## Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects 24 CFR Part 58

## **Project Information**

Project ID: PR-RGRW-01801

Project Name: FINCA REMEDIO

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico / Utuado, PR

Preparer: Patricia Carmenatty

**Certifying Officer Name and Title:** Permit and Environmental Compliance Officer: Pedro A. de León Rodriguez.

Consultant: Behar Ybarra & Associates LLC

**Direct Comments to:** Puerto Rico Department of Housing: (<u>environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov</u>)

### **Project Location:**

Carr 123 km 48.3 Int. Barrio Altos de Arena, Utuado, PR 00641

Warehouse location: latitude 18.219915, longitude -66.704197

Cistern location: latitude 18.2202, longitude -66.703804

Solar panels location: latitude 18.220006, longitude -66.704072

Parcel cadastral # 214-000-009-55

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

The proposed project for PR-RGRW-01801, consist of the purchase of UTV, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels. The water cistern will be installed on bare soil on higher ground that will provide the necessary pressure to carry water downstream. The water cistern will collect water from the existing spring. A franchise from the Puerto Rico Department of

Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) is required to be obtained to pull water from a spring. The solar panels will be installed on top of an existing wood and zinc structure. The installation of the warehouse will be on top of a concrete slab that will require ground disturbance. The proposed warehouse and the existing wood and zinc structure will use solar light from the solar panels and water from an existing spring located on the property. A new electric transfer panel will be installed on the existing structure. All utility connections will be above ground or overhead with the exception of a small area near the structure and the warehouse where the water line will be buried 6 inches to protect it from the passage of vehicles. Approximately 80 feet of this pipeline will be buried from the existing structure and the proposed warehouse running down the west side of the structure. The applicant proposes an agroecological project with various products such as cocoa, kale, and various types of fruit trees. The project area is located at PR-123 km. 48.3 Int. Barrio Altos de Arena within the Municipality of Utuado. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been used for agricultural purposes for the past 5 years.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined as the area potentially impacted by ground disturbing activities related to the installation of the warehouse and water cistern.

A site Map is included in Figure 1, illustrating the location of the warehouse, water cistern and solar panels on the property. Photos of the locations are included in the Section 106 documentation, Appendix 1.

**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 inland 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 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels is in keeping with the overall objectives of the Economic Development Program.

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

The existing area for the proposed warehouse placement is used for agricultural purposes. The property has a hilly topography and visibility despite the vegetation is good. The installation of the warehouse will be on top of a concrete slab and the water cistern will be installed on bare soil and higher ground. The solar panels will be installed on top of an existing wood and zinc structure. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with these greenhouse placements.

## **Funding Information**

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

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$50,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$50,000.00.

### 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.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	This project consists only of the purchase and installation of a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels and will have no impact on any Airports. The site is located 91,076 feet from the nearest major civil airport (Mercedita International Airport in Ponce) and 255,532 feet from nearest the military airport (Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan). The project is in compliance with the HUD's Airport Hazard regulations without further evaluation. See the attached Airport map Runway Protection Zone, Figure 2.

<b>Coastal Barrier Resources</b> Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes	No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. The project is located 84,755 feet northeast of the nearest Coastal Barrier Resource System, PR-58P. 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.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes	No	The project is located in a Zone X, Panel 72000C1080H, 4/19/2005 on the FEMA FIRM. The project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance. See attached Flood Map, Figure 4 and Figure 4.1.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND RE	GULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes	No	This project consists only of the purchase and installation of a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels for an agricultural site and 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.
<b>Coastal Zone Management</b> Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes	No	The project is located 76,163 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 a new construction. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone

		Management Act. See the attached CZMA map, Figure 5.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)	Yes No	This project consists of the purchase and installation of a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels for an agricultural project. 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. There are no sites of environmental concern identified within 3,000 feet from the project site. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances
		requirements. See attached Toxics Map, Figure 6.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	This project will have No Effect on listed species due to the nature of the activities involved in the project. The project is 32,403 feet from the nearest final endangered species critical habitat. In the Project area according to the IPaC the broad-winged hawk, PR parrot and PR boa could be found (see attached Appendix 3). The scope of work includes continued agricultural use of the property with no intention to cut down trees because the warehouse and the water cistern will be installed over a space that has been cleared and maintained that way for agricultural purposes. Additionally, the project has no critical habitats in the area. 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. <u>https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/guidelin</u> <u>e/design/population/156/office/41430.p</u> <u>df</u> This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. See attached Endangered Species map, Figure 7.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No	This project consists only of the purchase and installation of a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels and does not include development, construction or rehabilitation that will increase residential density. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use. All areas under the project site are not prime farmland. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act. See the attached Farmlands map, Figure 8.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes No	The project is located in a Zone X, Panel, 72000C1080H, 4/19/2005 (Figure 4). The site is not located in a Preliminary Firm or an Advisory Base Flood Elevation special flood hazard area. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. See attached Flood Map (Figure 9).
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	The site was visited on June 20, 2023, by SOI-qualified archaeologist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE has been defined as the area potentially affected by ground-disturbing activities related to

		the warehouse and water cistern facility. Documentation with photographs and maps was subsequently submitted to SHPO (attached Appendix 1). In a response from PR SHPO dated August 18, 2023, 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.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No	This project consists only of the purchase and installation of a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels 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. The Project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulations.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No	There are no EPA sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifers without further evaluation.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No	There is an unnamed creek located 100 feet from where the warehouse will be. However, for the installation of the warehouse the only ground disturbance will be anchored to the concrete slab and the project does not require draining, dredging, channelizing, filling, diking, impounding or related activities

		on or near the wetland area. Therefore, no wetland will be affected by the project undertaking. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. See the attached Wetlands map, Figure 11.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 318,799 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. See Map, Figure 12.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		•
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes No	Based on the scope of work for this project, there were no findings in this review that indicate an adverse impact on sensitive populations. This proposed activity will not have a negative impact on Environmental Justice. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898.

