

# **Environmental Assessment**

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

### **24 CFR Part 58**

#### **Project Information**

**Project ID:** PR-RGRW- 04401

**Project Name:** JC Farm Products L.L.C.

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

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

**State/Local Identifier:** Puerto Rico / Municipio of Comerio

**Preparer:** Allyson Rezac, Deputy Program Manager

#### **Certifying Officer Name and Title:**

##### Permit and Environmental Compliance Officers:

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**Consultant** (if applicable): SWCA Environmental Consultants

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

#### **Project Location:**

The proposed project is located on a 48.68-acre parcel (Castradal Number 221-000-005-28-000) at 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerío, Puerto Rico 00782, 18.243150, -66.248800 (see **Appendix A, Figure 1-** Site Location and **Figure 2-** Site Vicinity). This agricultural property is in a low-density area in the northwestern portion of Comerío Municipio. Access to the project areas is provided via a paved road that borders the southeastern

boundary of the parcel. All proposed project activities are in the south-central portion of the parcel.

The applicant has identified seven locations for project activities related for the Intended Use of Grant Funds that are being evaluated under this Environmental Assessment, also shown on Figures 1 and 2 (please note that 12 of the cisterns are not included in the table because they are within the footprints of the 4 conjoined greenhouses):

| <b>Project Activity</b> | <b>Coordinates</b>    | <b>Location Description</b>                     |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Greenhouse 1            | 18.24433, -66.249418  | 520 feet (ft) northwest of the office building. |
| Greenhouse 2            | 18.24425, -66.249478  | 500 ft northwest of the office building.        |
| Greenhouse 3            | 18.244169, -66.249538 | 483 ft northwest of the office building.        |
| Greenhouse 4            | 18.244089, -66.249599 | 450 ft northwest of the office building.        |
| Cistern 1               | 18.244337, -66.249658 | 6 ft northwest of Greenhouse 2.                 |
| Cistern 2               | 18.244301, -66.249668 | 2 ft northwest of Greenhouse 3.                 |
| Storage Container       | 18.243663, -66.249447 | 325 ft northwest of the office building.        |

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

The proposed project involves the purchase of a backpack sprayer, seeds, fungicides, insecticides, fertilizers, a cargo van, planting medium, and the purchase and installation of 14, 600-gallon cisterns ("water tanks"), 4 conjoined greenhouses, a water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and a storage container. The equipment that will be purchased by the applicant as listed in the Intended Use of Grant Funds falls under the "categorically excluded, not subject to (CENST)" category under HUD guidelines (24 CFR 58.35(b)(4)). This Environmental Assessment (EA) also encompasses the CENST review requirements for the equipment.

The total dimensions of the 4 conjoined greenhouses are approximately 4,320 square feet ([sq ft]120 x 36 ft) with each post extending a maximum depth of 3 ft with a maximum diameter of 3 in, placed around the perimeter of the greenhouses, and secured with poured concrete in each post hole. Each greenhouse will be made of an impermeable plastic, with approximately 30 posts for a total of 120 posts spaced according to manufacturer specifications. 12 of the 14 cisterns will be installed within the footprint of the conjoined greenhouses in pits with a maximum ground disturbance of 5 ft deep and 5 ft wide allowing the cisterns to be buried approximately 3 ft underground. The



remaining 2 cisterns will be placed above ground on the hill directly behind the greenhouses. The water pump will be housed in an existing building approximately 207 ft northwest of an existing office building where water from the existing water well already flows via underground water pipes. A secondary water source includes existing aboveground PVC pipes 121 ft southwest of Greenhouse 4 and is also supplied by the existing water well. The piping for the irrigation system will be approximately 600 linear feet (lf) and run aboveground with an underground section running alongside the NE border of the road and will be approximately 15 lf with a max depth of 1 ft and covered in concrete to prevent damage from vehicle traffic.

The storage container is an approximately 360 sq ft (8 ft x 45 ft) shipping container that will be placed on approximately 240 concrete blocks (8 inches (in) by 16 in) located above-ground and will not need anchoring due to its size and weight. All project sites are completely clear of thick vegetation and were leveled pre-2020 before the applicant applied for ReGrow funding.

The fertilizer purchased with the Intended Use of Grant Funds will not be stored in an airtight building to avoid the risk of explosion.

Electricity connections to the greenhouses and water pump will run aboveground and be provided from a meter at the applicant's residence, approximately 342 ft southeast of the storage container site. The water and electrical connections are not part of the Intended Use of Grant Funds.

All project sites are completely clear of thick vegetation and were leveled pre-2020 before the applicant applied for ReGrow funding. The project will have minimal ground disturbance and no vegetation removal or tree clearing or pruning is required for construction. The applicant leases the property; however, no acquisition is required.

**Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:**

In September of 2017, Hurricanes Irma and María produced sustained winds and intense rainfall that decimated agricultural production across the island of Puerto Rico. These hurricanes caused the loss of eighty percent of crop value island wide, exacerbating challenges to food security and agricultural business development. The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA) estimated seven hundred and eighty million dollars (\$780 million) worth of damages from the hurricanes to the agricultural sector of the economy.

Many properties were damaged in Hurricane Maria, resulting in struggling businesses. The Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (Re-Grow Program) will develop greater agricultural capacity and address the needs created by Hurricanes Irma and María with a substantial investment of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster

Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for a wide variety of viable and sustainable agricultural activities.

Agricultural capacity and strong food systems are fundamental to resiliency of economies and, as Puerto Rico's entire agriculture sector was devastated by the Hurricanes, this Program is designed to revitalize this industry. The Re-Grow Program is an integral part of the long-term expansion of jobs in the sector, food security and contributing to overall economic recovery of disaster impacted populations.

The applicant does not have the resources to purchase farming equipment and materials for their agricultural operation nor has the applicant received any other outside source of funding for the project. The backpack sprayer, lettuce and cilantro seeds, fungicides, insecticides, fertilizers, a cargo van, planting medium, and the purchase and installation of 14 600-gallon cisterns, 4 conjoined greenhouses, a water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and a storage container will help increase the agricultural production. The cisterns and water pump will also help the applicant save money on the use of potable water and reuse of rainwater. The project as a whole will support continued local agricultural production during future disasters.

Agencies consulted for the proposed project are provided in the *List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted* section of this Environmental Assessment (EA). Further discussion of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives is provided in the *Cumulative Impact Analysis, Alternatives/No Action Alternative*, and *Summary of Findings and Conclusions* sections of this EA.

### **Existing Conditions and Trends**

There are existing structures on the property: an office built circa 2015 approximately 325 ft southeast of the storage container site and three large greenhouses 160 ft east of the storage container site at the closest point that are not associated with the applicant's business JC Farm Products LLC.

### **Funding Information**

| <b>Grant Number</b>  | <b>HUD Program</b>   | <b>Funding Amount</b> |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| B-17-DM-72-0001<br>B-18-DP-72-0001<br>B-19-DP-78-0002<br>B-18-DE-72-0001 | Community Development Block Grant –<br>Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) | \$11,938,162,230      |

**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** \$150,000.00

**Additional non-HUD funds:** \$5,142.19

**Estimated Total Project Cost** (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$155,142.19

## **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 or approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

| <b>Compliance Factors:</b><br>Statutes, Executive Orders,<br>and Regulations listed at 24<br>CFR §58.5 and §58.6                               | Are formal<br>compliance<br>steps or<br>mitigation<br>required?           | Compliance Determinations  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6</b>   |   |  |
| <b>Airport Hazards</b><br><br>24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D   | Yes    No<br><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The project site is not within 2,500 ft of a civil primary or commercial service airport or within 15,000 ft of a military airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Fernando Luis Ribas Dominicci, is located 91,555 ft (17 miles [mi]) from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 106,871 ft (20 mi) from the project site. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with airport hazards requirements.</p> <p>The Airport Hazards Partner Worksheet and Airport Hazards Map (<b>Figure B 1-1</b>) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 1</b>.</p> |
| <b>Coastal Barrier Resources</b><br><br>Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501] | Yes    No<br><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The project site is not located in a Coastal Barrier Resource Systems Unit (CBRS) or Otherwise Protected Area (OPA). There are no CBRS units in Comerio. The closest CBRS unit, Punta Salinas, is located 81,905 ft (16 mi) from the project site. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.</p>  |

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|   |   | The Coastal Barrier Resources Act Partner Worksheet and Coastal Barrier Resources Map ( <b>Figure B 2-1</b> ) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 2</b> .  |
| <b>Flood Insurance</b><br><br>Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a] | Yes    No<br><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A review of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), Community Panel 72000C1180H (effective date 04/19/2005) and Panel 72000C1160H (effective date 04/19/2005), shows the applicant parcel is in Flood Zone X, which is not in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Flood insurance is not required. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Flood Disaster Protection Act and National Flood Insurance Reform Act.<br><br>The Flood Insurance Partner Worksheet and FIRM ( <b>Figure B 3-1</b> ) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 3</b> .  |
| <b>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5</b>  |   |  |
| <b>Clean Air</b><br><br>Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93  | Yes    No<br><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The project site is in Comerio Municipio, which is within a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated attainment area. Municipios in Nonattainment or Maintenance areas include Arecibo, Bayamon, Catano, Guaynabo, Salinas, San Juan and Toa Baja.<br><br>Project activities include new construction of four greenhouses, fourteen cisterns, and a storage container. The project is not anticipated to have a negative impact on air quality. Emissions associated with the proposed actions are temporary and limited to the use of small construction equipment and will be well below the Federal General Conformity Rule de minimis thresholds. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act. |

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|  |   | The Air Quality Partner Worksheet, List of Non-Attainment/Maintenance Status Counties in Puerto Rico, and Clean Air Map ( <b>Figure B 4-1</b> ) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 4</b> .  |
| <b>Coastal Zone Management</b><br><br>Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d) | Yes    No<br><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The project site is not located within the Puerto Rico Coastal Management Zone. The closest coastal zone area is located 65,072 ft (12 mi) from the project site. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.</p> <p>The Coastal Zone Management Partner Worksheet and Coastal Zone Map (<b>Figure B 5-1</b>) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 5</b>.</p>  |
| <b>Contamination and Toxic Substances</b><br><br>24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)                  | Yes    No<br><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The project site was evaluated for potential contamination by conducting a field site inspection on 10/26/2023 to identify any onsite hazards including, but not limited to, soil staining, above ground storage tanks, signs of underground storage tanks, odors, hazardous debris etc.</p> <p>The site inspection did not identify any onsite hazards, stained soil or vegetation and the project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.</p> <p>The project does not involve any occupied structures, and therefore, is exempt from considering radon as part of the site contamination analysis as per HUD Notice CDP- 23-103.</p> <p>In addition, a desktop review of USEPA databases, NEPAassist, and other sources was conducted to determine if the project site was located near dump sites, junk yards, landfills, hazardous waste sites, or industrial sites, including USEPA National Priorities List Sites (Superfund sites), CERCLA or state-equivalent sites, RCRA Corrective</p> |

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|   |   | <p>Action sites with release(s) or suspected release(s) requiring clean-up action and/or further investigation. The parcel has been used for agricultural purposes and there has been no change in land use in the last 20 years. The project is located in a rural area of Comerio Municipio and will continue to be used for agricultural purpose.</p> <p>The desktop review did not find any of the above-listed toxic, hazardous or radioactive substances in or within 3,000 feet of the project area. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.</p> <p>The Contamination and Toxics Substances Partner Worksheet and Contamination and Toxic Substances Map (<b>Figure B 6-1</b>) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 6</b>.</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>The project involves activities that have the potential to affect protected species or habitats including but not limited to activities such as ground disturbance.</p> <p>Threatened, endangered, and migratory bird species were identified by reviewing data from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information and Planning Consultation (IPaC) Tool. In addition, critical species habitat was reviewed through the USFWS IPaC Critical Habitat Portal. The review identified two federally listed species (Puerto Rican plain pigeon [<i>Columba inornata wetmorei</i>] and the Puerto Rican boa [<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>]) with the potential to occur within the project area. There is no designated or proposed critical habitat within the project area; the closest final designated critical habitat is located 61,156 ft (12 mi) away.</p> <p>The project activities will result in ground disturbing activities, including</p> |

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|   |   | <p>excavating post holes to secure the greenhouses and excavating holes for the cisterns and piping, and constructing the greenhouses and warehouses. A qualified biologist reviewed the proposed activity location(s) and determined that the project will have <i>no effect</i> on the Puerto Rican plain pigeon or designated critical habitat. Due to the generalist nature of the Puerto Rican boa, forested habitat surrounding the project areas, and dense ground cover present throughout the review area, the Puerto Rican boa may occur within the project area. The applicant will employ the conservation measures outlined in the USFWS 2024 General Project Design Guidelines for the Puerto Rican boa. As such, it is anticipated that the project <i>may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect</i> the Puerto Rican boa.</p> <p>If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project action site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the CM shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the Boa.</p> <p>The Endangered Species Act Partner Worksheet, Threatened and Endangered Species Technical Memorandum with IPaC, Critical Habitat Map (<b>Figure B 7-1</b>), is provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 7</b>.</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>The project includes the new construction of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, water pump, storage container, and piping for irrigation. The project itself is not the development of a hazardous facility nor will the project increase residential densities. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.</p>  |

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|   |   | The Explosive and Flammable Hazards Partner Worksheet is provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 8.</b>  |
| <b>Farmlands Protection</b><br><br>Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658 | Yes    No<br><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses two (2) mapped soil series: HtE (Humata clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes); and MoF (Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes). Farmlands of statewide importance are within the project area. Although the project includes new construction, the project is exempt from review under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FFPA) as the project is limited to construction of on-farm structures needed for farm operations. No further review is required. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.</p> <p>The Farmlands Protection Partner Worksheet and Prime Farmland Map (<b>Figure B 9-1</b>) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 9.</b></p> |
| <b>Floodplain Management</b><br><br>Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55                              | Yes    No<br><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>An Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) map was developed by FEMA for this FIRM, which shows the project sites are in Flood Zone X. The project is not located in the 500-year or 100-year floodplain or within an ABFE special flood hazard area; therefore, no further action is required. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690.</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 Comerio; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for</p>  |



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|   |   | <p>the area and therefore not considered in the review.</p> <p>HUD implemented new floodplain regulations under 89 FR 30850 effective June 24, 2024 which created the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS). The current project comprises non-critical actions that lie outside the 0.2-percent-annual-chance (500-year flood elevation), which is the approach used for this project to comply with the FFRMS; therefore, mitigation is not required, and the project is in compliance with 24 CFR Part 55.</p> <p>The Floodplain Management Partner Worksheet and ABFE Floodplain Map (<b>Figure B 10-1</b>) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 10</b>.</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 project will involve the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation on an undeveloped property and significant ground disturbing activities of previously undisturbed soil. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consultation was performed.</p> <p>No National Historic Landmark (NHL) are within or near the project area.</p> <p>Record reviews and research were conducted at the SHPO and the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña (ICP) to determine if any archaeologically sensitive resources could be present within a 0.5-mi radius.</p> <p>The results of the Record Search and the Site Inspection indicate that there are historic properties or cultural resources within the 0.50-mile radius study area but not within the project Area of Potential Effect (APE).</p> <p>The determination was submitted to SHPO by PRDOH for concurrence on April 22, 2024 and SHPO concurred with</p> |

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|   |   | <p>the No Historic Properties Affected determination on April 29, 2024. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.</p> <p>The Historic Preservation Partner Worksheet, Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Map (Figure B 11-1), and SHPO consultation are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 11.</b></p>   |
| <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>The project activities are limited to four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation and do not involve residential new construction or rehabilitation. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with HUD's noise regulation.</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>According to the USEPA's Source Water Protection, Sole Source Aquifer Protection Program, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.</p> <p>The Sole Source Aquifer Partner Worksheet and Sole Source Aquifer Map (<b>Figure B 12-1</b>) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 12.</b></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>The project site was reviewed for wetlands using the USFWS Wetland Inventory Mapper and a visual confirmation during the field site inspection. The site inspection identified a riverine wetland approximately 550 ft south of the project footprint; however, impact is not anticipated with the implementation of applicable BMPs, such as silt fencing and erosion control, are implemented during any ground-disturbing activities. No further evaluation is required. The project is in</p> |

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|   |   | <p>compliance with Executive Order 11990.</p> <p>The Wetlands Protection Partner Worksheet and Wetland Map (<b>Figure B 13-1</b>) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 13</b>.</p>  |
| <p><b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b></p> <p>Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)</p> | <p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>No federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, Study Rivers (and Agency-authorized study rivers), or National Rivers Inventory (NRI) Rivers are in proximity of the project site. The closest Wild and Scenic River segment is located 160,402 ft (30 mi) from the project site. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.</p> <p>The Wild and Scenic Rivers Partner Worksheet and Wild and Scenic Rivers Map (<b>Figure B 14-1</b>) are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 14</b>.</p>  |
| <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE</b></p>   |   |  |
| <p><b>Environmental Justice</b></p> <p>Executive Order 12898</p>  | <p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>The ReGrow Program intends to alleviate negative economic impacts to, and strengthen, the agricultural industry in Puerto Rico. The project's direct and indirect impacts are limited to a small area on a single land parcel. The project will benefit the farm owner by improving agricultural use and production. The project would not facilitate development that would negatively affect human health or result in disproportionate adverse environmental impacts to low-income or minority populations. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898.</p> <p>The Environmental Justice Partner Worksheet and EJSscreen Report are provided in <b>Appendix B, Attachment 15</b>.</p> |

**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>  |             |  |
| Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design | 2           | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation.</p> <p>The project site location(s) is classified as Agricola General (A-G) land use. The installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation is continued agricultural use of property, which is compatible with zoning and existing land use.</p> <p>Construction actions include new construction which increase the current function of the existing land use. There is no change in land use since the land will continue to be used for agriculture purposes. The project site is in a rural area of Comerio Municipio,</p> |

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|   |   | <p>and project activities will not contribute to urban sprawl.</p> <p>The applicant and/or construction manager is required to obtain any necessary local and territorial building and environmental permits prior to construction activities commencing.</p>   |
| Soil Suitability/<br>Slope/ Erosion/<br>Drainage/ Storm<br>Water Runoff | 2 | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation.</p> <p>Soil suitability will be assessed prior to construction and will be addressed during local permitting processes. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses two (2) mapped soil series: HtE (Humata clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes); and MoF (Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes). Contractors will be required to use best management practices during construction to control erosion and prevent runoff. The soil is currently being used for agriculture purposes.</p> <p>Landslide data from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) indicates less than 25 landslides per square kilometer for the project area (see <b>Appendix A, Figure 3</b> - USGS Landslide Map). Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) authorization is required for any extraction, removal, excavation, and dredging of the components of the earth's crust.</p> |
| Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise                   | 2 | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation.</p> <p>Contractors will be required to provide health and safety plans and monitoring during construction. Noise levels will temporarily increase during construction which may impact surrounding neighbors; however, program activities are limited to the existing farm property and will not elevate ambient noise levels long-term. Contractors will be required to comply with the applicable local noise ordinances. Noise impacts will be mitigated by restricting construction activities to daylight hours and to the hours established in the Regulation for Noise Control and Pollution in Puerto Rico. Additionally, the project does not include housing to where inhabitants would be affected.</p>   |

| Environmental Assessment Factor             | Impact Code | Impact Evaluation   |
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| <b>SOCIOECONOMIC</b>                        |             |   |
| Employment and Income Patterns              | 2           | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation.</p> <p>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 by increasing the amounts of produce being sold at market.</p>  |
| Demographic Character Changes, Displacement | 2           | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation.</p> <p>The project is a rural area in Comerio Municipio and will not alter the demographics or character of the surrounding community. Project activities will not result in any direct or indirect displacement of individuals or families.</p>   |
| Environmental Justice                       | 2           | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation.</p> <p>The project's direct and indirect impacts are limited to a small area on a single land parcel. The project will benefit the farm owner by providing space for agricultural production, water storage and distribution, and tool storage. The project will not facilitate development that would negatively affect human health or result in disproportionate adverse environmental impacts to low-income or minority populations (see EJ Screen Report in Attachment 15).</p> |

| Environmental Assessment Factor | Impact Code | Impact Evaluation |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|

| <b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b> |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Educational and Cultural Facilities      | 2 | The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation on private land and will not contribute to any change in educational or cultural facilities or affect access to or capacity of educational or cultural facilities.   |
| Commercial Facilities                    | 2 | The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation. The proposed project will increase agricultural production, resulting in a net positive impact to the applicant's farm commercial output and a positive benefit to surrounding commercial enterprises who purchase and sell the produce; however, the project will not put undue pressure on commercial facilities.               |
| Health Care and Social Services          | 2 | The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation on private land and will not affect access to or capacity of health care and social services.  |
| Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling         | 2 | The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation. The proposed project may cause an increase in short-term generation of solid waste during construction. All construction debris will be disposed of at the proper facilities for the debris type (i.e., construction waste). The project will not contribute to long-term needs or changes to solid waste disposal and recycling. |
| Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers             | 2 | The four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, water pump, storage container, and piping for irrigation are not expected to result in significant changes in wastewater or sanitary sewer generation. Sewage will not be generated from the project.  |
| Water Supply                             | 2 | The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and  |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  |   | <p>pipings for irrigation. The proposed project activities are not expected to result in significant changes to water supply. The water at the site is supplied by an existing well.</p>  |
| Public Safety – Police, Fire and Emergency Medical | 2 | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation on private land and will not affect public safety concerns such as police, fire, and emergency medical services.</p>  |
| Parks, Open Space and Recreation                   | 2 | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation on private land and will not result in any changes to access or use of parks, open space, and recreation areas.</p>   |
| Transportation and Accessibility                   | 2 | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation on private land and will have no relation to transportation services. The proposed activities will not result in any changes in transportation and accessibility.</p> |

| Environmental Assessment Factor          | Impact Code | Impact Evaluation  |
|--|-------------|--|
| <b>NATURAL FEATURES</b>                  |             |  |
| Unique Natural Features, Water Resources | 2           | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation.</p> <p>A riverine runs along the eastern and southeastern boundary of the applicant's property. No construction or project activities or staging will occur within the waterbody or affect quality or access to the riverine.</p> |
| Vegetation, Wildlife                     | 2           | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation.</p> <p>The project area has already been previously disturbed for office building and farm operations;</p>  |



|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | therefore, the project is not anticipated to result in any new impacts to trees, vegetation, wildlife or native plant communities. No tree clearing or pruning is anticipated prior to project construction. |
|--|--|--|

| Environmental Assessment Factor | Impact Code | Impact Evaluation   |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| <b>CLIMATE AND ENERGY</b>       |             |   |
| Climate Change Impacts          | 2           | <p>The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, a storage container, and piping for irrigation.</p> <p>The proposed ReGrow program project aims to increase resiliency in the agricultural industry to prepare for future climate related disasters, including drought. The Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation Assessment tool (<a href="https://resilience.climate.gov/#assessment-tool">https://resilience.climate.gov/#assessment-tool</a>) provides historical and future climate data for five common climate-related hazards (extreme heat, drought, wildfires, flooding, and coastal inundation). The data model for the census tract that includes application location does not indicate a significant increase in hazard risks from climate change for drought, wildfire, or flooding, when comparing historical data (1976-2005) to future projections. The model projects a greater number of days where temperatures will exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit after 2015, which is a systemic trend in the model across the Island.</p> <p>The specific activities proposed for this economic development project are limited in scale and land impacts. The proposed greenhouses, cisterns, water pump, and storage container construction activities are for individual farm use and will not result in a significant increase in electricity or water draw. The greenhouse will allow the applicant to control the water to the crops and will reduce the amount needed compared to open air farming which often results in higher evapotranspiration. The equipment that will be used during construction and operation will also be limited to occasional use at this specific</p> |

|                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
|                   |   | land parcel, and therefore will not generate a significant amount of greenhouse gas.   |
| Energy Efficiency | 2 | The project will not result in significant additional energy consumption as it involves only the construction of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, water pump, storage container, and piping for irrigation using self-powered construction equipment on an existing farm. The applicant should obtain authorization from PREPA or LUMA prior to expanding the connections. |

### **Additional Studies Performed:**

No additional studies were performed.

### **Field Inspection** (Date and completed by):

Field inspection completed on October 10, 2023, by Armando Ramos, SWCA Environmental Consultants.

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

Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER). 2023. Puerto Rico DNER Species Ranges – under construction. Accessed December 14, 2023. Available at: <https://arcg.is/1S9aju0>.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). 2022. National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems 2023-2027. Accessed December 14, 2023. Available at: [National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems \(NPIAS\) 2023-2027, Appendix B: National and State Maps \(faa.gov\)](https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport-systems/npias/2023-2027/appendix-b-national-and-state-maps).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 2023. FEMA Flood Map Service Center – Map Panel 72000C1160H (effective 4/19/2005) and Map Panel 72000C1180H (effective 04/19/2005). Accessed December 14, 2023. Available at: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>.

Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP). 2023. San Juan, Puerto Rico. Data collection conducted on November 3, 2023.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management. 2023. Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Boundary. Accessed December 14, 2023. Available at: [Puerto Rico Coastal Vulnerability Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](https://coastal.vulnerabilityviewer.arcgis.com/).

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). 2023. San Juan, Puerto Rico. Data collection conducted on November 26, 2023.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2022a. Envirofacts Mapper. Air pollution data (ICIS-AIR), Brownfields, Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo), Superfund National Priorities List (NPL), Toxic Releases Inventory (TRI), and National Pollutants Discharge Elimination

Systems (NPDES). Accessed December 14, 2023. Available at: <https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/EMEF/efpoints/MapServer>.

USEPA. 2022b. Sole Source Aquifer Map. Accessed February 23, 2024. Available at: <https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b>.

USEPA. 2023a. Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants. USEPA Green Book. Accessed December 14, 2023. Available at: [https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo\\_pr.html](https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo_pr.html).

USEPA. 2023b. EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. Accessed January 22, 2024. Available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/download-ejscreen-data>.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2019. Coastal Barrier Resources System. Accessed January 31, 2023. Available at: <https://www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Mapper.html>.

USFWS. 2023a. Information for Planning and Consultation (IpaC). Accessed November 10, 2023. Available at: <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/location/index>.

USFWS. 2023b. Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species. Accessed November 10, 2023. Available at: <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77>.

USFWS. 2023c. National Wetlands Inventory Surface Waters and Wetlands Mapper. Accessed December 14, 2023. Available at: <https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>.

U.S. Forest Service. 2022. National Wild and Scenic River Segments. Accessed January 14, 2023. Available at: <https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php>; [Wild & Scenic Rivers | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 2022. Concentration of Landslides caused by Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico. Accessed December 14, 2023. Available at: [U.S. Landslide Inventory \(arcgis.com\)](#).

### **List of Permits Obtained:**

No permits have been obtained.

### **Public Outreach [24 CFR 58.43]:**

Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the agricultural community. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations for HUD, the public will be notified of the project through publication of the combined Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) – Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI-RROF) notice with a 15-day public comment period.

**Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]:**

The installation of four conjoined greenhouses, fourteen 600-gallon cisterns, a water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and a storage container at the project site is not expected to negatively impact environmental resources. None of the environmental assessment factors nor the regulations reviewed in the above checklist resulted in negative environmental impacts. The new utility connections will create an increase in electricity pull on the grid, however it will not place undue stress on the grid as all authorization and/or permits will be in place prior to expansion. Overall, the project will have a net positive impact by helping a small business increase their capacity for agricultural production. No other planned or ongoing projects were identified in the project vicinity that could contribute to cumulative impacts of environmental resources.

