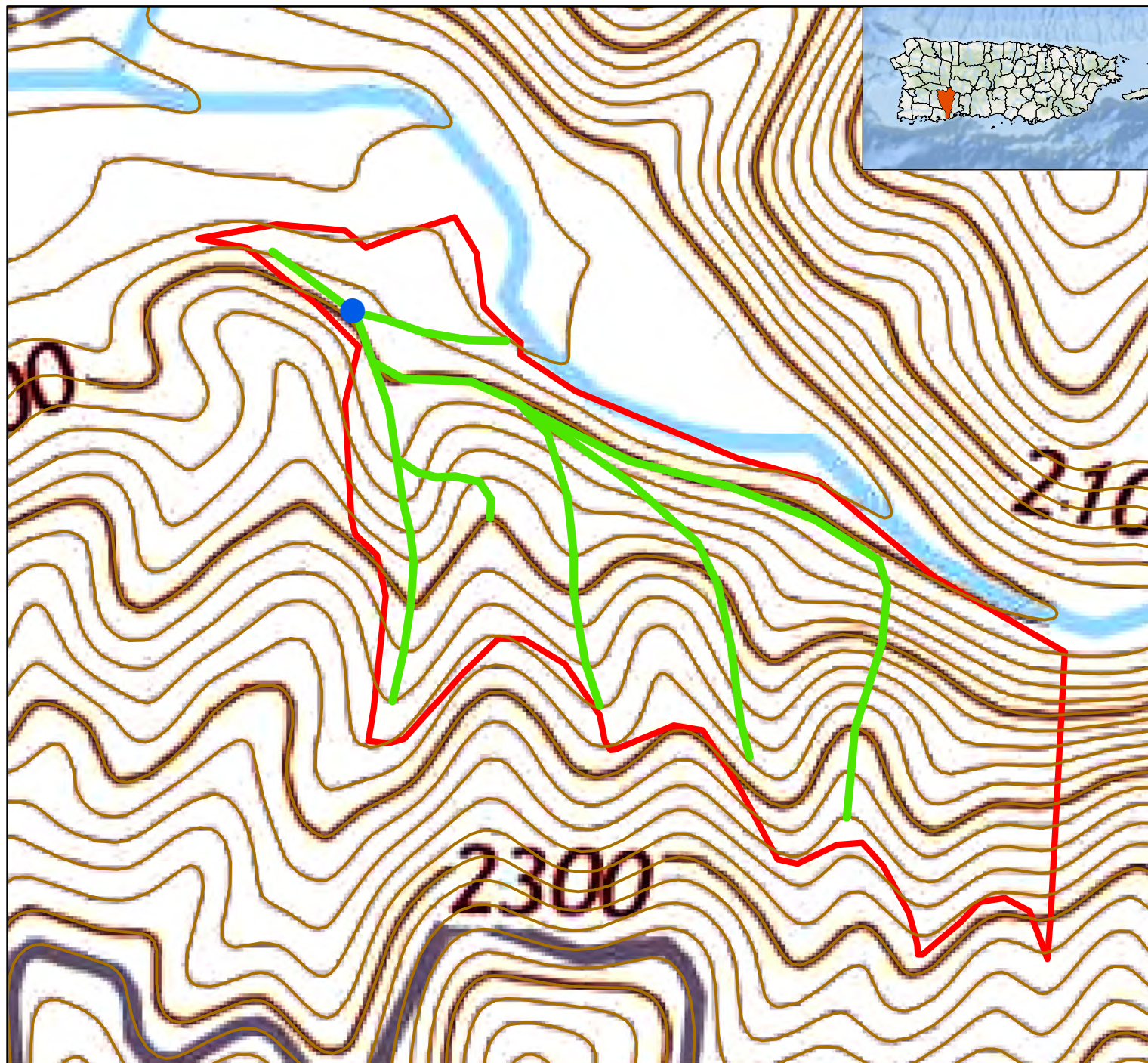
1:100,000

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Docial
Bo. Río Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698

Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000
Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018

Location USGS Topographic Map

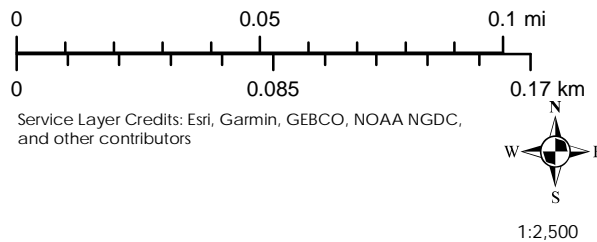
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Road Clearing
- Contour Interval 20 Feet
- Parcel

Quadrangle: Monte Guilarte



Source

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
National Geologic Map Database
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html



PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Yauco) Land Cover Map

Legend

National Land Cover Database, land cover - Puerto Rico

- Barren Land
- Cultivated Crops
- Developed, High Intensity
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, Open Space
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
- Evergreen Forest
- Hay/Pasture
- Herbaceous
- Open Water
- Shrub/Scrub
- Woody Wetlands

Parcel Boundary



Map Details

Datasets



National Land Cover Database, land cover - Puerto Rico

<https://databasin.org/datasets/e95aa06e05624f3087559eca884db034/>

Credits: USGS National Land Cover Database 2001

Layers: layer1

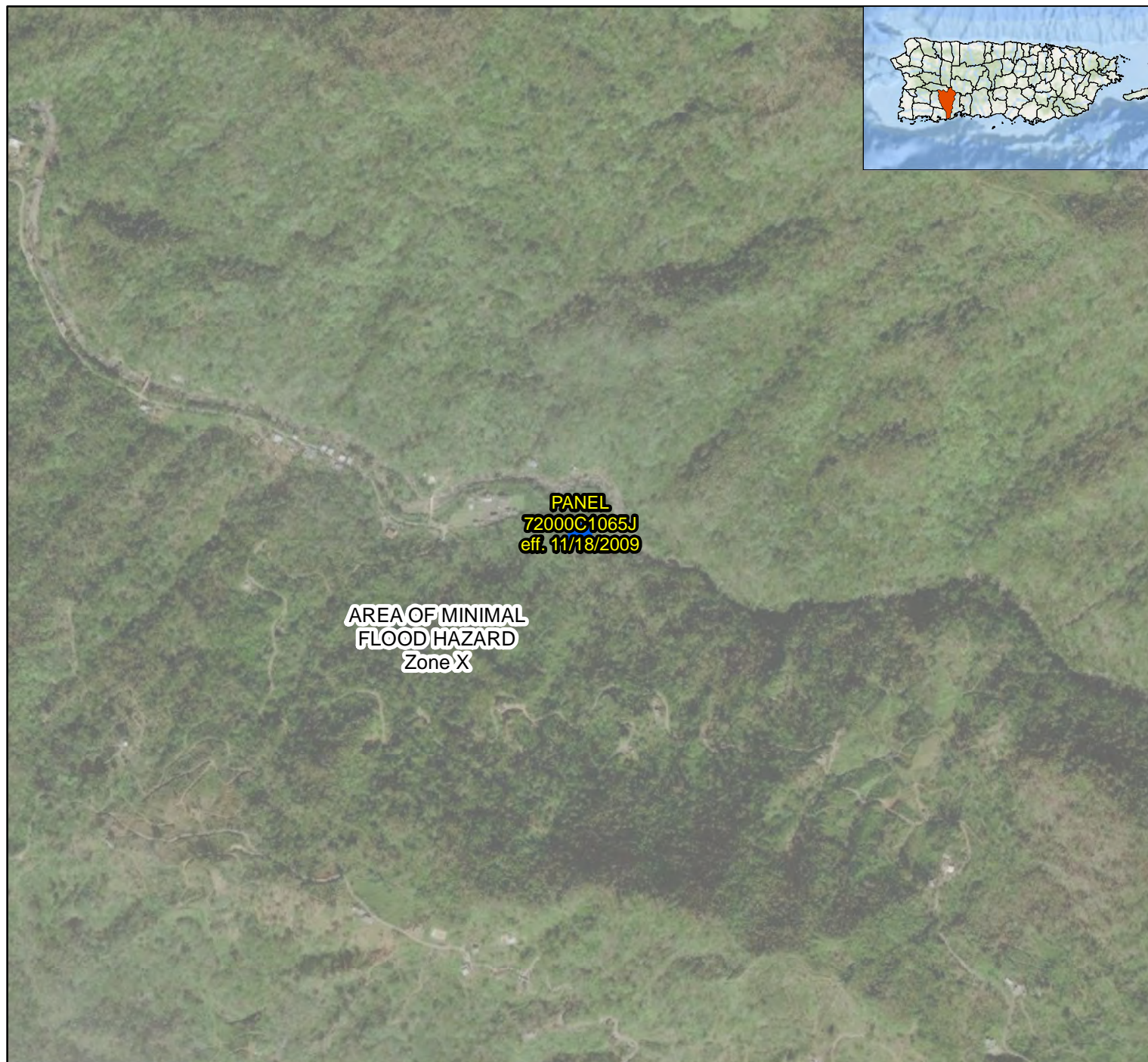
PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Yauco)
Bo. Río Prieto, Sector el 30, Street
374, km. 5 hm 3 Int
Yauco, Puerto Rico 00698
18.153617 -66.849018

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Docial
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698




Núm. de Catastro: 288-000-003-33-000
Lat: 18.153617, Long: -66.849018

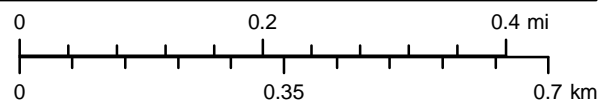
Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
-  FIRM Panel



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

Source

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

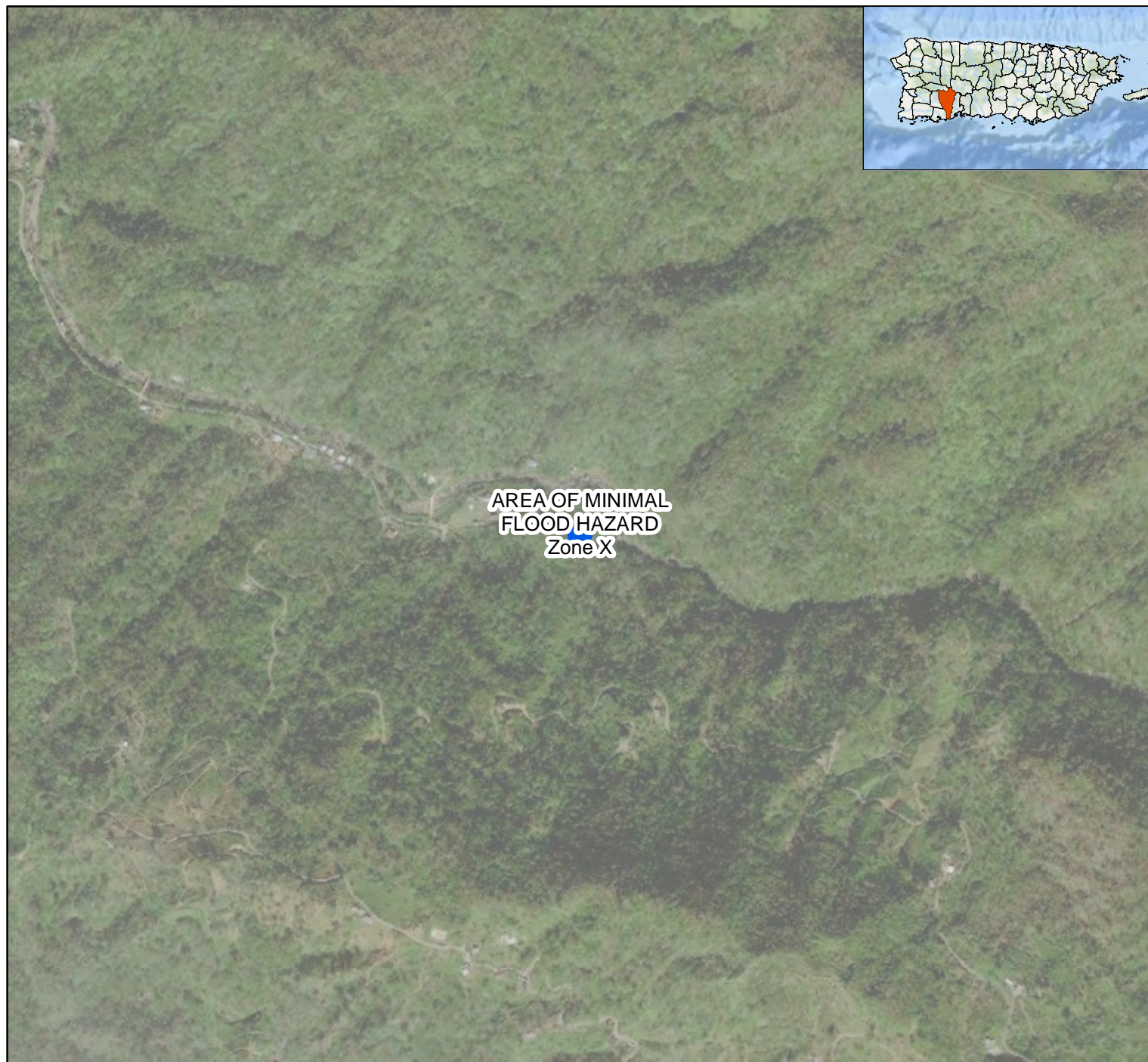


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Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Docial
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698
Num. de Catastro:288-000-003-33-000
Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018

Figure 9: Advisory Base Flood Elevation

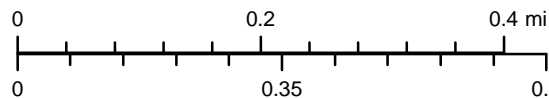
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



AREA OF MINIMAL
FLOOD HAZARD
Zone X

Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X



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

Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),
Junta de Planificacion de Puerto Rico (JP),
Mapas de Niveles de Inundacion Base Recomendados,
<https://maps.jp.pr.gov/>



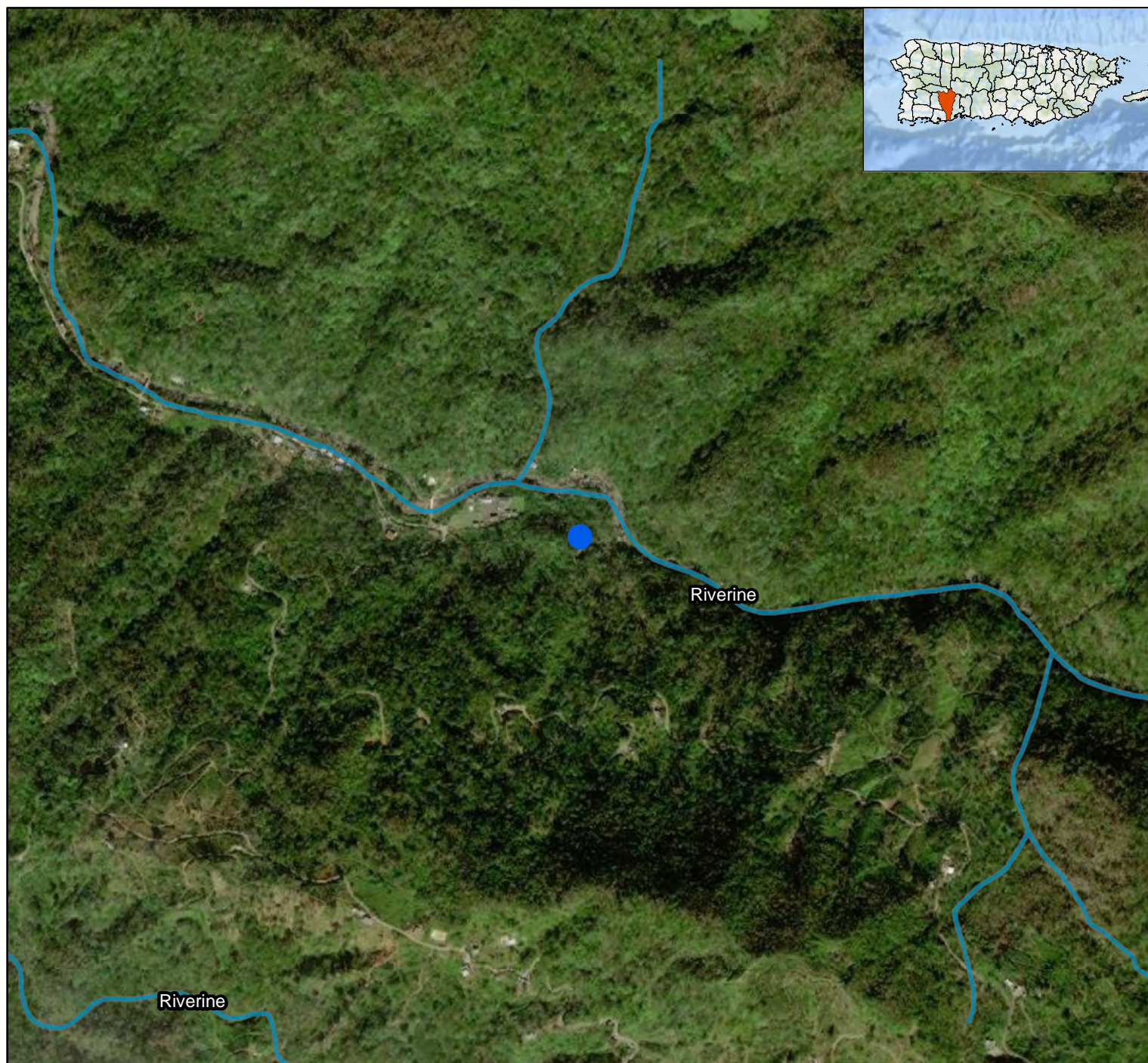
1:10,000

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Docial
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698

Núm. de Catastro:288-000-003-33-000
Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018

Figure 12: Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

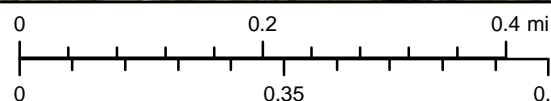


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

National Wetlands Inventory

■ Riverine



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



1:10,000


Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wetlands Inventory
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>

Appendix B

Field Observation Report

APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-02326 (Yauco Site)	 <p>Esri, HERE, Ga... Powered by Esri</p>	 <p>Esri, Maxar, Ea... Powered by Esri</p>
Applicant Name:	Dayna M Rivera Rivera		
Parcel ID:	288-000-003-33		
Latitude:	18.153668		
Longitude:	-66.848959		
Street Address:	BO Rio Prieto Parc 15		
Municipio:	Yauco		
Zip Code:	00698		
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez		
Date of Visit:	May 28, 2024		
Time of Visit:	10:45		
Building Type:			

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

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

Front of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments: Warehouse: 18.153617, -
66.849018



Facing Away from Front

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Side #1 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Back of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Back

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Side #2 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Side #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Address

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Architectural Details 1

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream



Architectural Details 2

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Path to storage



Architectural Details 3

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Path to storage



Architectural Details 4

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Path to storage



Architectural Details 5

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Path to clean



Architectural Details 6

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Area to clean



Architectural Details 7

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream in property



Architectural Details 8

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: River near property



Architectural Details 9

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Rain canal



Architectural Details 10

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Rain canal
coordinates: 18.153835, -66.84848



Architectural Details 11

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Path to clean



Architectural Details 12

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Architectural Details 13

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Architectural Details 14

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Appendix C

USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation



United States Department of the Interior



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

In Reply Refer To:
Project code: 2024-0099925
Project Name: PR-RGRW-02326 (Yauco)

06/05/2024 16:46:01 UTC

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-02326 (Yauco)' for specified threatened and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to the IPaC determination key titled Caribbean Determination Key (DKey).

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the assisted evaluation keys in IPaC. This letter is provided pursuant to the Service's authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.). On June 05, 2024, Egon Gonzalez used the Caribbean DKey; dated April 03, 2024, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online [IPaC application](#) to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-02326 (Yauco)'. The project is located in Yauco County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1526098,-66.84779338236262,14z>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-02326 (Yauco)':

The proposed project includes the purchase and construction of new storage warehouse(10x10), arbor services related to the greenhouse and land conditioning.

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

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus venator</i>)	Endangered	NLAA

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

Please provide this consistency letter to the lead federal action agency or its designated non-federal representative with a request for its review, and as the agency deems appropriate, to submit for concurrence verification through the IPaC system. The lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative should log into IPaC using their agency email account and click "Search by record locator." They will need to enter the record locator **330-144414259**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Action Description

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

1. Name

PR-RGRW-02326 (Yauco)

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-02326 (Yauco)':

The proposed project includes the purchase and construction of new storage warehouse(10x10), arbor services related to the greenhouse and land conditioning.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1526098,-66.84779338236262,14z>



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

Yes

11. Is the project area more than 1 acre?

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

15. Will the proposed project implement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife [Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures](#)?

Yes

16. Will the proposed project be conducted during the Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk or Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk breeding season between December and July?

No

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

20. Does the proposed project intersect the Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk area of influence?

Automatically answered

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

22. Are you the Federal agency or designated non-federal representative for the proposed action?

No

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Egon Gonzalez
Address: Calle 37 GG1 Jardines De Caparra
City: Bayamon
State: PR
Zip: 00959
Email: egonadrian94@yahoo.com
Phone: 7874617368



United States Department of the Interior



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

In Reply Refer To:

06/05/2024 16:37:24 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0099925

Project Name: PR-RGRW-02326 (Yauco)

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

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

to caribbean_es@fws.gov. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

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

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

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

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

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

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

caribbean_es@fws.gov

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(786) 244-0081

Attachment(s):

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

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(939) 320-3135

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0099925

Project Name: PR-RGRW-02326 (Yauco)

Project Type: Federal Grant / Loan Related

Project Description: The proposed project includes the purchase and construction of new storage warehouse(10x10), arbor services related to the greenhouse and land conditioning.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1526098,-66.84779338236262,14z>



Counties: Yauco County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

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

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

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk <i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512	Endangered
Puerto Rican Parrot <i>Amazona vittata</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067	Endangered
Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus venator</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/604	Endangered

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/RFMWOFQCQZFUHEPCP2G3SS4CJI/documents/generated/7159.pdf	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly <i>Atlantea tulita</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/RFMWOFQCQZFUHEPCP2G3SS4CJI/documents/generated/7168.pdf	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

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

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

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

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

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

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

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

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

WETLANDS

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

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

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Egon Gonzalez
Address: Calle 37 GG1 Jardines De Caparra
City: Bayamon
State: PR
Zip: 00959
Email: egonadrian94@yahoo.com
Phone: 7874617368

Appendix D

Species Conservation

Measures

Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

Puerto Rican Boa

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

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

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

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



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

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

Conservation Measures:

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

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

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

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



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

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) mandates Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of federally listed species. Section 7 (a)(2) requires the Federal agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or any other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, or destroy its eggs or any other of its life stage (caterpillars, chrysalis) is subject to penalties under the ESA. Thus, Federal Action agencies must initiate consultation with the Service under Section 7 of the ESA for any action that could affect the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, the Federal Action agency must submit a project package to the Service with the established minimum requirements (see below). The conservation measures included below should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly. Download the [project evaluations fact sheet](#) to learn more about the requirements or visit our [project evaluations webpage](#).



The Puerto Rican (PR) harlequin butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*), is a threatened species endemic to Puerto Rico, whose currently known range is limited to the Northern Karst

February 2024

physiographic region and the West-central Volcanic-serpentine physiographic region of the Island. Through this range, we have identified six areas occupied by the PR harlequin butterfly that we refer to as a populations: (1) along the coastal cliff in the municipalities of Oñes, Quebradillas, and Camuy; (2) Guajataca in the municipality of Oñes; (3) Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest between the municipalities of Arecibo and Utuado; (4) Río Encantado area along the municipalities of Arecibo, Florida and Ciales; (5) Maricao Commonwealth Forest in the municipality of Maricao; and (6) Susúa Commonwealth Forest between the municipalities of Sabana Grande and Yauco. In addition, adult PR harlequin butterflies have been anecdotally reported in other areas of Puerto Rico, including the municipalities of Aguadilla, Barceloneta, Ciales, Florida, Luquillo, Ceiba, Guánica, San Germán, Las Marias and Lares.

The PR harlequin butterfly is a medium sized butterfly with a life cycle includes four distinct anatomical stages: imago (adult), egg, larva (caterpillar, with several size phases called instars), and chrysalis. The species has a wingspan of about 5.1 to 6 centimeters (cm) (2 to 2.5 inches (in)) wide and is characterized by its orange, brownish-black and beige coloration patterns. The caterpillar (larva) is dark orange with a brownish black to black, thin sub-lateral line, over a thin line of white intermittent dots crossing the body from the head to the anal plate, and has spines with hairs on each body segment. The caterpillar is less than .476 centimeters (cm) (0.19 in) in the first instar (growth stage between molts) and about 3.3 cm (1.29 in) in the fifth instar. Both eggs and caterpillars have been found almost exclusively on the host plant prickly bush (*Oplonia spinosa*). The chrysalis (pupa from which the butterfly (adult, or imago) emerges) of the PR harlequin butterfly is black, with orange and white dashes, and yellow pimples. The size of chrysalis is around 3 cm (1.2 in). In the wild, the chrysalis is more often found attached to branches of plants located close to the host plant, but it has been observed attached to dried twigs of the host plant.

The **PR** harlequin butterfly is difficult to detect, and the species is easily misidentified with other common butterflies such as the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus portoricensis*), Antillean crescent (*Antillea pelops*), and Gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanilla insularis*). The PR harlequin butterfly adults seem to be more active in the morning, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, when they are often observed flying searching for food or patrolling their territory for mating or laying eggs. The species flies slowly and is weak and fragile; thus, it is considered a poor disperser. There is information that this butterfly can disperse up to 1,026 meters (m) (3366.1 feet (ft)), approximately 1 kilometer (km) (0.6 mile (mi)) from one breeding site to another. The species seems to have specific ecological requirements for reproduction and its dispersion.