**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	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOP	MENT	
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The proposed action is continued agricultural use of property which is compatible with a zoning code of CR (Resource Conservation) and existing land use is SREP-A (Specially Protected Rustic Soil - Agricultural) There is no urban design associated with this rural, agricultural site.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	The soil is currently being used for agriculture purposes. The soil in the area has been classified as Lirios clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded (LcF2). This soil is deep, very steep, and well drained. It is on the side slopes and narrow ridgetops of uplands. Lirios soils formed in fine textured and moderately fine residuum from plutonic rocks. There is no change in land use since the land will continue to be used to agriculture purposes. The landslide data indicates high to extremely high landslide susceptibility. However, no erosion is expected to occur from this project. The project will not affect the drainage in the area. There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project. See Landslide Susceptibility Map, Figure 13.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	There are no specific environmental hazards that have been identified for this site. The site is not in a high Noise Level area, nor will the project generate any additional noise. Additionally, the project does not include housing or such to where inhabitants would be affected.
Energy Consumption	2	The project is the purchase and installation of a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels on an existing agricultural farm. The power will be provided by solar light from the solar panels and will be installed on top of an existing wood and zinc structure.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONON	NIC	
Employment and Income Patterns	2	The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on Employment and Income Patterns. However, since the project will include an economic component, it may aid in restoring some employment opportunities and income patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The proposed project will not alter the demographic characteristics of Utuado, PR. The applicant is already located at this location and the project will provide opportunities for the continuous agricultural growth of the business.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FA	CILITIES A	ND SERVICES
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels for an agricultural site and will have no impact on educational and cultural facilities.
Commercial Facilities	2	The proposed project may aid in restoring the demand for local commercial services; 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 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Health Care and Social Services.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The proposed project 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 collected for transport to the local landfill.
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The purchase and installation of the warehouse and water cistern is not expected to result in changes in wastewater or sanitary sewer generation. The closest residence is 400 feet from the proposed location. The proposed project will have no impact on Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers.
Water Supply	2	The proposed project will not require an additional water supply. No new connections will be provided for potable water. The water cistern will collect water from the existing spring. A franchise from the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) is required to be obtained to pull water from a spring. Therefore, the proposed project 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 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Public Safety.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The proposed project 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 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels for an agricultural site and will have no impact on transportation and accessibility.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		

Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The proposed project will be situated on previous agriculture property and will have no impact to unique natural features or water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The proposed project will occur on land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. There may be wildlife attracted to the warehouse or water cistern but no negative impact on wildlife.
Climate Change	2	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.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by): June 20, 2023, Jaqueline Lopez, SOI-Qualified Archaeologist

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

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, Puerto Rico map. www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Locator/PR.pdf

National Park Service, National Registry of Natural Landmarks. 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: <u>www.rivers.gov/puerto-rico.php</u>

Puerto Rico Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan, July 2018. <u>www.cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/action-plan/</u>

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: <u>http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=9100UR51.txt</u> US Environmental Protection Agency, National Ambient Air Quality Standards, Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants (Green Book): <a href="https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo\_pr.html">www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo\_pr.html</a>

US EPA, Environmental Topics, Air Topics: <u>www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics</u>

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

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

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

US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory: <u>www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html</u> (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, <u>https://doi:10.5066/F7JD4VRF</u>

### List of Permits Obtained: None required.

**Public Outreach** [24 CFR 58.43]: 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 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels 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 new warehouse, water cistern and solar panels. However, other locations may result in tree clearing prior to construction and/or need to fill in some steep area. With this "alternative" it would require a bigger impact on the environment .Also, a provision of the grant allows for economic development for businesses and will allow the applicant to have security of availability about the water and electricity services.

### 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 10 x 10 feet warehouse, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, purchase of UTV, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels 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 the economic development for this applicant.

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

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure		
	The Applicant must obtain a franchise granted by the DNER prior the cistern installation.		

#### Determination:

$\boxtimes$	Finding of No Significant	Impact	[24 CFR	58.40(g)(1);	40 CFR	1508.27]
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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.

	PS		
Preparer Signature:		Date:	9/52023

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

		1		
Certifying Officer Signature:	fah +	t. de	hi	_Date: <u>9/11/2023</u>

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

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).



Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects24 CFR Part 58

**Figures** 

#### Application ID: PR-RGRW-01801

FINCA REMEDIO Carr 123 km 48.3 Int. Barrio Altos de Arena Utuado, PR 00641 Catastro: 214-000-009-55 Lat: See List Below, Lon: See List Below



#### Legend



PR-RGRW-01801

PR-RGRW-01801 Parcel

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

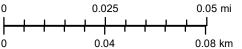
Location: Aerial Map

Figure 1

an. P.R. 00920 Tel.(787)

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

CRIM Parcels



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth



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



## Figure 2 PR-RGRW-01801 Airports



Clear Zone APZ 1

APZ 2

- **USA Civil Airports**
- PR-RGRW-01801



**Runway Protection Zones** Major Civil and Military Airports

#### Source

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

BYA Earthstar Geographics | Google Earth Image 2021 @ Maxar Technologies; @ Image 2021 CNES/Airbus | GoogleEarth | USGS National Map 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). May 16, 2023. | FEMA |



Figure 3 PR-RGRW-01801 CBRS

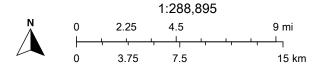


6/19/2023, 3:28:48 PM

### **CBRS** Units



- System Unit
  - PR-RGRW-01801



#### Source

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

# National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

Figure 4



### Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT PR-RGRW-01801 Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A. V. A9 FINCA REMEDIO With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR SPECIAL FLOOD Carr 123 km 48.3 Int. HAZARD AREAS **Regulatory Floodway** Barrio Altos de Arena Utuado, PR 00641 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average Catastro: 214-000-009-55 depth less than one foot or with drainage Lat: 18.219915, Lon: -66.704197 areas of less than one square mile Zone X Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X Effective LOMRs OTHER AREAS Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D - — – – Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer GENERAL STRUCTURES LIIII Levee, Dike, or Floodwall 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance 17.5 Water Surface Elevation **Coastal Transect** Mase Flood Elevation Line (BFE) Limit of Study Jurisdiction Boundary **Coastal Transect Baseline** OTHER **Profile Baseline** FEATURES Hydrographic Feature **Digital Data Available** No Digital Data Available MAP PANELS Unmapped The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location. This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 8/29/2023 at 12:25 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or

> This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

become superseded by new data over time.