**Alternatives [24 CFR 58.40©; 40 CFR 1508.9]**

Within the boundaries of the property, other locations could be considered for the four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, the water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and the storage container. However, other locations may require greater environmental impacts such as additional ground disturbance, grading for slopes that are not suitable for installation or additional tree clearing and would result in higher costs to the applicant.

**No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40©]:**

Under the No Action Alternative, the applicant would not receive federal funding to purchase equipment, construct four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, a water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and a storage container. Consequently, the applicant may not be able to recover and continue agricultural production. Given the degree of need for greater agricultural capacity in Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Irma and María, the costs of foregoing the project would exceed the benefits.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusions:**

The proposed project would not result in any adverse impacts to the surrounding natural, historical, and water resources; generate significant air or noise pollution; or promote environmental or socioeconomic injustices. The proposed project is not located within a coastal zone or near a major water resource.

**Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2©]**

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  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Endangered Species</b></p> <p>Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402</p> | <p><i>General Condition:</i></p> <p>The current project activities do not involve the removal of trees. If any tree clearing is to be proposed, the project will need to be re-evaluated for impacts to threatened and endangered species.</p> <p>If a Puerto Rican Boa (Boa) is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off site on its own. If the Boa does not move off site, the construction manager shall contact the Puerto Rico DNER to relocate the Boa.</p> <p>If a Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (Pigeon) is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Pigeon moves off site on its own. If the Pigeon does not move off site, the construction manager shall contact the Puerto Rico DNER to relocate the Pigeon.</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 educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. Once areas are clearly marked, and prior to the use of heavy machinery and any construction activity (including removal of vegetation and earth</li> </ol> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>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.</p> <p>4. If a PR boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded (see #5). Do not capture the boa. If boas need to be moved out of harm's way, designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (PRDNER phone #s: (787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124). If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities at that area must stop until the boa moves out of harm's way on its own. Activities at other work sites, where no boas have been found after surveying the area, may continue.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>8. PR boas may seek shelter in debris piles. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize</p> |
|--|---|

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>10. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact the PRDNER for further guidance.</p> <p>The USFWS has developed the following conservation measures for bird species in case an encounter occurs:</p> <p>1. All personnel will be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. During breeding seasons (see below), nest surveys shall be conducted if a project occurs within the range of any of the species listed above and if habitat for those species will be impacted by the proposed actions. Nest searches must be conducted by qualified personnel with the appropriate permits from the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) prior to start of work. If nesting activity is detected, all construction activities or human disturbance must be avoided within a 50-meter buffer around any nest(s) found within the project area. This avoidance strategy must be kept until fledglings successfully leave the nest(s) permanently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breeding Seasons:</li> <li>• Puerto Rican parrot: February-June.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk: December-June.</li> </ul> <p>2. Outside the breeding season no nest surveys are required, but if a nest is encountered, all construction activities or human disturbance must be avoided within a 50-meter buffer around that nest(s). This avoidance strategy must be kept until fledglings successfully leave the nest(s) permanently. Furthermore, if any of the species indicated above is observed (e.g., foraging, resting) within the project area, avoid any disturbance to the individual(s) and do not flush the bird until it leaves on its own.</p> <p>3. For all nest sightings, the Applicant must record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where it was found. All sightings and incidental lethal take reports should be sent to the USFWS Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office at Caribbean_es@fws.gov. For questions, the Point of Contact (POC) is José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Program Coordinator, and can be contacted at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mobile: 305-304-1386</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Office phone: 786-244-0081</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Office Direct Line: 939-320-3120</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov</li> </ul> |
| <b>Historic Preservation</b><br>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800 | <p><i>General Condition:</i></p> <p>If historic properties are discovered, unanticipated effects on historic properties are found, or cultural materials are encountered, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no historic properties or cultural materials are present. Please contact PRDOH to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect historic properties or cultural materials.</p>   |
| Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design   | <p>The proposed action is continued agricultural use of property, which is compatible with the existing land use.</p> <p>The applicant and/or construction manager is required to obtain any necessary local and territorial building and environmental permits prior to construction activities commencing.</p>  |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff | <p>Soil suitability will be assessed prior to construction. Contractors will be required to use best management practices during construction.</p> <p>DNER authorization is required for any extraction, removal, excavation, and dredging of the components of the earth's crust.</p>   |
| Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise          | <p>Contractors will be required to provide health and safety plans and monitoring during construction. Contractors will be required to comply with the applicable local noise ordinances.</p> <p>Noise impacts will be mitigated by restricting construction activities to daylight hours and to the hours established in the Regulation for Noise Control and Pollution in Puerto Rico.</p> |
| Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling                               | <p>All construction debris will be disposed of at the proper facilities for the debris type (i.e. construction waste).</p>   |
| Wetlands   | <p>The project will further minimize potential impacts by requiring applicant contractors to implement appropriate best management practices ([BMPs] including proper site management, implementation and maintenance of erosion and sedimentation control measures, and soil stabilization) during construction activities.</p>   |
| <u>Energy Consumption</u>                                      | <p><u>The applicant is required to obtain authorization or permits from Prepa and/or Luma prior to expanding electrical connections.</u></p>   |

**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: 09/26/2024

Name/Title/Organization: Allyson Rezac, Deputy Program Manager,  
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Certifying Officer Signature:  Date: 10/2/2024

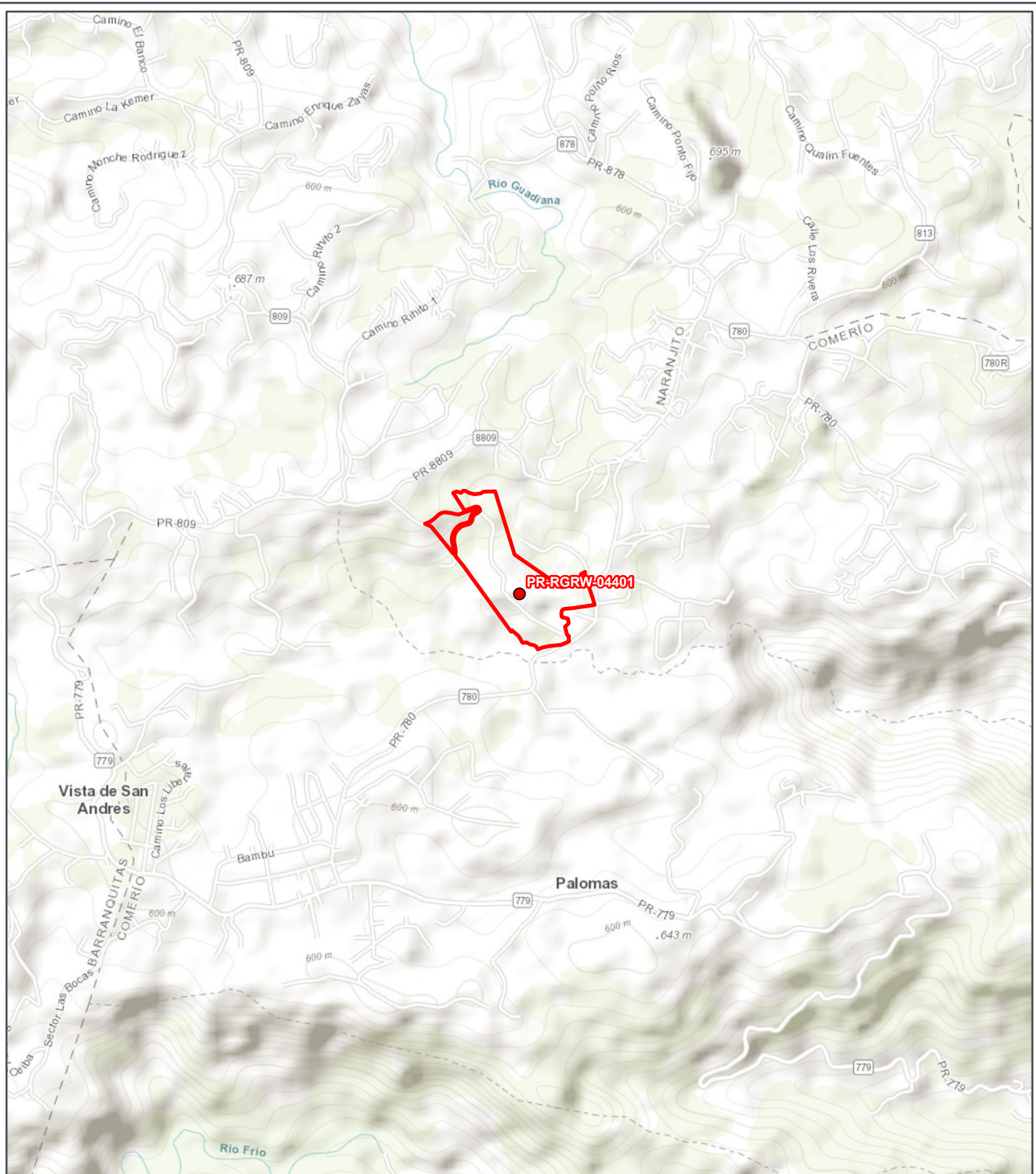
Name/Title: Priscilla M. Toro Rivera/ Environmental Specialist

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).

# **Appendix A**

## **Project Overview Figures**

**Figure 1**  
**Site Location Map**



REGROW PROGRAM

## Figure A-1: Site Location

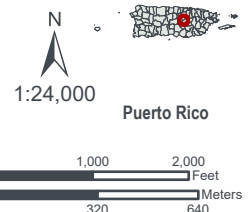
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Site Location  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



**Figure 2**  
**Site Vicinity Map**





REGROW PROGRAM

## Figure A-2: Site Vicinity

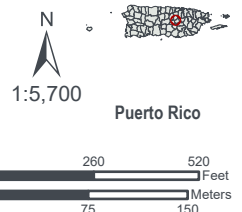
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Underground Waterline
- Above Ground Waterline

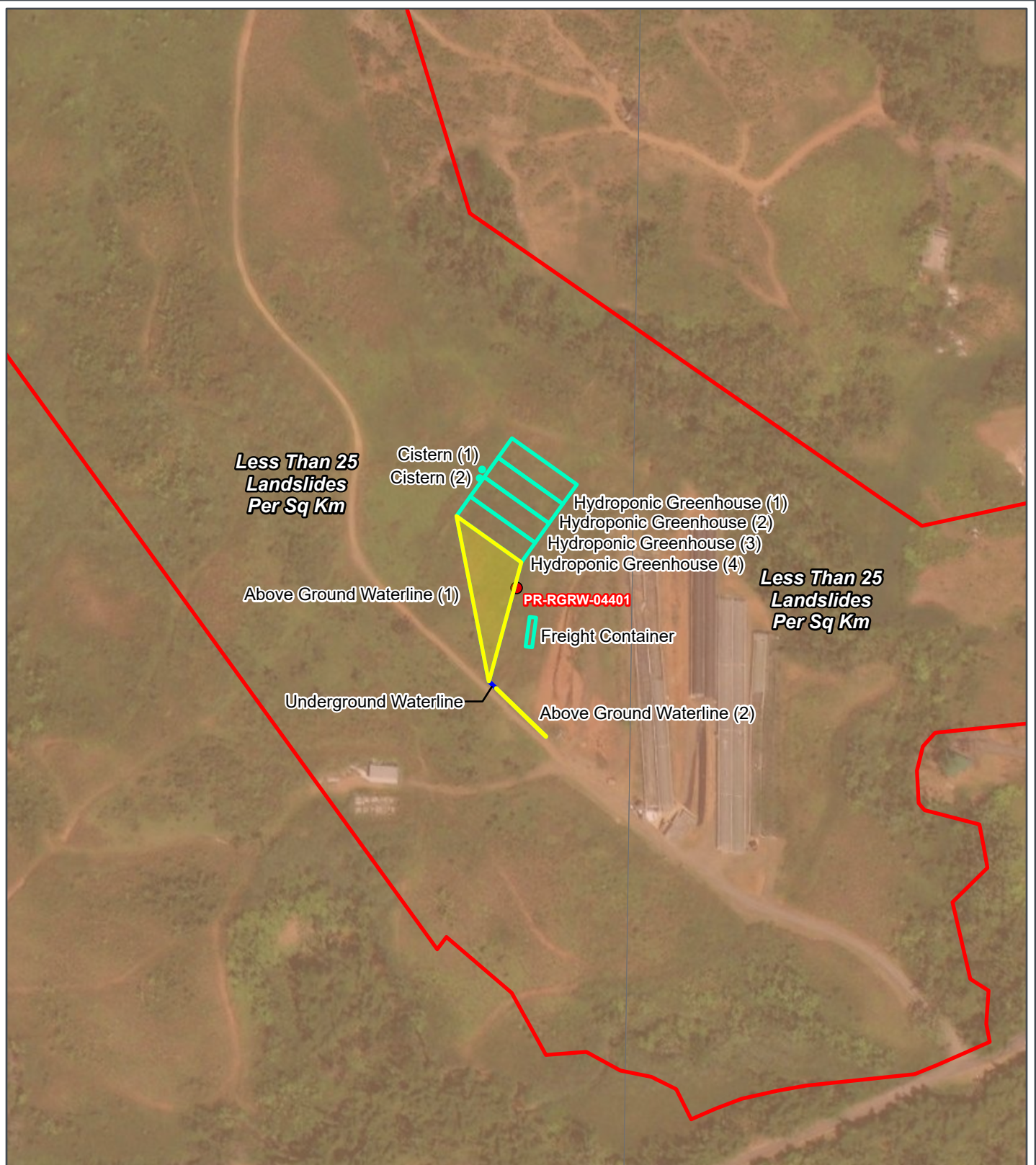
780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Site Vicinity  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



**Figure 3**  
**USGS Landslide Map**





REGROW PROGRAM

### Figure A-3: USGS Landslide Map

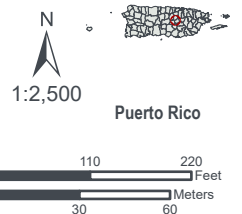
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Underground Waterline
- Above Ground Waterline
- Greater than 25 Landslides per sq km
- Less than 25 Landslides per sq km
- No Landslides
- Not Examined

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: [https://arcgis.cuahsi.org/arcgis/rest/services/MariaRAPID/Hurricane\\_Maria\\_Landslides/MapServer](https://arcgis.cuahsi.org/arcgis/rest/services/MariaRAPID/Hurricane_Maria_Landslides/MapServer)  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Landslide



**Appendix B**

**Attachments and Supporting  
Documentation**

**Attachment 1**

**Airport Hazards Partner Worksheet and**

**Airport Hazards Map**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## **Airport Hazards (CEST and EA) – PARTNER**

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/airport-hazards>

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

☒ No à *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide a map showing that the site is not within the applicable distances to a military or civilian airport.*

☐ Yes à *Continue to Question 2.*

- 2. Is your project located within a Runway Potential Zone/Clear Zone (RPZ/CZ) or Accident Potential Zone (APZ)?**

☐ Yes, project is in an APZ à *Continue to Question 3.*

☐ Yes, project is an RPZ/CZ à *Project cannot proceed at this location.*

☐ No, project is not within an APZ or RPZ/CZ

à *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide a map showing that the site is not within either zone.*

- 3. Is the project in conformance with DOD guidelines for APZ?**

☐ Yes, project is consistent with DOD guidelines without further action.

à *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documentation supporting this determination.*

☐ No, the project cannot be brought into conformance with DOD guidelines and has not been approved. à *Project cannot proceed at this location.*

**If mitigation measures have been or will be taken, explain in detail the proposed measures that must be implemented to mitigate for the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

*à Work with the RE/HUD to develop mitigation measures. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documentation supporting this determination.*

### **Worksheet Summary**

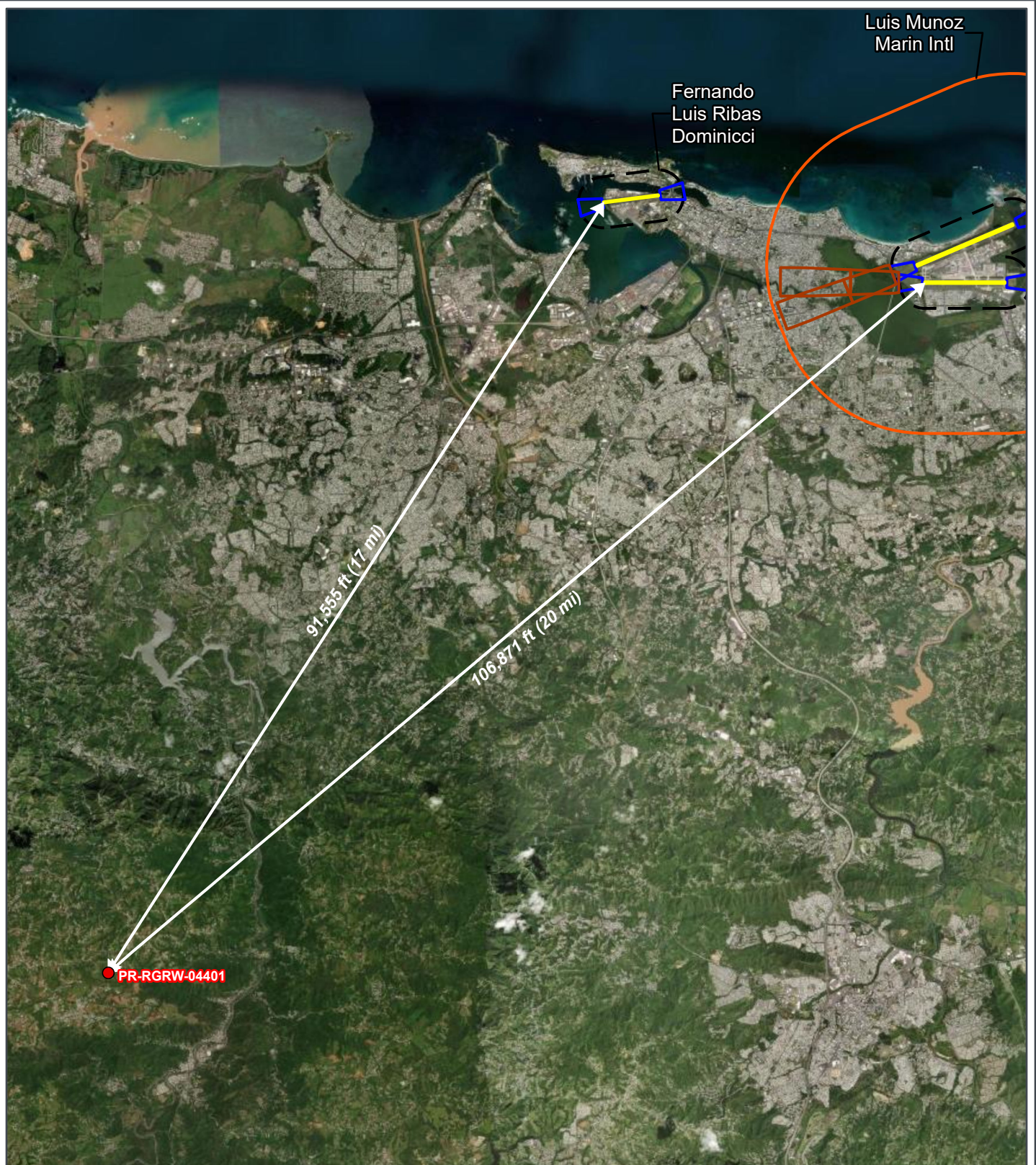
Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

### **Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

The project site is not within 2,500 ft of a civil primary or commercial service airport or within 15,000 ft of a military airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Fernando Luis Ribas Dominicci, is located 91,555 ft (17miles [mi]) from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 106,871 ft (20 mi) from the project site. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with airport hazards requirements.





REGROW PROGRAM

# **Figure B 1-1: Airport Hazards Map**

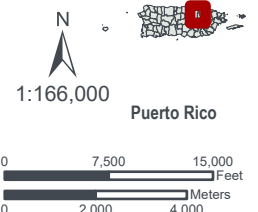
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- ▭ Airport Runway
- ▭ Accident Potential Zones (APZ)
- ▭ Runway Protection Zones (RPZ)
- ▭ 2,500-FT Civil Airport Buffer
- ▭ 15,000-FT Military Airport Buffer

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: <https://geodata.bts.gov/>  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Airport Hazards  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



## **Attachment 2**

# **Coastal Barrier Resources Act Partner Worksheet and Coastal Barrier Resources Map**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## Coastal Barrier Resources (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/coastal-barrier-resources>

Projects located in the following states must complete this form.

|             |           |               |                |                |                |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Alabama     | Georgia   | Massachusetts | New Jersey     | Puerto Rico    | Virgin Islands |
| Connecticut | Louisiana | Michigan      | New York       | Rhode Island   | Virginia       |
| Delaware    | Maine     | Minnesota     | North Carolina | South Carolina | Wisconsin      |
| Florida     | Maryland  | Mississippi   | Ohio           | Texas          |                |

### 1. Is the project located in a CBRS Unit?

- ☒ No à *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide a map showing that the site is not within a CBRS Unit.*
- ☐ Yes à *Continue to 2.*

Federal assistance for most activities may not be used at this location. You must either choose an alternate site or cancel the project. In very rare cases, federal monies can be spent within CBRS units for certain exempted activities (e.g., a nature trail), after consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (see [16 USC 3505](#) for exceptions to limitations on expenditures).

### 2. Indicate your recommended course of action for the RE/HUD

- ☐ Consultation with the FWS
- ☐ Cancel the project

### Worksheet Summary

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

### Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.

The project site is not located in a Coastal Barrier Resource Systems Unit (CBRS) or Otherwise Protected Area (OPA). There are no CBRS units in MUNICIPO. The closest CBRS unit, Punta Salinas, is located

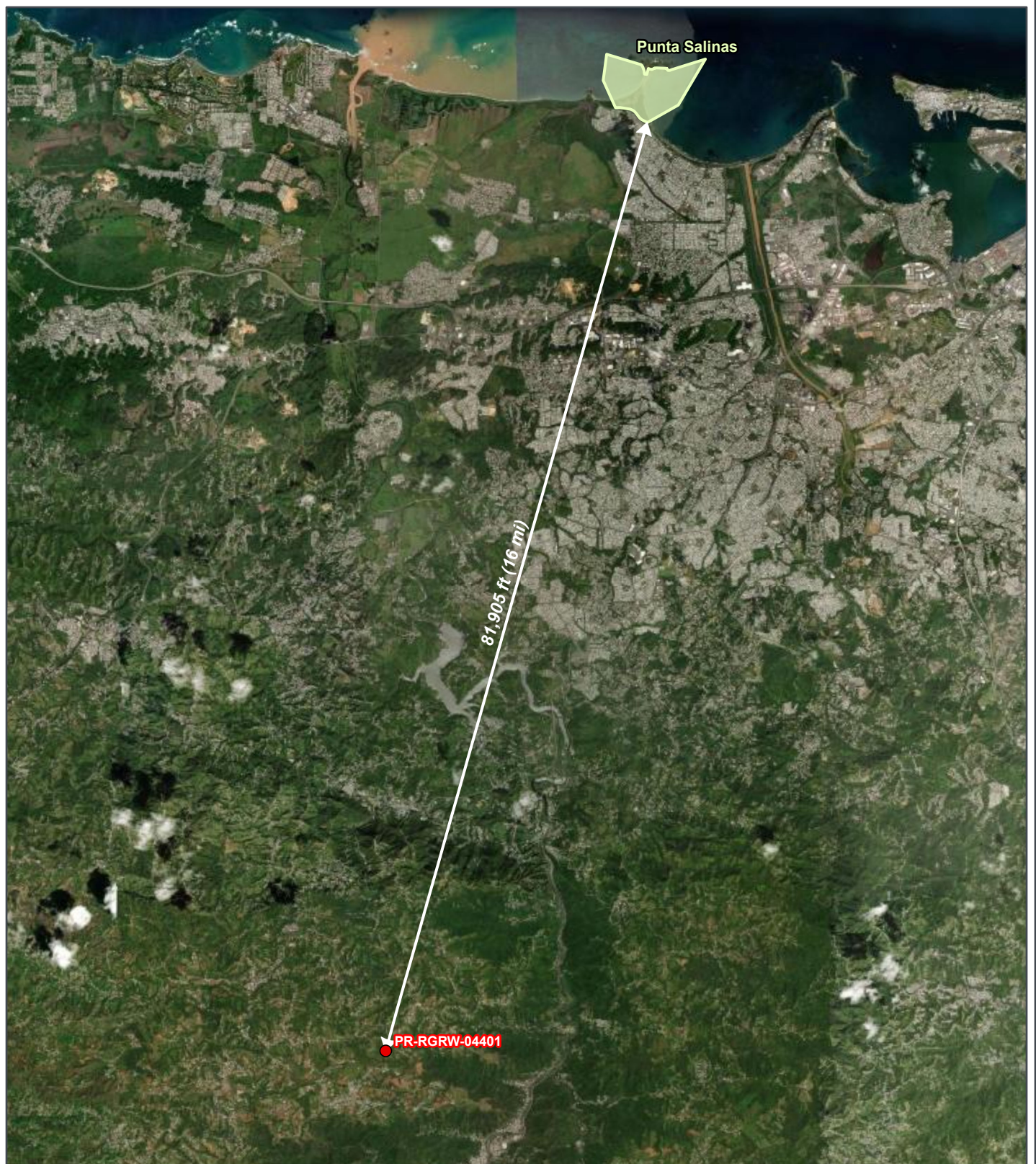




**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

81,905 ft (16 mi) from the project site. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.



REGROW PROGRAM

# **Figure B 2-1: Coastal Barrier Resources Map**

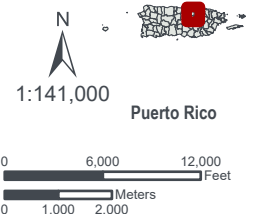
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Otherwise Protected Area
- System Unit

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: <https://cbrgis.wim.usgs.gov/arcgis/rest/services/CoastalBarrierResourcesSystem/MapServer>  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed December 2023 Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Coastal Barrier Resources System



**Attachment 3**

**Flood Insurance Partner Worksheet and  
Flood Insurance Rate Map**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## Flood Insurance (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/flood-insurance>

**1. Does this project involve mortgage insurance, refinance, acquisition, repairs, rehabilitation, or construction of a structure, mobile home, or insurable personal property?**

☐ No. This project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance.  
à *Continue to the Worksheet Summary.*

☒ Yes à *Continue to Question 2.*

**2. Provide a FEMA/FIRM map showing the site.**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplains. The [FEMA Map Service Center](#) provides this information in the form of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

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

☒ No à *Continue to the Worksheet Summary.*

☐ Yes à *Continue to Question 3.*

**3. Is the community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program or has less than one year passed since FEMA notification of Special Flood Hazards?**

☐ Yes, the community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.  
Flood insurance is required. Provide a copy of the flood insurance policy declaration or a paid receipt for the current annual flood insurance premium and a copy of the application for flood insurance.  
à *Continue to the Worksheet Summary.*

☐ Yes, less than one year has passed since FEMA notification of Special Flood Hazards.  
If less than one year has passed since notification of Special Flood Hazards, no flood Insurance is required.  
à *Continue to the Worksheet Summary.*

☐ No. The community is not participating, or its participation has been suspended.  
Federal assistance may not be used at this location. Cancel the project at this location.

