



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

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

Project Information

Project Name: PR-SBF-07242

HEROS Number: 900000010466939

Start Date: 04/25/2025

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , Lajas, PR 00667

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at the following two sites: Site 1: latitude 17.990835, longitude -67.042333 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 405-000-002-96-000 Site 2: latitude 18.002005, longitude -67.042669 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 382-000-007-02-901

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

This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Vaqueria Enriqueta, a cattle farm, at the following two sites: Site 1: BO PARGUERA , CARR 324 . Lajas, PR 00667 Site 2: Carr.304 km 0.6 Bo. Sabana Yeguas, Lajas, PR 00667 The specific scope of work for this project includes the installation and replacement of a squeeze chute and head gate. The replacement of the squeeze chute will be at Site 1 (17.990835, -67.042333). The head gate replacement will be at Site 2 (18.002005, -67.042669). The head gate will be anchored to the ground with nail hooks and attached to the end post of the corridor. The squeeze chute will be placed at the end of the hallway and requires ground leveling.

Level of Environment Review Determination:

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

Funding Information

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

B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
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Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$150,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$150,000.00

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

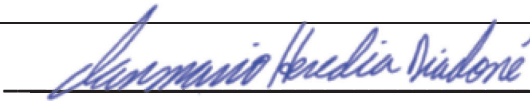
Summarized below are all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts,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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete	
Endangered Species Act	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 CM shall contact the local office of the PRDNER (Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources) and ask them to relocate the Boa.	N/A		
Wetlands Protection	Mitigation/minimization measures not required as wetland impacts are expected to be minimal as a result of this action because the project activities involve the improvement of an already disturbed area and there will be no removal of trees or overgrowth required for the project. Additionally, ground disturbing activities associated with the installation of a new cattle chute will be limited to minor grading in an area where there is already a fence and is used for gathering cattle.	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: May.5.2025

Name / Title/ Organization: Ianmario Heredia / / Department of Housing - Puerto Rico

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature: _____

Digitally signed by Ivelisse
Lorenzo-Torres
Date: 2025.06.30 15:05:36 -04'00'

Date: _____

Name/ Title: I. Lorenzo, Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

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-SBF-07242

HEROS Number: 900000010466939

Start Date: 04/25/2025

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

State / Local Identifier:

RE Preparer: Ianmario Heredia

Certifying Office IVELISSE LORENZO
r:

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

Point of Contact:

Point of Contact: Blas Guernica
Consultant (if applicable): HORNE LLP

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

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

Project Location: , Lajas, PR 00667

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at the following two sites: Site 1: latitude 17.990835, longitude -67.042333 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 405-000-002-96-000 Site 2: latitude 18.002005, longitude -67.042669 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 382-000-007-02-901

Direct Comments to: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

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

This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to Vaqueria Enriqueta, a cattle farm, at the following two sites: Site 1: BO PARGUERA , CARR 324 . Lajas, PR 00667 Site 2: Carr.304 km 0.6 Bo. Sabana Yeguas, Lajas, PR 00667 The specific scope of work for this project includes the installation and replacement of a squeeze chute and head gate. The replacement of the squeeze chute will be at Site 1 (17.990835, -67.042333). The head gate replacement will be at Site 2 (18.002005, -67.042669). The head gate will be anchored to the ground with nail hooks and attached to the end post of the corridor. The squeeze chute will be placed at the end of the hallway and requires ground leveling.

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

[PR-SBF-07242 IUGF.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
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✓	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds" (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR
	This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).

Approval Documents:

[PR-SBF-07242-SIG-PAGE signed.pdf](#)

7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer
on:

7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer
on:

Funding Information

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

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

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$150,000.00

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6		
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 96,424 feet away. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 3,054.1 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C1570H, effective on 04/19/2005: Flood Map Number 72000C1935J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5		
Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	<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	Based on the project description the project does not include any activities that would affect a Coastal Zone. The Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Small Business

		Financing (SBF) 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). The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C1935J, effective on 11/18/2009 and 72000C1570H effective on 4/19/2005: PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the

		municipality of Lajas; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and not considered in the review. This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project results will impact on- or off-site wetlands. An 8 Step Process has been completed. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be 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. The project is located 442,412 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	On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess

		environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.
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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	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 CM shall contact the local office of the PRDNER (Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources) and ask them to relocate the Boa.	N/A		
Wetlands Protection	Mitigation/minimization measures not required as wetland impacts are expected to be minimal as a result of this action because the project activities involve the improvement of an already disturbed area and there will be no removal of trees or overgrowth required for the project. Additionally, ground disturbing activities associated with the installation of a new cattle chute will be limited to minor grading in an area where	N/A		

	there is already a fence and is used for gathering cattle.			
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Project Mitigation Plan

Should new ground disturbance occur the Karst zone must be evaluated and when necessary DNER must be consulted prior to construction activities. Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action. if a Puerto Rican Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024. The 8-step process is required.

Supporting documentation on completed measures

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

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 96,424 feet away. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-07242 Airports.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Coastal Barrier Resources

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

1. Is the project located in a CBRS Unit?

✓ No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 3,054.1 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-07242 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-SBF-07242 FIRM.pdf](#)

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

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

Yes

✓ No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

Flood Map Number 72000C1570H, effective on 04/19/2005: Flood Map Number 72000C1935J, 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

2. Does this project include new construction, conversion, major rehabilitation, or substantial improvement activities?

☐ Yes

☒ No

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

Based on the project description the project does not include any activities that would affect a Coastal Zone. The Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Small Business Financing (SBF) 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). The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Supporting documentation

[Resolution JP-2024-004.pdf](#)
[PR-SBF-07242 CZM.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Contamination and Toxic Substances

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

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

ASTM Phase I ESA

ASTM Phase II ESA

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

☒ None of the above

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

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

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

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

☒ No

Explain:

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

Yes

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

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

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

Yes

Explain:

✓ No

* Notes:

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

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

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

Yes

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

✓ No

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

Yes

✓ No

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

Explain:

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

File Upload:

[Radon Attachments.pdf](#)
[PR-SBF-07242 Radon Memorandum.docx](#)

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

Non-radon contamination was found in a previous question.

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-07242 EFOR.docx](#)

[Toxics Table PR-SBF-07242.xlsx](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 Toxics Map.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:

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 CM shall contact the local office of the PRDNER (Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources) and ask them to relocate the Boa.

No mitigation is necessary.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-07242 Endangered Species.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 Site Map 2.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 Site Map 1.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 Wetlands Squeeze Chute.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 Wetlands.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 USFWS Concurrence Letter.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 USFWS Consultation Package PRDOH.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 Conservation Measures.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-SBF-07242 Farmlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Floodplain Management

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

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

Yes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Describe:

✓ No

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

Yes

Describe:

✓ No

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

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

Select one of the following three options:

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?

Yes

✓ No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

Flood Map Number 72000C1935J, effective on 11/18/2009 and 72000C1570H effective on 4/19/2005: PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Lajas; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and not considered in the review. This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-07242 FIRM\(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 ABFE.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Historic Preservation

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

Threshold

Is Section 106 review required for your project?

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

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

Step 1 – Initiate Consultation

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

- ✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

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

Other Consulting Parties

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

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

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

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

Yes

No

Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

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

Carr.304 km 0.6 Bo. Sabana Yeguas, Lajas, PR 00667

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 within the APE.

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

Yes

✓ No

Step 3 –Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

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

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

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

✓ No Historic Properties Affected

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

Document reason for finding:

✓ No historic properties present.

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

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-07242 Historic Map.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 SHPO package.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Noise Abatement and Control

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

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

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

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

An interstate land sales registration

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

☒ None of the above

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

☒ No

Sole Source Aquifers

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

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

< No

✓

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

Yes

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

Yes

No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

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

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-07242 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

✓ Yes

2. Will the new construction or other ground disturbance impact an on- or off-site wetland? The term "wetlands" means those areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances does or would support, a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds.

"Wetlands under E.O. 11990 include isolated and non-jurisdictional wetlands."

No, a wetland will not be impacted in terms of E.O. 11990's definition of new construction.

✓ Yes, there is a wetland that be impacted in terms of E.O. 11990's definition of new construction.

You must determine that there are no practicable alternatives to wetlands development by completing the 8-Step Process.

Document and upload the completed 8-Step Process as well as all documents used to

make your determination, including a map below. Be sure it includes the early public notice and the final notice with your documentation.

3. 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/minimization measures not required as wetland impacts are expected to be minimal as a result of this action because the project activities involve the improvement of an already disturbed area and there will be no removal of trees or overgrowth required for the project. Additionally, ground disturbing activities associated with the installation of a new cattle chute will be limited to minor grading in an area where there is already a fence and is used for gathering cattle.

Which of the following mitigation actions have been or will be taken? Select all that apply:

Permeable surfaces

Natural landscape enhancements that maintain or restore natural hydrology through infiltration
Native plant species

Bioswales

Evapotranspiration

Stormwater capture and reuse

Green or vegetative roofs with drainage provisions

Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation easements

Compensatory mitigation

Other

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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

The project results will impact on- or off-site wetlands. An 8 Step Process has been completed. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with Executive Order 11990.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-07242 Final 8 step package \(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 Wetlands Squeeze Chute\(1\).pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-07242 Wetlands\(2\).pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

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

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

✓ No

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

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

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 442,412 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-07242 W S Rivers.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**

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), Puerto Rico
Department of Housing (PRDOH) – Small Business Financing Program
Vaqueria Enriqueta / PR-SBF-07242
Lajas, Puerto Rico

**Procedure for Making Determination on Wetlands Eight Step Process E.O. 11988 as
Provided by 24 CFR §55.20**

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) intends to use U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to engage in installing a cattle chute next to an existing fence on a small business farm. The Vaqueria Enriqueta project is proposed to take place at PR-324, Parguera Ward, Lajas, PR 00667; coordinates 17.990835, -67.042333.

The project will take place on parcel ID 405-000-002-96-000. The parcel is 214 acres. A National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) riverine R4SBC occurs on the west side of the parcel. This riverine takes up approximately 0.58 acres of the parcel. The project site is 79 feet from the wetland riverine. The project consists of installing a new squeeze chute for cattle near an existing fence. The ground will be minimally leveled so that the squeeze chute will sit on flat ground. There are two other mapped wetlands on the southern portion of the parcel not near or adjacent to the project site including a riverine and a freshwater forested/shrub wetland. The proposed project will have no impact on those wetlands given the distance.

Pursuant to Executive Orders (EO) 11990, the PRDOH has determined portions of this project to be occupied by an NWI mapped riverine wetlands. The EOs were enacted to *“avoid long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands; avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands; minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands; preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values served by wetlands; and involve the public throughout the wetlands protection decision-making process.”*

However, wetland impacts are expected to be minimal, since the proposed action involves the improvement of an already disturbed area. Additionally, the ground disturbing activity of leveling the area will occur outside the NWI mapped riverine. No removal of vegetation or trees will occur.

Detailed below is a summary of the eight-step process and how the PRDOH has or will comply with EO 11990, as the project site occurs within 100 feet of an NWI mapped wetland.

Step 1- Determination of whether the proposed action is located within a NWI mapped wetland

Regarding EO 11990, based on the National Wetlands Inventory map the location lies within 100 feet of a Riverine, approximately 79 feet away.

Wetland impacts are expected to be minimal as a result of this action because the project activities involve the improvement of an already disturbed area and there will be no removal of trees or overgrowth required for the project. Additionally, ground disturbing activities associated with the installation of a new cattle chute will be limited to minor grading in an area where there is already a fence and is used for gathering cattle.

Step 2- Early Notification and Involvement of the Public in the Decision-Making Process

The Small Business Financing Program, under the Puerto Rico Community Development Block Grant Program for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) allocated funds to help shape and implement the future vision in communities that were affected by Hurricanes Irma and María.

Based on the program goals, it was determined for Lajas that this project, the purchase and installation of a new squeeze chute, would be beneficial to the surrounding community. For the improvements, PRDOH notified the public of the proposed actions located near the NWI riverine through an Early Wetlands Notice in the “Primera Hora” newspaper of Puerto Rico on May 21, 2024, for purposes of eliciting public comments for consideration during this review.

Copies of the Early Wetland Notice were sent to potentially interested parties, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, State Environmental Natural Resources Department, Puerto Rico Planning Board, Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development Commerce, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, the State Department of Transportation and Public Works. A copy of the Early Wetlands Notice has been included within the Environmental Review Record for this action. No comments were received during the 15-day public comment period applicable to the Early Wetlands Notice.

Step 3- Identification and Evaluation of Practicable Alternatives.

This project includes purchase and installation of a new squeeze chute. The ground will be leveled to accommodate the squeeze chute but no vegetation removal or tree removal will occur. The goal of the Small Business Financing Program (SBF) is to support the recovery and growth of small businesses affected by hurricanes Maria and Irma. In accordance with the Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines, practical alternatives to locating the proposed action located near a wetland were identified and evaluated. These included the following alternatives:

- 1) Locating the actions away from the wetlands
- 2) Finding alternative methods to accomplish the proposed objectives and
- 3) Impact of taking no action

For each of these alternatives, various factors were considered including cost, feasibility, technology, hazard reduction, and environmental impacts. The evaluation of each alternative is summarized below.

Alternative 1

The project involves the purchase and installation of a squeeze chute for cattle. The squeeze chute installation could be moved to another area of the parcel further from the wetlands. However, the area where the equipment will be installed already has fencing. Moving to another portion of the parcel would require the applicant to purchase and install new fencing and may require additional ground leveling, tree removal, and vegetation removal. This option would be costly and ineffective for the applicant since the fencing for the cattle is already existing.

Alternative 2

The project involves the purchase and installation of a squeeze chute for cattle. The applicant could install the squeeze chute without any ground disturbing activities such as the proposed leveling. This could cause strain on the machinery and the potential for it not working correctly. Additionally, it could cause injury to the cattle or the applicant when used. Thus, the applicant would not receive the full benefit of the grant intending to help the small business recover and grow.

Alternative 3

The project involves the purchase and installation of a squeeze chute for cattle. Under the no action alternative, the applicant would not receive federal funding to purchase and install the squeeze chute. Consequently, the applicant would be forced to continue his operations using only the fencing that is existing. This would limit the production and function of the farm operations for the applicant. Under the no action alternative, the applicant may not be able to fully recover and continue to grow their business.

Step 4- Potential Direct and Indirect Impact of the Proposed Action on the Wetlands

Potential direct and indirect impacts resulting from the proposed action on the wetlands are anticipated to be minimal. The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of a cattle chute in a previously disturbed area on the parcel. Minor grading and leveling will occur to install the cattle chute on a flat surface. No vegetation or tree removal will occur. In September of 2017, Hurricanes Irma and María produced sustained winds and intense rainfall that decimated agricultural production across the island of Puerto Rico. These hurricanes caused the loss of eighty percent of crop value island wide, exacerbating challenges to food security and agricultural business development. The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA) estimated seven hundred and eighty million dollars (\$780 million) worth of damages from the hurricanes to the agricultural sector of the economy. The proposed project will aid in keeping agricultural production thriving in the area of Lajas and will provide economic support to the surrounding areas by providing produce and will allow financial expansion for the applicant. The project site is 79 feet from the wetland riverine. The ground disturbing activities will be limited to an area already used for cattle corralling and will not take place within the NWI wetland. Therefore, the project activities will have no impact on the existing wetlands.

Step 5- Minimization of Potential Adverse Impacts via Design or Modifications to the Proposed Actions

The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of a cattle chute in a previously disturbed area on the parcel. Minor grading and leveling will occur to install the cattle chute on a flat surface and no vegetation or tree removal will occur. There is no change in land use as the applicant will continue to use the area for cattle corralling. Therefore, the project activities will have no effect on the natural features or natural state of the property or the surrounding community. The installation of the cattle chute and ground disturbing activities will be limited to the area that is already being used for cattle corralling. No construction machinery or materials will be within the area designated as a wetland. Standard BMPs, such as proper site management and soil stabilization will be followed to minimize potential impacts of runoff.

Step 6- Reevaluation of the Proposed Action

Although potential adverse impacts to the wetlands may be reduced by prohibiting any future construction or renovation within it, this option is not practical due to existing severe need within Puerto Rico for developing agricultural capacity and the costs and logistics prohibiting the re-establishment of entire agricultural businesses away from the wetlands.

Wetland impacts are expected to be minimal as a result of this action because the project activities involve the improvement of an already disturbed area and there will be no removal of trees or overgrowth required for the project. Additionally, ground disturbing activities associated with the installation of a new cattle chute will be limited to minor grading in an area where there is already a fence and is used for gathering cattle.

Based on a review of the practical alternatives and their implementation wherever possible, the proposed action of the Vaqueria Enriqueta project is deemed to be the most appropriate and is selected as the final action. This determination is made on the basis of feasibility, cost, enhancement of quality of life, features for the community, land availability, and lack of impacts to wetlands.

Step 7- Publication of the Final Notice

In our reevaluation, we have determined that there is no other practical alternative to the proposed actions. Therefore, a Final Wetlands Explanation Notice for the Vaqueria Enriqueta project was published in the local newspapers. This notice cites the reasons why the proposed actions must be located near the wetlands, a list of the alternatives considered, and the design modifications taken to minimize adverse impacts.

Step 8- Implementation of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is anticipated to begin in calendar year 2024.

WETLANDS PUBLICATIONS

QUE NUESTROS NIÑOS NO SE ESCONDAN POR SER VÍCTIMAS DEL MALTRATO

primerahora#acurbelo@



Julio Rivera Saniel, Milly Méndez y Milena.

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aviso público

Aviso Preliminar y Revisión Pública de una Actividad Propuesta en un humedal

Vaquería Enriqueta
PR-SBF-07242

Para: Todas las partes interesadas, grupos e individuos

Este aviso notifica que el Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico (Vivienda, en adelante) ha determinado que la siguiente acción propuesta bajo el Programa de Financiamiento para Pequeñas Empresas, Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario – Recuperación ante Desastres (CDBG-DR), número de subvención B-17-DM-72-0001 y B-18-DP-72-0001, se encuentra en un humedal. Vivienda estará evaluando e identificando alternativas prácticas para realizar la acción propuesta y el impacto potencial al humedal debido a la acción propuesta, según establecido por la Orden Ejecutiva 11990, de acuerdo con las regulaciones de HUD en 24 CFR 55.20 Subparte C - Procedimientos para tomar determinaciones sobre el manejo de llanuras aluviales y la protección de humedales. El proyecto propuesto, **PR-SBF-07242**, se encuentra dentro de un municipio que sufrió daños debido a los huracanes Irma y María, y está localizado en la carretera PR-324, barrio Parguera, Lajas, PR 00667; coordenadas 18.002005, -67.042669. El proyecto consiste en la instalación de un nuevo conducto de compresión para ganado cerca de una verja existente. La huella total del proyecto es de 214 acres. Un río R4SBC se encuentra en el lado oeste de la parcela y ocupa aproximadamente 0.58 acres de la parcela. El sitio del proyecto está a 79 pies del humedal ribereño. El suelo será mínimamente nivelado para que el conducto de compresión quede sobre un terreno plano. No se eliminará vegetación ni árboles. El área de humedal se encuentra en la página Inventario Nacional de Humedales en <https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>.

Este aviso tiene tres propósitos principales. En primer lugar, las personas que puedan verse afectadas por las actividades en el humedal y aquellos que tengan interés en la protección del ambiente natural deben tener la oportunidad de expresar sus inquietudes y proveer información sobre estas áreas. Se exhorta a la comunidad a ofrecer ubicaciones alternas fuera del humedal, métodos alternos para cumplir el mismo propósito del proyecto y métodos para minimizar y mitigar los impactos. Segundo, un programa adecuado de avisos públicos puede ser una herramienta importante para la educación pública. La divulgación de información sobre humedales puede facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales por reducir los riesgos e impactos asociados con la ocupación y alteración de estas zonas especiales. Tercero, como materia de justicia, cuando el gobierno federal determine participar en acciones ubicadas en el humedal debe informárselo a quienes puedan ser expuestos a un riesgo mayor o similar al presente.

Vivienda considerará todos los comentarios recibidos en o antes de 5 de junio de 2024. Pueden enviar los comentarios de forma impresa a la siguiente dirección: Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico, edificio Juan C. Cordero Dávila, 606 avenida Barbosa, Río Piedras, PR 00918-8461, Atención: Santa D. Ramírez-Lebrón, Especialista en Permisos y Cumplimiento Ambiental. Una descripción completa del proyecto está disponible al público para revisión de 8:30 a.m. a 4:00 p.m. en el Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico, edificio Juan C. Cordero Dávila, 606 avenida Barbosa, Río Piedras, PR 00918. El número para obtener información es (787)274-2527 ext. 4320. Como alternativa, también pueden enviar los comentarios a Vivienda por medio electrónico a environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov.

Fecha: 21 de mayo de 2024


Lcdo. William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez
Secretario del Departamento de la Vivienda

primerahora#acurbelo@vivienda.pr.gov

Autorizado por la Oficina del Contralor
Electoral OCE-SA-2023-00076

public notice

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

Vaquería Enriqueta
PR-SBF-07242

To: All Interested Parties, Groups & Individuals

This is to give notice that the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) has determined that the following proposed action under the Small Business Financing Program, Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), Grant number B-17-DM-72-0001 & B-18-DP-72-0001, is located in a wetland. PRDOH will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the wetland and the potential impacts on the wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C - Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project, **PR-SBF-07242**, is within a municipality with structures damaged by Hurricanes Irma and María, and it's located at PR-324 road, Parguera Ward, Lajas, PR 00667; coordinates 18.002005, -67.042669. The project consists in the installation of a new squeeze chute for cattle near an existing fence. The project will have a total footprint of 214 acres. A riverine R4SBC occurs on the west side of the parcel and takes up approximately 0.58 acres of the parcel. The project site is 79 feet from the wetland riverine. The ground will be minimally leveled so that the squeeze chute will sit on flat ground. No vegetation or tree removal will occur. The wetland in the project area can be found in the National Wetlands Inventory at <https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the wetland and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in the wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

PRDOH will consider all comments received on or before June 5, 2024. Written comments can be sent to the following address: Puerto Rico Department of Housing, 606 Barbosa Avenue, Juan C. Cordero Dávila Building, Río Piedras, PR 00918-8461, Attention: Santa D. Ramírez-Lebrón, Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist. A complete description of the project is available to the public for review from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Puerto Rico Department of Housing, 606 Barbosa Avenue, Juan C. Cordero Dávila Building, Río Piedras, PR 00918. The number to get information is (787)274-2527 ext. 4320. In the alternative, comments may also be sent to PRDOH by email at environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov.