Puerto Rico Unfincorporated Areas Municipio de Utuado 720000

> 72000C1080H eff. 4/19/2005

AREAOFMINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD

PuertoRicoUnincorporatedAreas MunicipiodeAdjuntas 720000

1.500

∎<sup>Feet</sup> 1:6,000

2.000

Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map 2023

66°41'56"W 18°12'55"N

0 250

66°42'33"W 18°13'29"N

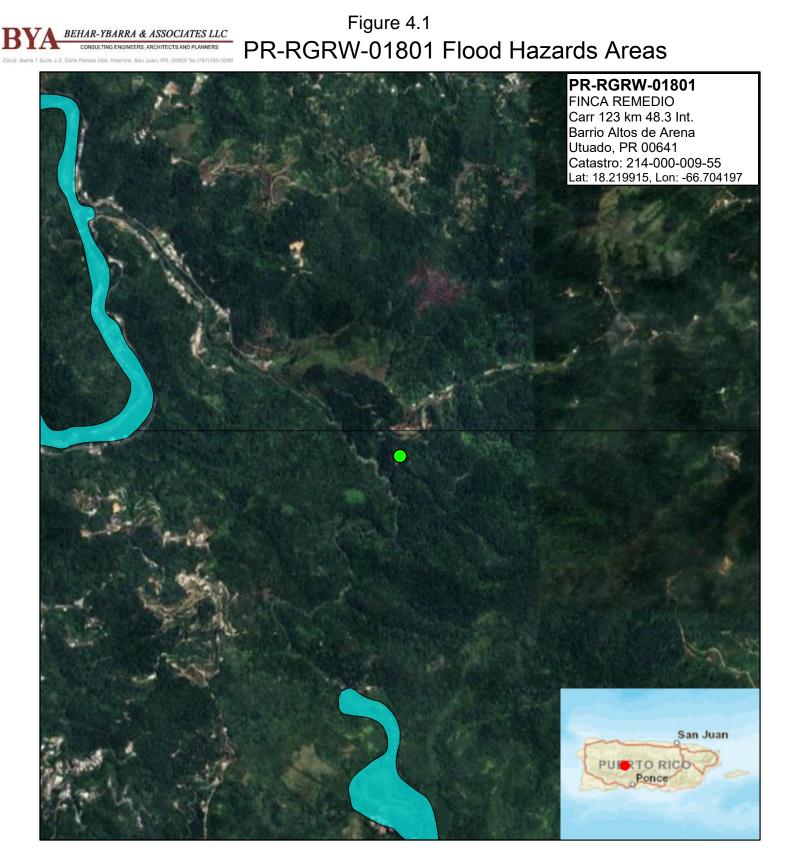
BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC

ONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

1,000

500

1,50



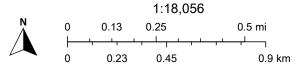
8/29/2023, 12:31:51 PM

FEMA\_FIRM - FEMA\_FLOOD\_HAZARD\_AREAS

Special Flood Hazard Areas

Other Areas



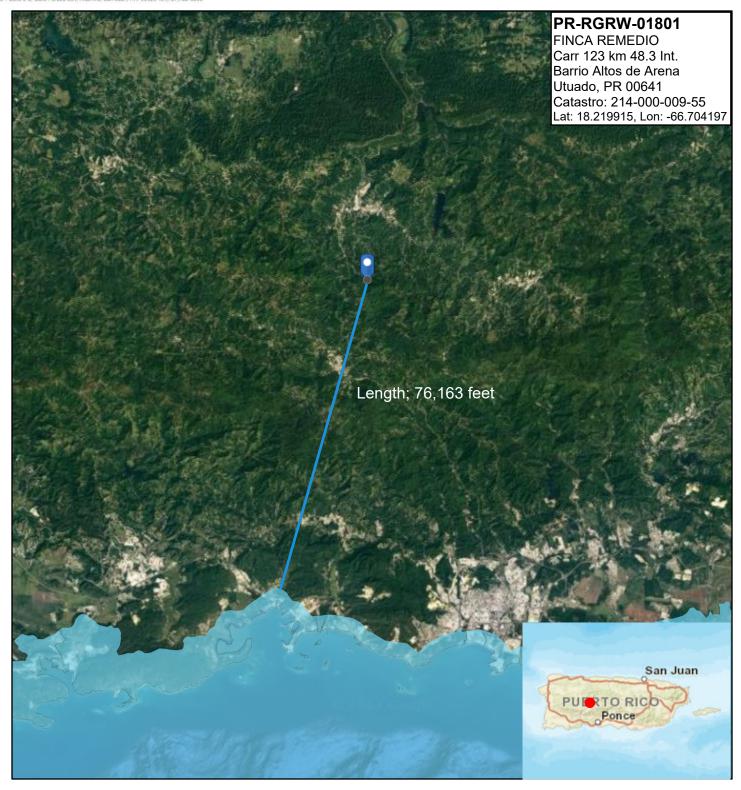


Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer



## Figure 5 PR-RGRW-01801 CZM

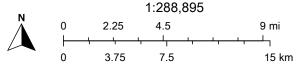


6/19/2023, 3:35:37 PM

**Coastal Zone Management** 



PR-RGRW-01801

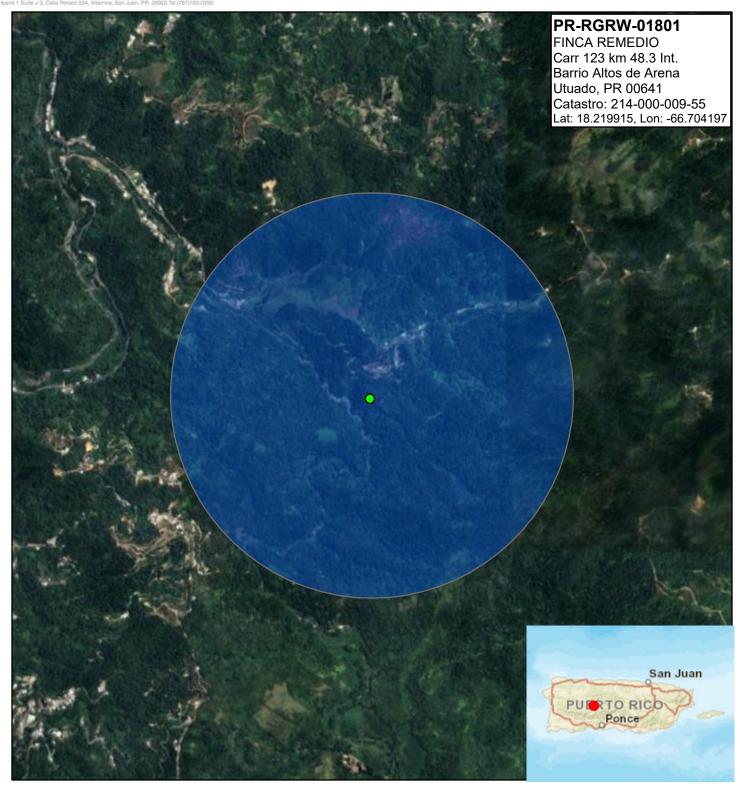


#### Source

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NOAA Office for Coastal Management (NOAA/OCM) https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/53132



