

Environmental Assessment

Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects

24 CFR Part 58

Project Information

Project ID: PR-RGRW-03945

Project Name: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico / Municipio of Lares

Preparer: Alaina Callinan, Deputy Program Manager

Certifying Officer Name and Title:

Permit and Environmental Compliance Officer: Pedro De León Rodriguez

Limary Vélez Marrer

Consultant (if applicable): SWCA Environmental Consultants

Direct Comments to: PR Department of Housing, environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

Project Location:

The proposed project is located on an approximate 3.79-acre parcel (Parcel Number 186-000-001-38-000) at Bo. Buenos Aires Carretera 129 Kilómetro Hectómetro 29.9, Lares, Puerto Rico, 00669 (see **Appendix A, Figure 1-** Site Location and **Figure 2-** Site Vicinity). This property is in a rural area in the central portion of Lares Municipio. Access to the project area is provided via an existing driveway at the southwestern portion of the parcel.

The applicant has identified two potential locations for project activities related to the Intended Use of Grant Funds that is being evaluated under this Environmental Assessment, also shown on Figures 1 and 2:

- Option 1: Galvanized roof (18.273672, -66.872543) is in the northwestern portion of the parcel.
- Option 2: Galvanized roof (18.273398, -66.872773) is in the southwestern portion of the parcel.

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

The proposed project includes the purchase of a galvanized roof and building materials to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment. The project also includes the purchase of new fertilizer, utility vehicle, trimmer, chain saw, mower, a new cistern and pump, coffee trees, and barbed wire and metal spikes to create a fence.

There are two potential locations for construction of the storage structure. Option 1 includes construction of the storage structure in the northwestern portion of the parcel, approximately 215 northeast from the existing access driveway. Under Option 1, a galvanized roof that is 324 square feet in size (18 feet by 18 feet) will be attached to 4 approximately 20-foot-long poles that will be installed approximately 1.5 to 2 feet deep into the ground and reinforced using metal purlins. Option 1 will require the construction of a new concrete pad that a maximum of 289 square feet (17 feet by 17 feet) in size for the base of the storage structure if this option is chosen. The concrete pad will be slightly smaller in size than the galvanized roof to avoid damage from rainwater. The construction of the concrete pad at this location is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application.

Option 2 includes the construction of the storage structure in the southwestern portion of the parcel, approximately 100 feet north of the existing access driveway. Under Option 2, a galvanized roof that is approximately 324 square feet in size (18 feet by 18 feet) would be attached to 4 approximately 20-foot-long poles that will be installed approximately 1.5 to 2 feet deep into the ground and reinforced using metal purlins. There is an existing concrete pad that is 600 square feet in size (20 feet by 30 feet) located at the project site for Option 2; therefore, construction of a concrete pad at this location will not be required. The roof will only cover 324 square feet of the 600 square feet existing pad. Following installation of the new galvanized roof, the remaining portion of the concrete pad will eventually be used as a garage. However, construction of a garage at this location is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application. In the future, the Applicant plans to purchase concrete blocks to create walls for the storage structure at either location. The purchase of the concrete blocks is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application.

Both Option 1 and Option 2 will create a new storage structure for fertilizer and equipment to support existing coffee cultivation and harvesting activities. While Option 1 would locate the new storage structure in close proximity to cultivation and harvest areas, Option 2 is the preferred location because it is close to the existing residence and existing and proposed cisterns and contains an existing concrete platform for the storage structure.

The project includes the purchase and installation of a new 1,000-gallon water cistern that is approximately 36 square feet in size (6 feet by 6 feet). The water cistern would be installed on an existing concrete pad adjacent to the existing cistern that is located to the south of the existing access driveway in the northwestern portion of the parcel, approximately 135 feet south of Option 2 and 250 feet southwest of Option 1. The new cistern will collect water for the Applicant's existing irrigation system and may require a utility connection to convey the additional water. The future purchase of an additional water connection is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application. No electricity is proposed for the storage structure. Any future purchase of electrical connections is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application.

The project includes the purchase of 6 approximately 50-foot barbed wire rolls to create two separate fences in the northwestern and southeastern portions of the property. The fence would extend a maximum of 430 feet along the southeastern property boundary and approximately 200 feet within the northwestern portion of the property, additional fencing needed, beyond the 300 feet included in the intended use of grant funds would be purchased with the Applicant's own funds. The fence would be installed on posts extending approximately 0.5 to 1 foot into the ground. The project also includes the purchase of supplies, including fertilizer, coffee trees, and a utility vehicle to expand coffee cultivation and harvesting on the project site. Coffee cultivation areas will be located in the center of the parcel, to the east of both Option 1 and Option 2.

The project will include ground disturbance as well as vegetation clearing and pruning, however, no tree clearing is required for construction. A separate staging area is not proposed. The applicant owns the property and it is currently used for agricultural purposes; therefore, no acquisition or conversion 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 CDBG-DR funds for a wide variety of viable and sustainable agricultural activities.

The applicant does not have the resources to fund the purchase and construction of the galvanized roof nor has the applicant received any other outside source of funding for the project. The new galvanized roof will increase storage to help increase agricultural production on the farm and support continued local agricultural production during future disasters.

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

The proposed project is located in a rural area of Lares Municipio. The parcel is designated as Developed Rural Area (ARD) land use and is classified as Specially Protected Rustic Land – Agricultural (SREP-A). Land use immediately surrounding the parcel consists primarily of low-density rural development to the north, west, and south and undeveloped land to the east.

The general topography of the project site consists of a gentle to moderate slope toward to west and primarily vegetated areas. The property is currently used for agricultural and residential uses. There are coffee plants planted throughout the project site and a residence and accessory structure located along the western portion of the project site.

The project site for Option 1 consists of a vacant area with a vegetative cover in the northwestern portion of the parcel. The project site for option 2 consists of an existing concrete pad located in close proximity to the existing development on-site in the southwestern portion of the parcel.

Funding Information

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

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$48,222.73

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$48,222.73

Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

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

| Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6 | Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required? | Compliance Determinations |
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| STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6 | | |
| Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D | Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The project site is not within 2,500 feet 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, Eugenio Maria de Hostos, is located 93,531 feet (18 miles) from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 302,938 feet (57 miles) from the project site. The project is in compliance with this section. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with airport hazards requirements. The Airport Hazards Partner Worksheet and Airport Hazards Map (Figure B 1-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 1 . |
| Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501] | Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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 Lares. The closest CBRS unit, Penon Brusi, is located 76,347 feet (14 miles) from the project site. The project is in compliance with this section. No further evaluation is |

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| | | <p>required. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.</p> <p>The Coastal Barrier Resources Act Partner Worksheet and Coastal Barrier Resources Map (Figure B 2-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 2.</p> |
| <p>Flood Insurance</p> <p>Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]</p> | <p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>A review of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Community Panel 72000C0590H (effective date 4/19/2005), shows the project site is in Flood Zone X, which is not in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Flood insurance is not required. The project is in compliance with this section. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Flood Disaster Protection Act and National Flood Insurance Reform Act.</p> <p>The Flood Insurance Partner Worksheet and FIRM (Figure B 3-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 3.</p> |
| <p>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5</p> | | |
| <p>Clean Air</p> <p>Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93</p> | <p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>The project site is in Lares 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 a galvanized roof for a storage structure. The project is not anticipated to have a negative impact on air quality and will not increase residential density. 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. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.</p> <p>The Air Quality Partner Worksheet, List of Non-Attainment/Maintenance Status</p> |

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| | | Counties in Puerto Rico, and Clean Air Map (Figure B 4-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 4 . |
| Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d) | Yes No <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 73,625 feet (14 miles) from the project site. The project is in compliance with this section. 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 (Figure B 5-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 5.</p> |
| Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2) | Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The project site was evaluated for potential contamination by conducting a field site inspection on 05/26/2023 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 that could not be resolved with mitigation.</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 Action sites with release(s) or suspected release(s) requiring clean-up action and/or further investigation. 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 that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property. The project is in compliance</p> |

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| | | <p>with contamination and toxic substances requirements.</p> <p>The Contamination and Toxics Substances Partner Worksheet and Contamination and Toxic Substances Map (Figure B 6-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 6.</p> |
| <p>Endangered Species</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 or vegetation removal.</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 and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) Species Ranges database. In addition, critical species habitat was reviewed through the USFWS IPaC, Critical Habitat Portal, and the DNER Puerto Rico State Wildlife Action Plan, a Ten-Year Review database.</p> <p>The review identified three federally listed species ((Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk [<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>], Puerto Rican parrot [<i>Amazona vittata</i>], and Puerto Rican boa [<i>Chilobothrus inornatus</i>]) and one state listed species (brown pelican [<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</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 42,240 feet (8 miles) away.</p> <p>The project activities will result in ground disturbing activities, including vegetation removal for the construction of a new fence. A qualified biologist reviewed the proposed activity location and determined that there is no suitable</p> |

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| | | <p>habitat present for the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk, Puerto Rican parrot, or the brown pelican at the proposed project location. Therefore, as currently designed, the proposed project activities will have <i>No effect</i> on these two federally listed species or designated critical habitat and <i>no impact</i> to state protected species. 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 2023 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 Construction Manager 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, USFWS Informal Consultation Request, and USFWS Concurrence, along with the IPaC, Critical Habitat Map (Figure B 7-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 7.</p> |
| <p>Explosive and Flammable Hazards</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 purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment. The project also includes the purchase of new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence. The project itself is not the development of a hazardous facility nor will the project increase residential densities. Project activities are therefore</p> |

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| | | <p>an exempt activity. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.</p> <p>The Explosive and Flammable Hazards Partner Worksheet is provided in Appendix B, Attachment 8.</p> |
| <p>Farmlands Protection</p> <p>Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658</p> | <p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use. No prime farmland or 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 (FPPA) 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 (Figure B 9-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 9.</p> |
| <p>Floodplain Management</p> <p>Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55</p> | <p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>A review of the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) map, Community Panel 72000C0590H (effective date 4/19/2005), shows the project site is in Flood Zone X. The project is not located in the 100-year floodplain or ABFE special flood hazard area; therefore, no further action is required. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988.</p> <p>The Floodplain Management Partner Worksheet and ABFE Floodplain Map (Figure B 10-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 10.</p> |
| <p>Historic Preservation</p> <p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly</p> | <p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>The project will involve new construction of a storage structure on a previously disturbed property. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consultation was performed.</p> |