Date: May 21, 2024


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary of the Department of Housing

Autorizado por la Oficina de la Electoral
Comptroller OCE-SA-2023-00076



Validation Letter

June 6, 2024

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to validate that no comments were received in the Permits and Environmental Compliance Division e-mail: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov, for the project **Vaquería Enriqueta (PR-SBF-07242)**, as part of the CDBG-DR Small Business Financing Program. The Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland was published in the *Primera Hora* newspaper of Puerto Rico on May 21, 2024, with a comment period that concluded on June 5, 2024.

Cordially,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division
Disaster Recovery Office
environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320

Andrea Curbelo-Marty

From: environmentcdbg <environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 9:53 AM
To: Jose.A.CedenoMaldonado@hud.gov; Mahon, Donna M; Caribbean_es@fws.gov; Tawes, Robert; Rodriguez.elias@epa.gov; Guerrero.carmen@epa.gov; PublicMail.CESAJ-CC@usace.army.mil; Rich.Okulski@noaa.gov; Noah.Silverman@noaa.gov; nmfs.ser.esa.consultations@noaa.gov; FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov; carubio@prshpo.pr.gov; comunicaciones@ddec.pr.gov; secretario@ddec.pr.gov; jannira.colon@ddec.pr.gov; Rivera_r1@jp.pr.gov; comentarios@jp.pr.gov; pmzc@drna.pr.gov; eortega@drna.pr.gov; ayudaciudadano@drna.pr.gov; anais.rodriquez@drna.pr.gov
Subject: Public Notice – Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland_PRDOH Case PR-SBF-07242
Attachments: Early Notice_Primer Hora_PR-SBF-07242.pdf

Concerned agencies,

Enclosed please find a **Public Notice – Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland** the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (as the Responsible Entity) published as part of HUD's requirements for the release of CDBG-DR funds to undertake the project *Vaquería Enriqueta* (PR-SBF-07242). The Early Notice was published in the *Primera Hora* newspaper of Puerto Rico on May 21, 2024.

Respectfully,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

Disaster Recovery Office

environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527

Visit us: recuperacion.pr.gov

Contact us: infocdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

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From: [Kenneth M. Garcia-De Leon](#)
To: [environmentcdbg](#)
Subject: RE: Comentarios - Aviso Preliminar PR-SBF-07242
Date: Thursday, June 6, 2024 1:31:54 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Saludos:

Por correo postal no llegaron comentarios para mencionado proyecto.

Cordialmente,

Kenneth M. García De León

Especialista en Control de Documentos / Operaciones

Oficina Recuperación de Desastres

kgarcia@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 Ext. 4013

Visítanos: recuperacion.pr.gov

Contactanos: infocdbg@vivienda.pr.gov



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From: environmentcdbg <environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2024 12:09 PM

To: Kenneth M. Garcia-De Leon <kgarcia@vivienda.pr.gov>

Subject: Comentarios - Aviso Preliminar PR-SBF-07242

Saludos Kenneth,

Con respecto a la publicación del Aviso Preliminar y Revisión Pública de una Actividad Propuesta en un humedal (Paso 2) para el proyecto **Vaquería Enriqueta (PR-SBF-07242)**, ¿habrá llegado algún comentario a través del correo postal? De ser así, por favor nos lo hace llegar.

Cordialmente,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

Disaster Recovery Office

environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527

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aviso público

Aviso Final y Explicación Pública de una
Actividad Propuesta en un humedal

Vaquería Enriqueta
PR-SBF-07242

Para: Todas las partes interesadas, grupos e individuos

Este aviso notifica que el Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico (Vivienda, en adelante) completó una evaluación según establece la Orden Ejecutiva 1990, de acuerdo con los reglamentos de HUD en 24 CFR 55.20 Subparte C - Procedimientos para hacer determinaciones sobre el manejo del valle inundable y la protección de humedales. La actividad está subvencionada con fondos del Programa de Financiamiento para Pequeñas Empresas, Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario - Recuperación ante Desastres (CDBG-CR), número de subvención 9-7-DM-72-0001 y 9-18-CP-72-0001. El proyecto propuesto, PR-SBF-07242, está localizado en la carretera PR-524, barrio Parguera, Lajas, PR 00667, coordenadas 18.00205, -67.042669. El proyecto consiste en la instalación de un nuevo conducto de compresión para ganado cerca de una verja existente. La huella total del proyecto es de 2.4 acres. El suelo estará mínimamente nivelado para que el conducto de compresión quede sobre un terreno plano. No se eliminará vegetación ni árboles. Un río RASBC se encuentra en el lado oeste de la parcela y ocupa aproximadamente 0.58 acres de la parcela. El sitio del proyecto está a 79 pies del humedal ribereño. El área de humedal se encuentra en la página Inventario Nacional de Humedales en <https://wspprimary.wm.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>.

Vivienda ha considerado las siguientes alternativas y medidas de mitigación para minimizar los impactos adversos y restaurar y preservar los valores naturales y beneficiosos: (1) ubicar las acciones fuera del humedal, (2) encontrar métodos alternativos para lograr los objetivos del proyecto propuesto, y (3) no tomar ninguna acción. Bajo la alternativa 1, la instalación del conducto de compresión se trasladaría a otra área de la parcela más alejada del humedal. Sin embargo, el área donde se instalará el equipo ya cuenta con un cercado. Esto significa que mudarse a otra parte de la parcela requeriría que el solicitante compre e instale cercas nuevas y puede requerir nivelación adicional del suelo y remoción de árboles y vegetación. Esta opción sería costosa e ineficaz para el solicitante puesto que ya existe un cercado para el ganado. Las alternativas 2 y 3 no son factibles. La instalación del conducto de compresión sin ninguna actividad que perturbe el suelo, como la nivelación propuesta, podría causar tensión en la maquinaria y habría la posibilidad de que no funcione correctamente. Además, podría causar lesiones al ganado o al solicitante cuando se utilice. Finalmente, bajo la alternativa de no acción, el solicitante no recibiría fondos federales para comprar e instalar el conducto de compresión. En consecuencia, el solicitante se vería obligado a continuar sus operaciones utilizando únicamente el cercado existente. Esto limitaría la producción y el funcionamiento de las operaciones agrícolas para el solicitante y es posible que el solicitante no pueda recuperarse completamente y continuar haciendo crecer su negocio. Se prevé que los posibles impactos directos e indirectos resultantes de la acción propuesta en los humedales serán mínimos.

Vivienda reevaluó las alternativas para construir en el humedal y determinó que no cuenta con alternativas prácticas. La documentación ambiental que evidencia el cumplimiento de los pasos 3 a 6 de la Orden Ejecutiva 1990, está disponible para inspección, revisión y reproducción de parte del público, de ser solicitado, en el horario y lugar indicado en el último párrafo sobre recibo de comentarios de este aviso.

Este aviso tiene tres propósitos principales. Primero, las personas que pueden verse afectadas por actividades en el humedal y aquellas que tengan interés en la protección del ambiente natural deben recibir la oportunidad de expresar sus inquietudes y proveer información sobre estas áreas. Segundo, un programa adecuado de avisos públicos puede ser una importante herramienta de educación pública. La divulgación de información y solicitud de comentarios sobre humedales puede facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales para reducir los riesgos e impactos asociados con la ocupación y alteración de estas áreas especiales. Tercero, como materia de justicia, cuando el gobierno federal determine participar en acciones ubicadas en el humedal, debe informarse a quienes puedan ser expuestos a un riesgo mayor o similar al presente.

Vivienda considerará todos los comentarios recibidos en o antes del 21 de junio de 2024. Pueden enviar los comentarios de forma impresa a la siguiente dirección: Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico, edificio Juan C. Cordero Dávila, 606 avenida Barbosa, Río Piedras, PR 00918-0461. Atención: Santa D. Ramírez-Lebrón, Especialista en Permisos y Cumplimiento Ambiental. Una descripción completa del proyecto está disponible al público para revisión de 8:30 a.m. a 4:00 p.m. en el Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico, edificio Juan C. Cordero Dávila, 606 avenida Barbosa, Río Piedras, PR 00918. El número para obtener información es (787) 274-2527 ext. 4320. Como alternativa, también pueden enviar los comentarios a Vivienda por medio electrónico a environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov.

Fecha: 14 de junio de 2024


Ldo. William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez

Secretario del Departamento de la Vivienda

Autorizado por la Oficina del Contralor
Electoral OCE-SA-2023-00076

public notice

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a
Proposed Activity in a Wetland

Vaquería Enriqueta
PR-SBF-07242

To: All Interested Parties, Groups & Individuals

This is to give notice that the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) has conducted an evaluation as required by the Executive Order 1990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C - Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Small Business Financing Program, Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-CR), Grant number 9-7-DM-72-0001 & 9-18-CP-72-0001. The proposed project, PR-SBF-07242, is located at PR-524 Road, Parguera Ward, Lajas, PR 00667, coordinates 18.00205, -67.042669. The project consists of the installation of a new squeeze chute for cattle near an existing fence. The ground will be minimally leveled so that the squeeze chute will sit on flat ground. No vegetation or tree removal will occur. The project will have a total footprint of 2.4 acres. A riverine RASBC occurs on the west side of the parcel and takes up approximately 0.58 acres of the parcel. The project site is 79 feet from the wetland riverine. The wetland in the project area can be found in the National Wetlands Inventory at <https://wspprimary.wm.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>.

PRDOH has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: (1) locating the actions outside of the wetland, (2) finding alternative methods to accomplish the proposed project objectives, and (3) taking no action. Under alternative 1, the squeeze chute installation would be moved to another area of the parcel further from the wetland. However, the area where the equipment will be installed already has fencing. This means that moving to another portion of the parcel would require the applicant to purchase and install new fencing, and may require additional ground leveling, tree removal, and vegetation removal. This option would be costly and ineffective for the applicant, since the fencing for the cattle already exists. Alternatives 2 and 3 are not feasible. Installing the squeeze chute without any ground disturbing activities, such as the proposed leveling could cause strain on the machinery and the potential for it not working correctly. Additionally, it could cause injury to the cattle or the applicant when used. Finally, under the no action alternative, the applicant would not receive federal funding to purchase and install the squeeze chute. Consequently, the applicant would be forced to continue his operations using only the fencing that is existing. This would limit the production and function of the farm operations for the applicant and may not be able to fully recover and continue to grow their business. Potential direct and indirect impacts resulting from the proposed action on the wetlands are anticipated to be minimal.

PRDOH has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 1990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the wetland and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public education tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in the wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

PRDOH will consider all comments received on or before June 21, 2024. Written comments can be sent to the following address: Puerto Rico Department of Housing, 606 Barbosa Avenue, Juan C. Cordero Dávila Building, Río Piedras, PR 00918-0461. Attention: Santa D. Ramírez-Lebrón, Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist. A complete description of the project is available to the public for review from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Puerto Rico Department of Housing, 606 Barbosa Avenue, Juan C. Cordero Dávila Building, Río Piedras, PR 00918. The number to get information is (787) 274-2527 ext. 4320. In the alternative, comments may also be sent to PRDOH by email at environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov.

Date: June 14, 2024


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.

Secretary of the Department of Housing

Autorizado por la Oficina del Contralor
Electoral OCE-SA-2023-00076



Validation Letter

June 26, 2024

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to validate that no comments were received in the Permits and Environmental Compliance Division e-mail: environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov, for the project **Vaquería Enriqueta (PR-SBF-07242)**, as part of the CDBG-DR Small Business Financing Program. The Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland was published in the *Primera Hora* newspaper of Puerto Rico on June 14, 2024, with a comment period that concluded on June 21, 2024.

Cordially,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division
Disaster Recovery Office
environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320

WETLANDS MAP

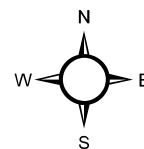
PR-SBF-07242 Wetlands Squeeze Chute



Legend

Riverine

0 0.01 0.02 0.04 mi



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R4/CESFO/72079-Gen

Submitted Via Electronic Mail: jcperez@vivienda.pr.gov

Juan Carlos Pérez-Bofill, PE, MEng.
Director – Disaster Recovery CDBG-DR Program
Puerto Rico Department of Housing
P.O. Box 21365
San Juan, P.R 00928-1365

Re: PR-SBF-07242 – Vaquería Enriqueta,
Lajas, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated December 27, 2024, requesting informal consultation on the above referenced project. As per your request, our comments are provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) through the Small Business Financing Program (SBF) is proposing the following activities:

Site 1: PR-324 Road, Parguera Ward (17°59'26.9"N 67°02'32.3"W)

- Replacement of a squeeze chute.
- Ground leveling will be required.

Site 2: PR-305 Road Km 0.6, Sabana Yeguas Ward (18°00'07.2"N 67°02'33.4"W)

- Head gate replacement

Using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system PRDOH has determined that the proposed project lies within the range of Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*) and yellow-shouldered blackbird (*Angelaius xanthomus*) and its critical habitat.

The Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) in the IPaC application was used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species for this project (Site 1-Project code:2025-0018346 and Site 2- Project code: 2025-001833). Based on the answers provided, a consistency letter was obtained for the Puerto

Rican boa, which determined that the proposed actions for this project will have no effect (NE) on this species for both sites.

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work and existing habitat (herbaceous land with weeds and grass, and the area is routinely mowed), PRDOH has determined that the proposed actions may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican boa instead of the NE obtained by using the Dkey. For the yellow-shouldered blackbird PRDOH has also made a NLAA determination. As for the yellow-shouldered blackbird's critical habitat, according to PRDOH, even though the property is within critical habitat, the project will not have a potential impact on the habitat of this species since the work will be conducted consists of the replacement of affixed equipment with no tree removal. Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa will be implemented prior to and during the construction to avoid or minimize impacts to this species.

We have reviewed the information provided in your letter and our files, and concur with your determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the above mentioned species with the implementation of the conservation measures. Also, for the yellow-shouldered blackbird critical habitat, we concur with PRDOH's determination that the project actions will not cause an adverse response to its critical habitat. When ensuring that projects authorized or funded do not result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat, the determination is based on whether the action will appreciably diminish the value of the critical habitat as a whole, not just in the action area. In this case, the action is likely to affect the critical habitat but will not result in adverse modification of the yellow-shouldered blackbird critical habitat.

In view of this, we believe that requirements of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) have been satisfied. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact us via email at caribbean_es@fws.gov or by phone at (786) 244-0081.

Sincerely,

**LOURDES
MENA**

Lourdes Mena
Field Supervisor

 Digitally signed by LOURDES
MENA
Date: 2025.01.21 20:46:35 -04'00'

drr
cc:
HUD



CDBG-DR PROGRAM

Small Business Financing (SBF) Program

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

APPLICATION GENERAL INFORMATION

Application No.: PR-SBF-07242 Applicant Name: Vaquería Enriqueta

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Address:
Bo. Parguera Solar 11, Carr. 304 km hm 0.1, Lajas, PR 00667

Latitude: 18.0019182 Longitude: -67.0426287

Property Type: Farm Year Built: NA

Number of Buildings: 0 Are Utilities Connected? NA

Property Remarks:
There is no structure associated with the scope of the work for this project. Photos have been provided of the areas where the head gate and squeeze chute would be installed.

Is there evidence of damage from a previous disaster? Yes

Damage Remarks:
There is a house on the property that was heavily damaged during Hurricane María.

SIGNATURES OF INSPECTION REPORT

Environmental Inspector:

Blas Guernica

Printed Name

Signature

May 06, 2024

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS		
Item	Observation	Remarks
Are there any signs of poor housekeeping on the site? <i>(mounds of rubble, garbage, or solid waste or improperly stored household quantities of petroleum products, pesticides, paints, thinners, cleaning fluids, automotive batteries, damaged, abandoned, and/or dangerous vehicles or other motorized equipment; pits, pools, lagoons, or ponds of hazardous substances or petroleum products located on the site)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any 55-gallon drums or containers visible on the site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	There are 9 55-gallon drums for trash disposal and one with disinfectant.
If drums located, are they leaking?	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any signs of petroleum underground storage tanks (PUSTs) on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any UST locations visible from the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any signs of above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) on the site, or immediate adjacent visible sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	There are two diesel tanks, two milk tanks, one cistern, and one water heater.
Are there any signs of surface staining?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any ground water monitoring or injection wells on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there evidence of a faulty septic system on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site? <i>(Do not include run-off or ponding from recent weather events.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any distressed vegetation on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Does the subject lot have water frontage?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any visible apparent indication of other environmental conditions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any visible apparent evidence of lead-based paint or hazardous materials present in the structure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there other unusual conditions on site? <i>(Explain in attached supporting material. Please take photographs, if possible.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is the structure 45 years or older?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is the applicant aware of any significant historical events or persons associated with the structure; or does the home have a historic marker?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

REQUIRED PHOTOS



Area for Head Gate



Area for Head Gate



Area for Head Gate



Area for Head Gate

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



Area for Head Gate



Area for Head Gate



Area for Squeeze Chute



Area for Squeeze Chute

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS (add additional pages as necessary)



Area for Squeeze Chute



Area for Squeeze Chute



Area for Squeeze Chute



55-Gallon Drums

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS (add additional pages as necessary)



55-Gallon Drum



AST



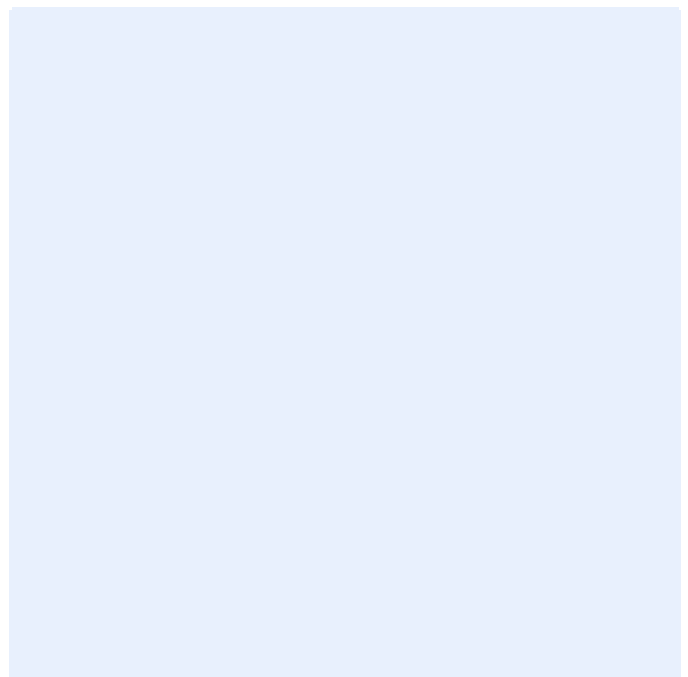
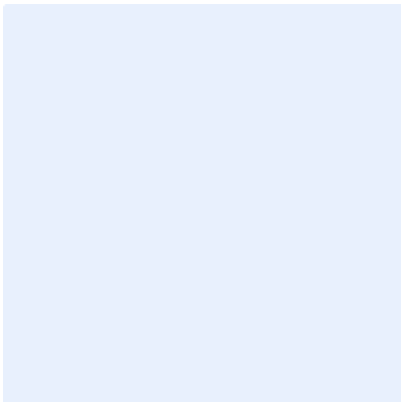
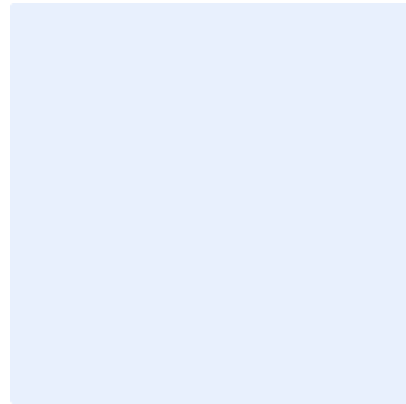
AST



AST



ASTs





DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



MEMORANDUM TO FILE

Date: April 25, 2025

From: Blas Guernica
Senior Environmental Associate
CDBG-DR Program
Small Business Financing Program
Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Application Number: PR-SBF-07242

Project: Vaqueria Enriqueta

Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-SBF-07242 under the Small Business Financing Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

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

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

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.



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Lauren B Poche

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

SHPO-CF-10-16-24-02 **PR-SBF-07242** (Lajas), Vaqueria Enriqueta Salon, New Construction

Dear Ms. Poche,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer
CARC/GMO/ OJR



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

October 16, 2024

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

Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program: Small Business Financing Program (SBF)

Case **PR-SBF-07242**, Vaqueria Enriqueta Salon, Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 Km. Hm 0.1, Lajas, Puerto Rico 00667 and Bo Parguera, Carr 324, Lajas, Puerto Rico 00667 – *No Historic Properties Affected*

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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

On behalf of PRDOH, we are submitting documentation for the purchase and installation of a new cattle head gate in Bo Parguera at Solar 11, Carr 304 Km. Hm 0.1 and a new cattle squeeze chute located in Bo Parguera at Carr 324, both in the municipality of Lajas. The head gate will require anchoring to the ground using either nail hooks or stacks to ensure stability. The squeeze chute will not be anchored, but ground disturbance will be required to level the ground surface to install the squeeze chute. No vegetation clearing is required for either installation. As such, the Program has determined that there will be **no historic properties affected** by the proposed undertaking and requests your concurrence.

We look forward to your response. Please contact me with any questions or concerns by email at lauren.poche@horne.com or phone at 225-405-7676.

Kindest regards,




Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager

LBP/JLE

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF) Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242		
Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta		

Project Location: Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 Km. Hm 0.1, Lajas, PR 00667 and Bo Parguera, Carr 324, Lajas, PR 00667	
Project Coordinates: 18.002005, -67.042669 and 17.990835, -67.042333	
TPID (Número de Catastro): 382-000-007-02-901 and 405-000-002-96-000	
Type of Undertaking: <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
Construction Date (AH est.): N/A	Property Size (acres): 495 and 214


SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: N/A
Date Reviewed: N/A
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jennifer Ort, M.S.
Date Reviewed: 7/26/2024

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

Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed activities for Vaqueria Enriqueta include the purchase and installation of a new cattle head gate at 18.002005, -67.042669 (CRIM Parcel 382-000-007-02-901) and a new squeeze cattle chute located at 17.990835, -67.042333 (CRIM Parcel 405-000-002-96-000). The head gate will require anchoring to the ground using either nail hooks or stacks to ensure stability. The squeeze chute will not be anchored, but ground disturbance will be required to level the ground surface to install the squeeze chute. No vegetation clearing is required for either installation.