The PR harlequin butterfly was federally listed as threatened on January 3, 2023 (87 FR 73655), due to threats related to habitat modification and loss, its small populations size, and because of analyses of projected effects on the species resulting from relevant factors like increment of urban development rate and climate changes, which may negatively influence the continued existence of the species in the foreseeable future.

The Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the PR harlequin butterfly and its

habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional recommendations can be made besides the ones presented in this document.

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

- o Establish a 10-meter (32-foot) buffer zone around the bush to protect it.
- o Eggs are typically found on the prickly bush's newly grown, tender branches. Once an egg hatches, the caterpillar moves and feeds throughout the plant. Therefore, avoid cutting off the prickly bush within the project site even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
- o Work within the 10-meter buffered area may resume when no signs of any live life stage of the butterfly are detected, which usually takes approximately 60 to 120 days.

8. For all PR harlequin butterfly sightings (all life stages), the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where the butterfly was found must be recorded. Data should also include a photo of the butterfly (if possible) and the habitat where it was observed, site GPS coordinates, and comments on how the butterfly was detected and its behavior. All PR harlequin butterfly sighting reports should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office at caribbean_es@fws.gov.

9. For questions regarding the PR harlequin butterfly, the Point of Contact is:

- José Cruz-Burgos, Threatened and Endangered Species Program Coordinator:
 - o Mobile: 305-304-1386
 - o Office phone: 786-244-0081
 - o Office Direct Line: 939-320-3120
 - o Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov

Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*)

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

The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk is a small hawk with dark chocolate-brown upperparts, heavily streaked rufous breast, and a broadly banded black and white tail. Adult male and female are similar in appearance, but the female is slightly larger. This species occurs in elfin woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest, Carite Commonwealth Forest, and El Yunque National Forest as well as within hardwood plantations, shade coffee plantations, and mature secondary forests. The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk population is estimated at about 125 individuals island-wide.



The broad-winged hawk was federally listed in 1994. The broad-wing prefers to hunt from a perch under the forest canopy for a better view of potential prey in a forest clearing, trail or river below. Each hunting pair requires a range of 40 hectares (98 acres). The Broad-wing builds a nest of sticks in February and March, laying 2 to 4 white/brown-spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs for almost a month while the male searches for food. The young fledge around April or May about 1 month after hatching and can fly about 6 weeks after hatching. The parents feed the young for a few weeks after they leave the nest. The voice is a high-pitched whistle.

The hawk is an uncommon and local resident in the El Yunque National Forest, the Río Abajo State Forest, and the Toro Negro State Forest.

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

1. For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures

to follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency spill response protocols.

2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this hawk (February and March), if the hawk is determined to be present.
4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the USFWS and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
5. If a broad-winged hawk is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).
6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.
7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable environmental compliance and permitting requirements. This information shall be submitted to the PRDNER as shown in Number 5 above.
8. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact PRDNER for further guidance.

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

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
Email: marelisa_rivera@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon (Parrot) (*Amazona vittata*)

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

The Puerto Rican amazon (*Amazona vittata*), also known as the Puerto Rican parrot (Puerto Rican Spanish: cotorra puertorriqueña) or iguaca, is the only extant parrot endemic to the archipelago of Puerto Rico and belongs to the Neotropical genus *Amazona*. Measuring 28–30 cm (11.0–11.8 in), the bird is a predominantly green parrot with a red forehead and white rings around the eyes.



The parrot was federally listed as endangered in 1967. The parrot reaches sexual maturity at between three and four years of age. It reproduces once a year (between the months of February to June) and is a cavity nester. Once the female lays eggs, she will remain in the nest and continuously incubate them until hatching (about 24 to 28 days). The chicks are fed by both parents and will fledge 60 to 65 days after hatching. This parrot's diet is varied and consists of flowers, fruits, leaves, bark and nectar obtained from the forest canopy.

The species is the only remaining native parrot to Puerto Rico and has been listed as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union since 1994. Once widespread and abundant, the population declined drastically in the 19th and early 20th centuries with the removal of most of its native habitat; the species has completely vanished from Vieques and Mona Island. Conservation efforts commenced in 1968 to save the bird from extinction. The habitat of the parrot is generally identified as

the Palo Colorado, Palma de Sierra, and Tabonuco forests types of the upper zones of the Luquillo Mountains within the El Yunque National Forest.

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

1. For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures to follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency spill response protocols.
2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this parrot (January to July), if the parrot is determined to be present. The parrot selects a large, deep tree cavity, usually in a Palo Colorado tree. The parrot normally does not build its own nest but, many times, parrot biologists do build artificial cavities that are accepted by the parrot. A check with DNER should occur if large Palo Colorado trees are in the general construction area.
4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the DNER and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
5. If a parrot is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).
6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these

areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.

7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable environmental compliance and permitting requirements. This information shall be submitted to the PRDNER as shown in Number 5 above.
8. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact PRDNER for further guidance.

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

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
Email: marelisa_rivera@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus venator*)

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

The Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk is a small hawk measuring approximately 28 to 33 centimeters (11 to 13 inches). The dark slate gray upper parts and heavily barred rufous underparts of the adults are distinctive. Immatures are brown above and heavily streaked below. It has short, squared tail, often appearing notched when folded, and small head and neck. In flight, the short, rounded wings and long, narrow tail is characteristic. Adult males and females are similar in appearance, but the female is larger. The SSHA in Puerto Rico exhibits insular population traits, including small clutches, low productivity, and extended breeding periods. Historic information described this species as rare, uncommon, and occurring in restricted habitats in small numbers.



The sharp-shinned hawk was federally listed as endangered in 1994. The results of comprehensive population surveys suggest a decline of the island-wide population from 150 individuals in 1992 to about 100 individuals in 2016. In addition, a significant decline of this species have been reported in the Toro Negro Commonwealth Forest (TNCF) and Maricao Commonwealth Forest (MCF), which were previously considered the center of distribution of this species in Puerto Rico. Studies estimated the population of MCF as just 8 individuals and the population in TNCF as 26 individuals indicating a population decline of 53% and 86% in TNCF and MCF, respectively.

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

1. For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures to follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency spill response protocols.
2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this hawk (March and April), if the hawk is determined to be present.
4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the USFWS and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
5. If a sharp-shinned hawk is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).
6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.
7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable

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

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Email: marelisa_rivera@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386

Appendix E

Literature Cited

Literature Cited:

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Radon Attachments



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: guerrero.carmen@epa.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

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Policies and guidelines – Information or any policy, guideline, or protocol your agency follows concerning radon testing, exposure limits, or mitigation.

Historical data – 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.

Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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

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William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: OIA@cdc.gov

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

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Sincerely,


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary



August 20, 2024

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

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

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Sincerely,


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

August 20, 2024

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

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

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

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Tel. (787) 274-2527 | www.cdh.pr.gov



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

August 20, 2024

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

Via email: hweyers@usgs.gov

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

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CDBG-DR/MIT Program
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Page 2 / 2

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Sincerely,


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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

CDBG-DR/MIT Program
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Sincerely,


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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

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

Good morning, Sandra and others,

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

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

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

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



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

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

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

Best regards,

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

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

Good afternoon. Ms. Medina

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

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

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

Saludos.

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

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

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

Estimada Melanie Medina

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

Atentamente

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



Bubble Dynamics Lab
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez



EPA REGION 2
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

September 23, 2024

VIA EMAIL

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

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

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodriguez Rodriguez:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2

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

Sincerely,

**CARMEN
GUERRERO
PEREZ**

Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez
Director

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO PLANNING BOARD

June 11, 2024

RESOLUTION JP-2024-004
Second Amendment

Federal Consistency Certification with the
Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and
Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)

The United States (U.S.) Government, through Major Disaster Declarations (DR-4336 and DR-4339), declared Puerto Rico a disaster area after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and María. Considering this event, the U.S. Congress approved Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for Puerto Rico's unmet disaster recovery needs, and Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for the Commonwealth's long-term planning and risk mitigation activities. Moreover, the Congress approved additional CDBG-DR funds for the Commonwealth in response to Major Disaster Declarations: DR-4336, DR-4339, DR-4473, and DR-4671.

The damage caused by high-speed winds, storm surges, earthquakes, flooding, and landslides attributed to major disasters, had devastating effects on Puerto Rico's coastal areas that need to be addressed in an expeditious manner. While many of the direct emergency needs have been met, disaster recovery and mitigation need of the Commonwealth are on-going and will continue into the near future.

Law Number 75 of June 24, 1975, as amended (Organic law of the Puerto Rico Planning Board) grants the Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) the responsibility and powers to guide the comprehensive development of Puerto Rico, guaranteeing the general well-being of its current and future inhabitants.

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq) establishes that federal agency activities including the award of Federal Assistance must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved state management programs. The Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) is the designated state agency to review and determine Federal Consistency with the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program (PRCZMP) according to established procedures at 15 CFR Part 930.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is formally the Grantee for the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funds. The Governor of Puerto Rico designated the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) as the grantee for the purposes of administering these funds and executing grant agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the federal oversight agency for the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funding.

Taking into consideration the high volume of requests for federal assistance that has been generated as part of the recovery process following the disaster declarations and the current need to expedite this process, the PRPB proceeded to carry out a review of Federal Consistency with the PRCZMP for the following federal assistance programs:

- CDBG-DR eligible activities provided in Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA), and outlined in the applicable

Federal Register Notices, the CDBG-DR Action Plan and CDBG-DR Program Guidelines.

- CDBG-MIT eligible activities provided in Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA), and outlined in the applicable Federal Notices, the CDBG-MIT Action Plan and CDBG-MIT Program Guidelines.

After considering the information provided by PRDOH in relation to the eligible projects and activities to be awarded by the above-mentioned programs, the Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) in their meeting held on July 24, 2024, agreed the following:

A. The following activities or projects to be financed under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs have no significant impact on Puerto Coastal Resources and do not require Federal Consistency review:

1. Energy and water efficiency improvements for single-family homeowners, as well as small and medium-sized businesses, to enhance resilience. These improvements include the installation of renewable energy systems, such as photovoltaic modules, metering equipment, batteries, mounting and anchoring systems, and electrical accessories needed to create a functional system on existing structures. This also includes PV systems with battery backup for critical loads and water storage systems on roofs or previously impacted areas.
2. Provide support to entities throughout the Island to offer training in job skills related to the reconstruction and economic growth of Puerto Rico. Also, those skills that are necessary to situate the Island in the economy of the future.
3. Granting awards of up to \$150,000 for working capital and movable equipment for small businesses and micro-enterprises that suffered physical and/or financial losses due to the Hurricanes. Start-ups created after the Hurricanes are also eligible if they can show their creation was the result of a closure of a previous business of same owner(s), after damage caused by the Hurricanes.
4. Projects or activities that involve the rehabilitation or renovation of the interior of existing structures, including but not limited to single-family homes. This may encompass activities such as upgrading electrical and plumbing systems, repairing structural components, remodeling living spaces, and enhancing energy efficiency, all aimed at improving the functionality, safety, and sustainability of the property. Projects located within Historic Zones and Flood Zones are required to adhere to the provisions set forth in Sections E and F of this resolution, where applicable.
5. Projects or activities that are exempt from construction permits under Act 161-2009, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Permit Process Reform Act" and Rule 3.2.4 (Activities Exempt from Construction Permits) including Sections 3.2.4.1, 3.2.4.2 and 3.2.4.3 of the "Joint

Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation” (Regulation Number 9473).

- B. Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for demolition of structures with the purpose of restoring green areas, beaches, water retention areas and habitat recovery is consistent with the PRCZMP.
- C. Federal assistance provided under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for projects involving demolition and reconstruction, or the construction of new structures, is consistent with the PRCZMP. This includes projects such as single-family homes, multi-family residential buildings, commercial structures, and other types of construction aimed at rebuilding provided the project fulfill the following requirements:
 - 1- The project must comply with land use regulations established under the Puerto Rico Land Use Plan, Territorial Plans and special plans that apply according to the location of the project.
 - 2- The structure to be constructed or reconstructed must comply with applicable regulations and parameters established in the “Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation” (Regulation Number 9473).
 - 3- Each project must provide evidence of compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing a copy of the Environmental Compliance Determination emitted by Puerto Rico Permit Management Office (OGPe) or providing documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)¹.
 - 4- Each project must provide evidence of compliance with Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office (PR SHPO) or the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP).
- D. The Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for infrastructure (according to the definition established by PR state Joint Regulation Number 9473)² projects are consistent with the PRCZMP with the condition that the applicant evidence compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing a copy of the Environmental Compliance Determination emitted by the PR Permit Management Office (OGPe) or providing documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

¹ As outlined in the Administrative Order: OGPe 2025-002, issued on March 12, 2025.

² The Regulation Number 9473 defines infrastructure as “a set of works and services that are considered fundamental and necessary for the establishment and operation of an activity, such as communication systems, aqueduct, sewerage, electricity, telephone installations, and health, education, and recreation facilities. It also includes elements such as sheds for public transportation and other elements of urban furniture”.

- E. Any project or activity to be financed with CDBG-DR or CDBG-MIT funds (including the permit-exempt activities mentioned in Sections A, C and D of this resolution), if located within a Historic Zones or impacts a Historic Site designated by the PR Planning Board, must have the endorsement of the Puerto Rican Culture Institute (PRCI) or the State Historic Preservation Office (PR SHPO) according to the OGPe Administrative Order number 2025-002, dated March 12, 2025.
- F. The structure to be built, repaired or rehabilitated must preferably be located outside the flood plain and flood risk zones according to the “FEMA Advisory Base Flood Elevation Map” (FEMA Advisory Maps) effective on April 13, 2018, or the most recent FEMA map that applies according to the location of the project. Notwithstanding, in established communities and towns that are located within the flood plain, structures located within a flood hazard zone must evidence compliance with the Special Flood Hazard Zone Regulations (Planning Regulation Number 13) by submitting the following documents in the application package:
1. Comply with the requirements of Substantial Damage according to the “*Guía Operacional para las Determinaciones de Daños y Mejoras Sustanciales en Puerto Rico*” (Operational Guide for Substantial Damage Determinations in Puerto Rico).
 2. Copy of the FEMA Elevation Certificate (form ff-206-fy22-152) completed and signed by an engineer or surveyor.
- G. The Office of Geology and Hydrogeology (OGH) of the Puerto Rico Planning Board will provide a conditioned certification letter which will allow the applicant to have access to the funds to finance the design and permitting phase. This applies to the projects that meet the requirements outlined Sections C, D, E and F prior to the construction phase. The Puerto Rico Planning Board in its meeting of November 20, 2024, determined that the applicant must fulfill the mentioned requirements **180 days from receipt of the OGH Conditioned Certification letter**. If the applicant needs additional time to fulfill the required documents, it must be justified and requested referring to the assigned case number through comentariosjp.pr.gov.
- H. For projects that meet all the requirements, the OGH will issue the Federal Consistency Certification directly, without the need for review by the Planning Board. Projects that fulfill applicable regulations and parameters established in the “Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation” (Regulation Number 9473), PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) along with those specified in Sections E and F of this resolution, will not be required to obtain a conditional certification letter from OGH in order to proceed with the design, permitting, and construction phases.
- I. Furthermore, The PR Planning Board on February 1, 2023, issued Resolution JP-339 that covers Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Public Assistance Program (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Therefore, federal assistance awarded through the “Infrastructure Coordination Program” to match the non-federal items that are required for projects under PA and



HMGP programs are covered by Resolution JP-339 and will not require to be submitted to the PRPB for federal consistency review.


- J. Hence, Projects for the reconstruction, repair, or rehabilitation of structures for water-dependent uses (piers, boat ramps etc.) **are not covered under this Resolution and must be filed at the US Army Corps of Engineers through Regulatory Request System (RRS).**

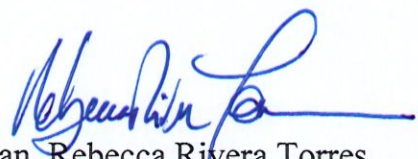
This General Federal Consistency Certification will be in effect for five (5) years from the notification date of this resolution. The Certification at reference will be renewed or amended if necessary to extend its validity or address other matters. The implementation of this resolution will be prospective as of the entry into force of this resolution.

The following parties shall be notified: Secretary, Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH); Director, Permits & Environmental Compliance Division (PRDOH); US Department of Housing, Office of Environmental & Energy; Director, Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program, DNER.


ADOPTED in San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 11, 2025.

Amended today, June 11, 2025.


Lcdo. Hector Morales Martinez
President


Plan. Rebecca Rivera Torres
Alternate Member

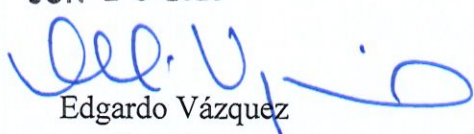
SE INHIBE
Lcdo. Luis Lamboy Torres
Alternante Member


Plan. Emanuel Gomez
Alternate Member

Certify: That this Resolution is a copy of the agreement adopted by Puerto Rico Planning Board in its meeting of, **June 11, 2025**. I expedite and notify this copy to the parties under my sign and official stamp of the Puerto Rico Planning Board stamp, for general use and knowledge.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today,

JUN 25 2025


Edgardo Vázquez
Secretary



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 applicant¹.
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 trees²).
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.

¹ This is the definition used by the USFWS in IPaC.

¹ *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. <https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines>

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

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 supported at regular intervals by wood stakes. For that reason we are recommending that the enclosed drawing of proper silt fence installation is included in all final project construction plans.
- f. Upon completion of a water crossing construction, any temporary fill, must be removed from the construction area and disposed in a landfill.

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

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

Limitations:

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

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

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

To obtain additional information on threatened and endangered species, you may visit our website <https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services> 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 <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/> 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



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 applicant¹.
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 trees²).
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.

¹ This is the definition used by the USFWS in IPaC.

¹ *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. <https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines>

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

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 supported 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.
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Sincerely,

LOURDES
MENA

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

Lourdes Mena
Field Supervisor



DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



Memorandum to File

Date: 8/14/2025

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

Application Number: PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Arecibo)(Utuado)(Yauco)

Project: Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social

Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Arecibo) (Utuado) (Yauco) under the Regrow Puerto Rico Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

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

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

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

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

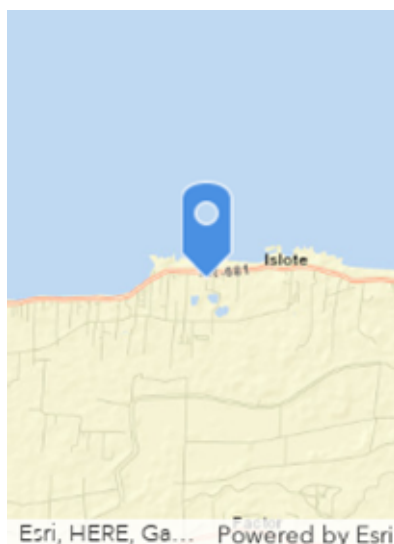
As part of the evaluation for this determination, PRDOH sent information requests to six (6) local agencies at the state and federal levels. We received responses from the following agencies:

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

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

APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-02326 (Arecibo Site)
Applicant Name:	Dayna M Rivera Rivera
Parcel ID:	013-000-005-53
Latitude:	18.490228
Longitude:	-66.635559
Street Address:	Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5
Municipio:	Arecibo
Zip Code:	00612
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez
Date of Visit:	May 21, 2024
Time of Visit:	09:57
Building Type:	



FIELD OBSERVATIONS

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

Front of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments: 10ftx10ftx6ft
Coordinates: 18.490240, -66.636106



Facing Away from Front

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Side #1 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Back of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Back

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Side #2 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Side #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Address

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Architectural Details 1

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Front Greenhouse
40ft x 12ft Coordinates: 18.490129, -
66.636023



Architectural Details 2

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Left Greenhouse



Architectural Details 3

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Right greenhouse



Architectural Details 4

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Back of greenhouse



Architectural Details 5

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Architectural Details 6

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Front of Storage
16ft x 12ft Coordinates: 18.490104, -
66.635650



Architectural Details 7

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Left of storage



Architectural Details 8

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Right of storage



Architectural Details 9

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Back of storage



Architectural Details 10

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview

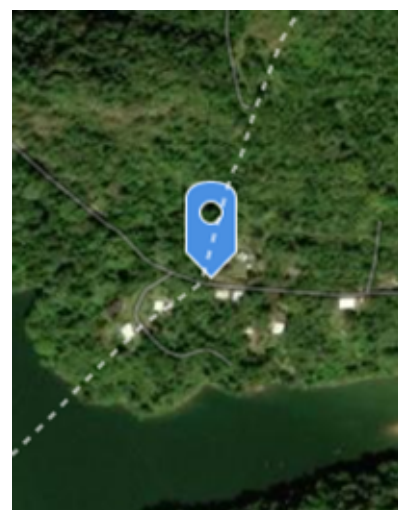


APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-02326 (Utuado Site)
Applicant Name:	Tierra Valiente CRL con fin social
Parcel ID:	134-000-008-43-000
Latitude:	18.324374
Longitude:	-66.654299
Street Address:	Bo. Limon, Street #146, km 2.8
Municipio:	Utuado
Zip Code:	00650
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez
Date of Visit:	May 21, 2024
Time of Visit:	11:12
Building Type:	



Esri, HERE, Ga... Powered by Esri



Esri, Maxar, Ea... Powered by Esri

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

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

Front of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments: NorthWest Nursery 20ft x
16ft Coordinates: 18.324220, -
66.654274



Facing Away from Front

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Side #1 of Structure

Photo Direction:

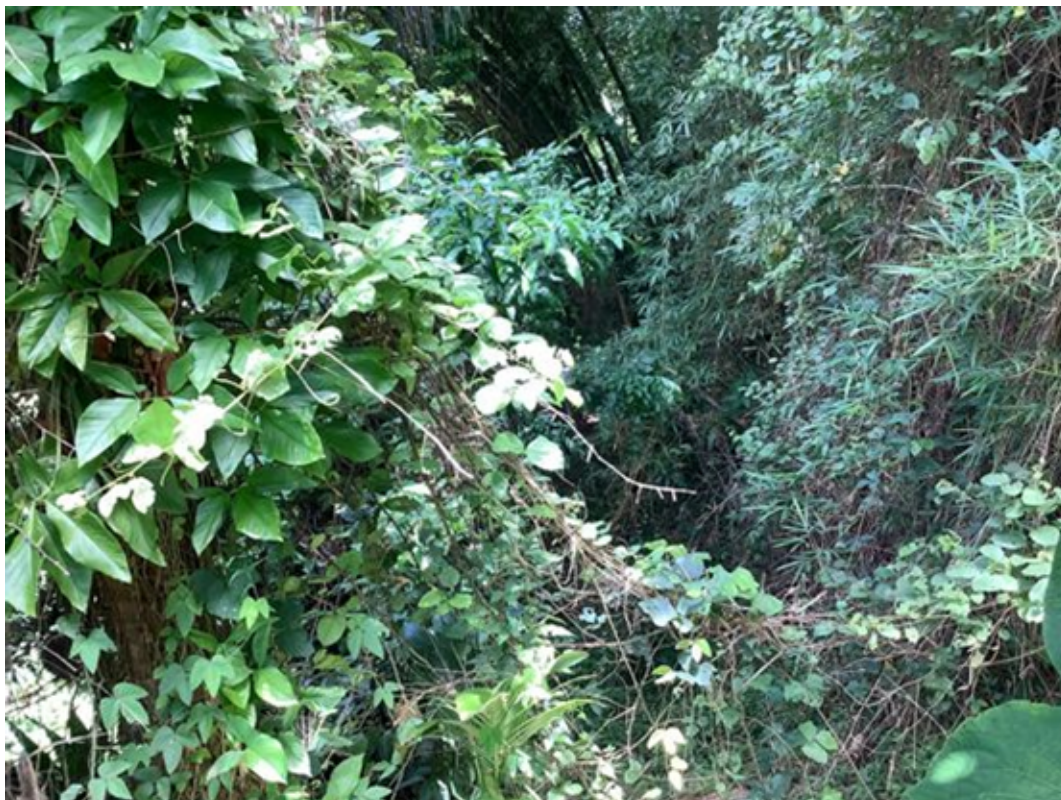
Comments:



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Back of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Back

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Side #2 of Structure

Photo Direction:

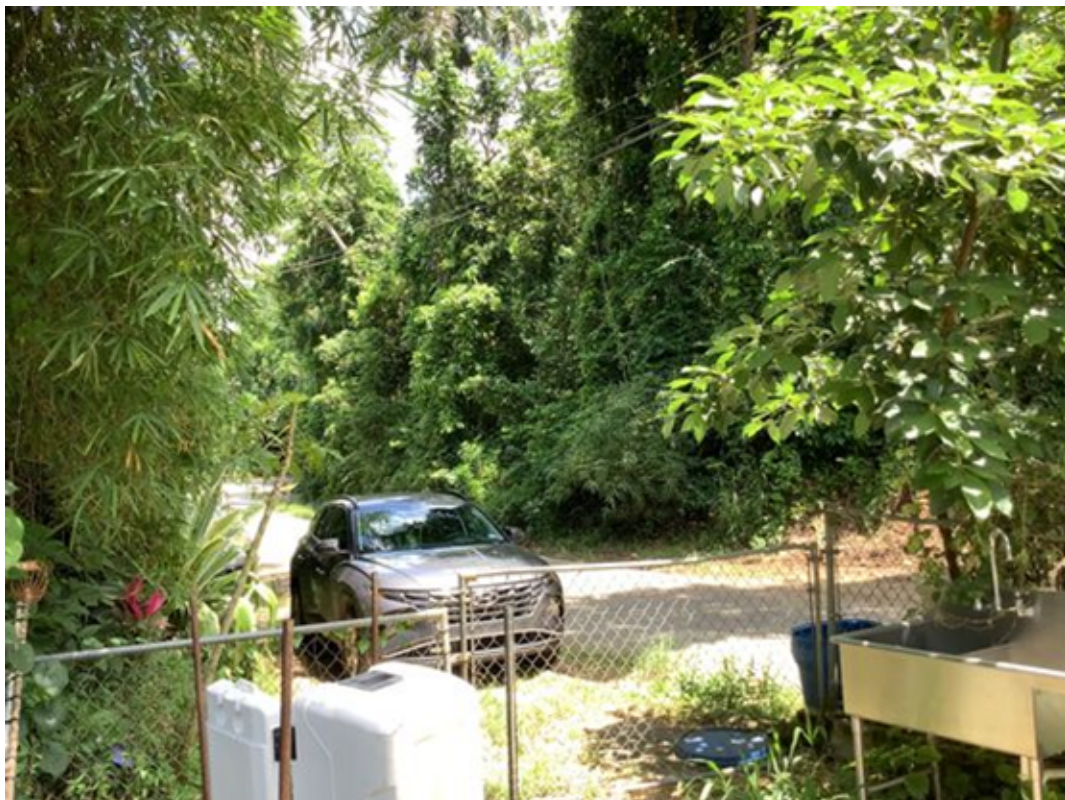
Comments:



Facing Away from Side #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #1

Photo Direction:

Comments: West



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction:

Comments: East



Address

Photo Direction:

Comments: South



Architectural Details 1

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: East Overview



Architectural Details 2

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: North Overview



Architectural Details 3

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: East Overview



Architectural Details 4

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: NorthEast
Overview



Architectural Details 5

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: NorthWest
Overview



Architectural Details 6

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: East Overview



Architectural Details 7

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: West overview



Architectural Details 8

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: SW Overview



Architectural Details 9

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water Connection



Architectural Details 10

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview SE



Architectural Details 11

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Architectural Details 12

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview





DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



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 **Tierra Valiente CRL Con fin Social PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Arecibo)**, under the CDBG-DR Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program, consisting of installation of two storage warehouses and a greenhouse located at carretera PR-681 km. 8.5, barrio Islote, Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612, complies with:

Check	Project Criteria
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct and/or rehabilitate facilities in already established public transportation systems (signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, rehabilitate and/or expanding existing public transportation facilities located in urban or developed areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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

<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Reconstruction, or emergency repairs, of existing structures, including but not limited to buildings, facilities and homes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Demolition of dilapidated single-family homes or buildings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Rebuilding of demolished single-family homes or buildings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Retrofitting existing buildings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Construction of residential and/or commercial facilities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Construction, repair, replace, improve, reconstruct, and/or rehabilitate recreational facilities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Improvement or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior) renovations resulting in an exterior increase greater than 20%.
<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Improvements or renovations to existing structures (exterior and interior renovations) resulting in an exterior increase of less than 20%.
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Acquisition of residential and/or commercial properties in urban or developed areas for the relocation of families and/or activities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of cemeteries.
<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Installation/drilling of new water well and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Establishment of power facilities, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
<input type="checkbox"/>	19. Construction of electrical system infrastructure and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	22. Construction of rooftop or urban telecommunications systems and associated components, including but not limited to associated aboveground and/or underground infrastructure.
<input type="checkbox"/>	23. Establishment of temporary debris storage (TDS) facilities.