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| <p>sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800</p> | | <p>No National Historic Landmark (NHL) are within or near the project area.</p> <p>A site visit was conducted on May 26, 2023 by an SOI-qualified Archaeologist. Record reviews and research were conducted at the SHPO and the Institute for Puerto Rican Culture (ICP) to determine if any archaeologically sensitive resources could be present within a 0.5-mile radius.</p> <p>The results of the Record Search and the Site Inspection indicate that no eligible archaeological sites or National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed/eligible historic properties are located within or adjacent to the project Area of Potential Effect (APE). Based on the results of the historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that project actions will not affect historic properties that compose the APE.</p> <p>The determination was submitted to SHPO by PRDOH for concurrence on July 24, 2023, and SHPO concurred with the No Historic Properties Affected determination on August 8, 2023. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.</p> <p>The Historic Preservation Partner Worksheet, SHPO consultation, Historic Property Map (Figure B 11-1), and Cultural Resources Map (Figure B 11-2) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 11.</p> |
| <p>Noise Abatement and Control</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 the purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment. The project also includes the purchase of new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence. The Project does not involve residential new construction or rehabilitation. No further evaluation is</p> |

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| | | required. The project is in compliance with HUD's noise regulation. |
| Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149 | Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | According to the USEPA's Source Water Protection, Sole Source Aquifer Protection Program, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. |
| Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5 | Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The project site was reviewed for wetlands using the USFWS Wetland Inventory Mapper and a visual confirmation during the field site inspection. No wetlands were determined to be present on site. The project is in compliance with this section. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990.</p> <p>The Wetlands Protection Partner Worksheet and Wetland Map (Figure B 12-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 12.</p> |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c) | Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>A review of the USFWS National Wild and Scenic River mapper identified no Wild and Scenic Rivers or National Rivers Inventory (NRI) rivers present in Lares Municipio. The closest Wild and Scenic River segment is located 375,588 feet (71 miles) from the project site. The project is in compliance with this section. 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 (Figure B 13-1) are provided in Appendix B, Attachment 13.</p> |
| ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE | | |
| Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 | Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The ReGrow Program intends to alleviate negative economic impacts to, and strengthen, the agricultural industry in Puerto Rico. The project's |

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| | | <p>direct and indirect impacts are limited to a small area on a single land parcel. The project will benefit the farm owner by increasing fertilizer storage capacity and 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 Appendix B, Attachment 14.</p> |
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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 |
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| LAND DEVELOPMENT | | |

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| Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design | 2 | <p>The parcel is designated as Developed Rural Area (ARD) land use and is classified as Specially Protected Rustic Land – Agricultural (SREP-A). The purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment, supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence are activities that will allow for continued agricultural use of property, which is compatible with zoning and existing land use.</p> <p>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 Lares Municipio, and project activities will not contribute to urban sprawl.</p> <p>Any necessary permits should be obtained by the applicant and/or contractor from the appropriate department prior to construction activities.</p> |
| Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff | 2 | <p>The soil is currently being used for agriculture purposes, including cultivation and harvest of coffee plants. Soil suitability will be assessed prior to construction and will be addressed during local permitting processes. Contractors will be required to use best management practices during construction to control erosion and prevent runoff.</p> <p>Landslide data from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) indicates less than 25 landslides per square kilometer for the project area (see Appendix A, Figure 3- USGS Landslide Map).</p> <p>Under the USEPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program requirements, any project with a disturbance area equal to or greater than 1 acre requires a USEPA Construction General Permit, NPDES Permit, and formal Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The total disturbance area for this project is less than 1 acre and does not meet this threshold; therefore, these requirements do not apply.</p> |
| Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise | 2 | <p>Contractors will be required to provide health and safety plans and monitoring during construction. Noise levels will temporarily increase during construction; however, program activities are limited to the existing property and will not permanently elevate ambient noise levels. Contractors will be required to comply with the applicable local noise ordinances. Noise impacts</p> |

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| | | will be mitigated by restricting construction activities to daylight hours. |
| Energy Consumption | 2 | The project will not result in significant additional energy consumption as it involves only the purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment, new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence on an existing farm. Electricity may be extended to the proposed storage structure in the future; however, expansion of electrical infrastructure is not currently proposed. |

| Environmental Assessment Factor | Impact Code | Impact Evaluation |
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| SOCIOECONOMIC | | |
| Employment and Income Patterns | 2 | Proposed construction activities would be conducted by the Applicant. Following construction, the project will support the continuation of operations and intended use of the farm, which produces produce for Puerto Rico communities. The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on employment and income patterns. |
| Demographic Character Changes, Displacement | 2 | The project is a rural area in Lares Municipio and will not alter the demographics or character of surrounding community. Project activities will not result in any direct or indirect displacement of individuals or families. |

| Environmental Assessment Factor | Impact Code | Impact Evaluation |
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| COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES | | |
| Educational and Cultural Facilities | 2 | The proposed project activities will occur 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 will allow for continued agricultural production, resulting in a net positive impact |

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| | | to the applicant's farm commercial output and a positive benefit to surrounding commercial enterprises who purchase and sell the produce. |
| Health Care and Social Services | 2 | The proposed project activities will occur 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 may result in an increase in short-term generation of solid waste during construction. Construction debris and material will either be recycled on the parcel or will go to a recycling facility in Lares Municipio (Centro de Acopio). The project will not contribute to long-term needs or changes to solid waste disposal and recycling. |
| Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers | 2 | The project includes the purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment, new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence and would not generate additional wastewater. Therefore, the project would not result in significant changes in wastewater or sanitary sewer generation. |
| Water Supply | 2 | The project includes the purchase and installation of a 1,000-gallon cistern to capture water at the project site. However, the project includes the construction and operation of a new storage structure and would not increase water demand. Therefore, the project would not result in significant changes in water supply. |
| Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical | 2 | The proposed project activities will occur on private land and will not affect public safety concerns such as police, fire, and emergency medical services. |
| Parks, Open Space and Recreation | 2 | The proposed project activities will occur on private land and will not result in any changes to access or use of parks, open space, and recreation areas. |
| Transportation and Accessibility | 2 | The project activities will occur on private land and have no relation to transportation services. The proposed activities will not result in any changes in transportation and accessibility. |

| Environmental Assessment Factor | Impact Code | Impact Evaluation |
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| NATURAL FEATURES | | |
| Unique Natural Features, Water Resources | 2 | The project is not located in proximity to unique natural features or water resources; therefore, construction activities will not affect quality or access to these resources. |
| Vegetation, Wildlife | 2 | The project area has been previously disturbed cultivation and harvesting of coffee plants; 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 construction. |
| Climate Change | 2 | <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 (https://resilience.climate.gov/#assessment-tool) 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 purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment, new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence are for individual farm use and will not result in a significant increase in electricity or water draw. The equipment that will be used during construction and operation will also be limited to occasional use at this specific land parcel, and therefore will not generate a significant amount of greenhouse gas. Additionally, project activities will not</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | result in tree clearing that would contribute to a loss in carbon capture. |
|--|--|--|

Additional Studies Performed:

No additional studies were performed.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by):

Field inspection completed on May 26, 2023 – Delise Torres-Ortiz, SWCA Environmental Consultants.

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

Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER). 2023a. Puerto Rico State Wildlife Action Plan a Ten-Year Review. Accessed March 1, 2023. Available at: <https://arcg.is/1DmOy1>.

DNER. 2023b. Puerto Rico DNER Species Ranges – under construction. Accessed March 1, 2023. Available at: <https://arcg.is/1S9aju0>.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). 2022. National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems 2023-2027. Accessed January 31, 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 72000C0520J (effective date 11/18/2009). Accessed March 1, 2023. Available at: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>.

Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP). 2023. San Juan, Puerto Rico. Data collection conducted on (06/02/2023).

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management. 2023. Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Boundary. Accessed March 1, 2023. Available at: [Puerto Rico Coastal Vulnerability Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b).

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). 2023. San Juan, Puerto Rico. Data collection conducted on (06/06/2023).

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 November 1, 2022. Available at: <https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/EMEF/efpoints/MapServer>.

USEPA. 2022b. Sole Source Aquifer Map. Accessed March 1, 2023. 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 January 31, 2023. Available at: https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo_pr.html.
- USEPA. 2023b. EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. Accessed May 22, 2023. 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 June 22, 2023. Available at: <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/location/index>.
- USFWS. 2023b. Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species. Accessed June 22, 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 May 22, 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 31, 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 March 1, 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 purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment, new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence at the project site is not anticipated to have a negative impact on environmental resources. None of the environmental assessment factors nor the regulations reviewed in the above checklist resulted in negative environmental impacts. 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(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]

Neither of the location options preferred by the applicant will result in the need for formal compliance or require further mitigation with any of the forementioned laws and authorities in the EA checklist. All the location options will allow the applicant to continue and increase their agricultural production. Within the boundaries of the property, other locations could be considered for the project activities which include the purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment, new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence. However, other locations may result in tree clearing prior to construction.

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

Under the No Action Alternative, the applicant would not receive federal funding to purchase a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment, new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence. 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 natural, historical, or water resources; generate significant air or noise pollution; or promote environmental or socioeconomic injustices. The proposed project activities will not require further agency consultation. No mitigation or formal compliance steps will be required for any of the laws and authorities assessed in this review.