Based on a review of historical aerial imagery and topographic mapping, the general area was a rural agricultural setting (1937 Parguera and 1937 San Germán, USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangles [USGS] and 1940 aerial imagery, the earliest available). Gradual residential development is evident from 2004 until the present. The location of the proposed squeeze chute shows no structures within the area. A cattle trough was visible at the location in 2010, followed by the current pen structure in 2013. A large tree was visible where the proposed head gate will be located, replaced by a ca. 2022 pen structure.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF) Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242	
Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta	

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 direct APE for this project are the locations of the new head gate and squeeze chute plus a 15-meter buffer. The visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.


Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this Undertaking. The review of this existing information was completed by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology (36 CFR Part 61), shows that there are no reported significant cultural properties within a half mile (mi) radius of the proposed project locations.

The proposed project is in a rural area within the Coastal Plain physiographic zone. The head gate location is at an elevation of 16 feet (ft; 51.7 meters [m]) above modern sea level (amsl); the squeeze chute is at an elevation of 40 ft (129 m) amsl. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the head gate location crosses one mapped soil series: Montalva clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes (MoC). The squeeze chute location crosses one mapped soil series: Montalva clay, 0 to 5 percent slopes (MoB). The closest freshwater source to the head gate location is an unnamed intermittent stream located 0.24 miles (mi; 0.39 kilometers [km]) east. The closest freshwater source to the squeeze gate is a branch of the same intermittent stream, located 0.02 mi (0.03 km) to the east. The southern coast is approximately 2.12 mi (3.41 km) from the project area.

Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the proposed project areas are not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF) Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242	
Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta	


National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center.

Determination

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

- Direct Effect:
 - N/A
- Indirect Effect:
 - N/A

Based on our historic property identification efforts, the Program that the proposed project areas are not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. No known archaeological sites or NRHP-listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the properties or the parcels in which the Areas of Potential Effect of case PR-SBF-07242 is located. The closest freshwater sources are intermittent streams. Proposed ground disturbance is minimal at both locations. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF) Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242	
Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta	

Recommendation

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

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

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF)

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Project (Parcel) Location - Area of Potential Effect (APE)

Latitude: 18.00175
Longitude: -67.043045

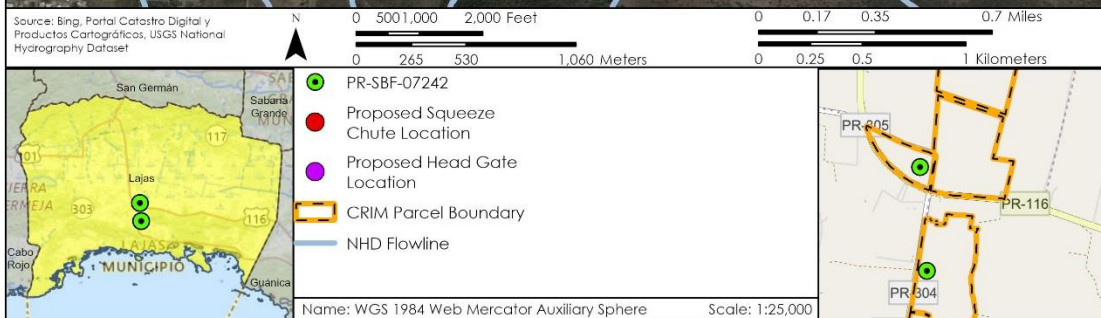
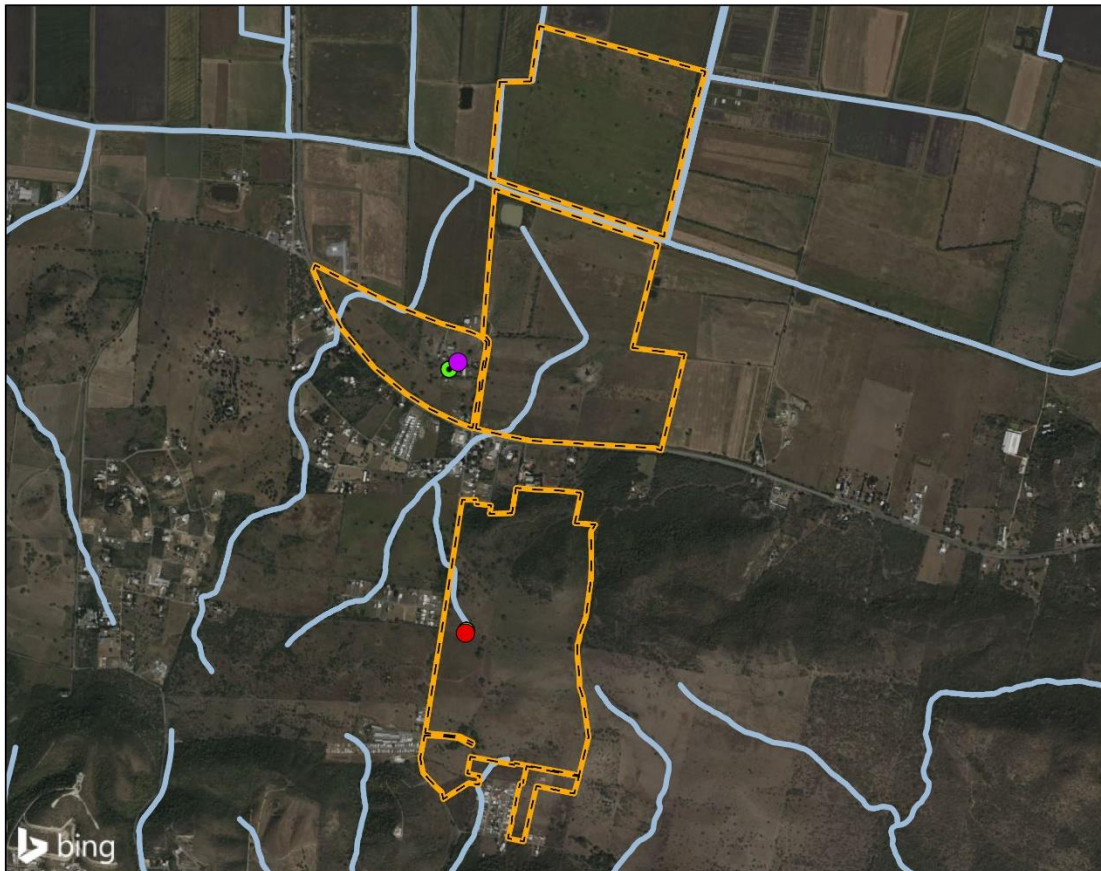


Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Small Business Financing Program



Application ID#: PR-SBF-07242

Address: Bo Parguera, Carr 324 Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 KM.HM 0.1, Lajas, Puerto Rico



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF)

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Project (Parcel) Location - Area of Potential Effect (APE) Head Gate Location

Latitude: 18.00175
Longitude: -67.043045

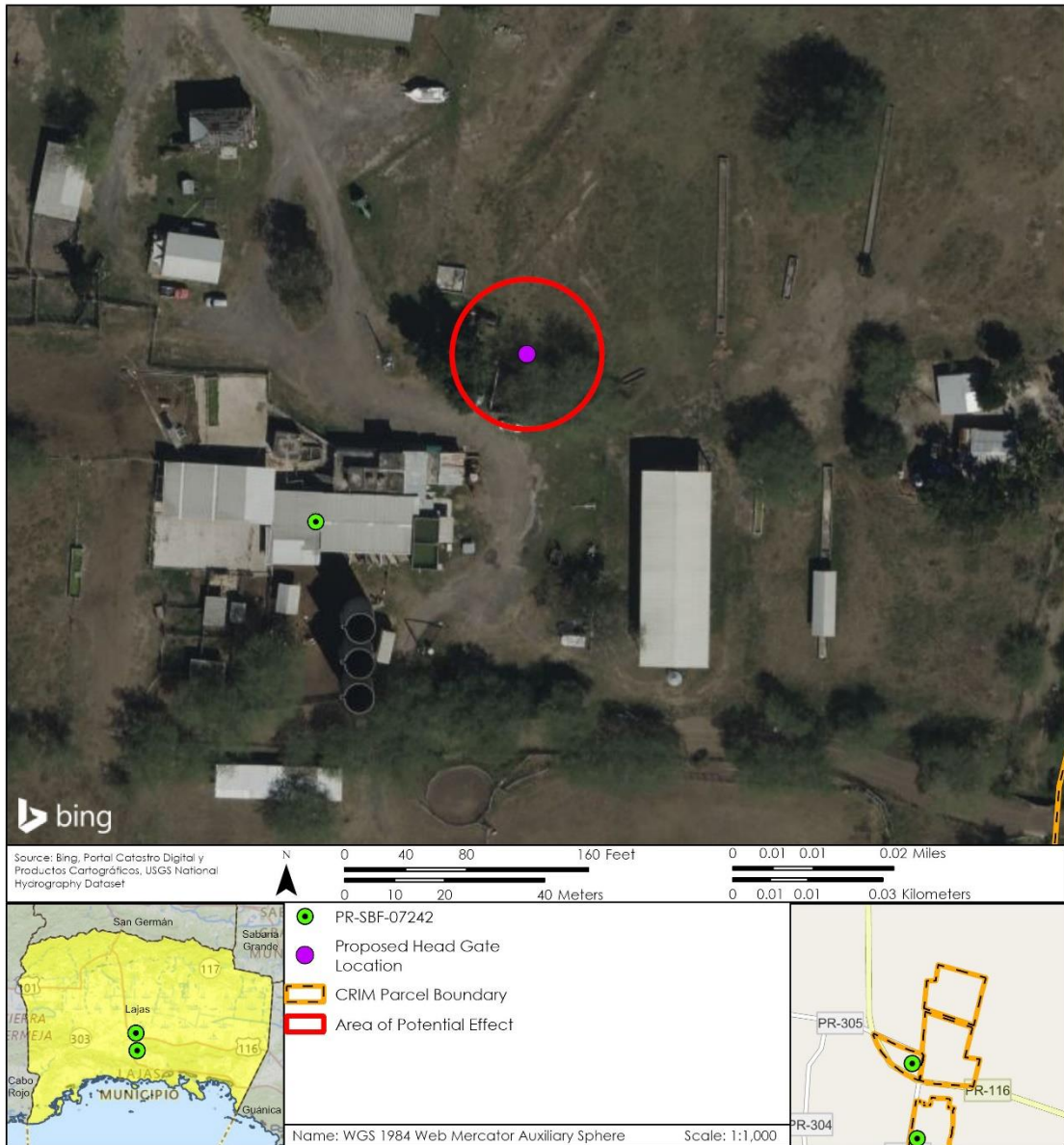


Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Small Business Financing Program



Application ID#: PR-SBF-07242

Address: Bo Parguera, Carr 324 Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 KM.HM 0.1, Lajas, Puerto Rico



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF)

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Program ID Number: **PR-SBF-07242**

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

**Project (Parcel) Location - Area of Potential
Effect (APE) Squeeze Chute Location**

Latitude: 18.00175
Longitude: -67.043045

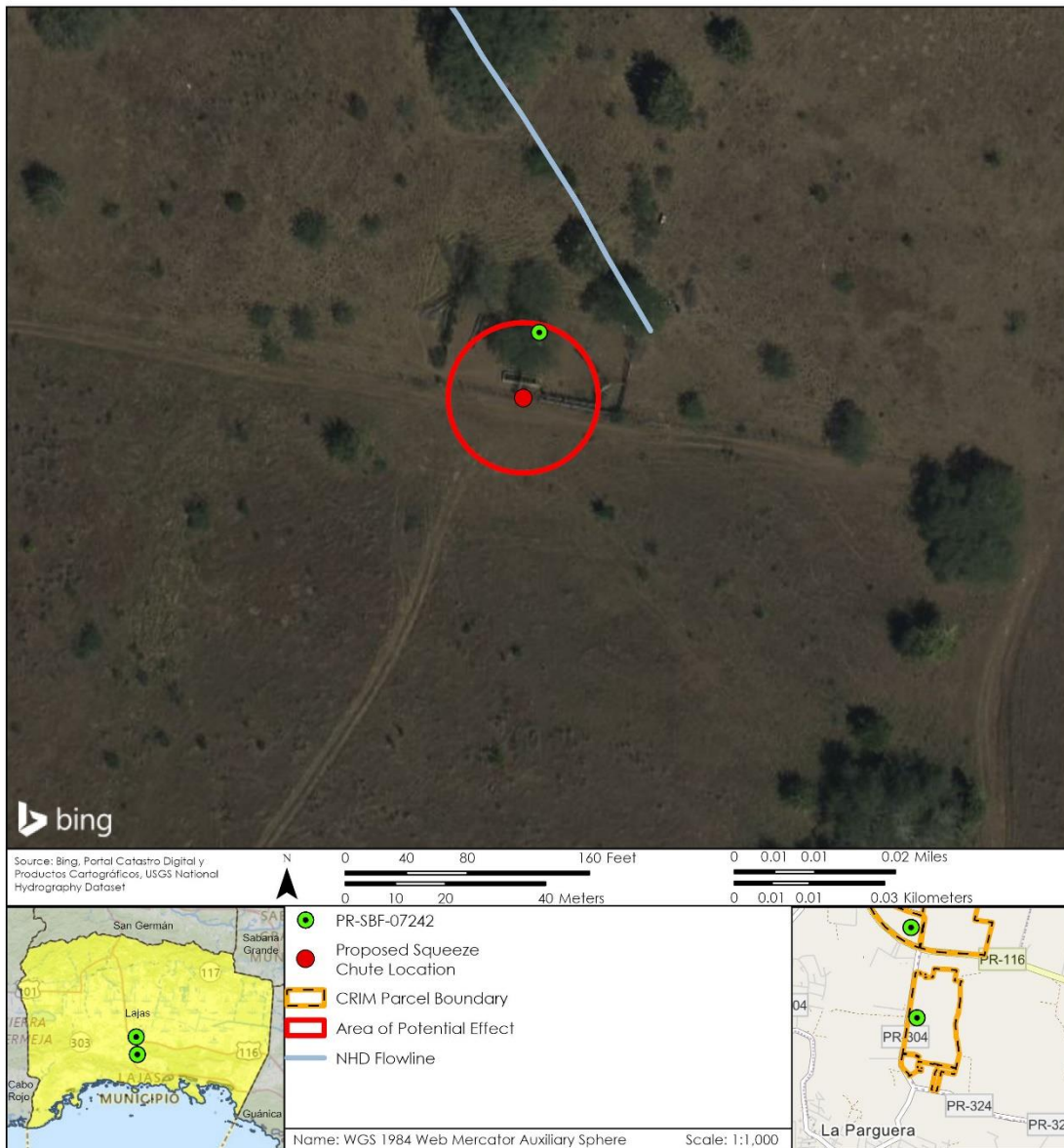


Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Small Business Financing Program



Application ID#: PR-SBF-07242

Address: Bo Parguera, Carr 324 Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 KM.HM 0.1, Lajas, Puerto Rico



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF)

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Base

Latitude: 18.00175
Longitude: -67.043045

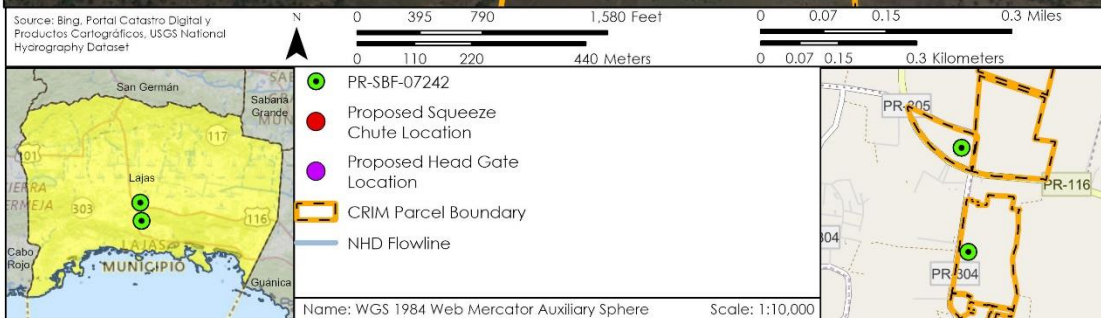
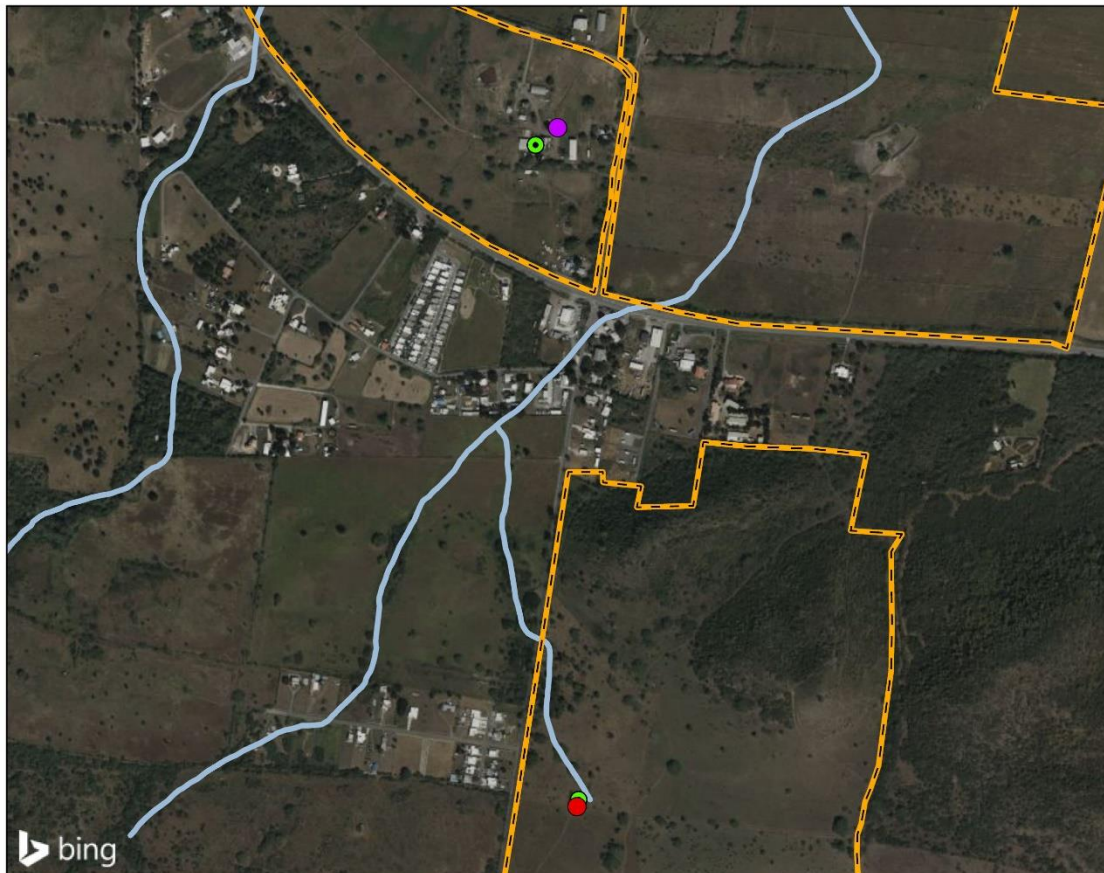


Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Small Business Financing Program



Application ID#: PR-SBF-07242

Address: Bo Parguera, Carr 324 Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 KM.HM 0.1, Lajas, Puerto Rico





Program ID Number: **PR-SBF-07242**

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta

Project (Parcel) Location - Topographic Base

Latitude: 18.00175
Longitude: -67.043045

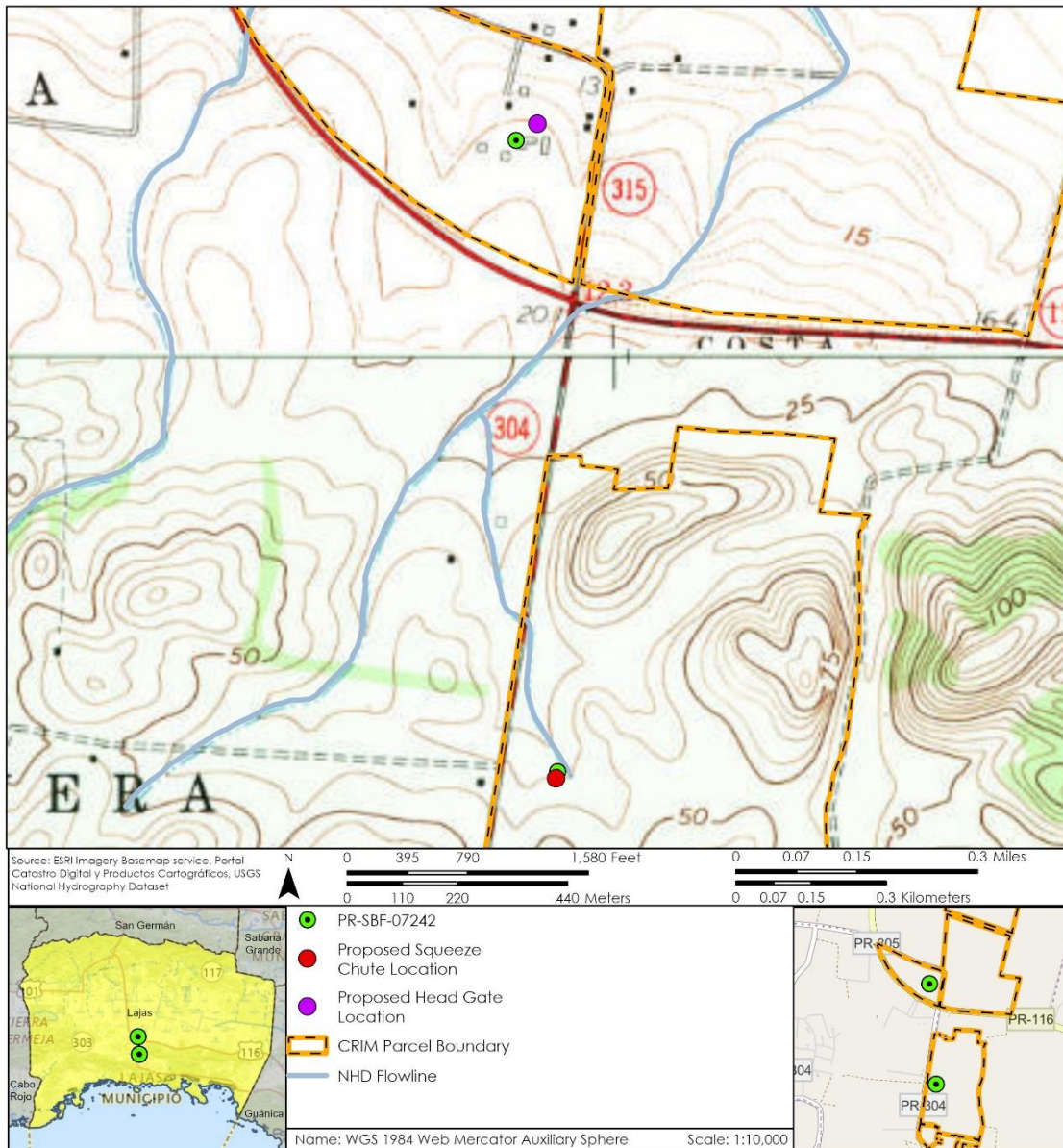


Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Small Business Financing Program