Figure 6 PR-RGRW-01801 Toxic

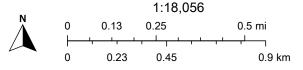


6/19/2023, 3:44:07 PM

3000ft Buffer



PR-RGRW-01801



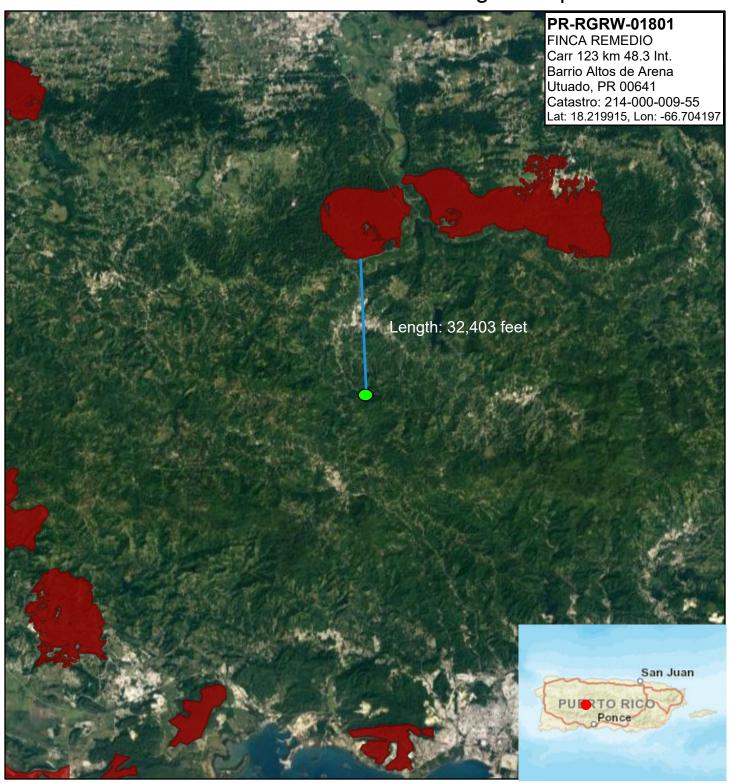
#### Source

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Facility Registry Service (FRS) https://www.epa.gov/frs

BYA



Figure 7 PR-RGRW-01801 Endangered Species

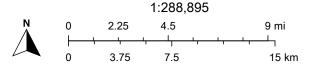


6/19/2023, 3:54:00 PM

USFWS Critical Habitat - Final



PR-RGRW-01801

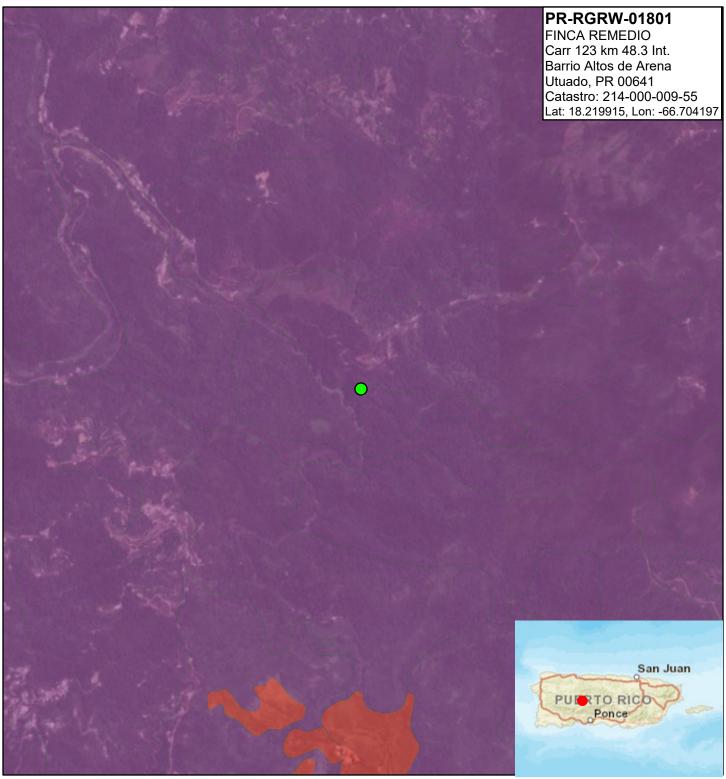


Source

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/



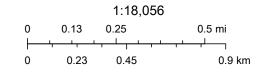
## Figure 8 PR-RGRW-01801 Farmland



6/19/2023, 4:05:41 PM Farmland Protection All areas are prime farmland Farmland of statewide importance Not prime farmland