**Worksheet Summary**

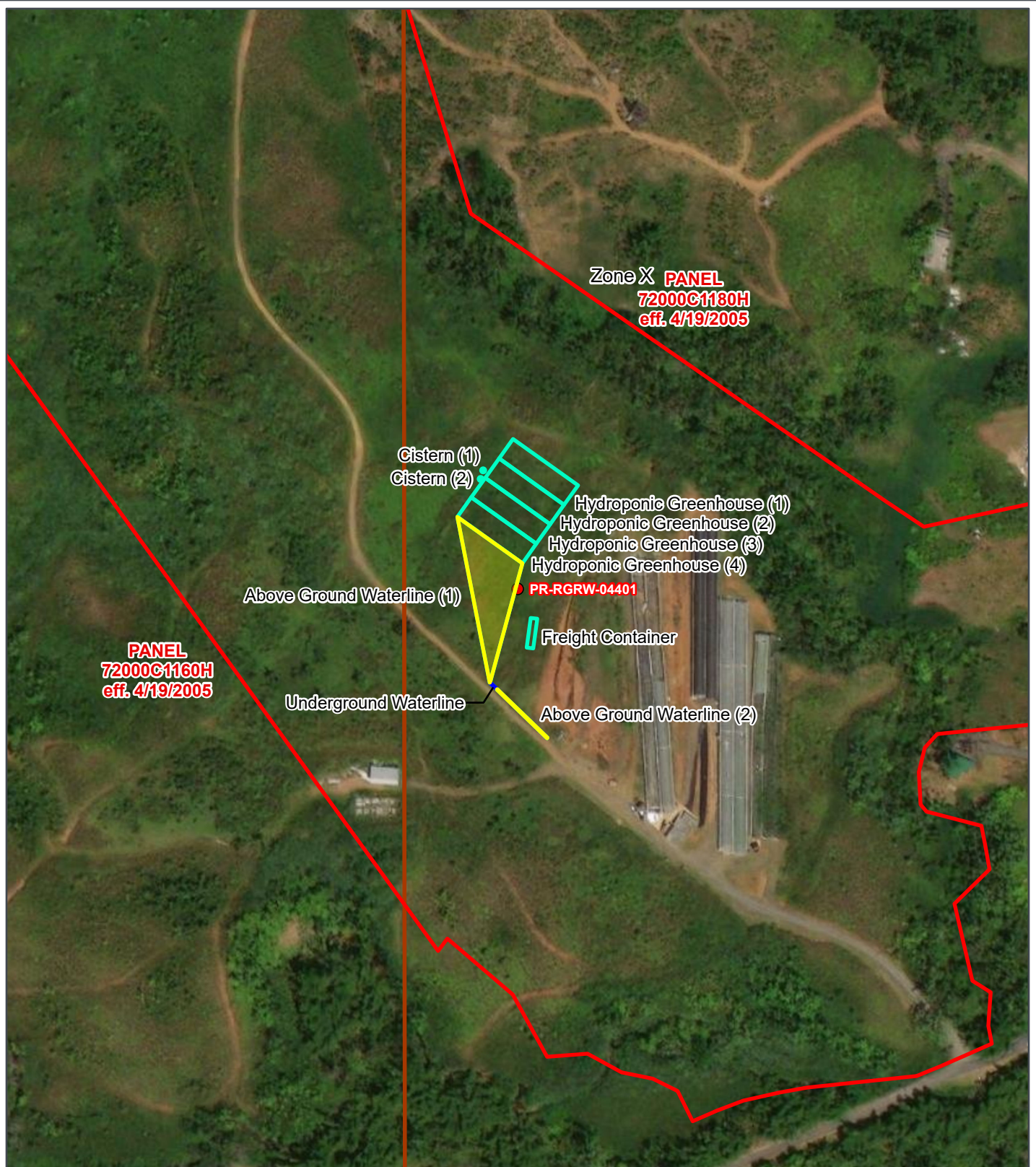
Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

**Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

A review of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), Community Panel 72000C1180H (effective date 04/19/2005) and Panel 72000C1160H (effective date 04/19/2005), shows the project site is in Flood Zone X, which is not in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Flood insurance is not required. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Flood Disaster Protection Act and National Flood Insurance Reform Act.





REGROW PROGRAM

# **Figure B 3-1: Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)**

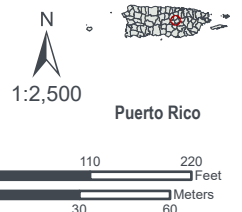
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- |                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ● Site                       | Zone AH                               |
| □ Site Parcel                | Zone AO                               |
| □ Project Footprint (Option) | Zone VE                               |
| ■ Underground Waterline      | ▨ Floodway                            |
| ■ Above Ground Waterline     | Zone X - Shaded (500-year floodplain) |
| ~ Base Flood Elevations      | Zone X - Unshaded                     |
| ■ Zone A                     | □ Area Not Included                   |
| ■ Zone AE                    | ■ Open Water                          |

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: <https://hazards.fema.gov/gis/nfhl/rest/services/public/NFHL/MapServer>  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Effective Floodplain  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



## **Attachment 4**

**Air Quality Partner Worksheet, List of Non-Attainment/Maintenance Status Counties in Puerto Rico, and Clean Air Map**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

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## Air Quality (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/air-quality>

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

☐ Yes → Continue to Question 2.

☒ No → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Provide any documents used to make your determination.

2. Is your project’s air quality management district or county in non-attainment or maintenance status for any criteria pollutants?

Follow the link below to determine compliance status of project county or air quality management district:

<http://www.epa.gov/oaqps001/greenbk/>

☐ No, project’s county or air quality management district is in attainment status for all criteria pollutants

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination.

☐ Yes, project’s management district or county is in non-attainment or maintenance status for one or more criteria pollutants. → Continue to Question 3.

3. Determine the estimated emissions levels of your project for each of those criteria pollutants that are in non-attainment or maintenance status on your project area. Will your project exceed any of the *de minimis* or *threshold* emissions levels of non-attainment and maintenance level pollutants or exceed the screening levels established by the state or air quality management district?

☐ No, the project will not exceed *de minimis* or threshold emissions levels or screening levels

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Explain how you determined that the project would not exceed *de minimis* or threshold emissions.



☐ Yes, the project exceeds *de minimis* emissions levels or screening levels.

→ *Continue to Question 4. Explain how you determined that the project would not exceed de minimis or threshold emissions in the Worksheet Summary.*

- 4. For the project to be brought into compliance with this section, all adverse impacts must be mitigated. Explain in detail the exact measures that must be implemented to mitigate for the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

### **Worksheet Summary**

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

### **Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

The project site is in Comerio Municipio, which is within a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated attainment area. Municipios in Nonattainment or Maintenance areas include Arecibo, Bayamon, Catano, Guaynabo, Salinas, San Juan and Toa Baja. Project activities include new construction of four greenhouses, fourteen cisterns, and a storage container. The project is not anticipated to have a negative impact on air quality. Emissions associated with the proposed actions are temporary and limited to the use of small construction equipment and will be well below the Federal General Conformity Rule *de minimis* thresholds. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.



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 January 31, 2024

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:

PUERTO RICO

▼

GO

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 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| PUERTO RICO        |                       |                      |   |                              |                |                      |                   |                         |
| Arecibo Municipio  | Lead (2008)           | Arecibo, PR          | <div>1112131415161718192021222324</div>         | //                           |                | Part                 | 32,185            | 72/013                  |
| Bayamon Municipio  | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR         | <div>18192021222324</div>                       | //                           |                | Part                 | 22,921            | 72/021                  |
| Catano Municipio   | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR         | <div>18192021222324</div>                       | //                           |                | Whole                | 28,140            | 72/033                  |
| Guaynabo Municipio | PM-10 (1987)          | Mun. of Guaynabo, PR | <div>929394959697989900010203040506070809</div> | 02/11/2010                   | Moderate       | Part                 | 90,470            | 72/061                  |
| Guaynabo Municipio | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR         | <div>18192021222324</div>                       | //                           |                | Part                 | 23,802            | 72/061                  |
| Salinas Municipio  | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | Guayama-Salinas, PR  | <div>18192021222324</div>                       | //                           |                | Part                 | 23,401            | 72/123                  |
| San Juan Municipio | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR         | <div>18192021222324</div>                       | //                           |                | Part                 | 147,963           | 72/127                  |
| Toa Baja Municipio | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR         | <div>18192021222324</div>                       | //                           |                | Part                 | 52,441            | 72/137                  |

Important Notes

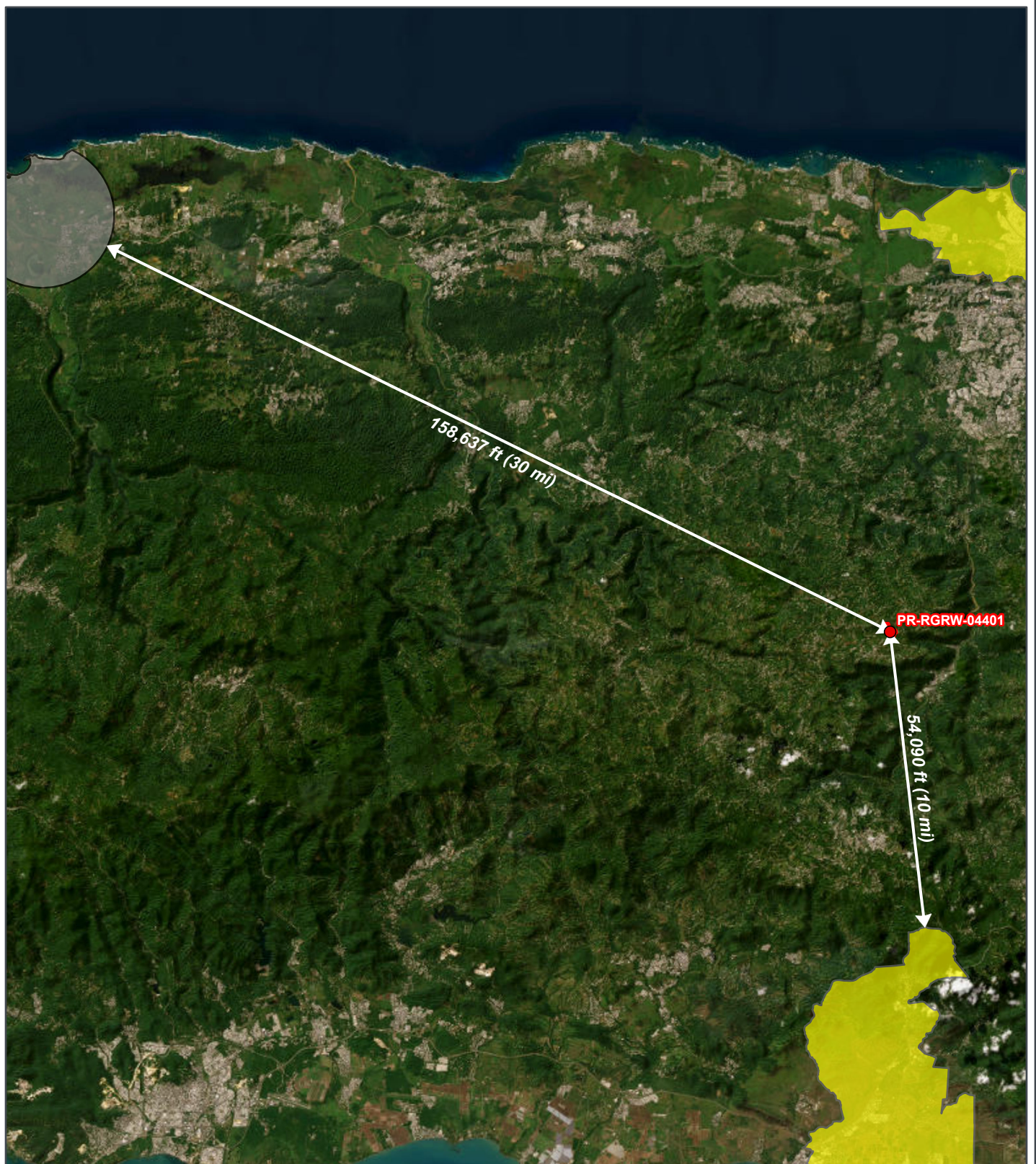
Discover.

Connect.

Ask.

Follow.

2024-01-31



REGROW PROGRAM

# **Figure B 4-1: Clean Air Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

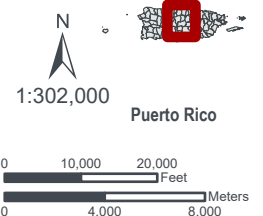
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- ▨ 8-Hour Ozone (2015 Standard)\*
- Lead (2008 Standard)
- PM-2.5 (2012 Standard)\*
- Sulfur Dioxide (2010 Standard)

\*No Data in Puerto Rico

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: [https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/NEPAAssist/NEPAVELayersPublic\\_fgdb/MapServer](https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/NEPAAssist/NEPAVELayersPublic_fgdb/MapServer)  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Clean Air  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



## **Attachment 5**

### **Coastal Zone Management Partner Worksheet and Coastal Zone Map**





**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

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## Coastal Zone Management Act (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

<https://www.onecpd.info/environmental-review/coastal-zone-management>

Projects located in the following states must complete this form.

|                   |          |               |                             |                |                |
|-------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Alabama           | Florida  | Louisiana     | Mississippi                 | Ohio           | Texas          |
| Alaska            | Georgia  | Maine         | New Hampshire               | Oregon         | Virgin Islands |
| American<br>Samoa | Guam     | Maryland      | New Jersey                  | Pennsylvania   | Virginia       |
| California        | Hawaii   | Massachusetts | New York                    | Puerto Rico    | Washington     |
| Connecticut       | Illinois | Michigan      | North Carolina              | Rhode Island   | Wisconsin      |
| Delaware          | Indiana  | Minnesota     | Northern<br>Mariana Islands | South Carolina |                |

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

☐ Yes → Continue to Question 2.

☒ No → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide a map showing that the site is not within a Coastal Zone.

**2. Does this project include activities that are subject to state review?**

☐ Yes → Continue to Question 3.

☐ No → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide documentation used to make your determination.

**3. Has this project been determined to be consistent with the State Coastal Management Program?**

☐ Yes, with mitigation. → The RE/HUD must work with the State Coastal Management Program to develop mitigation measures to mitigate the impact or effect of the project.

☐ Yes, without mitigation. → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide documentation used to make your determination.

☐ No → Project cannot proceed at this location.

**Worksheet Summary**

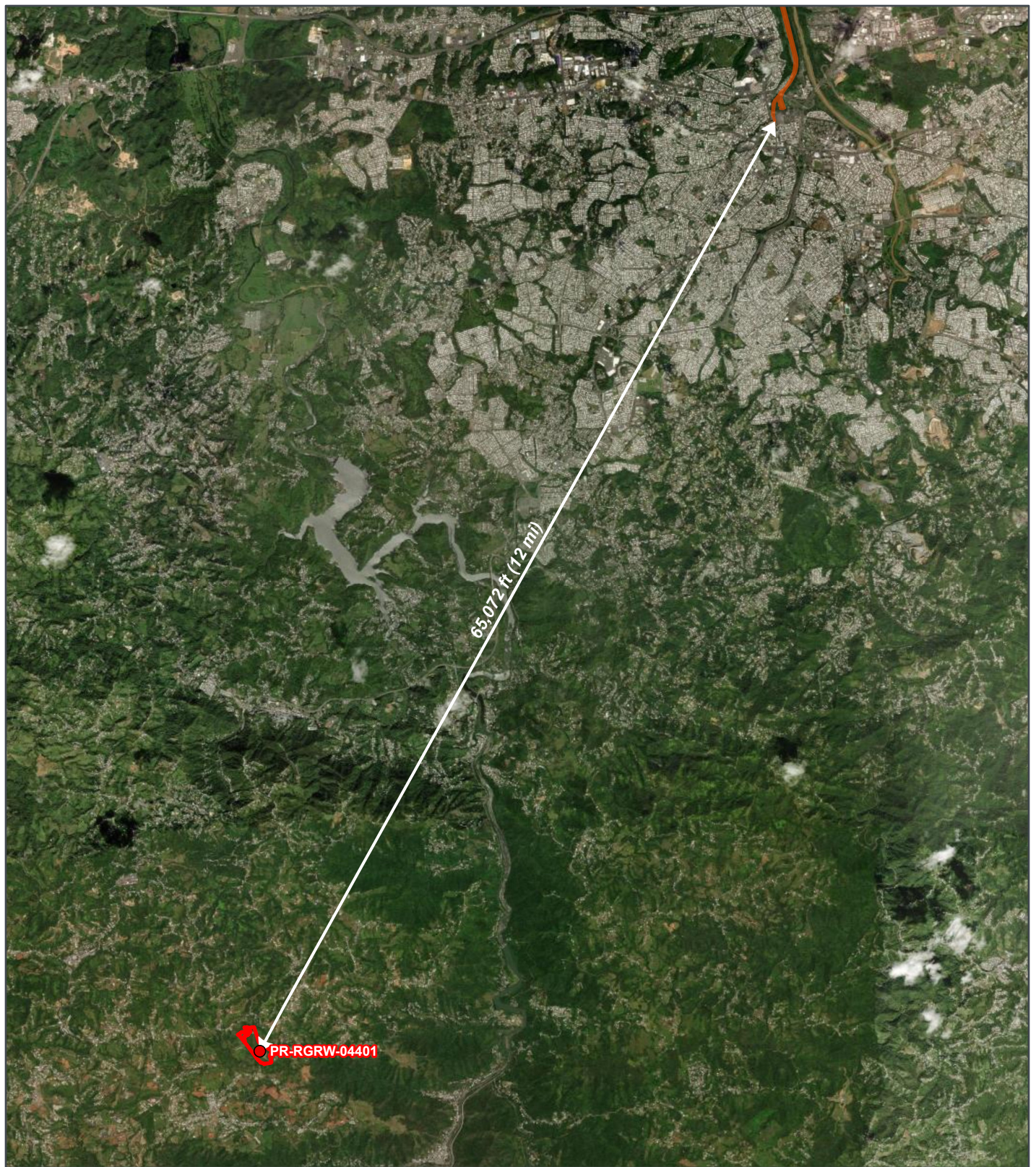
Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

**Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

The project site is not located within the Puerto Rico Coastal Management Zone. The closest coastal zone area is located 65,072 ft (12 mi) from the project site. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.





REGROW PROGRAM

# **Figure B 5-1: Coastal Zone Management Map**

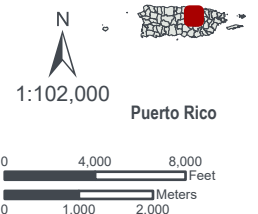
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Coastal Management Zone

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: <https://coast.noaa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Hosted/CoastalZoneManagementAct/BaseMap>  
Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed December 2023 Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Coastal Zone Management  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



**Attachment 6**

**Contamination and Toxics Substances**

**Partner Worksheet, Desktop Review**

**Summary and Map**





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## Contamination and Toxic Substances (Multifamily and Non-Residential Properties) – PARTNER

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/site-contamination>

**1. How was site contamination evaluated? <sup>1</sup> Select all that apply.**

- ☐ ASTM Phase I ESA
- ☐ ASTM Phase II ESA
- ☐ Remediation or clean-up plan
- ☐ ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening
- ☒ None of the above

*à Provide documentation and reports and include an explanation of how site contamination was evaluated in the Worksheet Summary.*

*Continue to Question 2.*

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

- ☒ No **à Explain below.**

The Environmental Site Inspection and Desktop Review did not reveal any potential contamination or hazards.

*à If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

- ☐ Yes *à Describe the findings, including any recognized environmental conditions (RECs), in Worksheet Summary below. Continue to Question 3.*

**3. Can adverse environmental impacts be mitigated?**

---

<sup>1</sup> HUD regulations at 24 CFR § 58.5(i)(2)(ii) require that the environmental review for multifamily housing with five or more dwelling units or non-residential property include the evaluation of previous uses of the site or other evidence of contamination on or near the site. For acquisition and new construction of multifamily and nonresidential properties HUD strongly advises the review include an ASTM Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to meet real estate transaction standards of due diligence and to help ensure compliance with HUD’s toxic policy at 24 CFR §58.5(i) and 24 CFR §50.3(i). Also note that some HUD programs require an ASTM Phase I ESA.

☐ Adverse environmental impacts cannot feasibly be mitigated → HUD assistance may not be used for the project at this site. Project cannot proceed at this location.

☐ Yes, adverse environmental impacts can be eliminated through mitigation.  
à *Provide all mitigation requirements<sup>2</sup> and documents. Continue to Question 4.*

**4. Describe how compliance was achieved. Include any of the following that apply: State Voluntary Clean-up Program, a No Further Action letter, use of engineering controls<sup>3</sup>, or use of institutional controls<sup>4</sup>.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**If a remediation plan or clean-up program was necessary, which standard does it follow?**

- ☐ Complete removal  
☐ Risk-based corrective action (RBCA)

à *Continue to the Worksheet Summary.*

**Worksheet Summary**

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

**Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

The project site was evaluated for potential contamination by conducting a field site inspection on 10/26/2023 to identify any onsite hazards including, but not limited to, soil staining, above ground storage tanks, signs of underground storage tanks, odors, hazardous debris etc.

The site inspection did not identify any onsite hazards, stained soil or vegetation and the project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.

In addition, a desktop review of USEPA databases, NEPAAssist, and other sources was conducted to determine if the project site was located near dump sites, junk yards, landfills, hazardous waste sites, or industrial sites, including USEPA National Priorities List Sites (Superfund sites), CERCLA or state-equivalent sites, RCRA Corrective Action sites with release(s) or suspected release(s) requiring clean-up

---

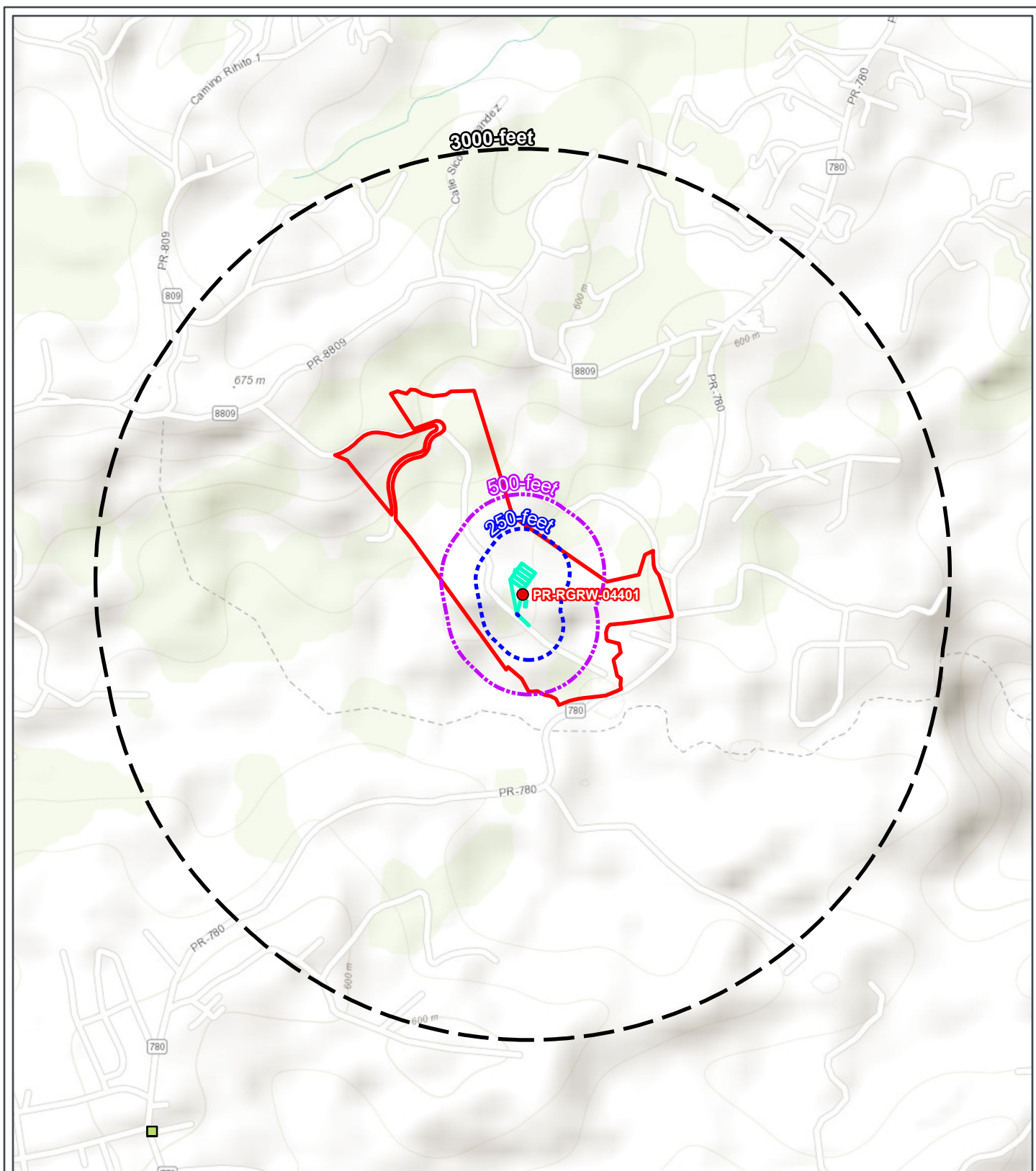
<sup>2</sup> Mitigation requirements include all clean-up actions required by applicable federal, state, tribal, or local law. Additionally, provide, as applicable, the long-term operations and maintenance plan, Remedial Action Work Plan, and other equivalent documents.

<sup>3</sup> Engineering controls are any physical mechanism used to contain or stabilize contamination or ensure the effectiveness of a remedial action. Engineering controls may include, without limitation, caps, covers, dikes, trenches, leachate collection systems, signs, fences, physical access controls, ground water monitoring systems and ground water containment systems including, without limitation, slurry walls and ground water pumping systems.

<sup>4</sup> Institutional controls are mechanisms used to limit human activities at or near a contaminated site, or to ensure the effectiveness of the remedial action over time, when contaminants remain at a site at levels above the applicable remediation standard which would allow for unrestricted use of the property. Institutional controls may include structure, land, and natural resource use restrictions, well restriction areas, classification exception areas, deed notices, and declarations of environmental restrictions.

action and/or further investigation. The parcel has been used for agricultural purposes and there has been no change in land use in the last 20 years. The project is located in a rural area of Comerio Municipio and will continue to be used for agricultural purpose.

The desktop review did not find any of the above-listed toxic, hazardous or radioactive substances in or within 3,000 feet of the project area. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure B 6-1:  
Contamination and  
Toxic Substances Map**  
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

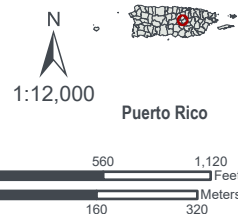
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- ▭ Underground Waterline
- ▭ Buffer (250-foot)
- ▭ Buffer (500-foot)
- ▭ Buffer (3000-foot)

- ▭ Water dischargers
- ▭ Toxic Substances Control Act
- ▭ Toxic releases
- ▭ Superfund
- ▭ Hazardous waste
- ▭ Brownfields
- ▭ Air pollution

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: <https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/EMEF/efpoints/MapServer>  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Contamination and Toxic Substances



## **Attachment 7**

**Endangered Species Act Partner  
Worksheet, Threatened and Endangered  
Species Technical Memorandum,  
USFWS IPaC Species List and Critical  
Habitat Map**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## Endangered Species Act (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/endangered-species>

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

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

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination.

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

**Explain your determination:**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination.

☒ Yes, the activities involved in the project have the potential to affect species and/or habitats. → Continue to Question 2.

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

Obtain a list of protected species from the Services. This information is available on the [FWS Website](#).

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

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination. Documentation may include letters from the Services, species lists from the Services’ websites, surveys or other documents and analysis showing that there are no species in the action area.

☒ Yes, there are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area. → Continue to Question 3.