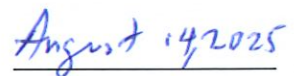
<input type="checkbox"/>	24. Establishment and/or closure of solid waste management facilities. But not new landfills.
<input type="checkbox"/>	25. Installation of water storage systems (cisterns) and associated infrastructure, either above ground or underground, including but not limited to installations on existing or new concrete pads, or existing or new roofs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	27. Installation of generators on existing or new concrete slabs, and associated utility infrastructure, either above ground or underground.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	30. Construction of fences, cattle corrals, concrete slabs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	31. Installation of storage containers on new concrete slab.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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



Date

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.)

Figure 7:Threatened & Endangered Species

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Critical Habitat



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

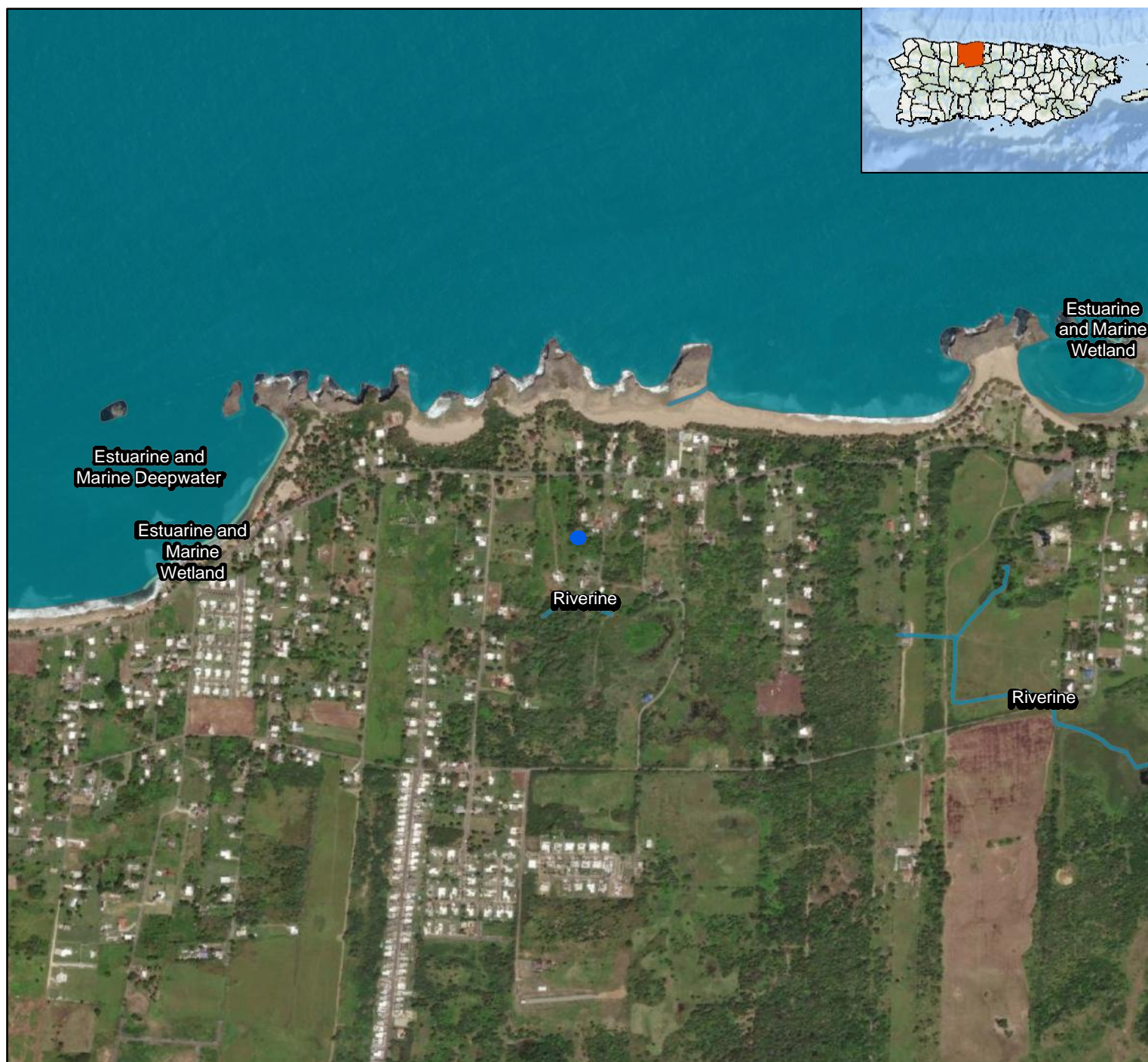
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>

1:150,000

Figure 12: Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

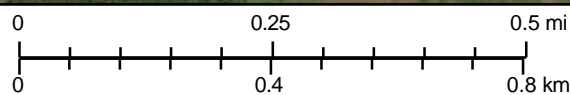


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

National Wetlands Inventory

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Riverine



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

Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wetlands Inventory
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>

1:12,000

Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: See Below, Long: See Below



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Parcel-02326
- CRIM Parcels

0 0.02 0.04 mi
0 0.03 0.06 km

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

Source

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

1:1,000

PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Arecibo) Site Photos

Greenhouse location



Storage warehouse locations





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 applicant¹.
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 trees²).
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.

¹ This is the definition used by the USFWS in IPaC.

¹ *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. <https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines>

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

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 supported at regular intervals by wood stakes. For that reason we are recommending that the enclosed drawing of proper silt fence installation is included in all final project construction plans.
- f. Upon completion of a water crossing construction, any temporary fill, must be removed from the construction area and disposed in a landfill.

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

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

Limitations:

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

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

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

To obtain additional information on threatened and endangered species, you may visit our website <https://www.fws.gov/office/caribbean-ecological-services> 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 <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/> 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

IPaC resource list

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

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

Location

Arecibo County, Puerto Rico



Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

T. (939) 320-3135

F. (787) 851-7440

E. CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 491
Boqueron PR 00622-0491

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Office Park I
State Road #2 Km 1.56* 5 Suite 303}
Mayaguez PR 00680

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

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

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

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

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

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

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are not shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under federal jurisdiction](#).

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

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2083	Threatened

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628	Endangered

Critical habitats

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

There are no critical habitats at this location.

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

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)¹. 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).

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
<https://www.fws.gov/library/corrections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
<https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

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

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

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

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

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

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

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

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

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

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

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

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

Breeding Season ()

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

Survey Effort ()

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

No Data ()

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

Survey Timeframe

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

Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ 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 (FWS).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>

- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
<http://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-impacts-to-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in :PaC
<http://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

The [data](#) in this location indicates that no migratory birds of concern have been observed in this area. This does not mean [birds of concern](#) are not present in your project areas 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 what migratory birds of concern may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

Migratory Bird FAQs

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

[Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

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

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

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

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

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

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

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

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

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

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

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

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

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

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

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

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

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

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

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

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

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

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

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

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 1.0, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season

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

Survey Effort

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

No Data 0

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

Survey Timeframe

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

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

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

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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

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

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

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

Data limitations

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

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

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

Data exclusions

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

Data precautions

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

PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Arecibo) Site Photos

Greenhouse location



Storage warehouse locations

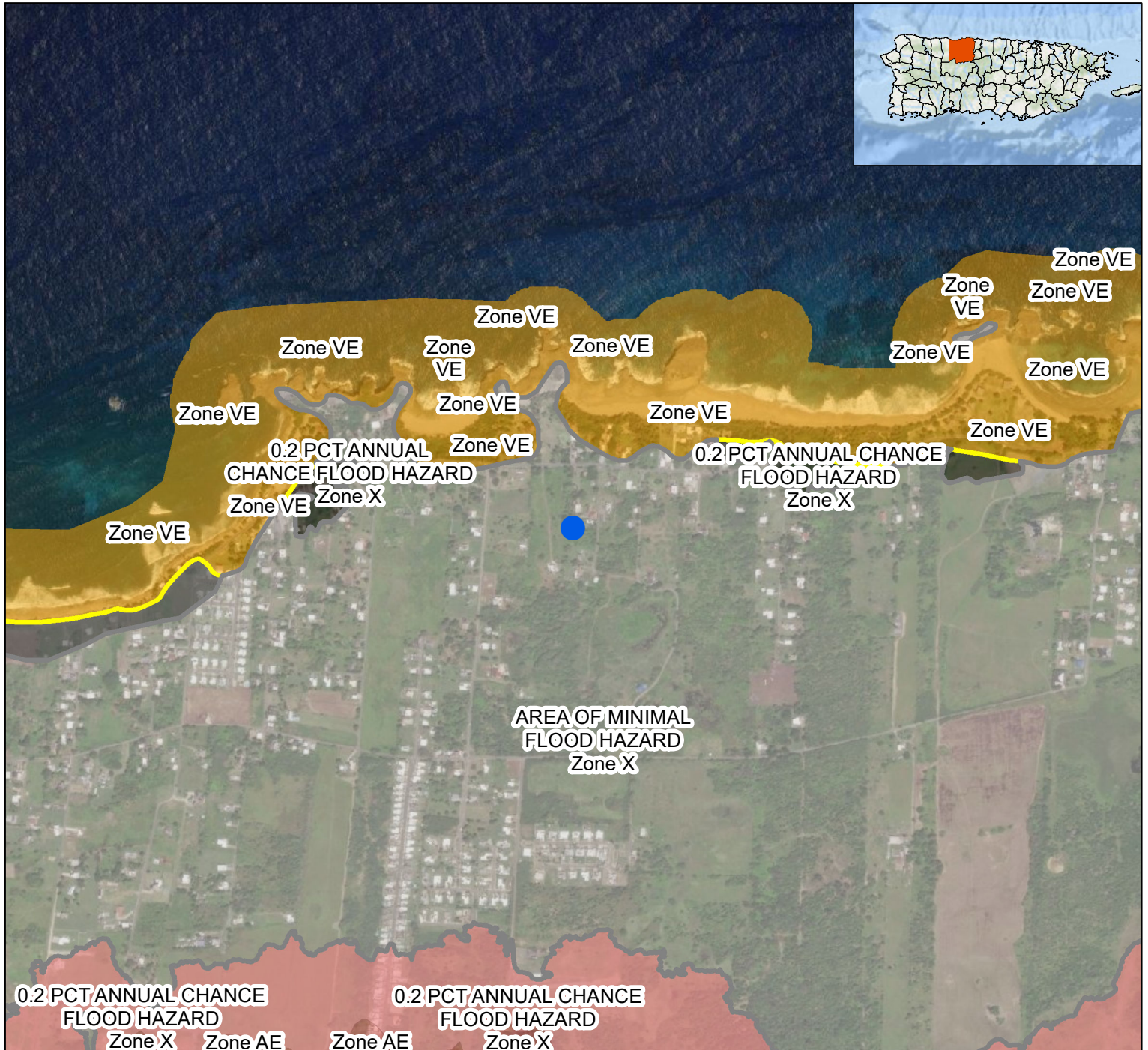


CaseID	Registry_ID	PGM_SYS_ID	Name	Location	Municipio	Latitude	Longitude	Type	Report	Distance (ft)	Impact
PR-RGRW-02326-W-RE (Arecibo)	110071424492	PRP000028209	AUTORIDAD DE LOS PUERTOS DE PUERTO RICO	PR 681 BARRIO VIGIA	ARECIBO	18.49158	-66.630925	RCRA	https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110071424492	1,843.19	No

Figure 9: Advisory Base Flood Elevation

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

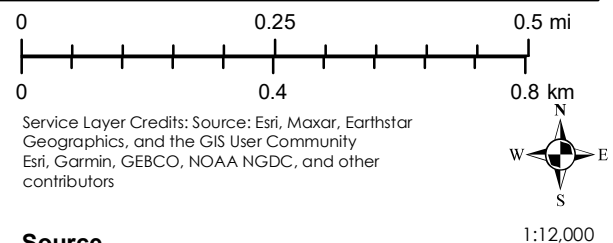
Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Isote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Num. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- 0.2-percent annual chance flood
- 1-percent annual chance flood

Flood Zone	
■	A
■	VE
■	0.2% Annual Chance Flood
■	Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X



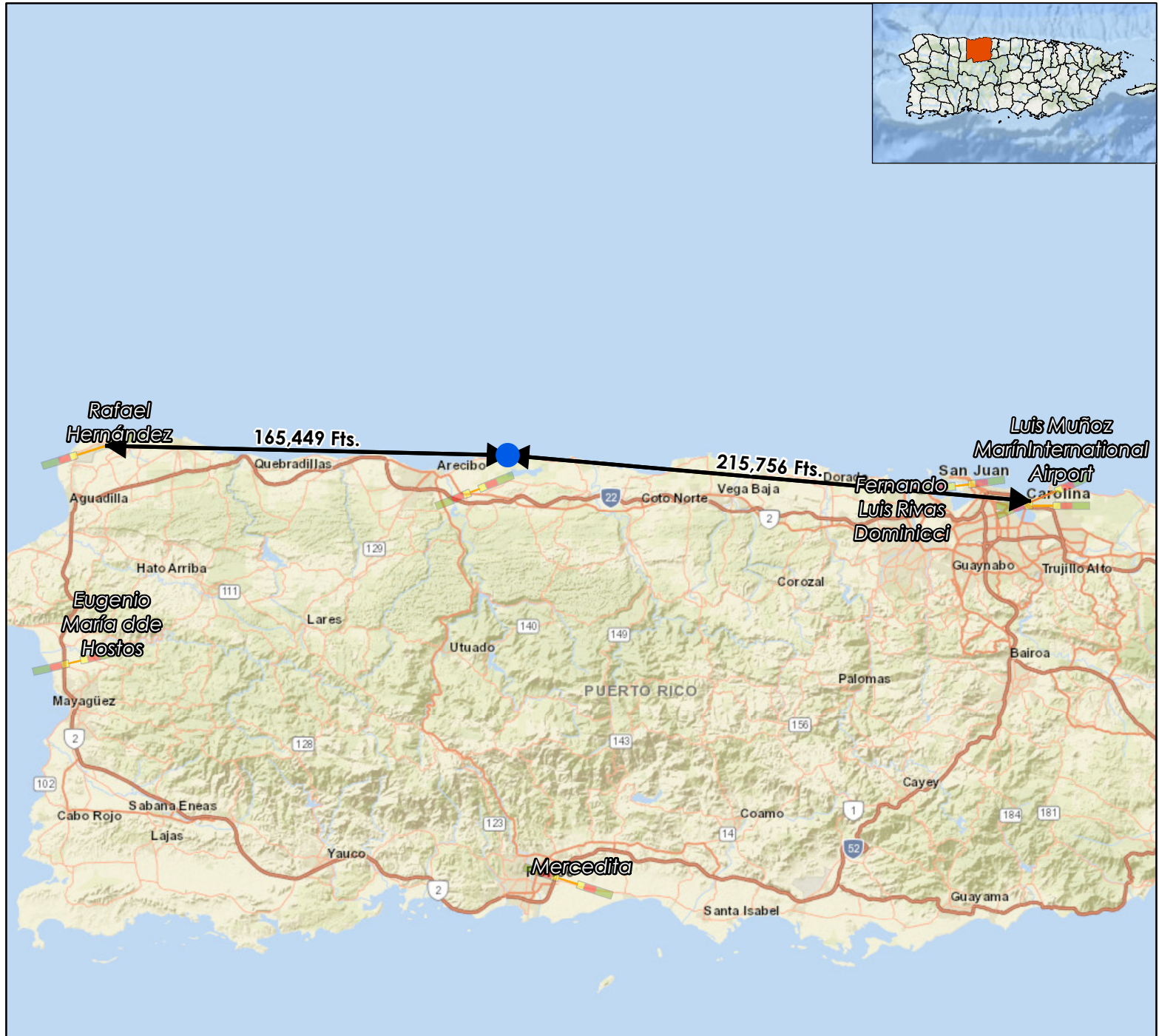
Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),
Junta de Planificacion de Puerto Rico (JP),
Mapas de Niveles de Inundacion Base Recomendados,
<https://maps.jp.pr.gov/>

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Figure 2: Airports

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-00089
- SJU Military Runaway
- SJU Civil Runaway

Accident Potential Zone

- APZ 1
- APZ 2
- Clear Zone



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

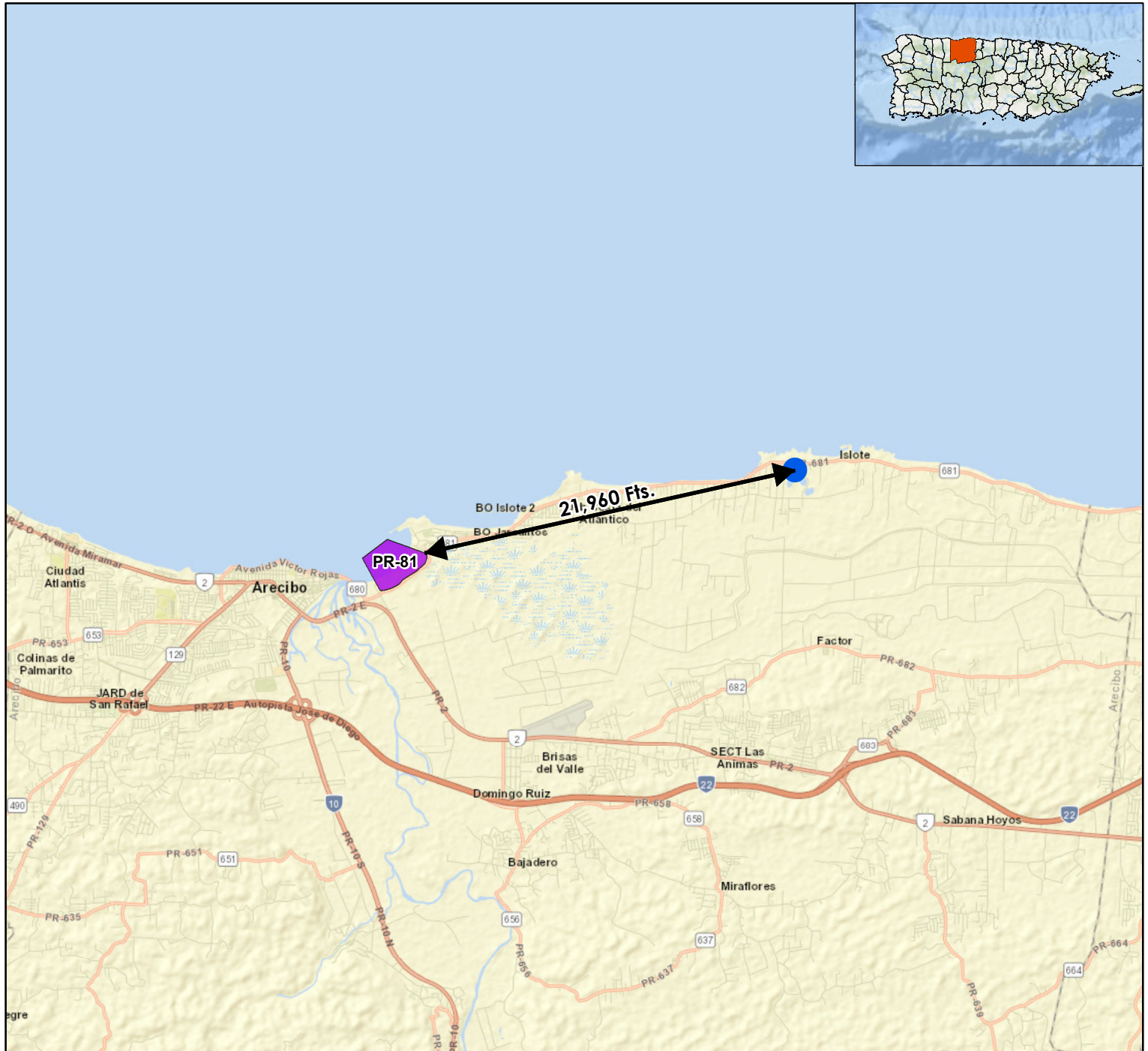
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
<https://adds-faa.opendata.arcgis.com/>



Figure 3: Coastal Barrier Resources System

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

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Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023



Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS)

Otherwise Protected Area

System Unit

0 2 4 mi
0 3.5 7 km

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

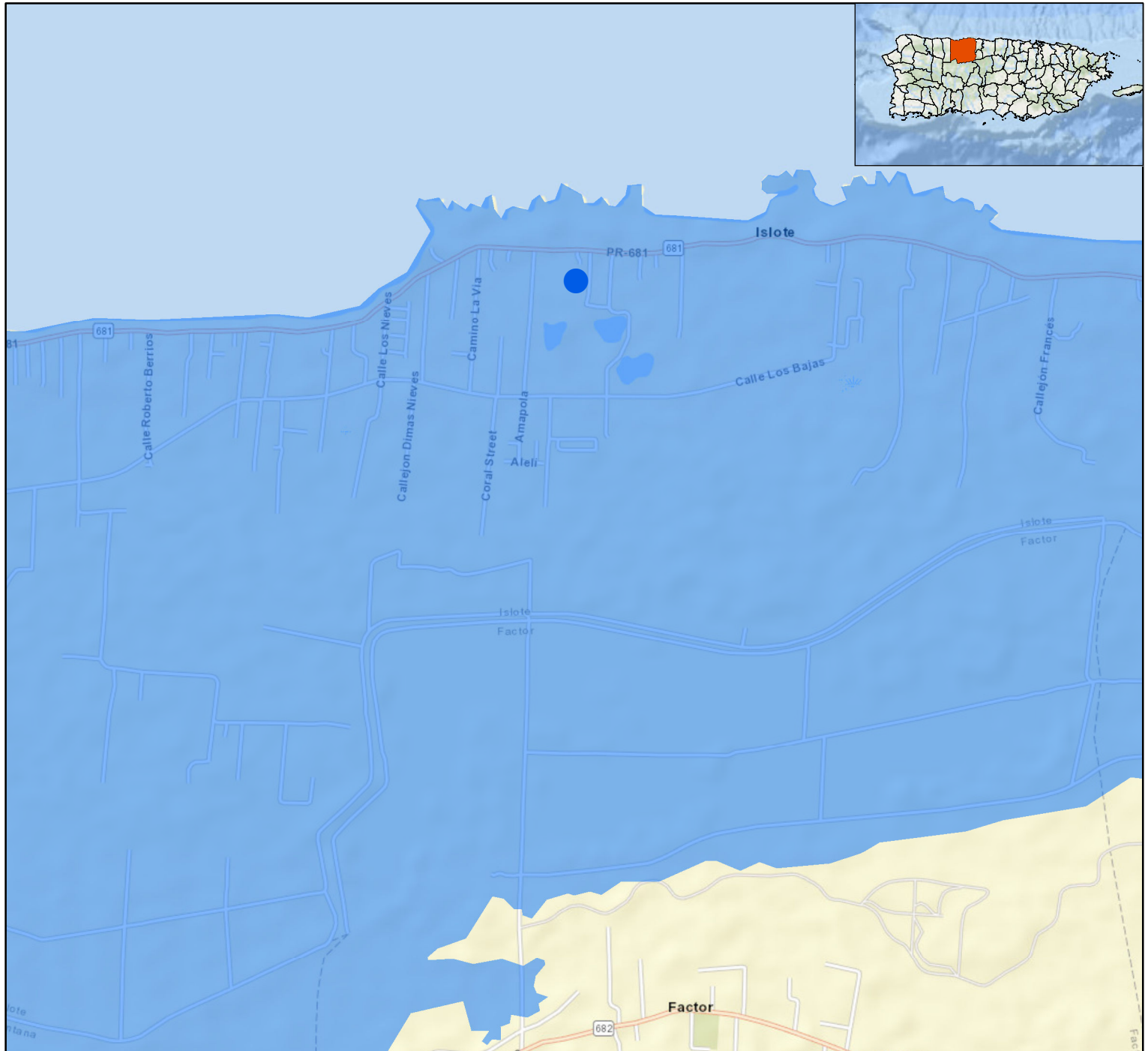
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
<https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act>