Application ID#: PR-SBF-07242

Address: Bo Parguera, Carr 324 Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 KM.HM 0.1, Lajas, Puerto Rico



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF)

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Program ID Number: **PR-SBF-07242**

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Project (Parcel) Location - Soils Map Head Gate Location

Latitude: 18.00175
Longitude: -67.043045

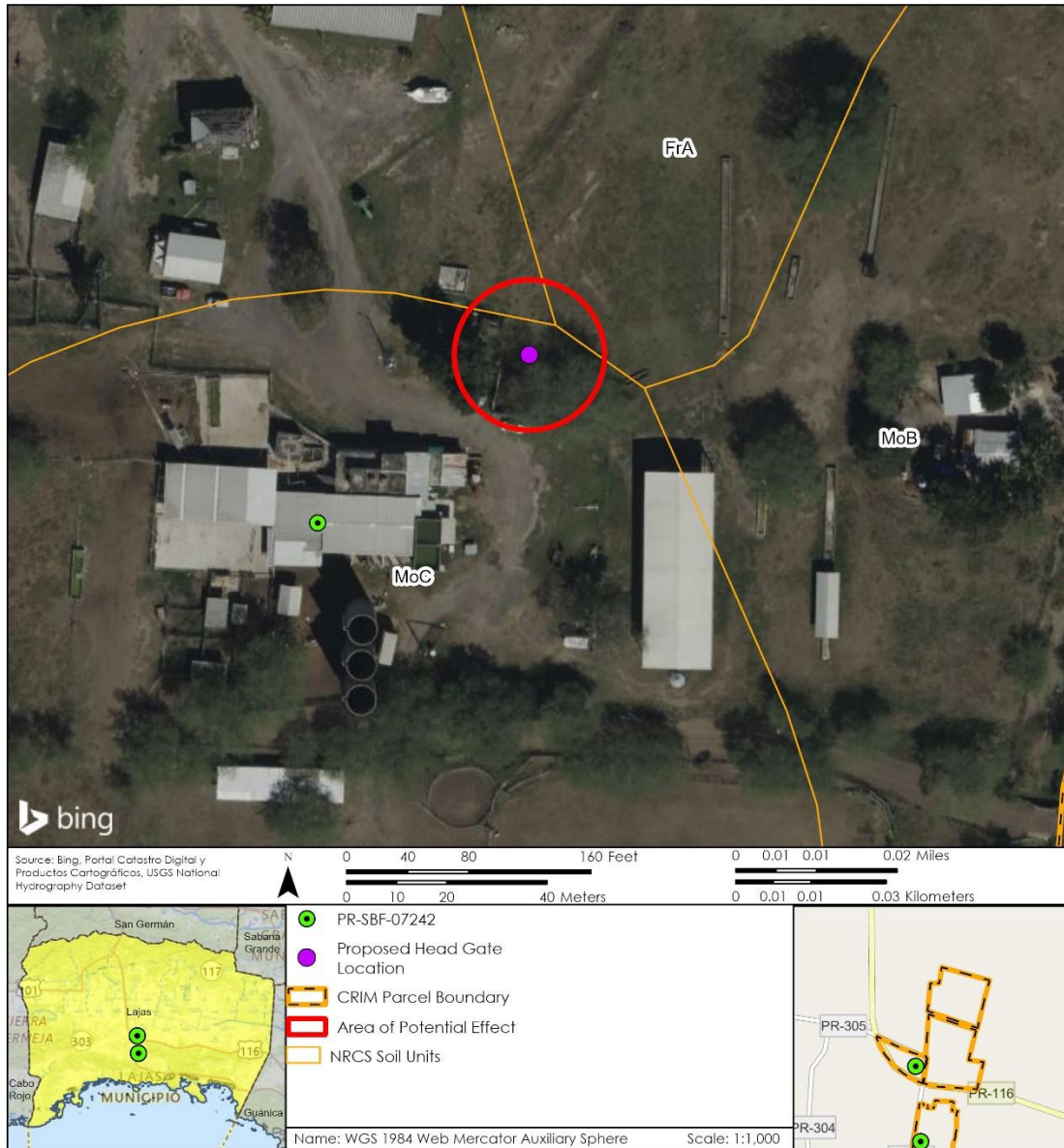


Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Small Business Financing Program



Application ID#: PR-SBF-07242

Address: Bo Parguera, Carr 324 Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 KM.HM 0.1, Lajas, Puerto Rico





Project (Parcel) Location - Soils Map Squeeze Chute Location

Latitude: 18.00175
Longitude: -67.043045

Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Small Business Financing Program

Application ID#: PR-SBF-07242

Address: Bo Parguera, Carr 324 Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 KM.HM 0.1, Lajas, Puerto Rico



Source: Bing, Portal Catastro Digital y
Productos Cartográficos, USGS National
Hydrography Dataset



0 40 80 160 Feet

0 10 20 40 Meters

0 0.01 0.01 0.02 Miles

0 0.01 0.01 0.03 Kilometers



- PR-SBF-07242
- Proposed Squeeze Chute Location
- CRIM Parcel Boundary
- Area of Potential Effect
- NHD Flowline
- NRCS Soil Units

Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

Scale: 1:1,000



Historic Properties - Topographic Base

Latitude: 18.00175
Longitude: -67.043045

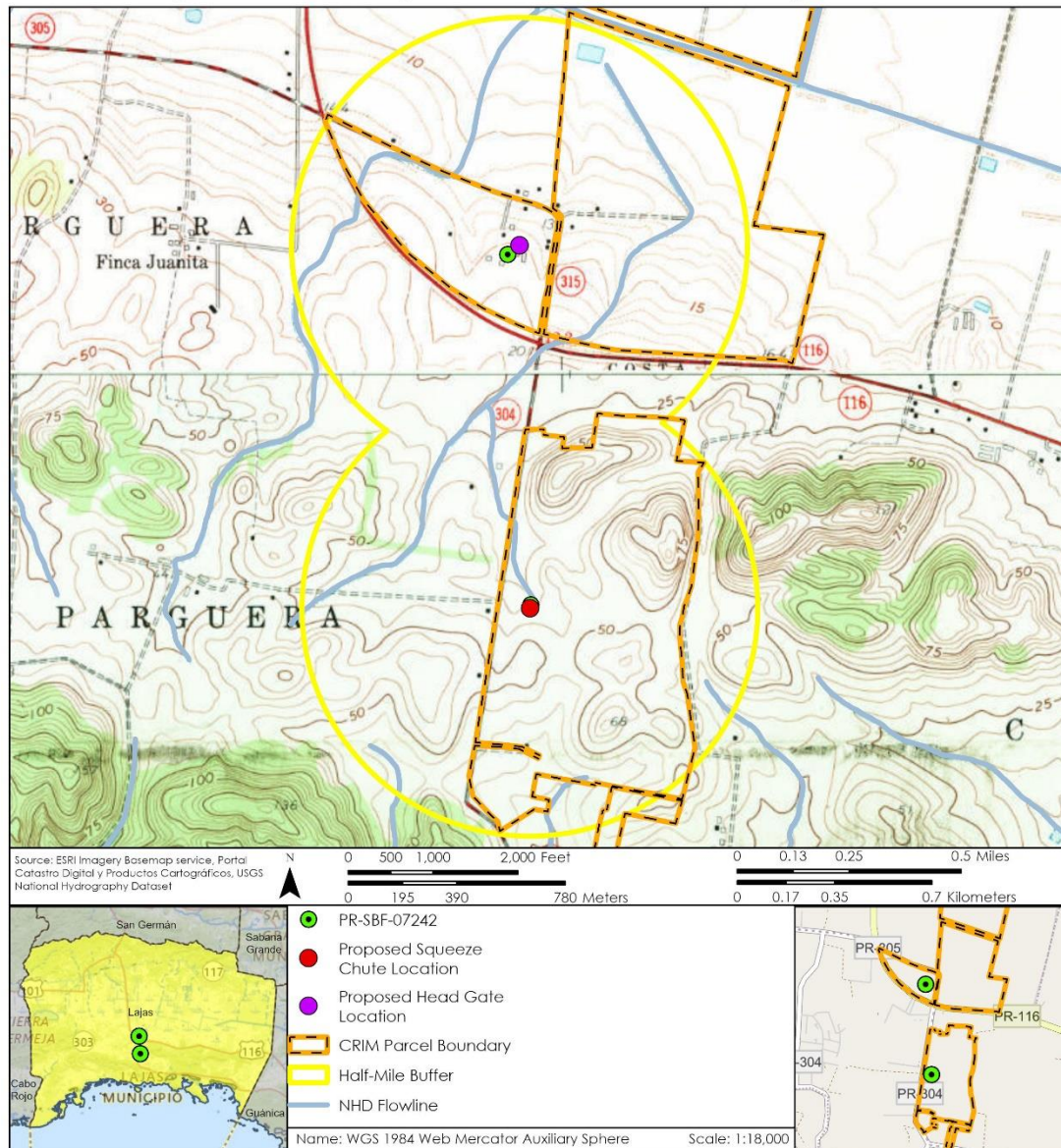


**Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Small Business Financing Program**



Application ID#: PR-SBF-07242

Address: Bo Parguera, Carr 324 Bo Parguera Solar 11, Carr 304 KM.HM 0.1, Lajas, Puerto Rico



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF)

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



Photo #: 1

Description (include direction): Overview of the general area of the head gate location, looking north.

Date: 5/6/2024



Photo #: 2

Description (include direction): View north of current head gate/proposed location of head gate installation.

Date: 5/6/2024

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF)

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



Photo #: 3

Description (include direction): Overview of the general area of the head gate location, looking south.

Date: 5/6/2024



Photo #: 4

Description (include direction): Overview of the general area of the head gate location, looking east.

Date: 5/6/2024



Program ID Number: **PR-SBF-07242**

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



Photo #: 5

Description (include direction): Overview of the general area of the head gate location, looking southwest.

Date: 5/6/2024



Photo #: 6

Description (include direction): Overview of the general area of the head gate location, looking south.

Date: 5/6/2024



Program ID Number: **PR-SBF-07242**

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta

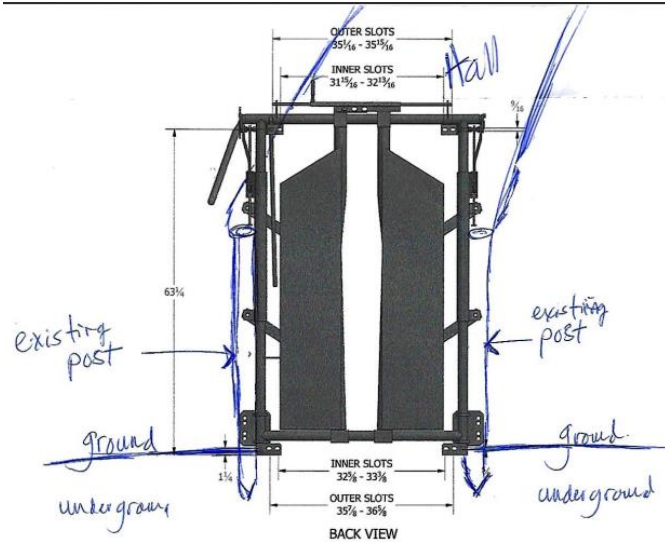


Photo #: 7

Description (include direction): Diagram of the proposed head gate installation

Date: 4/1/2024



Photo #: 8

Description (include direction): Overview of the proposed squeeze chute location, looking west.

Date: 5/6/2024



Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



Photo #: 7

Description (include direction): View west of the proposed location of squeeze chute installation.

Date: 5/6/2024



Photo #: 8

Description (include direction): Overview of the proposed squeeze chute location, looking east.

Date: 5/6/2024

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM (SBF)

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Program ID Number: PR-SBF-07242

Applicant: Vaqueria Enriqueta



Photo #: 9

Description (include direction): Example of the proposed squeeze chute.

Date: 4/1/2024



December 27, 2024

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

**RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing / CDBG-DR SBF Program
PR-SBF-07242 – Vaquería Enriqueta
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-SBF-07242, located at Site 1: PR-324 Road, Parguera Ward, Lajas, PR 00667 (latitude 17.990835, longitude -67.042333) and Site 2: PR-305 Road Km 0.6, Sabana Yeguas Ward, Lajas, PR 00667 (latitude 18.002005, longitude -67.042669). Maps of the project site locations can be found in Appendix A: Figure 1-2.

The proposed project is part of the Small Business Financing Program (SBF) which goal is to assist in economic recovery across the island of Puerto Rico by supporting small businesses and micro-enterprises who suffered damage and losses due to hurricanes. Businesses that are awarded funds through the SBF Program are able to use funds as working capital and movable equipment.

The proposed activities for PR-SBF-07242 include the installation and replacement of a squeeze chute and head gate. The replacement of the squeeze chute will be at Site 1 (17.990835, -67.042333). The head gate replacement will be at Site 2 (18.002005, -67.042669). The head gate will be anchored to the ground with nail hooks and attached to the end post of the corridor. The squeeze chute will be placed at the end of the hallway and requires ground leveling. The Field Observation Form depicting and clarifying the extent and location of project activities is included in Appendix B. There is no tree clearing required. The project footprint is on herbaceous land with weeds and grass, and the area is routinely mowed. There will be ground disturbance to level the ground for the squeeze chute.

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
Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (<i>Agelaius xanthomus</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 0.27 acres of land for the squeeze chute (Site 1) and 0.31 acres of land for the head gate (Site 2). According to the U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database (NLCD) (Appendix A: Figure 6), the majority of the project area consists of herbaceous land with weeds and grass with an evergreen forest outside the project footprint. Topographic maps are included, see Appendix A: Figures 4-5. The project is located in Zone X on the FEMA Flood Map, panel number 72000C19350J, dated 11/18/2009 and 72000C1570H, dated 04/19/2005, and ABFE Map (Appendix A: Figures 7-8). A Preliminary FIRM has not been developed for this area. There is a mapped NWI riverine, R4SBCUBH, approximately 80 feet away (Appendix: Figure 9). The project is located in a Critical Habitat for the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird, see Appendix A: Figure 3). Though Site 1 is located in a Critical Habitat for the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird, it is a previously disturbed area and no natural vegetation removal, tree removal, or tree pruning will occur. There will be ground disturbance to level the ground for the squeeze chute.

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 (USFWS 2011). The IPaC Determination Key (Dkey) for the Puerto Rican Boa, dated November 12, 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, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" 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.

Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*)

The Yellow-shouldered Blackbird is a bit smaller than the Red-winged Blackbird. Both adult male and female juveniles have all black plumage with yellow epaulettes (Yellow-shouldered Blackbird 2023). However, the juvenile, Yellow-shouldered Blackbird can be distinguished from adults by the black speckling over the edges of their epaulettes. Juveniles can be distinguished from adults by black speckling over the edges of the epaulettes. Adult males are about 17 percent larger in weight than the female birds. The species is omnivorous, but essentially, it can be characterized as an arboreal insectivore. The young bird's diet during nesting season is about 90 percent arthropod material. Interestingly enough, it has been observed that the bird feeds around domestic animals, taking food from cattle, dogs, monkey's, nectar, fruit, fully-cooked rice, and granulated sugar. Though there is a designated critical habitat for the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird covering the project area, the scope of work only entails the replacement of existing affixed equipment and does not include any tree removal. Therefore, a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination was made for the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird.

All literature cited can be found in Appendix E.

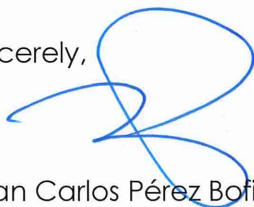
Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, we have made the following effects determinations:

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
Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (<i>Agelaius xanthomus</i>)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	N/A

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,



Juan Carlos Pérez Bofill, PE, MEng.
Director – Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR/MIT Program
environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320

Attachments:

Appendix A:

- Figure 1 – Site Map 1
- Figure 2 – Site Map 2
- Figure 3 – Endangered Species Map
- Figure 4 – USGS Topographic Map Site 1
- Figure 5 – USGS Topographic Map Site 2
- Figure 6 – Land Cover Map
- Figure 7 – Flood Map
- Figure 8 – ABFE Map
- Figure 9 – Wetland Map