**3. Recommend one of the following effects that the project will have on federally listed species or designated critical habitat:**

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

→ *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination. Documentation should include a species list and explanation of your conclusion, and may require maps, photographs, and surveys as appropriate.*

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

→ Partner entities should not contact the Services directly. *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, they will have to complete Informal Consultation. Provide the RE/HUD with a biological evaluation or equivalent document. They may request additional information, including surveys and professional analysis, to complete their consultation.*

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

→ Partner entities should not contact the Services directly. *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, they will have to complete Formal Consultation. Provide the RE/HUD with a biological evaluation or equivalent document. They may request additional information, including surveys and professional analysis, to complete their consultation.*

**Worksheet Summary**

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

**Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

The project involves activities that have the potential to affect protected species or habitats including but not limited to activities such as ground disturbance.

Threatened, endangered, and migratory bird species were identified by reviewing data from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information and Planning Consultation (IPaC) Tool. In addition, critical species habitat was reviewed through the USFWS IPaC Critical Habitat Portal.

The review identified two federally listed species (Puerto Rican plain pigeon [*Columba inornata wetmorei*] and the Puerto Rican boa [*Chilabothrus inornatus*]) with the potential to occur within the



project area. There is no designated or proposed critical habitat within the project area; the closest final designated critical habitat is located 61,156 ft (12 mi) away.

The project activities will result in ground disturbing activities, including excavating post holes to secure the greenhouses and excavating holes for the cisterns and piping, and constructing the greenhouses and warehouses. A qualified biologist reviewed the proposed activity location and determined that there is no suitable habitat present for any federally listed species at the proposed project location. Therefore, as currently designed, the proposed project activities will have No effect on any federally listed species or designated critical habitat.

If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project action 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.



## 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/72045-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-04401 JC Farm  
Products LLC., Comerío, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated June 21, 2024, requesting 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 installation of four new greenhouses, a water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and a storage container on 48.68 acres property located at State Road PR-780 Km 7.8, Bo. Palomas (18°14'35.3"N 66°14'55.7"W) in the municipality of Comerío. The project activities will not require any vegetation removal or tree clearing since the project location consist of mostly barren ground with some sparse, maintained mowed herbaceous vegetation.

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 (Project code: 2024-0045098) is located within the range of Puerto Rican boa (*Epicrates inornatus* now known as *Chilabothrus inornatus*) and Puerto Rican plain pigeon (*Patagioenas inornata wetmorei*).

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and analysis of the existing habitat, PRDOH has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican boa. Conservation measures developed by the Service for the Puerto Rican boa will be implemented in case an encounter with this species occur. As for the Puerto Rican plain pigeon, PRDOH has determined that the proposed actions will have no effect (NE) on this species due to the lack of suitable habitat.

We acknowledge receipt of PRDOH's 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, 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.

We have reviewed the information provided and our files, and concur with PRDOH's determination that the proposed actions may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican boa with the implementation of the conservation measures.

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

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

Sincerely,

LOURDES  
MENA

Digitally signed by  
LOURDES MENA  
Date: 2024.07.29  
18:09:09 -04'00'

Lourdes Mena  
Field Supervisor

drr



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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Tel 281.617.3217 Fax 281.617.3227  
www.swca.com

June 18, 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](mailto:robert_tawes@fws.gov)

**Re: Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation for the Puerto Rico  
Department of Housing ReGrow PR-RGRW-04401 Project/ SWCA Project No. 72428**

Dear Mr. Tawes:

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing, is requesting 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 ReGrow PR-RGRW-04401 Project (project). The Project is located on 48.68 acres at 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerío, Puerto Rico 00782 (18.24315, -66.2488).

The proposed project involves the installation of four new greenhouses, a water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and a storage container. Project activities would not require any vegetation removal or tree clearing.

Using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, we have determined that the proposed project lies within the range of the following federally listed species:

| Species   | Listing Status |
|---|----------------|
| Puerto Rican Boa<br>( <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> )                 | Endangered     |
| Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon<br>( <i>Patagioenas inornata wetmorei</i> ) | Endangered     |

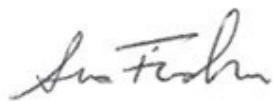
No designated or proposed critical habitat for any listed species was identified within the project area. Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, we have made the following effects determinations:

| Species   | Effect Determination                     | Conservation Measures to be Implemented               |
|---|--|---|
| Puerto Rican Boa<br>( <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> )                 | Not likely to adversely affect<br>(NLAA) | Puerto Rican Boa General<br>Project Design Guidelines |
| Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon<br>( <i>Patagioenas inornata wetmorei</i> ) | No effect<br>(NE)                        | No Conservation Measures                              |

In accordance with the 2024 Puerto Rican Boa General Project Design Guidelines, if a Puerto Rican Boa (PR Boa) is found in the project action site, work shall cease until the individual moves off on its own. If the PR 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 PR Boa.

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determinations included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at (346) 388-1157 or [susan.fischer@swca.com](mailto:susan.fischer@swca.com).

Sincerely,



Susan Fischer  
Wildlife Ecologist  
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Attachments: Threatened and Endangered Species Technical Memorandum



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www.swca.com

## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

**To:** Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 491  
Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622

**From:** Susan Fischer, Project Biologist on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing

**Date:** June 18, 2024

**Re:** **Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation for the Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow PR-RGRW-04401 Project/ SWCA Project No. 72428**

---

### Project Description

JC Farm Products LLC, the applicant, is proposing to install four new greenhouses, a water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and a storage container on a 48.68-acre property in the Municipio of Comerío, Puerto Rico (project) (Appendix A, Figure 1). The project is located at 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerío, Puerto Rico 00782, in a rural area. The total dimensions of the four conjoined greenhouses are approximately 4,320 square feet (ft) (120 x 36 ft). A maximum of 40 posts extending to a maximum depth of 3 ft deep will be installed around the perimeter of the greenhouses and secured with poured concrete in each post hole. 12 cisterns will be installed 3 ft underground within the footprint of the conjoined greenhouses. The remaining 2 cisterns will be placed on the hill directly behind the greenhouses. The water pump will be housed in an existing building. The piping for the irrigation system will be approximately 600 linear feet and run aboveground with an underground section near the road that will be approximately 15 linear feet with a max depth of one foot and covered in concrete to prevent damage from vehicle traffic. The storage container will be a standard 360 square feet (8 ft x 45 ft) shipping container and placed on concrete blocks (Appendix A, Figure 2).

### Existing conditions

The existing habitat conditions at the proposed project location consist of mostly barren ground with some sparse, maintained mowed herbaceous vegetation. Forested areas are located within 100 feet of the northeast corner of the project area. There is one waterbody mapped at the southern boundary of the subject property (Appendix A, Figure 3). Project activities would not require any vegetation removal or tree clearing. Representative photographs of the proposed locations are provided in Appendix B.

### Federally Protected Species

SWCA obtained a federal threatened and endangered species list from the USFWS (2024) Information for Planning and Consultation (“IPaC”) website for a 100-foot buffer around the project area (review area) (Appendix C). The IPaC automatically generates a list of species and other resources of concern, such as



critical habitat, that are known or expected to be in the specified area and could potentially be directly or indirectly affected. According to the IPaC query for the project, two federally listed endangered species has the potential to occur in the review area; the Puerto Rican plain pigeon (*Patagioenas inornata wetmorei*) and the Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*). SWCA also evaluated the review area for potential habitat for bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) as they are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (“BGEPA”).

The bald and golden eagle’s range do not extend into Puerto Rico (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2024); therefore, these species were eliminated from further analysis for this project. Table 1 identifies the species carried forward for further evaluation and summarizes each species’ habitat requirements, potential for occurrence in the project area, and determination of effects.

**Table 1. Federally Listed Species Range and/or Habitat Requirements**

| Common Name<br>(Scientific Name)                                  | Status* | Range or Habitat Requirements   | Potential for<br>Occurrence in<br>Project Area  | Determination of<br>Effects/Impacts   |
|---|---------|---|---|---|
| <b>Birds</b>  |         |   |   |   |
| Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon<br>( <i>Columba inornata wetmorei</i> ) | FE      | The Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon is found mostly in wooded ravines, second-growth areas, bamboo thickets, and patches of farmland and pasture within moist mountain forests (Birds of Puerto Rico 2024). The species nests in bamboo groves and hardwood canyons (USFWS 1982).   | <i>Unlikely to occur.</i> There are no wooded ravines or bamboo thickets within the proposed project locations. | <i>No effect.</i> There is no suitable habitat for the Puerto Rican plain pigeon within the project area. |
| <b>Reptiles</b>   |         |   |   |   |
| Puerto Rican Boa<br>( <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> )             | FE      | Considered to be a habitat generalist, the Puerto Rican boa tolerates a wide variety of terrestrial and arboreal habitats, including rocky areas, haystack hill, trees and branches, rotting stumps, caves, plantations, various types of forested areas such as karst and mangrove forests, forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges (USFWS 2011). | <i>Unlikely to occur.</i> The proposed project area consists of barren ground or mowed lawn.                    | <i>May affect, but not likely to adversely affect.</i> See discussion below.                              |

\*Status Definitions:  
FE = Federally listed endangered

The Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) was completed for the project, which generated a *may affect* determination for the Puerto Rican boa (Appendix D). However, the proposed project area consists of primarily barren ground or open, maintained mowed vegetation and would not provide suitable habitat for the Puerto Rican boa. The applicant will employ the conservation measures outlined in the 2024 USFWS General Project Design Guidelines for the Puerto Rican boa (Appendix E), including but not limited to issuing a stop work if a Puerto Rican boa were to occur within the project area, and contacting the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources for safe capture and relocation of the individual if such action is required. As such, it is anticipated that the project *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* the Puerto Rican boa.

Based on a site visit and habitat evaluations, the Puerto Rican plain pigeon is considered unlikely to occur within the project area due to lack of suitable habitat. Therefore, the project will have *no effect* on this federally listed species.

## **Critical Habitat and National Wildlife Refuges**

Potential effects to habitat(s) within the project area critical to endangered species must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves, while any activity proposed on National Wildlife Refuge lands must undergo a compatibility determination conducted by the Refuge. No designated critical habitats are present within 100-feet of any of the proposed project location options (Appendix A, Figure 4) (USFWS 2023).

## LITERATURE CITED

- Birds of Puerto Rico. 2024. Plain Pigeon (*Patagioenas inornata*). Available at: <https://birdsofpuertorico.com/bird/56/Plain-Pigeon>. Accessed May 2024.
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology. 2024. All About Birds. Available at: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>. Accessed May 2024.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1982. *Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon Recovery Plan*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia. 52pp.
- . 2011. *Puerto Rican Boa (Epicrates inornatus) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region. Boquerón, Puerto Rico.
- . 2023. Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species [USFWS]. Available at: <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77>. Accessed December 2023.
- . 2024. Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC). Available at: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed February 2024.

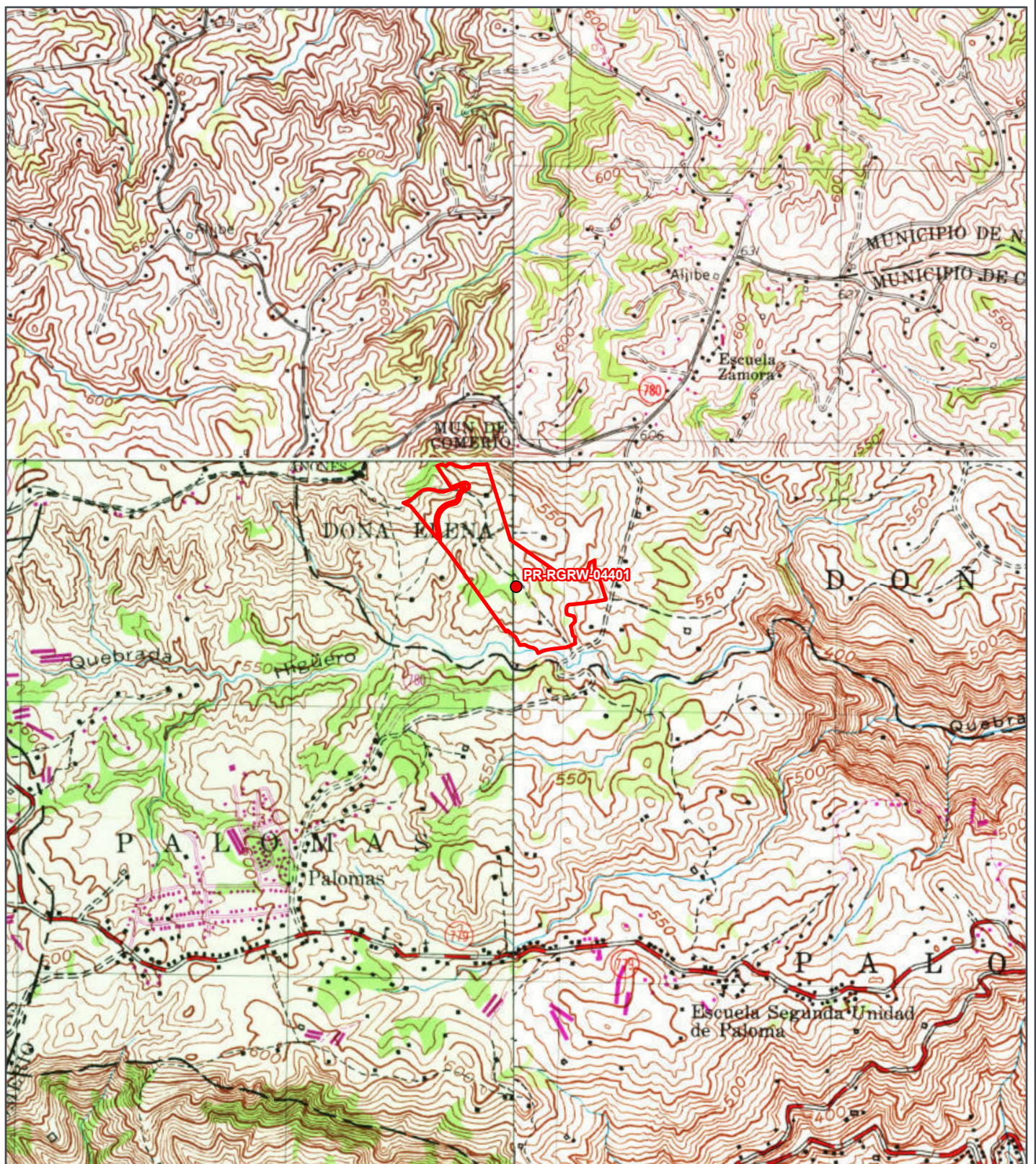
## **APPENDIX A**

### **Maps**

**Figure 1**

**USGS Topographic Map**





REGROW PROGRAM

## USGS Topographic Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

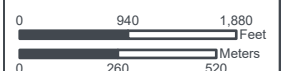
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023

Layout: USGS Topographic Map  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps





**Figure 2**  
**Site Vicinity Map**



REGROW PROGRAM

## Site Vicinity

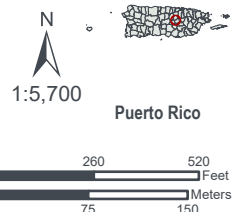
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Underground Waterline
- Above Ground Waterline

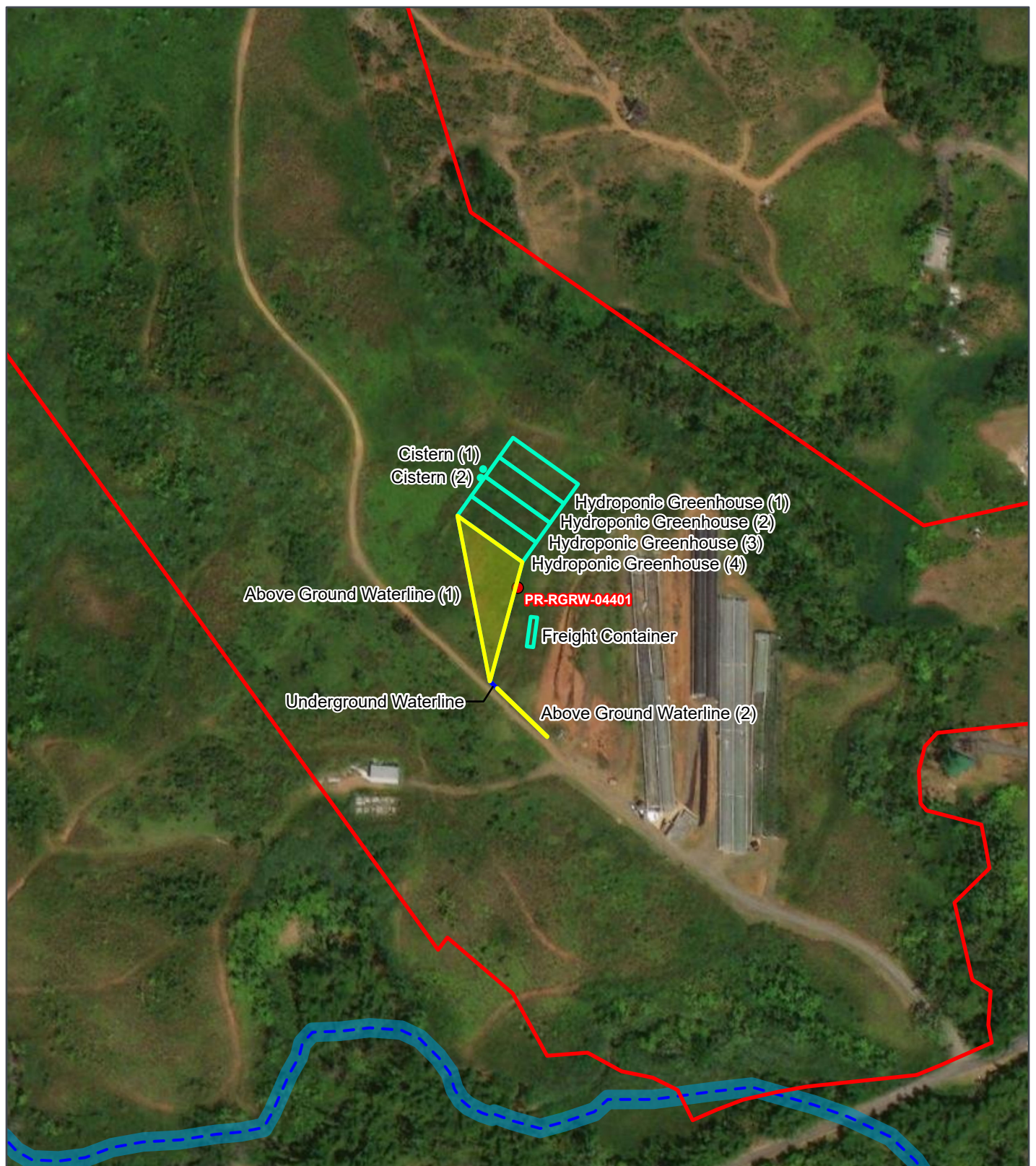
780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Site Vicinity  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



**Figure 3**  
**Wetlands Map**





REGROW PROGRAM

## Wetlands Protection Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

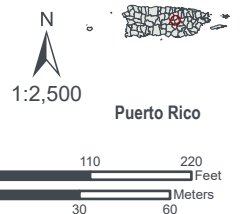
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Underground Waterline
- Above Ground Waterline
- NHD Stream
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/>  
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/data-download>  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Wetlands Protection



**Figure 4**  
**Critical Habitat Map**





REGROW PROGRAM

### Critical Habitat Map

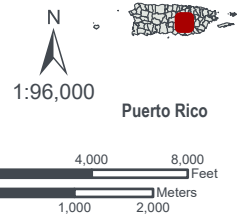
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401



- Site
- Site Parcel
- Buffer (100-ft)
- Critical Habitat - Final
- National Wildlife Refuges

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: [https://services.arcgis.com/QVENGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/USFWS\\_Critical\\_Habitat/Base\\_Map/ESRI/ArcGIS/Online](https://services.arcgis.com/QVENGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/USFWS_Critical_Habitat/Base_Map/ESRI/ArcGIS/Online),  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Critical Habitat  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps





## **APPENDIX B**

### **Photographic Log**

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>01  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>North   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Overview of site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft with 3 600-gallon cisterns each. |                            |  |

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>02  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>South   |                            |
| <b>Description:</b><br>North corner of site<br>location for vertical<br>hydroponic greenhouse<br>120x36ft. |                            |

A photograph showing a wide, flat area of land with reddish-brown soil. The ground is covered with sparse, low-lying green plants and weeds. In the distance, there is a line of trees and some structures, possibly a farm or a small town. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The overall scene appears to be a rural or undeveloped area.

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>03  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>Southwest   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>NE corner of site<br>location for hydroponic<br>greenhouse 120x36ft.<br>with 3 cisterns each. |                            |  |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>04   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>North  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>South corner of site<br>location for 4 vertical<br>hydroponic greenhouses<br>120x36ft with 3 600-<br>gallon cisterns each. |                            |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>05   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>East   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>West corner of site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft with 3 600-gallon cisterns each. |                            |  |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>06  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>North   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses. |                            |  |

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>07  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>East  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses. |                            |  |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>08  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>South   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses. |                            |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>09   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>West   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses.<br>2 cisterns will go on hill. |                            |  |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>10  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>Southeast   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Overview of site location for storage container 45x8ft. |                            |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>11  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>Southeast   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Northwest corner of site location for storage container 45x8ft. |                            |  |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>12   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>Southwest  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>NE corner of site location for storage container 45x8ft. |                            |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>13  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>Northeast   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Southwest corner of site location for storage container 45x8ft. |                            |  |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>14  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>Northwest   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Southeast corner of site location for storage container 45x8ft. |                            |  |




|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>15   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>Southeast  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Area where pipes for water would go underground and covered with concrete to protect against cars passing through. |                            |  |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>16   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>Northwest  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Pipes continue above ground towards site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft. with 3 600-gallon cisterns each. |                            |  |

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>17   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>West   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Source for water connection option with PVC pipes on ground surface. |                            |  |

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>18  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br>Northeast   |                            |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Building to store water pump. Water arrives at the building via underground pipes that bring water from well. |                            |

A photograph of a small, rectangular building, likely a water pump storage structure. The building has a two-tone appearance: a lower section made of light grey concrete or metal and an upper section made of heavily rusted, reddish-brown metal. The upper section is taller and narrower than the lower section. A single, plain grey door is located on the front of the lower section. The building is situated in a grassy area with some tall green weeds in the foreground. In the background, there are trees and a yellow-roofed structure, possibly a greenhouse or another building. The sky is overcast and grey.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation Species List**





## 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: [CARIBBEAN\\_ES@FWS.GOV](mailto:CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV)

In Reply Refer To:  
Project Code: 2024-0045098  
Project Name: PR-RGRW-04401

February 05, 2024

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

(787) 834-1600

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0045098

Project Name: PR-RGRW-04401

Project Type: Disaster-related Grants

Project Description: Installation of new greenhouses, cisterns, storage containers and the associated facilitates.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.24399175,-66.24956353100548,14z>



Counties: Comerío County, Puerto Rico

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

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

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

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA 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><br>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.<br>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><br>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</a><br>General project design guidelines:<br><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/ATU7DV6S55HUZOY6YWUITZR2I/documents/generated/7159.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/ATU7DV6S55HUZOY6YWUITZR2I/documents/generated/7159.pdf</a> | Endangered |

## CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

# USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection 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: SWCA

Name: Kaitie Wilms

Address: 911 Hammond Drive

City: North Augusta

State: SC

Zip: 29841

Email: kaitie.wilms@swca.com

Phone: 8436930711

## **APPENDIX D**

### **USFWS Consistency Letter**



## 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: [CARIBBEAN\\_ES@FWS.GOV](mailto:CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV)

In Reply Refer To:  
Project code: 2024-0045098  
Project Name: PR-RGRW-04401

February 05, 2024

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-04401' 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 February 05, 2024, Kaitie Wilms used the Caribbean DKey; dated January 19, 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-04401'. The project is located in Comerío County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.24399175,-66.24956353100548,14z>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-04401':

Installation of new greenhouses, cisterns, storage containers and the associated facilitates.

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

| Species  | Listing Status | Determination |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| Puerto Rican Boa ( <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> ) | Endangered     | May affect    |

**Consultation with the Service is not complete.** Further consultation with the Caribbean Ecological Services office is required for those species with a determination of "may affect" listed above. Please contact the Caribbean Ecological Services office to discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species.

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**

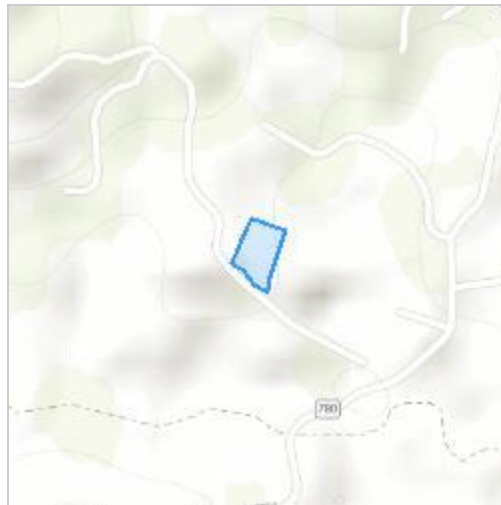
PR-RGRW-04401

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-04401':

Installation of new greenhouses, cisterns, storage containers and the associated facilitates.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.24399175,-66.24956353100548,14z>





## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

*Yes*

11. Is the project area more than 1 acre?

*No*

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

*No*

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

*No*

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

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: SWCA

Name: Kaitie Wilms

Address: 911 Hammond Drive

City: North Augusta

State: SC

Zip: 29841

Email: kaitie.wilms@swca.com

Phone: 8436930711

## **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Project Design Guidelines**

# *General Project Design Guidelines (1 Species)*

Generated February 05, 2024 06:48 PM UTC, IPaC v6.104.2-rc1





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| Species Document Availability . . . . .                                 | <a href="#"><u>1</u></a> |
| Puerto Rican Boa - Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office . . . . . | <a href="#"><u>2</u></a> |

## Species Document Availability

### Species with general design guidelines

Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*

### Species without general design guidelines available

Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon *Patagioenas inornata wetmorei*

# General Project Design Guidelines - Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon and 1 more species

Published by Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office for the following species included in your project

Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon *Patagioenas inornata wetmorei*

Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*



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

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

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

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



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

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

#### Conservation Measures:

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



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

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

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Program Coordinator
  - Email: [jose\\_cruz-burgos@fws.gov](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





REGROW PROGRAM

# **Figure B 7-1: Critical Habitat Map**

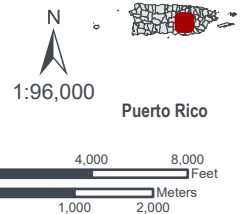
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Buffer (100-ft)
- Critical Habitat - Final
- National Wildlife Refuges

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: [https://services.arcgis.com/QVENGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/USFWS\\_Critical\\_Habitat/Base\\_Map/ESRI/ArcGIS/Online](https://services.arcgis.com/QVENGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/USFWS_Critical_Habitat/Base_Map/ESRI/ArcGIS/Online)  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Critical Habitat  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



**Attachment 8**

**Explosive and Flammable Hazards Partner**

**Worksheet**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

**Explosive and Flammable Hazards (CEST and EA) – PARTNER**

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/explosive-and-flammable-facilities>

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

☒ No

→ Continue to Question 2.

☐ Yes

**Explain:**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ Continue to Question 5.

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

☒ No → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.

☐ Yes → Continue to Question 3.

- 3. Within 1 mile of the project site, are there any current *or planned* stationary aboveground storage containers:**

- Of more than 100-gallon capacity, containing common liquid industrial fuels OR
- Of any capacity, containing hazardous liquids or gases that are not common liquid industrial fuels?