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Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

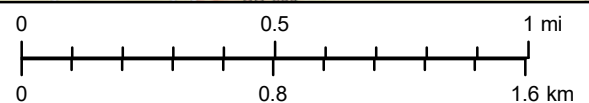
Figure 5: Coastal Zone Management

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

NOAA Office for Coastal Management (NOAA/OCM)
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/53132>

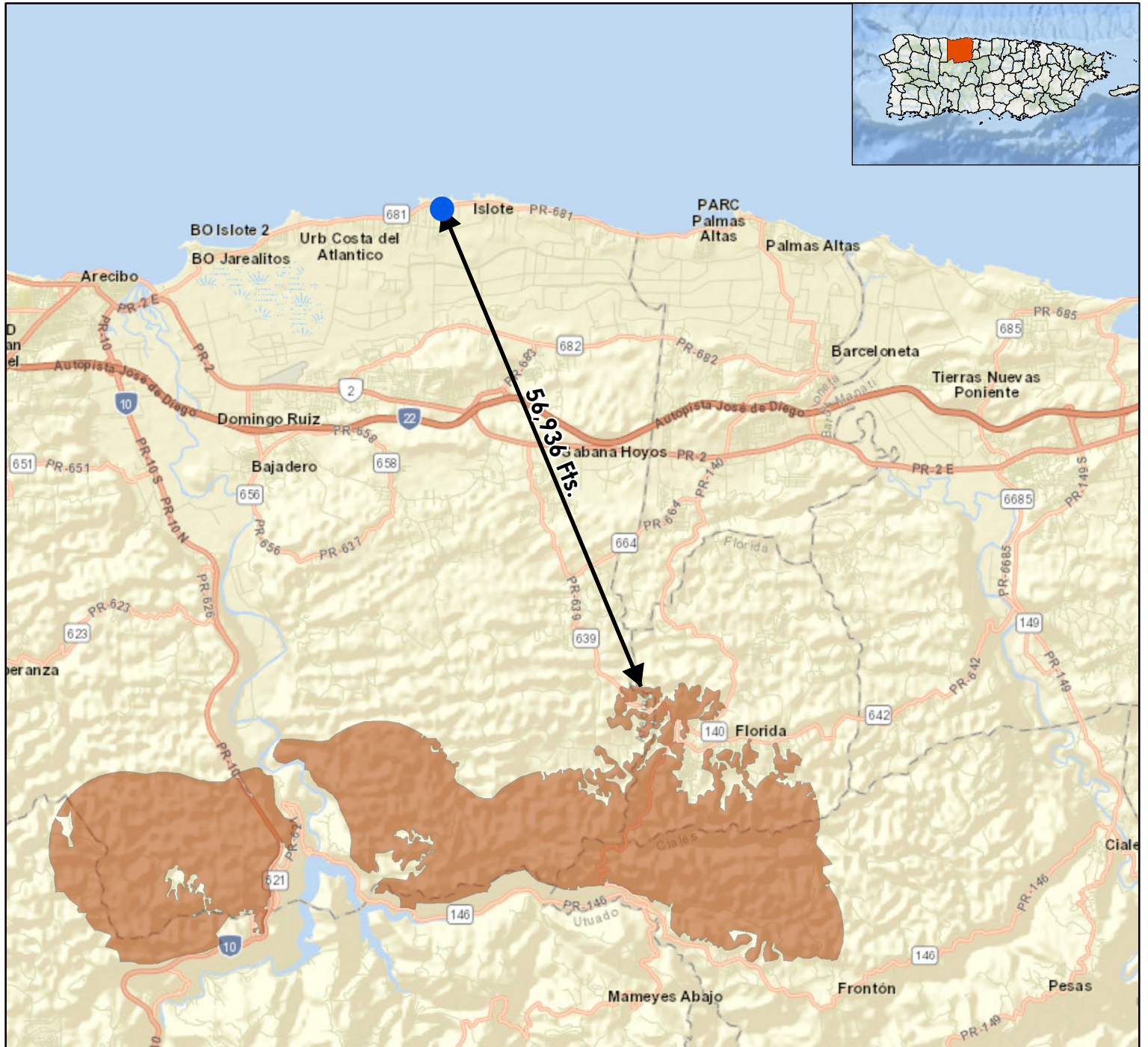


1:24,000

Figure 7:Threatened & Endangered Species

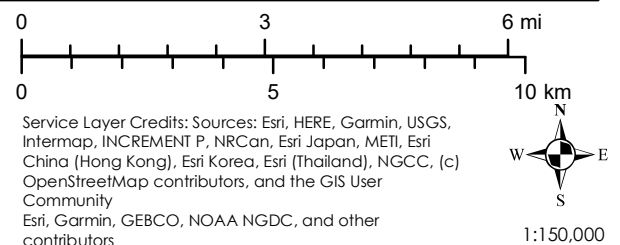
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

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Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Critical Habitat



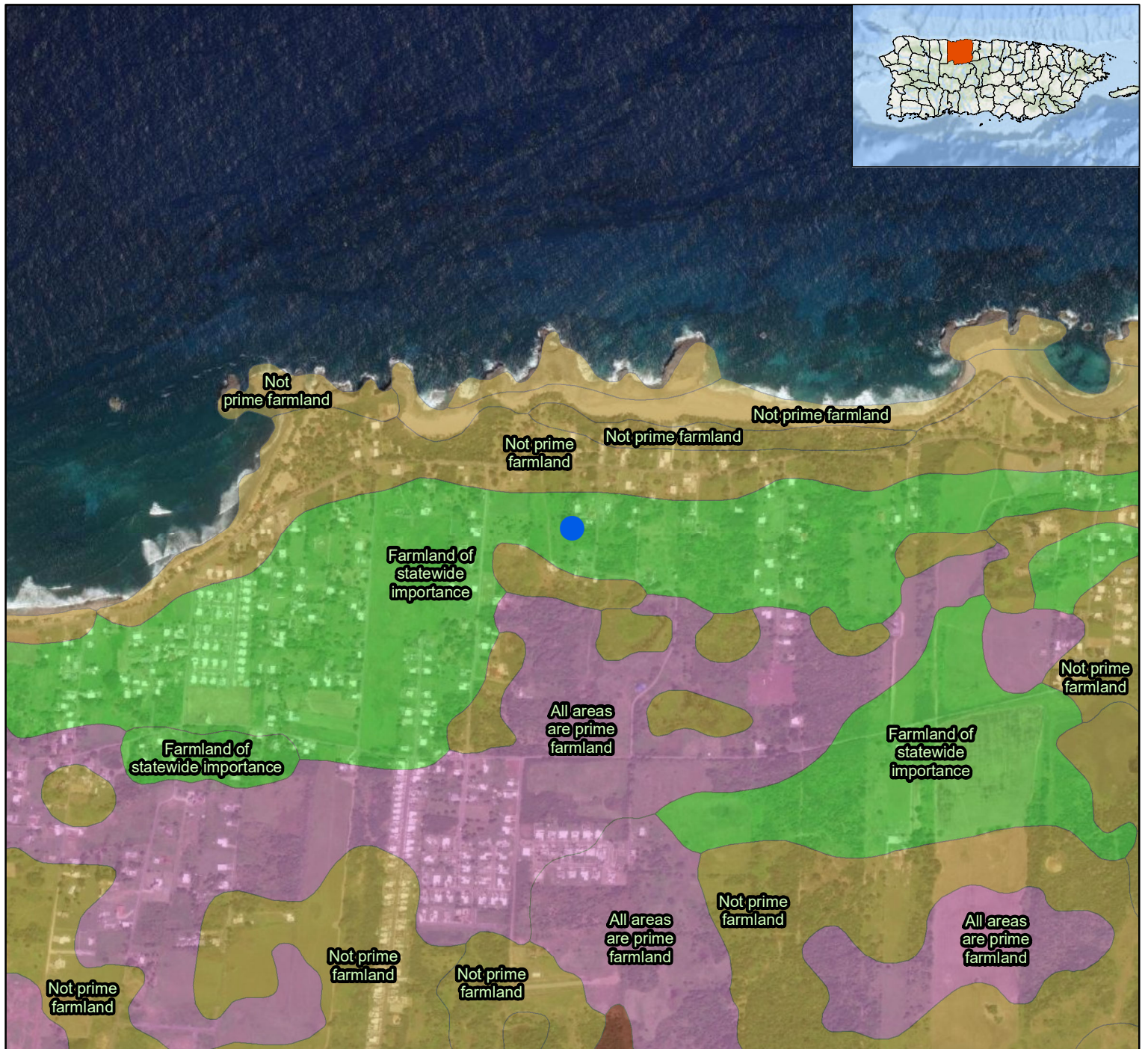
Source

NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>

Figure 8: Farmland Protection

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

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Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: -66.636023

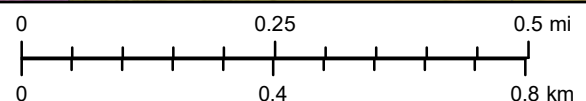


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

Farm Class

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Not prime farmland
- Prime farmland if drained



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



1:12,000

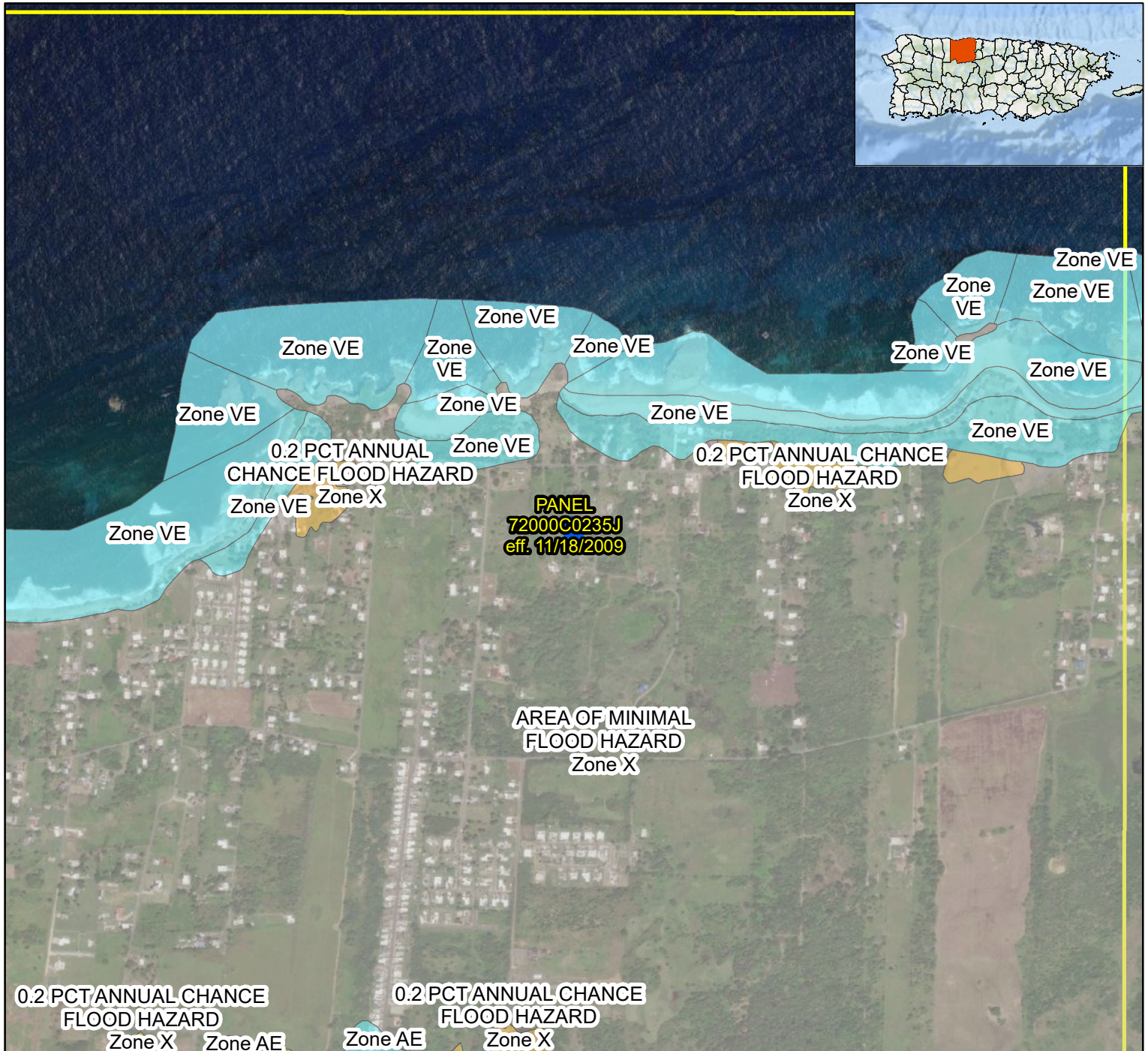
Source

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

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Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

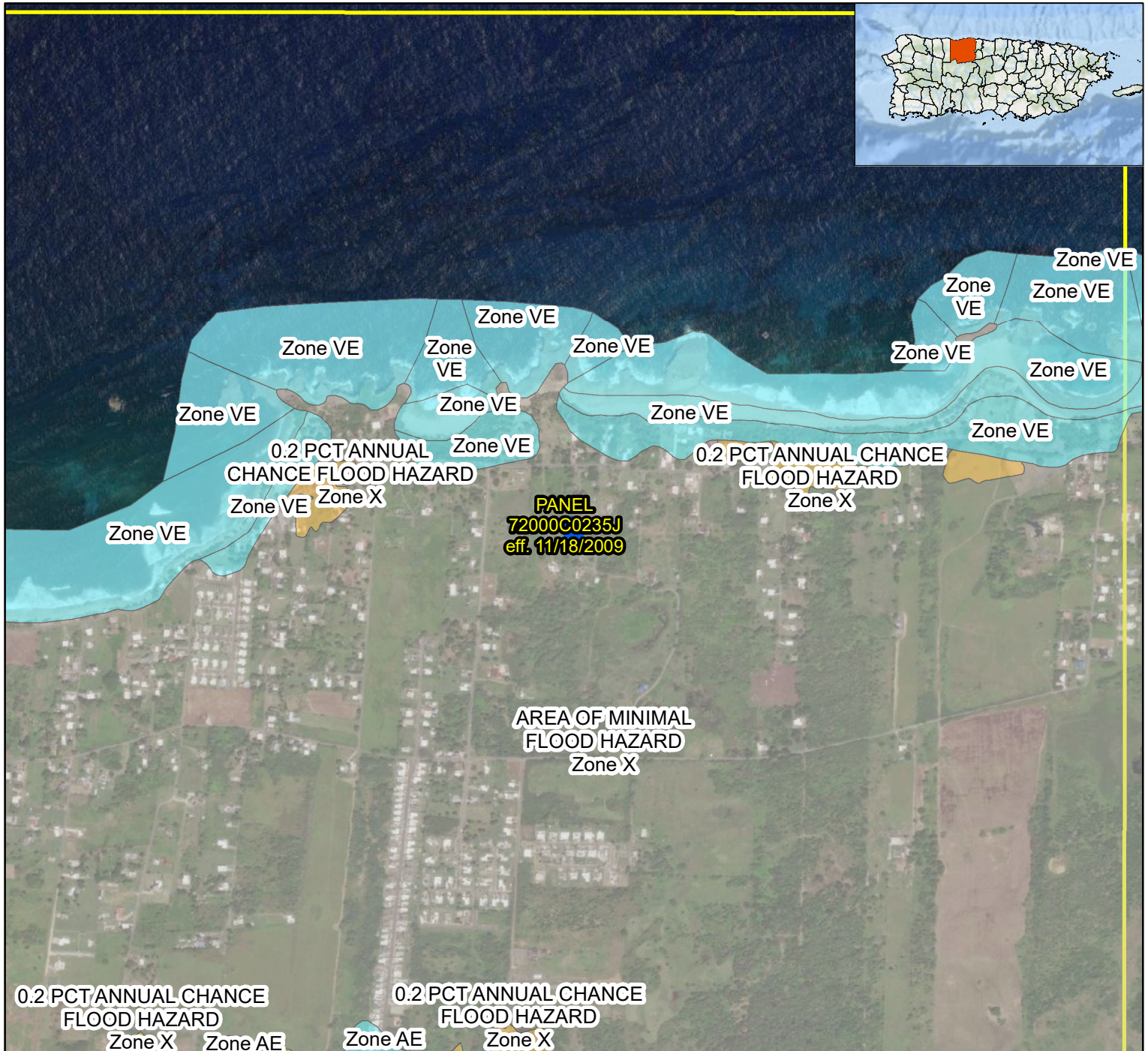
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



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Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

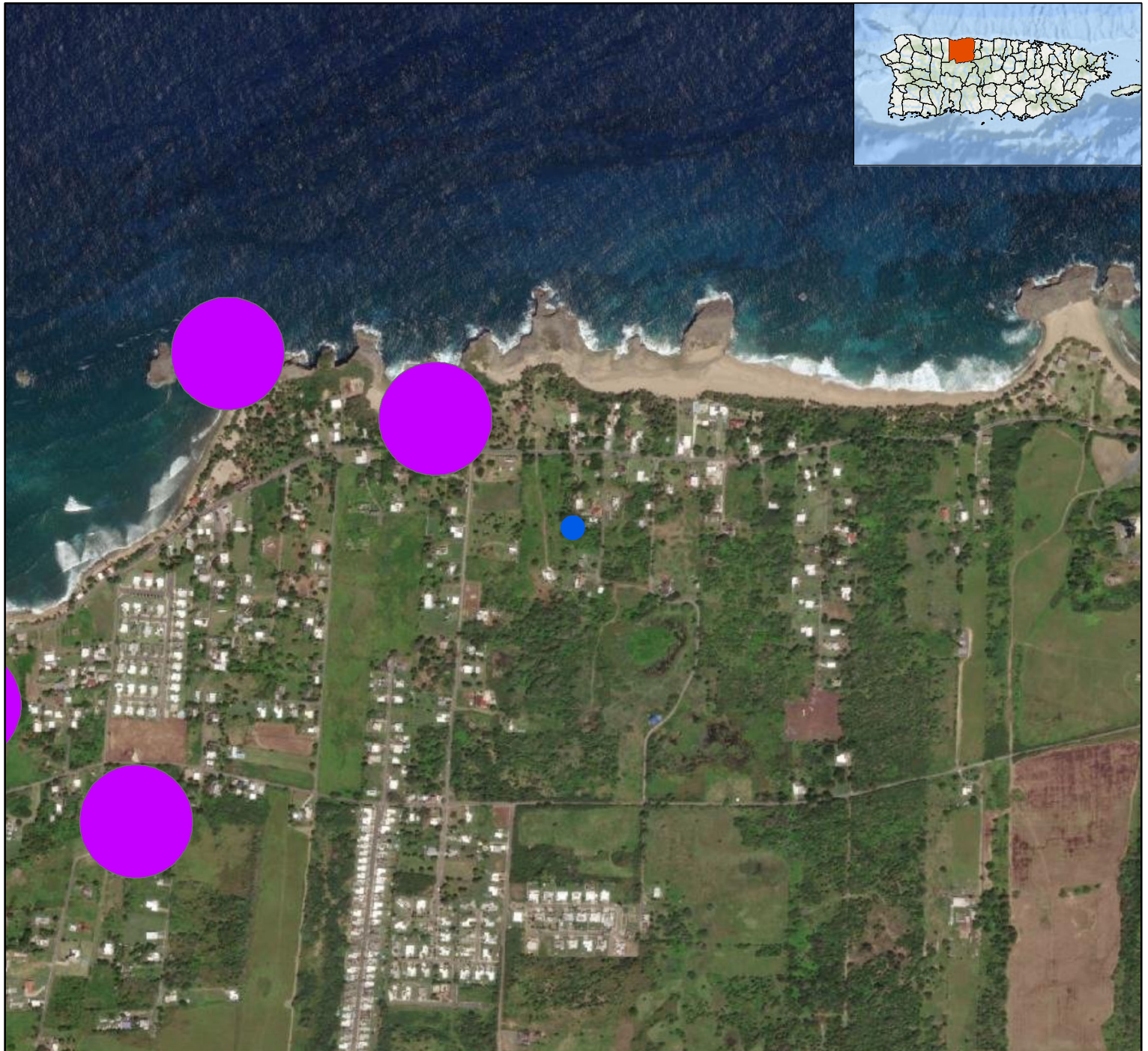
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



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Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

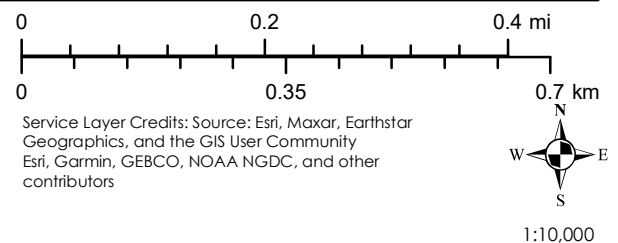
Figure 10: Historic Preservation Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Archaeological Resource Zones



Source

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

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Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: See Below, Long: See Below

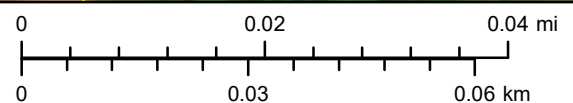
Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Parcel-02326
- CRIM Parcels



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



1:1,000

Source

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

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Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: See Below, Long: See Below

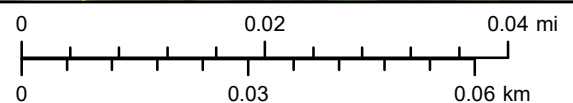
Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Parcel-02326
- CRIM Parcels



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Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



1:1,000

Source

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



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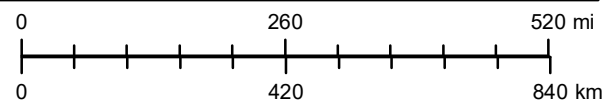
Figure 11: EPA Sole Source Aquifers

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  EPA Sole Source Aquifers



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Geographics, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other
contributors



1:12,000,000

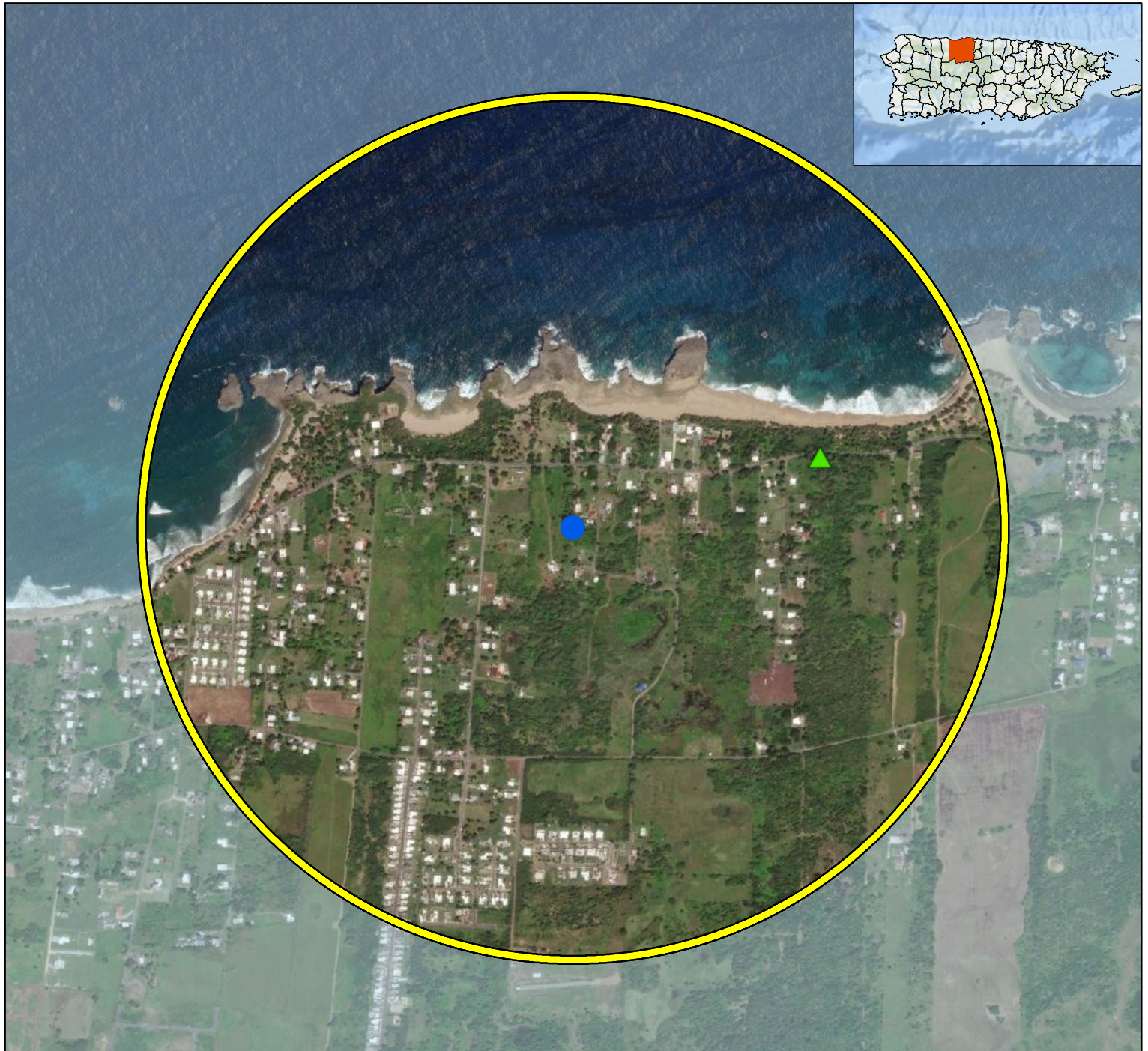
Source

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b>

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Num. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

