

# **Environmental Assessment**

## **Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects**

### **24 CFR Part 58**

#### **Project Information**

**Project ID:** PR-RGRW-01132

**Project Name:** Aroma Growers LLC

**Responsible Entity:** Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

**State/Local Identifier:** Puerto Rico / San Lorenzo, PR

**Preparer:** Patricia Carmenatty

**Certifying Officer Name and Title:** Permit and Environmental Compliance Officers: Sally Acevedo Cosme, Pedro de León Rodríguez, Ivelisse Lorenzo, Janette Cambrelen, Santa Ramirez, Limary Vélez Marrero, Mónica M. Machuca Ríos, Javier Mercado-Barrera, Abdul Feliciano Plaza and Priscilla Toro Rivera. María T. Torres Bregón - Environmental Manager, Angel G. Lopez Guzman - Deputy Director, Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez – Director for Program Management, and Juan Carlos Perez Bofill - Director for Disaster Recovery CDBG Program.

**Consultant:** Behar Ybarra & Associates LLC

**Direct Comments to:** Puerto Rico Department of Housing:  
([environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov))

#### **Project Location:**

Carr 181 Km. 30.3 Interior Bo. Quebrada Sector Cachete, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Greenhouse to be repair location: latitude 18.21577 longitude -65.967365

Concrete slab and solar panel system location: latitude 18.215610 longitude -65.967289

Solar panel system location: latitude 18.215671 longitude -65.967182

Parcel cadastral #: 252-000-003-01-000

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01132 consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system and the purchase of farm equipment. The farm equipment includes

plastics for greenhouses roof, plastic for a nursery roof, 10 feet x 320 feet saran wrap, 20 feet x 275 feet saran wrap, 10 feet x 30 feet saran wrap, 5 Timers Apollo, 5 gallons of *Superthrive*, 5 Eco Plus pumps, fertilizer, calcium, magnesium, 15 boxes of PeatFoam, 40 boxes of plastics bags, insecticides, pH and ppm meters and a Trimmer Sthl Loop Handle. The plastic wrap and saran wrap, will be used to repair the existing greenhouses roofs. The existing greenhouses measure 32 feet by 82 feet and 12 feet by 20 feet, with repairs that do not involve any ground disturbance. The solar panel system consists of 24 panels and 8 ferrous lithium batteries, which will be distributed between two existing structures. One structure is a prefab metal storage, measuring approximately 10 feet by 30 feet. The other structure is approximately 15 feet long and made of concrete and has a zinc roof. The concrete structure will have its cement floor extended by 3 feet to the southeast and 3 feet to the northwest, so will require ground disturbance. The applicant will cover the cost of the cement floor extension. The solar panel system also includes the installation of a charge controller. The property already has PRASA water service, so no new water or electricity connection will be necessary for the proposed project. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been used for agricultural purposes since approximately 1994.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined as the area potentially impacted by ground disturbing activities related to the extension of the cement floor. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the cement floor, greenhouses and solar panel system plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

A site Map is included in Figure 1, illustrating the location of the greenhouses, solar panel system and cement floor extension on the property. Photos of the location are included in Section 106 documentation, Appendix 1. Refer to Appendix 3 for Site Inspection Report.

**Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal** [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]: The Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (RGRW) will increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island wide. This Program will enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. This agricultural project associated with the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor are in keeping with the overall objectives of the Economic Development Program.

**Existing Conditions and Trends** [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:

The project area is located in the mountainous area of San Lorenzo with irregular topography. The greenhouse area is flat and has overgrown grass around it. The existing concrete structure, measuring 10 by 30 feet, is situated next to a slope and also has

overgrown grass surrounding it. This structure is currently used for storage and is located in a flat area. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with these placements.

**Funding Information**

<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>HUD Program</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
B-17-DM-72-0001, B-18-DP-72-0001, B-19-DP-78-0002 B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD) / Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)	\$11,938,162,230.00

**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** \$ 50,000.00

**Estimated Total Project Cost** (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$50,061.00.

**Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities**

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

<b>Compliance Factors:</b> Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required	Compliance determinations
<b>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6</b>		
<b>Airport Hazards</b>  24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This project is the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor will have no impact on any Airports. The site is located 82,459 feet from the nearest civil airport, Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan and 82,459 feet from the nearest major military airport, Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan. This topic is in compliance with the HUD's

		Airport Hazard regulations without further evaluation. See the attached Airport map Runway Protection Zone, Figure 2.
<p><b>Coastal Barrier Resources</b></p> <p>Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. The project is located 70,668 feet southwest of the nearest Coastal Barrier Resource System, PR-87. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. See the attached CBRS map, Figure 3.</p>
<p><b>Flood Insurance</b></p> <p>Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project is located in Zone X, Panel 72000C1230J, 11/18/2009 on the FEMA FIRM. The project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance. See attached Flood Map, Figure 4. The project is in compliance with the Flood Insurance without further evaluation.</p>
<p><b>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5</b></p>		
<p><b>Clean Air</b></p> <p>Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) &amp; (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor for an agricultural site located in the Municipio of San Lorenzo. The project is not located in a nonattainment municipality of Puerto Rico (Arecibo, Bayamón, Cataño, Guaynabo, Salinas, San Juan, Toa Baja). The installation and operation of this project will have no impact and is in compliance with the Clean Air Act without further evaluation. See attached published list of Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for each country by year for all criteria pollutants in Appendix 2.</p>

<p><b>Coastal Zone Management</b></p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) &amp; (d)</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project is located 64,812 feet from the nearest Coastal Zone Management Area and does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. See the attached CZMA map, Figure 5.</p>
<p><b>Contamination and Toxic Substances</b></p> <p>24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor for an agricultural project. A site inspection of the project area and property was conducted and 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. According to desk research on the NEPAassist website, there are no toxic sites of environmental concern identified within 3,000 feet near the proposed project location.</p> <p>After reviewing the aerial history of the project site over the past 20 years, it has consistently been used for agricultural purposes. The area remains rural, with no significant changes during this period that raise any contamination concerns.</p> <p>HUD's environmental regulations at 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2)(i) and (ii)4 state that, [i]t is HUD's 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 occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property. For the proposed project, which involves the installation of solar panels, the repair</p>

		<p>of two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor, radon analysis will not be required. This is because the proposed project qualifies for an exemption, as it does not involve any residential or non-residential use and will not be occupied for more than 4 hours per day.</p> <p>The project is in compliance with Contamination and Toxic Substances requirements. See attached Toxics Map, Figure 6. See Appendix 3 for Site Inspection Report.</p>
<p><b>Endangered Species</b></p> <p>Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>After reviewing data from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information and Planning Consultation (IPaC) and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) database, the Puerto Rican boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>), Puerto Rican plain pigeon (<i>Patagioenas inornata wetmorei</i>) and guajón (<i>Eleutherodactylus cooki</i>) could be found in the project area. The scope of work includes continued agricultural use of the property with no intention of cutting down trees or altering the general area where the greenhouses and solar panels will be installed, and it has been maintained that way for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>The nature of the project, scope of work, information available, a careful analysis of the IpaC, the Puerto Rico Boa conservation measures, the Caribbean Dkey in the US Fish and Wildlife Service's online IPaC application, and the observations during the field visit on May 20, 2024, were used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on that information and the answer inputted into the Dkey, it was determined that the proposed action will have "May affect</p>

but is not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) determination on the Puerto Rican Boa and Guajon.

An Informal Consultation was submitted to USFWS on 6/27/2024 and Concurrence Letter was received on 7/29/2024. The Service acknowledges receipt of the NLAA DKey consistency letter for the Puerto Rican boa and guajon. Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available and existing habitat, PRDOH together with USFWS determined that the proposed project will have a No Effect (NE) for the Puerto Rican plain pigeon due to the lack of suitable habitat. The nearest Critical Habitat is 56,936 feet from the project location.

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. As established by the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures Guideline.

<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/guideline/design/population/156/office/41430.pdf>

Project personnel must be informed about potential guajón presence in designated areas prior to any work commencement, emphasizing the prohibition of any form of capture or relocation. Educational signage featuring the guajón should be prominently displayed at project sites. Project plans must clearly demarcate boundaries, buffer zones, and protected areas, especially around critical habitats like streams and ravines. Implementation

		<p>of erosion and sediment control measures is mandatory to safeguard the species' habitat integrity. All activities near water bodies must adhere to specific post-disaster guidelines, ensuring minimal impact on guajón habitats. Monitoring through photographic records and documentation of guajón sightings is required, alongside compliance with state laws and regulations to reinforce conservation efforts effectively.</p> <p>This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. See attached USWFS Informal Consultation Package and supporting documents in Appendix 4. See attached Endangered Species map, Figure 7.</p>
<p><b>Explosive and Flammable Hazards</b></p> <p>24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and does not include development, construction or rehabilitation that will increase residential density or the construction of a hazardous facility. This project is in compliance with Explosive and Flammable hazards without further evaluation.</p>
<p><b>Farmlands Protection</b></p> <p>Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use. The project activities will occur in an area designated as not prime farmland. The scope of work includes the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor, and this is a construction limited to on-farm structures needed for farm operations. The project is in compliance with the Farmland</p>



		Protection Policy Act. See the attached Farmlands map, Figure 8.
<p><b>Floodplain Management</b></p> <p>Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project is not located in the 100-year floodplain or ABFE special flood hazard area; therefore, no further action is required.</p> <p>PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of San Lorenzo; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) introduced new floodplain regulations under 89 FR 30850, effective June 24, 2024, establishing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS). The current project involves non-critical actions that are located outside the 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain (500-year flood elevation). This approach ensures compliance with the FFRMS, meaning no mitigation is required, and the project adheres to the regulations set forth in 24 CFR Part 55.</p> <p>The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690. See attached ABFE Map (Figure 9).</p>
<p><b>Historic Preservation</b></p> <p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The site was visited on June 4, 2024, by SOI-qualified archaeologist. Based on the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE has been defined as the area potentially affected by ground-disturbing activities related to expansion of the cement floor. Documentation with photographs and maps was subsequently submitted to SHPO</p>

		(attached Appendix 1). In a response from PR SHPO dated July 29, 2024, SHPO concurred with a finding of <b>No Historic Properties Affected</b> within the project's Area of Potential Effects (see attached Appendix 1). The property is not considered historic or contributing to an historic district (See attached Historic map, Figure 10). Therefore, this activity is in compliance with National Historic Preservation Act.
<p><b>Noise Abatement and Control</b></p> <p>Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor for an agricultural site. The project does not include new construction for residential use or rehabilitation of an existing residential property. The site is rural in nature and there will be no impact to or from the surrounding area from a noise perspective. This topic is in compliance with Noise abatement and Control without further evaluation.</p>
<p><b>Sole Source Aquifers</b></p> <p>Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>There are no EPA Sole Source Aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source aquifers without further evaluation. See attached Sole Source Aquifers maps, Figure 11.</p>
<p><b>Wetlands Protection</b></p> <p>Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>There are no wetlands in or near the proposed project area, therefore, no wetland will be affected by the project undertaking. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990 and Executive Order 13690 New Rule. See the attached Wetlands map, Figure 12.</p>
<p><b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b></p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project is not within proximity of the NWSRS river. The project is located 63,731 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic</p>

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)		River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. See Map, Figure 13.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE</b>		
<b>Environmental Justice</b>  Executive Order 12898	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Based on the scope of work for this project, there will be no additional impact on low-income or minority residents. This proposed activity will not have a negative impact on Environmental Justice. Therefore, the proposed activity complies with this section. Refer to EJ Screen Report in Appendix 3.

**Environmental Assessment Factors** [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 & 1508.27] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.**

**Impact Codes:** Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact – May require mitigation
- (4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>LAND DEVELOPMENT</b>		

<p>Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>This project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor structure and continued agricultural use of property which is compatible with a zoning code of R-G (General rural) and existing land use of SRC (Common Rustic Soil). There is no urban design associated with this rural, agricultural site.</p>
<p>Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>This project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and the soil is currently being used for agriculture purposes. There is no change in land use since the land will continue to be used to agriculture purposes. The soil in this area has been classified as Caguabo clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes (CaF).</p> <p>The landslide data indicates low to moderate landslide susceptibility; therefore, no erosion is expected to occur from this project. The project will not affect the drainage in the area. There will be no additional runoff associated with the project. Contractors will be required to use BMPs during construction if erosion impacts occur. The construction manager should investigate if a DNER authorization is required for any land alteration associated with the proposed project activities. See Landslide Susceptibility Map, Figure 14.</p>
<p>Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor. There are no specific environmental hazards that have been identified for this site. The site is not in a high Noise Level area. While construction is underway, there will be a temporary rise in noise levels. Contractors will be required to comply with the applicable local noise ordinances. Noise impacts will be mitigated by restricting construction activities to daylight hours.</p> <p>Additionally, the project does not include housing or such to where inhabitants would be affected.</p>
<p>Energy Consumption</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment</p>

		to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor on an existing agricultural farm. The property already had a damage solar panel system which will be replaced with those approved by the program, therefore, no new electricity connection will be necessary. The proposed project will have no impact on the energy consumption.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC</b>		
Employment and Income Patterns	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and will result in short-term benefit to employment when contractors are hired for the installation of these items. After construction, there may be a net positive benefit for the farm, a small business receiving this funding for economic development recovery purposes, which will aid in the continued operations of the intended use of the farm which products will be used by Puerto Rico population. The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on Employment and Income Patterns, however, the project may help restore employment opportunities and income patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and will not alter the demographic characteristics of San Lorenzo, PR. The applicant is already located at this location and the project will provide opportunities for the continuous agricultural growth of the business.
Environmental Justice	1	In the project area within a one-mile radius: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The people of color are 100% compared to PR average of 97%.</li> <li>• 61 % of the people are low income compared to PR average of 70%.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3% of the people are unemployed compared to PR average of 14%.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed activities of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor will have a positive impact on creating jobs for local people. Therefore, the proposed activity complies with this section. See EJ Screen Report in Appendix 3.</p>
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Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor for an agricultural site and will have no impact on educational and cultural facilities.
Commercial Facilities	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and may aid in restoring the demand for local commercial services providing local products; however, not to the point of putting undue pressure on commercial facilities.
Health Care and Social Services	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Health Care and Social Services.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and will have no impact on Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling services. The products and by-products are agricultural, and any waste would be biodegradable. The remaining construction solid waste

		materials would be coordinated and collected for transport to the local landfill.
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and this activity will not produce any wastewater. Based on the scope of work is not expected to result in any changes in wastewater or sanitary sewer generation. The proposed project will have no impact on Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers.
Water Supply	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor structure for an agricultural site. No local water connection is needed for the proposed project; therefore, will have no impact on the water supply.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Public Safety.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and will have no impact on Parks, Open Space and Recreation. The property being used is agricultural and it will continue as agricultural use.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor for an agricultural site and will have no impact on transportation and accessibility.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>NATURAL FEATURES</b>		

Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and will be situated on previous agriculture property and will have no impact on unique natural features or water resources. There are no water resources within the parcel. This means that the project's activities are isolated from any existing water bodies, further reducing the likelihood of impact. In addition, the project does not involve extracting water from any existing water sources such as rivers, lakes, or groundwater. Therefore, the project will have no impact on water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor and will occur on land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. There may be wildlife attracted to greenhouses or the solar panels but no negative impact on wildlife. Vegetation removal will not be necessary for the proposed project.
Climate Change	2	This project consists of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor. The Re-Grow Program proposed project aims to increase resiliency in the agricultural industry to prepare for future climate related disasters. The project will not contribute to climate change and will provide a minor net benefit by allowing for increased food production, since the purpose of the proposed project is to increase the production of lettuce, mustard, watercress and basil.

**Additional Studies Performed:** Not applicable.

**Field Inspection** (Date and completed by): March 14, 2024, Jaqueline Lopez, SOI-Qualified Archaeologist. Site inspection was conducted by Egon Gonzalez on May 20, 2024.

**List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted** [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:



FAA, National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems:  
[www.faa.gov/airports/planning\\_capacity/npias/reports/NPIAS-Report-2017-2021-Appendix-B-Part6.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/npias/reports/NPIAS-Report-2017-2021-Appendix-B-Part6.pdf)

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, Puerto Rico map.  
[www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Locator/PR.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Locator/PR.pdf)

National Park Service, National Registry of Natural Landmarks.  
[www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/docs/NNLRegistry.pdf](http://www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/docs/NNLRegistry.pdf)

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wild and Scenic Rivers – correspondence to Agency on October 16, 2018

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: [www.rivers.gov/puerto-rico.php](http://www.rivers.gov/puerto-rico.php)

Puerto Rico Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan, July 2018. [www.cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/action-plan/](http://www.cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/action-plan/)

Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office and the Central Office for Recovery, Reconstruction and Resilience – amended to include the Puerto Rico Department of Housing.

Sierra Research for Office of Mobile Sources. US Environmental Protection Agency. Report No. SR93-03-02, Evaluation of Methodologies to Estimate Nonroad Mobile Source Usage, March 19, 1993: <http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=9100UR51.txt>

US Environmental Protection Agency, National Ambient Air Quality Standards, Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants (Green Book):  
[www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo\\_pr.html](http://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo_pr.html)

US EPA, Environmental Topics, Air Topics: [www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics](http://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics)

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System:  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/reports/species-listed-by-state-report?state=PR&status=listed>

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Mapping Service:  
<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home> (compilation of numerous maps)

Puerto Rico Planning Board, Communication regarding Floodplain Management, November 29, 2018.