Appendix B: Field Observation Report

Appendix C: Species List Caribbean Ecological Services and Consistency Letter

Appendix D: Species Conservation Measures

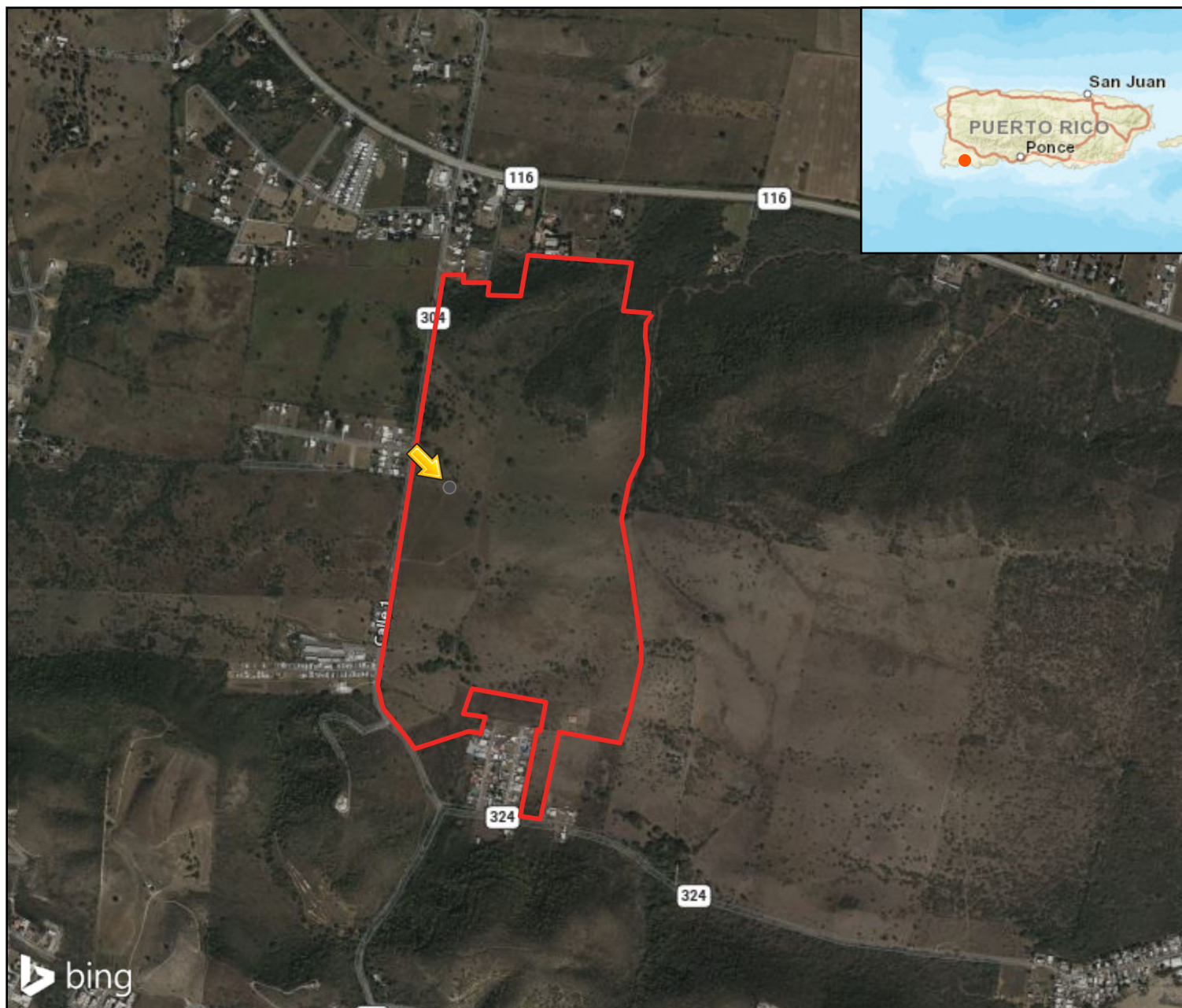
Appendix E: Literature Cited

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

Appendix A

Maps

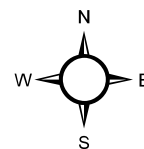
PR-SBF-07242 Site Map 1



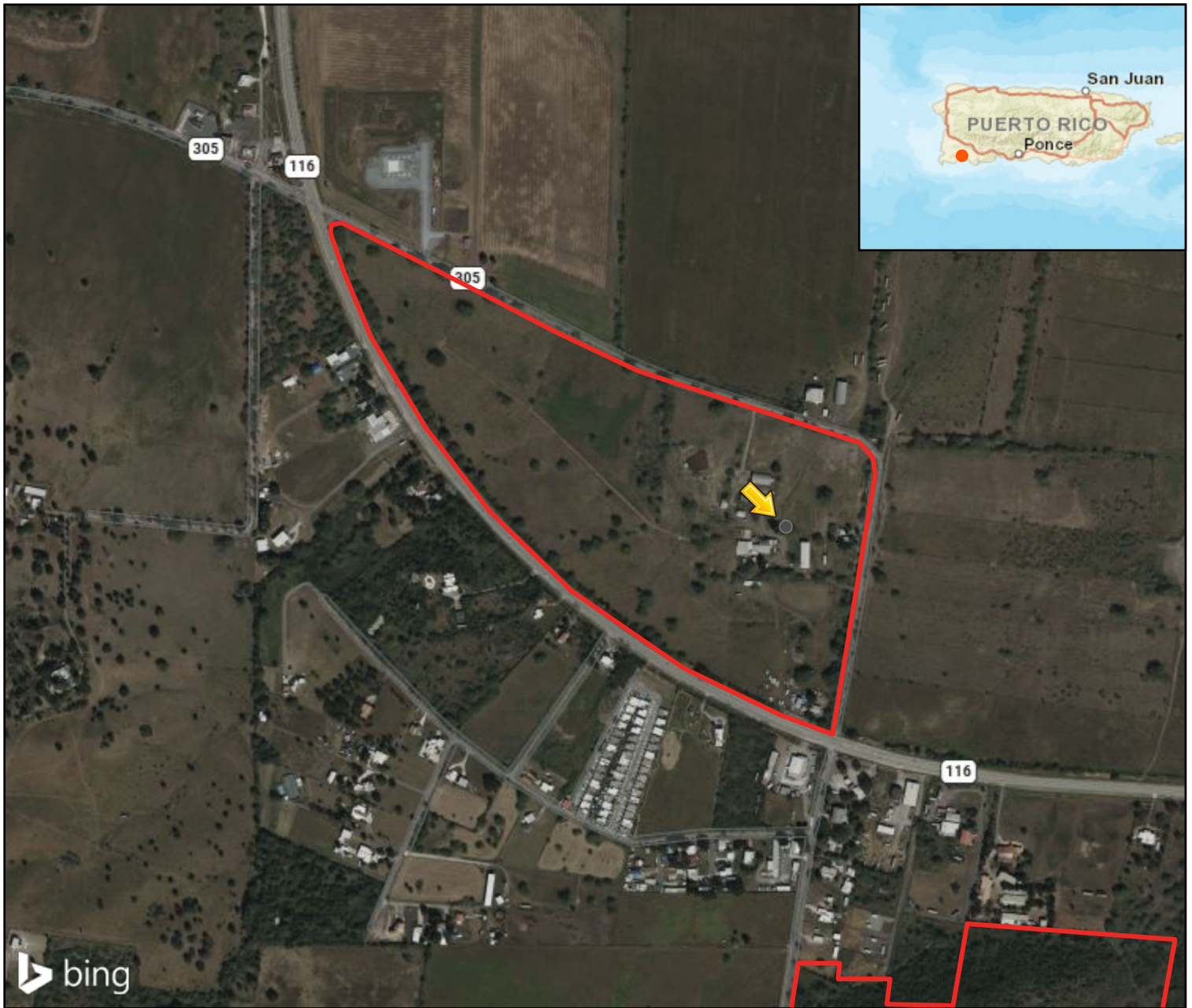
Legend

 Location of proposed squeeze chute

0 0.17 0.35 0.7 mi

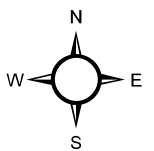


PR-SBF-07242 Site Map 2

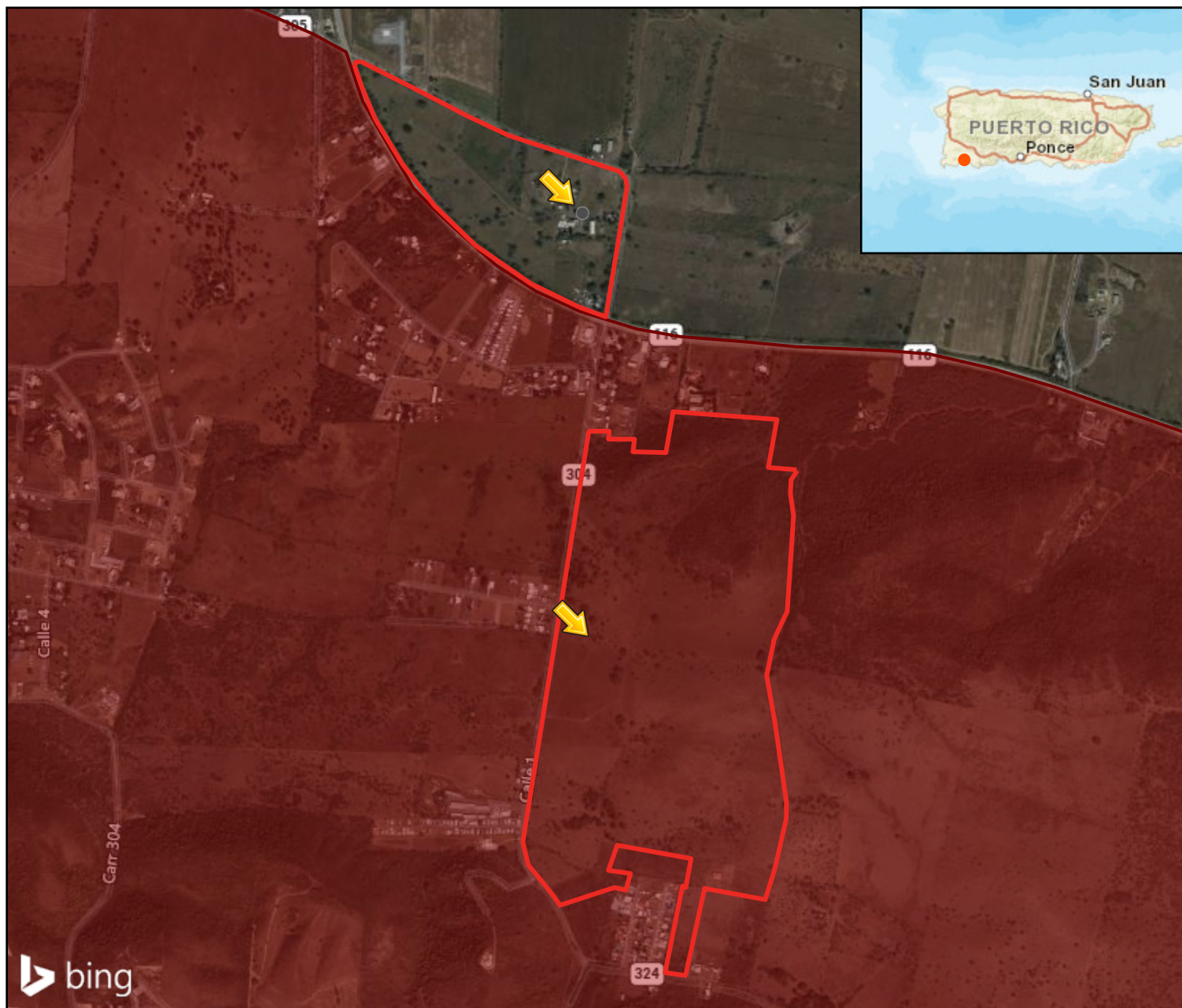


Legend

0 0.07 0.15 0.3 mi



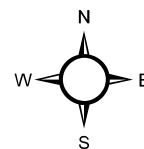
PR-SBF-07242 Endangered Species



Legend

 USFWS Critical Habitat - Polygon (live agency service)

0 0.17 0.35 0.7 mi



Endangered Species Habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS - Topographic Base

Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Small Business Financing Program

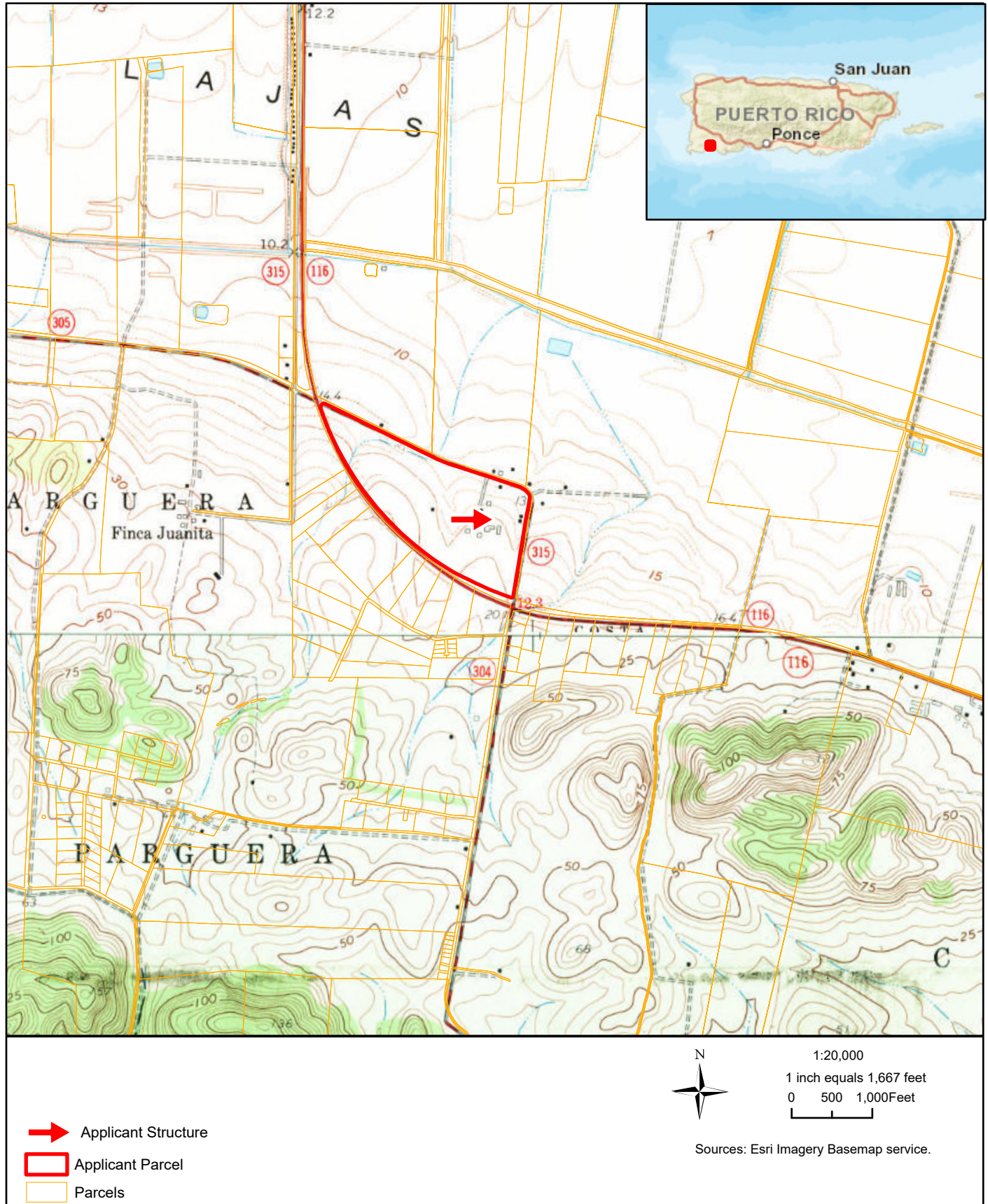
Application ID#: PR-SBF-07242_S2

Address: Carr. 305 km 0.6 Bo. Sabana Yeguas, Lajas, PR 00667

Latitude: 18.002006°N
Longitude: 67.042673°W



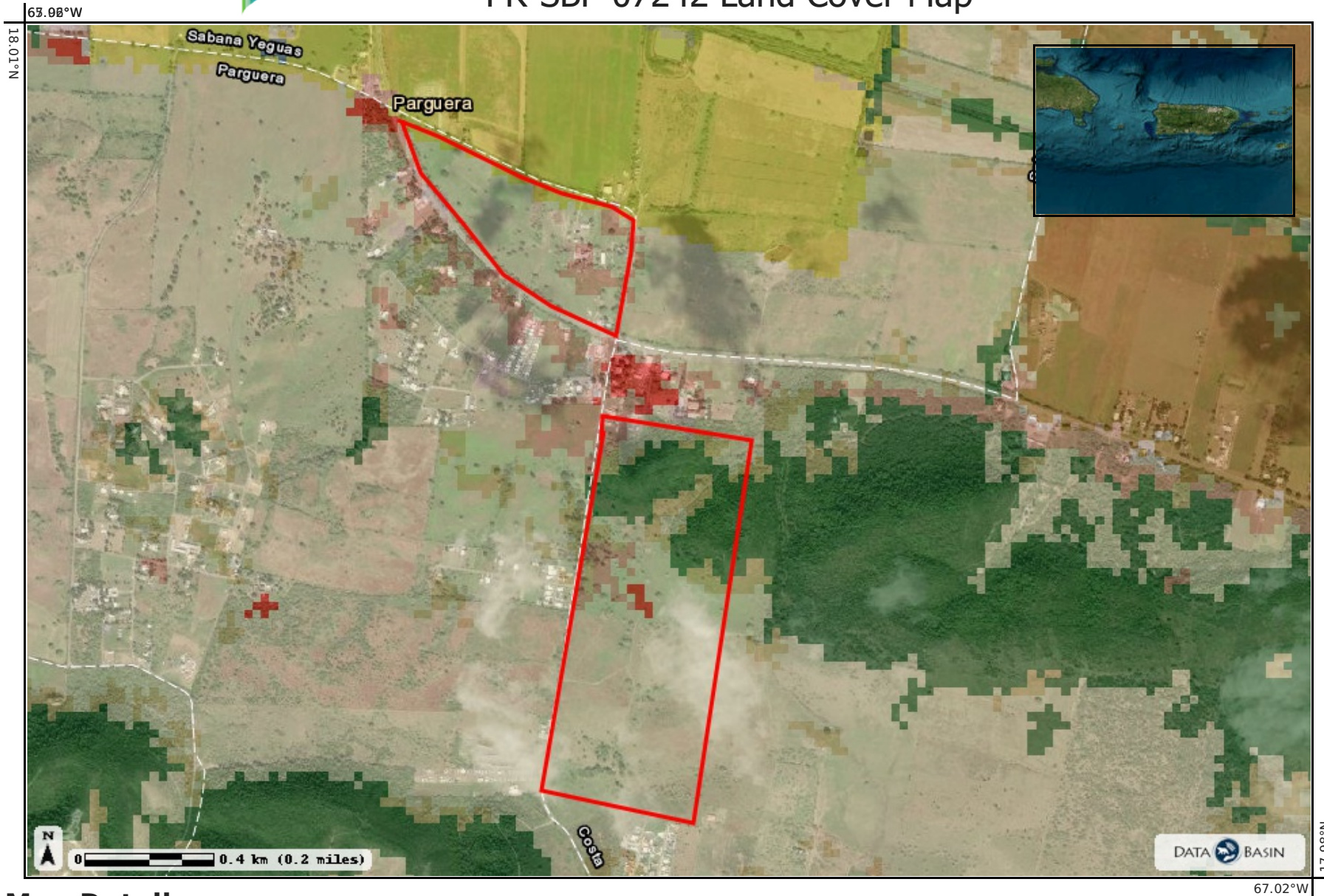
DEPARTAMENTO DE LA
VIVIENDA



- 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 1

— Parcel 2



Map Details

Datasets

National Land Cover Database, land cover - Puerto Rico

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

Credits: USGS National Land Cover Database 2001

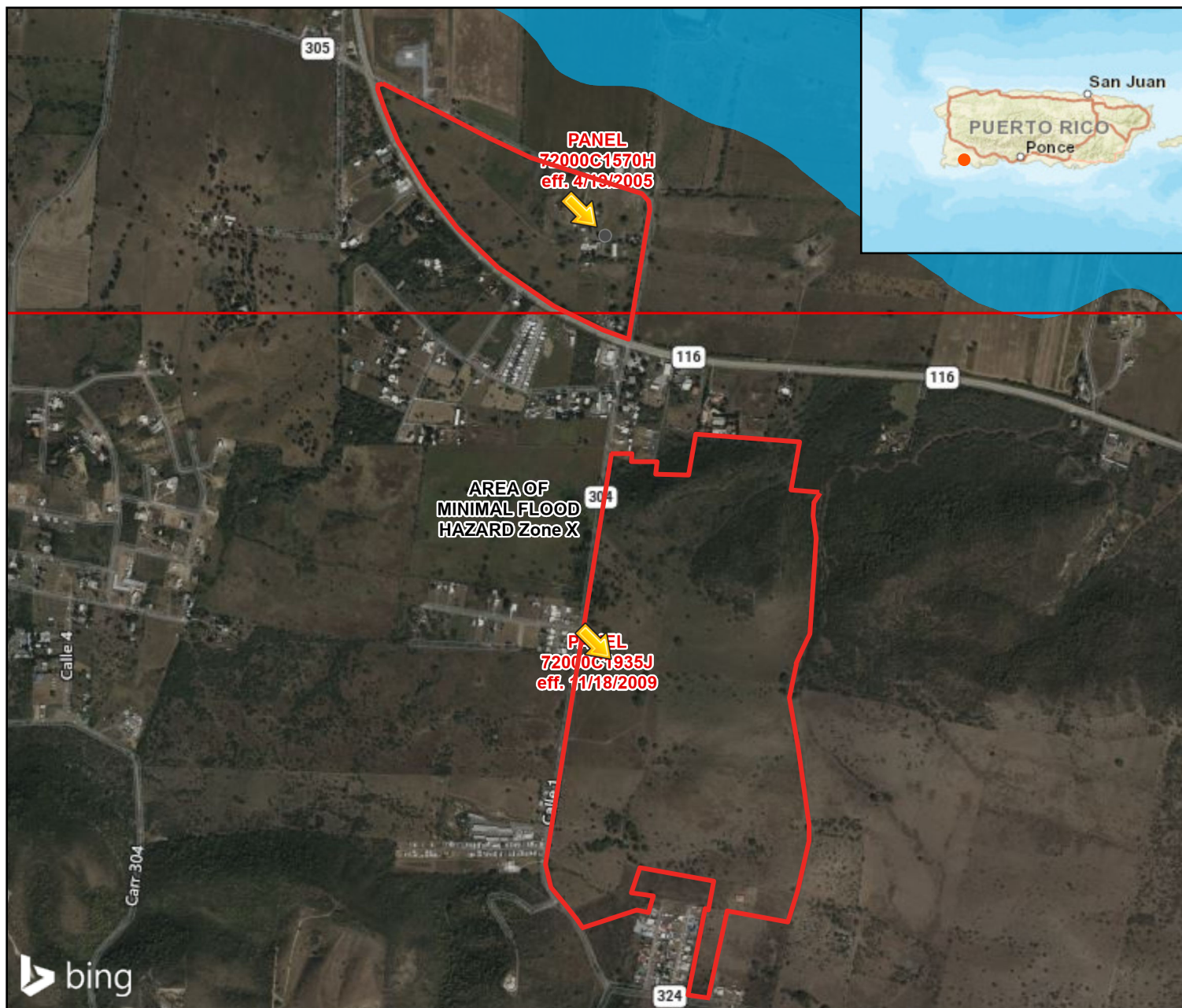
Layers:

- layer1



Vaqueria Enriqueta
Carr. 305 km 0.6 Bo. Sabana Yeguas
Lajas, PR 00667
18.002005,-67.042669

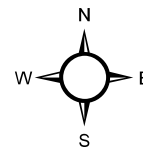
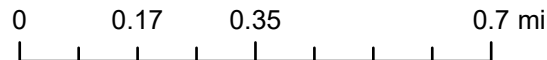
PR-SBF-07242 Flood Map



Legend

FEMA Flood Zones - Effective

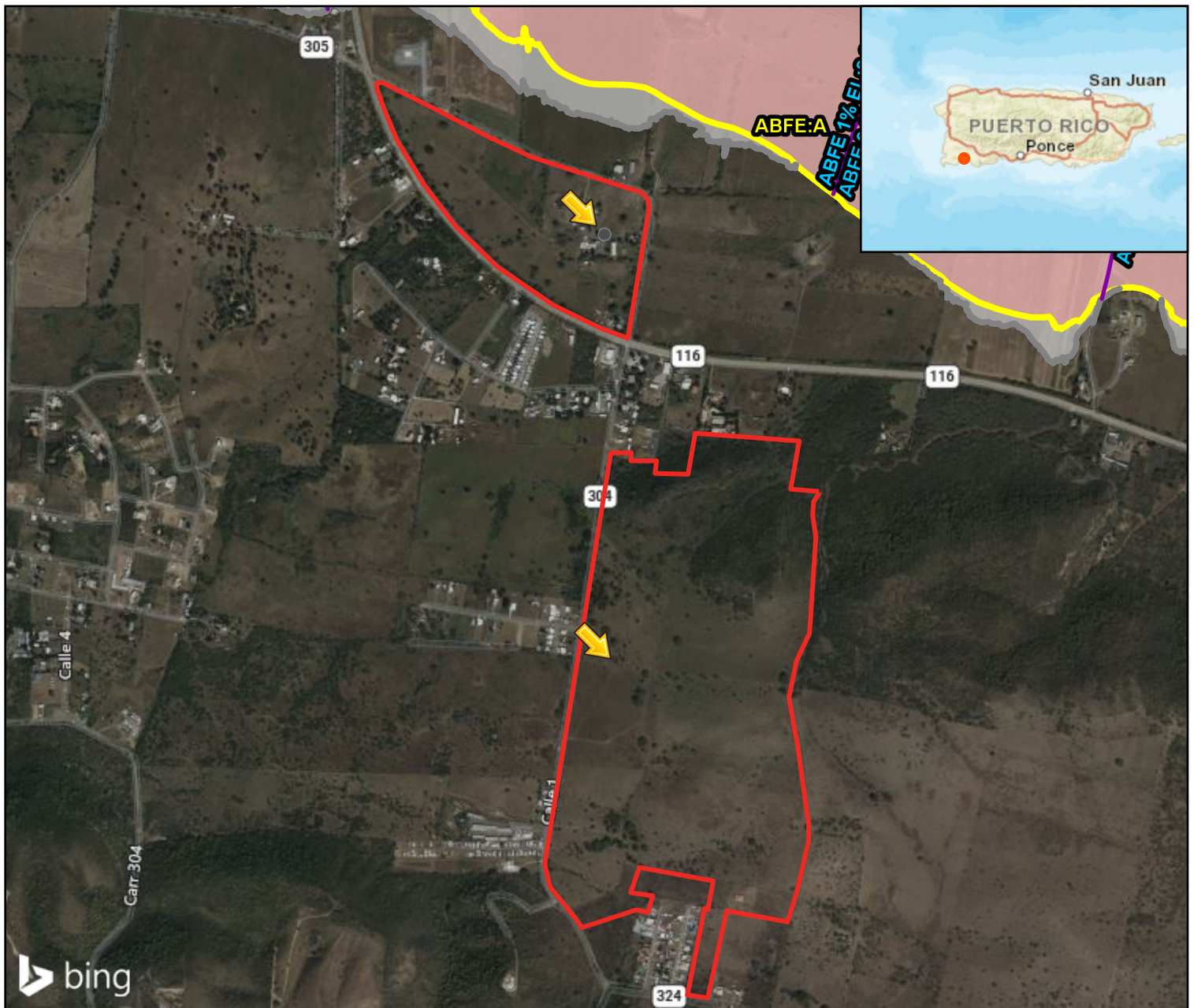
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway
- Special Floodway
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
- X, Area of Minimal Flood Hazard
- FEMA Flood Zone Panel