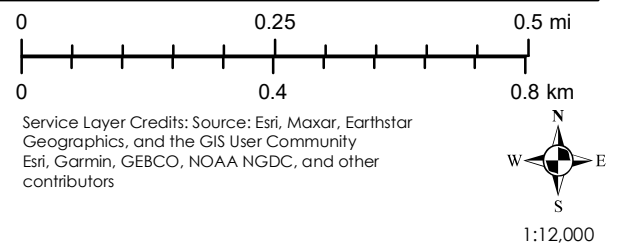
Figure 6: Toxic and Hazardous Facilities

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- 3,000 Ft. Buffer
- FACILITY INTERESTS
- ICIS
- NPDES
- ▲ RCRA



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

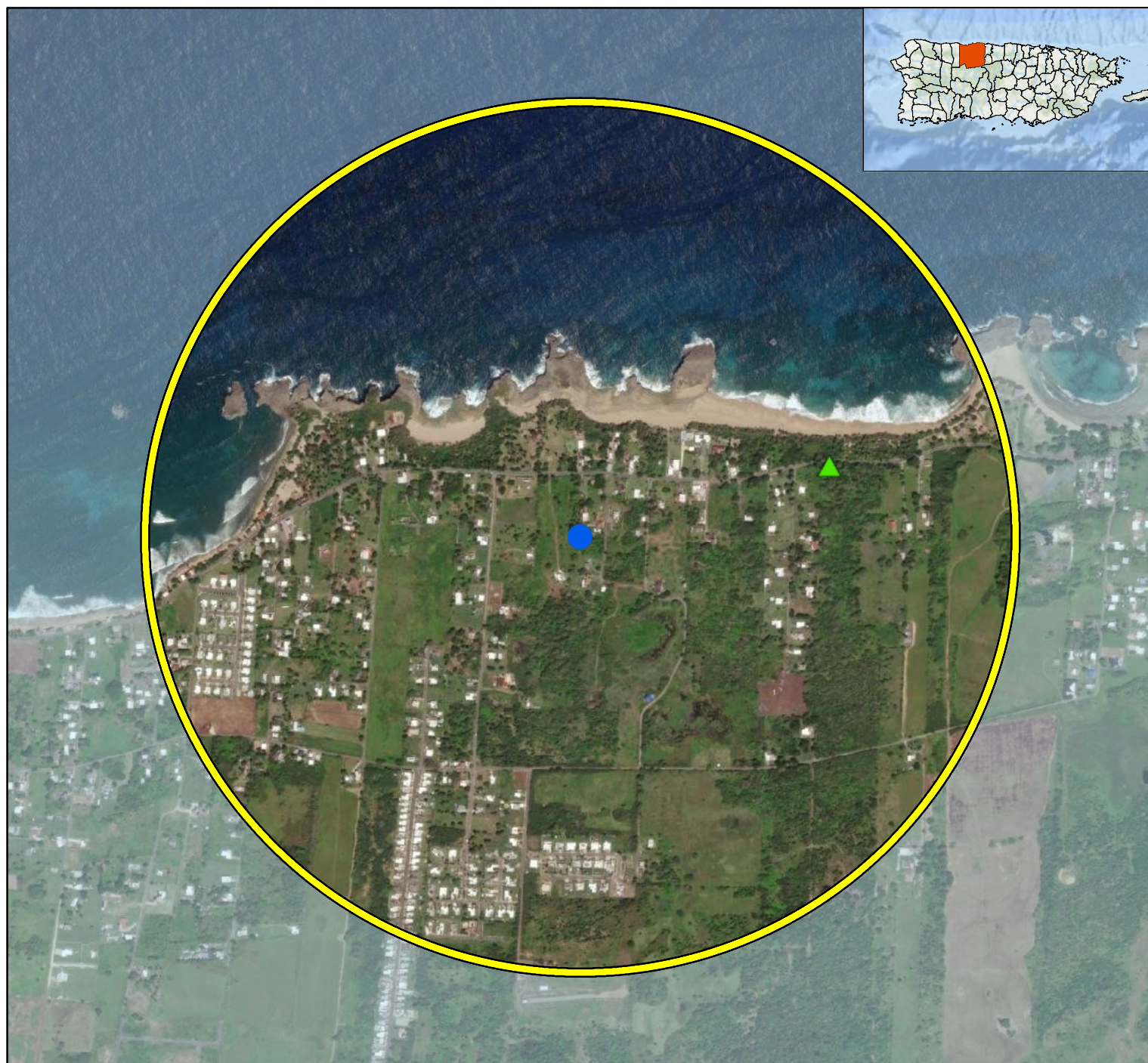
Source

EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS)
<https://www.epa.gov/frs>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Num. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

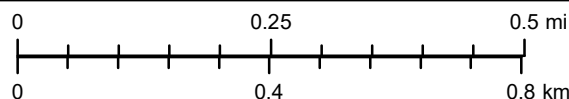
Figure 6: Toxic and Hazardous Facilities

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- 3,000 Ft. Buffer
- FACILITY INTERESTS
- ICIS
- NPDES
- ▲ RCRA



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



1:12,000

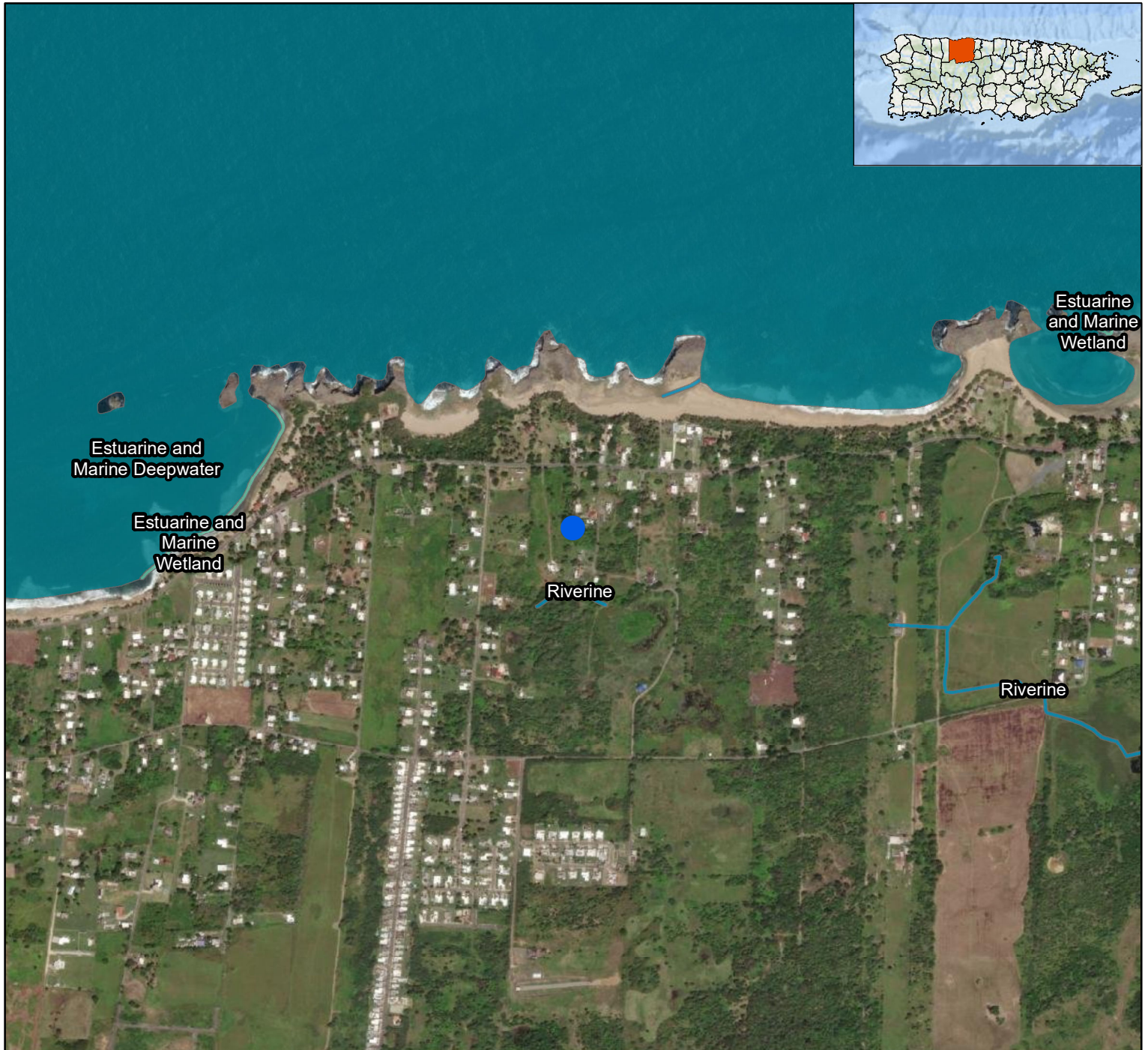
Source

EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS)
<https://www.epa.gov/frs>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

Figure 12: Wetlands Map




Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

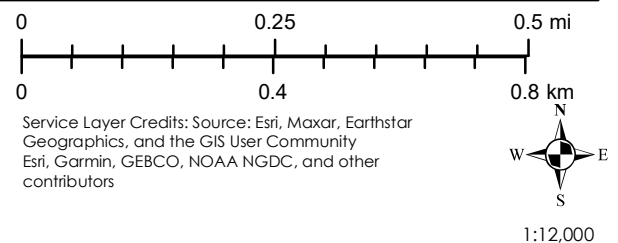


Legend:

 PR-RGRW-02326

National Wetlands Inventory

-  Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
-  Estuarine and Marine Wetland
-  Riverine



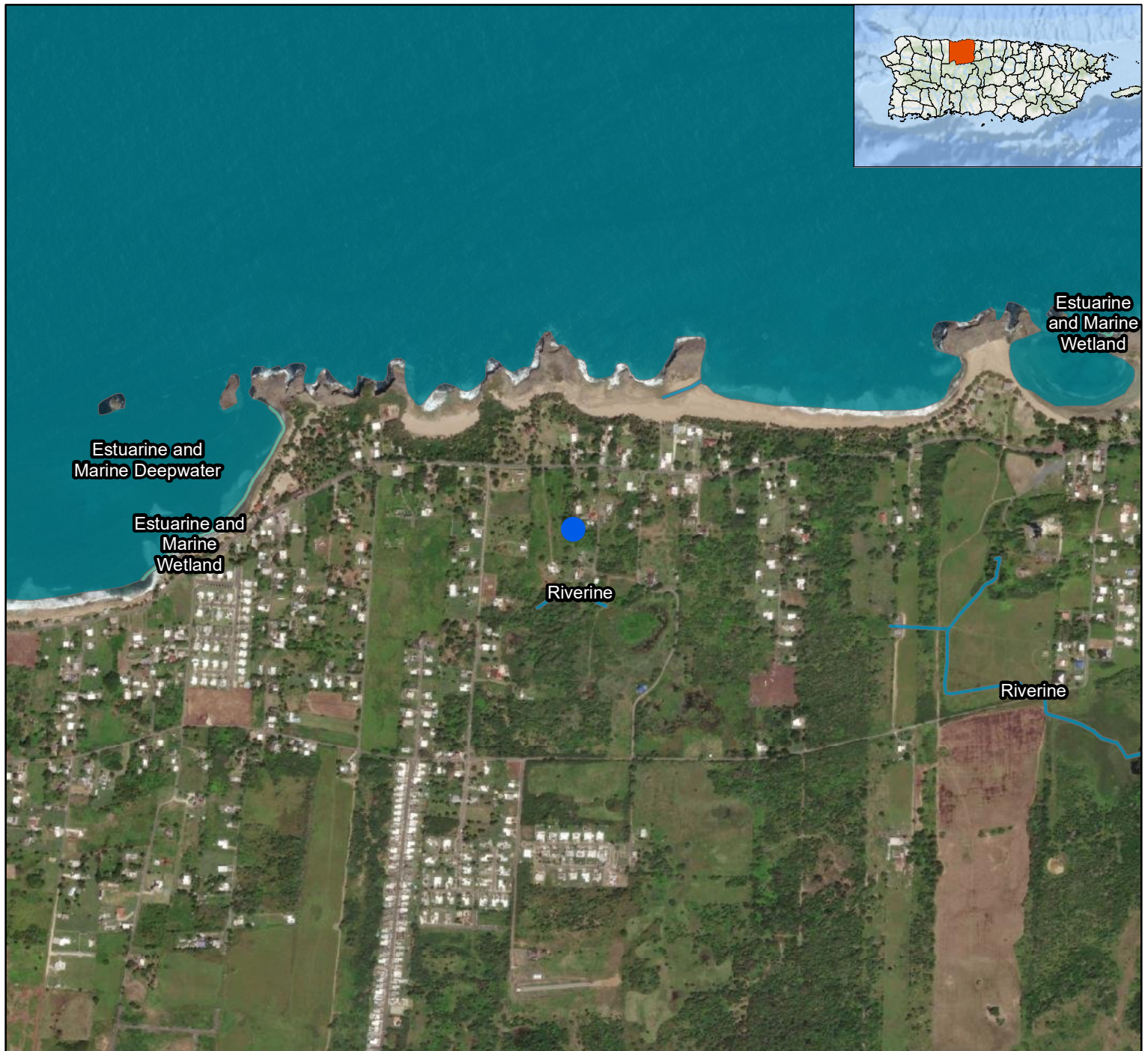
Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wetlands Inventory
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>

Figure 12: Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

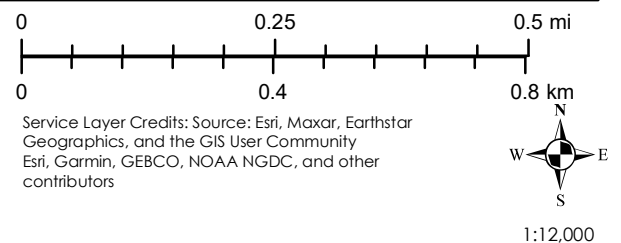


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

National Wetlands Inventory

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Riverine



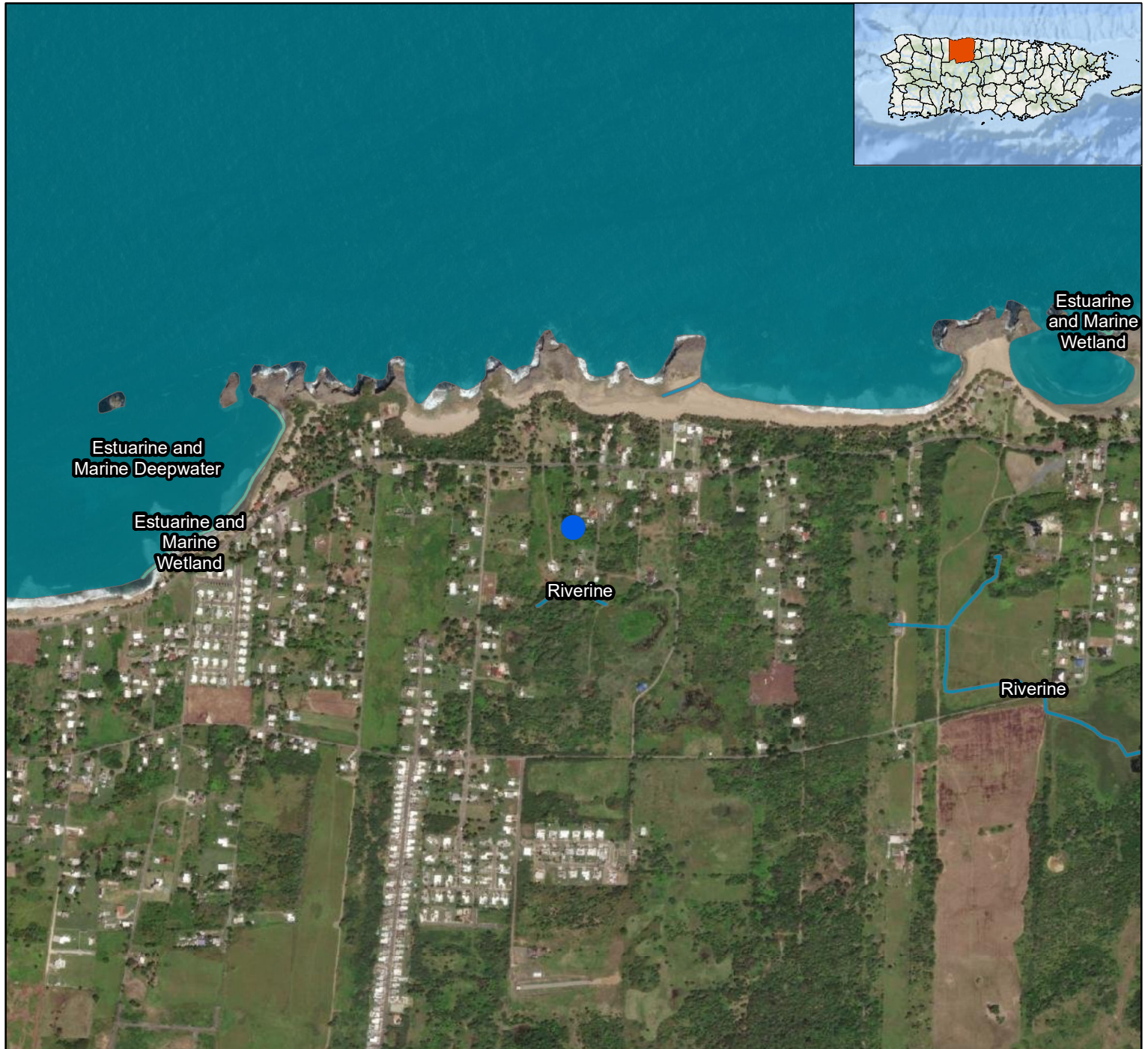
Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wetlands Inventory
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

Figure 12: Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

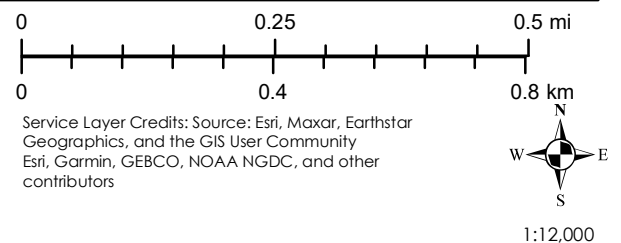


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

National Wetlands Inventory

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Riverine



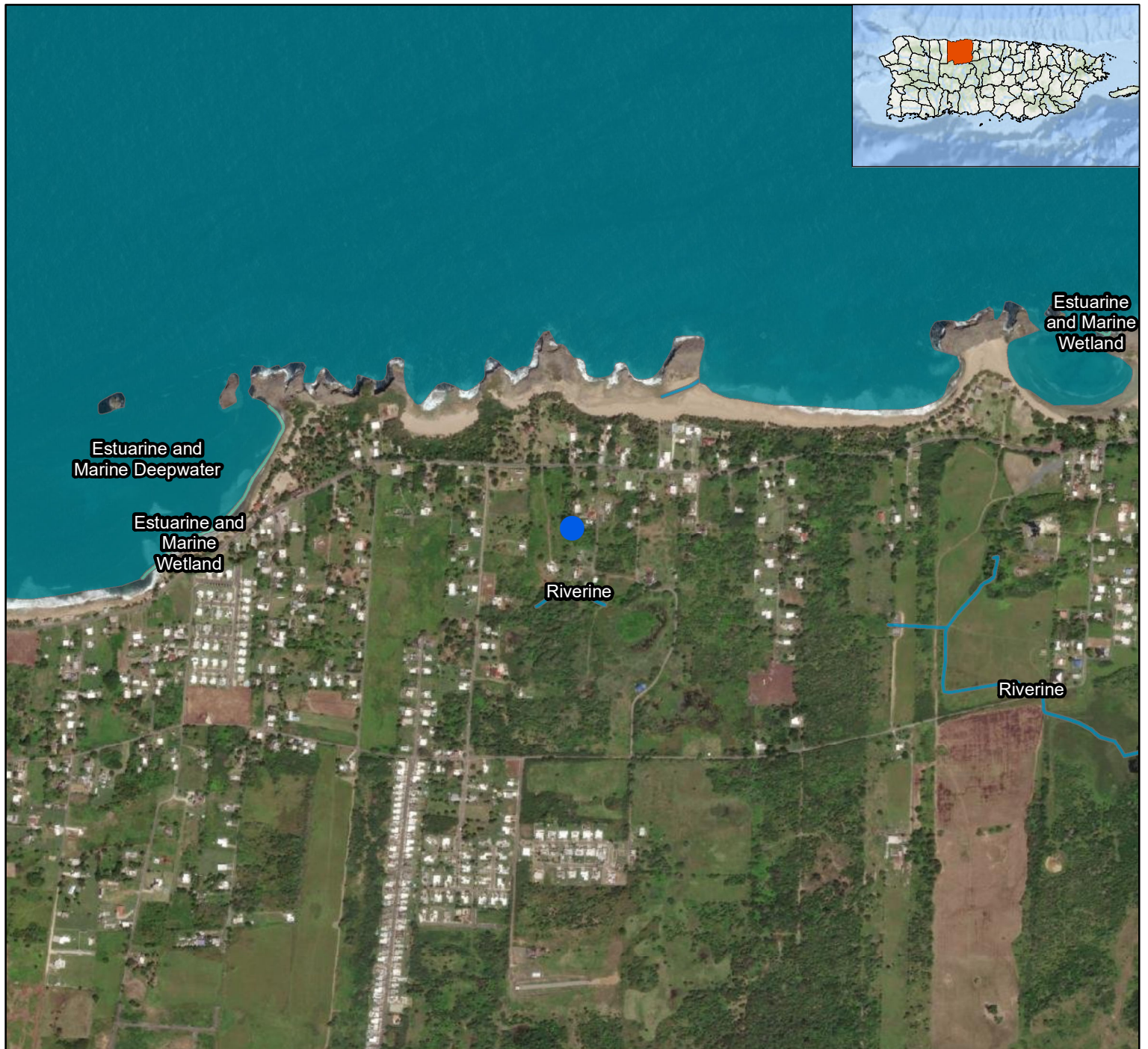
Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wetlands Inventory
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

Figure 12: Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

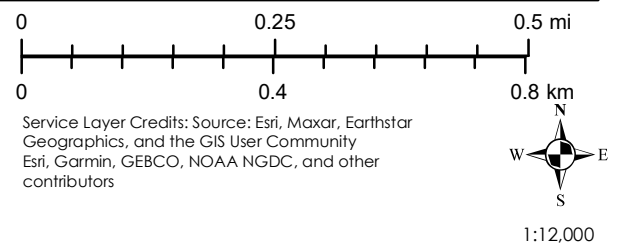


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

National Wetlands Inventory

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Riverine



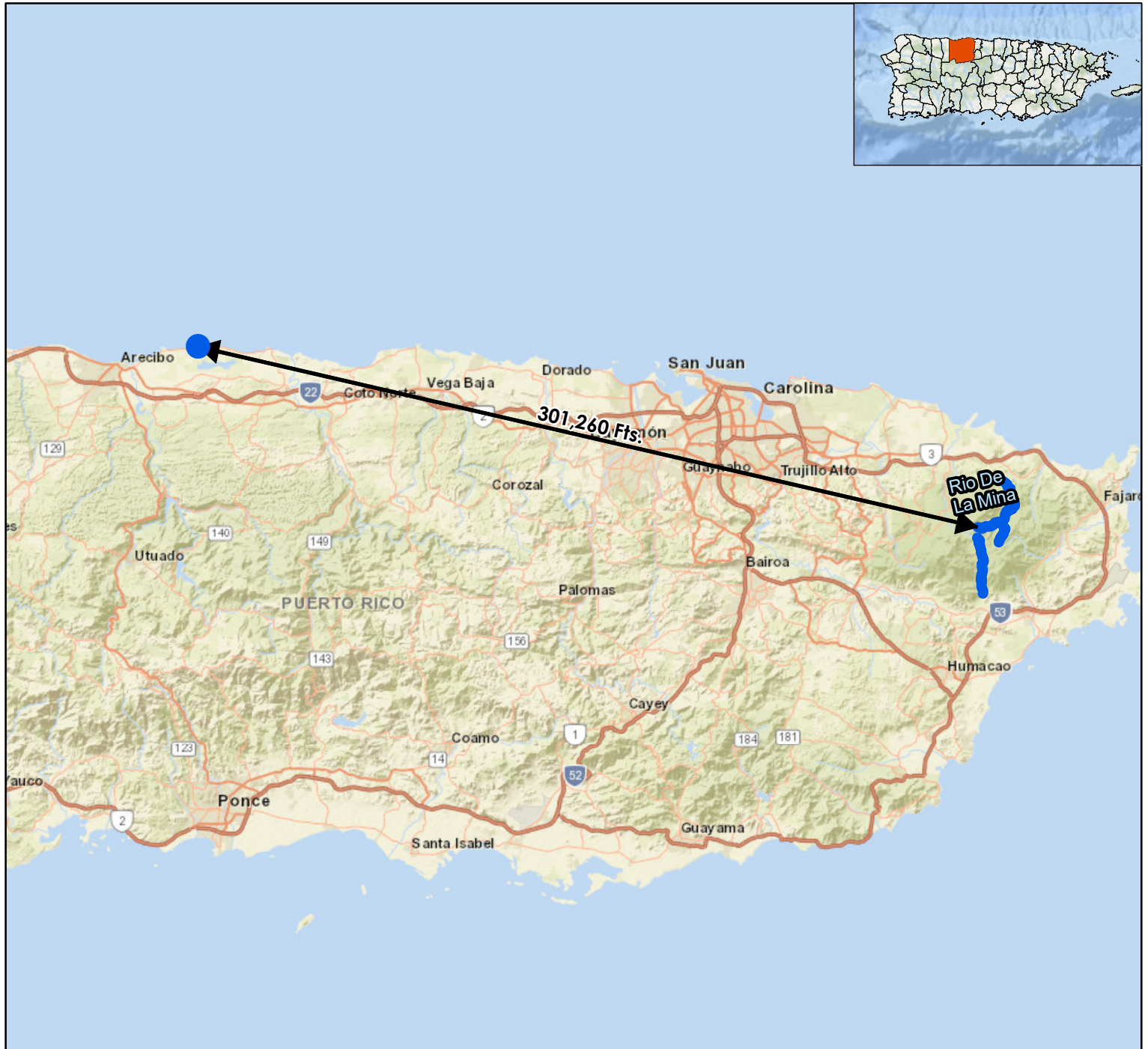
Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wetlands Inventory
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Islote, Carr. 681 km 8.5,
Arecibo, PR, 00612
Núm. Catastro: 013-029-768-13-000
Lat: 18.490129, Long: 66.636023