☐ No → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide all documents used to make your determination.

☐ Yes → Continue to Question 4.

- 4. Is the Separation Distance from the project acceptable based on standards in the Regulation?**

Please visit HUD’s website for information on calculating Acceptable Separation Distance.

☐ Yes

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.



*Provide map(s) showing the location of the project site relative to any tanks and your separation distance calculations. If the map identifies more than one tank, please identify the tank you have chosen as the “assessed tank.”*

☐ No

*→ Continue to Question 6.*

*Provide map(s) showing the location of the project site relative to any tanks and your separation distance calculations. If the map identifies more than one tank, please identify the tank you have chosen as the “assessed tank.”*

**5. Is the hazardous facility located at an acceptable separation distance from residences and any other facility or area where people may congregate or be present?**

Please visit HUD’s website for information on calculating Acceptable Separation Distance.

☐ Yes

*→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

*Provide map(s) showing the location of the project site relative to residences and any other facility or area where people congregate or are present and your separation distance calculations.*

☐ No

*→ Continue to Question 6.*

*Provide map(s) showing the location of the project site relative to residences and any other facility or area where people congregate or are present and your separation distance calculations.*

**6. For the project to be brought into compliance with this section, all adverse impacts must be mitigated. Explain in detail the exact measures that must be implemented to make the Separation Distance acceptable, including the timeline for implementation. If negative effects cannot be mitigated, cancel the project at this location.**

Note that only licensed professional engineers should design and implement blast barriers. If a barrier will be used or the project will be modified to compensate for an unacceptable separation distance, provide approval from a licensed professional engineer.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**Worksheet Summary**

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

**Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

The project includes the new construction of four greenhouses, fourteen water cisterns, water pump, storage container, backpack sprayer, cilantro and lettuce seeds, fungicide, insecticides, fertilizers, piping for irrigation, planting medium, and a cargo van. The project itself is not the development of a



hazardous facility nor will the project increase residential densities. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.

**Attachment 9**

**Farmlands Protection Partner Worksheet  
and Prime Farmland Map**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## Farmlands Protection (CEST and EA) - PARTNER

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/farmlands-protection>

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

☐ Yes → Continue to Question 2.

☒ No

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.

**2. Does “important farmland,” including prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide or local importance regulated under the Farmland Protection Policy Act, occur on the project site?**

You may use the links below to determine important farmland occurs on the project site:

- Utilize USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>
- Check with your city or county’s planning department and ask them to document if the project is on land regulated by the FPPA (zoning important farmland as non-agricultural does not exempt it from FPPA requirements)
- Contact NRCS at the local USDA service center <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs> or your NRCS state soil scientist [http://soils.usda.gov/contact/state\\_offices/](http://soils.usda.gov/contact/state_offices/) for assistance

☐ No → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination.

☐ Yes → Continue to Question 3.

**3. Consider alternatives to completing the project on important farmland and means of avoiding impacts to important farmland.**

- Complete form [AD-1006, “Farmland Conversion Impact Rating”](#) and contact the state soil scientist before sending it to the local NRCS District Conservationist.
- Work with NRCS to minimize the impact of the project on the protected farmland. When you have finished with your analysis, return a copy of form AD-1006 to the USDA-NRCS State Soil Scientist or his/her designee informing them of your determination.

**Work with the RE/HUD to determine how the project will proceed. Document the conclusion:**

☐ Project will proceed with mitigation.

**Explain in detail the proposed measures that must be implemented to mitigate for the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide form AD-1006 and all other documents used to make your determination.*

☐ Project will proceed without mitigation.

**Explain why mitigation will not be made here:**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide form AD-1006 and all other documents used to make your determination.*

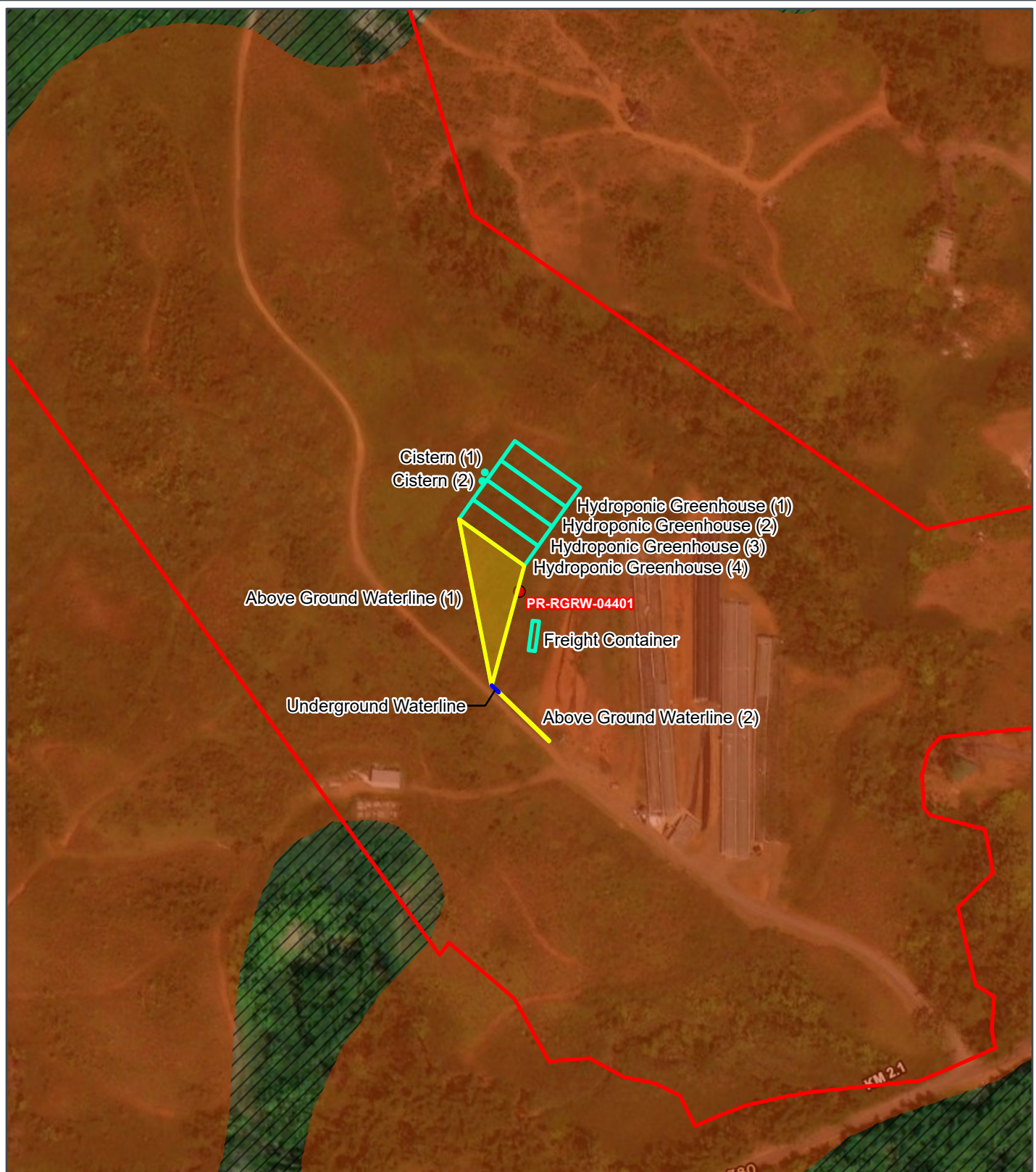
### **Worksheet Summary**

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

### **Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses two (2) mapped soil series: HtE (Humata clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes); and MoF (Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes). Farmlands of statewide importance are within the project area. Although the project includes new construction, the project is exempt from review under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FFPA) as the project is limited to construction of on-farm structures needed for farm operations. No further review is required. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.



REGROW PROGRAM

## Figure B 9-1: Prime Farmland Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

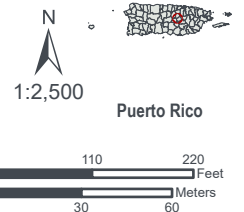
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Above Ground Waterline
- Underground Waterline
- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated

- Prime farmland if drained
- Prime farmland if irrigated
- Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
- Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Not prime farmland
- Not Public Information

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023 Updated:  
12/14/2023  
Layout: Prime Farmland  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps





## **Attachment 10**

# **Floodplain Management Partner Worksheet and Advisory Base Flood Elevation Map**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

**Floodplain Management (CEST and EA)**

| General Requirements  | Legislation   | Regulation |
|---|---|------------|
| Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires Federal activities to avoid impacts to floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development to the extent practicable. | Executive Order 11988<br>Executive Order 13690<br>42 USC <u>4001-4128</u><br>42 USC 5154a | 24 CFR 55  |
| <b>Reference</b>  |   |            |
| <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/floodplain-management">https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/floodplain-management</a>   |   |            |

1. Does this project meet an exemption at [24 CFR 55.12](#) from compliance with HUD’s floodplain management regulations in Part 55 or utilize the delayed compliance date for certain Office of Housing programs?

☐ Yes

Select the applicable citation at [24 CFR 55.12](#) and provide supporting documentation for the determination if applicable.

- a) ☐ HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 58.34 and 58.35(b)
- b) ☐ HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 50.19, except as otherwise indicated in § 50.19
- c) ☐ The approval of financial assistance for restoring and preserving the natural and beneficial functions and values of floodplains and wetlands, including through acquisition of such floodplain and wetland property, where a permanent covenant or comparable restriction is place on the property’s continued use for flood control, wetland protection, open space, or park land, but only if:
- (1) The property is cleared of all existing buildings and walled structures; and
  - (2) The property is cleared of related improvements except those which:
    - (i) Are directly related to flood control, wetland protection, open space, or park land (including playgrounds and recreation areas);
    - (ii) Do not modify existing wetland areas or involve fill, paving, or other ground disturbance beyond minimal trails or paths; and
    - (iii) Are designed to be compatible with the beneficial floodplain or wetland function of the property.

- d) ☐ An action involving a repossession, receivership, foreclosure, or similar acquisition of property to protect or enforce HUD's financial interests under previously approved loans, grants, mortgage insurance, or other HUD assistance
- e) ☐ Policy-level actions described at 24 CFR 50.16 that do not involve site-based decisions
- f) ☐ A minor amendment to a previously approved action with no additional adverse impact on or from a floodplain or wetland;
- g) ☐ HUD's or the responsible entity's approval of a project site, an incidental portion of which is situated in the FFRMS floodplain (not including the floodway, LiMWA, or coastal high hazard area) but only if:
  - (1) The proposed project site does not include any existing or proposed buildings or improvements that modify or occupy the FFRMS floodplain except de minimis improvements such as recreation areas and trails; and
  - (2) the proposed project will not result in any new construction in or modifications of a wetland
- h) ☐ Issuance or use of Housing Vouchers or other forms of rental subsidy where HUD, the awarding community, or the public housing agency that administers the contract awards rental subsidies that are not project-based (i.e., do not involve site-specific subsidies)
- i) ☐ Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of and accessibility to elderly and persons with disabilities.

Exemptions do not apply due to the project activities being the construction of 14 new cisterns, four new greenhouses and a shipping container.

*Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

☐ Yes. Office of Housing programs utilizing the January 1, 2025 compliance date. These reviews must comply with the 2013 version of the Part 55 regulations. Continue to Worksheet Summary for 2013 version to upload supporting documentation.

☒ No. Continue to Question 2.

## **2. Does the project include a Critical Action?**

☐ Yes. Describe the Critical Action. Examples of Critical Actions include projects involving hospitals, fire and police stations, nursing homes, hazardous chemical storage, storage of valuable records, and utility plants. Continue to Question 4.

No, the project is not a Critical Action as defined in 24 CFR 55.2(b)(3)

☒ No. Continue to Question 3.

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

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

***Select one of the following three options:***

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

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

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

**a. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?**

☐ Yes, continue to part b.

☒ No. Review for floodplain management is complete.

**b. Is your project located in any of the floodplain categories below? Select all that apply. If none apply, continue to question 7.**

☐ Floodway: *Continue to Question 5. Floodways.*

☐ Coastal High Hazard Area (V Zone) or Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA): *Continue to Question 6. Coastal High Hazard Areas and LiMWAs.*

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

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

**Utilize CISA to determine the FFRMS floodplain for critical actions**

☐ CISA for Critical Actions. If using a local tool, ensure that the FFRMS elevation provided is higher than the 0.2 PFA or 3' above the base flood elevation.

**OR;**

**Choose the higher of 0.2 PFA or FVA elevations**

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

☐ FVA. For critical actions, the FFRMS floodplain is the area that results from adding three feet to the base flood elevation as established by the effective FEMA FIRM or FIS or—if available—a FEMA-provided preliminary or pending FIRM or FIS or advisory base flood elevations, whether regulatory or informational in nature. However, an interim or preliminary FEMA map cannot be used if it is lower than the current FIRM or FIS.

**a. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?**

☐ Yes, continue to part b.

☐ No. Review for floodplain management is complete.

**b. Is your project located in any of the floodplain categories below? Select all that apply. If none apply, continue to question 7.**

☐ Floodway: *Continue to Question 5. Floodways.*

☐ Coastal High Hazard Area (V Zone) or LiMWA: *Continue to Question 6. Coastal High Hazard Areas and LiMWAs.*

**5. Floodways**

**Do the floodway exemptions at [55.8](#) or [55.21](#) apply?**

☐ Yes

The 8-Step Process is required. Document mitigation measures necessary to meet the requirements in 55.8 or 55.21. Provide a completed 8-Step Process, including the early public notice and the final notice.

*Continue to Question 7. 8-Step Process.*

☐ No

**Federal assistance may not be used at this location.** You must either choose an alternate site or cancel the project at this location.

**6. Coastal High Hazard Area (V Zone) and LiMWAs**

**Do the exemptions at [55.8](#) or [55.21](#) apply?**



☐ Yes

The 8-Step Process is required. Document mitigation measures necessary to meet the requirements in 55.8 or 55.21. Provide a completed 8-Step Process, including the early public notice and the final notice.

*Continue to Question 7. 8-Step Process.*

☐ No

Federal assistance may not be used at this location. You must either choose an alternate site or cancel the project at this location.

## 7. 8-Step Process.

**Does the 8-Step Process apply? Select one of the following options:**

☐ 8-Step Process is inapplicable per 55.13.

Select the applicable citation:

- ☐ (a) HUD's mortgage insurance actions and other financial assistance for the purchasing, mortgaging, or refinancing of existing one- to four-family properties in communities that are in the Regular Program of the NFIP and in good standing ( i.e., not suspended from program eligibility or placed on probation under 44 CFR 59.24), where the action is not a critical action and the property is not located in a floodway, coastal high hazard area, or LiMWA;
- ☐ (b) Financial assistance for minor repairs or improvements on one- to four-family properties that do not meet the thresholds for "substantial improvement" under § 55.2(b)(12);
- ☐ (c) HUD or a recipient's actions involving the disposition of individual HUD or recipient held, one- to four-family properties;
- ☐ (d) HUD guarantees under the Loan Guarantee Recovery Fund Program (24 CFR part 573), where any new construction or rehabilitation financed by the existing loan or mortgage has been completed prior to the filing of an application under the program, and the refinancing will not allow further construction or rehabilitation, nor result in any physical impacts or changes except for routine maintenance;
- ☐ (e) The approval of financial assistance to lease units within an existing structure located within the floodplain, but only if;
  - (1) The structure is located outside the floodway or coastal high hazard area, and is in a community that is in the Regular Program of the NFIP and in good standing ( i.e., not suspended from program eligibility or placed on probation under 44 CFR 59.24); and
  - (2) The project is not a critical action; and
  - (3) The entire structure is or will be fully insured or insured to the maximum extent available under the NFIP for at least the term of the lease.
- ☐ (f) Special projects for the purpose of improving efficiency of utilities or installing renewable energy that involve the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing structures or infrastructure, do not meet the thresholds for "substantial improvement" under § 55.2(b)(12), and do not include the installation of equipment below the FFRMS floodplain elevation.

*Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

☐ 5-Step Process is applicable per 55.14.

Provide documentation of 5-Step Process.

Select the applicable citation:

- ☐ (a) HUD actions involving the disposition of HUD-acquired multifamily housing projects or “bulk sales” of HUD-acquired one- to four-family properties in communities that are in the Regular Program of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and in good standing (i.e., not suspended from program eligibility or placed on probation under 44 CFR 59.24).
- ☐ (b) HUD's actions under the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701) for the purchase or refinancing of existing multifamily housing projects, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, board and care facilities, and intermediate care facilities, in communities that are in good standing under the NFIP.
- ☐ (c) HUD's or the recipient's actions under any HUD program involving the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing multifamily housing projects, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, board and care facilities, intermediate care facilities, and one- to four-family properties, in communities that are in the Regular Program of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and are in good standing, provided that the number of units is not increased more than 20 percent, the action does not involve a conversion from nonresidential to residential land use, the action does not meet the thresholds for “substantial improvement” under § 55.2(b)(10), and the footprint of the structure and paved areas is not increased by more than 20 percent.
- ☐ (d) HUD's (or the recipient's) actions under any HUD program involving the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing nonresidential buildings and structures, in communities that are in the Regular Program of the NFIP and are in good standing, provided that the action does not meet the thresholds for “substantial improvement” under § 55.2(b)(10) and that the footprint of the structure and paved areas is not increased by more than 20 percent
- ☐ (e) HUD's or the recipient's actions under any HUD program involving the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing nonstructural improvements including streets, curbs and gutters, where any increase of the total impervious surface area of the facility is de minimis. This provision does not include critical actions, levee systems, chemical storage facilities (including any tanks), wastewater facilities, or sewer lagoons.

*Continue to Question 8. Mitigation.*

☐ 8-Step Process applies.

Provide a completed 8-Step Process, including the early public notice and the final notice.

*Continue to Question 8. Mitigation.*

## **8. Mitigation**

**For the project to comply with this section, all adverse impacts must be mitigated. Explain in detail the measures that must be implemented to mitigate the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation. Note: newly constructed and substantially improved structures within the FFRMS floodplain must be elevated to the FFRMS floodplain elevation or floodproofed, if applicable.**

N/A

**Which of the following if any mitigation/minimization measures have been identified for this project in the 8-Step or 5-Step Process? Select all that apply.**

- ☐ Buyout and demolition or other supported clearance of floodplain structures
- ☐ Insurance purchased in excess of statutory requirement under the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973
- ☐ Permeable surfaces
- ☐ Natural landscape enhancements that maintain or restore natural hydrology
- ☐ Planting or restoring native plant species
- ☐ Bioswales
- ☐ Stormwater capture and reuse
- ☐ Green or vegetative roofs with drainage provisions
- ☐ Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation easements or similar easements
- ☐ Floodproofing of structures as allowable (e.g. non-residential floors)
- ☐ Elevating structures (including freeboard above the required base flood elevations)
- ☐ Levee or structural protection from flooding
- ☐ Channelizing or redefining the floodway or floodplain through a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)

*Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

### **Worksheet Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

Provide a clear description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- FIRM panel numbers
- CISA data or maps
- Information on other data or tools used or accessed
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your region

**Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD**

See below.

**Worksheet Summary for 2013 Version**  
**Compliance Determination**

Attach 'Floodplain Management Partner Worksheet' (OMB No. 2506-0177), FIRM map indicating project location, and summary of 8-step or 5-step decision making process if applicable.

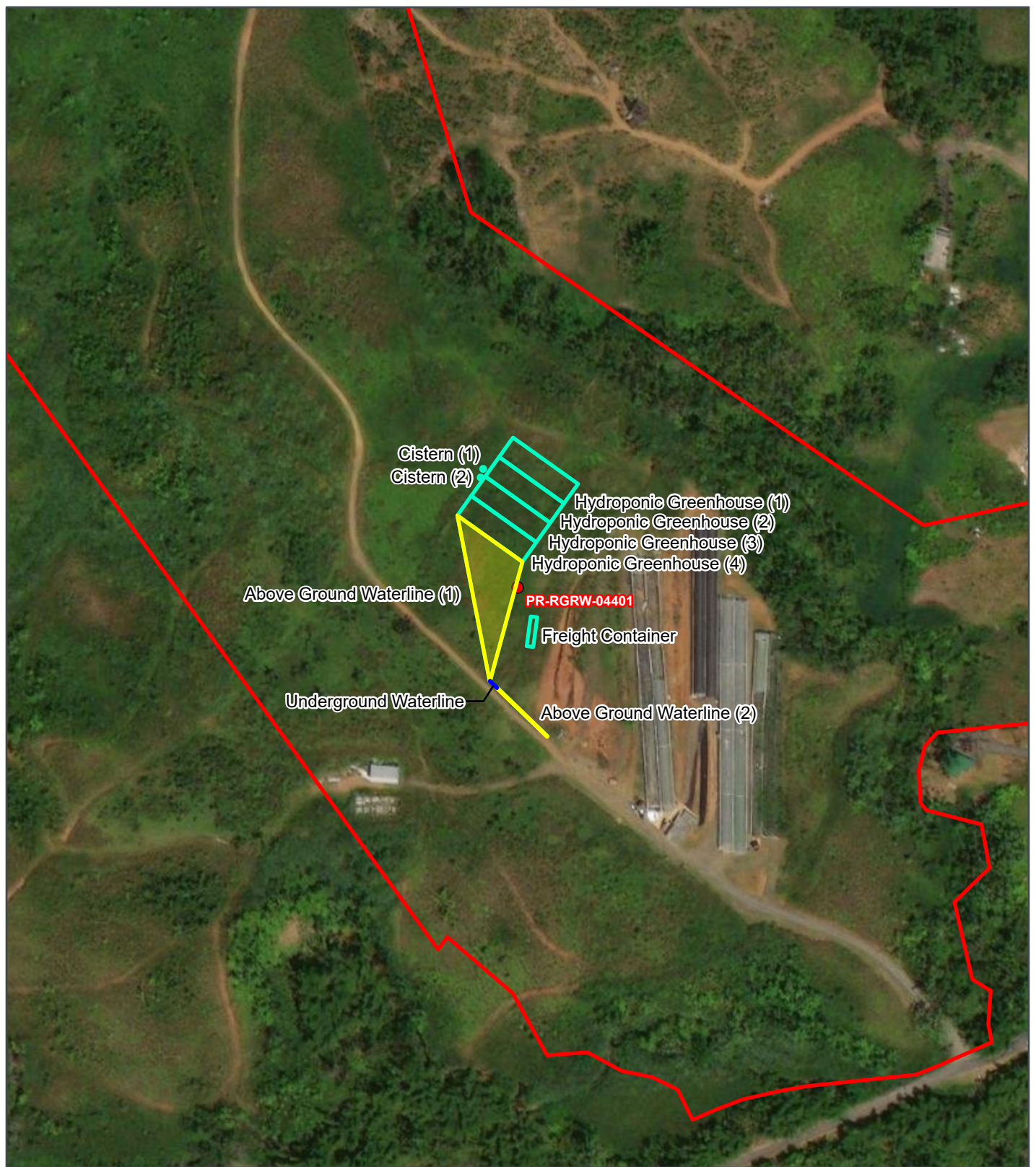
Provide a clear description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your region

**Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD**

An Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) map was developed by FEMA for this FIRM, which shows the project sites are in Flood Zone X. The project is not located in the 500-year or 100-year floodplain or within an ABFE special flood hazard area; therefore, no further action is required. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690. 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 Comerio; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.

HUD implemented new floodplain regulations under 89 FR 30850 effective June 24, 2024 which created the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS). The current project comprises non-critical actions that lie outside the 0.2-percent-annual-chance (500-year flood elevation), which is the approach used for this project to comply with the FFRMS; therefore, mitigation is not required, and the project is in compliance with 24 CFR Part 55.



REGROW PROGRAM

# **Figure B 10-1: Advisory Base Flood Elevation For 100-Year Floodplain Map**

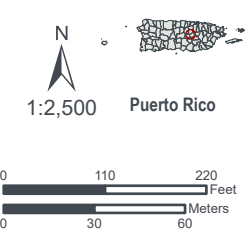
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Underground Waterline
- Above Ground Waterline
- ~ Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE)
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
- 1% Annual Chance Flood
- Zone A
- Zone A-Floodway
- Zone AE
- Coastal A Zone
- Coastal A Zone and Floodway
- Zone AE-Floodway
- Zone AO
- Zone VE
- Zone X (500-year floodplain)
- Zone/BFE Boundary

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: [https://gis.fema.gov/arcgis/rest/services/DR/PuertoRico\\_ABFE\\_1PCT/MapServer](https://gis.fema.gov/arcgis/rest/services/DR/PuertoRico_ABFE_1PCT/MapServer)  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: ABFE 1Pct  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps





**Attachment 11**

**Historic Preservation Partner Worksheet  
and SHPO Consultation**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## Historic Preservation (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/historic-preservation>

### Threshold

#### Is Section 106 review required for your project?

- ☐ No, because a Programmatic Agreement states that all activities included in this project are exempt. (See the [PA Database](#) to find applicable PAs.)

**Either provide the PA itself or a link to it here. Mark the applicable exemptions or include the text here:**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ *Continue to the Worksheet Summary.*

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

**Either provide the memo itself or a link to it here. Explain and justify the other determination here:**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ *Continue to the Worksheet Summary.*

- ☒ Yes, because the project includes activities with potential to cause effects (direct or indirect). → *Continue to Step 1.*

#### **The Section 106 Process**

After determining the need to do a Section 106 review, HUD or the RE will initiate consultation with regulatory and other interested parties, identify and evaluate historic properties, assess effects of the project on properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and resolve any adverse effects through project design modifications or mitigation.

Step 1: Initiate consultation

Step 2: Identify and evaluate historic properties

Step 3: Assess effects of the project on historic properties

Step 4: Resolve any adverse effects

Only RE or HUD staff may initiate the Section 106 consultation process. Partner entities may gather information, including from SHPO records, identify and evaluate historic properties, and make initial assessments of effects of the project on properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Place. Partners should then provide their RE or HUD with all of their analysis and documentation so that they may initiate consultation.

## Step 1 - Initiate Consultation

The following parties are entitled to participate in Section 106 reviews: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs); federally recognized Indian tribes/Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs); Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs); local governments; and project grantees. The general public and individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in a project may participate as consulting parties at the discretion of the RE or HUD official. Participation varies with the nature and scope of a project. Refer to HUD's website for guidance on consultation, including the required timeframes for response. Consultation should begin early to enable full consideration of preservation options.

Use the [When To Consult With Tribes checklist](#) within [Notice CPD-12-006: Process for Tribal Consultation](#) to determine if the RE or HUD should invite tribes to consult on a particular project. Use the [Tribal Directory Assessment Tool \(TDAT\)](#) to identify tribes that may have an interest in the area where the project is located. Note that only HUD or the RE may initiate consultation with Tribes. Partner entities may prepare a draft letter for the RE or HUD to use to initiate consultation with tribes, but may not send the letter themselves.

**List all organizations and individuals that you believe may have an interest in the project here:**

Applicant only unless PRDOH determines that there are other interested parties based on prior consultation.

→ *Continue to Step 2.*

## Step 2 - Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

**Provide a preliminary definition of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), either by entering the address(es) or providing a map depicting the APE.** Attach an additional page if necessary.

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the greenhouses, the cisterns, the underground irrigation system, and a storage container on concrete blocks, plus a 15-meter horizontal buffer to allow for some variation in final placement during construction. Aboveground irrigation piping will also be used, although it will not have any direct effect on any historic properties. The visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

Gather information about known historic properties in the APE. Historic buildings, districts and archeological sites may have been identified in local, state, and national surveys and registers, local historic districts, municipal plans, town and county histories, and local history websites. If not already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, identified properties are then evaluated to see if they are eligible for the National Register. Refer to HUD's website for guidance on identifying and evaluating historic properties.