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

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

| Law, Authority, or Factor | Mitigation Measure |
|--|--|
| Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402 | 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. 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. |
| Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800 | 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. |
| Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design | Any necessary construction permits should be obtained by the applicant and/or contractor from the appropriate department prior to construction activities. |
| Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff | Contractors will be required to use best management practices during construction if erosion impacts will occur. Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) authorization may be required for any extraction, removal, excavation, and dredging of the components of the earth's crust. |
| Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise | 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. Noise impacts |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | will be mitigated by restricting construction activities to daylight hours. |
| Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling | All construction debris will be disposed of at the proper facilities for the debris type (i.e. construction waste). |

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: Alaina Callinan Date: 9/14/2023

Name/Title/Organization: Alaina Callinan, Deputy Program Manager
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Certifying Officer Signature: Pedro A. de León Date: 9/29/2023

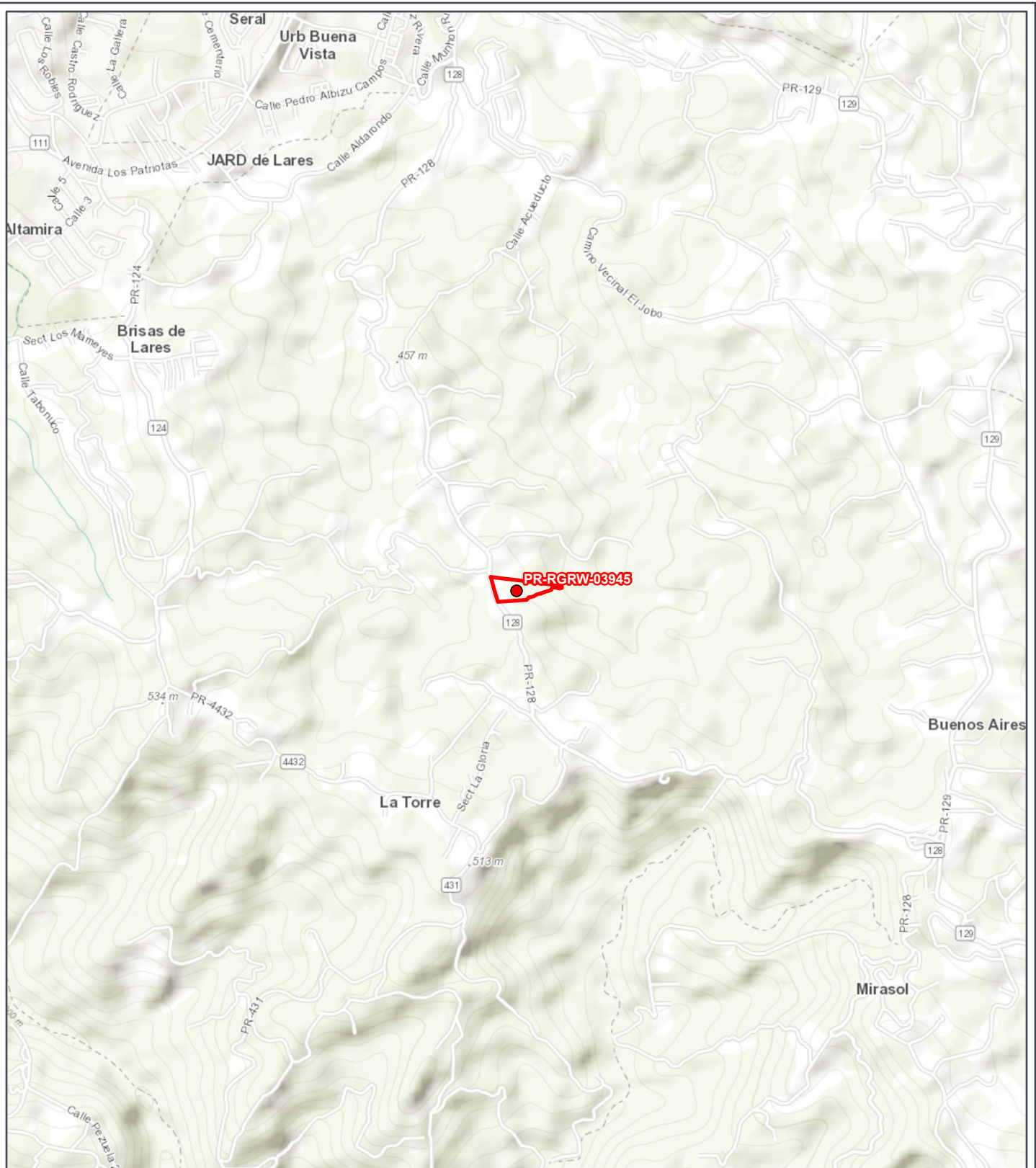
Name/Title: Pedro A. de León Rodríguez, MSEM/Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an 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-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
Layout: Site Location
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

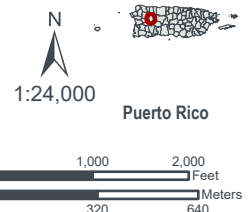
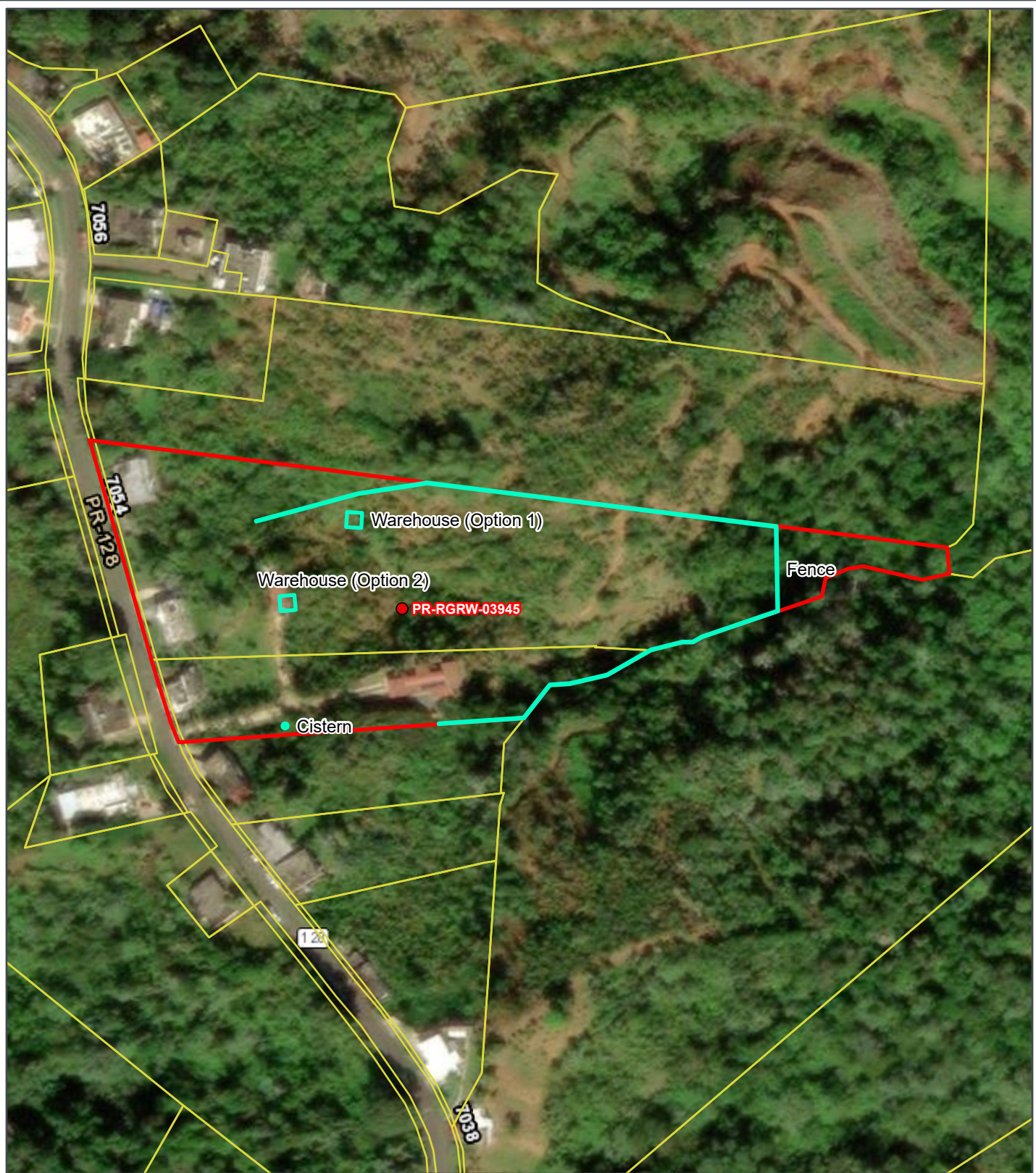


Figure 2
Site Vicinity Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure A-2: Site Vicinity

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.871972°W 18.273439°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
Layout: Site Vicinity
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

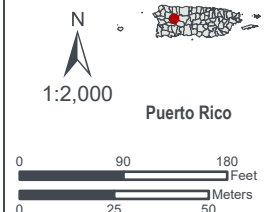


Figure 3
USGS Landslide Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure A-3: USGS Landslide Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

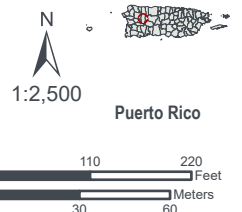
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- ▭ Greater than 25 Landslides per sq km
- ▭ Less than 25 Landslides per sq km
- ▭ No Landslides
- ▭ Not Examined

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Data Source: https://arcgis.cuahsi.org/arcgis/rest/services/MariaRAPID/Hurricane_Maria_Landslides/MapServer
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
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 → *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 → *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 → *Continue to Question 3.*

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

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

→ *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.

→ *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. → *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.](#)

→ 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 feet 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, Eugenio Maria de Hostos, is located 93,531 feet (18 miles) from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 302,938 feet (57 miles) from the project site. The project is in compliance with this section. 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-03945

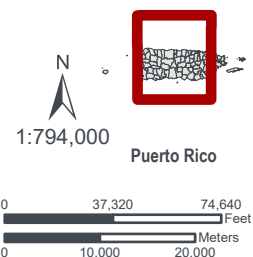
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.579025°W 18.34869°N

Data Source: <https://geodata.bts.gov/>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
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 → *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 → *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.