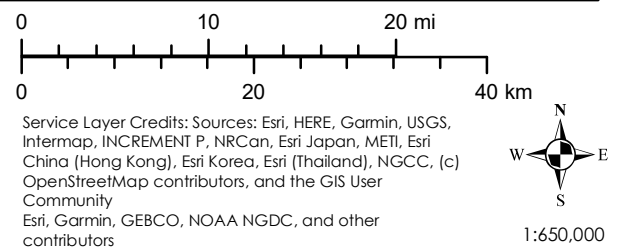
Figure 13: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Wild and Scenic Rivers



Source

FWS National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
<https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php>

Figure 9: Advisory Base Flood Elevation

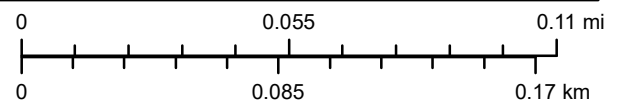
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
 - Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFE)
 - Hydrography
 - 0.2-percent annual chance flood
 - 1-percent annual chance flood
- | Flood Zone | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| | A |
| | 0.2% Annual Chance Flood |
| | Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X |



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

Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),
Junta de Planificación de Puerto Rico (JP),
Mapas de Niveles de Inundación Base Recomendados,
<https://maps.jp.pr.gov/>

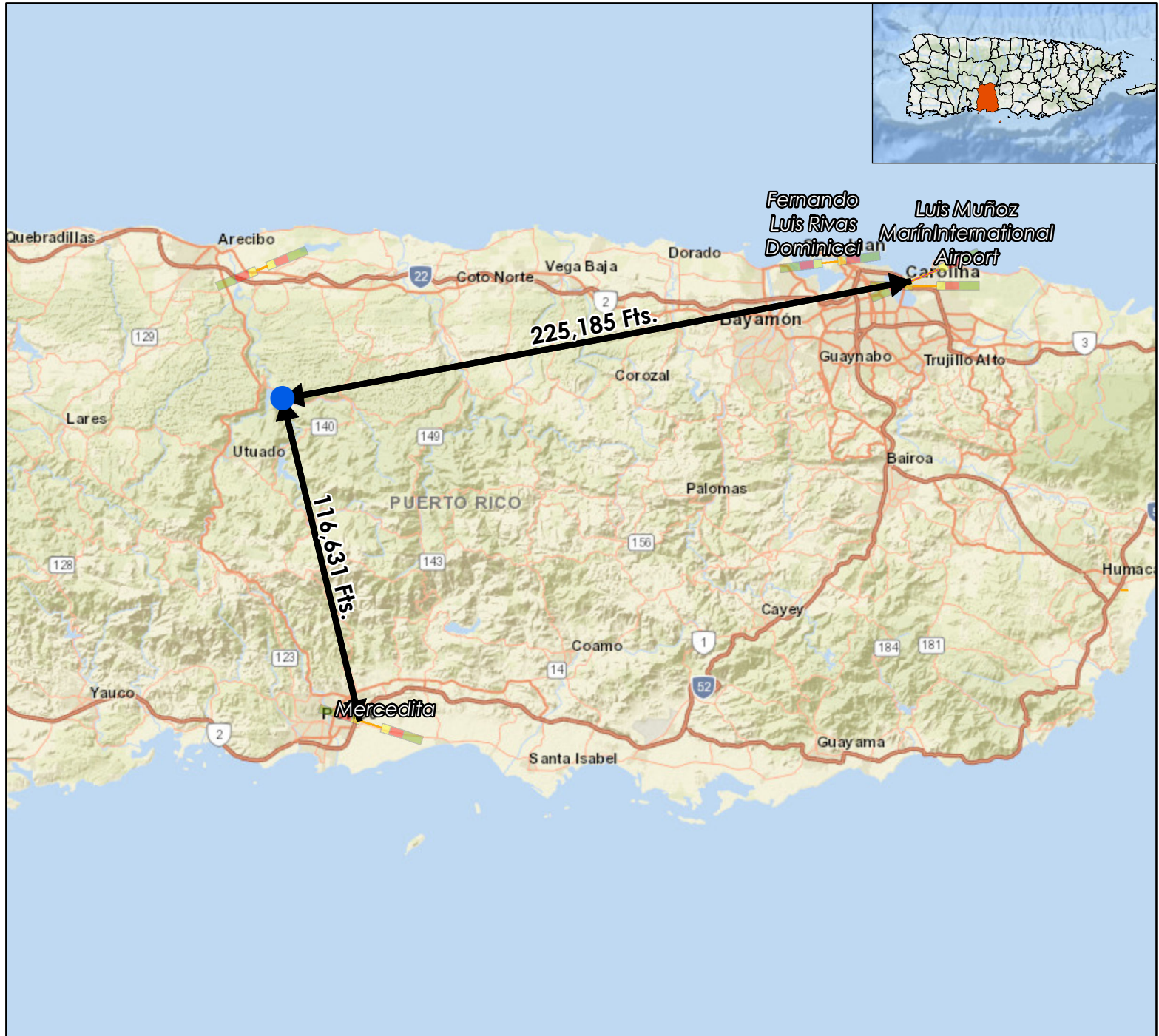


1:2,500

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuaado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Figure 2: Airports

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

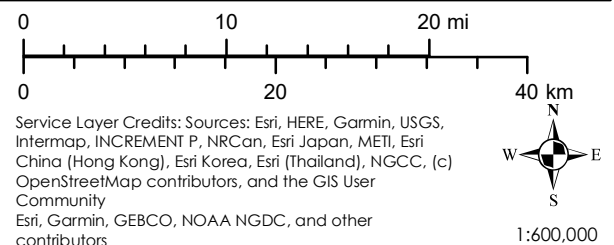


Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- SJU Military Runaway
- SJU Civil Runaway

Accident Potential Zone

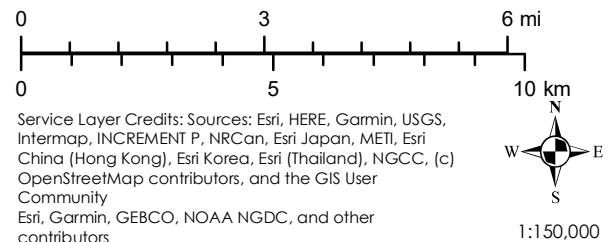
- APZ 1
- APZ 2
- Clear Zone



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Source
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
<https://adds-faa.opendata.arcgis.com/>

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
<https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act>

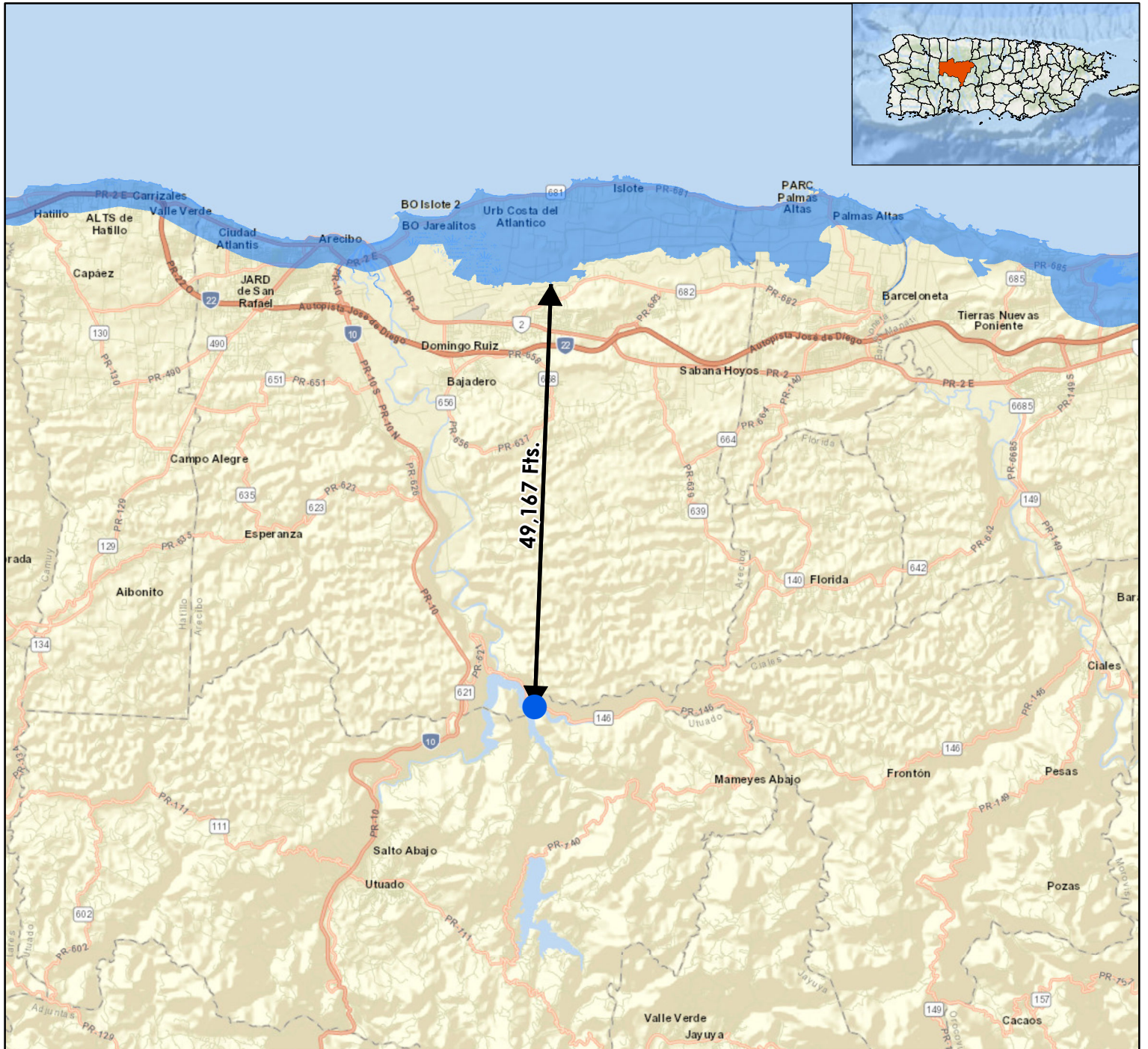
Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS)

 System Unit

Figure 5: Coastal Zone Management

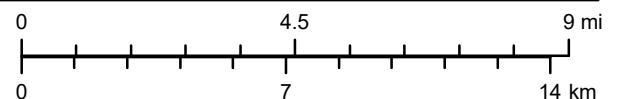
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuaado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

NOAA Office for Coastal Management (NOAA/OCM)
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/53132>



1:200,000

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Figure 8: Farmland Protection

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

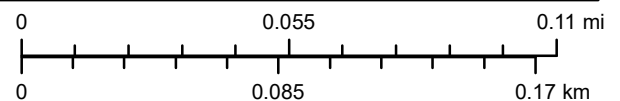


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

Farm Class

- Farmland of statewide importance
- Not prime farmland



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



1:2,500

Source

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





Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

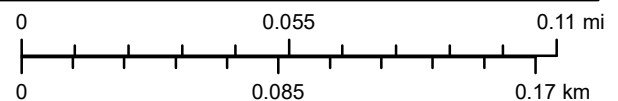
Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)-Zone A, V, A99 Zone A, V, A99
-  Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
-  FIRM Panel



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

Source

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



1:2,500

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

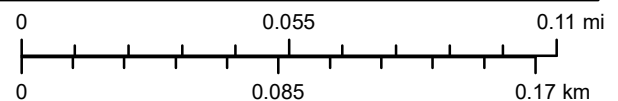
Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)-Zone A, V, A99 Zone A, V, A99
- Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
- FIRM Panel



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

Source

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

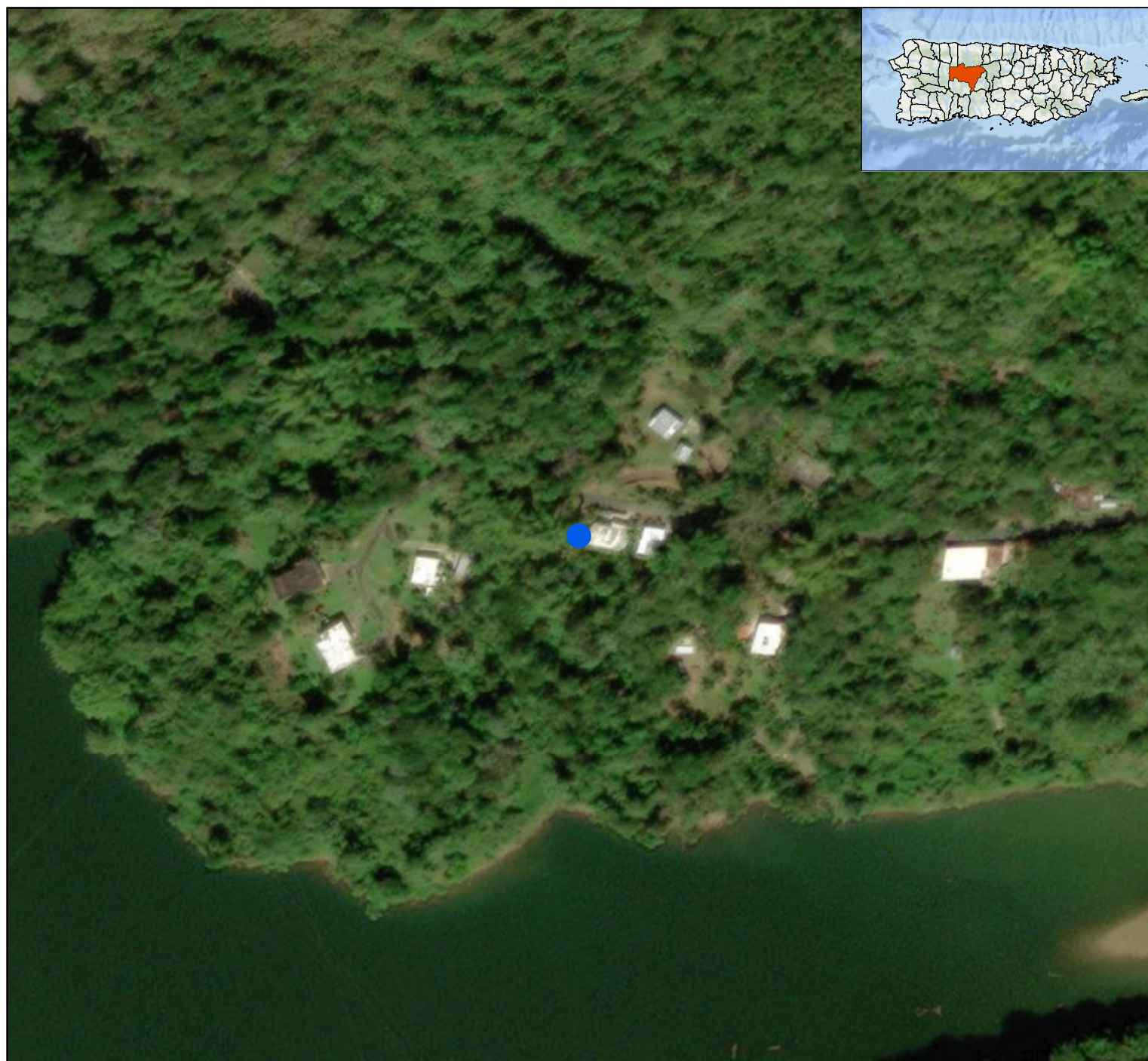


1:2,500

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

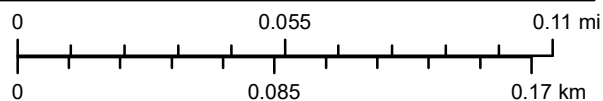
Figure 10: Historic Preservation Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326



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



1:2,500

Source

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

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

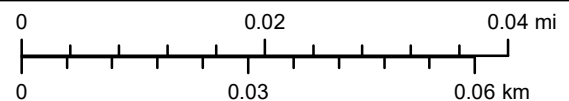
Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Roads Clearing
- Parcel-02326
- CRIM Parcels



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



1:1,000

Source

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



Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

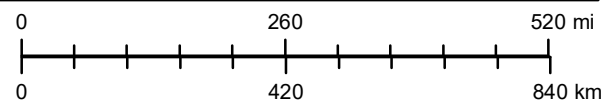
Figure 11: EPA Sole Source Aquifers

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  EPA Sole Source Aquifers



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



1:12,000,000

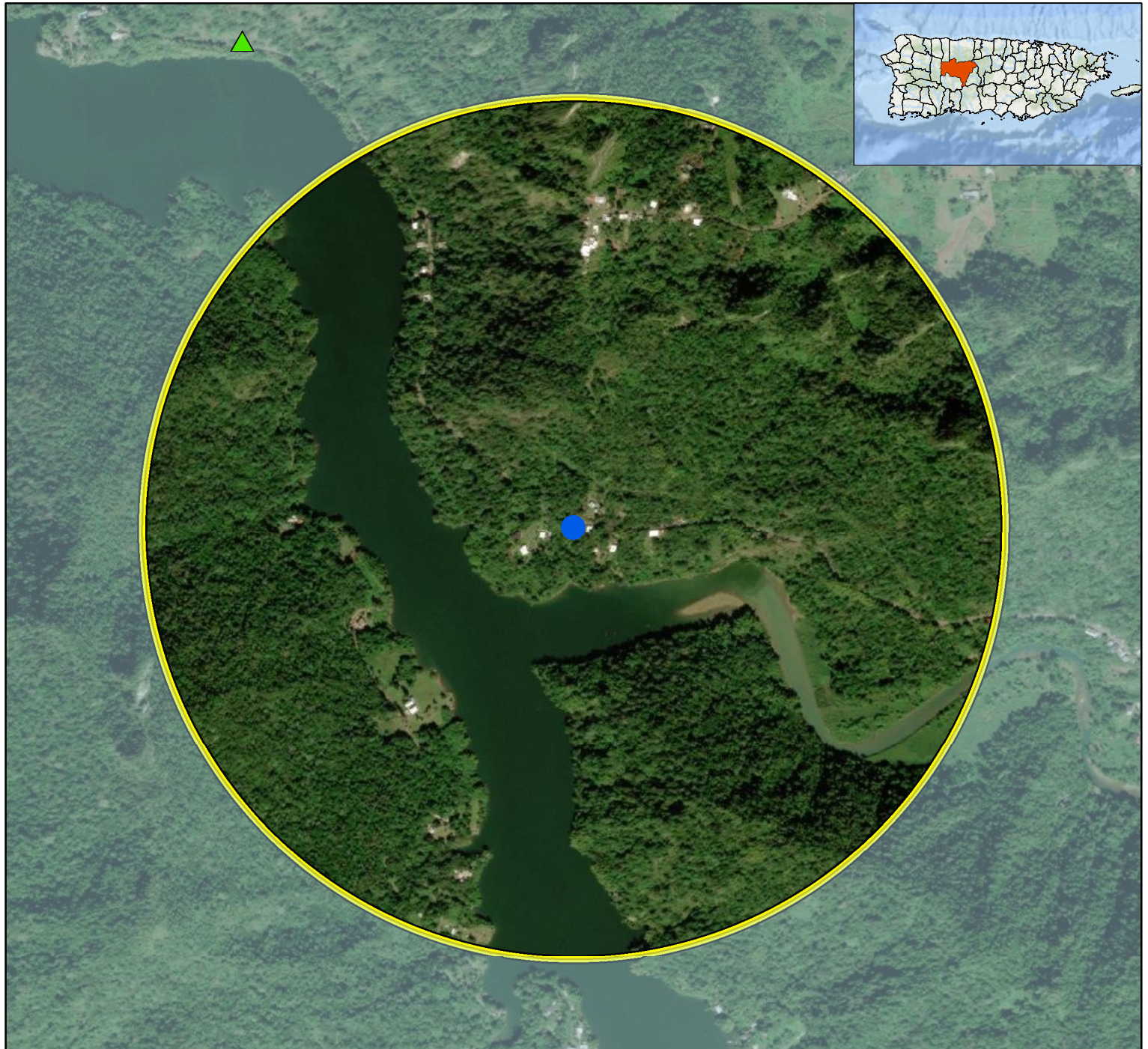
Source

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

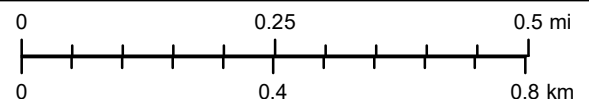
Figure 6: Toxic and Hazardous Facilities

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- ▲ RCRA
- 3,000 Ft. Buffer



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



1:12,000

Source

EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS)
<https://www.epa.gov/frs>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utua, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Figure 12: Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

National Wetlands Inventory

Lake
 Riverine

0 0.055 0.11 mi
0 0.085 0.17 km

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



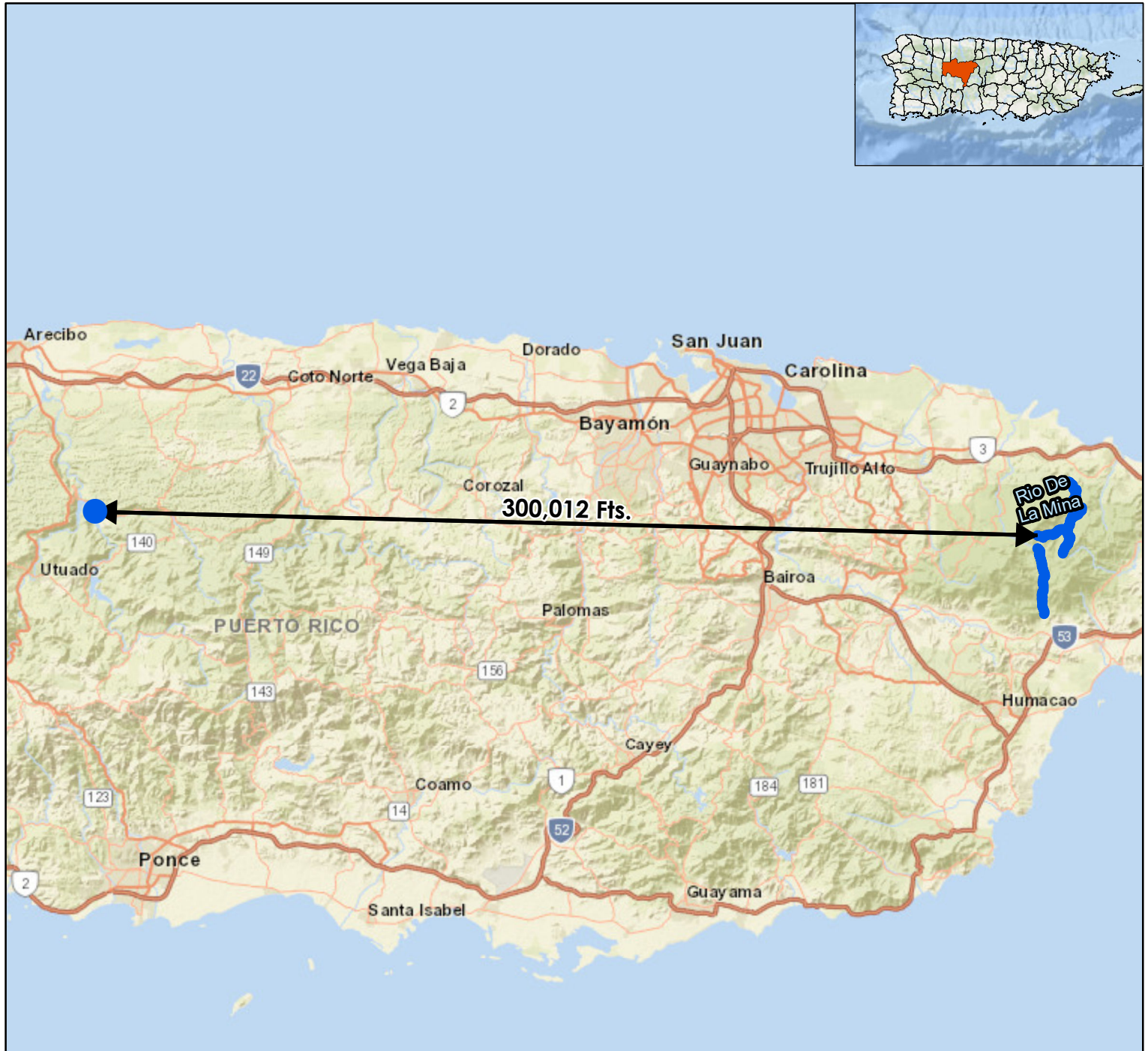
Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wetlands Inventory
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Limón, Carr #146, km 2.8,
Utuaado, PR, 00650
Núm. de Catastro: 134-000-008-43-000
Lat:18.324220, Long:-66.654274