US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory:  
[www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html](http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html) (compilation of numerous maps)

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Antilles Section, Communication regarding Wetlands Management, November 13, 2018.

Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program Plan, September 2009.

Puerto Rico Planning Board, Communication regarding Coastal Zone Management,

November 16, 2018 (No response).

US EPA, Sole Source Aquifers. Esri HERE, Garmin, NOAA, USGS, EPA.

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office. E-mail communication regarding October 23, 2018 letter on Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitats.

NOAA Fisheries / National Marine Fisheries Service, NEPA Coordinator Southeast Regional Office. Communication on October 16, 2018 regarding designated critical habitat. (No response).

US Geological Survey, Data Release of May Showing Concentration of Landslides Caused by Hurricane Maria, <https://doi:10.5066/F7JD4VRF>

**List of Permits Obtained:** None.

**Public Outreach** [24 CFR 58.43]: The recovery process has seen significant proactive involvement from the local community. Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the agricultural community. This project will include a FONSI/NOI-RROF in compliance with NEPA regulations for HUD.

**Cumulative Impact Analysis** [24 CFR 58.32]: In accordance with 24 CFR 58.32 (Aggregation), there are no cumulative impacts associated with the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor for an agricultural site.

**Alternatives** [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]

The Regrow Program purpose is to enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities while promoting and increasing food security island wide. The "Alternative" action would mean that the applicant would consider other locations for the solar panels. However, other locations may result in tree clearing prior to construction and/or need to fill in some steep area and an added cost to the applicant. Any option that requires going off-site would not contribute to the improvement and growth of agricultural production or enable economic development for this applicant since the structures to be used are already on the property.

**No Action Alternative** [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

The 'No-Action' alternative would mean that the applicant would not receive federal funding to provide for the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment to repair two greenhouses and the extension of a cement floor

structure for an agricultural site which would inhibit the economic growth opportunity that the applicant would not otherwise have under the PRDOH Re-Grow Puerto Rico program. As a result, these owners may not be able to experience the growth needed to recover and expand their agriculture activities. A provision of the grant allows for economic development for businesses. The No-Action alternative would not allow for economic development for this applicant.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusions:** The proposed activity has been found to not have any adverse effects on the environment nor is there the requirement for further consultation with any agency. There are no environmental review topics addressed above that result in the need for additional formal compliance steps with federal agencies or the requirement for mitigations other than those listed below.

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	Soil suitability will be assessed prior to construction. Contractors will be required to use BMPs during construction if erosion impacts occur. The construction manager should investigate if a DNER authorization is required for any land alteration associated with the proposed project activities.
<p><b>Endangered Species</b> Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402</p>	<p>The USFWS has developed the following conservation measures for the Boa:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ol>

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 #: (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. Last Revised: January 2024

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 are 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.

USFWS Conservation measures for the guajon:

1. Confirm the presence/absence of the species at the project site. The most effective way to do this is to identify the guajon's call during the late afternoon or night. You may contact the Service for recommendations on how and when to do this.

2. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the coquí guajón 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 this species. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.

3. Proposed activities should avoid adversely affecting any of the 17 critical habitat units or any other occupied guajón habitat.

4. Be advised that the designated critical habitat is not the entire range of the species; the species can be found in any boulder type habitat in streams, ravines or drainages within the above referenced Municipalities. If the species is detected outside of the designated critical habitat

areas, it is still protected under the Endangered Species Act.

5. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement, the boundaries of the project area, the buffer zones, and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field.

6. It is important to implement proper erosion and sedimentation control measures when working within or adjacent to coqui guajón habitat. Sediment runoff can adversely impact the species and its habitat by filling the caves and crevices where the species occurs and uses to lay its eggs. As water is a very important component of the species' habitat, any stream, creek, or similar body of water with the habitat characteristics indicated above may harbor the species, hence it should be protected to the maximum extent possible.

7. Areas that can be impacted by construction or any other activity would potentially require the relocation of frogs and consultation with the Service for such action is required. If relocation is proposed, a capture and relocation protocol should be developed and sent to the Service for evaluation before the project starts. Capture and relocation of frogs should be conducted only by qualified personnel avoiding harming, injury or killing individuals.

8. A before and after photographic record of the project area should be established. In addition, a record of all coquí guajón detections, including date, time, location, and approximate number of individuals should be established.

	9. Projects must comply with all State laws and regulations. Also, contact PRDNER for further guidance
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	Contractors must provide health and safety plans, as well as conduct monitoring during construction. They are also required to comply with local noise ordinances. To mitigate noise impacts, construction activities will be limited to daylight hours and adhere to the hours specified in Puerto Rico's Regulation for Noise Control and Pollution.



**Determination:**

**Finding of No Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]


The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

**Finding of Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]

The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9/26/2024

Name/Title/Organization: Patricia Carmenatty / Environmental Specialist/ Behar Ybarra & Associates LLC

Certifying Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9/30/2024

Name/Title: Priscilla M. Toro Rivera/ Environmental Specialist

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

## Figures

Aroma Growers LLC  
 Carr 181, Km 30.3 Interior,  
 Bo. Quebrada, Sector Cachete  
 San Lorenzo, PR 00754  
 Núm. Castastro:252-000-003-01-000  
 Lat.:18.215610, Long:-65.967289

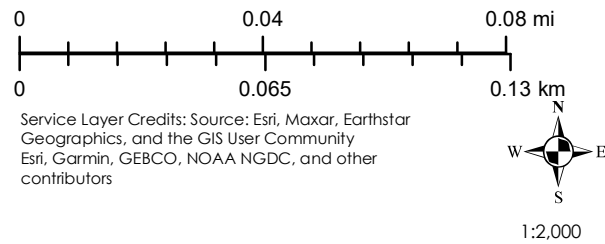
# Figure 1: Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



## Legend:

- RGRW-01132 Structures
- Parcel\_01132
- CRIM Parcels



### Source

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

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**Figure 2: Airports**  
 Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

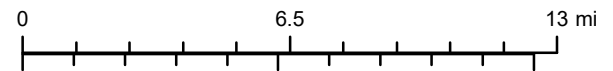


**Legend:**

- PR-RGRW-01132
- SJU Military Runway
- SJU Civil Runway

**Accident Potential Zone**

- APZ 1
- APZ 2
- Clear Zone



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

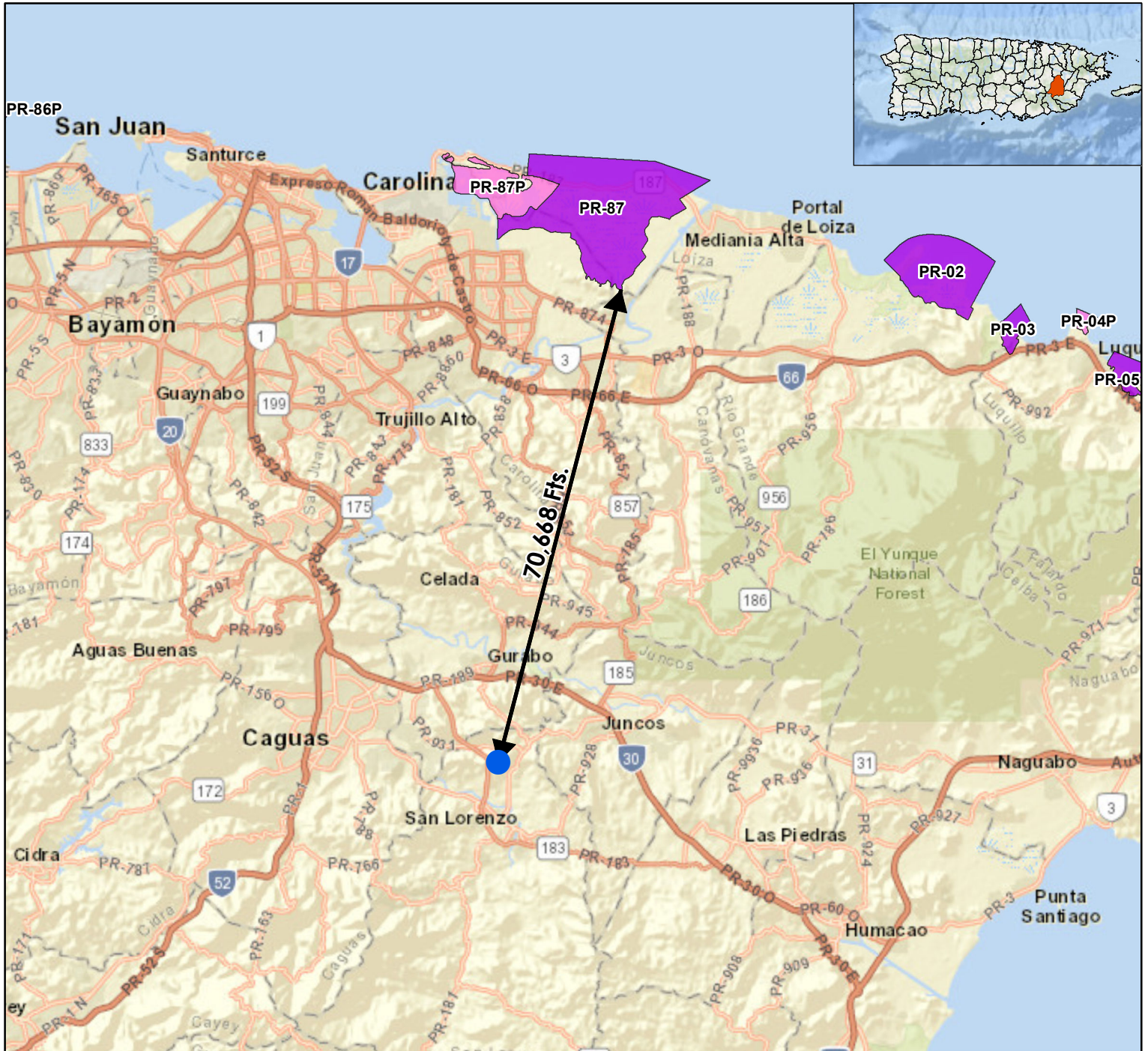
**Source**  
 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)  
<https://adds-faa.opendata.arcgis.com/>



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# Figure 3: Coastal Barrier Resources System

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



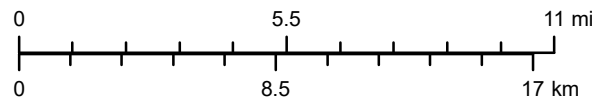
**Legend:**

● RGRW-01132

**Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS)**

◻ Otherwise Protected Area

◻ System Unit



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



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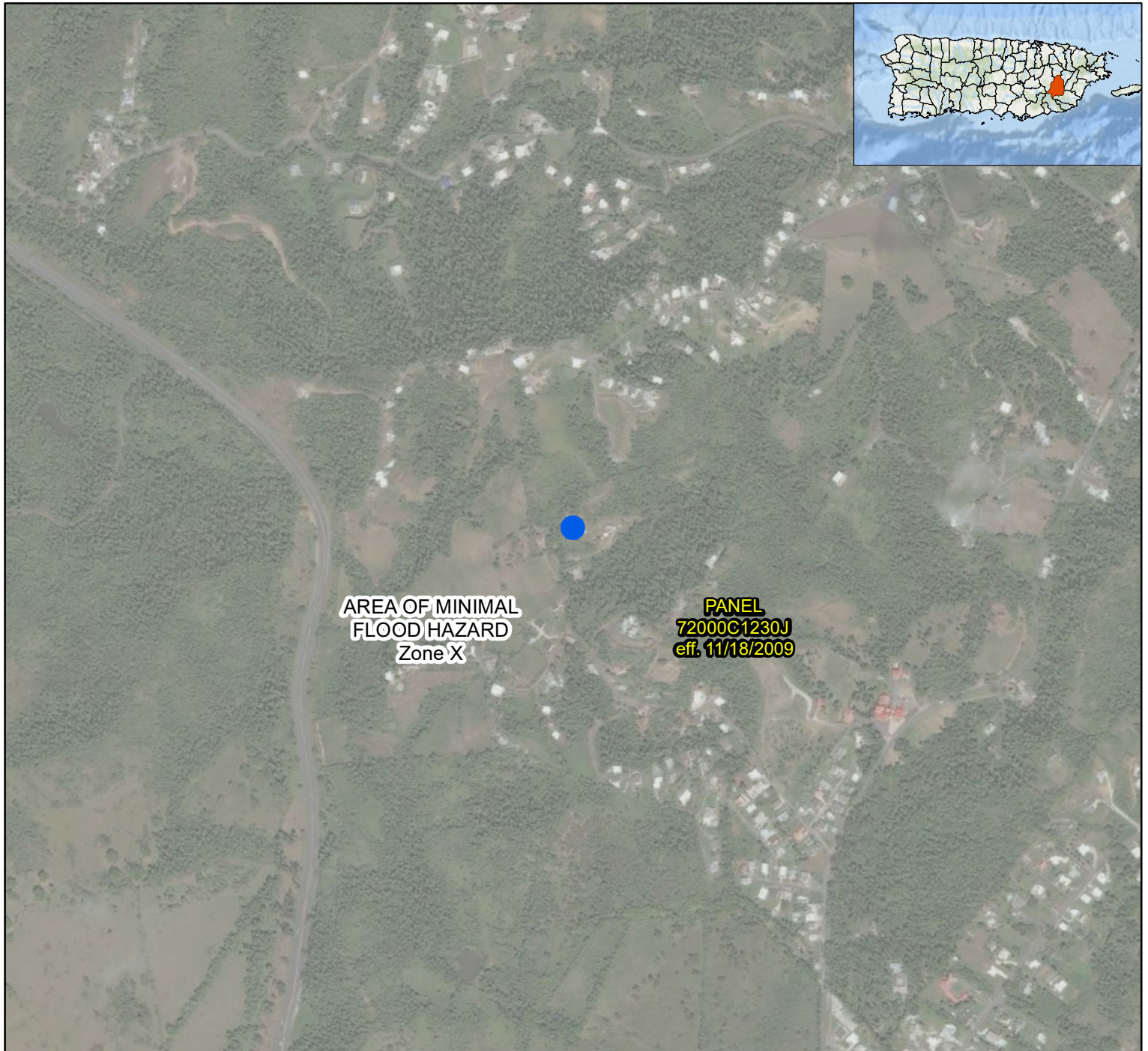
**Source**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)  
<https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act>

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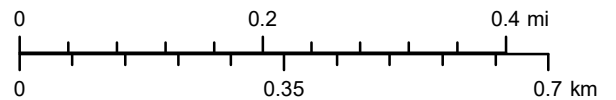
# Figure 4: Flood Insurance Rate Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
- FIRM Panel



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community  
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**Source**

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

1:10,000

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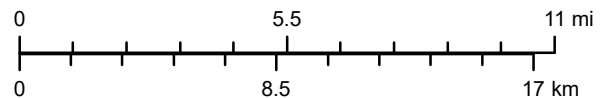
# Figure 5: Coastal Zone Management

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary



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



**Source**

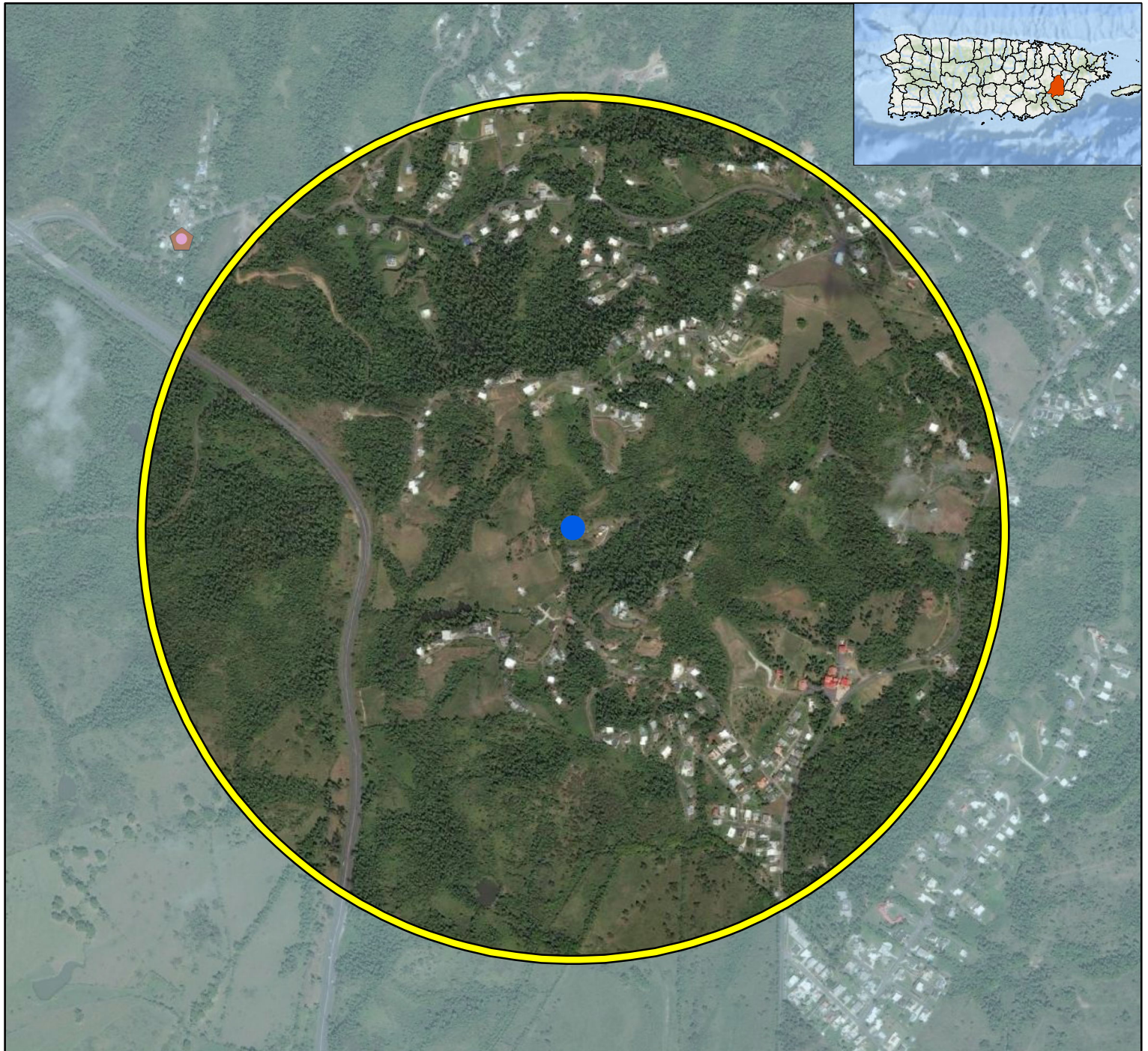
NOAA Office for Coastal Management (NOAA/OCM)  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/53132>