FEMA Map Service

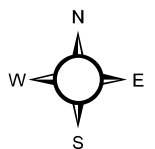
Flood Insurance Rate Maps

PR-SBF-07242 ABFE



- Legend
- A
 - AO
 - AE
 - Coastal A Zone
 - VE
 - 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Zone
 - A-Floodway
 - AE-Floodway
 - Coastal A Zone and Floodway
 - Zone/BFE Boundary
 - 1% Annual Chance Flood
 - 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
 - Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LIMWA)
 - Advisory Base Flood Elevation (zoom in to make visible)

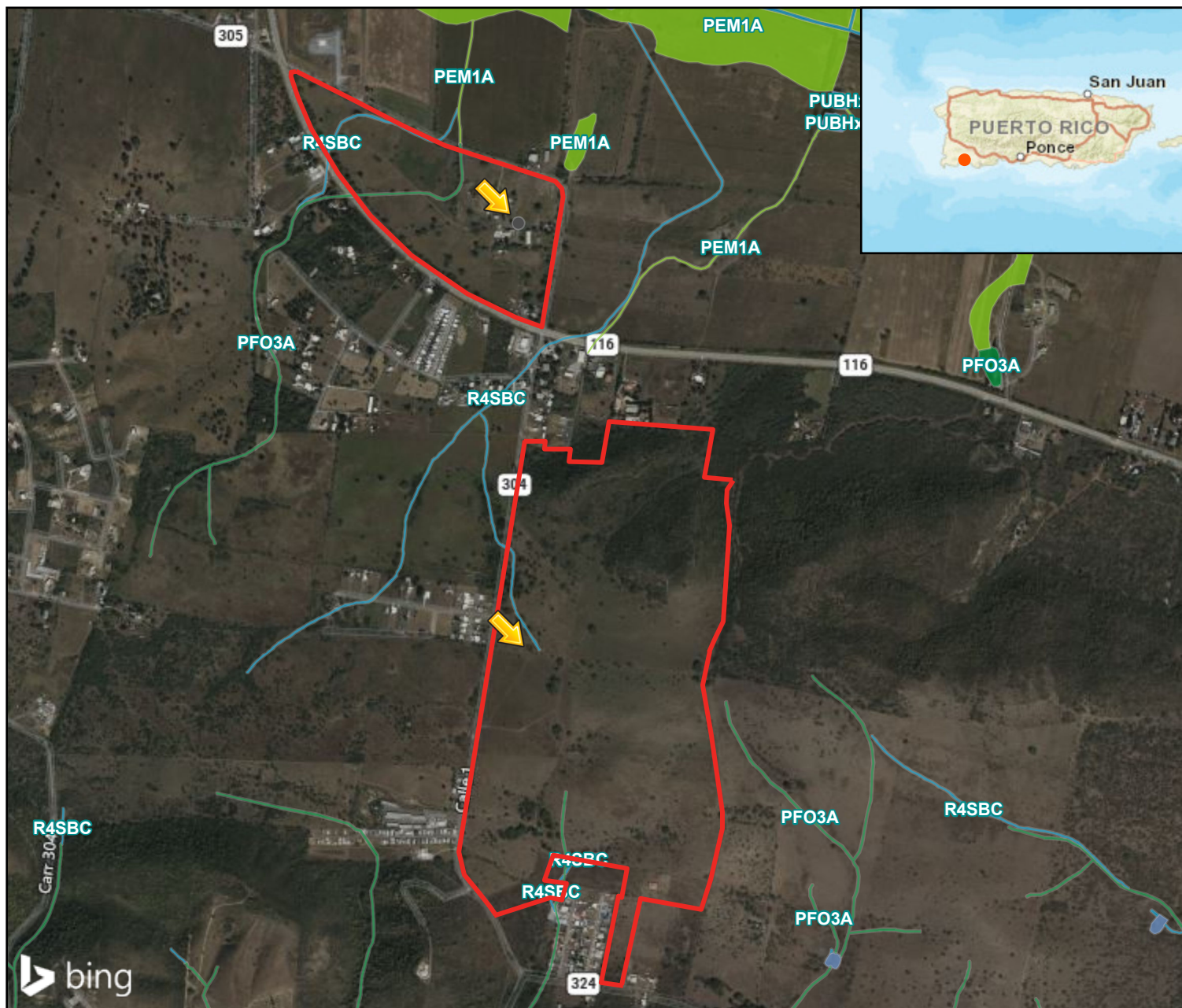
0 0.17 0.35 0.7 mi



FEMA Map Service

ABFE 1PCT

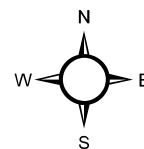
PR-SBF-07242 Wetlands



Legend

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

0 0.17 0.35 0.7 mi



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Appendix B

Field Observation Report



CDBG-DR PROGRAM

Small Business Financing (SBF) Program

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

APPLICATION GENERAL INFORMATION

Application No.: PR-SBF-07242 Applicant Name: Vaquería Enriqueta

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Address:
Bo. Parguera Solar 11, Carr. 304 km hm 0.1, Lajas, PR 00667

Latitude: 18.0019182 Longitude: -67.0426287

Property Type: Farm Year Built: NA

Number of Buildings: 0 Are Utilities Connected? NA

Property Remarks:

There is no structure associated with the scope of the work for this project. Photos have been provided of the areas where the head gate and squeeze chute would be installed.

Is there evidence of damage from a previous disaster? Yes

Damage Remarks:

There is a house on the property that was heavily damaged during Hurricane Maria.

SIGNATURES OF INSPECTION REPORT

Environmental Inspector:

Blas Guernica

Printed Name

Signature

May 06, 2024

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS

Item	Observation	Remarks
Are there any signs of poor housekeeping on the site? <i>(mounds of rubble, garbage, or solid waste or improperly stored household quantities of petroleum products, pesticides, paints, thinners, cleaning fluids, automotive batteries, damaged, abandoned, and/or dangerous vehicles or other motorized equipment; pits, pools, lagoons, or ponds of hazardous substances or petroleum products located on the site)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any 55-gallon drums or containers visible on the site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	There are 9 55-gallon drums for trash disposal and one with disinfectant.
If drums located, are they leaking?	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any signs of petroleum underground storage tanks (PUSTs) on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any UST locations visible from the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any signs of above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) on the site, or immediate adjacent visible sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	There are two diesel tanks, two milk tanks, one cistern, and one water heater.
Are there any signs of surface staining?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any ground water monitoring or injection wells on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there evidence of a faulty septic system on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site? <i>(Do not include run-off or ponding from recent weather events.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any distressed vegetation on the site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Does the subject lot have water frontage?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any visible apparent indication of other environmental conditions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any visible apparent evidence of lead-based paint or hazardous materials present in the structure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there other unusual conditions on site? <i>(Explain in attached supporting material. Please take photographs, if possible.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is the structure 45 years or older?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is the applicant aware of any significant historical events or persons associated with the structure; or does the home have a historic marker?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

REQUIRED PHOTOS



Area for Head Gate



Area for Head Gate



Area for Head Gate



Area for Head Gate

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



Area for Head Gate



Area for Head Gate



Area for Squeeze Chute



Area for Squeeze Chute

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS (add additional pages as necessary)



Area for Squeeze Chute



Area for Squeeze Chute



Area for Squeeze Chute



55-Gallon Drums

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS (add additional pages as necessary)



55-Gallon Drum



AST



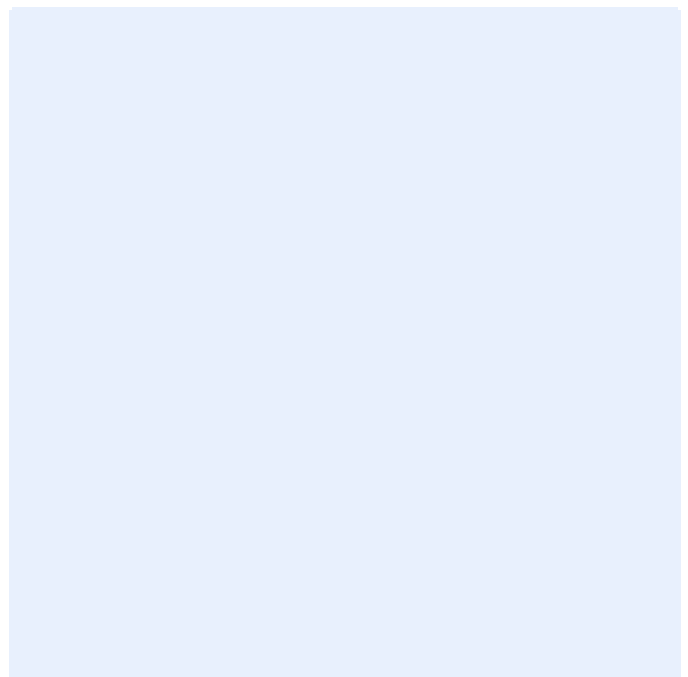
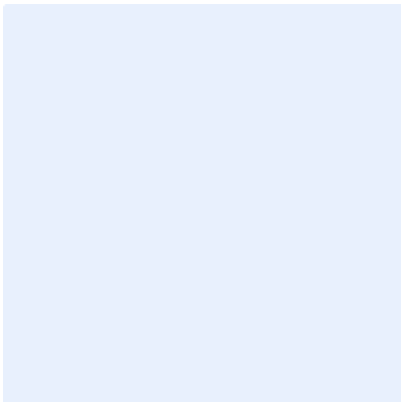
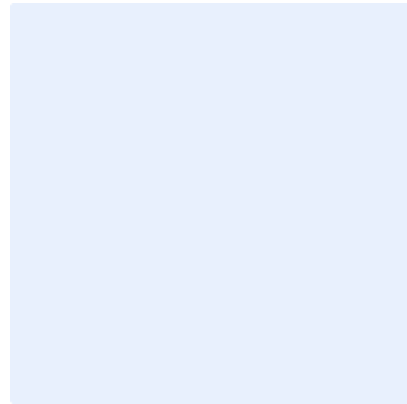
AST



AST



ASTs



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:

11/12/2024 20:10:15 UTC

Project code: 2025-0018346

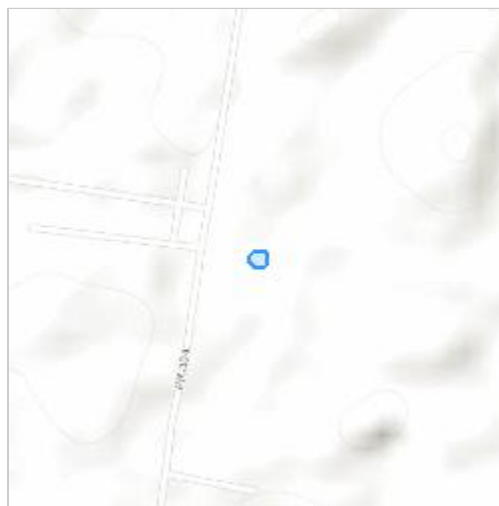
Project Name: PR-SBF-07242 Site 1

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-SBF-07242 Site 1' 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 November 12, 2024, Chris Rickard 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-SBF-07242 Site 1'. The project is located in Lajas County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@17.9908327,-67.04232589266587,14z>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-SBF-07242 Site 1':

The proposed project in question, PR-SBF-07242, is requesting funding under the Small Business Financing Program. The impact of hurricanes Maria and Irma to an already declining economy caused small businesses, including microenterprises, to have even less access to critical capital necessary to support the recovery and growth of the small business sector in order to create and retain jobs. The goal of the Small Business Financing program is to promote economic development. The proposed scope of work includes the installation and replacement of a squeeze chute and head gate. The replacement of the squeeze chute will be at latitude 17.990835 and longitude -67.042333. The squeeze chute will be placed at the end of the hallway and requires ground leveling.

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Caribbean DKey, you determined the proposed Action will have "No Effect" on the following species:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered	No effect

Thank you for informing the Service of your "No Effect" determination(s) for this project. No further consultation/coordination for this project is required for these species. However, be aware that reinitiation of consultation may be necessary if later modifications are made to the project so that it no longer meets the criteria or outcome described above, or if new information reveals effects of the action that could affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed.

This letter serves as documentation of your consideration of the federally listed species as required under section 7 of the ESA. However, effects to the other federally listed species or critical habitat as listed below from the "IPaC print-out for the project" (see below) should be considered as part of your ESA review for the project.

The Service will notify you within 30 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a "No Effect" (NE) determination for Federally listed species in the Caribbean. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NE concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluate the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having unanticipated impacts. In such instances, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the DKey.

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.

- Yellow-shouldered Blackbird *Agelaius xanthomus* 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

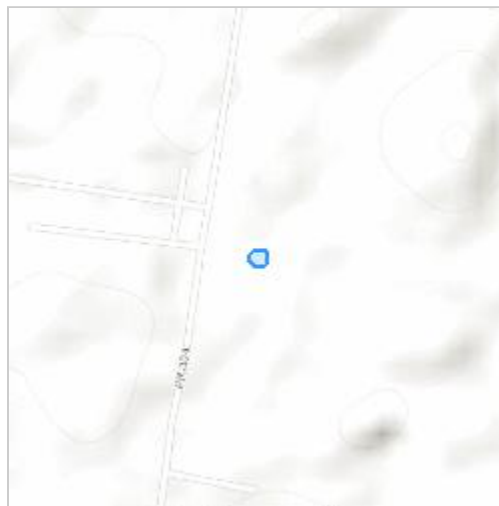
PR-SBF-07242 Site 1

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-SBF-07242 Site 1':

The proposed project in question, PR-SBF-07242, is requesting funding under the Small Business Financing Program. The impact of hurricanes Maria and Irma to an already declining economy caused small businesses, including microenterprises, to have even less access to critical capital necessary to support the recovery and growth of the small business sector in order to create and retain jobs. The goal of the Small Business Financing program is to promote economic development. The proposed scope of work includes the installation and replacement of a squeeze chute and head gate. The replacement of the squeeze chute will be at latitude 17.990835 and longitude -67.042333. The squeeze chute will be placed at the end of the hallway and requires ground leveling.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@17.9908327,-67.04232589266587,14z>



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")?

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Horne LLP

Name: Chris Rickard

Address: 10000 Perkins Rowe, Building G

City: Baton Rouge

State: LA

Zip: 70810

Email: chris.rickard@horne.com

Phone: 7062063592



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:

11/12/2024 20:07:27 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0018346

Project Name: PR-SBF-07242 Site 1

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: 2025-0018346

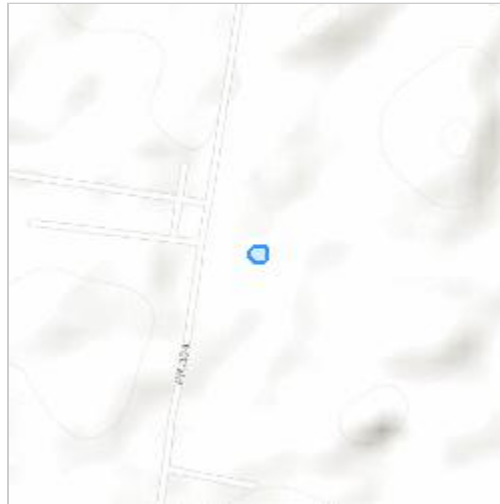
Project Name: PR-SBF-07242 Site 1

Project Type: Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural

Project Description: The proposed project in question, PR-SBF-07242, is requesting funding under the Small Business Financing Program. The impact of hurricanes Maria and Irma to an already declining economy caused small businesses, including microenterprises, to have even less access to critical capital necessary to support the recovery and growth of the small business sector in order to create and retain jobs. The goal of the Small Business Financing program is to promote economic development. The proposed scope of work includes the installation and replacement of a squeeze chute and head gate. The replacement of the squeeze chute will be at latitude 17.990835 and longitude -67.042333. The squeeze chute will be placed at the end of the hallway and requires ground leveling.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@17.9908327,-67.04232589266587,14z>



Counties: Lajas County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

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

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Yellow-shouldered Blackbird <i>Agelaius xanthomus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7383	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/MTEHBEQXOBCDPBAI2KEGTMAQHA/documents/generated/7159.pdf	Endangered

CRITICAL HABITATS

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Yellow-shouldered Blackbird <i>Agelaius xanthomus</i> https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7383#crithab	Final

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: Horne LLP
Name: Chris Rickard
Address: 10000 Perkins Rowe, Building G
City: Baton Rouge
State: LA
Zip: 70810
Email: chris.rickard@horne.com
Phone: 7062063592



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440
Email Address: CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

In Reply Refer To:

11/12/2024 20:01:35 UTC

Project code: 2025-0018333

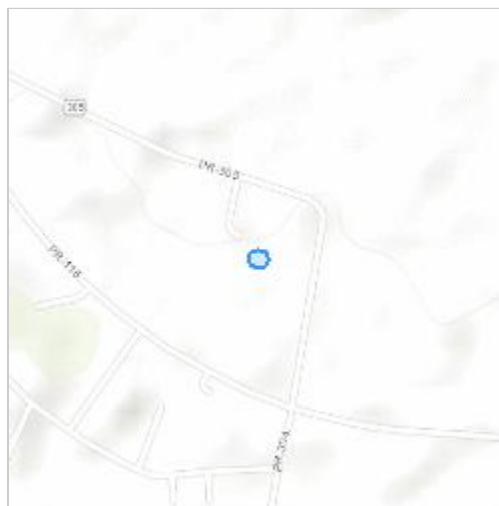
Project Name: PR-SBF-07242 Site 2

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-SBF-07242 Site 2' 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 November 12, 2024, Chris Rickard 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-SBF-07242 Site 2'. The project is located in Lajas County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.0020134,-67.04266928782403,14z>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-SBF-07242 Site 2':

The proposed project in question, PR-SBF-07242, is requesting funding under the Small Business Financing Program. The impact of hurricanes Maria and Irma to an already declining economy caused small businesses, including microenterprises, to have even less access to critical capital necessary to support the recovery and growth of the small business sector in order to create and retain jobs. The goal of the Small Business Financing program is to promote economic development. The proposed scope of work includes the installation and replacement of a squeeze chute and head gate. The head gate replacement will be at latitude 18.002005, and longitude -67.042669. The head gate will be anchored to the ground with nail hooks and attached to the end post of the corridor.

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Caribbean DKey, you determined the proposed Action will have "No Effect" on the following species:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered	No effect

Thank you for informing the Service of your "No Effect" determination(s) for this project. No further consultation/coordination for this project is required for these species. However, be aware that reinitiation of consultation may be necessary if later modifications are made to the project so that it no longer meets the criteria or outcome described above, or if new information reveals effects of the action that could affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed.

This letter serves as documentation of your consideration of the federally listed species as required under section 7 of the ESA. However, effects to the other federally listed species or critical habitat as listed below from the "IPaC print-out for the project" (see below) should be considered as part of your ESA review for the project.

The Service will notify you within 30 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a "No Effect" (NE) determination for Federally listed species in the Caribbean. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NE concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluate the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having unanticipated impacts. In such instances, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the DKey.

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.

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

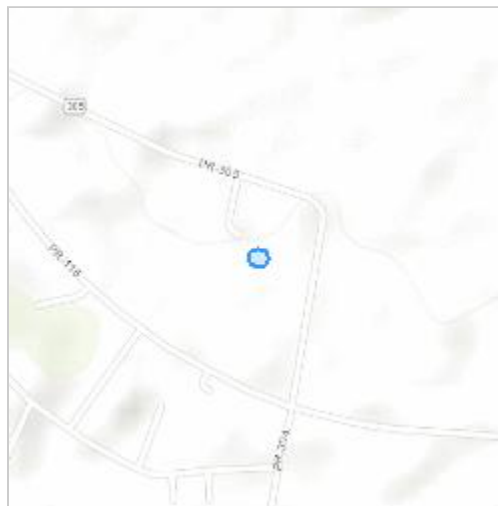
PR-SBF-07242 Site 2

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-SBF-07242 Site 2':

The proposed project in question, PR-SBF-07242, is requesting funding under the Small Business Financing Program. The impact of hurricanes Maria and Irma to an already declining economy caused small businesses, including microenterprises, to have even less access to critical capital necessary to support the recovery and growth of the small business sector in order to create and retain jobs. The goal of the Small Business Financing program is to promote economic development. The proposed scope of work includes the installation and replacement of a squeeze chute and head gate. The head gate replacement will be at latitude 18.002005, and longitude -67.042669. The head gate will be anchored to the ground with nail hooks and attached to the end post of the corridor.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.0020134,-67.04266928782403,14z>



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")?