Figure 13: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Wild and Scenic Rivers

0 10 20 mi
0 10 20 km

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

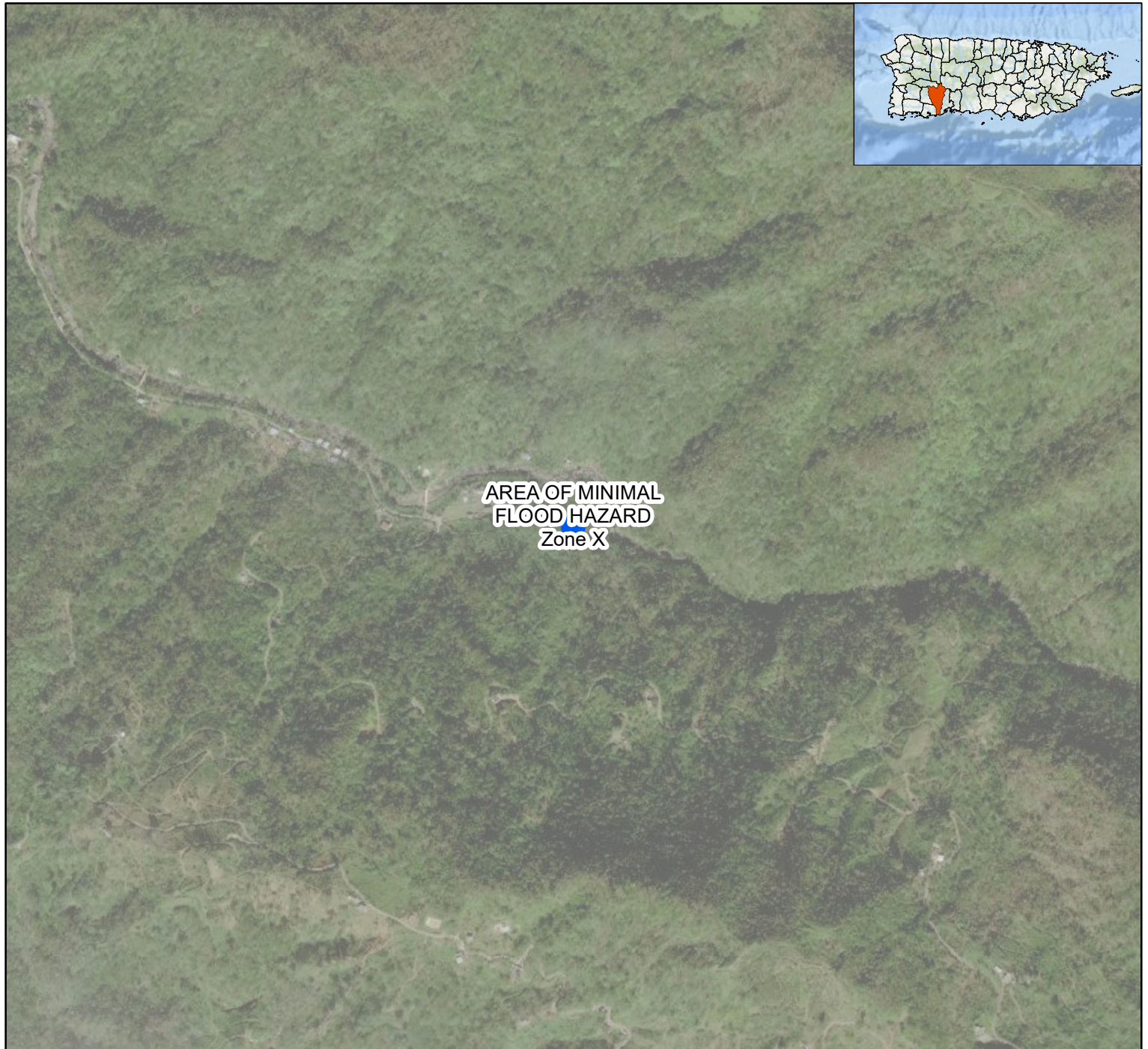
FWS National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
<https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php>



Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Docial
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698
Num. de Catastro:288-000-003-33-000
Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018



Figure 9: Advisory Base Flood Elevation

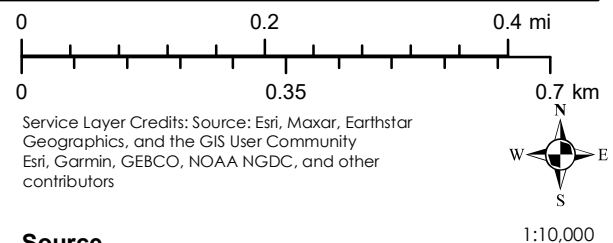
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



AREA OF MINIMAL
FLOOD HAZARD
Zone X

Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X



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

Source

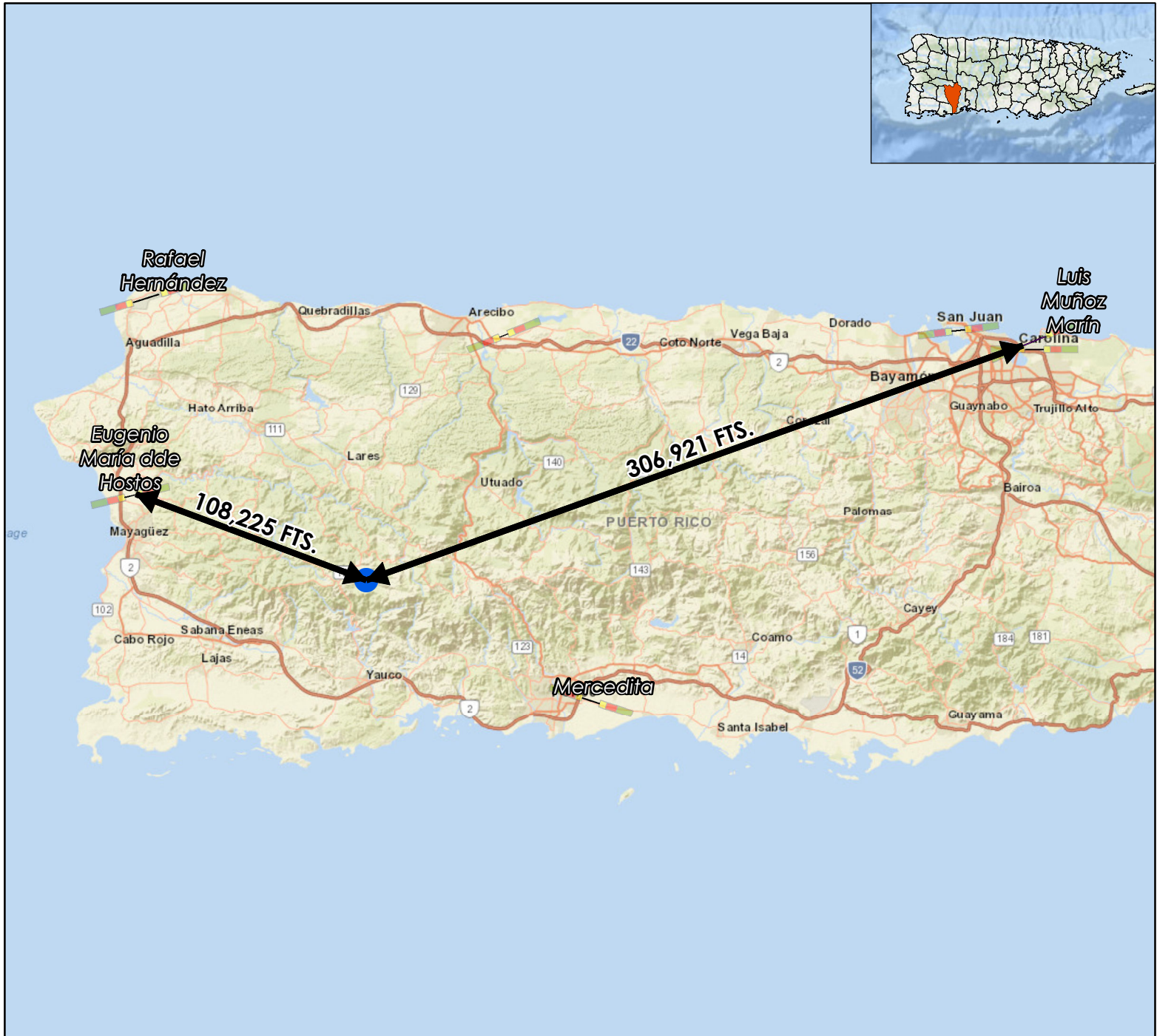
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),
Junta de Planificacion de Puerto Rico (JP),
Mapas de Niveles de Inundacion Base Recomendados,
<https://maps.jp.pr.gov/>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Docial
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698

Núm. de Catastro:288-000-003-33-000
Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018

Figure 2: Airports

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

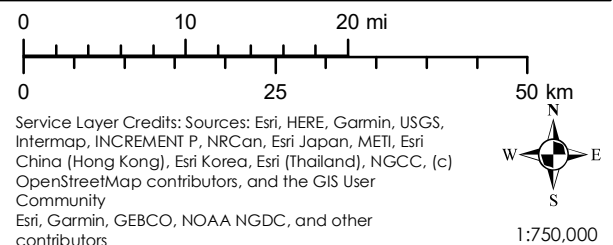


Legend:

- PR-RGRW-00089
- SJU Military Runaway
- SJU Civil Runaway

Accident Potential Zone

- APZ 1
- APZ 2
- Clear Zone



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

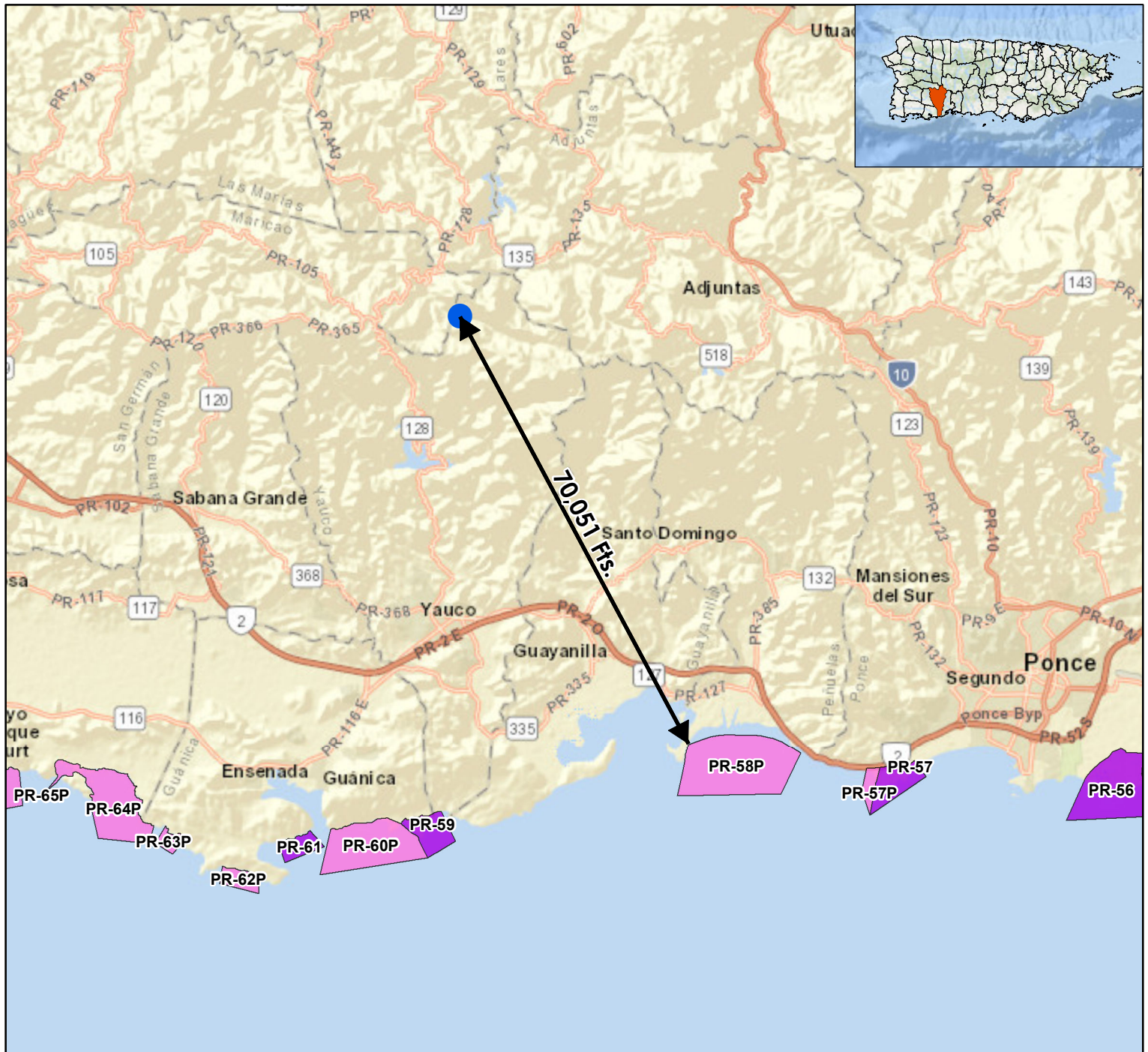
Source

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
<https://adds-faa.opendata.arcgis.com/>

Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698
Num. de Catastro:288-000-003-33-000
Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018

Figure 3: Coastal Barrier Resources System

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

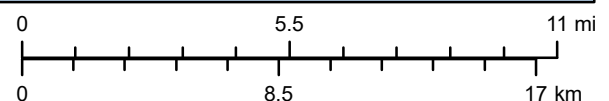


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS)

- Otherwise Protected Area
- System Unit



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
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Source

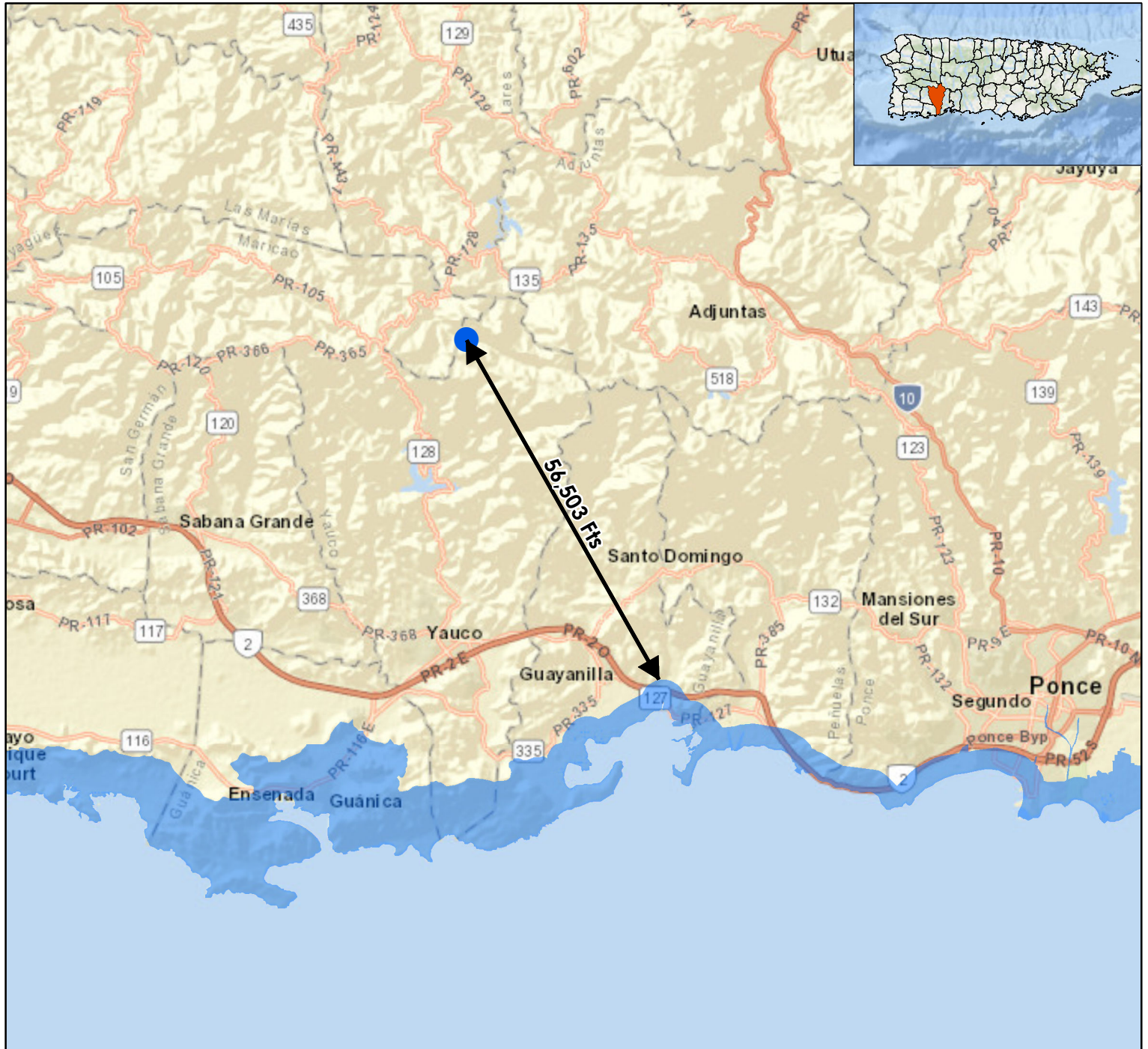
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
<https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act>



Tierra Valiente CRL Con Fin Social
Bo. Rio Prieto, Sector el 30,
Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
Yauco, PR, 00698
Núm. de Catastro:288-000-003-33-000
Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018

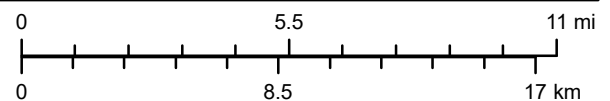
Figure 5: Coastal Zone Management

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary



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Source

NOAA Office for Coastal Management (NOAA/OCM)
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/53132>

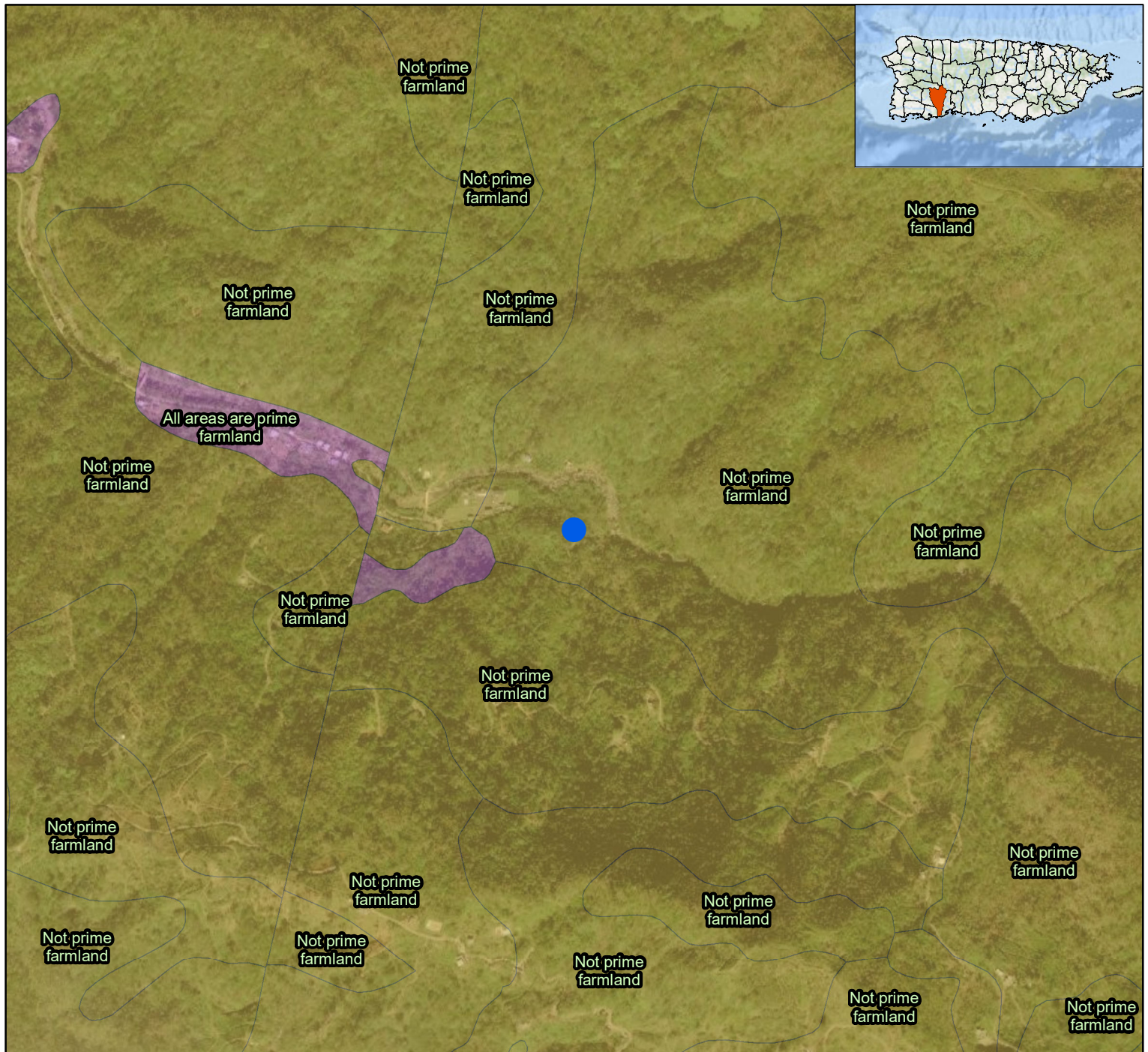


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Figure 8: Farmland Protection

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

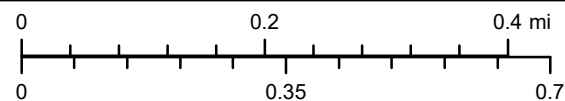


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

Farm Class

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Not prime farmland



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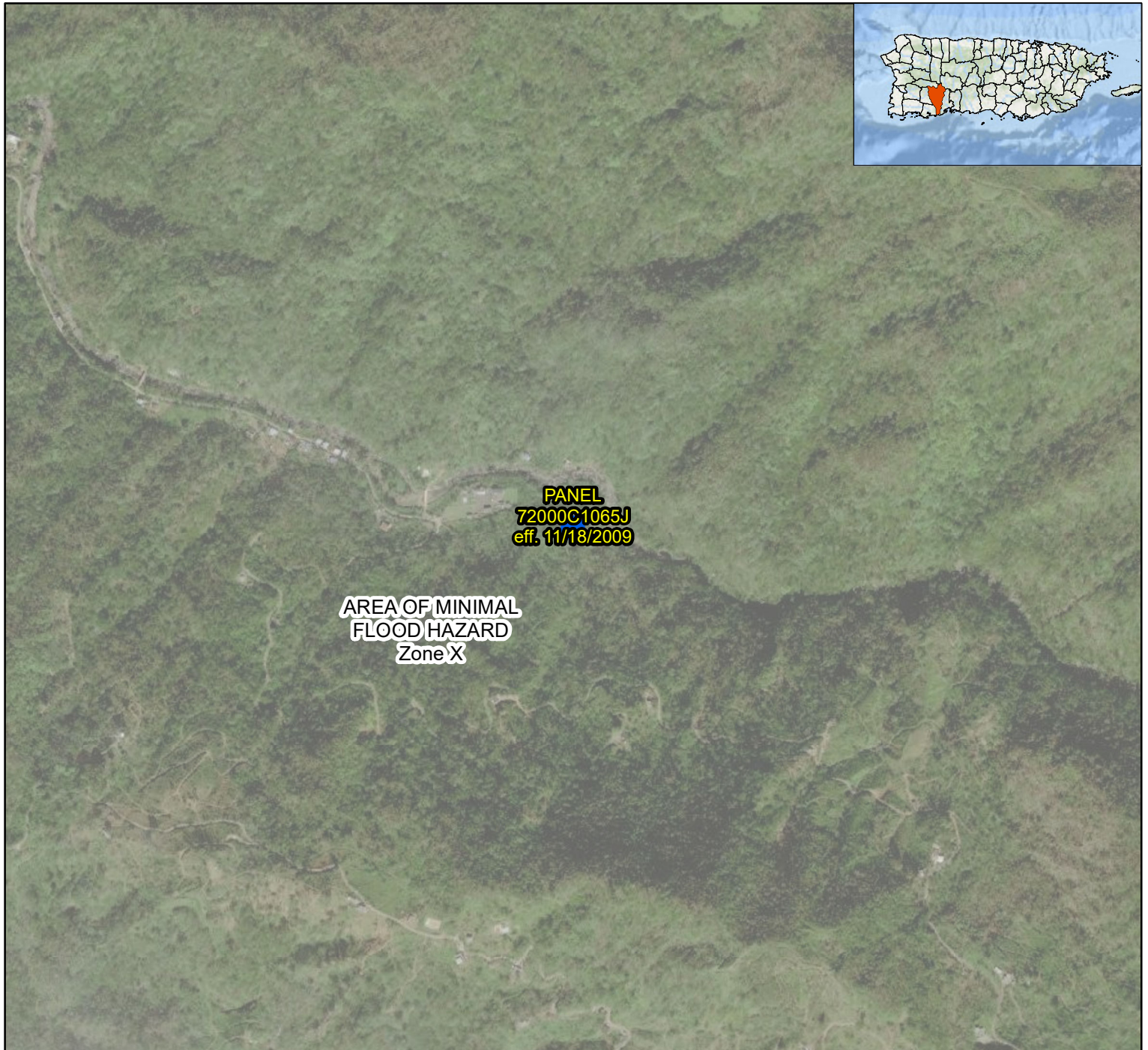
Source

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




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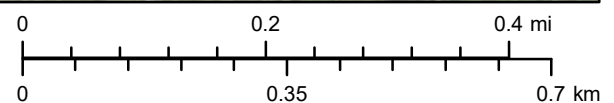
Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
-  FIRM Panel