1:250,000

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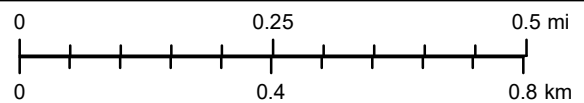
# Figure 6: Toxic and Hazardous Facilities

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- 3,000 Ft. Buffer
- FACILITY INTERESTS
- ICIS
- ▮ NPDES
- ▴ RCRA
- ▴ RCRA INACTIVE



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



1:12,000

**Source**

EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS)  
<https://www.epa.gov/frs>



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# Figure 7:Threatened & Endangered Species

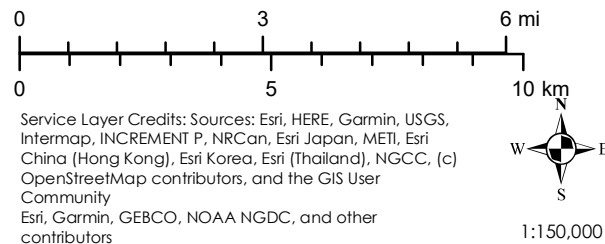
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



56,936 Fts.

**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- Critical Habitat



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

**Source**

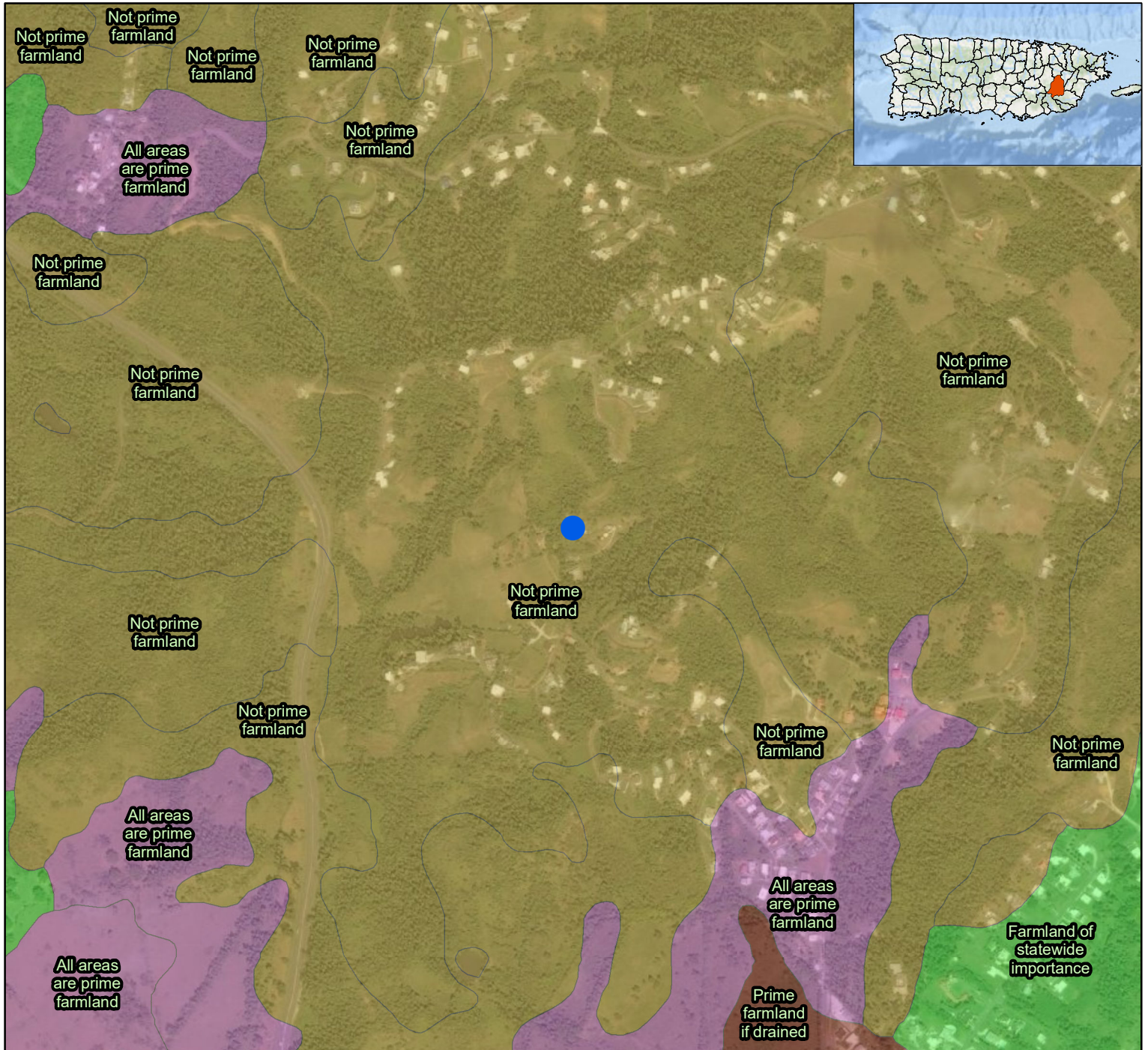
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration  
<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>

1:150,000

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# Figure 8: Farmland Protection

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

● RGRW-01132

**Farm Class**

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Not prime farmland
- Prime farmland if drained

0 0.2 0.4 mi

0 0.35 0.7 km

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1:10,000

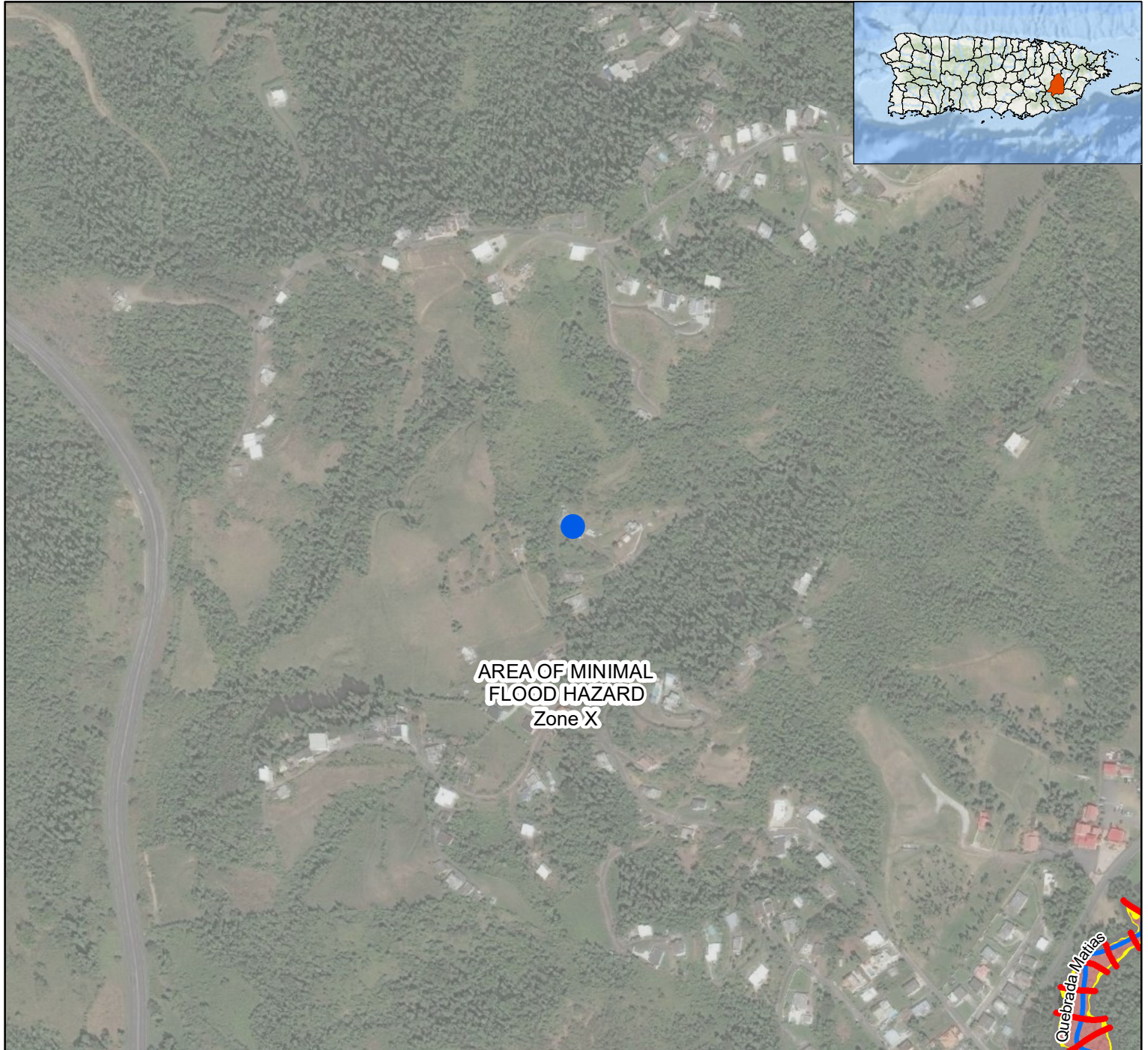
**Source**

National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
 Gridded Soil Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO)  
<https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/soil-survey-geographic-database-ssurgo>

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# Figure 9: Advisory Base Flood Elevation

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

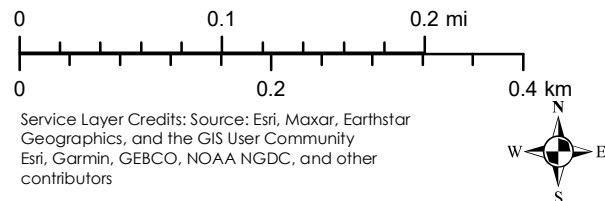


**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFE)
- Hydrography
- 0.2-percent annual chance flood
- 1-percent annual chance flood

**Flood Zone**

- A
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
- Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X



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

**Source**

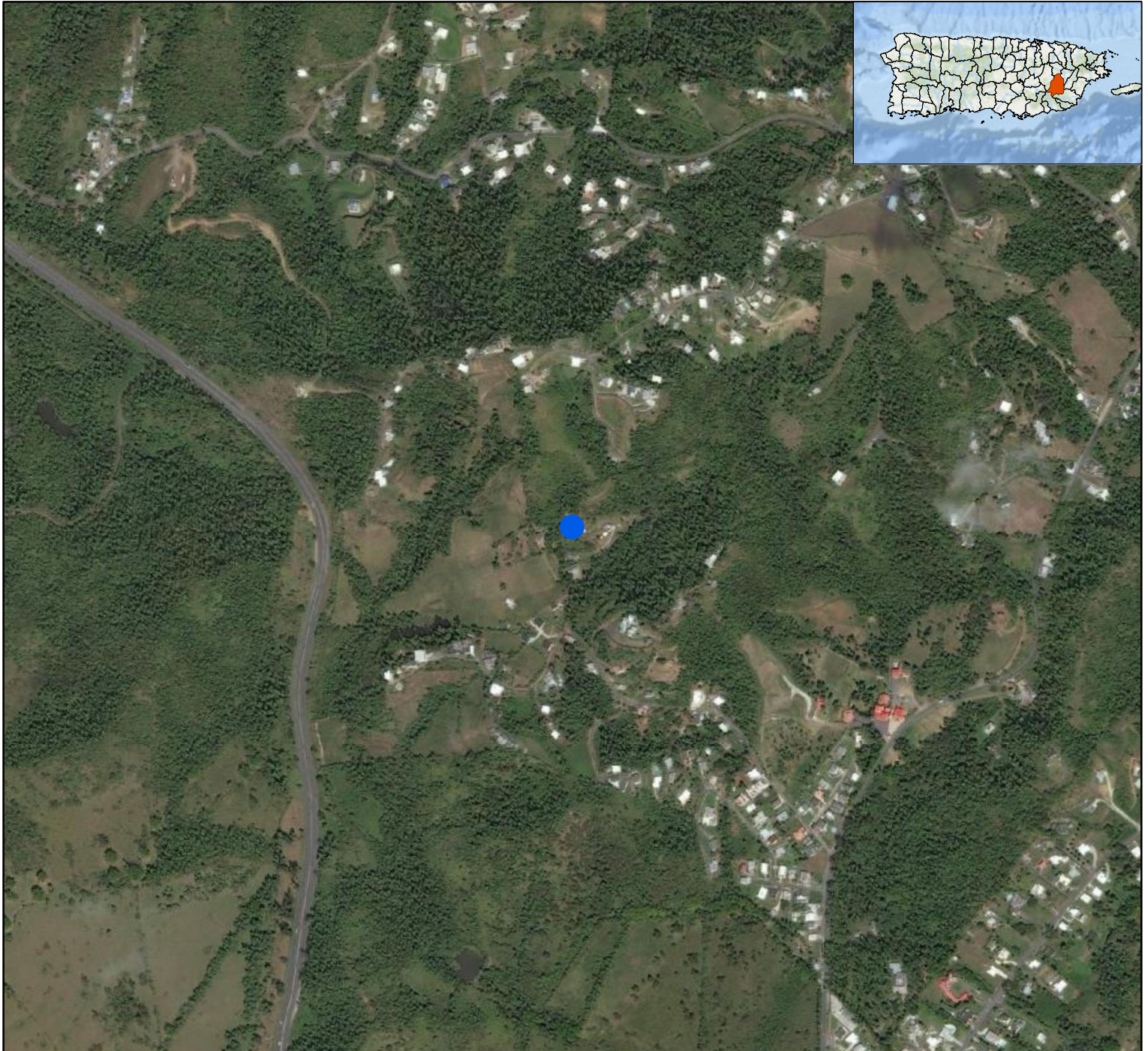
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),  
Junta de Planificacion de Puerto Rico (JP),  
Mapas de Niveles de Inundacion Base Recomendados,  
<https://maps.jp.pr.gov/>

1:6,000

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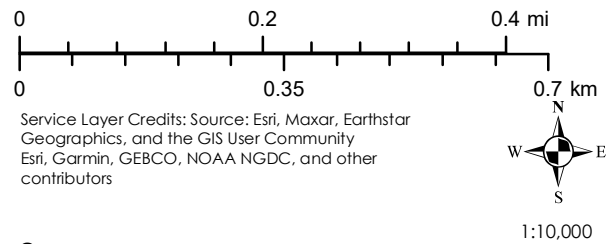
# Figure 10: Historic Preservation Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- Archaeological Resource Zones
- Traditional Urban Center
- Historic Communities
- P Cultural\_Resources - Public Plaza
- Cultural\_Resources - Registry ICP
- Cultural\_Resources - Historic Places JP
- ▲ Cultural\_Resources - Scenic Places
- Cultural\_Resources - Cultural Value Places
- Cultural\_Resources - Railway Vestiges



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community  
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**Source**  
 National Park Service (NPS) - National Register of Historic Places(NRHP)  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>  
 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)  
<https://oeh.pr.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

1:10,000



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# Figure 11: EPA Sole Source Aquifers