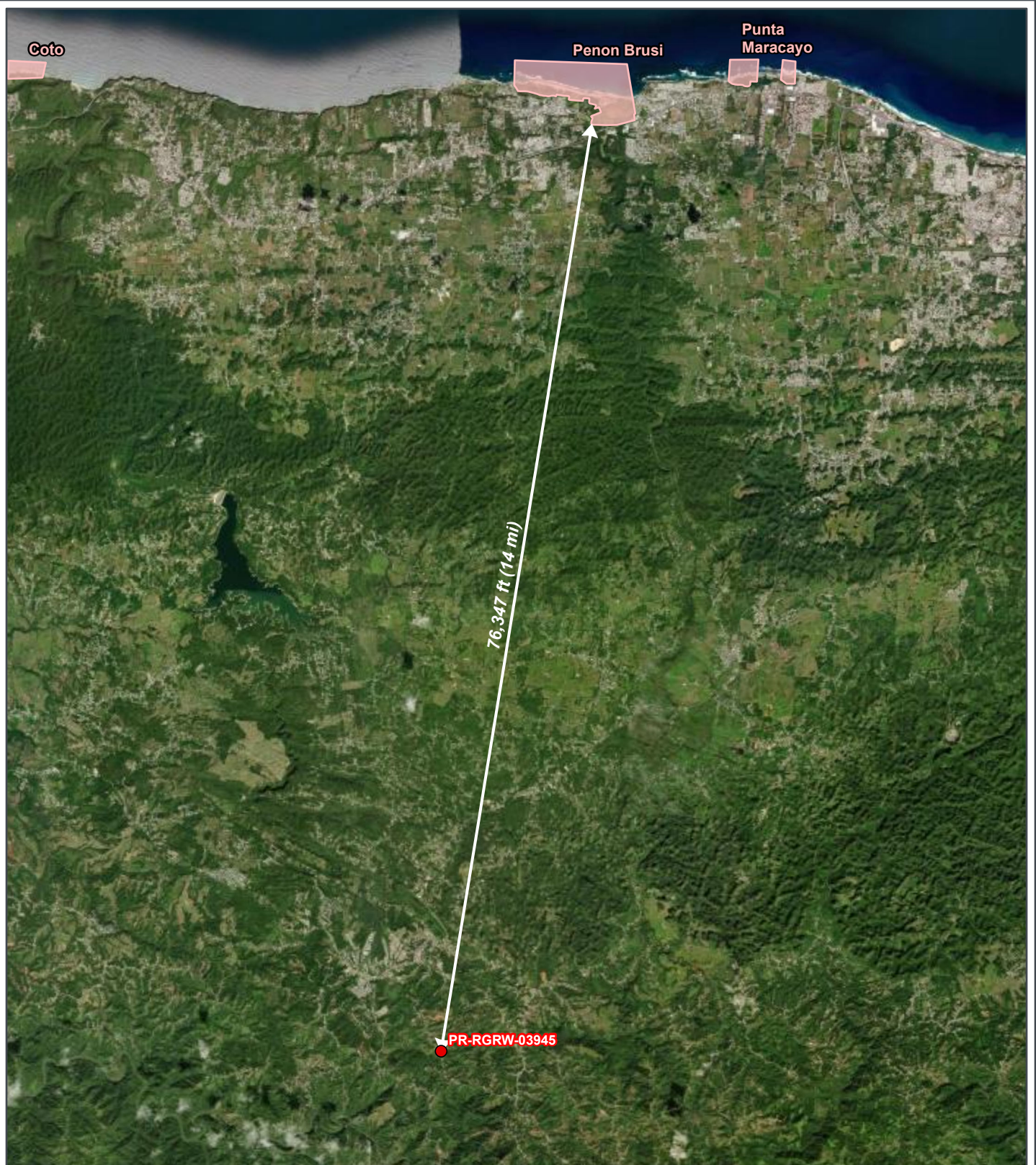
The project site is not located in a Coastal Barrier Resource Systems Unit (CBRS) or Otherwise Protected Area (OPA). There are no CBRS units in Lares. The closest CBRS unit, Penon Brusi, is located 76,347 feet



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

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(14 miles) from the project site. The project is in compliance with this section. 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-03945

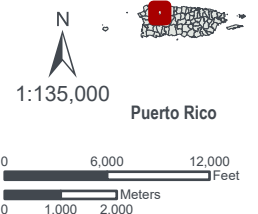
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Otherwise Protected Area
- System Unit

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.85494°W 18.377175°N

Data Source: <https://cbrsgis.wim.usgs.gov/arcgis/rest/services/CoastalBarrierResourcesSystem/MapServer>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
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.

→ Continue to the Worksheet Summary.

☐ Yes → 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 → Continue to the Worksheet Summary.

☐ Yes → 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.

→ 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.

→ 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.

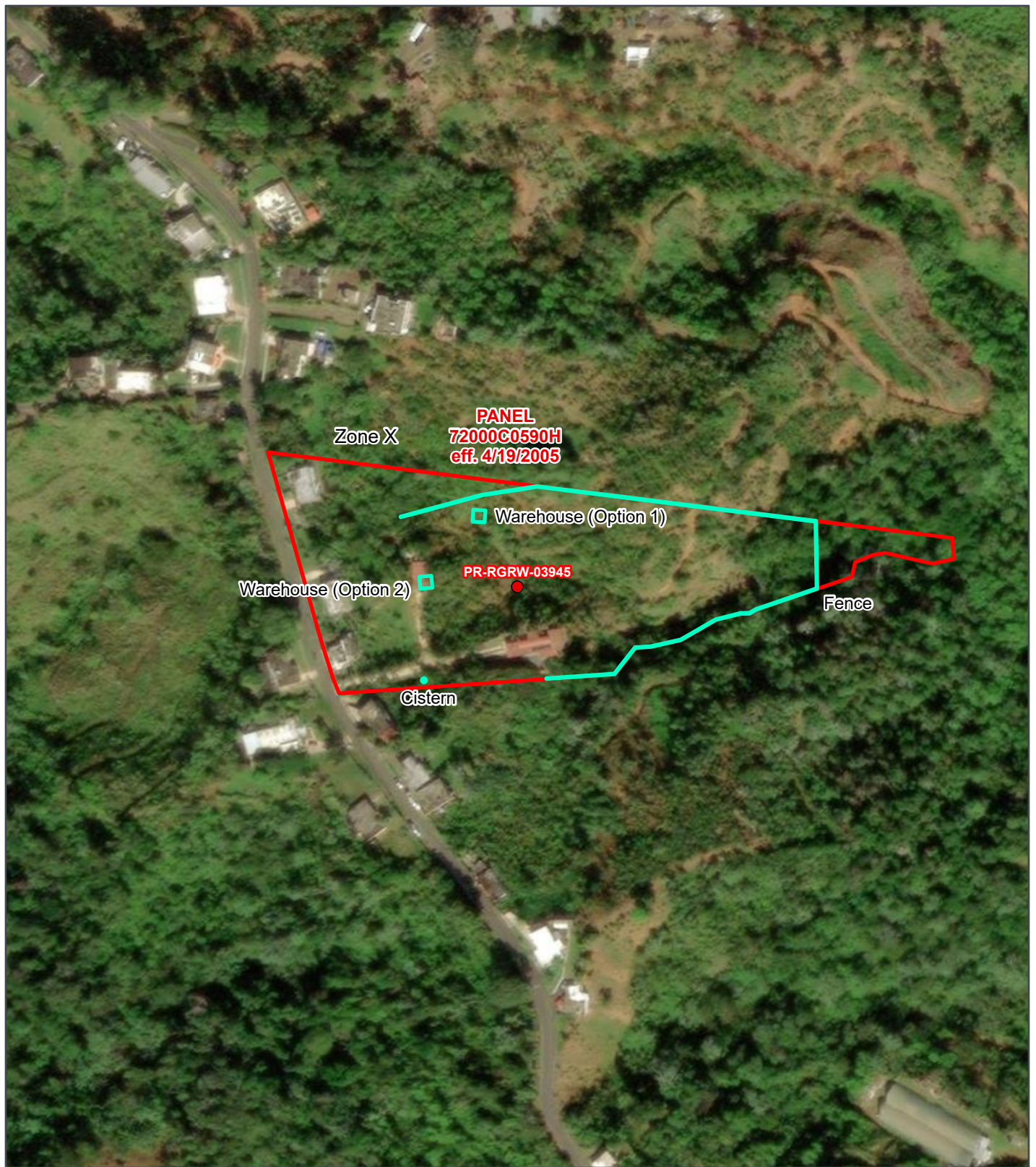
Worksheet Summary

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 Map (FIRM), Community Panel 72000C0590H (effective date 4/19/2005), shows the project site is in Flood Zone X, which is not in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Flood insurance is not required. The project is in compliance with this section. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with the Flood Disaster Protection Act and National Flood Insurance Reform Act.

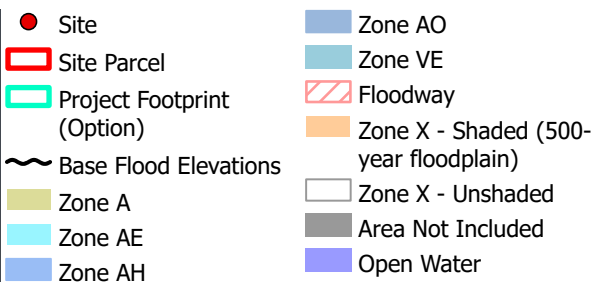


REGROW PROGRAM

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

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



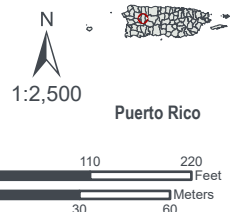
Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Data Source: <https://hazards.fema.gov/gis/nfhl/rest/services/public/NFHL/MapServer>

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023

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

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.