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

Source

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

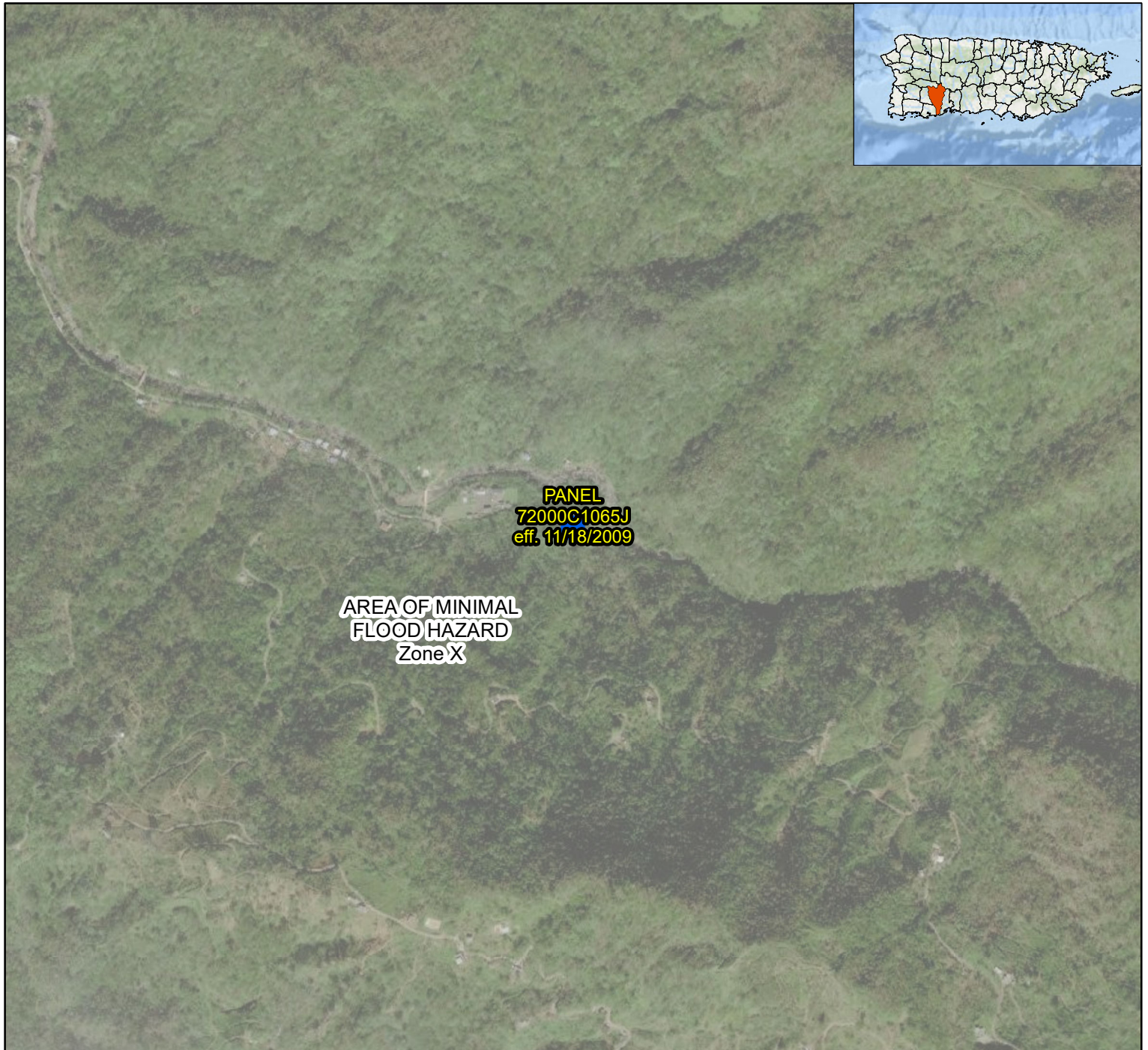


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

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Núm. de Catastro:288-000-003-33-000
Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018

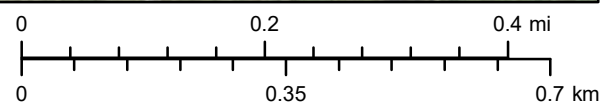
Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
-  FIRM Panel



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

Source

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

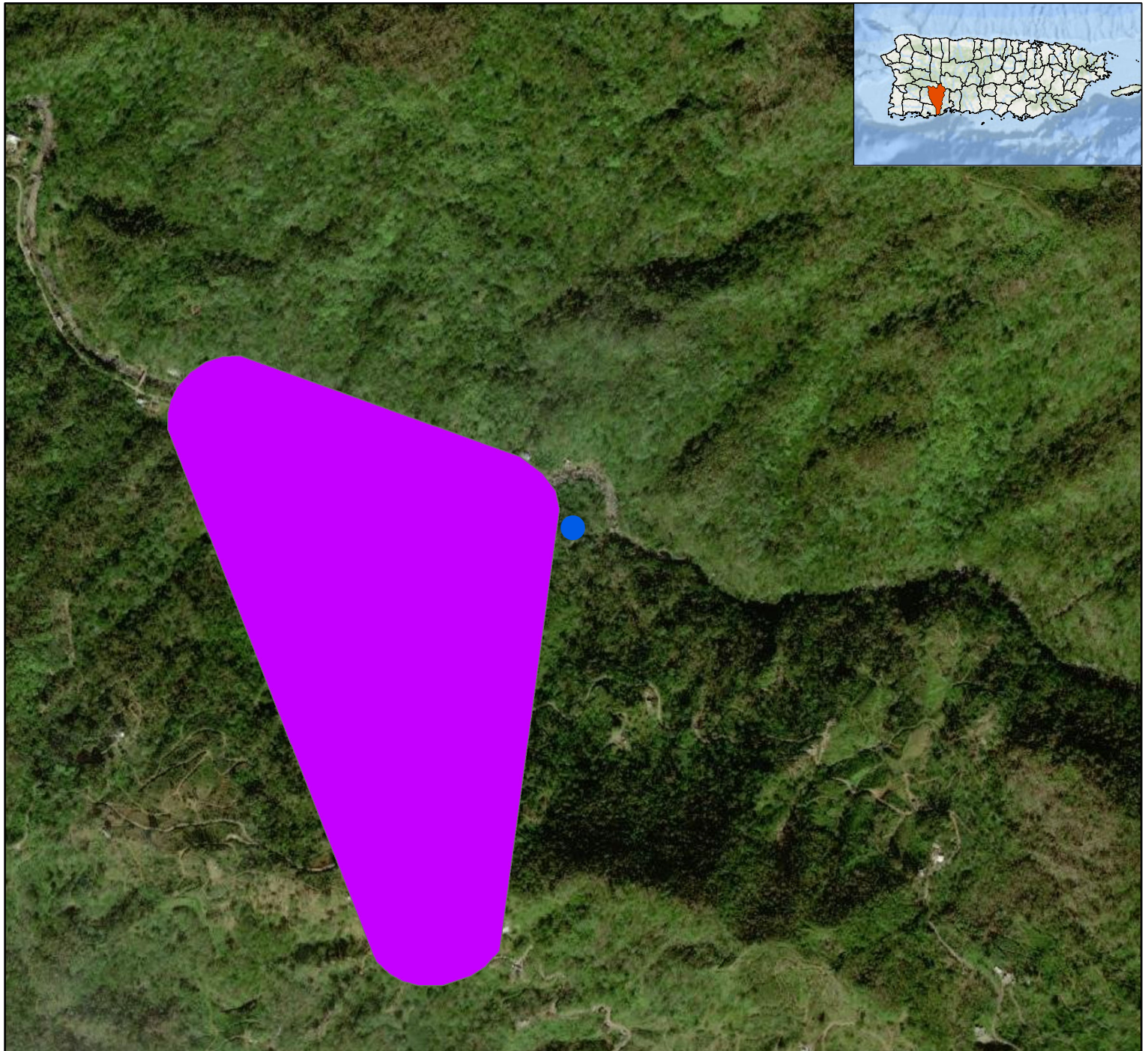


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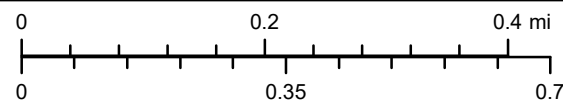
Figure 10: Historic Preservation Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  Archaeological Resource Zones



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar
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contributors



1:10,000

Source

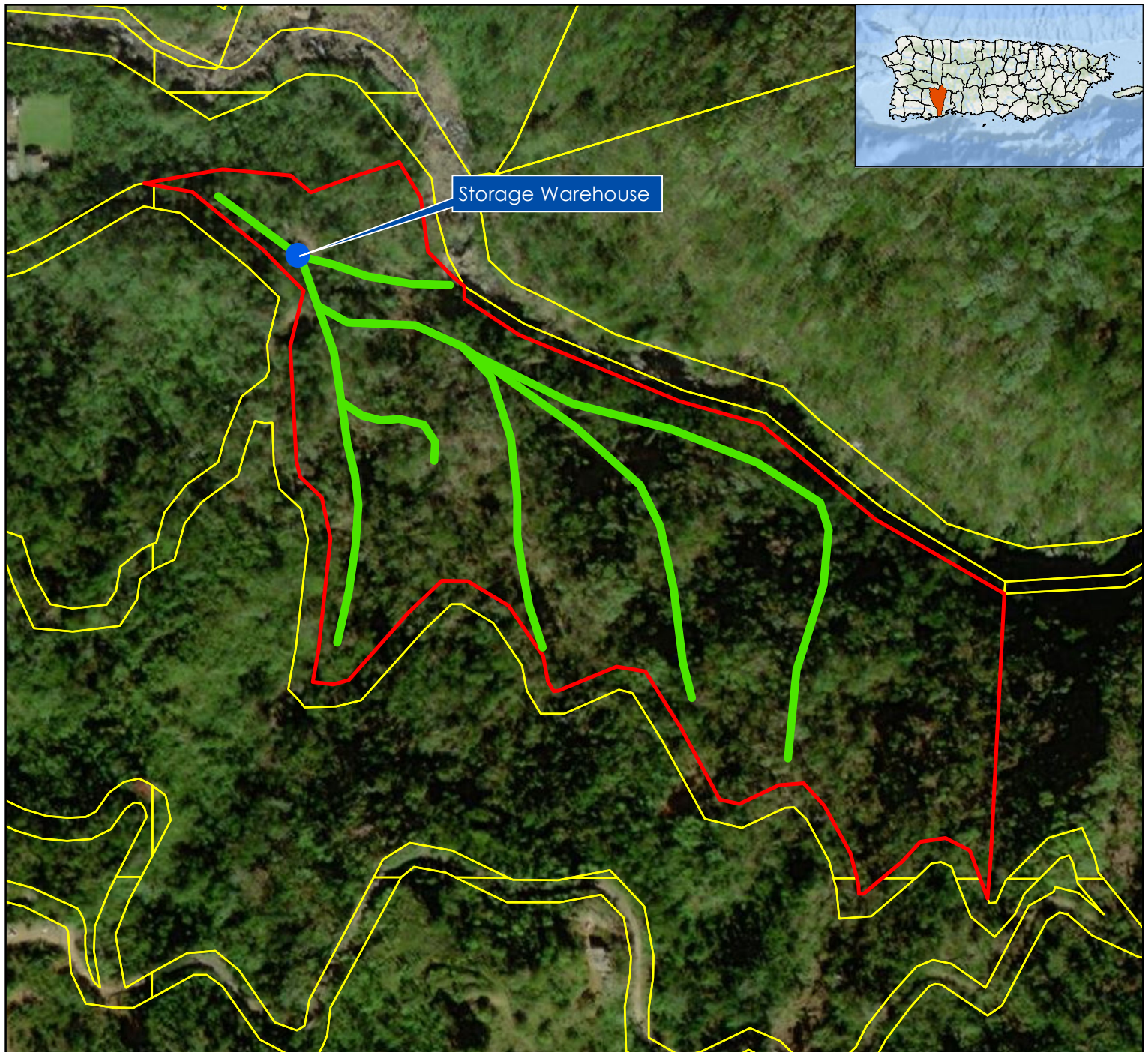
National Park Service (NPS) - National Register of Historic Places(NRHP)
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
<https://oeh.pr.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

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Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018

Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Road Clearing
- Parcel
- CRIM Parcels

0 0.05 0.1 mi

0 0.085 0.17 km

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar
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1:2,500

Source

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



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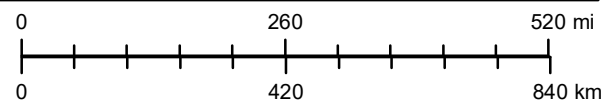
Figure 11: EPA Sole Source Aquifers

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

-  PR-RGRW-02326
-  EPA Sole Source Aquifers



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1:12,000,000

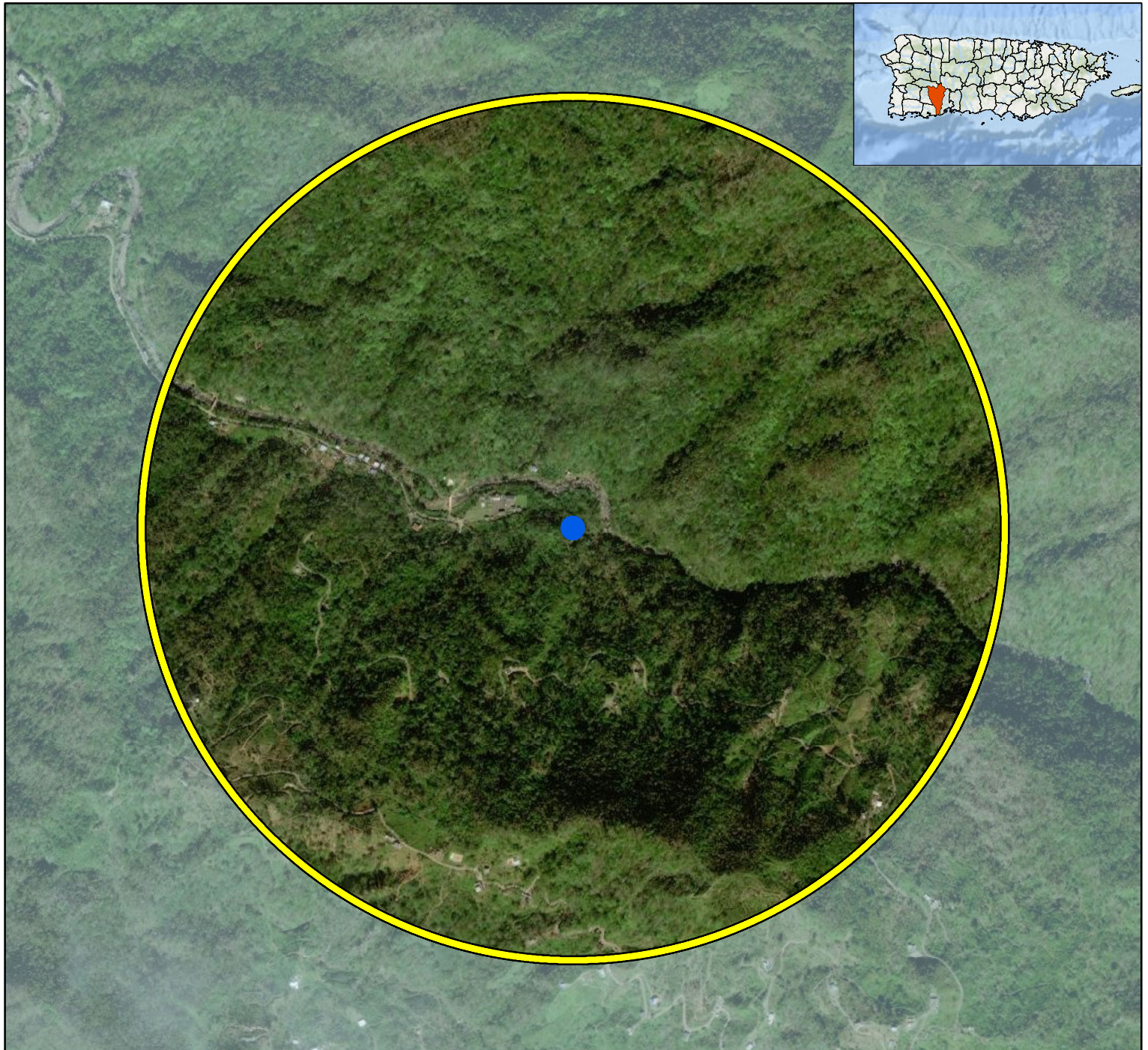
Source

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b>

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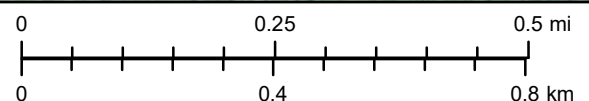
Figure 6: Toxic and Hazardous Facilities

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- 3,000 Ft. Buffer



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Geographics, and the GIS User Community
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contributors



1:12,000

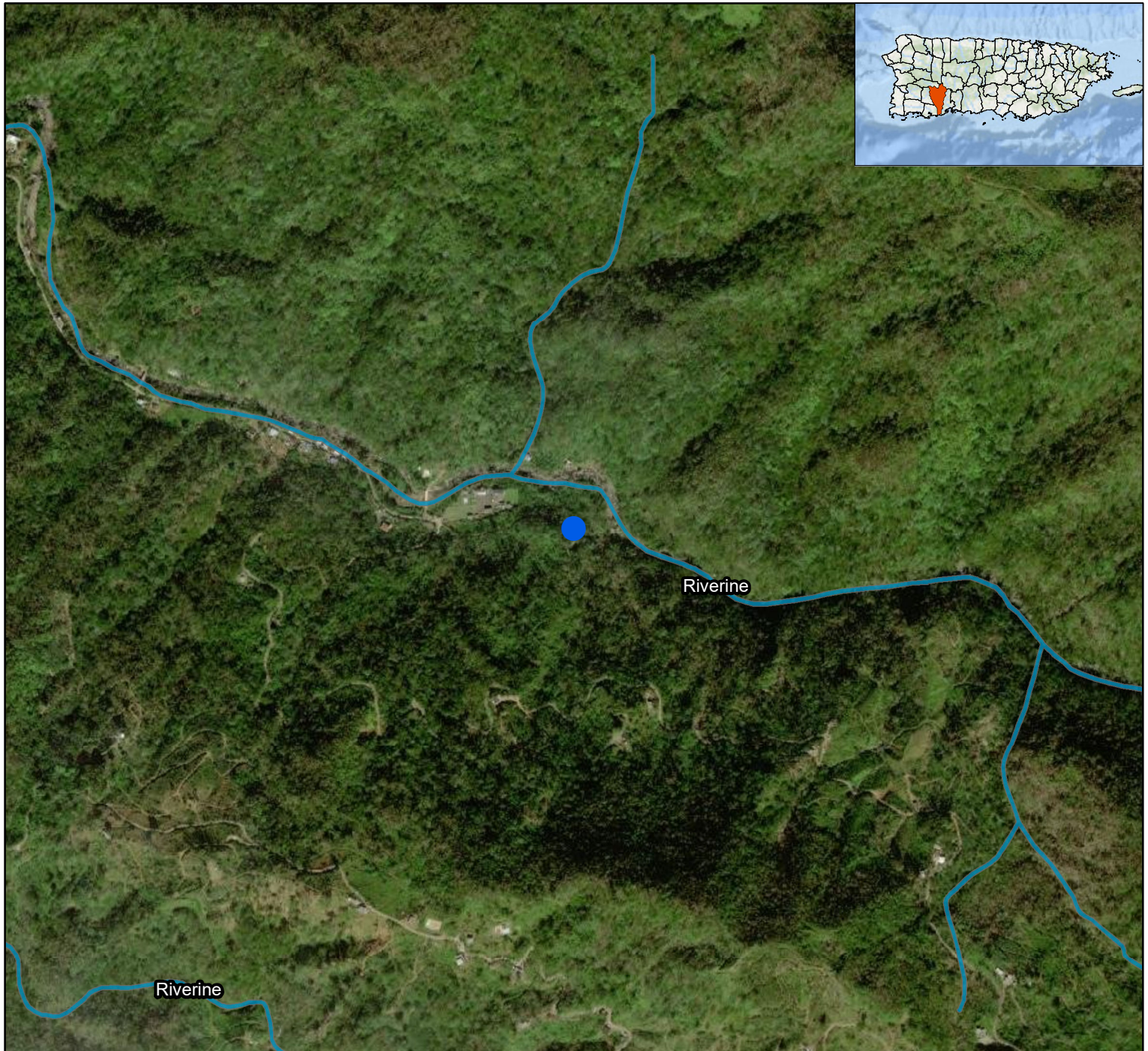
Source

EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS)
<https://www.epa.gov/frs>

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Figure 12: Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

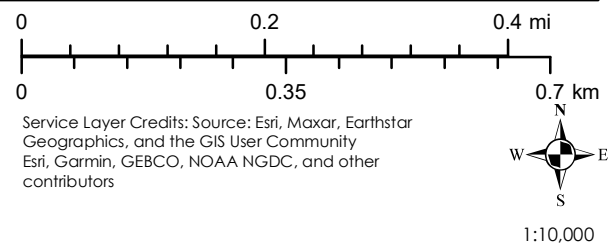


Legend:

● PR-RGRW-02326

National Wetlands Inventory

■ Riverine



Source

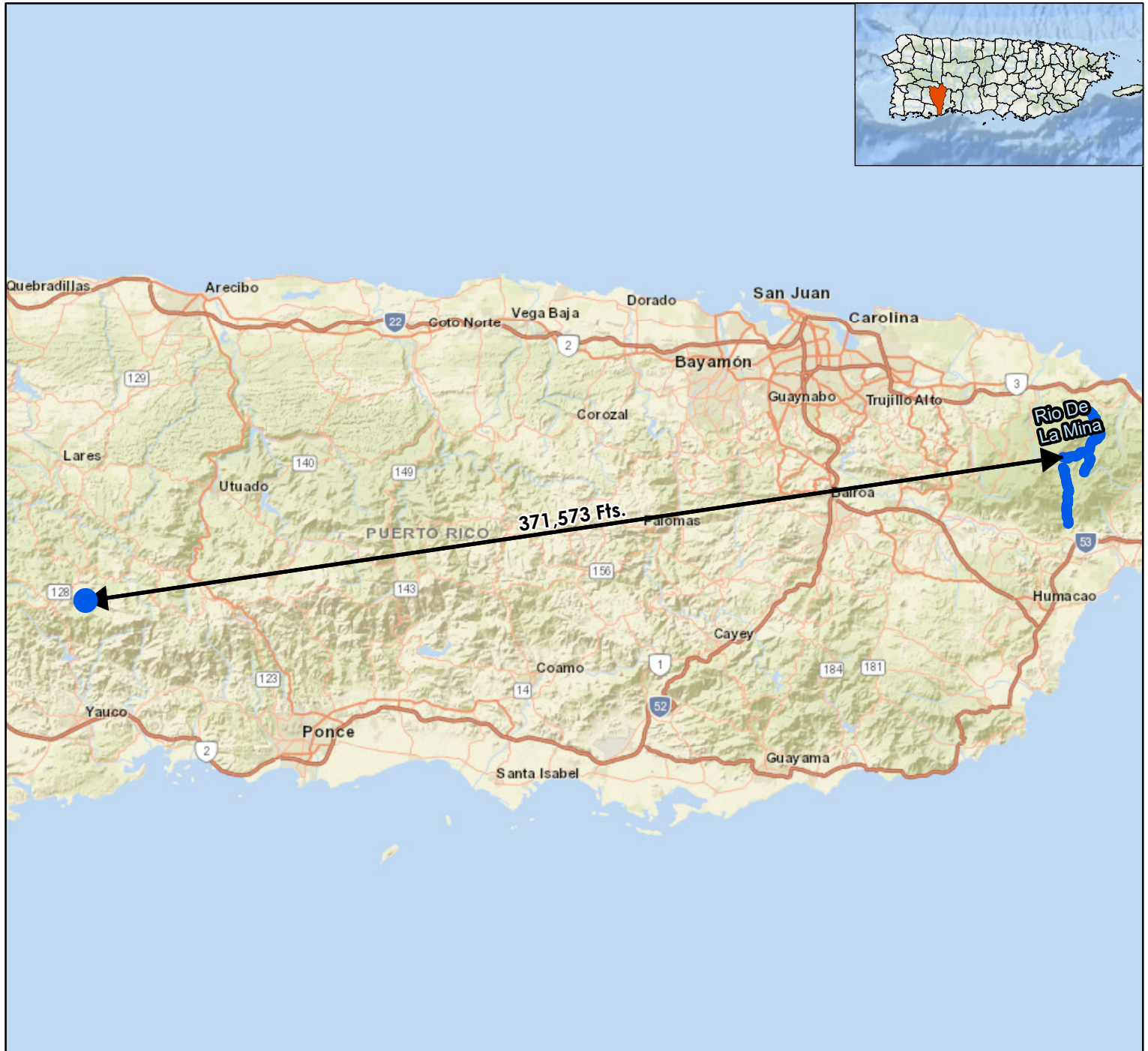
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wetlands Inventory
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>

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Street 374, km 5 hm 3 Int,
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Lat:18.153617, Long:-66.849018

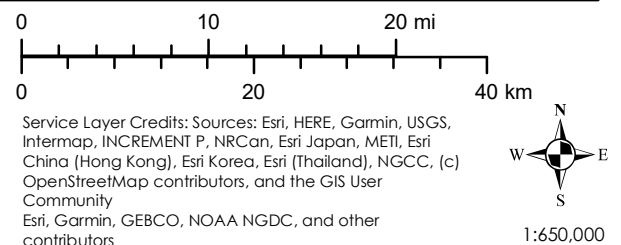
Figure 13: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend:

- PR-RGRW-02326
- Wild and Scenic Rivers



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Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Source

FWS National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
<https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php>