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow




**Legend:**

-  RGRW-01132
-  EPA Sole Source Aquifers

0 260 520 mi  
0 420 840 km

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



1:12,000,000

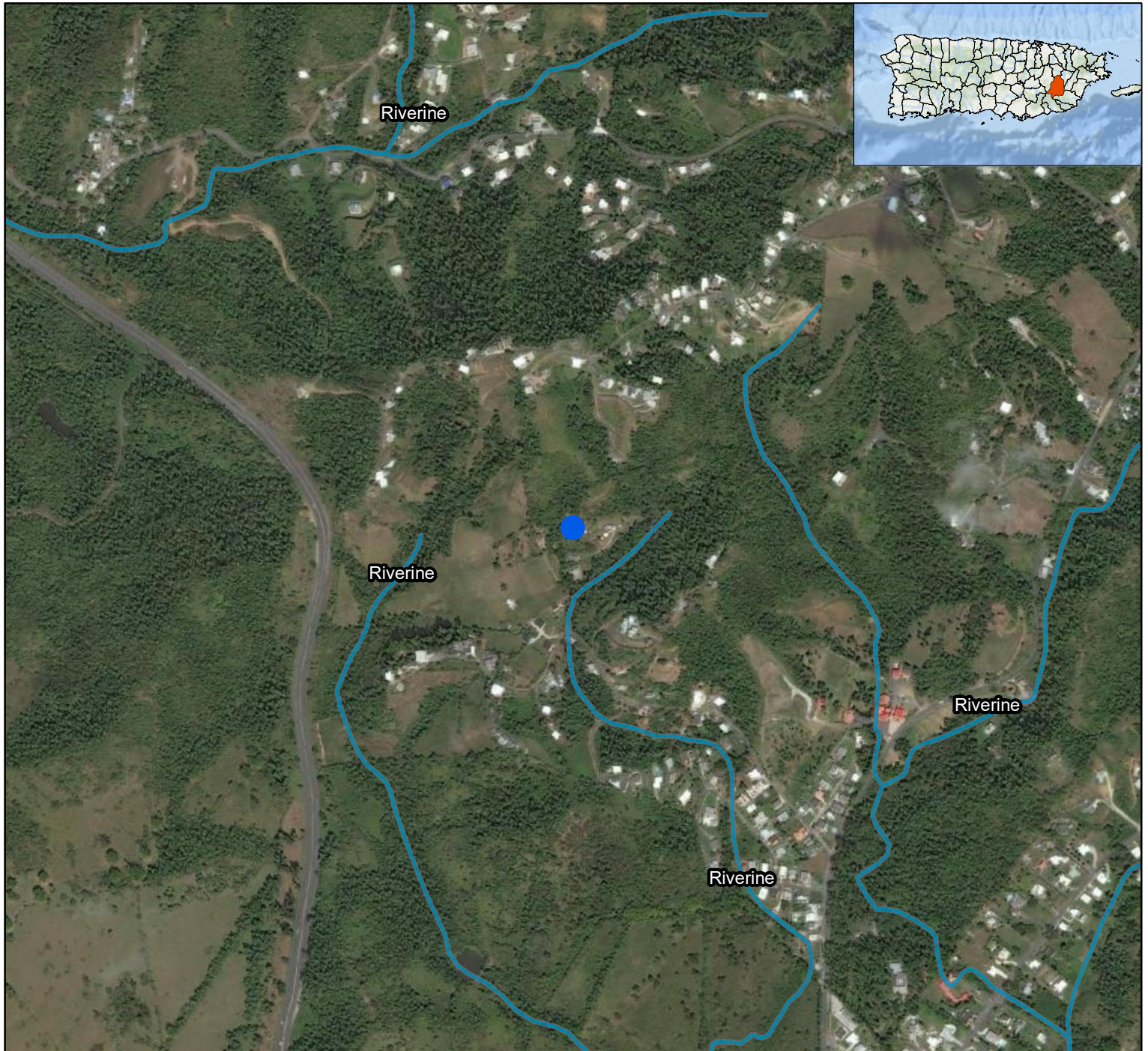
**Source**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
<https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b>

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# Figure 12: Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

 RGRW-01132

**National Wetlands Inventory**

 Riverine

0 0.2 0.4 mi

0 0.35 0.7 km

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



1:10,000

**Source**

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

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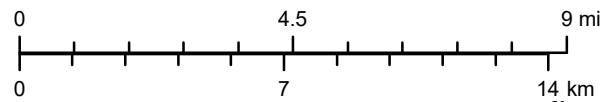
# Figure 13: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- ▬ Wild and Scenic Rivers



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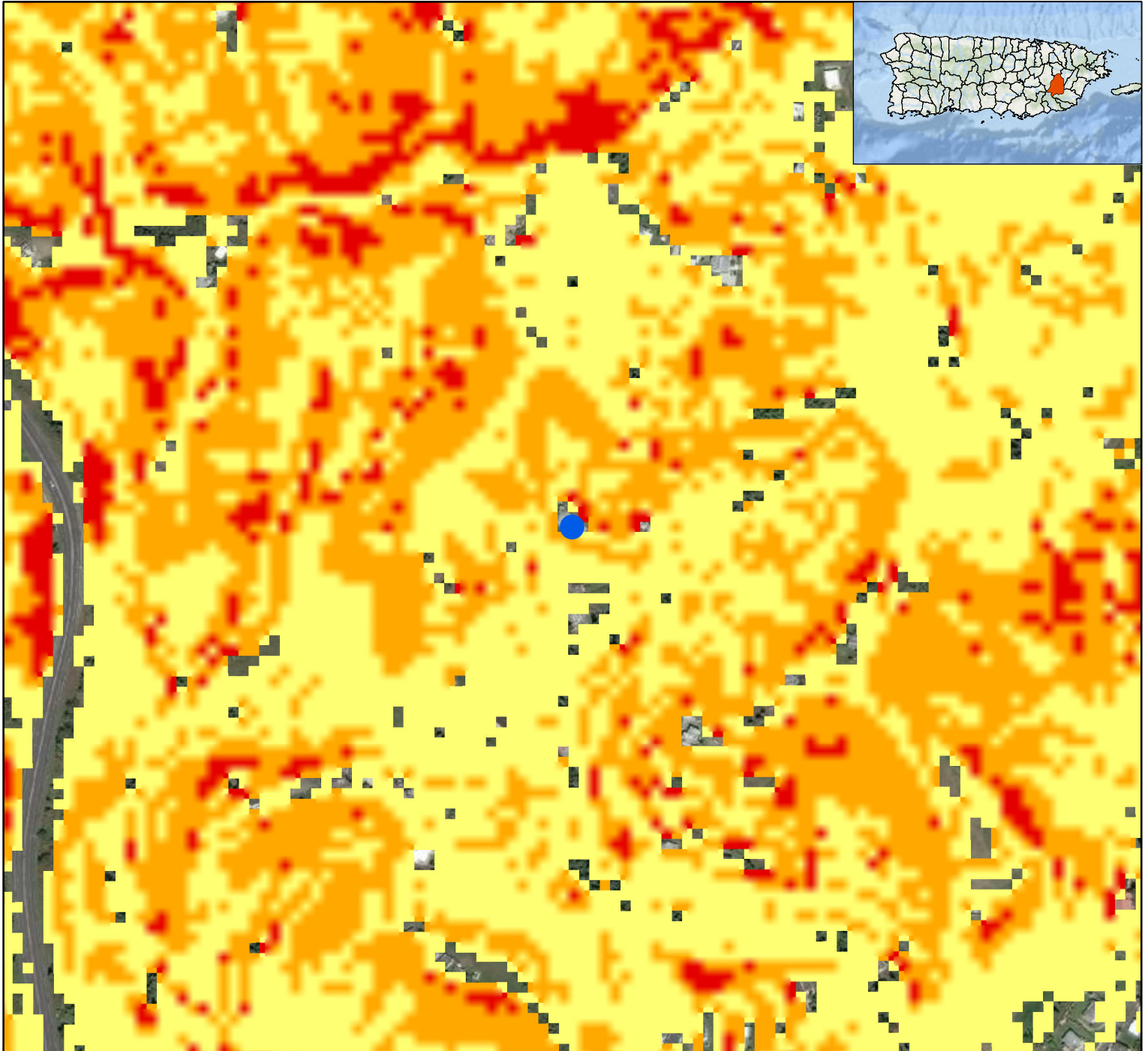
**Source**

FWS National Wild and Scenic Rivers System  
<https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php>







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Núm. Castastro:252-000-003-01-000  
Lat.:18.215610, Long:-65.967289

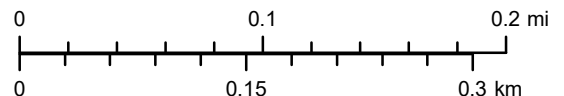
# Figure 14: Landslide Susceptibility

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

-  RGRW-01132
-  Low
-  Moderate
-  High
-  Very High
-  Extremely High



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



1:5,000

**Source**

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20201022>



## **Appendix 1: SHPO Consultation Package**



# GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

Monday, July 29, 2024

Lauren B Poche

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

SHPO-CF-07-12-24-03 PR-RGRW-01132 (San Lorenzo), Aroma Growers, LLC

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

July 12, 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 Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agricultural (Re-Grow PR) Program**

**Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-01132 – Aroma Growers LLC. – Carretera 181 Km. 30.3 Interior Bo. Quebrada Sector Cachete, San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected***

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, HORNE is submitting documentation for activities proposed by Aroma Growers LLC. located at Carretera 181 Km. 30.3 Interior Bo. Quebrada Sector Cachete, in the municipality of San Lorenzo. The undertaking for this project includes the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, the purchase of farm equipment and materials, and the repair two greenhouses. The farm equipment includes plastics for greenhouses roof, plastic for a nursery roof, 10 x 320 saran wrap, 20 x 275 saran wrap, 10 x 30 saran wrap. The greenhouses measure 32 by 82 feet and 12 by 20 feet, with repairs that do not involve any ground disturbance. The solar panel system consists of 24 panels and 8 ferrous lithium batteries, which will be distributed between two existing structures constructed ca. 2014. One structure is a prefab metal storage, measuring approximately 10 by

30 feet. The other structure is approximately 15 feet long and made of concrete and has a zinc roof. The concrete structure will have its cement floor extended by 3 feet to the southeast and 3 feet to the northwest, so will require ground disturbance. The property already has PRASA water service, so no new water or electricity connection will be necessary for the proposed project.

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

Please contact me by email at [lauren.poche@horne.com](mailto:lauren.poche@horne.com) or phone at 225-405-7676 with any questions or concerns.


Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lauren B. Poche'.

**Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.**

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager  
LBP/JLE

Attachments

<b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b> <b>REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b> <b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b>		
<b>Applicant: Aroma Growers LLC</b>		
<b>Case ID: PR-RGRW-01132</b>	<b>City: San Lorenzo</b>	

<b>Project Location:</b> Carr 181 Km. 30.3 Interior Bo. Quebrada Sector Cachete, San Lorenzo, PR 00754	
<b>Project Coordinates:</b> 18.215610 -65.967289	
<b>TPID (Número de Catastro):</b> 252-000-003-01-000	
<b>Type of Undertaking:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
<b>Construction Date (AH est.):</b> ca. 2014	<b>Property Size (acres):</b> 2.08

<b>SOI-Qualified Archaeologist:</b> Jaqueline López Meléndez
<b>Date Reviewed:</b> June 4, 2024


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

### Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01132 of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system and farm equipment. The farm equipment includes plastics for greenhouses roof, plastic for a nursery roof, 10 x 320 saran wrap, 20 x 275 saran wrap, 10 x 30 saran wrap, 5 Timers Apollo, 5 gallons of *Superthrive*, 5 Eco Plus pumps, fertilizer, calcium, magnesium, 15 boxes of PeatFoam, 40 boxes of plastics bags, insecticides, pH and ppm meters and a Trimmer Sthl Loop Handle. Agricultural equipment, including plastic wrap and saran wrap, will be used to repair the greenhouse roofs. The greenhouses measure 32 by 82 feet and 12 by 20 feet, with repairs that do not involve any ground disturbance. The solar panel system consists of 24 panels and 8 ferrous lithium batteries, which will be distributed between two existing structures. One structure is a prefab metal storage, measuring approximately 10 by 30 feet. The other structure is approximately 15 feet long and made of concrete and has a zinc roof. The concrete structure will have its cement floor extended by 3 feet to the southeast and 3 feet to the northwest, so will require ground disturbance. The applicant will cover the cost of the cement floor extension. The solar panel system also includes the installation of a charge controller. The property already has PRASA water service, so no new water or electricity connection will be necessary for the proposed project. The project area is located at PR-181 km. 30.3, Interior, Quebrada ward, Cachete sector within the Municipality of San Lorenzo. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been used for agricultural purposes since approximately 1994.

### 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

<b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b> <b>ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b> <b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b>	 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
<b>Applicant: Aroma Growers LLC</b>	
<b>Case ID: PR-RGRW-01132</b>	<b>City: San Lorenzo</b>

and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the greenhouses and the solar panel system plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

**Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology**

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that there are no reported archaeological sites within a half-mile (0.50 miles) radius of the project location. The nearest cultural resource is the Pre-Columbian site SL-13 (SY0100013), located 1.01 miles east. The proposed project is located in the mountainous area of San Lorenzo at an elevation of 591 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area is within mapped soil series: Caguabo. The project area APE is in CaF. The nearest water bodies to the project are three unnamed streams located 0.11 miles east, 0.17 miles southwest, and 0.22 miles northeast. The east coast is approximately 13.94 miles (22.44 km) from the project area.

Within the 0.50 miles radius we have five (5) archaeological studies, one with positive results. Gonzalez conducted an archaeological survey for the Sabanera de San Lorenzo project where he reported Pre-Columbian remains and a railroad bridge located more than 0.50 miles away from the project PR-RGRW-01132.


The soil in this area has been classified as Caguabo clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes (CaF). This is a very steep, well-drained soil on side slopes and mountaintops of strongly dissected uplands. This soil is difficult to work because it is very steep and shallow.

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

**Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture**

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

The project area is in a rural and mountainous area of San Lorenzo with mature vegetation. The area directly around the existing greenhouses and structures where the solar panels will


<b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b> <b>REGrow PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b> <b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b>	 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
<b>Applicant: Aroma Growers LLC</b>	
<b>Case ID: PR-RGRW-01132</b>	<b>City: San Lorenzo</b>

be installed consists of grass, bushes and some plantain trees. It is located on a slight slope. The existing greenhouses, measuring 32 by 82 feet and 12 by 20 feet and constructed with aluminum tubes, will be repaired with saran wraps and plastics wraps. Solar system panels will be installed on two existing structures. One structure is a prefab metal storage, measuring approximately 10 by 30 feet. The other structure is approximately 15 feet long and made of concrete and has a zinc roof. The concrete structure will have its cement floor extended by 3 feet to the southeast and 3 feet to the northwest. The two existing structures appear in a 2014 aerial image but are absent from the 2013 aerial image. It is likely, based on information gathered in the field and through the review of aeriels, the structures were constructed ca. 2014. This structure is modern and does not meet the requirements to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Determination**

No historic properties were identified within the APE.

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that project actions will not affect historic properties that compose the Area of Potential Effect. The project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. There are no reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties within a half-mile radius of the proposed project location. There are no known archaeological sites or NRHP listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel in which the Area of Potential Effect of case PR-RGRW-01132 is located. The closest freshwater body is approximately 0.11 miles east of the project area. The construction of public roads and residential structures/agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

<b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b> <b>REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b> <b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b>		 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
<b>Applicant: Aroma Growers LLC</b>		
<b>Case ID: PR-RGRW-01132</b>		<b>City: San Lorenzo</b>

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


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

- No Historic Properties Affected
- No Adverse Effect  
    Condition (if applicable):
- 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"/> <b>Concurs</b> with the information provided. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Does not concur</b> with the information provided.	
<b>Comments:</b>       	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:



<b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b> <b>REgROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b> <b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b>			
<b>Applicant: Aroma Growers LLC</b>			
<b>Case ID: PR-RGRW-01132</b>		<b>City: San Lorenzo</b>	

**Case ID:** PR-RGRW-01132

**Project Coordinates:** 18.21577 -65.967365

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

Name	SHPO id #	IPRC id #	Distance/Direction	Description	NRHP (listed, eligible, non-eligible, no data)
None	-	-	-	-	-

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

Author	Phase/Title	Year	SHPO / IPRC code	Results	Distance/Direction
Antonio Daubón	IA-IB/ Puente Río Grande de Loíza y Accesos PR-203	1995	ICP/CAT-SL-95-02-07	Negative	0.30 mi SW
Juan González	IA-IB/ Sabanera de San Lorenzo	2007	ICP/CAT-SL-07-09-02, SHPO: 01-28-94-02	Positive. Pre-Columbian remains and railroad bridge located more than 0.50 miles away.	0.33 mi SW
Maritza Torres	IA-IB/ Planta de gas Empire Gas PR-181, km. 29.3	2005	ICP/CAT-SL-05-07-02	Negative	0.39 mi SE
Aramis Font	IB/ Lomas de San Lorenzo	2002	ICP/CAT-SL-02-04-07	Negative	0.45 mi NW
Raquel Camacho	IA/ Lomas de San Lorenzo	2001	ICP/CAT-SL-01-04-02	Negative	0.45 mi NW

### Project (PR-RGRW-01132) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)

**BYA** BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS  
CORPO. ID#00 1 Suato J-3, Calle Ponce 564, Arroyo, San Juan, P.R. 00920 784.679.7153-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01132

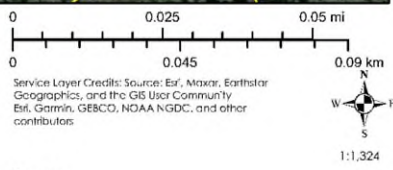
Aroma Growers LLC  
Carr 181, Km 30.3 Interior,  
Bo. Quebrada, Sector Cachete  
San Lorenzo, PR 00754  
Núm. Catastro: 252-000-003-01-000  
Lat.: 18.215610. Long: -65.967289