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Horne LLP

Name: Chris Rickard

Address: 10000 Perkins Rowe, Building G

City: Baton Rouge

State: LA

Zip: 70810

Email: chris.rickard@horne.com

Phone: 7062063592



United States Department of the Interior



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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:

11/12/2024 19:58:58 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0018333

Project Name: PR-SBF-07242 Site 2

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: 2025-0018333

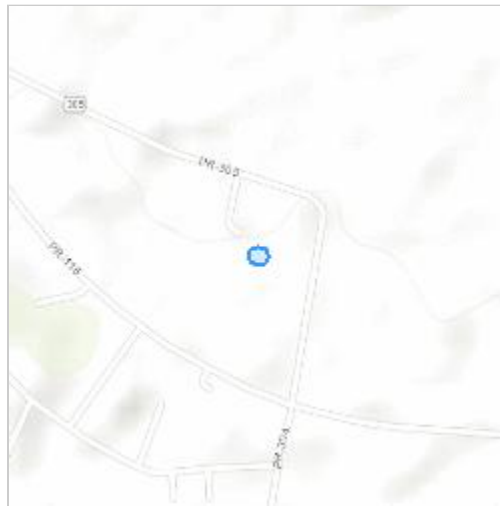
Project Name: PR-SBF-07242 Site 2

Project Type: Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural

Project Description: The proposed project in question, PR-SBF-07242, is requesting funding under the Small Business Financing Program. The impact of hurricanes Maria and Irma to an already declining economy caused small businesses, including microenterprises, to have even less access to critical capital necessary to support the recovery and growth of the small business sector in order to create and retain jobs. The goal of the Small Business Financing program is to promote economic development. The proposed scope of work includes the installation and replacement of a squeeze chute and head gate. The head gate replacement will be at latitude 18.002005, and longitude -67.042669. The head gate will be anchored to the ground with nail hooks and attached to the end post of the corridor.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.0020134,-67.04266928782403,14z>



Counties: Lajas County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

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

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

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA 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.

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
<p>Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p>https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/W3ORG4GIO5EN7NALBXM4F4M4/documents/generated/7159.pdf</p>	Endangered

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

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

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

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

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

MIGRATORY BIRDS

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

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

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

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

WETLANDS

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

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

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Horne LLP
Name: Chris Rickard
Address: 10000 Perkins Rowe, Building G
City: Baton Rouge
State: LA
Zip: 70810
Email: chris.rickard@horne.com
Phone: 7062063592

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

Literature Cited:

Maps: Data basin. Maps | Data Basin. (n.d.).

<https://databasin.org/maps/new/#datasets=e95aa06e05624f3087559eca884db034>

2023a. Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC). Available at:

<http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed November 2024.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (n.d.). Fact Sheets. Caribbean Endangered and Threatened Animals. Sea Grant Puerto Rico.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2011. Puerto Rican Boa (*Epicrates inornatus*) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region. Boquerón, Puerto Rico.

USFWS ECOS. "Yellow-shouldered blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*)". U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 16, 2023. Species Profile for Yellow-shouldered blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*) ([fws.gov](https://ecos.fws.gov)).

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 00981 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365
Tel: (787) 274-2527 | www.usenda.pr.gov



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

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

Policies and guidelines – Information or any policy, guideline, or protocol your agency follows concerning radon testing, exposure limits, or mitigation.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc:

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

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc:

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: OIA@cdc.gov

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

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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

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GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

August 20, 2024

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

Via email: hweyers@usgs.gov

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William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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

CDBG-DR/MIT Program
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Page 2 / 2

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

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

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

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

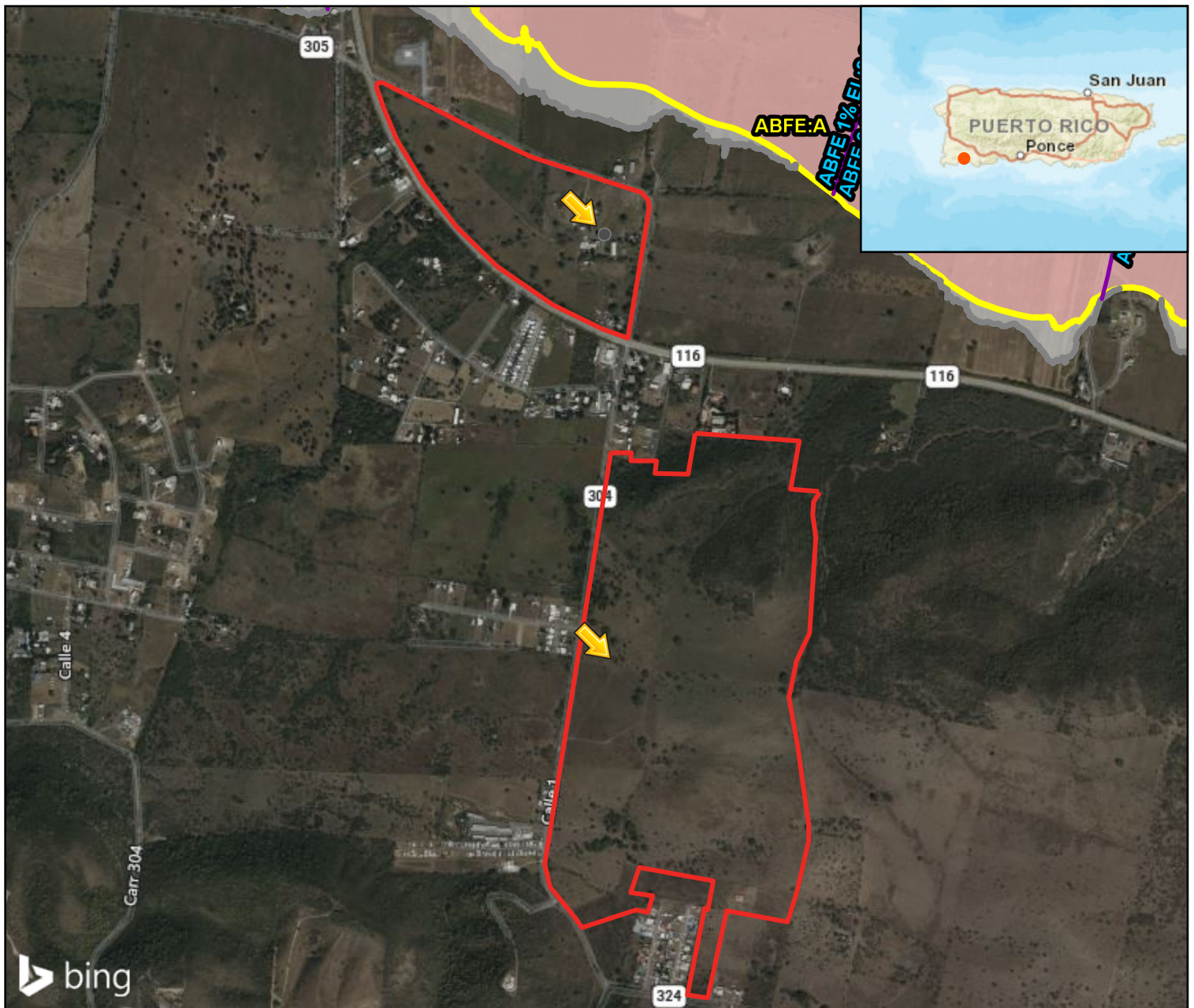
Digitally signed by
CARMEN GUERRERO PEREZ
Date: 2024.09.23 09:41:39
-04'00'

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

Name	Registry ID	Address	Lat
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO	110014362340	304 CARR LA PARGUERA, LAJAS, PR 00667	17.98583

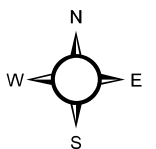
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PR-SBF-07242 ABFE



- Legend
- A
 - AO
 - AE
 - Coastal A Zone
 - VE
 - 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Zone
 - A-Floodway
 - AE-Floodway
 - Coastal A Zone and Floodway
 - Zone/BFE Boundary
 - 1% Annual Chance Flood
 - 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
 - Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA)
 - Advisory Base Flood Elevation (zoom in to make visible)

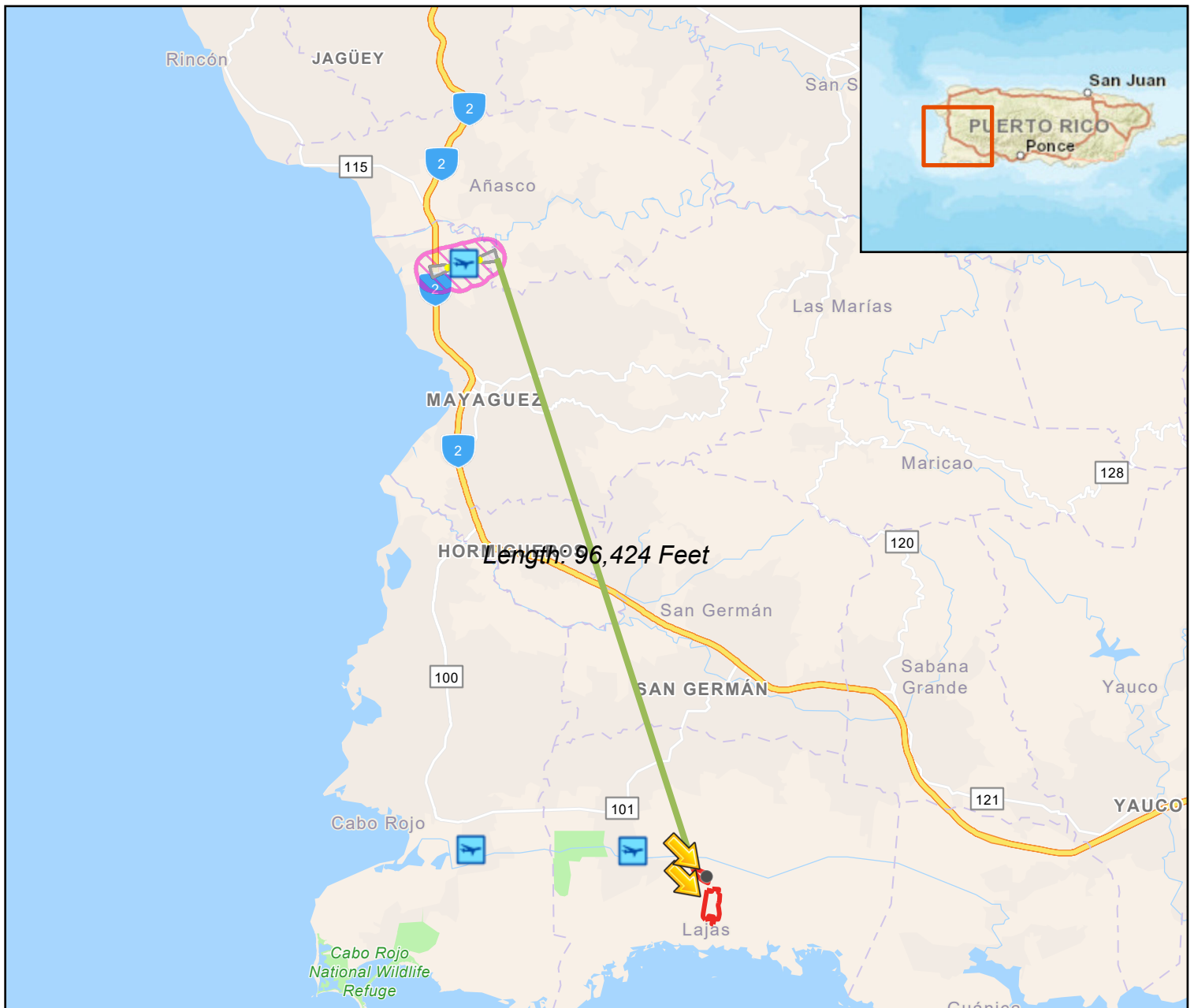
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FEMA Map Service

ABFE 1PCT

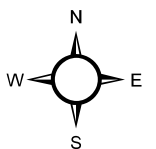
PR-SBF-07242 Airports



Legend

- Civilian Airports 2,500ft Buffer
- Runway Protection Zones
- Airport Runways
- Minor Airport

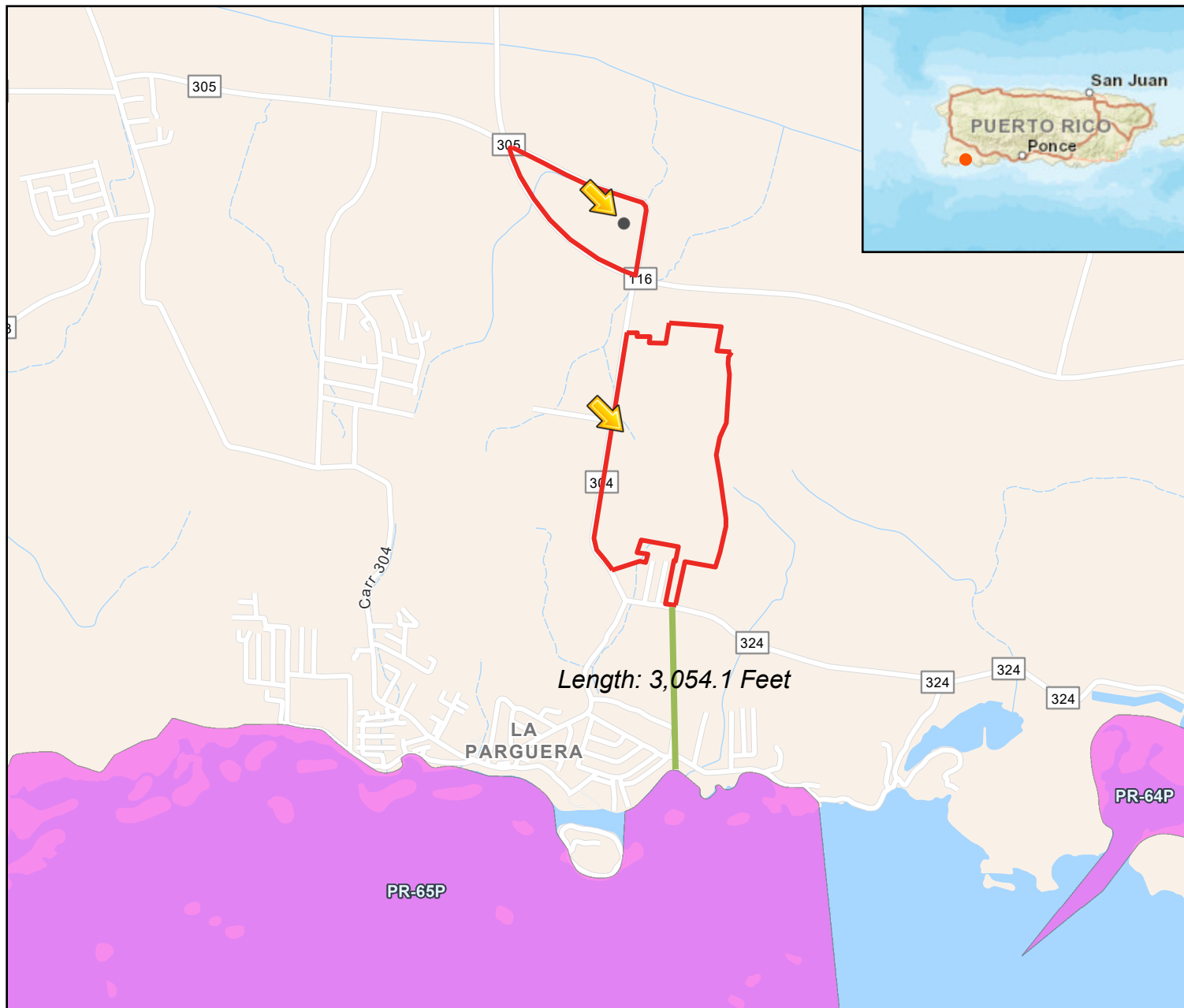
0 2.75 5.5 11 mi



Runway Protection Zones

Major Civil and Military Airports

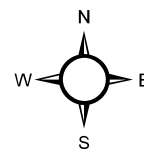
PR-SBF-07242 CBRs



Legend

Otherwise Protected Area

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 mi



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program

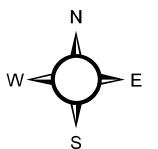
PR-SBF-07242 CZM



Legend

 Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary

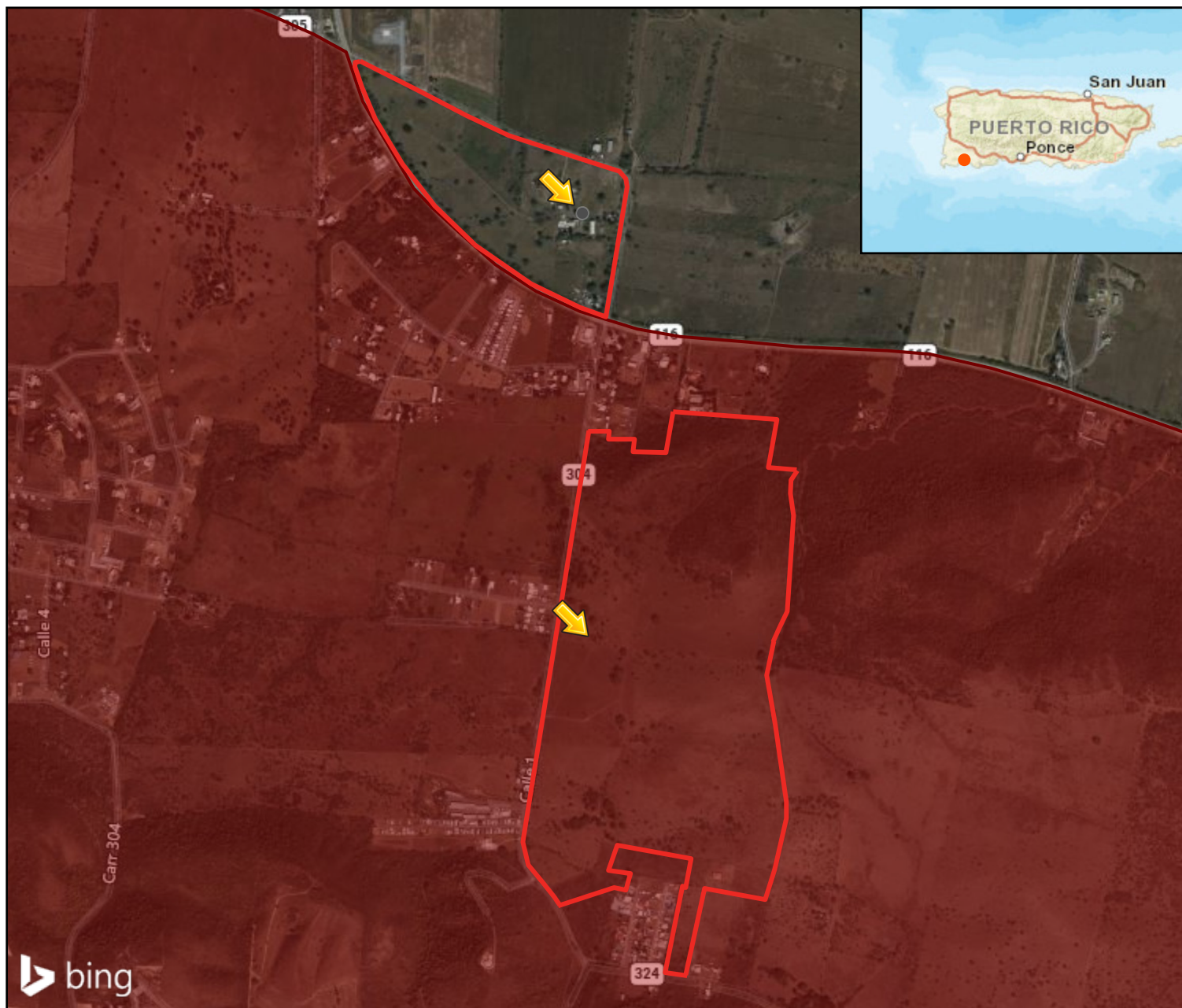
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NOAA

Coastal Zone Management Act

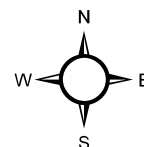
PR-SBF-07242 Endangered Species



Legend

 USFWS Critical Habitat - Polygon (live agency service)

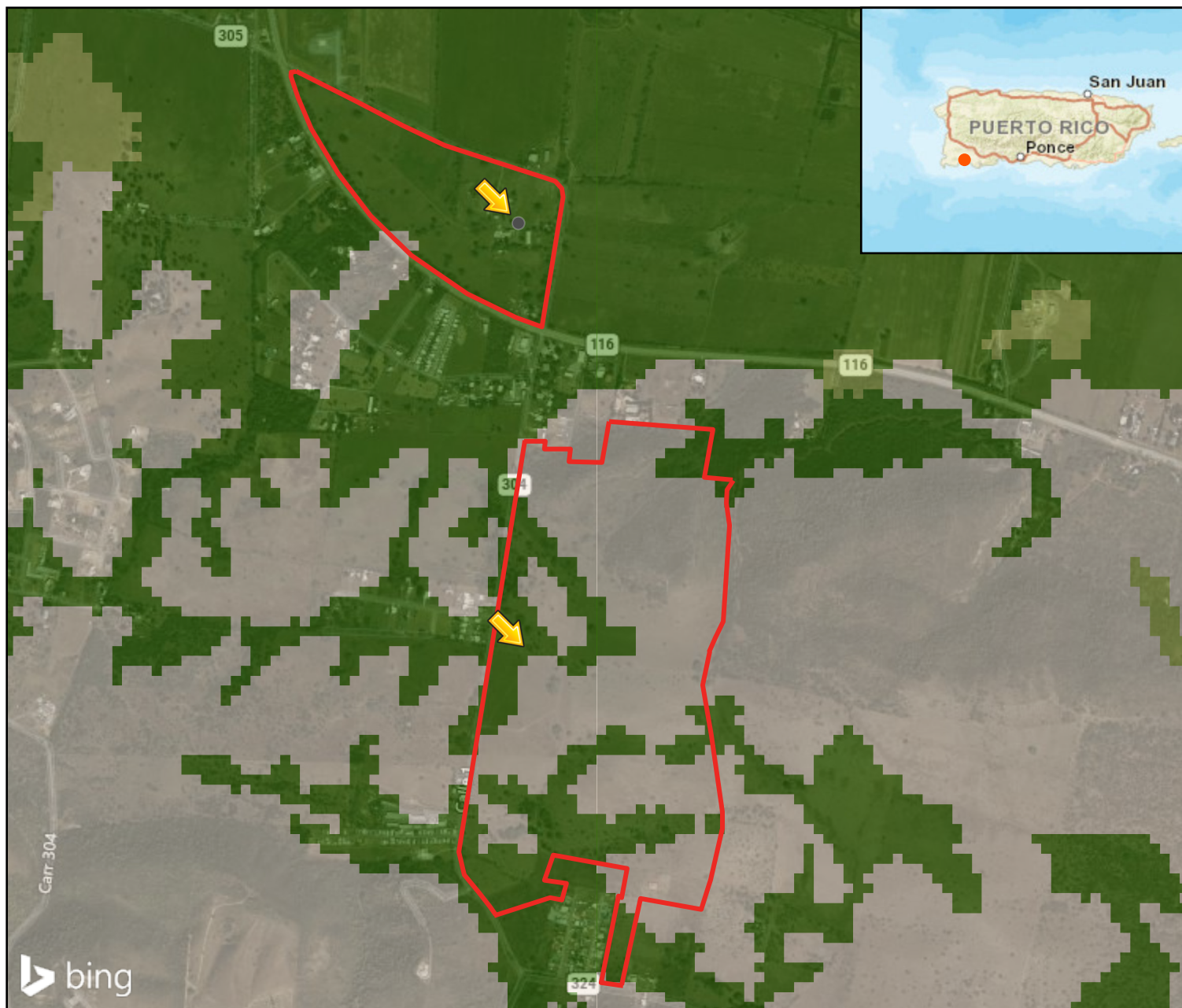
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Endangered Species Habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PR-SBF-07242 Farmlands