PR-RGRW-01801



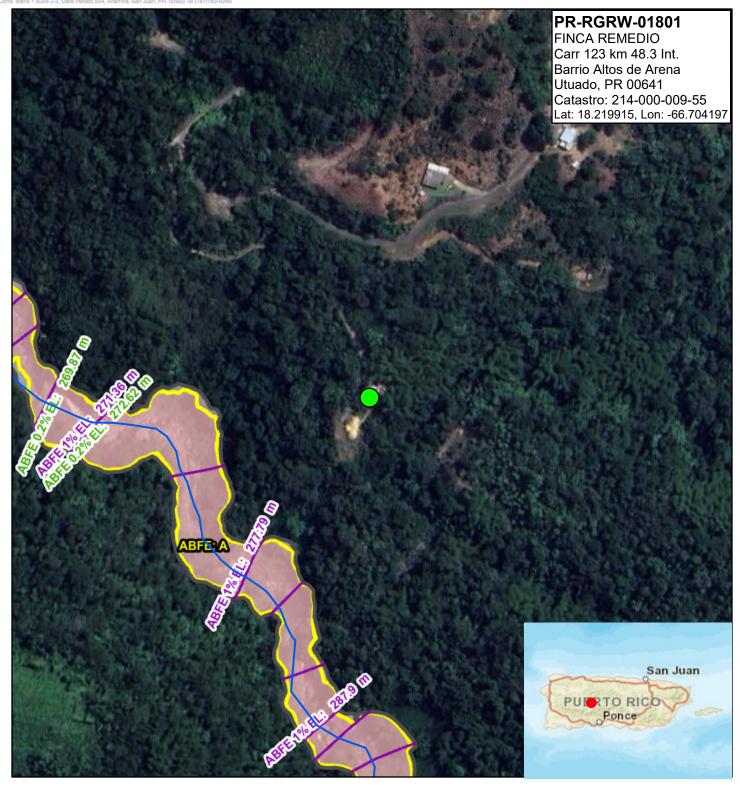


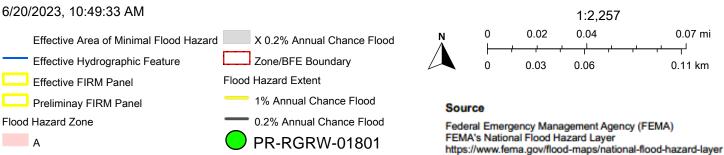
#### Source

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



## Figure 9 PR-RGRW-01081 ABFE

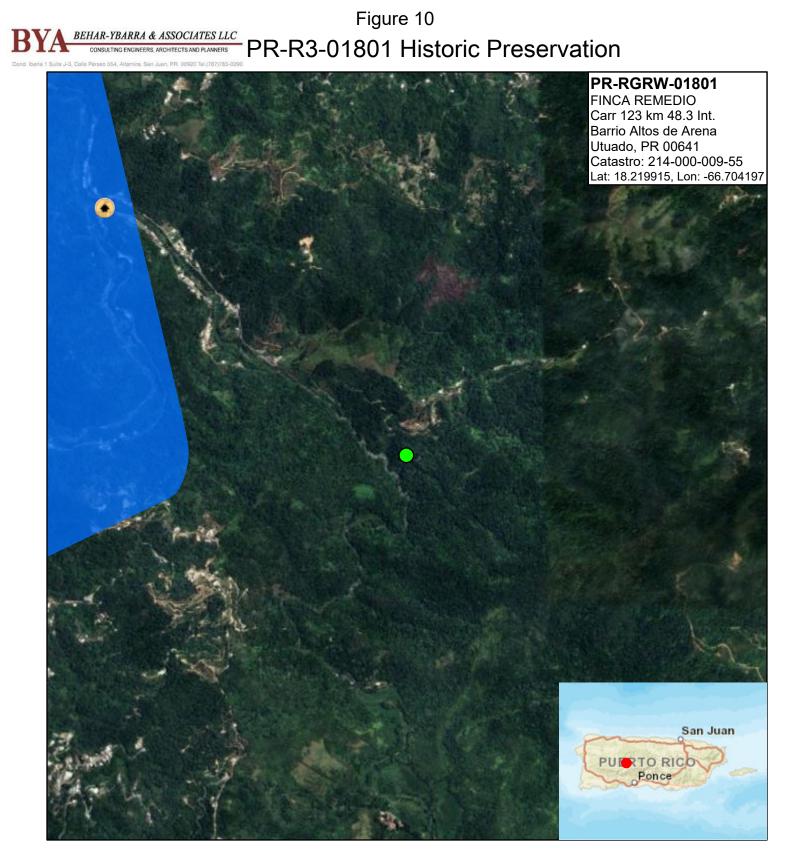




Google Earth Image 2021 @ Maxar Technologies; @ Image 2021 CNES/Airbus | GoogleEarth | USGS National Map 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). May 16, 2023. | FEMA | The USDA Forest Service

0.07 mi

0.11 km



6/19/2023, 4:41:56 PM

- 0 Cultural\_Resourses - Registry ICP
- ۲ Cultural\_Resourses - Historic Places JP
- ۰ Cultural\_Resourses - Cultural Value Places

Cultural\_Resourses - Archeological Resourses

1:18,056 0.25 0.13 0.5 mi 0.23 0.45 0.9 km

#### Source

National Park Service (NPS) - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) https://oech.pr.gov/Pages/default.aspx

**PR-RGRW-01801** Maxar | Google Earth Image 2021 @ Maxar Technologies; @ Image 2021 CNES/Airbus | GoogleEarth | USGS National Map 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). May 16, 2023. | FEMA | The USDA Forest

BYA



## Figure 11 PR-RGRW-01801 Wetland



6/27/2023, 3:48:19 PM

PR-RGRW-01801

WETLANDS - National Wetlands Inventory

Riverine

Hidrografia - Oficina Plan de Agua

 $N = \begin{pmatrix} 1:2,257 \\ 0 & 0.02 & 0.04 \\ 0 & 0.02 & 0.04 \\ 0 & 0.03 & 0.06 \\ 0.11 \text{ km} \end{pmatrix}$ 

#### Source

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

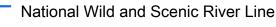


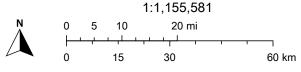
Figure 12 PR-RGRW-01801Wild and Scenic Rivers



6/20/2023, 8:51:46 AM

PR-RGRW-01540





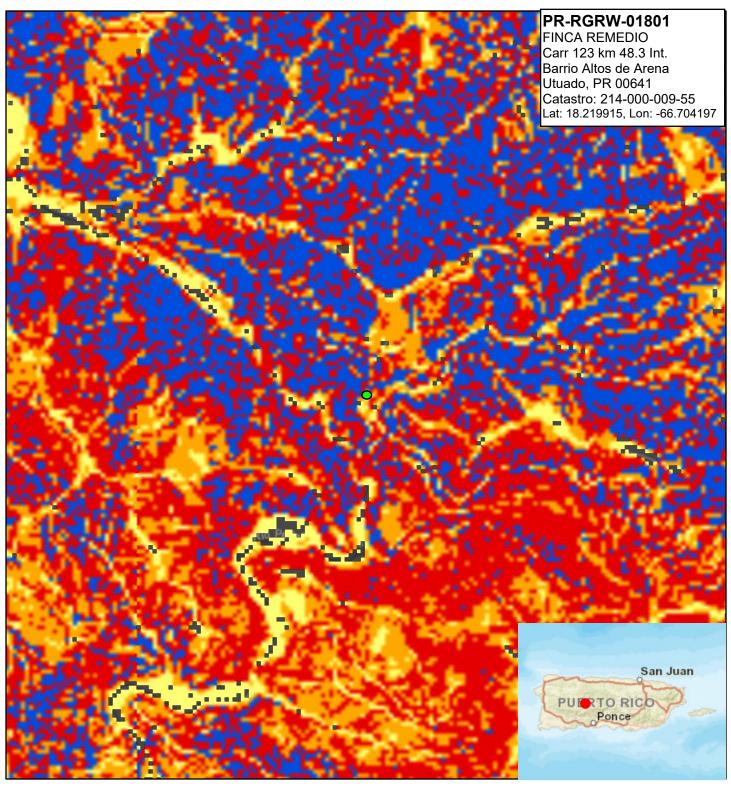
Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Wild and Scenic Rivers System https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php



Cond. Iberia 1 Suite J-3, Calle Perseo 554, Altamira, San Juan, PR. 00920 Tel.(787)783-0290

Figure 13 PR-RGRW-01801 Landslide



6/20/2023, 9:13:57 AM

Landslide Susceptibility

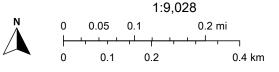
PR-RGRW-01801

 $\bigcirc$ 

Moderate

- High
- Very High

Extremely High



Source: Landslide data from USGS: Esri Imagery Basemap service.



Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects24 CFR Part 58

# Appendix 1



## **GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

August 18, 2023

## Lauren Bair Poche

HORNE 10000 Perkins Rowe, Suite 610, Bldg G Baton Rouge, LA 70810

SHPO 08-14-23-01 SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL: PR-RGRW-01801– FINCA REMEDIO – CARR. 123, KM 48.3 INT., BO. ALTOS DE ARENA, UTUADO, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Bair,

Our Office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with 54 U.S.C. 306108 (commonly known as Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*) and 36 CFR Part 800: *Protection of Historic Properties*.

Our records support your finding of **no historic properties affected** for this undertaking.