## Area of Potential Effect

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



- Legend:**
- Area of Potential Effect 15mt
  - Structures-01132
  - Parcel\_01132
  - CRIM Parcels



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

### Project (PR-RGRW-01132) Location - Aerial Map

**BYA** BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

Ciudad, Intersección 1 Suroeste J-3, Calle Ponce 56A, Arroyo, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel: (787) 753-0292

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01132

Aroma Growers LLC  
Carr 181, Km 30.3 Interior,  
Bo. Quebrada, Sector Cachete  
San Lorenzo, PR 00754  
Núm. Catastro: 252-000-003-01-000  
Lat.: 18.215610. Long: -65.967289

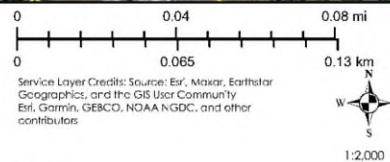
## Location Aerial Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



### Legend:

- RGRW-01132 Structures
- Parcel\_01132
- CRIM Parcels



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

### Project (PR-RGRW-01132) Location - USGS Topographic Map

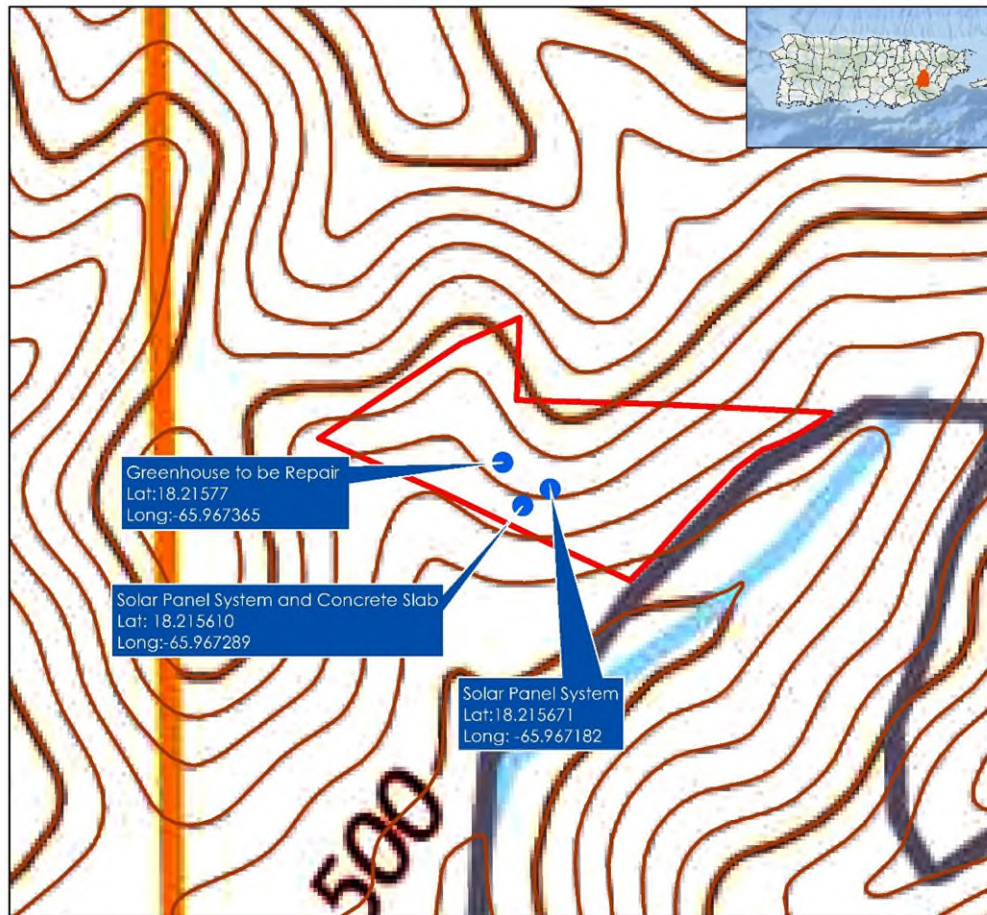
**BYA** BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS  
Carr. Iborra 1 Suite 2-3, Calle Ponce SSA, Arroyo, San Juan, PR 00920 Tel: (787) 638-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01132

Aroma Growers LLC  
Carr 181, Km 30.3 Interior,  
Bo. Quebrada, Sector Cachete  
San Lorenzo, PR 00754  
Núm. Catastro: 252-000-003-01-000  
Lat.: 18.215610, Long: -65.967289

### Location USGS Topographic Map

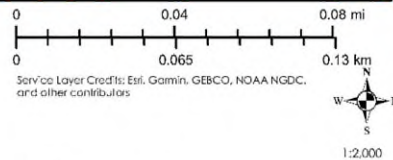
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- Contour Interval 20 Feet
- Parcel\_01132

**Quadrangle: Juncos**



**Source**

United States Geological Survey (USGS)  
National Geographic Map Database  
[https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb\\_home.htm](https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.htm)

### Project (PR-RGRW-01132) Location – Soils Map

**BYA** BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS  
CORPO. IDB66 1 Suito J-3, Calle Pinarco 564, APT. 101, San Juan, P.R. 00920 TEL: (787) 753-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01132

Aroma Growers LLC  
Carr 181, Km 30.3 Interior,  
Bo. Quebrada, Sector Cachete  
San Lorenzo, PR 00754  
Núm. Catastro: 252-000-003-01-000  
Lat.: 18.215610. Long: -65.967289

## Soils Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

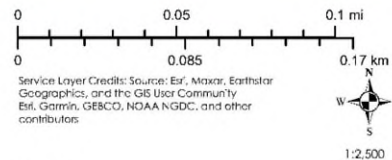


**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- Parcel\_01132
- Soil Map Unit Symbol

**Soil Map Unit Symbol**

CaE - Caguabo clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes  
CaF - Caguabo clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes



**Source**

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

Applicant: Aroma Growers LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01132

City: San Lorenzo

**Project (PR-RGRW-01132) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map**

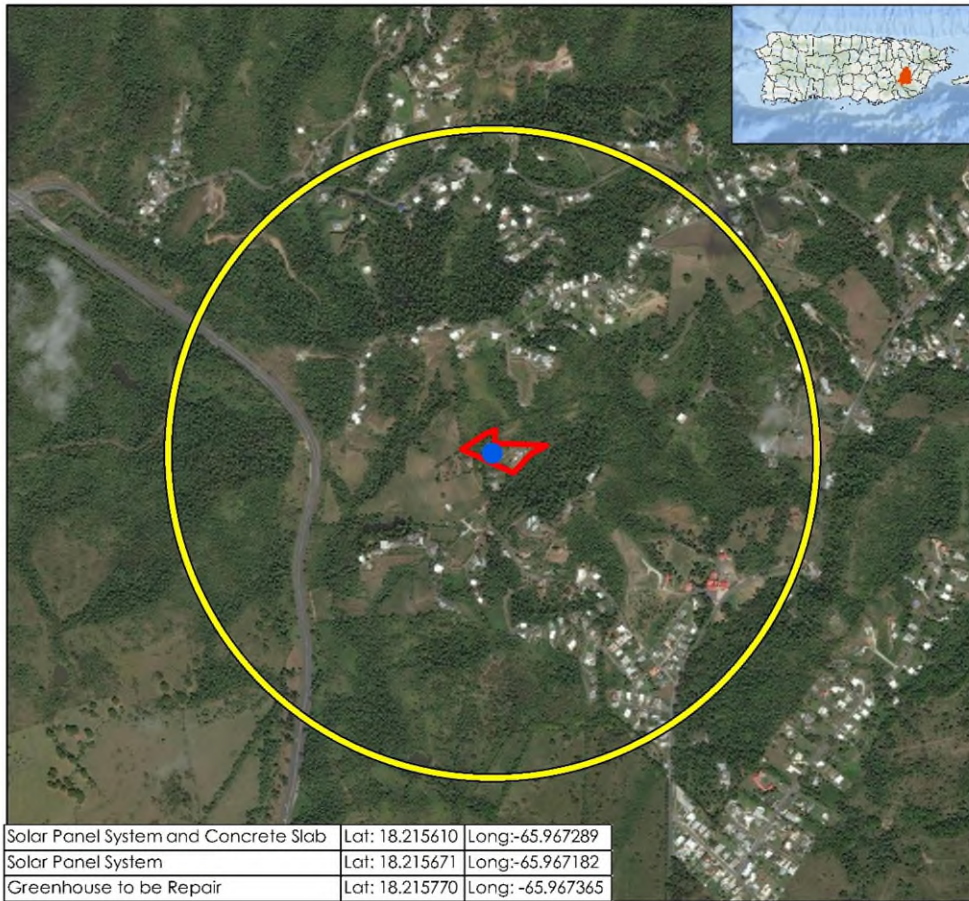
**BYA** BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS  
Corporation, 15050 J-25, Calle Príncipe 304, Arroyo, San Juan, P.R. 00923 Tel: 787-717-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01132

Aroma Growers LLC  
Carr 181, Km 30.3 Interior,  
Bo. Quebrada, Sector Cachete  
San Lorenzo, PR 00754  
Núm. Catastro: 252-000-003-01-000  
Lat.: 18.215610, Long.: -65.967289

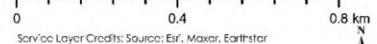
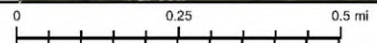
**Previous Investigations Aerial Map**

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer
- Parcel\_01132



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



1:12,000

**Source**

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

**Project (PR-RGRW-01132) Location with Previously Investigation  
USGS Topographic Map**

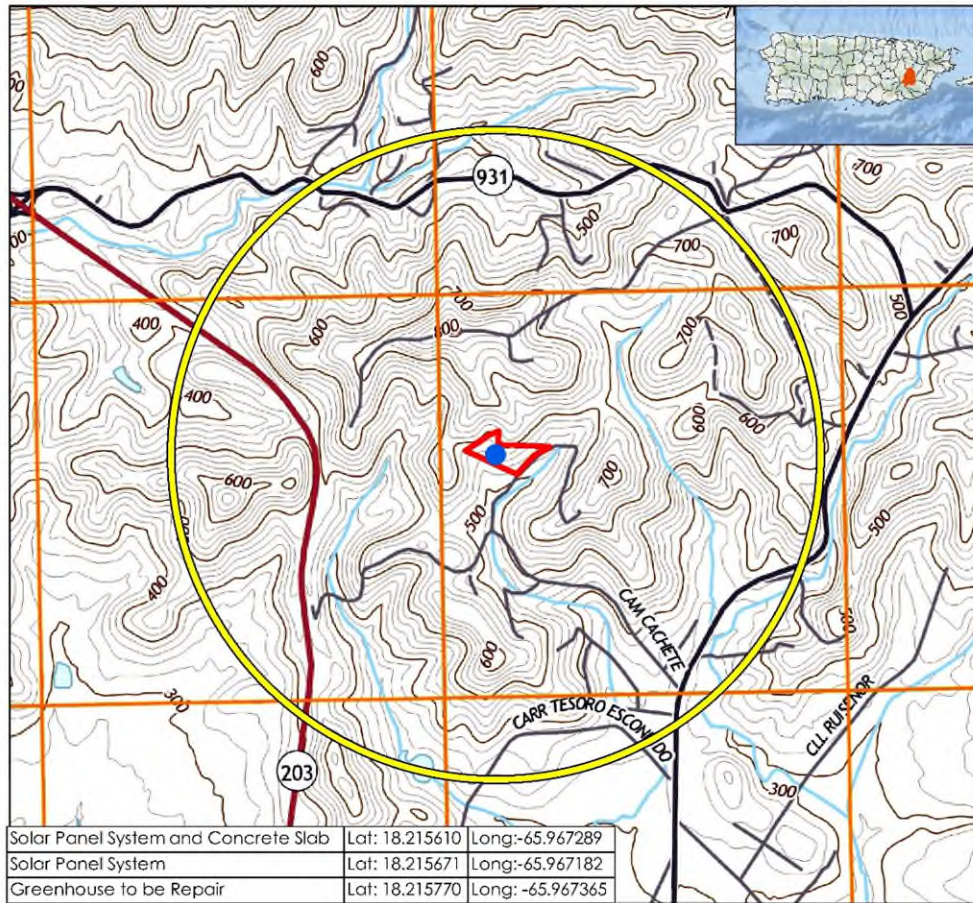
**BYA** BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS  
Carretera 1000, Suite 203, Calle Primera 2014, Arecibo, San Juan, PR 00625 (964)727191-0290

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01132

**Previous Investigations Topographic Map**

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Aroma Growers LLC  
Carr 181, Km 30.3 Interior,  
Bo. Quebrada, Sector Cachete  
San Lorenzo, PR 00754  
Núm. Catastro: 252-000-003-01-000  
Lat.: 18.215610, Long: -65.967289

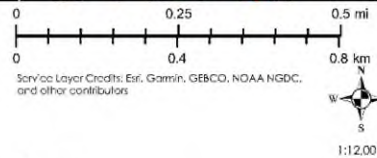


Solar Panel System and Concrete Slab	Lat: 18.215610	Long: -65.967289
Solar Panel System	Lat: 18.215671	Long: -65.967182
Greenhouse to be Repair	Lat: 18.215770	Long: -65.967365

**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer
- Parcel\_01132

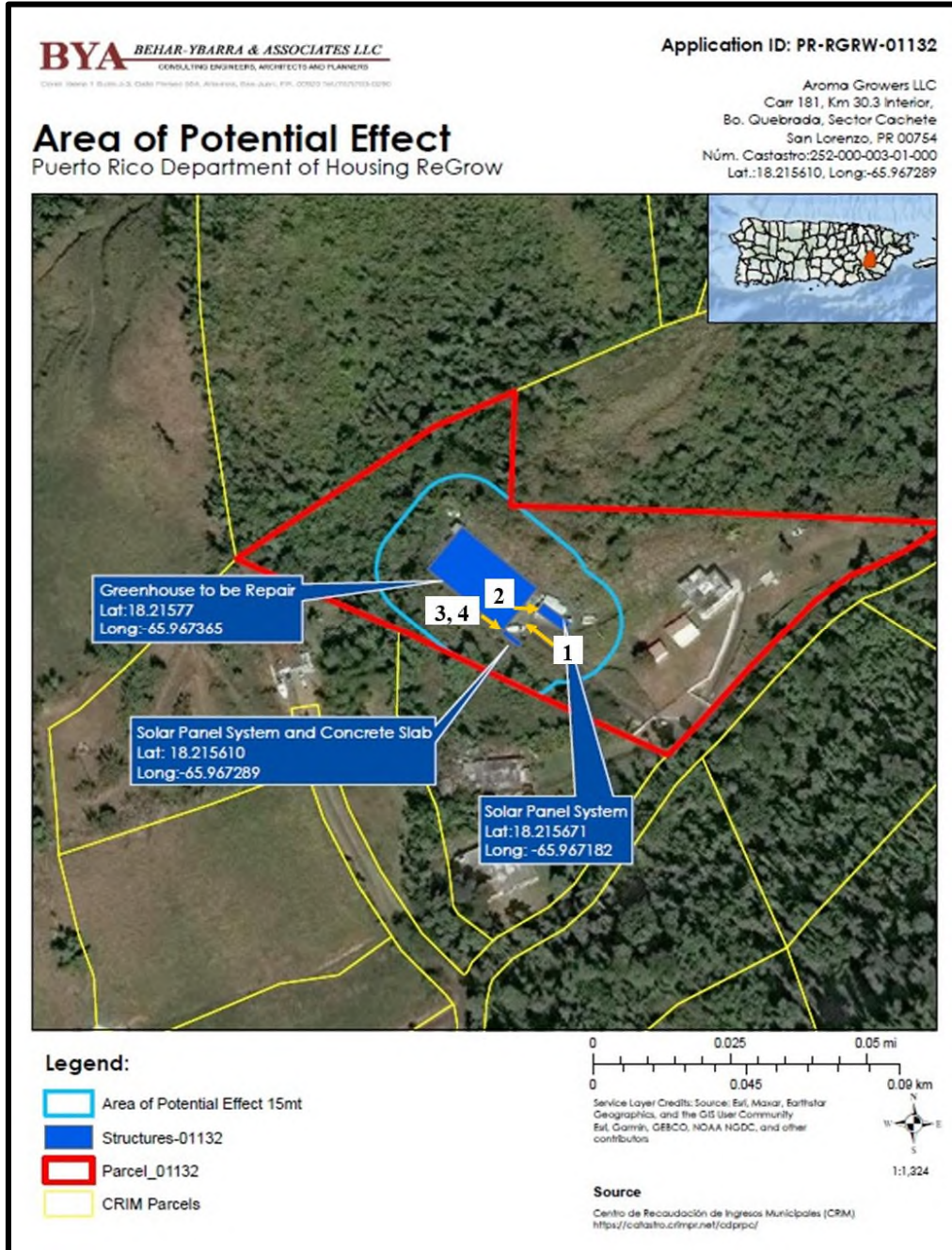
**Quadrangle: Juncos**



**Source**

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

### Photograph Key







Applicant: Aroma Growers LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01132

City: San Lorenzo



Photo #:1

Description (include direction): Area where the greenhouse will be repair, looking northwest.