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 Lares Municipio, which is within a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated attainment area. Project activities include new construction of a galvanized roof for a storage structure. The project is not anticipated to have a negative impact on air quality and will not increase residential density. 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. 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 February 28, 2023

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

* The 1997 Primary Annual PM-2.5 NAAQS (level of 15 µg/m³) 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 | 11121314151617181920212223 | // | | Part | 32,185 | 72/013 |
| Bayamon Municipio | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR | 181920212223 | // | | Part | 22,921 | 72/021 |
| Catano Municipio | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR | 181920212223 | // | | Whole | 28,140 | 72/033 |
| Guaynabo Municipio | PM-10 (1987) | Mun. of Guaynabo, PR | 929394959697989900010203040506070809 | 02/11/2010 | Moderate | Part | 90,470 | 72/061 |
| Guaynabo Municipio | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR | 181920212223 | // | | Part | 23,802 | 72/061 |
| Salinas Municipio | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | Guayama-Salinas, PR | 181920212223 | // | | Part | 23,401 | 72/123 |
| San Juan Municipio | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR | 181920212223 | // | | Part | 147,963 | 72/127 |
| Toa Baja Municipio | Sulfur Dioxide (2010) | San Juan, PR | 181920212223 | // | | Part | 52,441 | 72/137 |

Important Notes

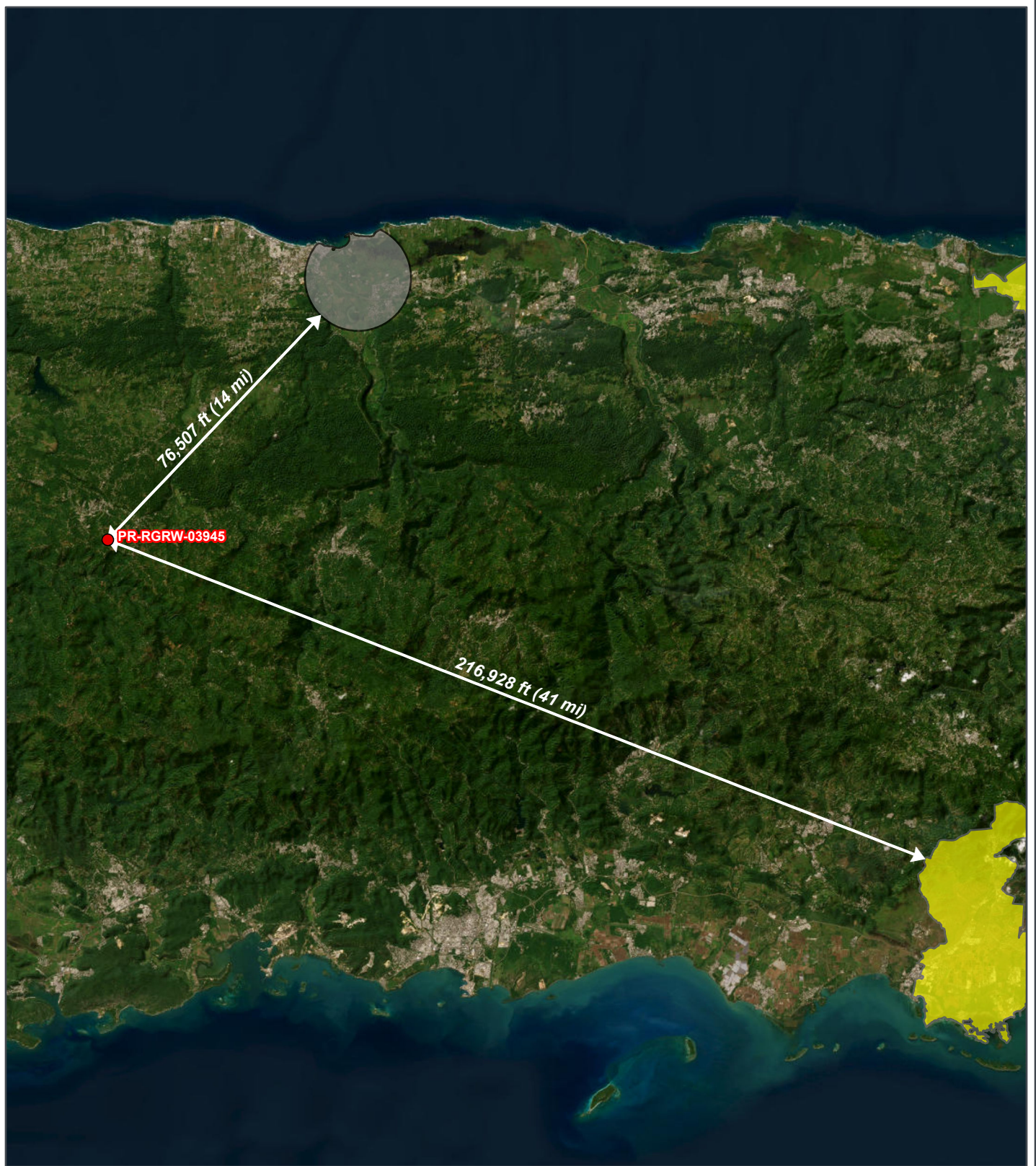
Discover.

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2023-02-28



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 4-1: Clean Air Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

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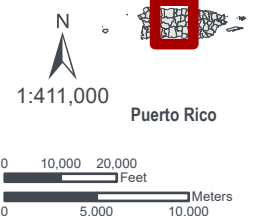
- Site
- ▨ 8-Hour Ozone (2015 Standard)*
- Lead (2008 Standard)
- PM-2.5 (2012 Standard)*
- Sulfur Dioxide (2010 Standard)

*No Data in Puerto Rico

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.581066°W 18.241702°N

Data Source: https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/NEPAAssist/NEPAVELayersPublic_fgdb/MapServer
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
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

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 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 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 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 73,625 feet (14 miles) from the project site. The project is in compliance with this section. 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-03945

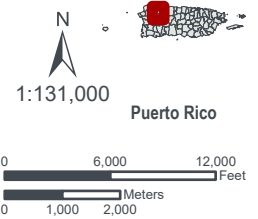
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- Site
- Coastal Management Zone

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.886112°W 18.373902°N

Data Source: <https://coast.noaa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Hosted/CoastalZoneManagementAct/>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
Layout: Coastal Zone Management
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



Attachment 6

Contamination and Toxics Substances

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.

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? ¹ 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

→ 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 → Explain below.

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 action and/or further investigation. 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 that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property.

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

¹ 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.

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

3. Can adverse environmental impacts be mitigated?

☐ 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.
→ *Provide all mitigation requirements² 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 controls³, or use of institutional controls⁴.

[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)

→ *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 05/26/2023 to identify any onsite hazards including, but not limited to, soil staining, above ground

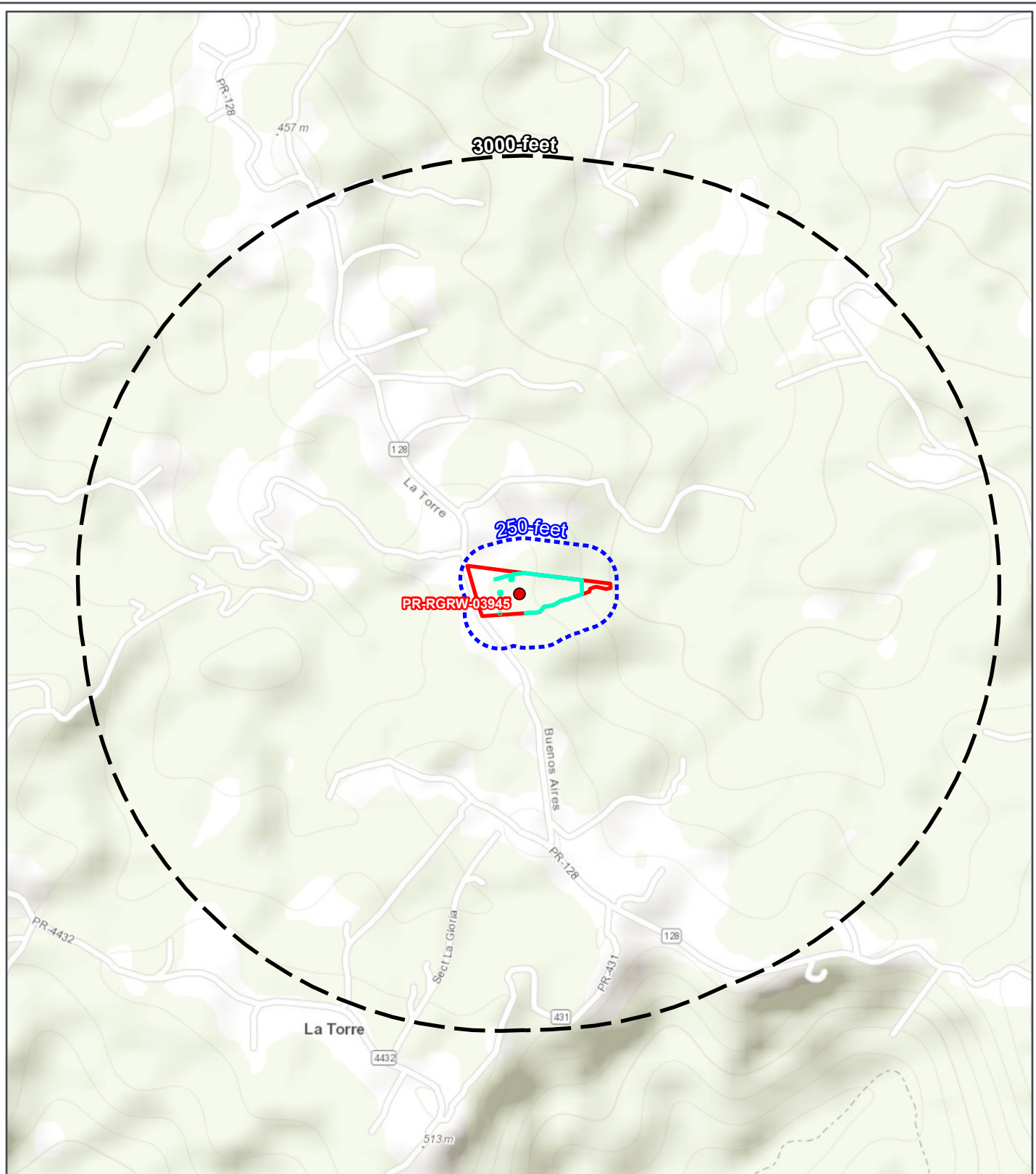
² Mitigation requirements include all clean-up actions required by applicable federal, state, tribal, or local law. Additionally, provide, as applicable, the long-term operations and maintenance plan, Remedial Action Work Plan, and other equivalent documents.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

storage tanks, signs of underground storage tanks, odors, hazardous debris etc. The site inspection did/did not identify any onsite hazards that could not be resolved with mitigation.