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

Sincerely,

Carly aphrtis

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB



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



August 14, 2023

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-01801 – Finca Remedio – Carr 123 Km 48.3 interior, Bo. Altos de Arena, Utuado, 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 was approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 28, 83 FR 5844, to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in meeting unmet needs in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. On August 14, 2018, an additional \$8.22 billion recovery allocation was allocated to Puerto Rico under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 157, 83 FR 40314. With these funding allocations, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (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 Finca Remedio at the property located at Carr 123 Km 48.3 interior in Bo. Altos de Arena in the municipality of Utuado. The proposed activities consist of the purchase of UTV, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, foof grinding machine and solar panels. The water cistern will be installed on bare soil on higher ground that will provide the necessary pressure to carry water downstream. The water cistern will collect water from the existing spring. The solar panels will be installed on top of an existing wood and zinc structure. The installation of the warehouse will be on top of a concrete slab that will require ground disturbance. The proposed warehouse and the existing wood and zinc structure will use solar light from the solar panels and water from an existing spring located on the property. A new electric transfer panel will be installed on the existing structure. All utility connections will be above ground or overhead except for a small area near the structure and the warehouse where the water line will be buried 6 inches to protect it from the proposed warehouse running down the west side of the structure. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been used for agricultural purposes for the past 5 years.



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 <u>lauren.poche@horne.com</u> or phone at 225-405-7676 with any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards,

Januan B. Pocke

**Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.** Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Senior Manager Attachments PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Applicant: Finca Remedio

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801

City: Utuado

Project Location: Carr 123 Km 48.3 Int. Barrio Altos de Arena		
Project Coordinates: 18.2202 -66.703804, 18.220006 -66.704072, 18.219915, -66.704197		
TPID (Número de Catastro): 214-000-009-55		
Type of Undertaking:		
Substantial Repair/Improvements		
⊠ New Construction		
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size (acres): 3.68	
Construction Date (AH est.). 1/a	rioperty size (dcres): 5.66	

SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jaqueline López Meléndez Date Reviewed: June 20, 2023

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-01801, consist of the purchase of UTV, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, foof grinding machine and solar panels. The water cistern will be installed on bare soil on higher ground that will provide the necessary pressure to carry water downstream. The water cistern will collect water from the existing spring. The solar panels will be installed on top of an existing wood and zinc structure. The installation of the warehouse will be on top of a concrete slab that will require ground disturbance. The proposed warehouse and the existing wood and zinc structure will use solar light from the solar panels and water from an existing spring located on the property. A new electric transfer panel will be installed on the existing structure. All utility connections will be above ground or overhead with the exception of a small area near the structure and the warehouse where the water line will be buried 6 inches to protect it from the passage of vehicles. Approximately 80 feet of this pipeline will be buried from the existing structure and the proposed warehouse running down the west side of the structure. The project area is located at PR-123 km. 48.3 Int. Barrio Altos de Arena within the Municipality of Utuado. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been used for agricultural purposes for the past 5 years.

#### **Area of Potential Effects**

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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Applicant: Finca Remedio	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801	City: Utuado

APE for this project is the location of the warehouse and water cistern structure plus a 15meter 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, archaeological materials of significant cultural properties within a half-mile (0.50 miles) radius of the project location. The closest reported archaeological site to the PR-RGRW-01801 project area is the Utuado #60 or Otoao # 60 site (SHPO: UA0100060) located 0.93 miles northwest. The proposed project is located in Utuado, at an elevation between 1115 and 1148 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area is within mapped soil series: Lirios. The project area APE is in LcF2. The nearest water bodies are an unnamed creek located 0.08 miles northeast and the Pellejas River, located 0.25 miles west of the project area. The coast is approximately 16.75 miles south from the project area.

Within 0.50 miles radius of the project area no archaeological surveys have been conducted.

The project area does not have cultural resources that are listed either on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or in a Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. On June 16, 2023, we visually inspected the project area. The property has a hilly topography and visibility despite the vegetation is good. The soil in the area has been classified as Lirios clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded (LcF2). This soil is deep, very steep, and well drained. It is on the side slopes and narrow ridgetops of uplands. Lirios soils formed in fine textured and moderately fine residuum from plutonic rocks.

#### Determination

No historic properties were identified within the APE.

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-01801 is located. The closest freshwater body is approximately 0.08 miles northeast of the project area. The construction of public roads and agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no impact to cultural properties is anticipated for this reconstruction project.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Applicant: Finca Remedio	,
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801	City: Utuado

#### Recommendation

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

 $\boxtimes$  No Historic Properties Affected

 $\square$  No Adverse Effect

□ Adverse Effect

Proposed Resolution (if appliable)

#### This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

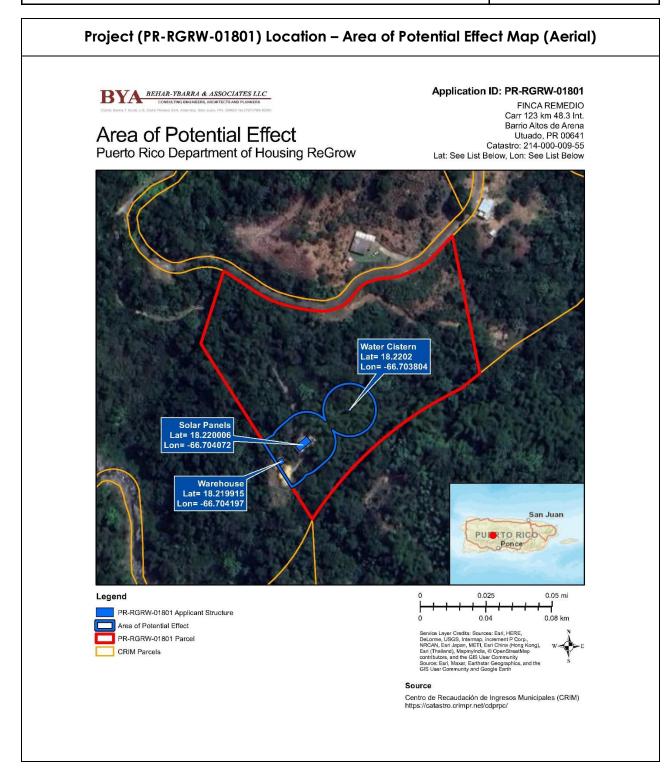
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above information and:
<ul> <li>Concurs with the information provided.</li> <li>Does not concur with the information provided.</li> </ul>
Comments.

Carlos Rubio-Cancela	Date:
State Historic Preservation Officer	Dale.