Date: June 4, 2024



Photo #:2

Description (include direction): Area where the solar panel system will be installed, looking southeast.

Date: June 4, 2024



Applicant: Aroma Growers LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01132

City: San Lorenzo



Photo #:3

Description (include direction): Area where the solar panel system and concrete slab will be installed, looking southeast.

Date: June 4, 2024



Photo #:4

Description (include direction): Area where the concrete slab will be installed, looking southeast.

Date: June 4, 2024



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

## **Appendix 2: Puerto Rico Nonattainment/ Maintenance Status for each count by year for all pollutants**



You are here: EPA Home > Green Book > >National Area and County-Level Multi-Pollutant Information >Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants

## Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants

Data is current as of March 31, 2023

Listed by County, NAAQS, Area. The 8-hour Ozone (1997) standard was revoked on April 6, 2015 and the 1-hour Ozone (1979) standard was revoked on June 15, 2005.

\* The 1997 Primary Annual PM-2.5 NAAQS (level of 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) is revoked in attainment and maintenance areas for that NAAQS. For additional information see the PM-2.5 NAAQS SIP Requirements Final Rule, effective October 24, 2016. (81 FR 58009)

Change the State:

Important Notes

Download National Dataset: [dbf](#) | [xls](#) | [Data dictionary \(PDF\)](#)

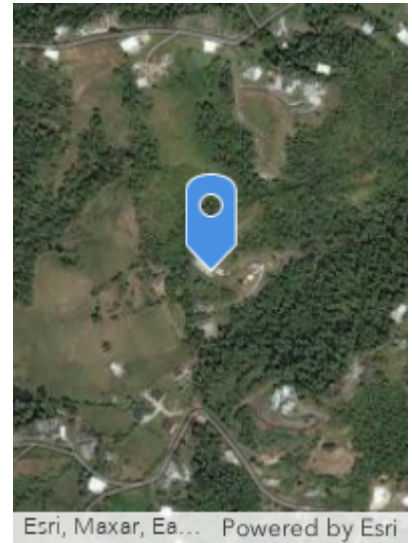
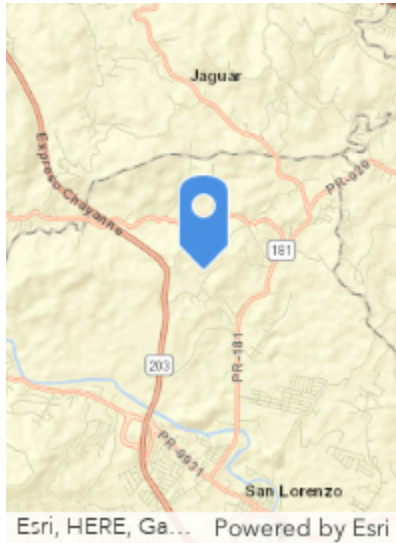
County	NAAQS	Area Name	Nonattainment in Year	Redesignation to Maintenance	Classification	Whole or Part County	Population (2010)	State/County FIPS Codes
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>								
Arecibo Municipio	Lead (2008)	Arecibo, PR	11121314151617181920212223	//		Part	32,185	72/013
Bayamon Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	22,921	72/021
Catano Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Whole	28,140	72/033
Guaynabo Municipio	PM-10 (1987)	Mun. of Guaynabo, PR	929394959697989900010203040506070809	02/11/2010	Moderate	Part	90,470	72/061
Guaynabo Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	23,802	72/061
Salinas Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	Guayama-Salinas, PR	181920212223	//		Part	23,401	72/123
San Juan Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	147,963	72/127
Toa Baja Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	52,441	72/137

Important Notes

## **Appendix 3: Site Inspection Report and EJScreen Community Report**

**APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION**

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-01132
Applicant Name:	Aroma Growers LLC
Parcel ID:	252-000-003-01-000
Latitude:	18.215695
Longitude:	-65.967304
Street Address:	Carr 181, Km 30.3 Interior, Bo Quebrada, Sector Cachete
Municipio:	San Lorenzo
Zip Code:	00754
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez
Date of Visit:	May 20, 2024
Time of Visit:	10:23



Esri, HERE, Ga... Powered by Esri

Esri, Maxar, Ea... Powered by Esri

**FIELD OBSERVATIONS**

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

Front of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments: Saran Wrap: 18.215770,  
-65.967365



Facing Away from Front

Photo Direction:

Comments:





Side #1 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Back of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Back

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Side #2 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Side #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Address

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Architectural Details 1

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Solar panels, and battery 18.215610, -65.967289



Architectural Details 2

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 3

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 4

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 5

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: existing storage and solar panels location: 18.215671, -65.967182



Architectural Details 6

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:





Architectural Details 7

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 8

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 9

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Area de preparacion: 18.215714, -65.967189



Architectural Details 10

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 11

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 12

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 13

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water cistern Gal 250



Architectural Details 14

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Architectural Details 15

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Electricity is not connected



Architectural Details 16

Photo Direction:

Photo Description:





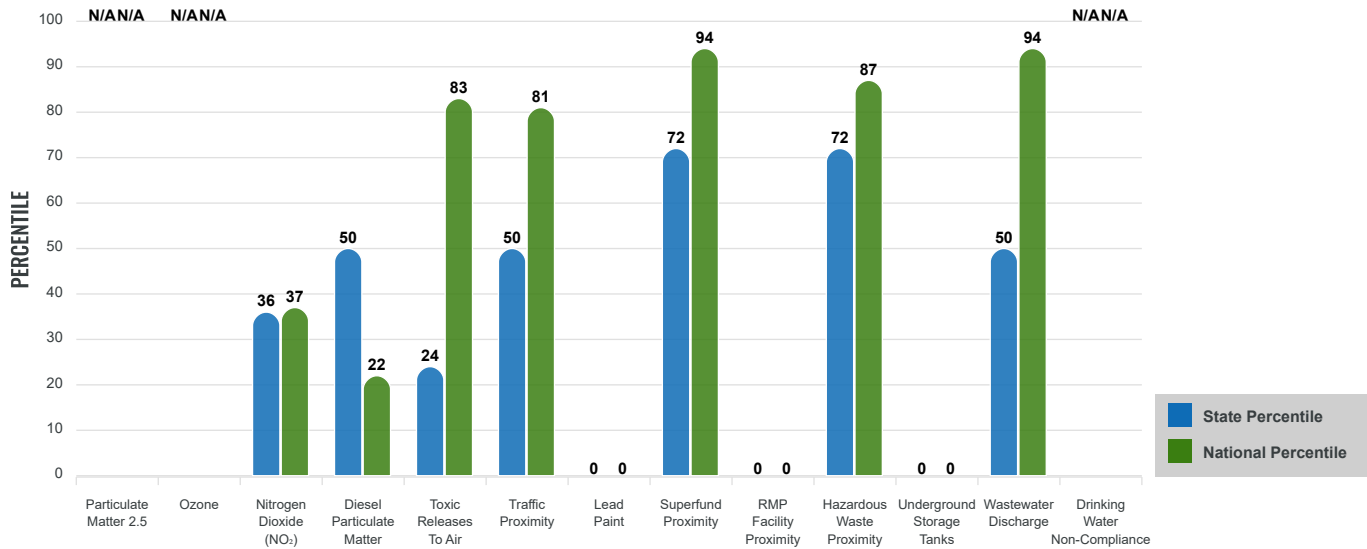
# Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the [EJScreen website](#).

## EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

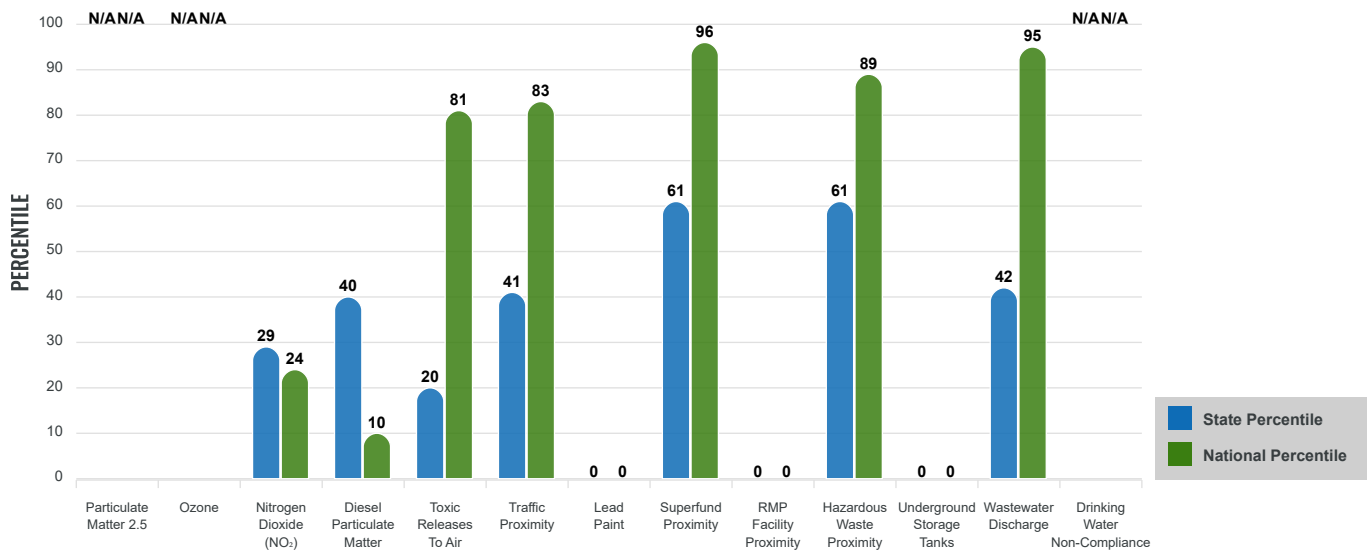
### EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



## SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed, and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.215622,-65.967281

# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN INDICATORS</b>					
Particulate Matter 2.5 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.45	N/A
Ozone (ppb)	N/A	N/A	N/A	41	N/A
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) (ppbv)	3.5	5.5	37	7.8	10
Diesel Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.0409	0.0618	52	0.191	5
Toxic Releases to Air (toxicity-weighted concentration)	390	4,300	24	4,600	42
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	670,000	1,100,000	51	1,700,000	45
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0	0.16	0	0.3	0
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.19	0.23	75	0.39	69
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0	0.66	0	0.57	0
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.6	1.2	72	3.5	54
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	0	0	0	3.6	0
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	490	670000	51	700000	69
Drinking Water Non-Compliance (points)	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.2	N/A
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS</b>					
Demographic Index USA	3.02	N/A	N/A	1.34	95
Supplemental Demographic Index USA	3.14	N/A	N/A	1.64	97
Demographic Index State	4.54	4.63	28	N/A	N/A
Supplemental Demographic Index State	2.06	2.72	15	N/A	N/A
People of Color	100%	97%	31	40%	98
Low Income	61%	70%	26	30%	89
Unemployment Rate	3%	14%	21	6%	41
Limited English Speaking Households	49%	66%	15	5%	98
Less Than High School Education	17%	20%	42	11%	76
Under Age 5	5%	3%	78	5%	56
Over Age 64	18%	23%	30	18%	57

\*Diesel particulate matter index is from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

**Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:**

Superfund .....	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities .....	0
Water Dischargers .....	1
Air Pollution .....	0
Brownfields .....	0
Toxic Release Inventory .....	0

**Other community features within defined area:**

Schools .....	0
Hospitals .....	0
Places of Worship .....	0

**Other environmental data:**

Air Non-attainment .....	No
Impaired Waters .....	Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands* .....	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community .....	Yes
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community .....	Yes

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.215622,-65.967281



## EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

### HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%	N/A
Heart Disease	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.8	N/A
Asthma	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.3	N/A
Cancer	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.4	N/A
Persons with Disabilities	13.7%	22.7%	10	13.7%	56

### CLIMATE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	N/A	N/A	N/A	12%	N/A
Wildfire Risk	N/A	N/A	N/A	14%	N/A

### CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	15%	29%	20	13%	66
Lack of Health Insurance	5%	7%	42	9%	40
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.215622,-65.967281  
 Report produced using EJScreen

## **Appendix 4: USFWS Informal Consultation Package and supporting documentation**



## 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/72129-Gen

Submitted Via Electronic Mail: [jcperez@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto: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: CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-01132 Aroma  
Flowers, San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated June 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) is proposing the purchase and installation of a solar panel system and farm equipment. The project will be located at State Road PR-181 Km 30.3 Int., Bo. Quebrada, Cachetes Sector (18°12'56.2"N 65°58'02.2"W) in the municipality of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico. Vegetation removal is not expected.

Using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, the PRDOH has determined that the proposed project site is located within the range of the Puerto Rican boa (*Epicrates inornatus* now known as *Chilabothrus inornatus*), Puerto Rican plain pigeon (*Patagioenas inornata wetmorei*) and guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*).

PRDOH used the Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) in the IPaC application to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on federally listed species (Project code: 2024-0100172). Based on the answers provided, a consistency letter was obtained for the Puerto Rican boa and guajón which determined that the proposed actions for this project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) these species. Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa will be implemented.

The Service acknowledges receipt of the NLAA DKey consistency letter for the Puerto Rican boa and guajón. The PRDOH specifies that the recommended conservation measures for the Puerto Rican boa will be implemented. For the guajón, the Service recommends PRDOH to implement the following conservation measures:

1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the guajón in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting must be conducted to inform all project personnel about the requirement of avoiding harm to the species. Take (e.g., capture and relocation) of the guajón is not authorized. All personnel will be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing species protected under the Endangered Species Act. An educational poster or sign with photos or illustrations of the species should be displayed at the project site.
2. Be advised that the designated critical habitat is not the entire range of the species; the guajón can be found in any boulder type habitat in streams, ravines or drainages, etc., within the occupied municipalities where the species is known to occur. Thus, if the species is detected outside of the designated critical habitat areas, it is still protected under the Endangered Species Act.
3. Project boundaries, buffer zones and areas to be excluded or protected must be clearly marked in the project plans and in the field, prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement.
4. Erosion and Sedimentation Control Best Management Practices (BMP's) must be included in the project scope of work when working within or adjacent to guajón habitat (e.g., rivers, streams, drainages, ravines, big boulder areas) to avoid or minimize erosion and sedimentation. Sediment runoff from the project can adversely affect the species and its habitat by filling the caves and crevices where the species occurs and uses to lay its eggs. As water is a very important component of the species' habitat, any stream, creek, or similar body of water with the habitat characteristics indicated above may harbor the species, hence it shall be protected to the maximum extent possible.
5. All project associated with streams, rivers, bridges, culverts, etc., must follow the *Post-Disaster Guidance for Repair, Replacement, and Clean-up Projects in Streams and Waterways of Puerto Rico from Hurricane María*. The guide is available at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/guidance-repair-replacement-and-clean-structures-streams-and-waterways-puerto-rico-and-us>
6. A before and after photographic record of the project area should be established. A record of all coquí guajón detections, including date, time, location, and approximate number of individuals should be established.
7. Projects must comply with all State laws and regulations.

As for the Puerto Rican plain pigeon, based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and existing habitat, PRDOH has determined that the proposed project actions will have no effect (NE) on this species due to the lack of suitable habitat.

We acknowledge receipt of your NE determination for the Puerto Rican plain pigeon. Currently, we do not have information to refute that determination. Because the PRDOH made a NE determination, the PRDOH is not required to conduct formal or informal section 7 consultation with the Service, and the Service is not required to concur with PRDOH's NE determination.

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](mailto:caribbean_es@fws.gov) or by phone at (786) 244-0081.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Mena  
Field Supervisor

drr

June 26, 2024

Robert Tawes  
Division Supervisor, Environmental Review  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
1875 Century Boulevard  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
email: robert\_tawes@fws.gov

***RE: Informal Consultation for Case PR-RGRW-01132 located at Carr 181 Km. 30.3 Interior Bo. Quebrada Sector Cachete, San Lorenzo, PR 00754.***

Dear Mr. Tawes:

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing is requiring informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project PR-RGRW-01132, located at coordinates for the irrigation system and concrete slab: latitude 18.215610, longitude -65.967289 on Carr 181 Km. 30.3 Interior Bo. Quebrada Sector Cachete, San Lorenzo, PR 00754, see Figure 1: Location Map and Figure 2: Topographic Map. The project is part of the Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (RGRW) that aims to increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security inland wide. This Program will enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities.

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01132 of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system and farm equipment. The farm equipment includes plastics for greenhouses roof, plastic for a nursery roof, 10 x 320 saran wrap, 20 x 275 saran wrap, 10 x 30 saran wrap, 5 Timers Apollo, 5 gallons of Superthrive, 5 Eco Plus pumps, fertilizer, calcium, magnesium, 15 boxes of PeatFoam, 40 boxes of plastics bags, insecticides, pH and ppm meters and a Trimmer Sthl Loop Handle. Agricultural equipment, including plastic wrap and saran wrap, will be used to repair the greenhouse roofs. The greenhouses measure 32 by 82 feet and 12 by 20 feet, with repairs that do not involve any ground disturbance. The solar panel system consists of 24 panels and 8 ferrous lithium batteries, which will be distributed between two existing structures. One structure is a prefab metal storage, measuring approximately 10 by 30 feet. The other structure is approximately 15 feet long and made of concrete and has a zinc roof. The concrete structure will have its cement floor extended by 3 feet to the southeast and 3 feet to the northwest, so will require ground disturbance. The applicant will cover the cost of the cement floor extension. The solar panel system also includes the installation of a charge controller. The property already has PRASA water service, so no new water or electricity connection will be necessary for the proposed project. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined as the area potentially impacted by ground disturbing activities related to the installation of the greenhouses and solar panel system, see Figure 3: Area of Potential Effect.