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 action and/or further investigation. 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 that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property. 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-03945

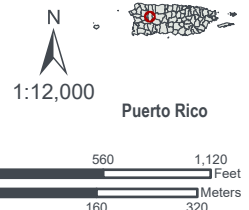
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ● Site | ■ Toxic Substances Control Act |
| □ Site Parcel | ■ Toxic releases |
| □ Project Footprint (Option) | ■ Superfund |
| □ Buffer (250-feet) | ■ Hazardous waste |
| □ Buffer (3000-feet) | ■ Brownfields |
| □ Water dischargers | ■ Air pollution |

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Data Source: <https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/EMEF/efpoints/MapServer>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
Layout: Contamination and Toxic Substances



Attachment 7

Endangered Species Act Partner Worksheet, USFWS Informal Consultation Request and Concurrence Response S WS Concurrence



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.

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 and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) Species Ranges database. In addition, critical species habitat was reviewed through the USFWS IPaC, Critical Habitat Portal, and the DNER Puerto Rico State Wildlife Action Plan, a Ten-Year Review database. The review identified three federally listed species, the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*), Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*), and Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*), and one state listed species, the brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), with the potential to occur within the project area.

Based on the site inspection and proposed project activities, the project will have *no effect* on the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk, Puerto Rican parrot, or designated critical habitat and *no impact* to

any state listed species. 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 2023 General Project Design Guidelines for the Puerto Rican boa. As such, it is anticipated that the project *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* the Puerto Rican boa. See the attached USFWS informal consultation request and subsequent concurrence, received on August 25, 2023.



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/72081-Gen

Submitted Via Electronic Mail: susan.fischer@swca.com

Susan Fischer
Wildlife Ecologist
SWCA Environmental Consultants
10245 West Little York Rd., Ste. 600
Houston, Texas 77040

Re: CDBG-DR RGRW-03945/SWCA-72428
Lares, Puerto Rico

Dear Ms. Fischer

Thank you for your letter dated August 21, 2023, requesting comments 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.).

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing is proposing the construction of a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment and install a new barbed wire fence on a 3.79-acre property at PR-129 KM 29.9, Bo. Buenos Aires (18°16'24.4"N 66°52'22.1"W) in the municipality of Lares, Puerto Rico. There are two potential locations for construction of the storage structure:

Option 1:

- Storage structure location consists of cleared, barren ground.

Option 2:

- Location is an existing paved driveway
- Although no vegetation removal would be required for construction of the storage structure, installation of the fence would require some vegetation removal and tree pruning

Using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system the proponent has determined that the proposed project lies within the range of Puerto Rican boa (*Epicrates inornatus* now known

as *Chilabothrus inornatus*), Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*) and Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*).

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, SWCA has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican boa and will be implementing Puerto Rican boa conservation measures prior to and during the construction to avoid or minimize impacts to the specie. As for the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk and Puerto Rican parrot a no effect (NE) determination was made.

We have reviewed the information provided in your letter and our files, and concur with your determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican boa with the implementation of the conservation measures. As per the conservation recommendations, please note that if a PR boa is encountered during the project activities, it should not be captured. If a boa needs to be moved out of harm's way, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) should be contacted for safe capture and relocation of the animal. If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities in the area where the boa is found must stop until it moves out of harm's way on its own.

As for the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk and Puerto Rican parrot we acknowledge receipt of your NE determination. Currently we do not have any information to refute your determination. Because you made a NE determination, you are not required to conduct formal or informal section 7 consultation with the Service, and the Service is not required to concur with your NE determination

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Edwin E. Muñiz
Field Supervisor

drr
cc:
P.R. Department of Housing



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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Houston, Texas 77040
Tel 281.617.3217 Fax 281.617.3227
www.swca.com

August 21, 2023

Edwin E Muñiz, Field Supervisor
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 491
Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622
Email: caribbean@es@fws.gov

**Re: Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation for the Puerto Rico
Department of Housing ReGrow PR-RGRW-03945 Project/ SWCA Project No. 72428**

Dear Mr. Muñiz:

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-03945 Project (project). The Project is located on 3.79 acres at Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares (18.273447, -66.872792).

The proposed Project involves the construction of an 18-foot by 18-foot galvanized roof and corresponding concrete pad (Option 1 location only) for use as a storage structure, as well as the installation of approximately 630 feet of barbed wire fence. The fence posts would be installed approximately one foot into the ground. Two optional locations are being evaluated for the storage structure. Construction of the storage structure will not require any vegetation clearing, and the Option 2 location is already paved; however, installation of the fence will require some vegetation clearing and tree pruning.

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 Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>) | Endangered |
| Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>) | Endangered |
| Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>) | Endangered |

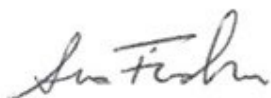
No designated or proposed critical habitat for any listed species was identified within the project area. Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, we have made the following effects determinations:

| Species | Effect Determination | Conservation Measures to be Implemented |
|--|--|---|
| Puerto Rican Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>) | No effect (NE) | No Conservation Measures |
| Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>) | No effect (NE) | No Conservation Measures |
| Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>) | Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) | Puerto Rican Boa General Project Design Guidelines |

In accordance with the 2023 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.

Sincerely,



Susan Fischer
Wildlife Ecologist
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Attachments: Threatened and Endangered Species Technical Memorandum



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Houston, Texas 77040
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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: August 21, 2023

Re: **Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation for the Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow PR-RGRW-03945 Project/ SWCA Project No. 72428**

Project Description

Johnny Torres Gonzalez, the applicant, is proposing to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment and install a new barbed wire fence on a 3.79-acre property in the Municipio of Lares, Puerto Rico (project) (Appendix A, Figure 1). The project is located at Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares, Puerto Rico 00669, in a rural area. There are two potential locations for construction of the storage structure (Appendix A, Figure 2).

Existing conditions

The existing habitat conditions at the Option 1 storage structure location consists of cleared, barren ground, and the Option 2 location is an existing paved driveway. The existing vegetation around the proposed fenceline, however, consists of dense shrubs and saplings. Forested areas surround a majority of the property and project area. Although no vegetation removal would be required for construction of the storage structure, installation of the fence would require some vegetation removal and tree pruning. Representative photographs of the proposed locations are provided in Appendix B.

Federal and State Protected Species

SWCA obtained a federal threatened and endangered species list from the USFWS (2023a) Information for Planning and Consultation ("IPaC") website for a 100-foot buffer around the two optional storage structure locations and the fenceline (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, three federally listed endangered species have the potential to occur in the review area; the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*), the Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), 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").

SWCA accessed the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Species Ranges, and Puerto Rico State Wildlife Action Plan_a Ten Year Review online mapping databases (PRDNER 2023a, PRDNER 2023b) and referenced the *Puerto Rico State Wildlife Action Plan: Ten Year Review* (PRDNER 2015) to compile a list of state threatened and endangered species with ranges that overlap with the review area. The review identified one additional listed species with the potential to occur within the review area: the state listed endangered brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).

The bald and golden eagle's range do not extend into Puerto Rico (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2023); 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. Federal and State Listed Species Range and/or Habitat Requirements

| Common Name (Scientific Name) | Status* | Range or Habitat Requirements | Potential for Occurrence in Project Area | Determination of Effects/Impacts |
|--|---------|---|---|---|
| Birds | | | | |
| Brown Pelican (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>) | D/EN | The brown pelican is a common resident to Puerto Rico, inhabiting shallow inshore waters, estuaries, and bays, but is also present in inland freshwater reservoirs (Birds of Puerto Rico 2023). | <i>Unlikely to occur.</i> There are no waterbodies located in the project area. | <i>No impact.</i> There is no suitable habitat for the brown pelican in the vicinity of the Project area. |
| Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>) | FE/CR | The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk occurs in elfin woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest, Carite Commonwealth Forest, and El Yunque National Forest as well as within hardwood plantations, shade coffee plantations, and mature secondary forests (USFWS 2019). | <i>Unlikely to occur.</i> Although there are forested areas located on the periphery of the review area, there are no large trees present within the Project area. | <i>No effect.</i> There is no suitable habitat for Puerto Rican broad-winged hawks in the Project area. |
| Puerto Rican Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>) | FE/CR | The Puerto Rican parrot is a frugivorous cavity nester. It depends on mature forests with large cavity forming trees. (USFWS 2009). It is currently confined to the Maricao Forest, El Yunque National Forest, and the Río Abajo Forest (USDA Forest Service 2023). | <i>Unlikely to occur.</i> The Project area is not located within the Maricao Forest, El Yunque National Forest, or the Río Abajo Forest. Additionally, the review area does not fall within the PRDNER known range for this species (PRDNER 2023a). | <i>No effect.</i> There is no suitable habitat for Puerto Rican parrots in the Project area. |
| Reptiles | | | | |
| Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>) | FE/CR | 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, | <i>May occur.</i> The project area is bounded by forested areas and dense vegetative ground cover is present throughout | <i>May affect, but not likely to adversely affect.</i> See discussion below. |

| Common Name (Scientific Name) | Status* | Range or Habitat Requirements | Potential for Occurrence in Project Area | Determination of Effects/Impacts |
|----------------------------------|---------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges (USFWS 2011). | the proposed fence location. | |

*Status Definitions:

D = Federally delisted; EN = State listed endangered; FE = Federally listed endangered = State listed critically endangered

Federally Protected Species

Based on a site visit and habitat evaluations, the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk and Puerto Rican parrot are considered unlikely to occur due to lack of suitable habitat within the project area. Therefore, the project will have *no effect* on these two federally listed species. 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 2023 USFWS General Project Design Guidelines for the Puerto Rican boa (Appendix D), including but not limited to issuing a stop work if a Puerto Rican boa were to occur within the project area, and contacting the PRDNER for safe capture and relocation of the individual if such action is required. Consequently, it is anticipated that the project *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* the Puerto Rican boa. The USFWS Consistency Letter obtained through IPaC is included in Appendix E.