**In the space below, list historic properties identified and evaluated in the APE.**

Every historic property that may be affected by the project should be listed. For each historic property or district, include the National Register status, whether the SHPO has concurred with the finding, and whether information on the site is sensitive. Attach an additional page if necessary.

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 archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61) who searched the records at the SHPO and the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña which shows that there are no reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties within a half-mile (mi) radius of the project location. Three (3) archaeological evaluations have been conducted within the 0.5 mi review radius with no archaeological resources found. Survey ICP-CAT-CM-00-03-07 occurred in 2000, 0.2 mi southwest of the project location, to improve the potable water system of the municipality. Survey ICP-CAT-CM-87-01-02 & SHPO#12-02-86-01 occurred in 1987, 0.38 mi north of the project location, to extend the water supply system. Survey ICP-CAT-NJ-09-04-02 occurred in 2009, 0.42 mi northwest of the project location, to segregate 28 lots.

The proposed project is located in the central region of Puerto Rico at an elevation of 1860 feet (ft; 566.9 meters [m]) above mean sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses two (2) mapped soil series: HtE (Humata clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes) and MoF (Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes). The project area APE is in the northwestern corner of the municipality of Comerío. The general project area is located on a mountain valley that is within a rural agricultural setting. The closest freshwater source is a tributary of Río de la Plata, located 0.13 mi (0.20 kilometer [km]) south of the project area. The north coast is approximately 16 mi (26 km) from the project area.

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 or Historic District.

There are no previously identified historic properties within half a mile of the property site, although one site is just outside the 0.50-mi review area: NJ-06, which is a historic house found to have cultural and architectural significance. There have also been no Section 106 surveys within the 0.5-mi review area. Archaeological surveys are discussed above in the archaeology section.

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

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

If the APE contains previously unsurveyed buildings or structures over 50 years old, or there is a likely presence of previously unsurveyed archeological sites, a survey may be necessary. For Archeological surveys, refer to HP Fact Sheet #6, [Guidance on Archeological Investigations in HUD Projects](#).

☐ Yes → *Provide survey(s) and report(s) and continue to Step 3.*

Additional notes:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

☒ No → Continue to Step 3.

### Step 3 - Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

Only properties that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places receive further consideration under Section 106. Assess the effect(s) of the project by applying the Criteria of Adverse Effect. ([36 CFR 800.5](#)) Consider direct and indirect effects as applicable as per HUD guidance.

**Choose one of the findings below to recommend to the RE or HUD.**

Please note: this is a recommendation only. It is **not** the official finding, which will be made by the RE or HUD, but only your suggestion as a Partner entity.

☒ No Historic Properties Affected

**Document reason for finding:**

☒ No historic properties present.

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

☐ No Adverse Effect

**Document reason for finding and provide any comments below.**

Comments may include recommendations for mitigation, monitoring, a plan for unanticipated discoveries, etc.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

☐ Adverse Effect

**Document reason for finding:**

Copy and paste applicable Criteria into text box with summary and justification.

Criteria of Adverse Effect: [36 CFR 800.5](#)]

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**Provide any comments below:**

Comments may include recommendations for avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

*Remember to provide all documentation that justifies your National Register Status determination and recommendations along with this worksheet.*





# GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Executive Director | Carlos A. Rubio Cancela | [carubio@prshpo.pr.gov](mailto:carubio@prshpo.pr.gov)

Monday, April 29, 2024

**Lauren B Poche**

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

SHPO-CF-04-22-24-09 PR-RGRW-04401 (Comerío), JC Farm Products L.L.C.

Dear Ms. Poche,

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,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB



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

April 22, 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-04401 – JC Farm Products L.L.C. – Carretera 780 km 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerío, 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 JC Farm Products L.L.C. located at Carretera 780 km 7.8, Bo. Palomas, in the municipality of Comerío. The undertaking for this project includes the purchase of materials and equipment, and the purchase and installation of 14 600-gallon cisterns, 4 conjoined greenhouses, a water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and a storage container. The total dimensions of the 4 conjoined greenhouses are approximately 4,320 square ft (120 x 36 ft). A maximum of 40 posts extending to a maximum depth of 3 ft deep will be installed in small, excavated post holes around the perimeter of the greenhouses and secured with poured concrete in each post hole. Twelve cisterns will be installed 3 ft underground within the footprint of the conjoined greenhouses. The pits dug for each cistern will be up to 5 ft x 5 ft. The remaining 2 cisterns will be placed on the hill directly behind the greenhouses. The water pump will be installed in an existing (ca. 1985) well house. The

pipng for the irrigation system will be approximately 600 linear ft and run aboveground with an underground section near the road that will be approximately 15 lf with a max depth of 1 foot and covered in concrete to prevent damage from vehicle traffic. The storage container will be a standard 360 square ft (8 ft x 45 ft) shipping container and placed on concrete blocks. All project sites are completely clear of thick vegetation and were leveled pre-2020 before the applicant applied for funding through the ReGrow Program.

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,



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

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager  
LBP/JLE

Attachments

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b><br><b>ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b><br><b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b> |  |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO<br>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| <b>Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401</b>  |  | <b>City: Comerío</b>   |


|   |  |
|---|--|
| Project Location: Carretera 780 km 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerío, PR 00782  |  |
| Project Coordinates:(as provided by applicant during field visit)<br>Greenhouse 1: 18.24433, -66.249418<br>Greenhouse 2: 18.24425, -66.249478<br>Greenhouse 3: 18.244169, -66.249538<br>Greenhouse 4: 18.244089, -66.249599<br>Cistern 1: 18.244337, -66.249658<br>Cistern 2: 18.244301, -66.249668<br>Aboveground Irrigation System 1: 18.24385, -66.249629<br>Aboveground Irrigation System 2: 18.243329, -66.24949<br>Underground Irrigation System: 18.243444, -66.249614<br>Storage Container: 18.243663, -66.249447 |  |
| TPID (Número de Catastro): 221-000-005-28-000   |  |
| Type of Undertaking:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction  |  |
| Construction Date (AH est.):<br>Existing greenhouses: ca. 1985<br>Sheds and outbuildings: ca. 1985<br>Well House: ca. 1985<br>Houses in vicinity: ca. 1960 to Present   | Property Size (acres): <b>48.68 acres total</b><br>Greenhouse 1: 0.099174 acre (4320 sq. ft.)<br>Greenhouse 2: 0.099174 acre (4320 sq. ft.)<br>Greenhouse 3: 0.099174 acre (4320 sq. ft.)<br>Greenhouse 4: 0.099174 acre (4320 sq. ft.)<br>Cistern 1: 0.000646 acre (28 sq. ft.)<br>Cistern 2: 0.000646 acre (28 sq. ft.)<br>Aboveground Irrigation System 1: 0.241713 acre (10529 sq. ft.)<br>Aboveground Irrigation System 2: 0.002413 acre (105 sq. ft.)<br>Underground Irrigation System: 0.000345 acre (15 sq. ft.)<br>Storage Container: 0.010331 acre (450 sq. ft.) |

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|---|
| <b>SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian:</b> Erin Edwards, M.P.S. and Adam Sullins MLA |
| <b>Date Reviewed:</b> February 24, 2024   |
| <b>SOI-Qualified Archaeologist:</b> Brian McNamara, M.A., R.P.A.                                  |
| <b>Date Reviewed:</b> January 23, 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 project involves the purchase of a backpack sprayer, lettuce and cilantro seeds, fungicides, insecticides, fertilizers, a cargo van, planting medium, and the purchase

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| <b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b><br><b>ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b><br><b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b> |                      | <br>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO<br>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| <b>Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.</b>   |                      |  |
| <b>Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401</b>  | <b>City: Comerío</b> |  |

and installation of 14 600-gallon cisterns, 4 conjoined greenhouses, a water pump, piping for an irrigation system, and a storage container.

The total dimensions of the 4 conjoined greenhouses are approximately 4,320 square ft (120 x 36 ft). A maximum of 40 posts extending to a maximum depth of 3 ft deep will be installed in small, excavated post holes around the perimeter of the greenhouses and secured with poured concrete in each post hole. 12 cisterns will be installed 3 ft underground within the footprint of the conjoined greenhouses. The pits dug for each cistern will be up to 5 ft x 5 ft. The remaining 2 cisterns will be placed on the hill directly behind the greenhouses. The water pump will be housed in a building (ca. 1985) 207 ft northwest of an existing office building where water from the existing water well already flows via underground water pipes. A secondary water source is some existing aboveground PVC pipes 121 ft southwest of Greenhouse 4. The secondary source is also supplied by the existing water well. The piping for the irrigation system will be approximately 600 linear ft and run aboveground with an underground section near the road that will be approximately 15 lf with a max depth of 1 foot and covered in concrete to prevent damage from vehicle traffic. The storage container will be a standard 360 square ft (8 ft x 45 ft) shipping container and placed on concrete blocks. All project sites are completely clear of thick vegetation and were leveled pre-2020 before the applicant applied for ReGrow funding.


Electricity connections to the greenhouses and water pumps will run aboveground and be provided from a meter at the applicant's residence, approximately 342 ft southeast of the storage container site. The water and electrical connections are not part of the Intended Use of Grant Funds.

The project will have minimal ground disturbance and no vegetation removal or tree clearing is required for construction. The applicant leases the property; however, no acquisition is required.

### **Area of Potential Effects**

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the greenhouses, the cisterns, the underground irrigation system, and a storage container on concrete blocks, plus a 15-meter horizontal buffer to allow for some variation in final placement during construction. Aboveground irrigation piping will also be used, although it will not have any direct effect on any historic properties. The visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.



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| <b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b><br><b>ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b><br><b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b> |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO<br>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| <b>Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.</b>   |  |
| <b>Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401</b>  | <b>City: Comerío</b>   |

### **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 archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61) who searched the records at the SHPO and the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña which shows that there are no reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties within a half-mile (mi) radius of the project location. Three (3) archaeological evaluations have been conducted within the 0.5 mi review radius with no archaeological resources found. Survey ICP-CAT-CM-00-03-07 occurred in 2000, 0.2 mi southwest of the project location, to improve the potable water system of the municipality. Survey ICP-CAT-CM-87-01-02 & SHPO#12-02-86-01 occurred in 1987, 0.38 mi north of the project location, to extend the water supply system. Survey ICP-CAT-NJ-09-04-02 occurred in 2009, 0.42 mi northwest of the project location, to segregate 28 lots.

The proposed project is located in the central region of Puerto Rico at an elevation of 1860 feet (ft; 566.9 meters [m]) above mean sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses two (2) mapped soil series: HtE (Humata clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes) and MoF (Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes). The project area APE is in the northwestern corner of the municipality of Comerío. The general project area is located on a mountain valley that is within a rural agricultural setting. The closest freshwater source is a tributary of Río de la Plata, located 0.13 mi (0.20 kilometer [km]) south of the project area. The north coast is approximately 16 mi (26 km) from the project area.

### **Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture**

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

There are no previously identified historic properties within half a mile of the property site, although one site is just outside the 0.50-mi review area: NJ-06, which is a historic house found to have cultural and architectural significance. There have also been no Section 106 surveys within the 0.5-mi review area. Archaeological surveys are discussed above in the archaeology section.

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| <b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b><br><b>ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b><br><b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b> |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO<br>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| <b>Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.</b>   |  |
| <b>Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401</b>  | <b>City: Comerío</b>   |

The project area is in a rural area of Comerío near the northeastern edge of Palomas, approximately 2 mi northwest of the city of Comerío. The area is characterized by hilly terrain, dense tropical vegetation, interspersed agricultural fields and homesites along winding narrow roads. The project site is along cleared, mechanically leveled areas along a southeast facing hillslope among an orchard, fields, and existing agricultural structures, which include large, linear, conjoined greenhouses. Historic aerial imagery ([EarthExplorer \[usgs.gov\]](https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/)) from Earth Explorer indicates that from 1962-1977 a small grouping of buildings was located on the south side of the driveway, but those buildings are gone by the November 1994 aerial from Google Earth Pro. The 1994 aerial from Google Earth Pro also shows a shed or barn to the west of the project site on an access road that runs through one of the fields which is now in ruins, the well house in a field by itself to the west of the current two greenhouses, and a building at the southern end of the greenhouses. None of these buildings were seen in the 1968 or 1977 aerials from Earth Explorer. No other buildings are within the 0.50-mi review area. SWCA recommends a date of construction as ca. 1985 for all buildings on the project site.


The size of the parcel acreage, hilly topography and dense rows of trees and other vegetation will block the project location from view from all historic-age buildings within 0.5-mile review area. The proposed conjoined greenhouses and storage container will not be visible from any buildings in the 0.50 review area except for the buildings currently on site. Additionally, the proposed buildings are among a larger existing group of recent greenhouses that have already altered the local setting and will also block the proposed infrastructure further from view. For these reasons, the proposed greenhouses, storage container, cisterns, and irrigation system are expected to have no effects to any historic properties within the 0.5-mi review area.

## Determination


The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

- Direct Effect:
  - None
- Indirect Effect:
  - None

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that no previously identified historic properties are located within or adjacent to the proposed project 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

|   |  |
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| <b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b><br><b>ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b><br><b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b> |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO<br>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| <b>Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.</b>   |  |
| <b>Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401</b>  | <b>City: Comerío</b>   |

significant cultural properties within a half-mile radius of the proposed project location. 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-04401 is located. Additionally, the project location has been completely disturbed by mechanical leveling. The closest freshwater body is approximately 0.13 mi (0.20 km) south of the project area. The size of the proposed project is small (0.653 acres), will be partially blocked from view from any historic properties and existing recent developments have already impacted the surrounding setting. Therefore, the proposed project will have no effect on any historic properties within the 0.50-mi review area.

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| <b>PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM</b><br><b>ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM</b><br><b>Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination</b> |  |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO<br>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| <b>Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401</b>  |  | <b>City: Comerío</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):

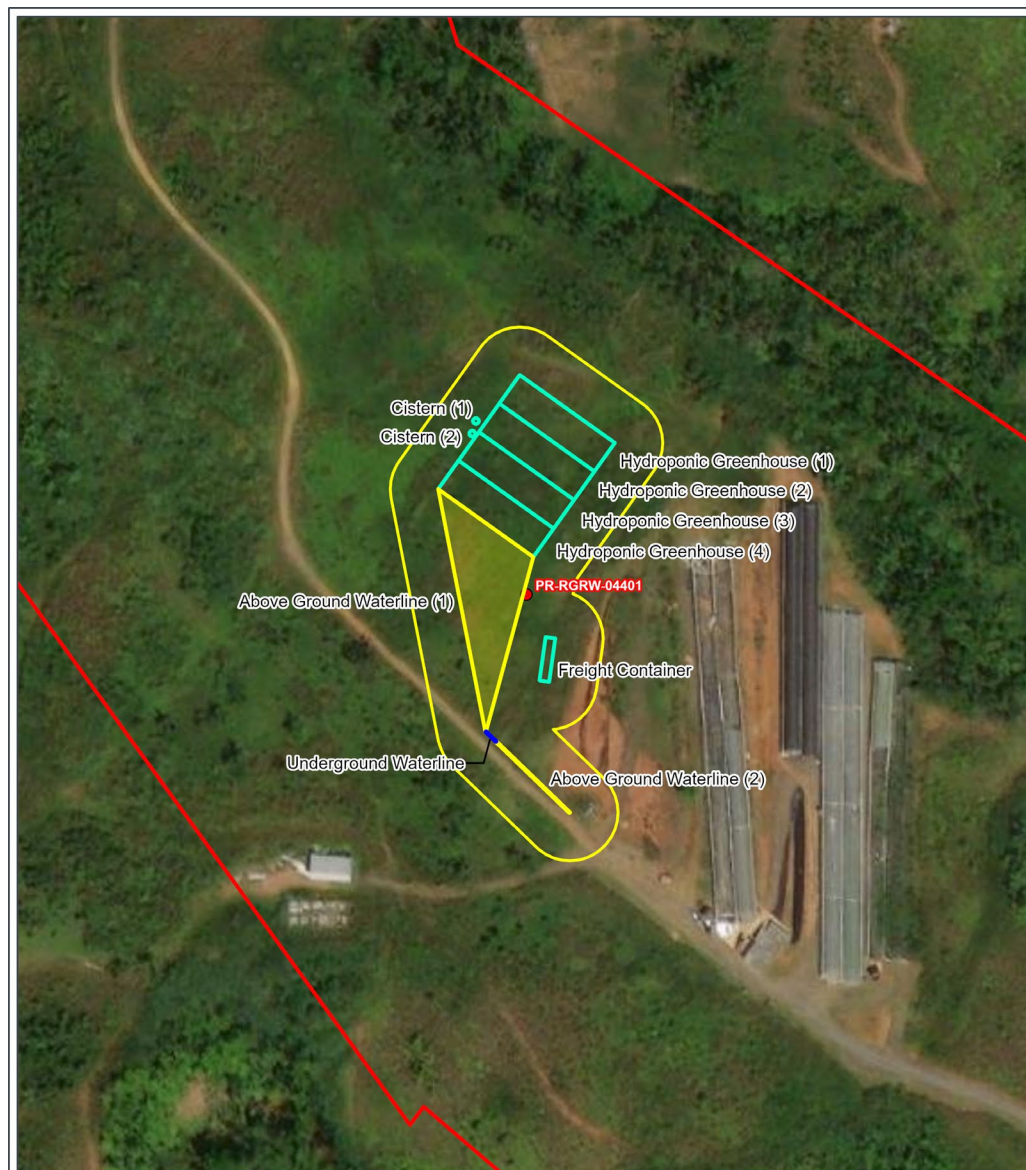
☐ Adverse Effect

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.<br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Does not concur</b> with the information provided. |       |
| <b>Comments:</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>   |       |
| Carlos Rubio-Cancela<br>State Historic Preservation Officer  | Date: |

## Project (Parcel) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)



REGROW PROGRAM

### Project Location Area of Potential Effects (APE) Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

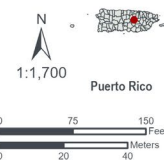
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Underground Waterline
- Above Ground Waterline
- APE (Buffer (15-meters))

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782

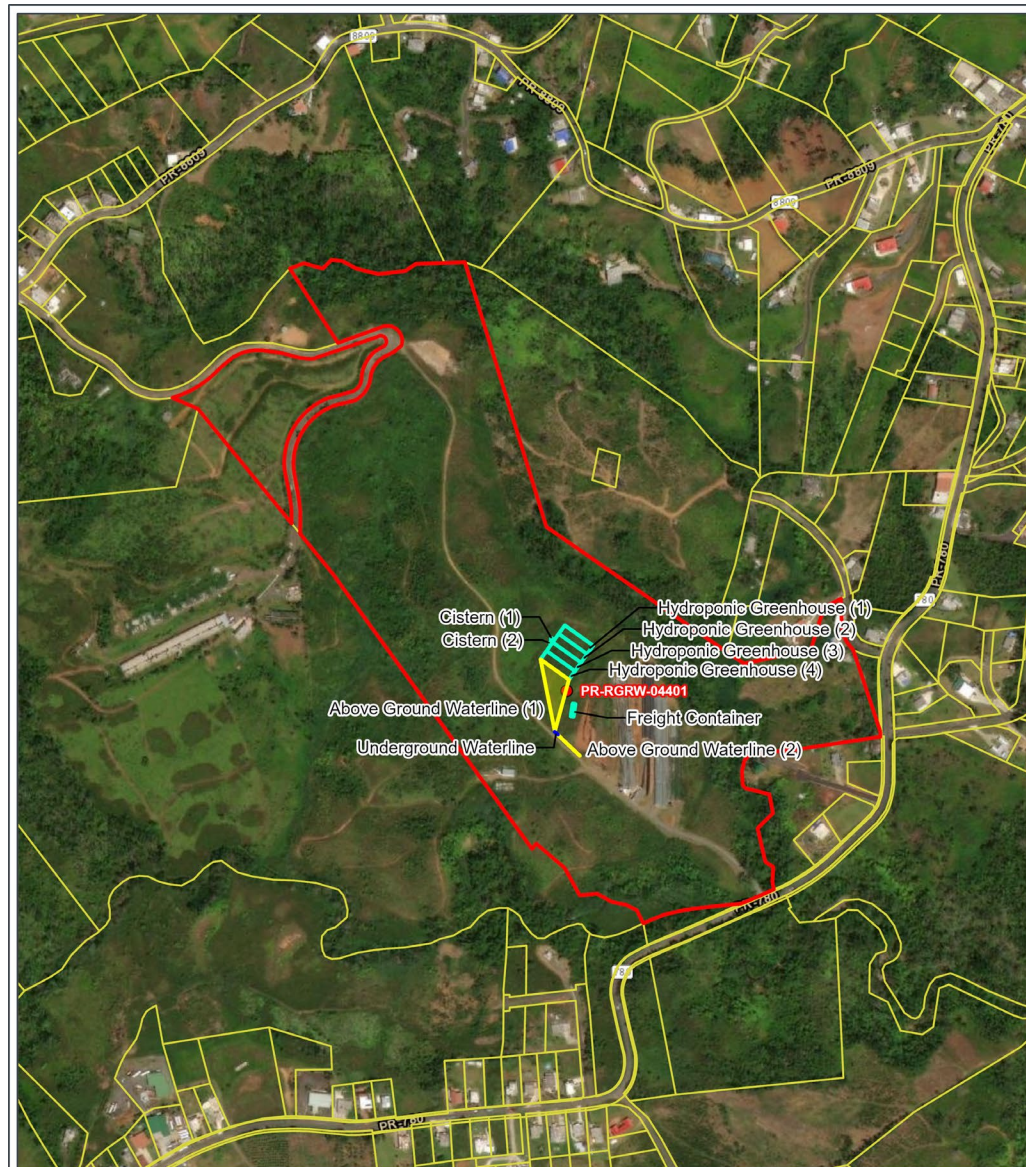
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
Parcel Center:  
66.249509°W 18.243846°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: APE  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps





## Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure A-2:  
Site Vicinity**

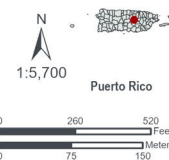
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Underground Waterline
- Above Ground Waterline

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
Parcel Center:  
66.249909°W 18.244787°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Site Vicinity  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



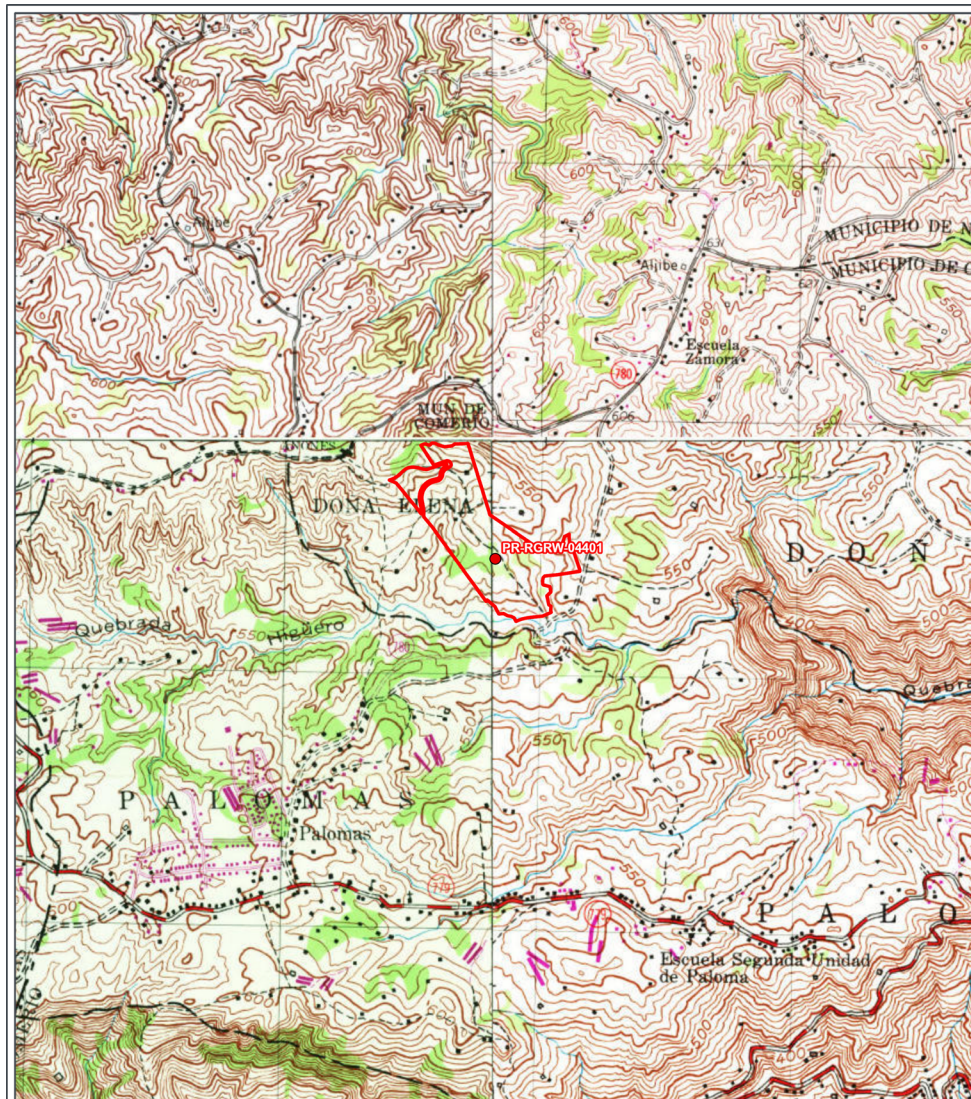


Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.

Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401

City: Comerío

### Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map



REGROW PROGRAM

**USGS Topographic Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

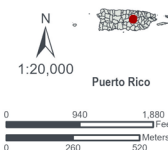
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

● Site

□ Site Parcel

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
Parcel Center:  
66.249509°W 18.243846°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: USGS Topographic Map  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps

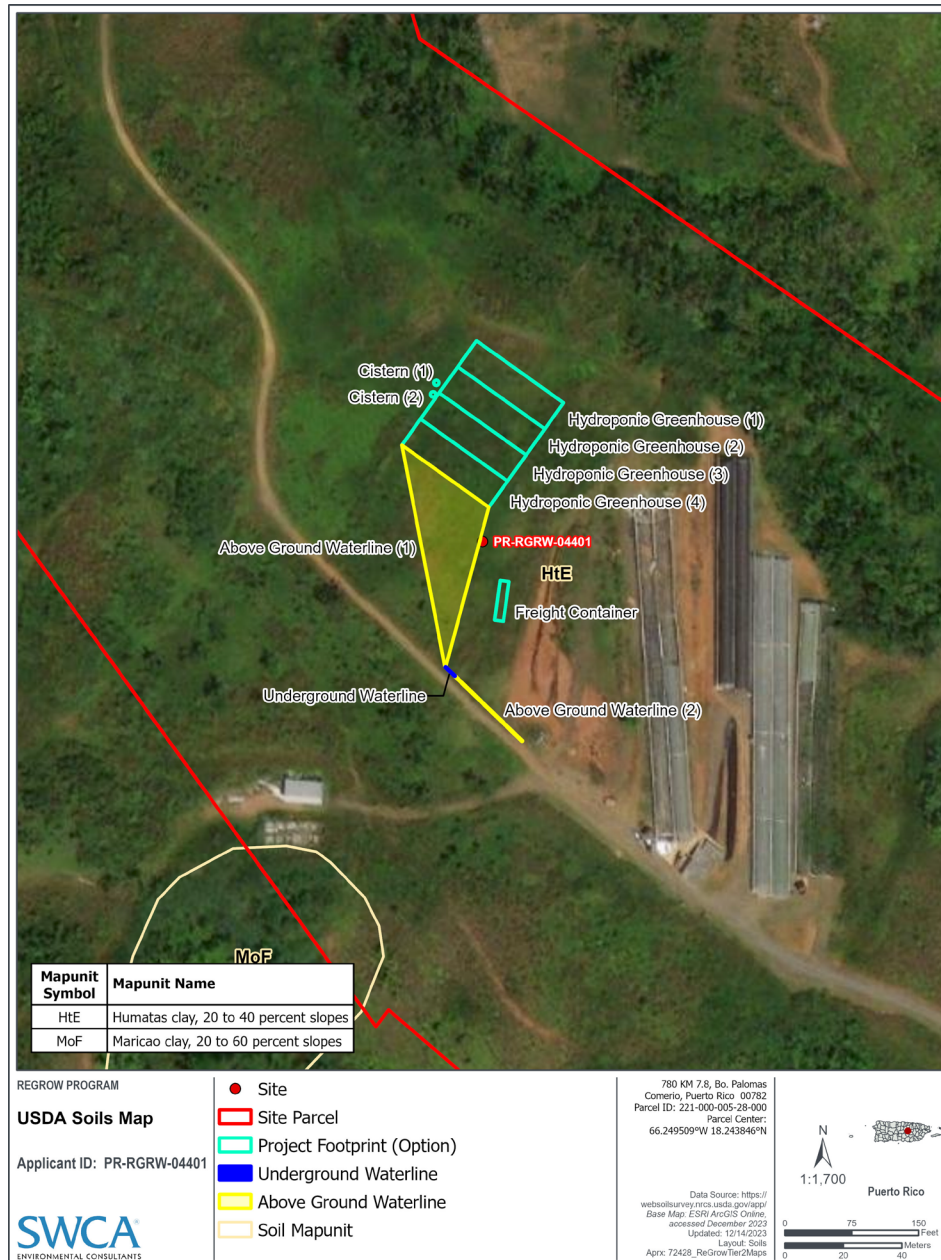


Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.

Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401

City: Comerío

## Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map



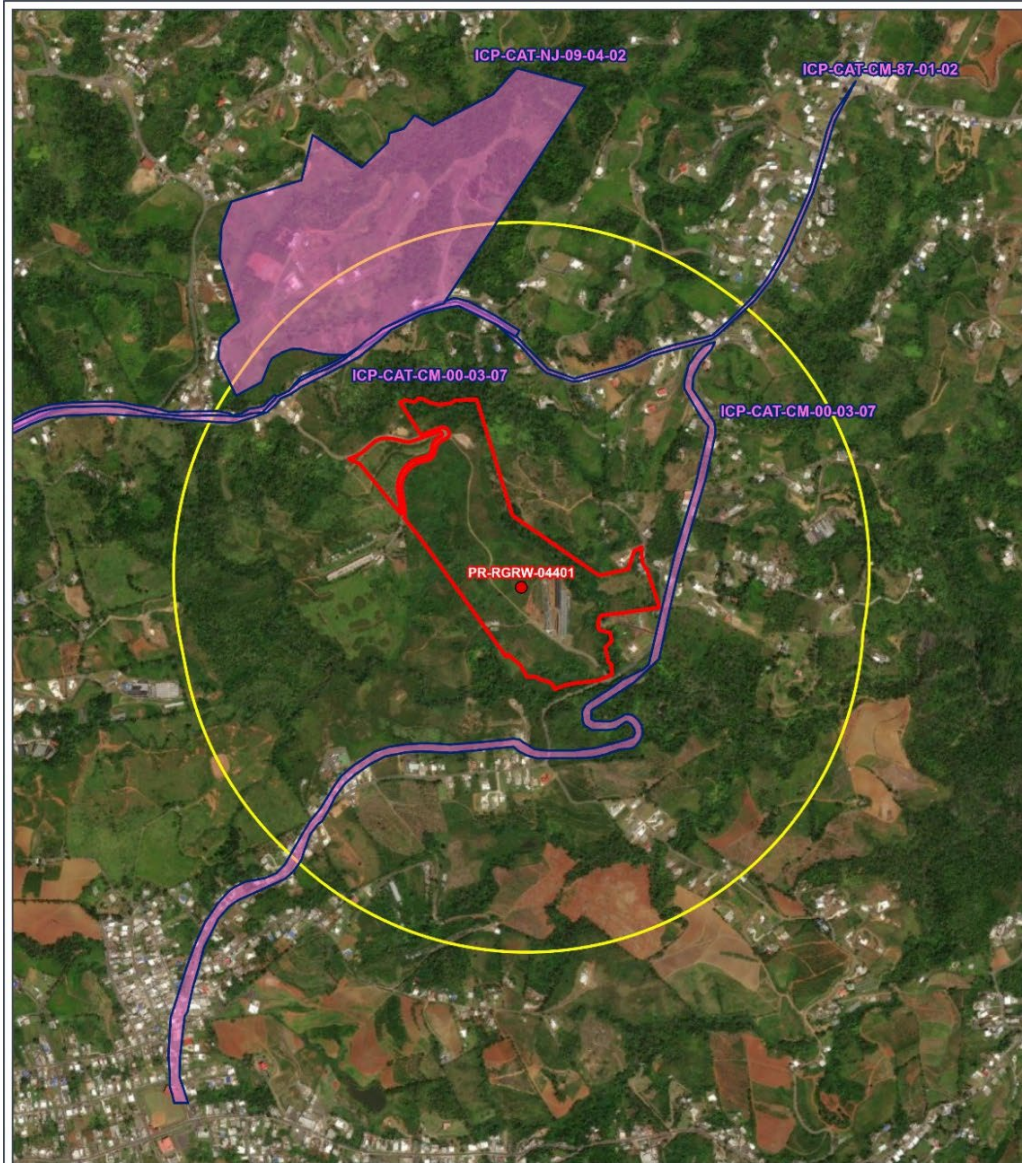


Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.

Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401

City: Comerío

## Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map



REGROW PROGRAM

### Previous Investigation Map

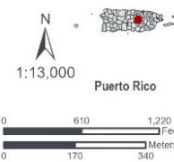
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Buffer (0.5-mile)
- Previously Recorded Survey
- MIPR Arqueología
- Traditional Urban Centers

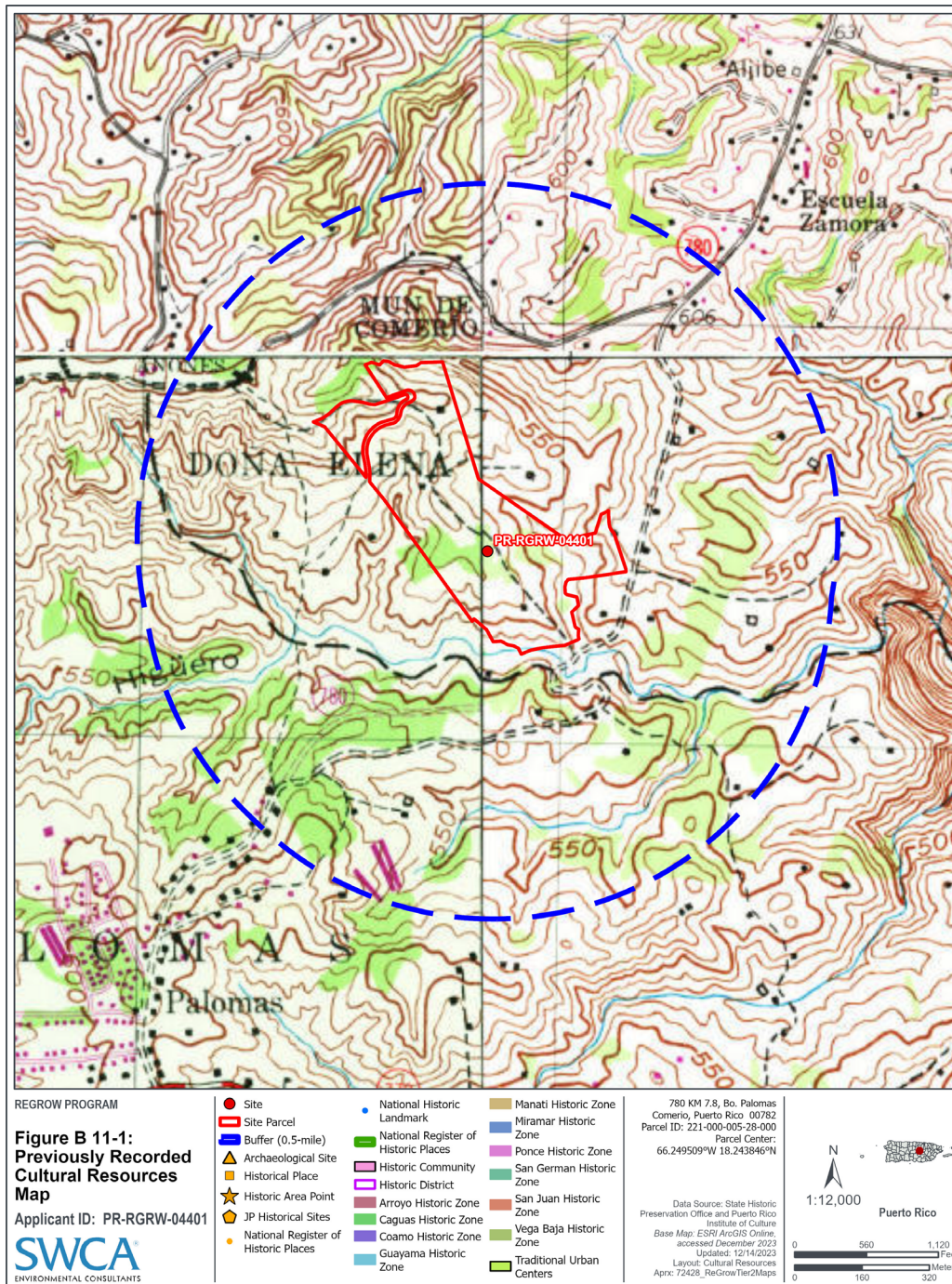
780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00762  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000 Parcel Center:  
66.249509°W 18.243846°N

Data Sources: State Historic  
Preservation Office and Puerto Rico  
Institute of Culture  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed February 2024  
Updated: 2/7/2024  
Layout: Previous Investigation  
Apix: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Mapx



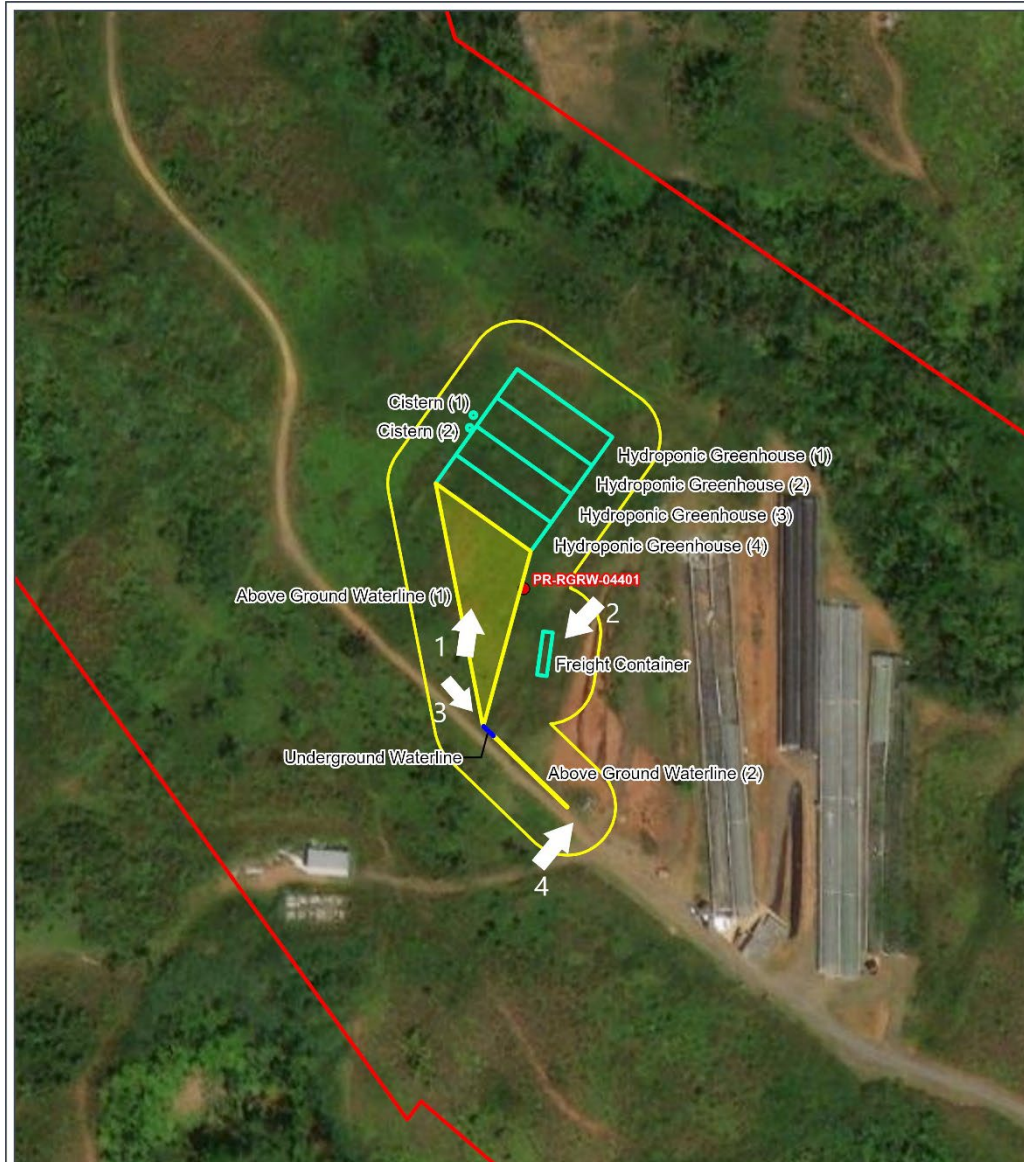


# Project (Parcel) Location with Previously Recorded Cultural Resources USGS Topographic Map





## Photograph Key



REGROW PROGRAM

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

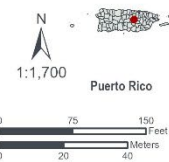
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Underground Waterline
- Above Ground Waterline
- APE (Buffer (15-meters))

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00762

Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
Parcel Center:  
66.249509°W 18.243846°N

Base Map: ESRI/ArcGIS Online  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: APE  
Apx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.

Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401

City: Comerío

**Photo #:**  
1

**Date:**  
10/26/2023

**Photo Direction:**  
North

**Description:**  
Overview location of proposed conjoined greenhouses, showing mechanically leveled site and existing greenhouses, with houses in distance



**Photo #:**  
2

**Date:**  
10/26/2023

**Photo Direction:**  
Southwest

**Description:**  
Overview of location of proposed storage container, showing mechanically leveled site with houses in distance





Applicant: JC Farm Products L.L.C.

Case ID: PR-RGRW- 04401

City: Comerío

**Photo #:**  
3

**Date:**  
10/26/2023

**Photo Direction:**  
Southeast

**Description:**  
Location of proposed underground irrigation pipes, with road and existing buildings (ca. 1985).



**Photo #:** 4

**Date:** 10/26/2023

**Photo Direction:**  
Northeast

**Description:**  
Existing water well building within project buffer where water pump is proposed to be installed (ca. 1985).





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

**Attachment 12**

**Sole Source Aquifer Worksheet and  
Map**





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## Sole Source Aquifers (CEST and EA) - PARTNER

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/sole-source-aquifers>

### 1. Is the project located on a sole source aquifer (SSA)<sup>1</sup>?

☒ No → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide documentation used to make your determination, such as a map of your project or jurisdiction in relation to the nearest SSA.*

☐ Yes → *Continue to Question 2.*

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

☐ Yes → *The review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

☐ No → *Continue to Question 3.*

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

Contact your Field or Regional Environmental Officer or visit the HUD webpage at the link above to determine if an MOU or agreement exists in your area.

☐ Yes → *Continue to Question 4.*

☐ No → *Continue to Question 5.*

### 4. Does your MOU or working agreement exclude your project from further review?

☐ Yes → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide documentation used to make your determination and document where your project fits within the MOU or agreement.*

☐ No → *Continue to Question 5.*

### 5. Will the proposed project contaminate the aquifer and create a significant hazard to public health?

Consult with your Regional EPA Office. Your consultation request should include detailed information about your proposed project and its relationship to the aquifer and associated streamflow source area.

---

<sup>1</sup> A sole source aquifer is defined as an aquifer that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. This includes streamflow source areas, which are upstream areas of losing streams that flow into the recharge area.

EPA will also want to know about water, storm water and waste water at the proposed project. Follow your MOU or working agreement or contact your Regional EPA office for specific information you may need to provide. EPA may request additional information if impacts to the aquifer are questionable after this information is submitted for review.

- ☐ No → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide your correspondence with the EPA and all documents used to make your determination.*
- ☐ Yes → *The RE/HUD will work with EPA to develop mitigation measures. If mitigation measures are approved, attach correspondence with EPA and include the mitigation measures in your environmental review documents and project contracts. If EPA determines that the project continues to pose a significant risk to the aquifer, federal financial assistance must be denied. Continue to Question 6.*

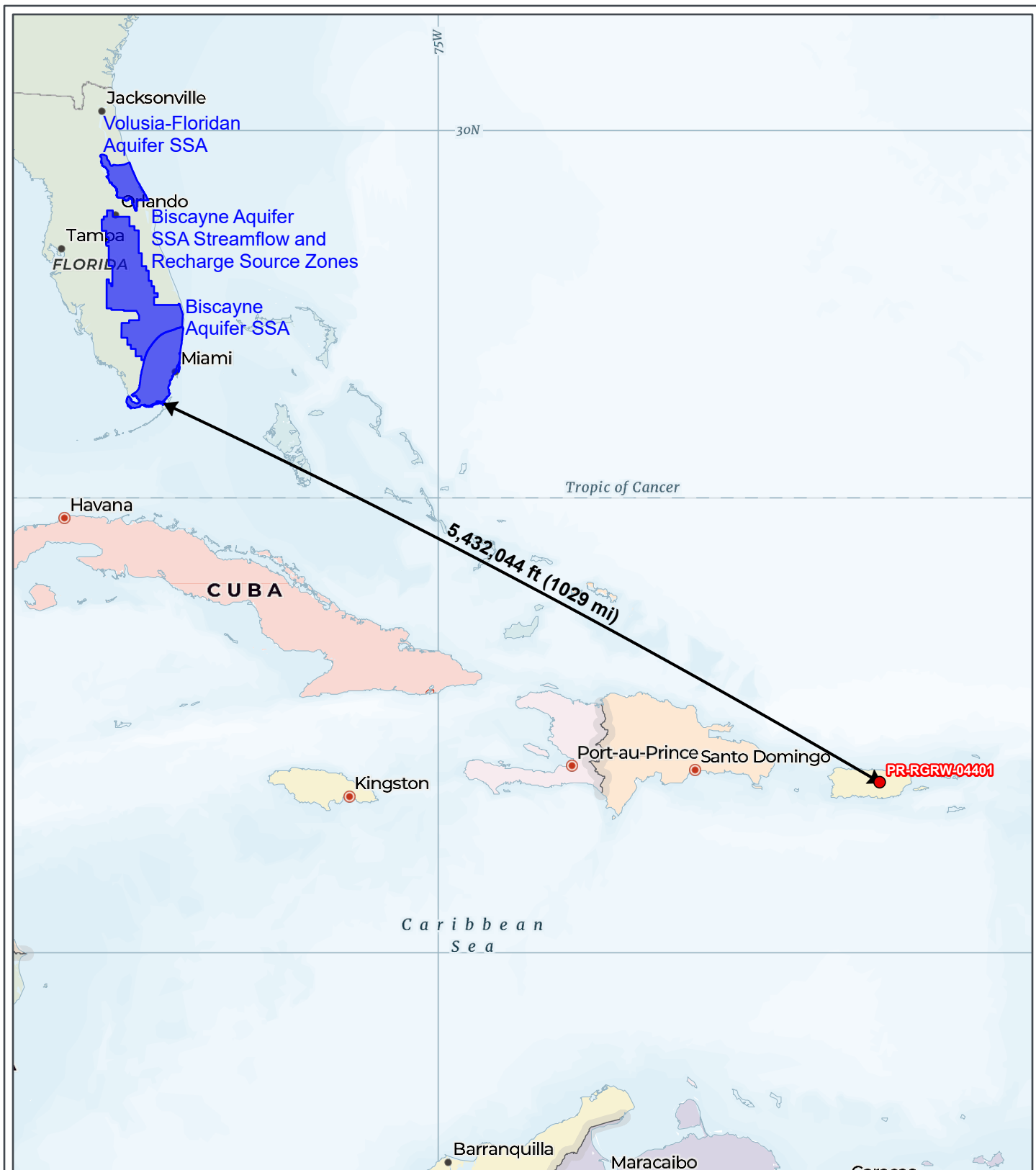
### **Worksheet Summary**

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

### **Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

According to the USEPA's Source Water Protection, Sole Source Aquifer Protection Program, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.



REGROW PROGRAM

## Figure 12-1: Sole Source Aquifers Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

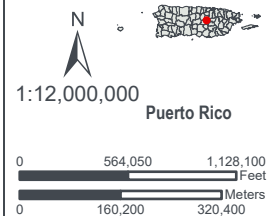
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Sole Source Aquifers

**\*There are no Sole Source Aquifers in Puerto Rico.**

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: <https://services.arcgis.com/cJ9YHowT8TU7DUyn/arcgis/rest/services/SoleSourceAquifers/FeatureServer>  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed February 2024  
Updated: 2/23/2024  
Layout: Sole Source Aquifers  
Aprx: 72428\_ReGrowTier2Maps



**Attachment 13**

**Wetlands Protection Partner Worksheet  
and Map**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## **Wetlands (CEST and EA) – Partner**

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/wetlands-protection>

**1. Does this project involve new construction as defined in Executive Order 11990, expansion of a building’s footprint, or ground disturbance?**

The term "new construction" includes draining, dredging, channelizing, filling, diking, impounding, and related activities and construction of any any structures or facilities.

☐ No → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

☒ Yes → *Continue to Question 2.*

**2. Will the new construction or other ground disturbance impact a wetland as defined in E.O. 11990?**

☒ No → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide a map or any other relevant documentation to explain your determination.*

☐ Yes → *Work with HUD or the RE to assist with the 8-Step Process.* *Continue to Question 3.*

**3. Does Section 55.12 state that the 8-Step Process is not required?**

☐ No, the 8-Step Process applies.

This project will require mitigation and may require elevating structure or structures. See the link to the HUD Exchange above for information on HUD’s elevation requirements.

→ *Work with the RE/HUD to assist with the 8-Step Process. Continue to Worksheet Summary.*

☐ 5-Step Process is applicable per 55.12(a).

**Provide the applicable citation at 24 CFR 55.12(a) here.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ *Work with the RE/HUD to assist with the 5-Step Process. This project may require mitigation or alternations. Continue to Worksheet Summary.*

☐ 8-Step Process is inapplicable per 55.12(b).

**Provide the applicable citation at 24 CFR 55.12(b) here.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)



→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to Worksheet Summary.

☐ 8-Step Process is inapplicable per 55.12(c).

**Provide the applicable citation at 24 CFR 55.12(c) here.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to Worksheet Summary.

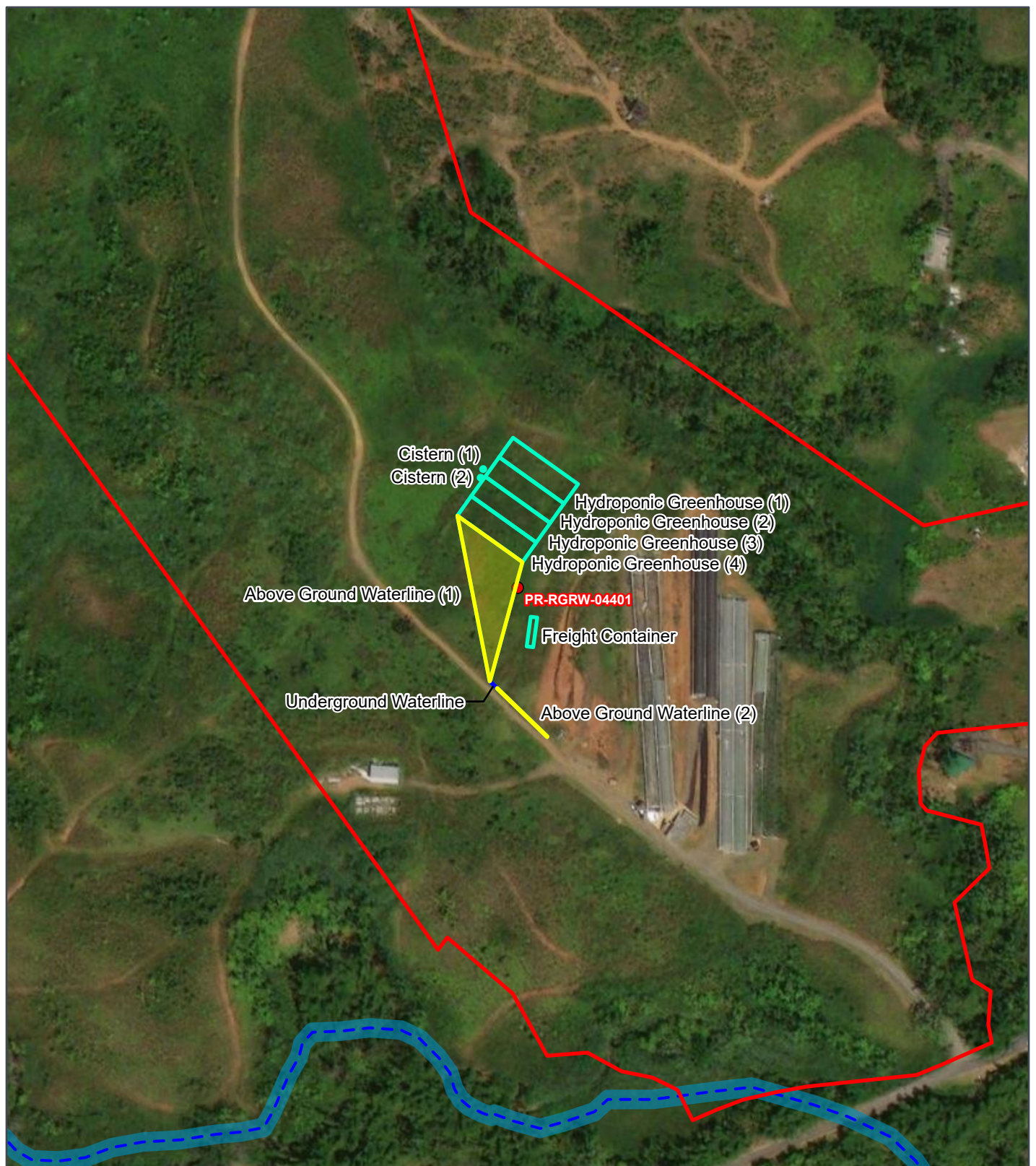
### **Worksheet Summary**

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

### **Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

The project site was reviewed for wetlands using the USFWS Wetland Inventory Mapper and a visual confirmation during the field site inspection. The site inspection identified a stream approximately 550 ft south, but it will not be impacted by the projects if BMPs, such as silt fencing and erosion control, are implemented during any ground-disturbing activities. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990.