**Existing Conditions and Trends:**

The proposed project parcel 252-000-003-01-000 is designated as Not Prime Farmland, See Figure 4: Farmland Protection Map. The project area is located in the mountainous area of San Lorenzo. The area where the solar panel system and farm equipment will be placed has a flat topography, refer to Photos 1 to 4. The soil in this area has been classified as Caguabo clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes (CaF). The general area has been used for agricultural purposes since approximately 1994 and the proposed project will not change the land use associated with these placements. The closer Final Critical Habitat is located 56,936 feet from the project location, see Figure 5: Critical Habitats Map. There are no wetlands in or near the proposed project, see Figure 6: Wetlands Map.

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

Name of species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate
<b>Reptiles</b>	
Puerto Rican boa ( <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> )	Endangered
<b>Birds</b>	
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon ( <i>Patagioenas inornata wetmorei</i> )	Endangered
<b>Amphibians</b>	
Guajon ( <i>Eleutherodactylus cooki</i> )	Threatened
<b>Critical Habitat</b>	
There are no critical habitats within the project area.	

The nature of the project, scope of work, information available, a careful analysis of the IpaC, the Puerto Rico Boa conservation measures, the Caribbean Dkey dated June 5, 2024, in the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s online IPaC application, and the observations during the field visit, were used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on that information and the answer inputted into the Dkey, it was determined that the proposed action will have “*May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect*” (NLAA) determination on the Puerto Rican Boa and the guajon, see Exhibit B. Based on the location of the project and habitat evaluation it was determined that the proposed action will have *No Effect* for the Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon due to lack of suitable habitat. Vegetation removal will not be necessary for the proposed project.

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will be implemented
Puerto Rican boa ( <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> )	May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024
Guajon ( <i>Eleutherodactylus cooki</i> )	May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	No conservation measures

Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon ( <i>Patagioenas inornata wetmorei</i> )	No Effect	No conservation measures
<b>Critical Habitats</b>		
There are no critical habitats within the project area.		

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determination for the Puerto Rican Boa. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species. Should you require any additional information, please contact Allison Cullett at [allison.cullett@horne.com](mailto:allison.cullett@horne.com).



**References:**

**Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*)**

Species Profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628>

USFWS Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures

**Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (*Patagioenas inornata wetmorei*)**

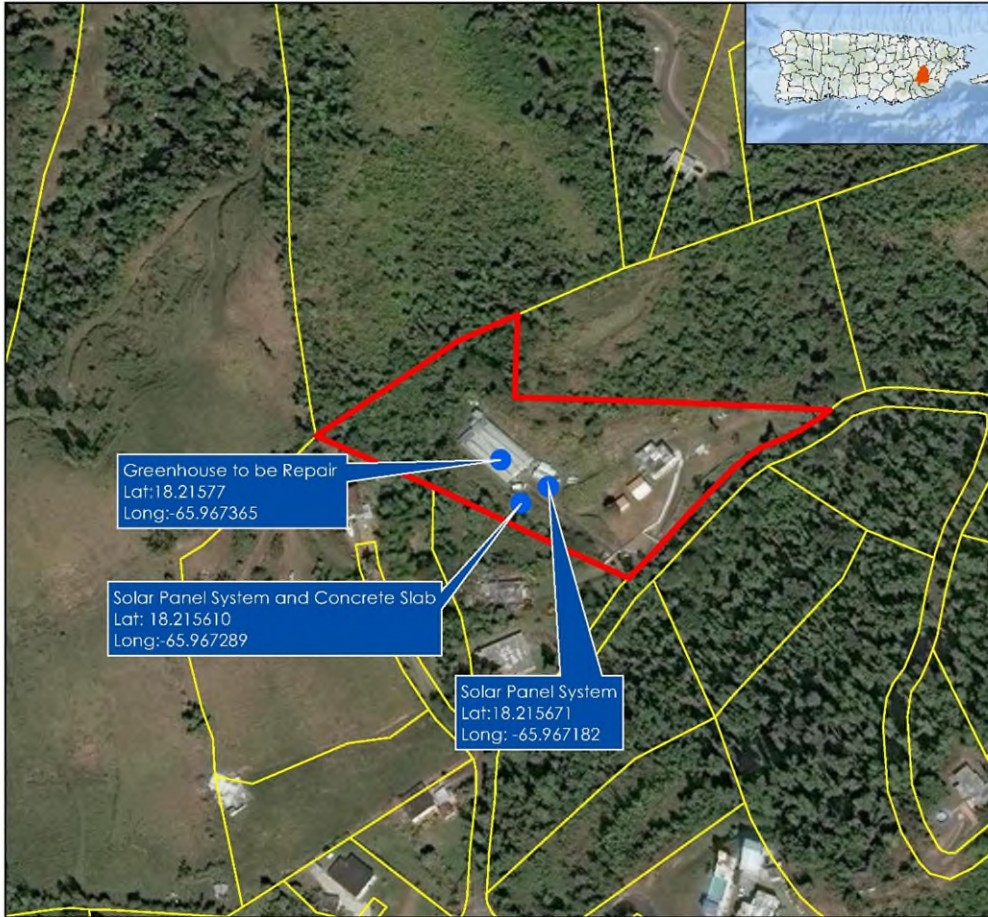
Species Profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7955>

**Guajon (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*)**

Species Profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6963>

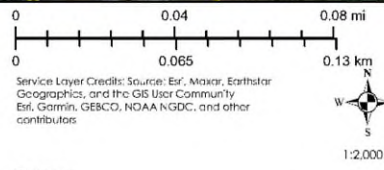
## **Exhibit A: Figures**

**Location Aerial Map**  
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132 Structures
- Parcel\_01132
- CRIM Parcels



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

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

Figure 1: PR-RGRW-01132 Location Map

### Location USGS Topographic Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

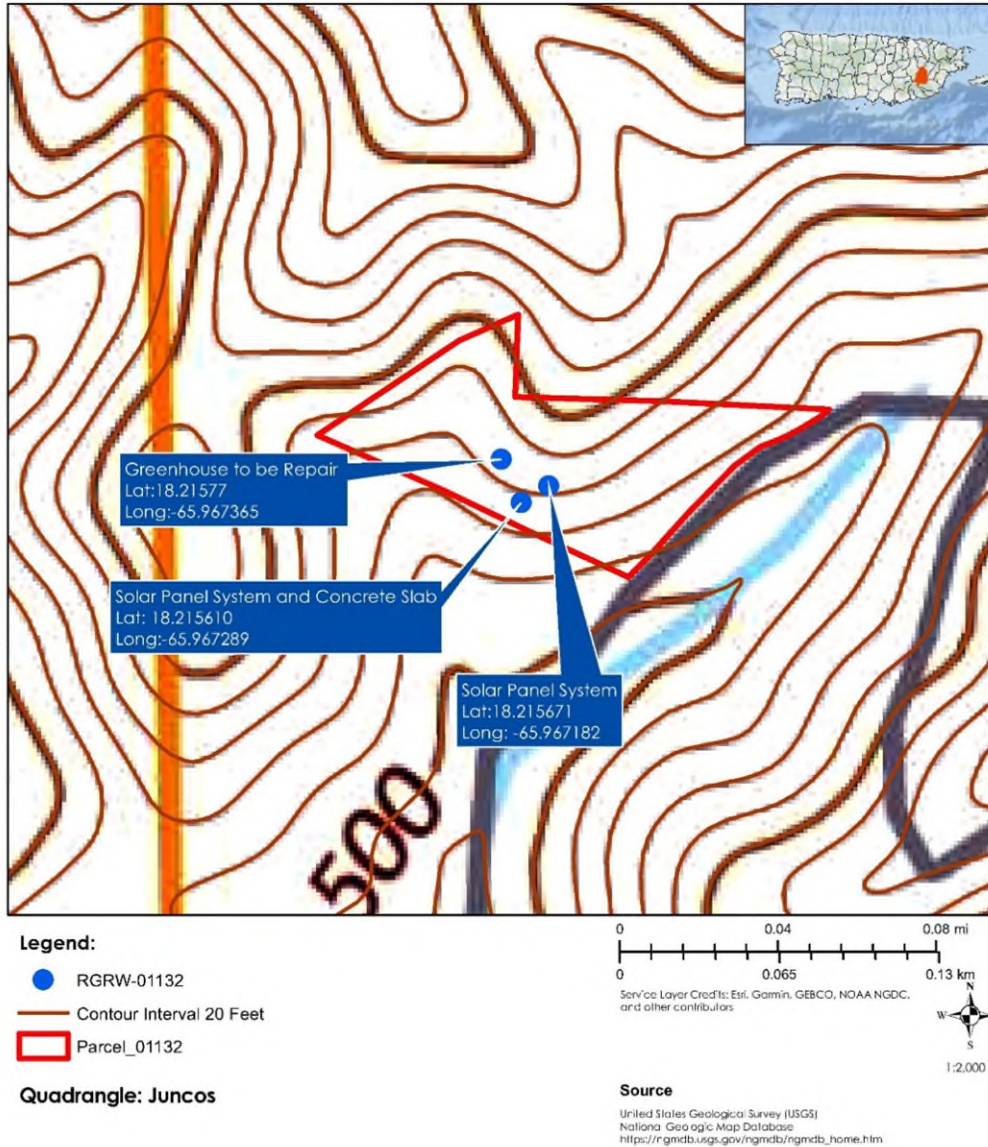


Figure 2: PR-RGRW-01132 Topographic Map

**Area of Potential Effect**  
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



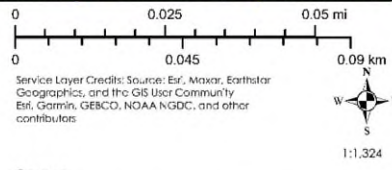
Greenhouse to be Repair  
Lat: 18.21577  
Long: 65.967365

Solar Panel System and Concrete Slab  
Lat: 18.215610  
Long: 65.967289

Solar Panel System  
Lat: 18.215671  
Long: 65.967182

**Legend:**

- Area of Potential Effect 15mt
- Structures-01132
- Parcel\_01132
- CRIM Parcels

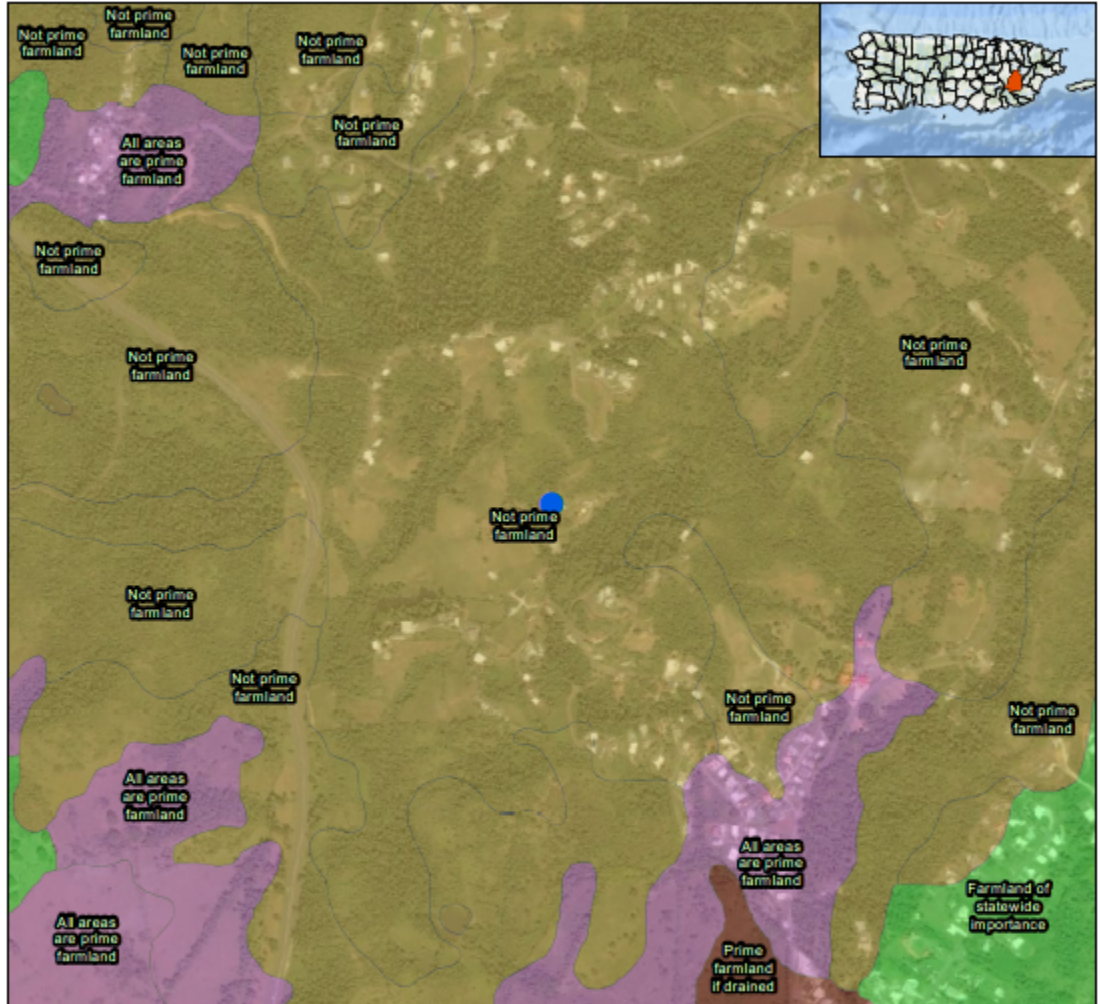


**Source**  
Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM)  
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cadprpc/>

Figure 3: PR-RGRW-01132 Area of Potential Effect Map

# Farmland Protection

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

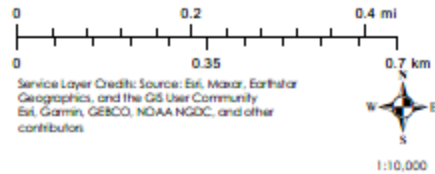


**Legend:**

● RGRW-01132

**Farm Class**

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Not prime farmland
- Prime farmland if drained



**Source**  
National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Gridded Soil Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO)  
<https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/soil-survey-geographic-database-gsurg>

Figure 4: PR-RGRW-01132 Farmland Protection Map

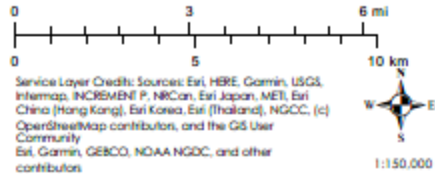
# Threatened & Endangered Species

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



**Legend:**

- RGRW-01132
- Critical Habitat



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

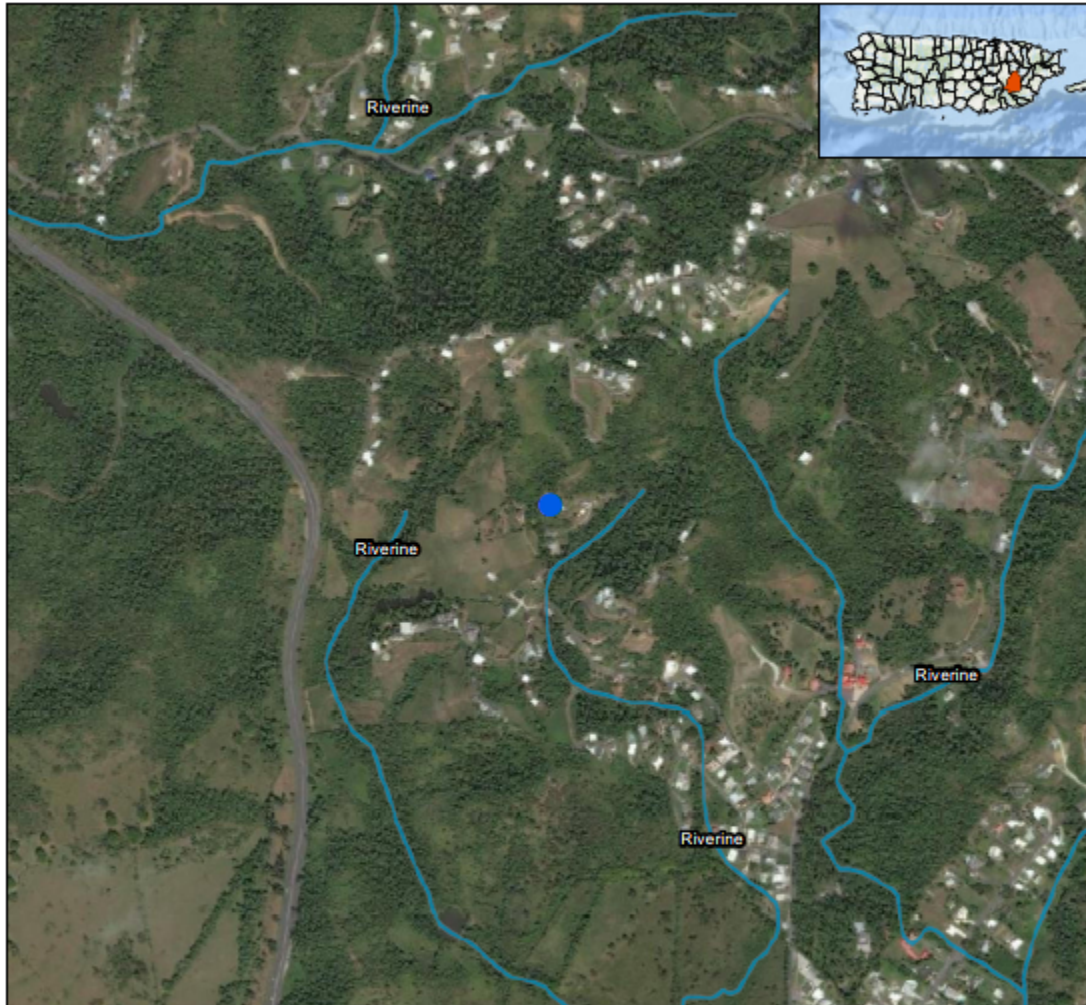
**Source**  
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration  
<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>