**Applicant: Finca Remedio** 

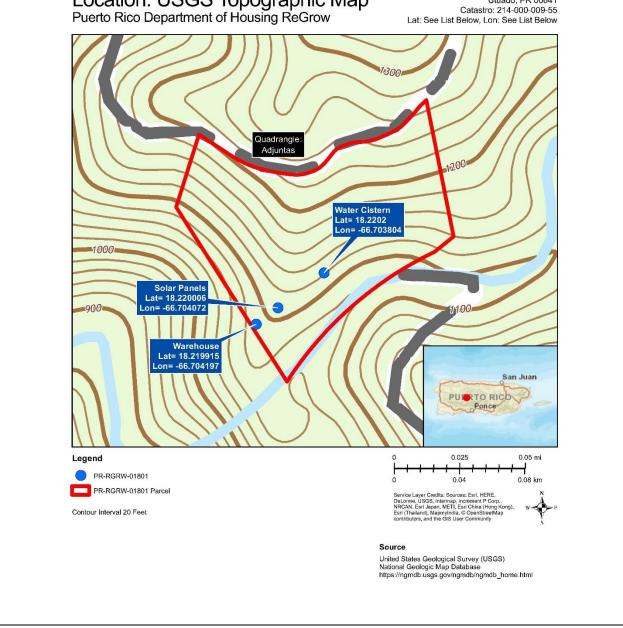
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801



**REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM** GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination **Applicant: Finca Remedio** Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801 **City: Utuado** Project (PR-RGRW-01801) Location - Aerial Map Application ID: PR-RGRW-01801 BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS FINCA REMEDIO Carr 123 km 48.3 Int. Barrio Altos de Arena Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow Utuado, PR 00641 Catastro: 214-000-009-55 Lat: See List Below, Lon: See List Below Water Cistern Lat= 18.2202 Lon= -66.703804 Solar Panels Lat= 18.220006 Lon= -66.704072 Warehouse Lat= 18.219915 Lon= -66.704197 San Juan PURTO RICO Ponce 0.05 mi 0.025 Legend +PR-RGRW-01801 0.04 0.08 km PR-RGRW-01801 Parcel Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, Increment P Corp, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), Mapnyindia, & OpenStreetMap contributos, and the GIS User Community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographica, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth **CRIM** Parcels W Source Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM **REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM** GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination **Applicant: Finca Remedio** City: Utuado Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801 Project (PR-RGRW-01801) Location - USGS Topographic Map Application ID: PR-RGRW-01801 BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS. ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS FINCA REMEDIO Carr 123 km 48.3 Int. Barrio Altos de Arena Utuado, PR 00641 Location: USGS Topographic Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow 1300 Quadrangle: Adjuntas 1200





**Applicant: Finca Remedio** 

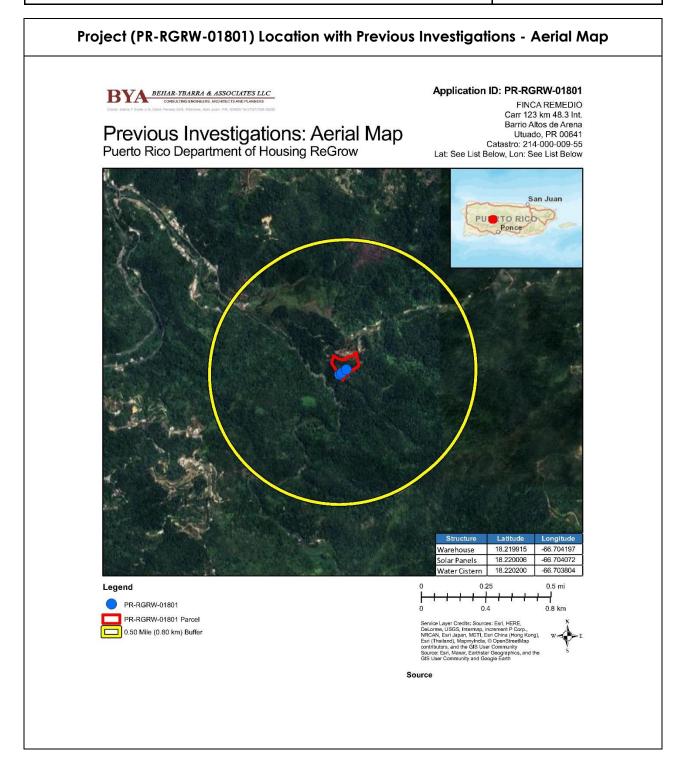
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801





**Applicant: Finca Remedio** 

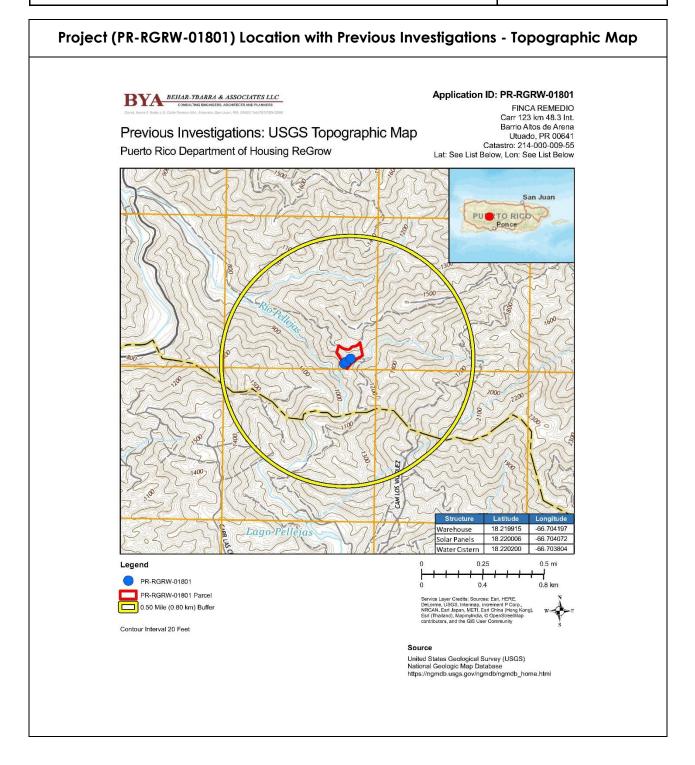
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801