State Protected Species

Based on a site visit and habitat evaluations, there is no suitable habitat for the brown pelican within the project area. Therefore, the project will have *no impact* on state 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 3) (USFWS 2023b).

LITERATURE CITED

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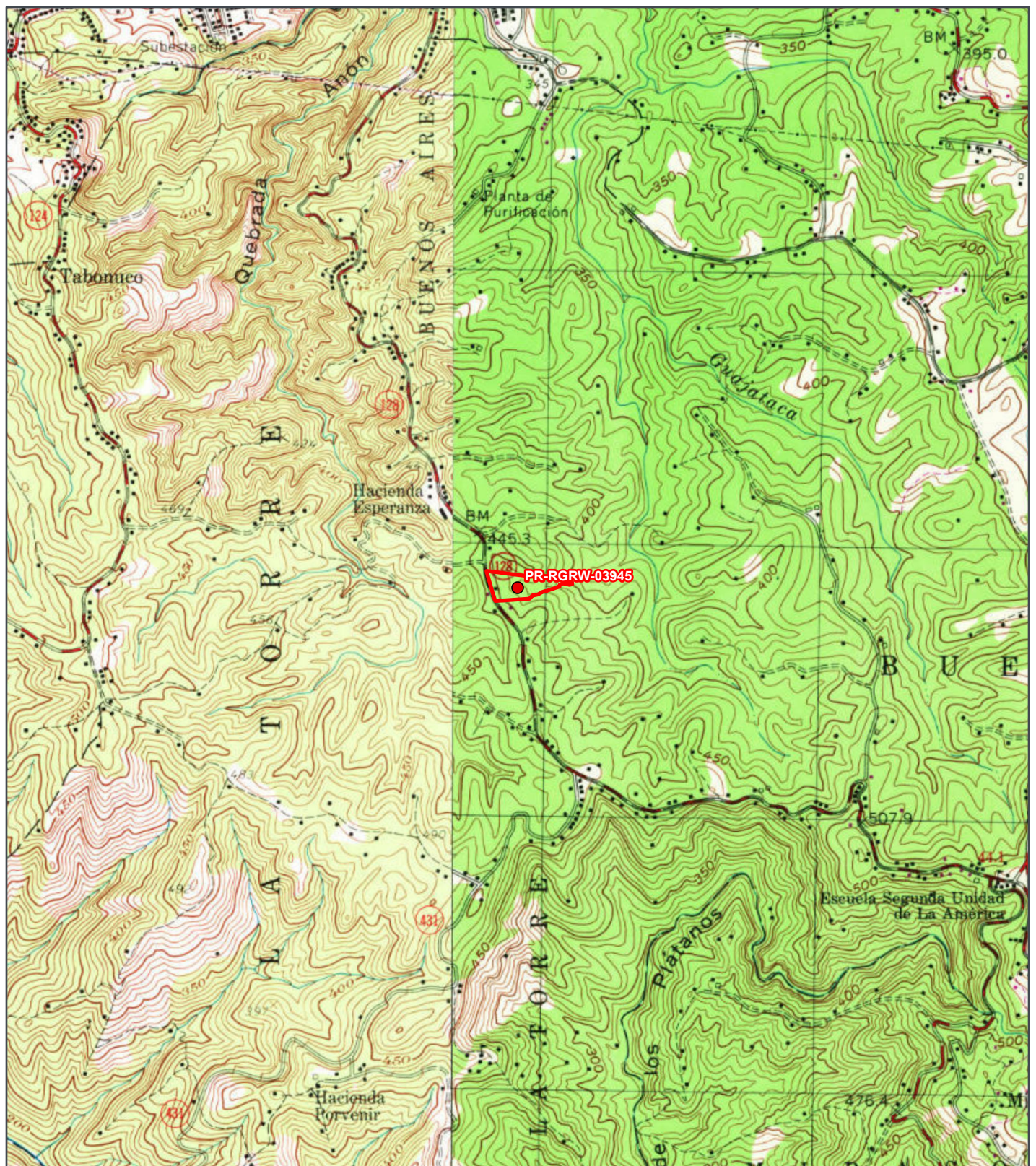
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APPENDIX A

Maps

Figure 1

USGS Topographic Map



REGROW PROGRAM

USGS Topographic Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000

Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed July 2023
Updated: 7/13/2023

Layout: USGS Topographic Map
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

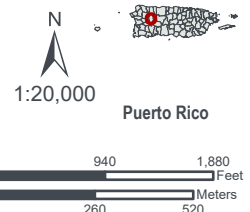
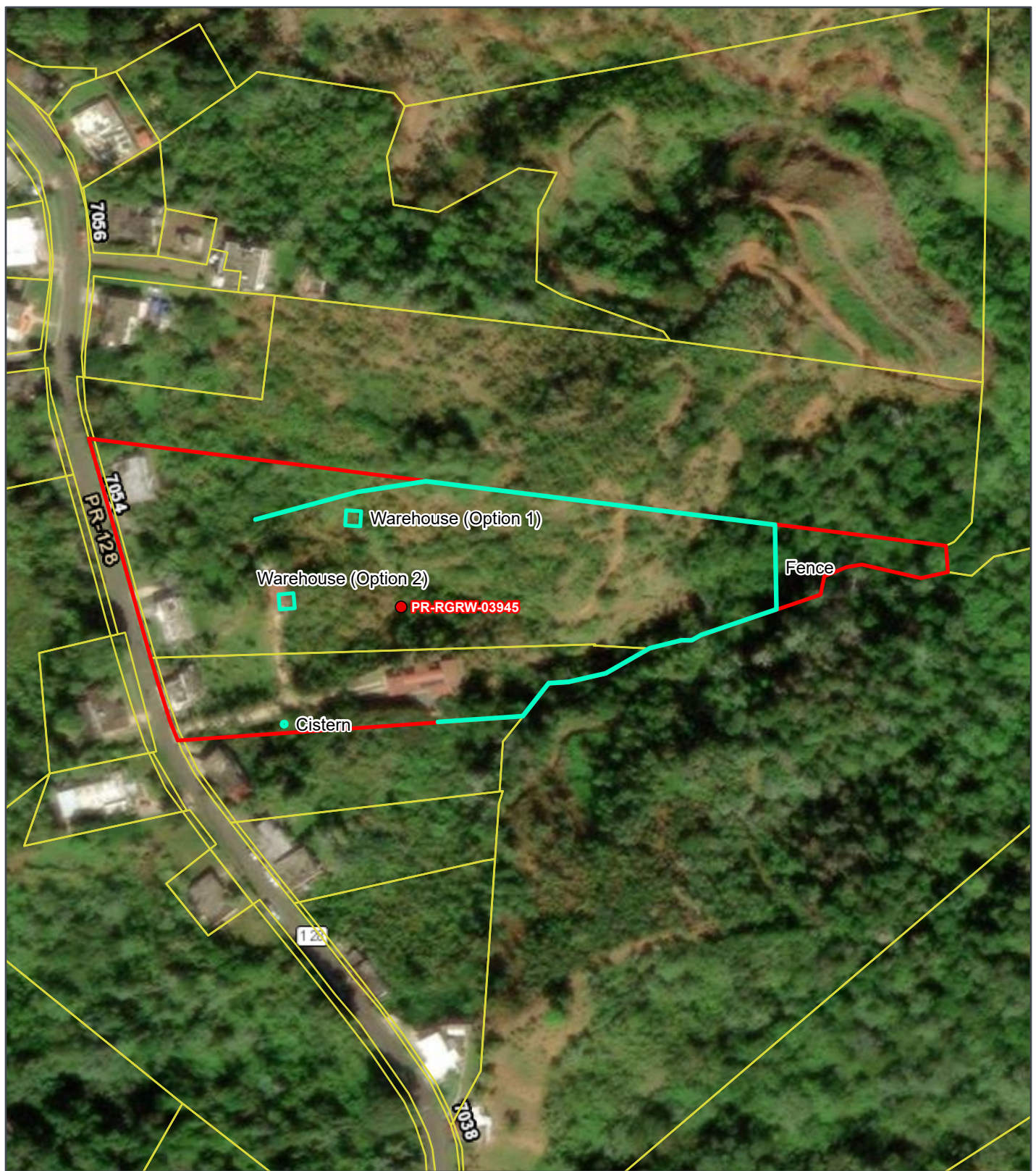


Figure 2
Site Vicinity Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Site Vicinity

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.871972°W 18.273439°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023