Figure 5: PR-RGRW-01132 Critical Habitats Map

# Wetlands Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Aroma Growers LLC  
Carr 181, Km 30.3 Interior,  
Bo. Quebrada, Sector Cachele  
San Lorenzo, PR 00778  
Núm. Castastro: 252-000-003-01-000  
Lat.: 18.215610, Long: -65.967289

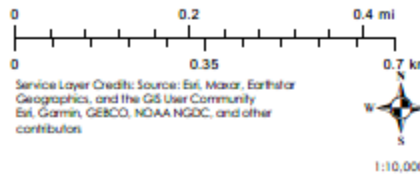


**Legend:**

● RGRW-01132

**National Wetlands Inventory**

■ Riverine



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

**Source**

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

Figure 6: PR-RGRW-01132 Wetlands Map



**Exhibit B: Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)**



## 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](mailto:CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV)

In Reply Refer To:  
Project Code: 2024-0100172  
Project Name: PR-RGRW-01132

06/05/2024 20:12:53 UTC

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](mailto: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](mailto:caribbean_es@fws.gov)

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(786) 244-0081

Attachment(s):

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

## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

**Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office**

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(939) 320-3135

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0100172

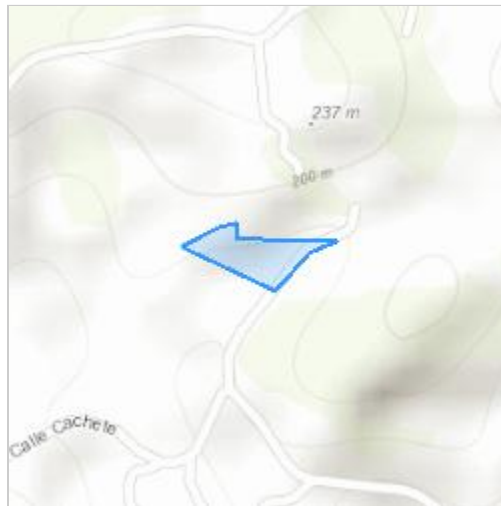
Project Name: PR-RGRW-01132

Project Type: Federal Grant / Loan Related

Project Description: The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of solar panels and purchase of farm equipment to repair an existing greenhouse. A new concrete pad will be installed for the installation of the solar panels.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2157543,-65.9671109705313,14z>



Counties: San Lorenzo County, Puerto Rico

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

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

**BIRDS**

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon <i>Patagioenas inornata wetmorei</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7955">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7955</a>	Endangered

**REPTILES**

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TLYQ5KIJORDTTCZDRMVE6FS5SY/documents/generated/7159.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TLYQ5KIJORDTTCZDRMVE6FS5SY/documents/generated/7159.pdf</a>	Endangered

**AMPHIBIANS**

NAME	STATUS
Guajon <i>Eleutherodactylus cooki</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6963">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6963</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TLYQ5KIJORDTTCZDRMVE6FS5SY/documents/generated/7136.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TLYQ5KIJORDTTCZDRMVE6FS5SY/documents/generated/7136.pdf</a>	Threatened

**CRITICAL HABITATS**

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

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

**USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES**

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

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

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>1</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, 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 Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats<sup>3</sup> should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

---

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

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

## WETLANDS

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

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



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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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



## 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](mailto:CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV)

In Reply Refer To:  
Project code: 2024-0100172  
Project Name: PR-RGRW-01132

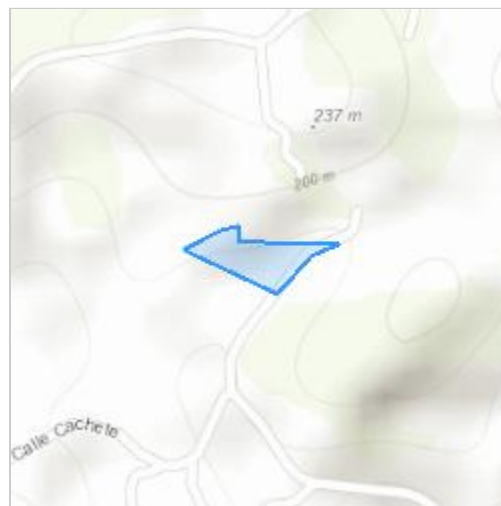
06/05/2024 20:24:33 UTC

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-01132' for specified threatened and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to the IPaC determination key titled Caribbean Determination Key (DKey).

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the assisted evaluation keys in IPaC. This letter is provided pursuant to the Service's authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.). On June 05, 2024, Egon Gonzalez used the Caribbean DKey; dated April 03, 2024, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online [IPaC application](#) to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-01132'. The project is located in San Lorenzo County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2157543,-65.9671109705313,14z>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01132':

The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of solar panels and purchase of farm equipment to repair an existing greenhouse. A new concrete pad will be installed for the installation of the solar panels.

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

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Guajon ( <i>Eleutherodactylus cooki</i> )	Threatened	NLAA
Puerto Rican Boa ( <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> )	Endangered	NLAA

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

Please provide this consistency letter to the lead federal action agency or its designated non-federal representative with a request for its review, and as the agency deems appropriate, to submit for concurrence verification through the IPaC system. The lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative should log into IPaC using their agency email account and click "Search by record locator." They will need to enter the record locator **991-144440634**

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

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

- Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon *Patagioenas inornata wetmorei* Endangered

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

We appreciate your interest in protecting endangered species and their habitats. It is the Service's mission to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of our people. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office at Caribbean\_es@fws.gov.

**Action Description**

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

**1. Name**

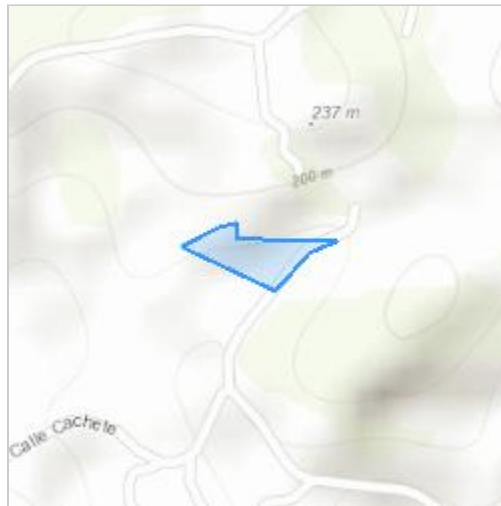
PR-RGRW-01132

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01132':

The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of solar panels and purchase of farm equipment to repair an existing greenhouse. A new concrete pad will be installed for the installation of the solar panels.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2157543,-65.9671109705313,14z>



## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

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

*No*

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

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

*No*

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

*No*

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

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

*No*

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

*No*

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

*No*

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

*No*

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

*No*

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

*No*

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

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

*No*

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

*Yes*

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

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

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

*Yes*

14. Does the proposed project intersect the Coquí Guajón area of influence?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

15. Will the proposed project involve the installation of retaining walls or gabions?

*No*

16. Will the proposed project implement the USFWS Conservation Measures for the Coquí Guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*)?

*Yes*

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

*No*

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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



**Exhibit C: Field Visit Photos**



**Photo #:**1

**Description (include direction):** Area where the greenhouse will be repair, looking northwest.

**Date:** June 4, 2024



**Photo #:**2

**Description (include direction):** Area where the solar panel system will be installed, looking southeast.

**Date:** June 4, 2024



**Photo #:3**

**Date: June 4, 2024**

**Description (include direction): Area where the solar panel system and concrete slab will be installed, looking southeast.**



**Photo #:4**

**Date: June 4, 2024**

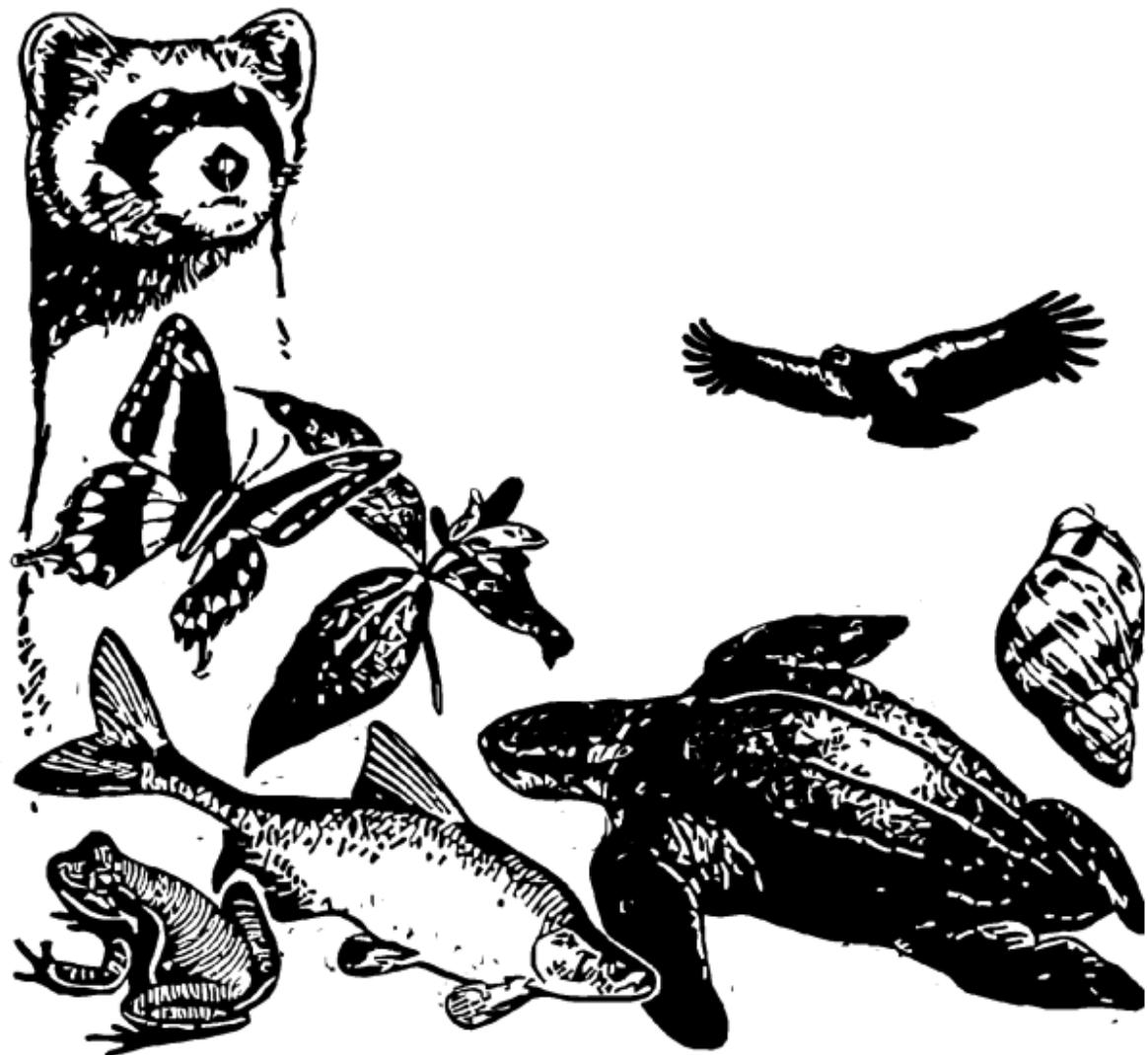
**Description (include direction): Area where the concrete slab will be installed, looking southeast.**

# Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

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## *Puerto Rican Boa*

Generated August 08, 2024 06:39 PM UTC, IPaC v6.113.1-rc4





## 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 #: (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](mailto:jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov)
  - Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
  - Email: [jan\\_zegarra@fws.gov](mailto:jan_zegarra@fws.gov)
  - Office phone (786) 933-1451

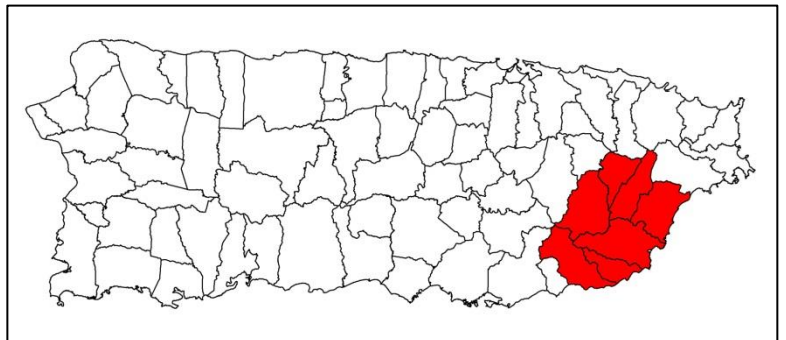


## U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

### Conservation Measures for the Coquí Guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as Federal approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Coquí guajón destroy its eggs, and/or modify its critical habitat is subject to penalties under Federal law. If federal funds or permits are needed, the funding or permitting agency shall 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. Download the [project evaluations fact sheet](#) to learn more about the requirements or visit our [project evaluations webpage](#).

The coquí guajón is a relatively large species within the coqui frog family, reaching approximately 3 inches in length with females being larger than males. The species is considered mostly nocturnal, but can also be heard calling during daylight hours and late afternoon. This coquí was federally listed as threatened in 1997 and is only known to occur in southeastern Puerto Rico in the Municipalities of Yabucoa, San Lorenzo, Patillas, Humacao, Las Piedras, Juncos, and Maunabo (shaded area in map below). You may find more information on this species including a recording of its call here: <http://www.proyectocoqui.com/portfolio/coqui-guajon/#.XHginlW6PIV>, and educational materials including a printable poster here: <https://www.coquiguajon.org/materiales-educativos>.



The coquí guajón utilizes large to small caves and crevices formed by different sized granite boulders within rocky streams. This type of habitat is commonly known as *guajonal*. The species also has been detected using road culverts and adjacent to Puerto Rico's sewer and aqueduct water



facilities. Projects that occur upstream or upland where the species occurs may also impact its habitat further downstream.

Critical habitat has been designated in each of the municipalities mentioned above, all within private lands. The enclosed link describes and illustrates all of the 17 designated critical habitats for this species: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2006-10-05/pdf/06-8482.pdf>. You may also download spatial data for these critical habitats by searching here: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html>.

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

#### Conservation Measures:

1. Confirm the presence/absence of the species at the project site. The most effective way to do this is to identify the guajón's call during the late afternoon or night. You may contact the Service for recommendations on how and when to do this.
2. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the coquí guajón 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 this species. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
3. Proposed activities should avoid adversely affecting any of the 17 critical habitat units or any other occupied guajón habitat.
4. Be advised that the designated critical habitat is not the entire range of the species; the species can be found in any boulder type habitat in streams, ravines or drainages within the above referenced Municipalities. If the species is detected outside of the designated critical habitat areas, it is still protected under the Endangered Species Act.
5. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement, the boundaries of the project area, the buffer zones, and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field.
6. It is important to implement proper erosion and sedimentation control measures when working within or adjacent to coqui guajón habitat. Sediment runoff can adversely impact the species and its habitat by filling the caves and crevices where the species occurs and uses to lay its eggs. As water is a very important component of the species' habitat, any stream, creek, or similar body of water with the habitat characteristics indicated above may harbor the species, hence it should be protected to the maximum extent possible.
7. Areas that can be impacted by construction or any other activity would potentially require the relocation of frogs and consultation with the Service for such action is required. If

relocation is proposed, a capture and relocation protocol should be developed and sent to the Service for evaluation before the project starts. Capture and relocation of frogs should be conducted only by qualified personnel avoiding harming, injury or killing individuals.

8. A before and after photographic record of the project area should be established. In addition, a record of all coquí guajón detections, including date, time, location, and approximate number of individuals should be established.
9. Projects must comply with all State laws and regulations. Also, contact PRDNER for further guidance.

If you have any questions regarding the comments above, please contact the Service Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

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