**Applicant: Finca Remedio** 

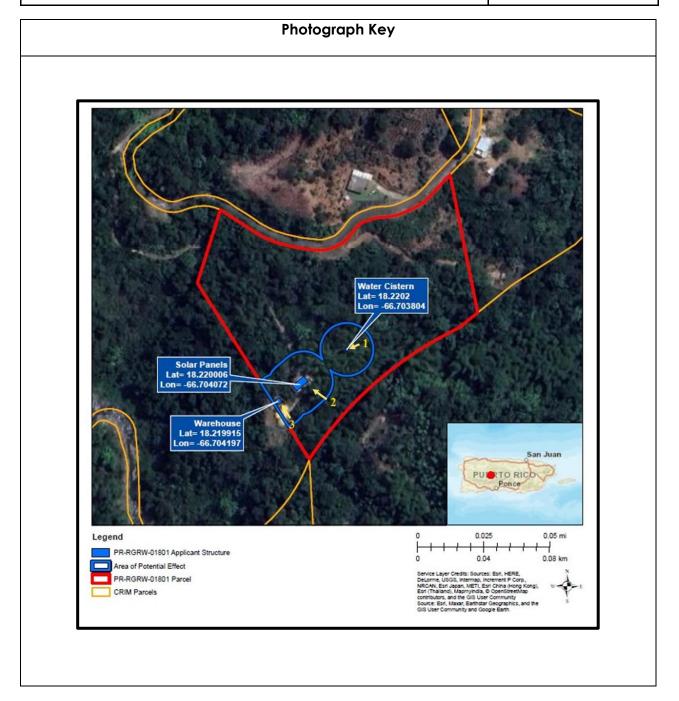
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801





#### Applicant: Finca Remedio

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801





City: Utuado

Applicant: Finca Remedio

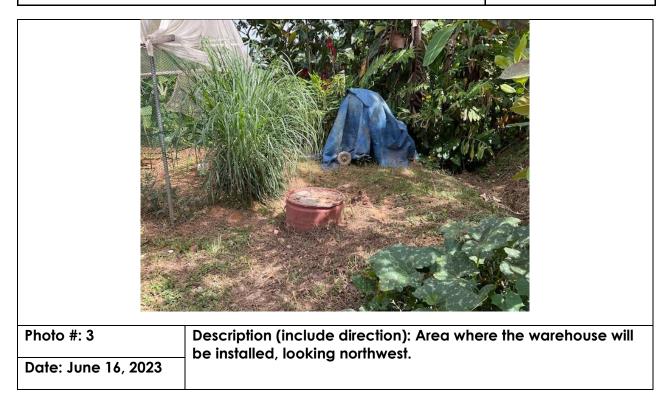
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801

	-
Photo #: 1	Description (include direction): Area where the water cistern will
Dato: Juno 14 2022	be installed, looking southwest.
Date: June 16, 2023	
Photo #: 2	Description (include direction): Area where the solar panels will
Date: June 16, 2023	be installed, looking northwest.



Applicant: Finca Remedio

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01801







October 20, 2022

#### Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

Executive Director State Historic Preservation Officer Cuartel de Ballajá Bldg. San Juan, Puerto Rico

#### **Re:** Authorization to Submit Documents

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 registry review services, among others, that will support the objectives of the agenda for both CDBG-DR and CDBG -MIT Programs.

In line 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,

Juan C Pérez Bofill, P.E. M.Eng Director of Disaster Recovery CDBG DR-MIT

CDBG-DR FUNDS I HOUSING



Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects24 CFR Part 58

# Appendix 2

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:
Change	uie	State.

PUERIO RICO • GO	PUERTO RICO 🗸	GO
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Important	mportant Notes Download National Dataset: dbf   xls   Data dictionary (PDF)					(PDF)		
	NAAQS	Area Name	Nonattainment in Year	Redesignation to Maintenance	Classification	Whole or/ Part County	Population (2010)	State/ County FIPS Codes
PUERTO	RICO	·		·	·			
Arecibo Municipic	Lead (2008)	Arecibo, PR	11121314151617181920212223			Part	32,185	72/013
Bayamon Municipic	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	22,921	72/021
Catano Municipic	Sulfur	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Whole	28,140	72/033
Guaynabo Municipio		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	Guayama-	181920212223	//		Part	23,401	72/123
San Juan Municipic	Sulfur	Son Juon	181920212223	//		Part	147,963	72/127
Toa Baja Municipic	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR		//		Part	52,441	72/137

Important Notes



Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects24 CFR Part 58

# Appendix 3



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (787) 834-1600 Fax: (787) 851-7440 Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>



In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2023-0123200 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01801 August 29, 2023

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Once a species list is obtained for the proposed project, an effect determination for endangered and threatened species should be made. The applicant could make an effect determination by using available keys on IPaC for specific species. For species with no determination keys, the applicant should request concurrence from the Service by sending a project package to <u>caribbean\_es@fws.gov</u>. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

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

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

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

This species list is provided by:

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

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- 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 (787) 834-1600

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

**Project Code:** 2023-0123200 **Project Name: PR-RGRW-01801 Project Type:** Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural Project Description: The proposed project for PR-RGRW-01801, consist of the purchase of UTV, a 1,000-gallon water cistern, a 10 x 10 feet warehouse, trimmer and saw, dehydrator, food grinding machine and solar panels. The water cistern will be installed on bare soil on higher ground that will provide the necessary pressure to carry water downstream. The water cistern will collect water from the existing spring. The solar panels will be installed on top of an existing wood and zinc structure. The installation of the warehouse will be on top of a concrete slab that will require ground disturbance. The proposed warehouse and the existing wood and zinc structure will use solar light from the solar panels and water from an existing spring located on the property. A new electric transfer panel will be installed on the existing structure. All utility connections will be above ground or overhead with the exception of a small area near the structure and the warehouse where the water line will be buried 6 inches to protect it from the passage of vehicles. Approximately 80 feet of this pipeline will be buried from the existing structure and the proposed warehouse running down the west side of the structure.

**Project Location:** 

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2200091,-66.70387562383002,14z</u>



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

#### BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk <i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512</u>	Endangered
Puerto Rican Parrot <i>Amazona vittata</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067</u>	Endangered
REPTILES	
NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</u> General project design guidelines: <u>https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/OTBYFCPVFRBQVDQKGEEI3WURF4/</u>	Endangered

documents/generated/6941.pdf

#### **CRITICAL HABITATS**

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

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

# USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

# **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 should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described <u>below</u>.

- 1. The <u>Migratory Birds Treaty Act</u> of 1918.
- 2. The <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> 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.

### **MIGRATORY BIRDS FAQ**

# Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

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

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (<u>BCC</u>) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

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

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the <u>Rapid Avian Information</u> <u>Locator (RAIL) Tool</u>.

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

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

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

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

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the <u>RAIL Tool</u> and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

#### What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

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

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can

implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

#### Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

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

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the <u>Diving Bird Study</u> and the <u>nanotag studies</u> or contact <u>Caleb Spiegel</u> or <u>Pam Loring</u>.

#### What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to <u>obtain a permit</u> to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

#### Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

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

### **WETLANDS**

Impacts to <u>NWI wetlands</u> and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local <u>U.S. Army Corps of</u> <u>Engineers District</u>.

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.

RIVERINE

• <u>R5UBH</u>

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency:Private EntityName:Patricia CarmenattyAddress:Calle Perseo, Edificio Iberia 1City:San JuanState:PRZip:00920Emailpatricia.carmenatty@byaea.comPhone:7874211799