REGROW PROGRAM

# **Figure B 13-1: Wetlands Protection Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

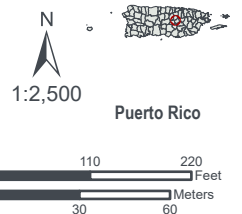
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Underground Waterline
- Above Ground Waterline
- NHD Stream
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/>  
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/data-download>  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023  
Layout: Wetlands Protection



## **Attachment 14**

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers Partner Worksheet and Wild and Scenic Rivers Map**

## Wild and Scenic Rivers (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

| General requirements  | Legislation   | Regulation      |
|---|---|-----------------|
| The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides federal protection for certain free-flowing, wild, scenic and recreational rivers designated as components or potential components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) from the effects of construction or development. | The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287), particularly section 7(b) and (c) (16 U.S.C. 1278(b) and (c)) | 36 CFR Part 297 |
| References  |   |                 |
| <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/wild-and-scenic-rivers">https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/wild-and-scenic-rivers</a>   |   |                 |

### 1. Is your project within proximity of a NWSRS river as defined below?

**Wild & Scenic Rivers:** These rivers or river segments have been designated by Congress or by states (with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior) as wild, scenic, or recreational

**Study Rivers:** These rivers or river segments are being studied as a potential component of the Wild & Scenic River system.

**Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI):** The National Park Service has compiled and maintains the NRI, a register of river segments that potentially qualify as national wild, scenic, or recreational river areas

☒ No

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Provide documentation used to make your determination, such as a map identifying the project site and its surrounding area or a list of rivers in your region in the Screen Summary at the conclusion of this screen.

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

→ Continue to Question 2.

**2. Could the project do *any* of the following?**

- Have a direct and adverse effect within Wild and Scenic River Boundaries,
- Invade the area or unreasonably diminish the river outside Wild and Scenic River Boundaries, or
- Have an adverse effect on the natural, cultural, and/or recreational values of a NRI segment.

Consultation with the appropriate federal/state/local/tribal Managing Agency(s) is required, pursuant to Section 7 of the Act, to determine if the proposed project may have an adverse effect on a Wild & Scenic River or a Study River and, if so, to determine the appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures.

Note: Concurrence may be assumed if the Managing Agency does not respond within 30 days; however, you are still obligated to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on the rivers identified in the NWSRS

- ☐ No, the Managing Agency has concurred that the proposed project will not alter, directly, or indirectly, any of the characteristics that qualifies or potentially qualifies the river for inclusion in the NWSRS.

→ *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Provide documentation of the consultation (including the Managing Agency's concurrence) and any other documentation used to make your determination.*

- ☐ Yes, the Managing Agency was consulted and the proposed project may alter, directly, or indirectly, any of the characteristics that qualifies or potentially qualifies the river for inclusion in the NWSRS.

→ *The RE/HUD must work with the Managing Agency to identify mitigation measures to mitigate the impact or effect of the project on the river.*



## **Worksheet Summary**

### **Compliance Determination**

Provide a clear description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

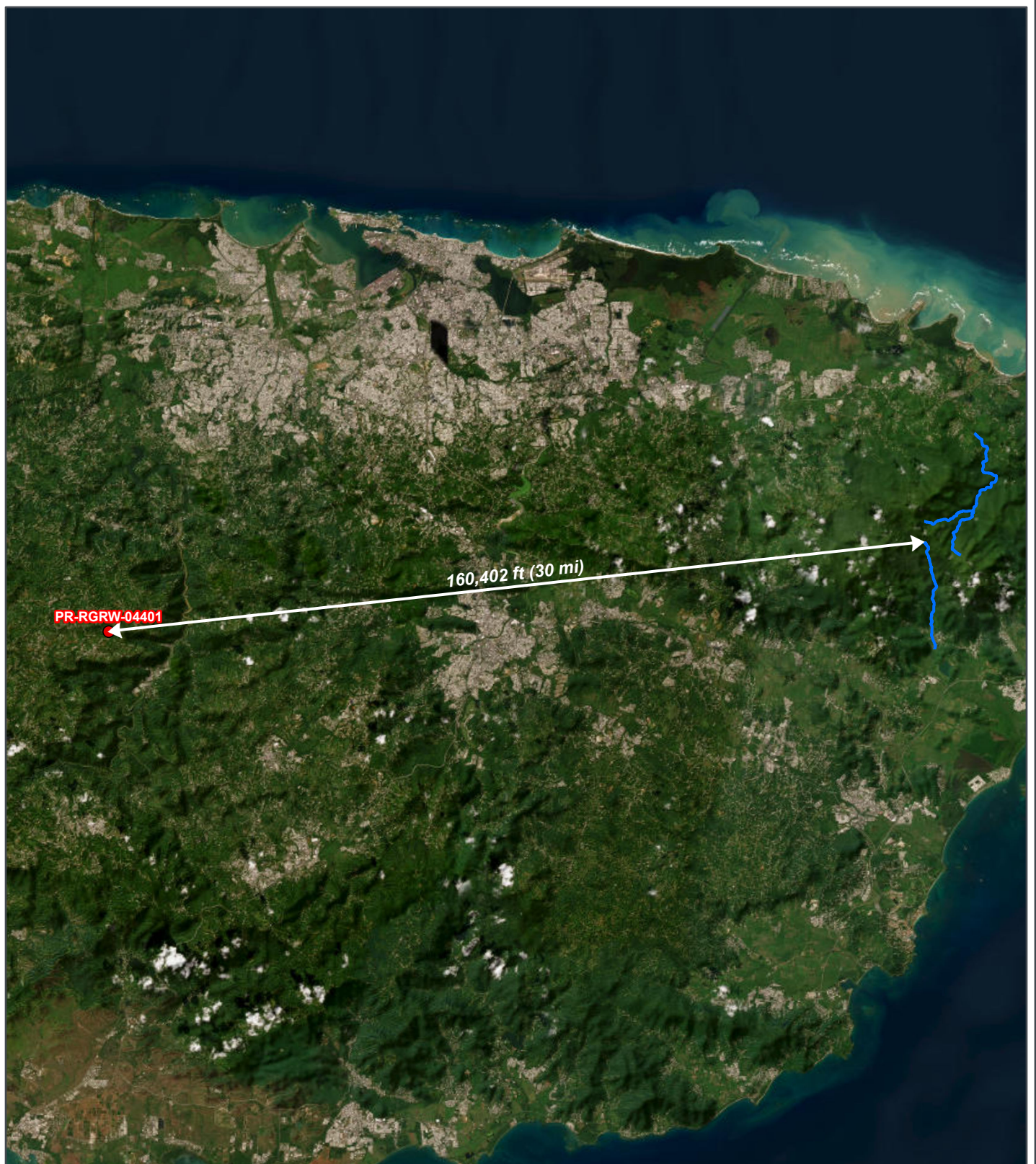
- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your region

No federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, Study Rivers (and Agency-authorized study rivers), or National Rivers Inventory (NRI) Rivers are in proximity of the project site. The closest Wild and Scenic River segment is located 160,402 ft (30 m) from the project site. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No



REGROW PROGRAM

# **Figure B 14-1: National Wild and Scenic River Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-04401

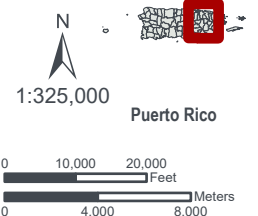
**SWCA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

● Site

— National Wild and Scenic River

780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas  
Comerio, Puerto Rico 00782  
Parcel ID: 221-000-005-28-000  
18.24315, -66.2488

Data Source: [https://apps.fs.usda.gov/arcx/rest/services/EDW/EDW\\_WildScenicRiverSegments\\_01/mapserver](https://apps.fs.usda.gov/arcx/rest/services/EDW/EDW_WildScenicRiverSegments_01/mapserver)  
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,  
accessed December 2023  
Updated: 12/14/2023



**Attachment 15**  
**Environmental Justice Partner Worksheet**  
**and EJScreen Report**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those “Partners” (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

## Environmental Justice (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/environmental-justice>

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

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

☐ Yes à *Continue to Question 2.*

☒ No à *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

**2. Were these adverse environmental impacts disproportionately high for low-income and/or minority communities?**

☐ Yes

**Explain:**

*Click here to enter text.*

*à The RE/HUD must work with the affected low-income or minority community to decide what mitigation actions, if any, will be taken. Provide any supporting documentation.*

☐ No

**Explain:**

*Click here to enter text.*

*à If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

### **Worksheet Summary**

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

**Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.**

The ReGrow Program intends to alleviate negative economic impacts to, and strengthen, the agricultural industry in Puerto Rico. The project's direct and indirect impacts are limited to a small area on a single land parcel. The project will benefit the farm owner by improving agricultural use and production. The project would not facilitate development that would negatively affect human health or result in disproportionate adverse environmental impacts to low-income or minority populations. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898.





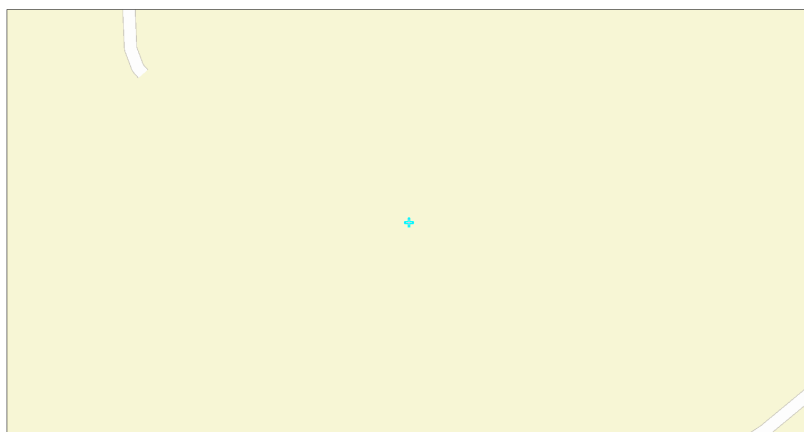
# EJScreen Community Report

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

## Comerío Municipio, PR

1 mile Ring Centered at 18.243151,-66.248800  
Population: 3,235  
Area in square miles: 3.14

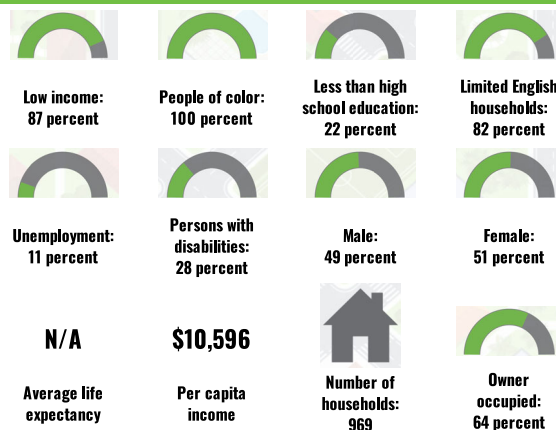
A3 Landscape



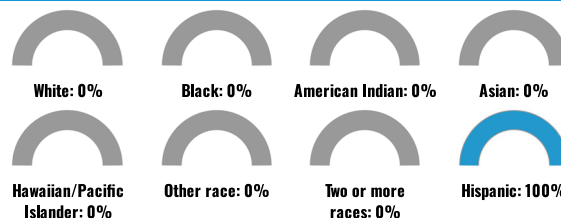
January 22, 2024  
Search Result (point)

1:1,128  
0 0.01 0.02 0.03 0.04 0.05 mi  
0 0.02 0.04 0.08 km  
EPA Community Maps Contributors: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Purrup, SafeGraph, GeoTechniques, Inc., HERE, USGS, NPS, US Census Bureau, GPO

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION



### BREAKDOWN BY RACE



### BREAKDOWN BY AGE



### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

| LANGUAGE          | PERCENT |
|-------------------|---------|
| English           | 8%      |
| Spanish           | 92%     |
| Total Non-English | 92%     |

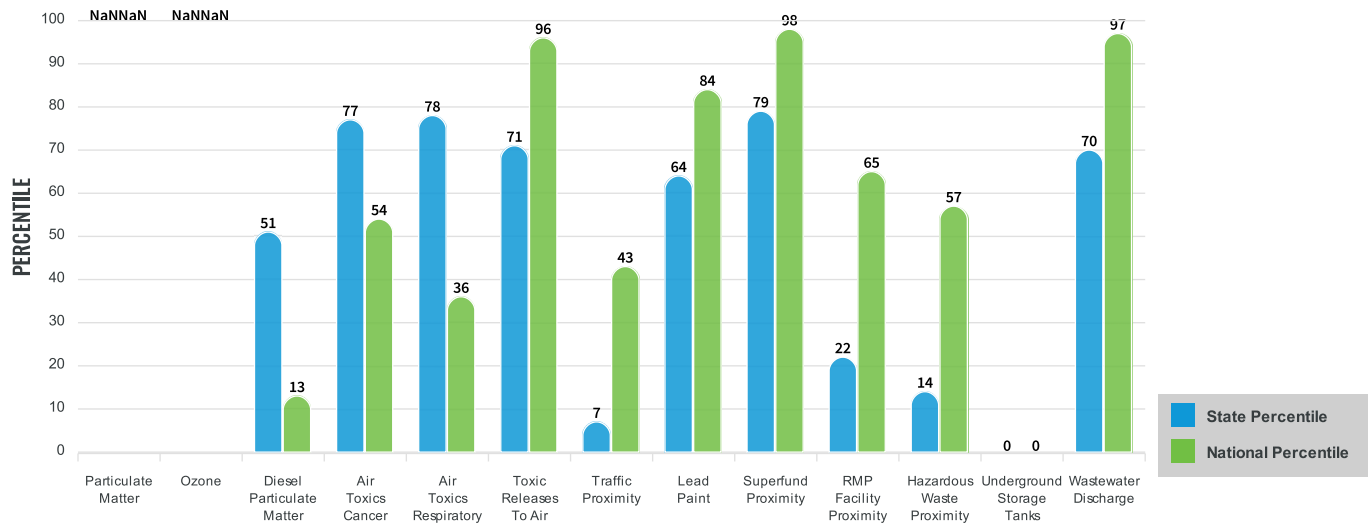
## Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

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.

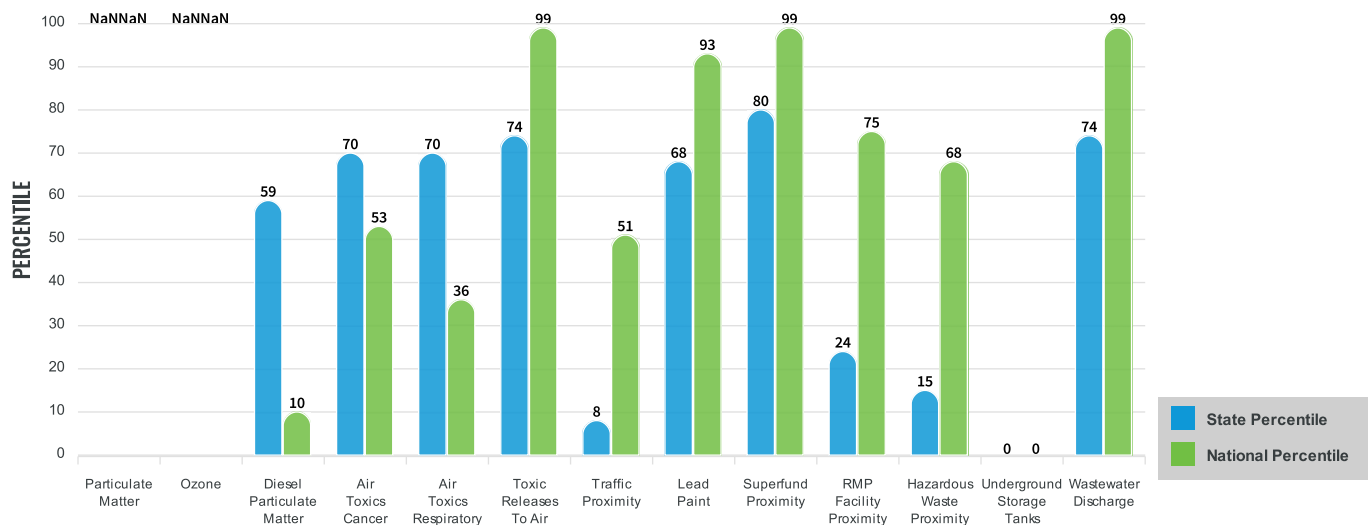
#### EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



### 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 18.243151,-66.248800

# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

| SELECTED VARIABLES  | VALUE  | STATE AVERAGE | PERCENTILE IN STATE | USA AVERAGE | PERCENTILE IN USA |
|---|--------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>POLLUTION AND SOURCES</b>                                      |        |               |                     |             |                   |
| Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )                   | N/A    | N/A           | N/A                 | 8.08        | N/A               |
| Ozone (ppb)   | N/A    | N/A           | N/A                 | 61.6        | N/A               |
| Diesel Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )            | 0.0346 | 0.0667        | 46                  | 0.261       | 2                 |
| Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)               | 20     | 20            | 15                  | 25          | 5                 |
| Air Toxics Respiratory HI*  | 0.2    | 0.19          | 17                  | 0.31        | 4                 |
| Toxic Releases to Air   | 1,300  | 4,300         | 65                  | 4,600       | 64                |
| Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)          | 5.3    | 180           | 7                   | 210         | 11                |
| Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)                                   | 0.13   | 0.16          | 61                  | 0.3         | 40                |
| Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)                      | 0.14   | 0.15          | 74                  | 0.13        | 77                |
| RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)               | 0.08   | 0.47          | 21                  | 0.43        | 22                |
| Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)            | 0.089  | 0.76          | 13                  | 1.9         | 17                |
| Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )                | 0      | 1.7           | 0                   | 3.9         | 0                 |
| Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance) | 0.02   | 2.3           | 63                  | 22          | 73                |
| <b>SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS</b>                                   |        |               |                     |             |                   |
| Demographic Index   | 93%    | 83%           | 75                  | 35%         | 99                |
| Supplemental Demographic Index                                    | 50%    | 43%           | 67                  | 14%         | 99                |
| People of Color   | 100%   | 96%           | 29                  | 39%         | 97                |
| Low Income  | 87%    | 70%           | 75                  | 31%         | 98                |
| Unemployment Rate   | 11%    | 15%           | 44                  | 6%          | 83                |
| Limited English Speaking Households                               | 82%    | 67%           | 79                  | 5%          | 99                |
| Less Than High School Education                                   | 22%    | 21%           | 54                  | 12%         | 83                |
| Under Age 5   | 4%     | 4%            | 65                  | 6%          | 43                |
| Over Age 64   | 15%    | 22%           | 22                  | 17%         | 47                |
| Low Life Expectancy   | N/A    | N/A%          | N/A                 | 20%         | N/A               |

\* Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are 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. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. 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 .....  | 0 |
| Air Pollution .....  | 0 |
| Brownfields .....  | 0 |
| Toxic Release Inventory .....                                      | 0 |

## Other community features within defined area:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Schools .....           | 1 |
| 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 18.243151,-66.248800

## 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              | 6.1        | N/A           |
| Asthma                    | N/A   | N/A           | N/A              | 10         | N/A           |
| Cancer                    | N/A   | N/A           | N/A              | 6.1        | N/A           |
| Persons with Disabilities | 25.2% | 21.6%         | 69               | 13.4%      | 95            |

| 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       | 49%   | 32%           | 80               | 14%        | 97            |
| Lack of Health Insurance | 5%    | 7%            | 34               | 9%         | 36            |
| Housing Burden           | No    | N/A           | N/A              | N/A        | N/A           |
| Transportation Access    | No    | N/A           | N/A              | N/A        | N/A           |
| Food Desert              | No    | N/A           | N/A              | N/A        | N/A           |

Footnotes

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.243151,-66.248800

# **Appendix C**

## **Environmental Site Inspection Report**





# ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM

## ReGrow

10/26/

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Applicant Name: Juan Carlos Negron Santiago          | Program ID: PR-RGRW-04401 |
| Project Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488              | Parcel ID:                |
| Parcel Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR | Municipio: Comerio        |
| Zip Code 00782                                       |                           |

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Inspector Name: Armando Ramos | Inspection Date: 10/26/2023 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|

### General Site Conditions

|   |          |   |
|---|----------|---|
| Was property accessible by vehicle?                               | Yes / No | Comment:  |
| Access issues?  | Yes / No | Comment: None / Examples of manual entry: Dogs, Locked gate, Traffic hazards, Uncooperative residents, Confrontational Neighbors. |
| Are water wells present?  | Yes / No | Comment: They use water well as main water source.  |
| Are creeks or ponds present?                                      | Yes / No | Comment:  |
| Are any potential wetlands on-site or visible on adjacent parcel? | Yes / No | Comment:  |

### Parcel Conditions

**Note – for Any Yes answers specify type, contents and location**

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| Do any of the proposed project work areas show evidence of site preparation?        | Yes / No | Comment: If yes, ask applicant when the preparation work was completed. Applicant leveled the ground in site location for previous project that fell through. It was before he applied for ReGrow. |
| Are commercial or industrial hazardous facilities at parcel or within visual sight? | Yes / No | Comment:   |
| Are there signs of underground storage tanks?                                       | Yes / No | Comment:   |
| Are above-ground tanks >10 gallons present? If Yes, also state condition.           | Yes / No | Comment:   |
| Are 55-gallon drums present? If Yes, also state condition.                          | Yes / No | Comment:   |



# ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM

## ReGrow

|  |             |   |
|--|-------------|---|
| Are abandoned vehicles or electrical equipment present?  | Yes /<br>No | Comment: There is an abandoned pickup truck in the site location. Applicant will remove it. |
| Is other potential environmentally hazardous debris on the parcel?   | Yes /<br>No | Comment:  |
| Is there non-environmentally hazardous debris on the parcel?   | Yes /<br>No | Comment:  |
| Are any leaks, soil stains, or stressed vegetation present associated with any of the above or separately? | Yes /<br>No | Comment:  |
| Are there any pungent, foul or noxious odors?  | Yes /<br>No | Comment:  |
| Are there any potentially hazardous trees that could fall?   | Yes /<br>No | Comment:  |
| Are any bird nests visible?  | Yes /<br>No | Comment:  |
| Are there any animal burrows visible?  | Yes /<br>No | Comment:  |
| Are there any buildings in direct visual sight of the project locations?                                   | Yes /<br>No | Comment: Take photo and ask applicant when built, if present.                               |
|  |             |   |

### Additional Needs Analysis

|  |             |          |
|--|-------------|----------|
| Based on the above findings, does additional information need to be obtained from the applicant to determine whether an environmental hazard is present? | Yes /<br>No | Comment: |
|--|-------------|----------|

☒ I verify that I have physically visited this property and that the findings outlined above are accurate.

Inspector Signature *Armando Ramos*  
{Inspector Name} Armando Ramos  
{Inspection Date} 10/26/2023



## ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM

### ReGrow

Following pages are used for:

Location Map with parcel boundaries and building point (Aerial base with streets labelled)

Photos taken during inspection, with Date / Type / Direction associated with the photo

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

| Frame # | View | Description  |
|---------|------|--|
| 01      | N    | Overview of site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft with 3 600-gallon cisterns each.                          |
| 02      | S    | North corner of site location for vertical hydroponic greenhouse 120x36ft.   |
| 03      | SW   | NE corner of site location for hydroponic greenhouse 120x36ft. with 3 cisterns each.   |
| 04      | N    | South corner of site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft with 3 600-gallon cisterns each.                      |
| 05      | E    | West corner of site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft with 3 600-gallon cisterns each.                       |
| 06      | N    | Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses.  |
| 07      | E    | Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses.  |
| 08      | S    | Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses.  |
| 09      | W    | Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses. 2 cisterns will go on hill.                                  |
| 10      | SE   | Overview of site location for storage container 45x10ft.   |
| 11      | SE   | Northwest corner of site location for storage container 45x10ft.   |
| 12      | SW   | NE corner of site location for storage container 45x10ft.  |
| 13      | NE   | Southwest corner of site location for storage container 45x10ft.   |
| 14      | NW   | Southeast corner of site location for storage container 45x10ft.   |
| 15      | SE   | Area where pipes for water would go underground and covered with concrete to protect against cars passing through.                 |
| 16      | NW   | Pipes continue above ground towards site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft. with 3 600-gallon cisterns each. |
| 17      | W    | Source for water connection option with PVC pipes on ground surface.   |
| 18      | NE   | Building to store water pump. water arrives at the building via underground pipes that bring water from well.                      |
| 19      | SW   | Electric meter. Electricity would run from here to site location with aboveground cables.  |
| 20      | SE   | Electric post.   |
| 21      | NW   | Container for trash disposal. Belongs to municipality.   |
| 22      | N    | Greenhouses.   |
| 23      | E    | Office and chemical room built about 7 to 8 years ago.   |

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401  | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas,<br>Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

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|---|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401  | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas,<br>Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

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| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>01  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>North   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Overview of site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft with 3 600-gallon cisterns each. |                            |  |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>02   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>South  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>North corner of site location for vertical hydroponic greenhouse 120x36ft. |                            |  |

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>03  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Southwest   |                            |
| <b>Description:</b><br>NE corner of site<br>location for<br>hydroponic<br>greenhouse<br>120x36ft. with 3<br>cisterns each. |                            |



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|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>04  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>North   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>South corner of site<br>location for 4<br>vertical hydroponic<br>greenhouses<br>120x36ft with 3<br>600-gallon cisterns<br>each. |                            |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |


|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>05   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>East   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>West corner of site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft with 3 600-gallon cisterns each. |                            |  |

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| <b>Photo #:</b><br>06  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>North   |                            |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses. |                            |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>07  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>East  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses. |                            |  |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>08  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>South   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses. |                            |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>09   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>West   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Center point for site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses.<br>2 cisterns will go on hill. |                            |  |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>10  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Southeast                                       |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Overview of site location for storage container 45x8ft. |                            |  |

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

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|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>11  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Southeast   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Northwest corner of site location for storage container 45x8ft. |                            |  |

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|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>12   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Southwest  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>NE corner of site location for storage container 45x8ft. |                            |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

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|---|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Phot</b><br><b>o #:</b><br>13  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/202<br>3 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Northeast  |                                |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Southwest corner<br>of site location for<br>storage container<br>45x8ft. |                                |  |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>14  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Northwest   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Southeast corner of site location for storage container 45x8ft. |                            |  |




|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

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|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>15   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Southeast  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Area where pipes for water would go underground and covered with concrete to protect against cars passing through. |                            |  |

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|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>16   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Northwest  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Pipes continue above ground towards site location for 4 vertical hydroponic greenhouses 120x36ft. with 3 600-gallon cisterns each. |                            |  |

|  |                                 |
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| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>17   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>West   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Source for water connection option with PVC pipes on ground surface. |                            |  |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>18  | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Northeast   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Building to store water pump. water arrives at the building via underground pipes that bring water from well. |                            |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>19   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Southwest  |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Electric meter.<br>Electricity would run from here to site location with aboveground cables. |                            |  |

|  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>20                    | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Southeast |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Electric post.    |                            |  |

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>21   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>Northwest                                      |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Container for trash disposal. Belongs to municipality. |                            |  |

|                                      |                            |  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>22                | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>North |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Greenhouses.  |                            |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Project #: PR-RGRW-04401                                     | Photographer: Armando Ramos     |
| Location Address: 780 KM 7.8, Bo. Palomas, Comerio, PR 00782 | Coordinates: 18.24315, -66.2488 |

|   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Photo #:</b><br>23   | <b>Date:</b><br>10/26/2023 |  |
| <b>Photo Direction:</b><br><br>East   |                            |  |
| <b>Description:</b><br>Office and chemical room built about 7 to 8 years ago. |                            |  |