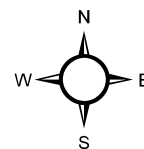


Legend

ClassName

- Prime Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Not Prime Farmland

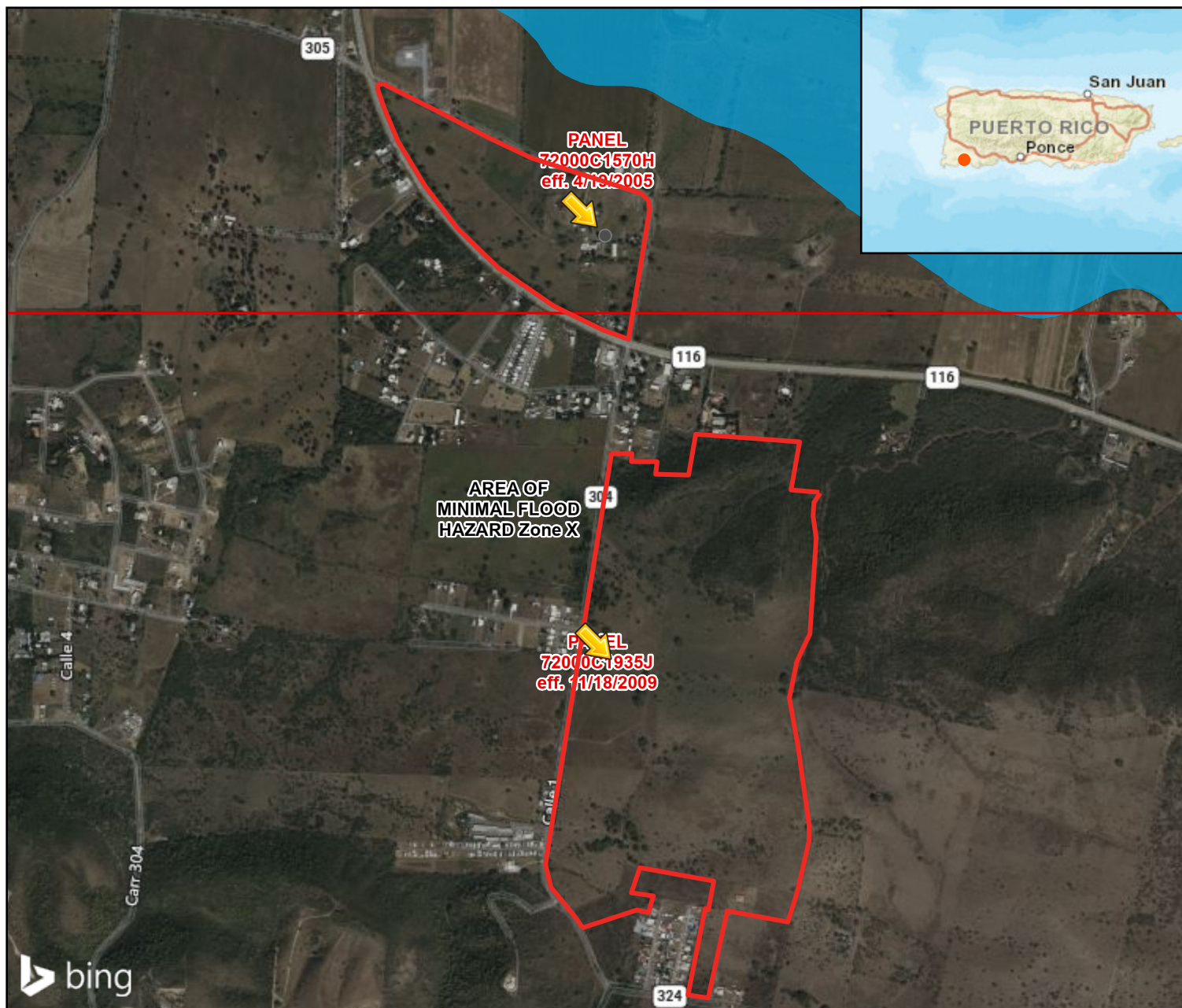
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USGS USA Soils

Farmland dataset

PR-SBF-07242 FIRM

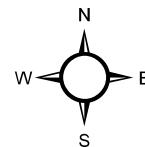


Legend

FEMA Flood Zones - Effective

- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway
- Special Floodway
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
- X, Area of Minimal Flood Hazard
- FEMA Flood Zone Panel

0 0.17 0.35 0.7 mi



FEMA Map Service

Flood Insurance Rate Maps

PR-SBF-07242 Historic Map

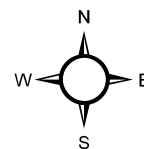


Legend

- National Historic Landmark
- National Register of Historic Places
- Removed from National Register of Historic Places
- Historic Communities

National Register of Historic Places Polygons

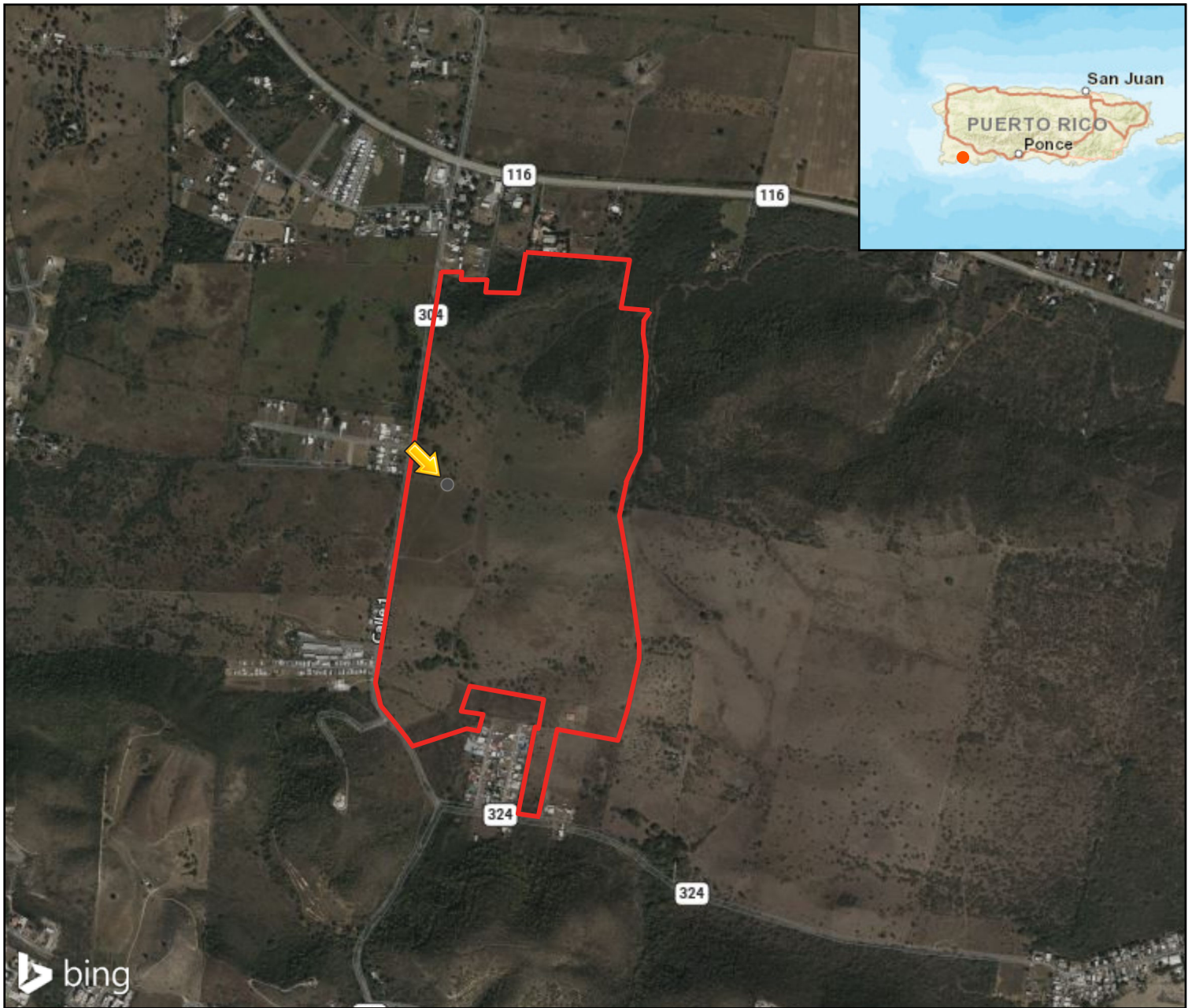
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National Register of Historic Places

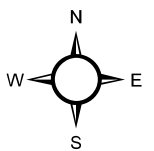
Local Historic Areas digitized by Horne

PR-SBF-07242 Site Map 1

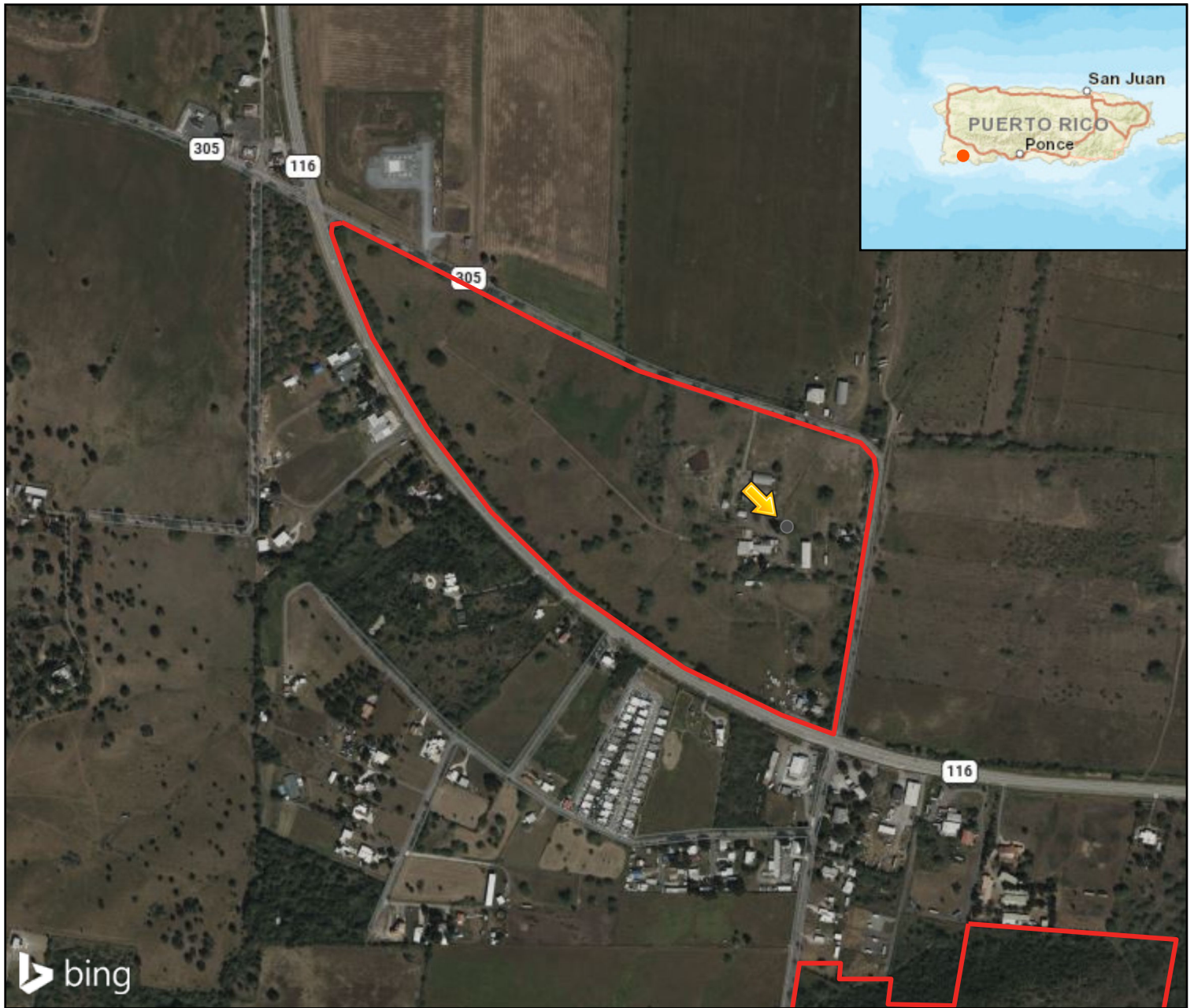


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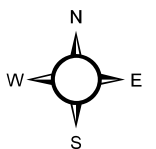


PR-SBF-07242 Site Map 2



Legend

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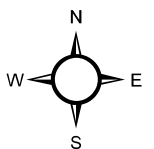
PR-SBF-07242 Sole Source Aquifers



Legend

Sole Source Aquifers - EPA August 2019

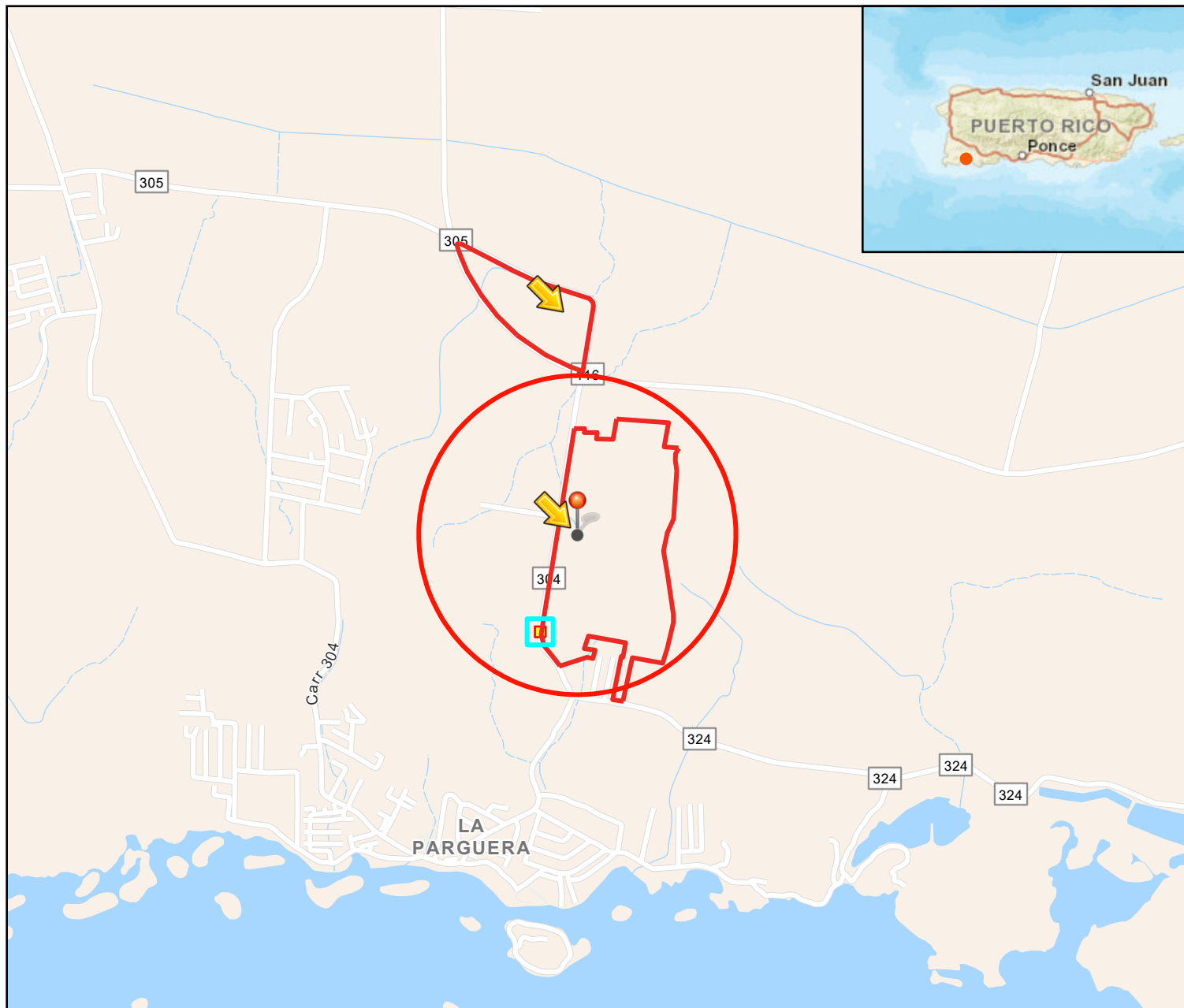
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Sole Source Aquifers

EPA

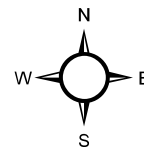
PR-SBF-07242 Toxics Map



Legend

 Hazardous waste

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 mi



Envirofacts Facility Locations

EPA

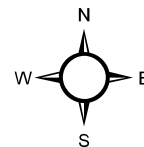
PR-SBF-07242 W & S Rivers



Legend

— Wild and Scenic Rivers

0 10 20 40 mi



National Wild and Scenic River System

National Park Service

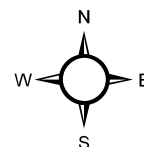
PR-SBF-07242 Wetlands Squeeze Chute



Legend

Riverine

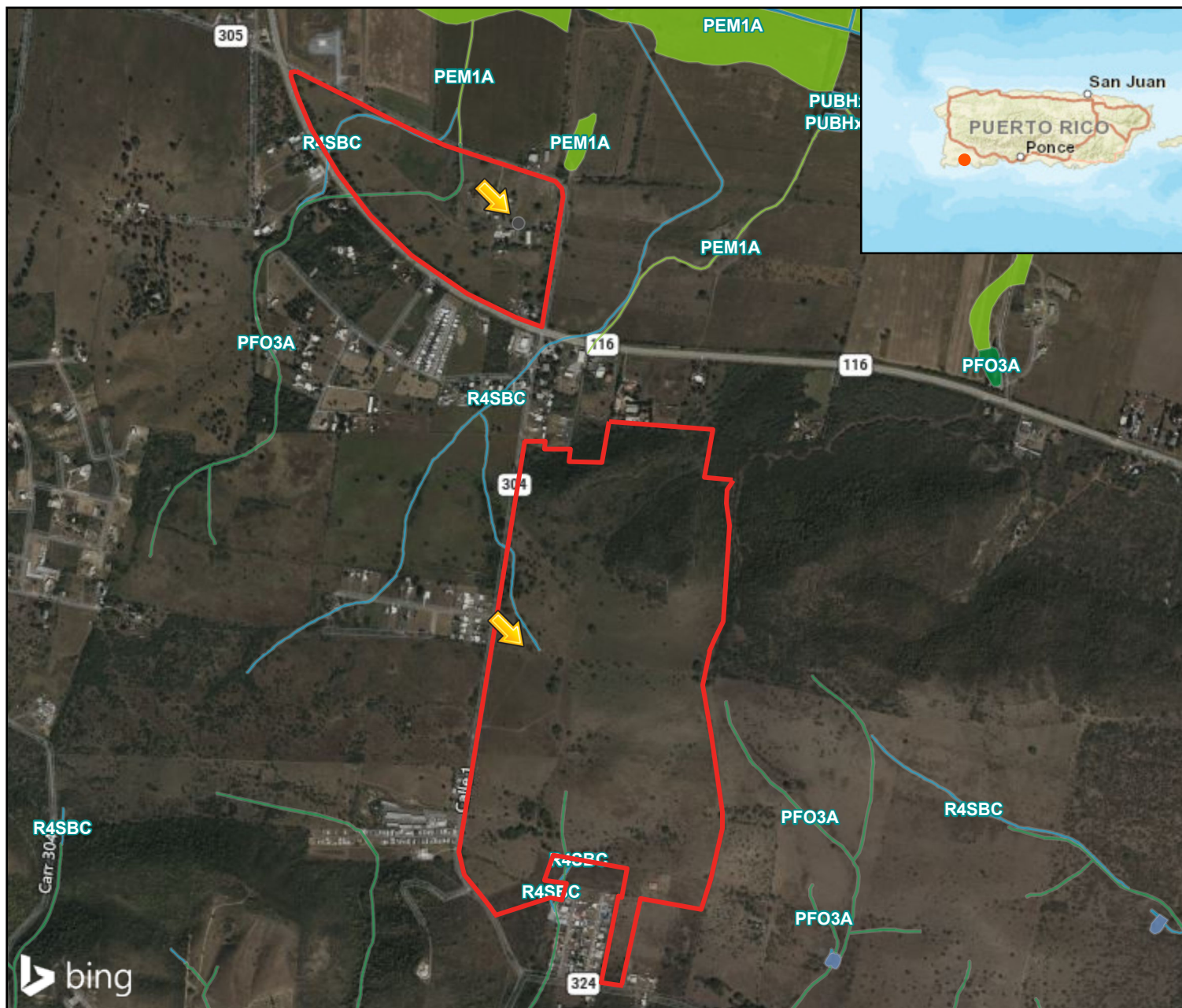
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National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

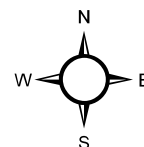
PR-SBF-07242 Wetlands



Legend

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

0 0.17 0.35 0.7 mi



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service