Layout: Site Vicinity
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

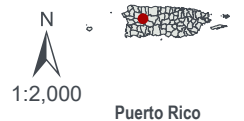
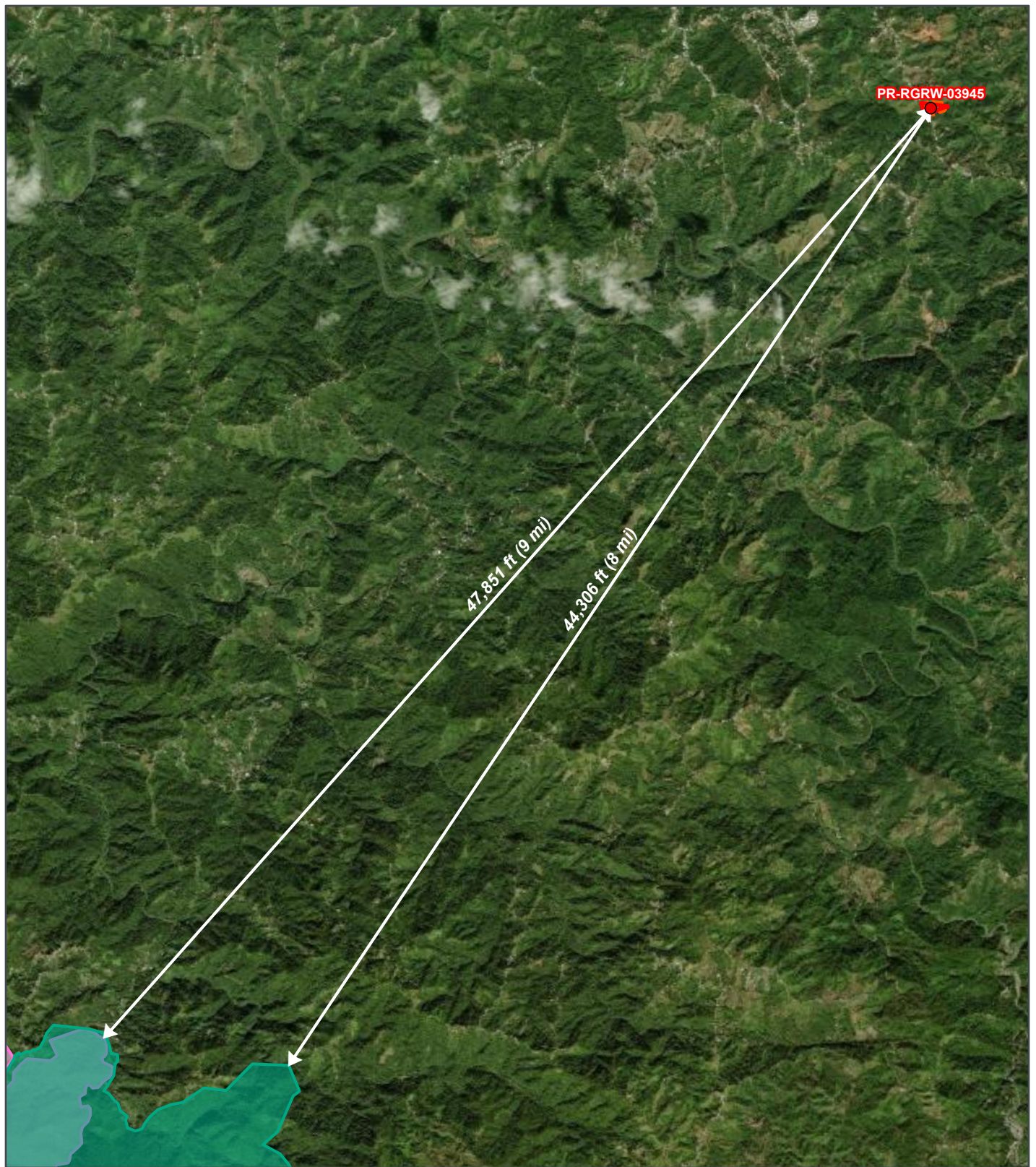


Figure 3
Critical Habitat Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Critical Habitat Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

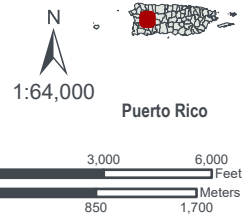


- Site
- Site Parcel
- Buffer (100-ft)
- Critical Habitat - Final
- Critical Habitat - Proposed
- National Wildlife Refuges

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.918068°W 18.222607°N

Data Source: https://services.arcgis.com/QVENGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/USFWS_Critical_Habitat/Base_Map/ESRI/ArcGIS/Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
Layout: Critical Habitat
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



APPENDIX B

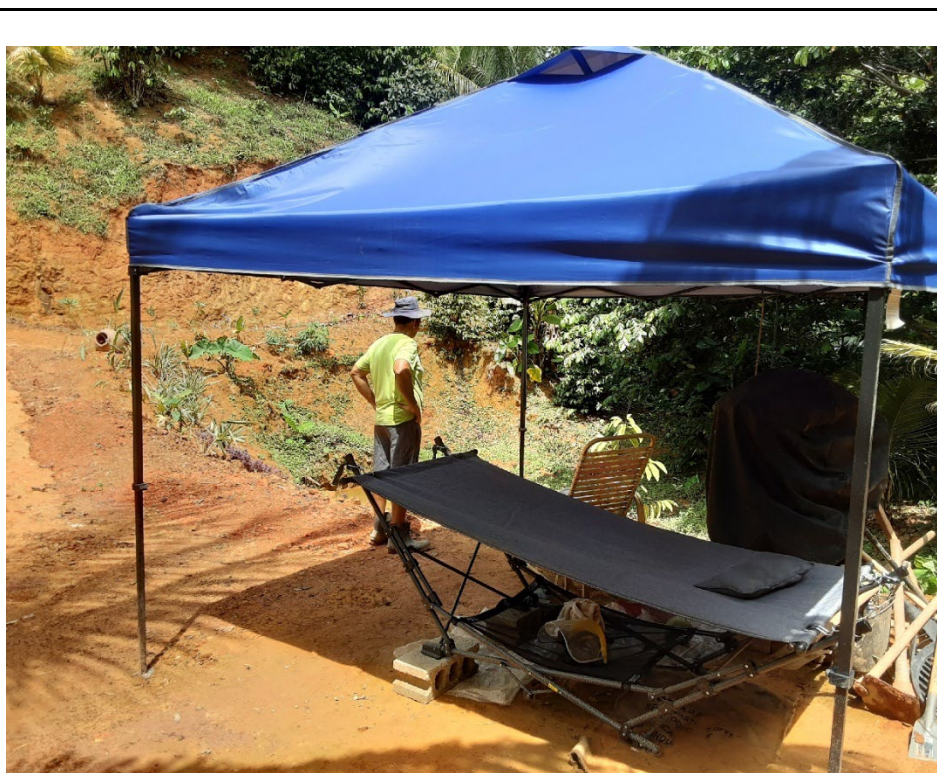
Photographic Log

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Photo #: 01 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: Southwest | |
| Description: This picture is an overview taken from the northeast corner of the Option 1 site location for an 18ft x 18ft galvanized roof and associated concrete pad. The picture shows construction materials and existing site conditions and surrounding vegetation. | |



| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Photo #: 02 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | |
| Description: This picture is an overview taken from the southeast corner of the Option 1 site location for an 18ft x 18ft galvanized roof and associated concrete pad. The picture shows existing site conditions and surrounding vegetation. | |



| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 03 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Northeast | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview taken from the southwest corner of the Option 1 site location for an 18ft x 18ft galvanized roof and associated concrete pad. The picture shows existing site conditions and surrounding vegetation. | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 04 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Southeast | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of Option 1 site location for an 18ft x 18ft galvanized roof and associated concrete pad. The picture shows construction materials and existing site conditions and surrounding vegetation. | | |


| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Photo #: 05 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: North | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the Option 2 location showing existing site conditions and surrounding vegetation. If selected, the existing roof will be replaced and reinforced. | |

A photograph showing a dirt road leading to a covered structure, surrounded by lush tropical vegetation. A person is visible near the structure. The structure has a dark roof and is situated in a clearing. The road is light brown and leads towards the structure. The vegetation is dense and green, with some brown flowers visible on the right. The sky is blue with white clouds.

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 06 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the beginning of the proposed northeast to northwest fence location showing existing vegetation. The wall will use barbed wire with metal posts and would be approximately 1 ft deep. | | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 07 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the beginning of the proposed northeast to northwest fence location, showing the surrounding vegetation and an overview of the property. The fence will use barbed wire with metal posts and will be approximate 1 ft deep. | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 08 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: North | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from a midway point of the proposed northeast to northwest fence location showing existing vegetation and one of the posts marking the property line. The fence will use barbed wire with metal posts and will be approximate 1 ft deep. | | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 09 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from an endpoint of the proposed northeast to northwest location showing representative vegetation. The fence will use barbed wire with metal posts and will be approximate 1 ft deep. | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 10 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Southeast | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the beginning of the proposed southwest to the southeast fence location, showing the existing vegetation and the metal post that will be used to secure the barbed wire. | | |

APPENDIX C

USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation



United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2023-0106406
Project Name: PR-RGRW-03945

July 19, 2023

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/pdf/letter/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:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

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

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
caribbean_es@fws.gov

Post Office Box 491
Boqueron, PR 00622-0491
(786) 244-0081

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
 - USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
 - Migratory Birds
 - Wetlands
-

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(787) 834-1600

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0106406

Project Name: PR-RGRW-03945

Project Type: Federal Grant / Loan Related

Project Description: Storage structure and barbed-wire fence

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.27301925,-66.87205568647707,14z>



Counties: Lares County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

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

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

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

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

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

BIRDS

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

REPTILES

| NAME | STATUS |
|--|------------|
| Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/BKXO3RQRNFBMDABYJ4XMACVOBA/documents/generated/6941.pdf | 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.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

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

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

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.

MIGRATORY BIRDS FAQ

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

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

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

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

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

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list

of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

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

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

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

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

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

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

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

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

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

[Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

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

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

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

WETLANDS

Impacts to [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 Environmental Consultants
Name: Susan Fischer
Address: 10245 West Little York Road
Address Line 2: Suite 600
City: Houston
State: TX
Zip: 77040
Email: susan.fischer@swca.com
Phone: 3463881157

APPENDIX D

Project Design Guidelines for the Puerto Rican Boa

General Project Design Guidelines (1 Species)

Generated July 19, 2023 05:08 PM UTC, IPaC v6.95.0-rc1

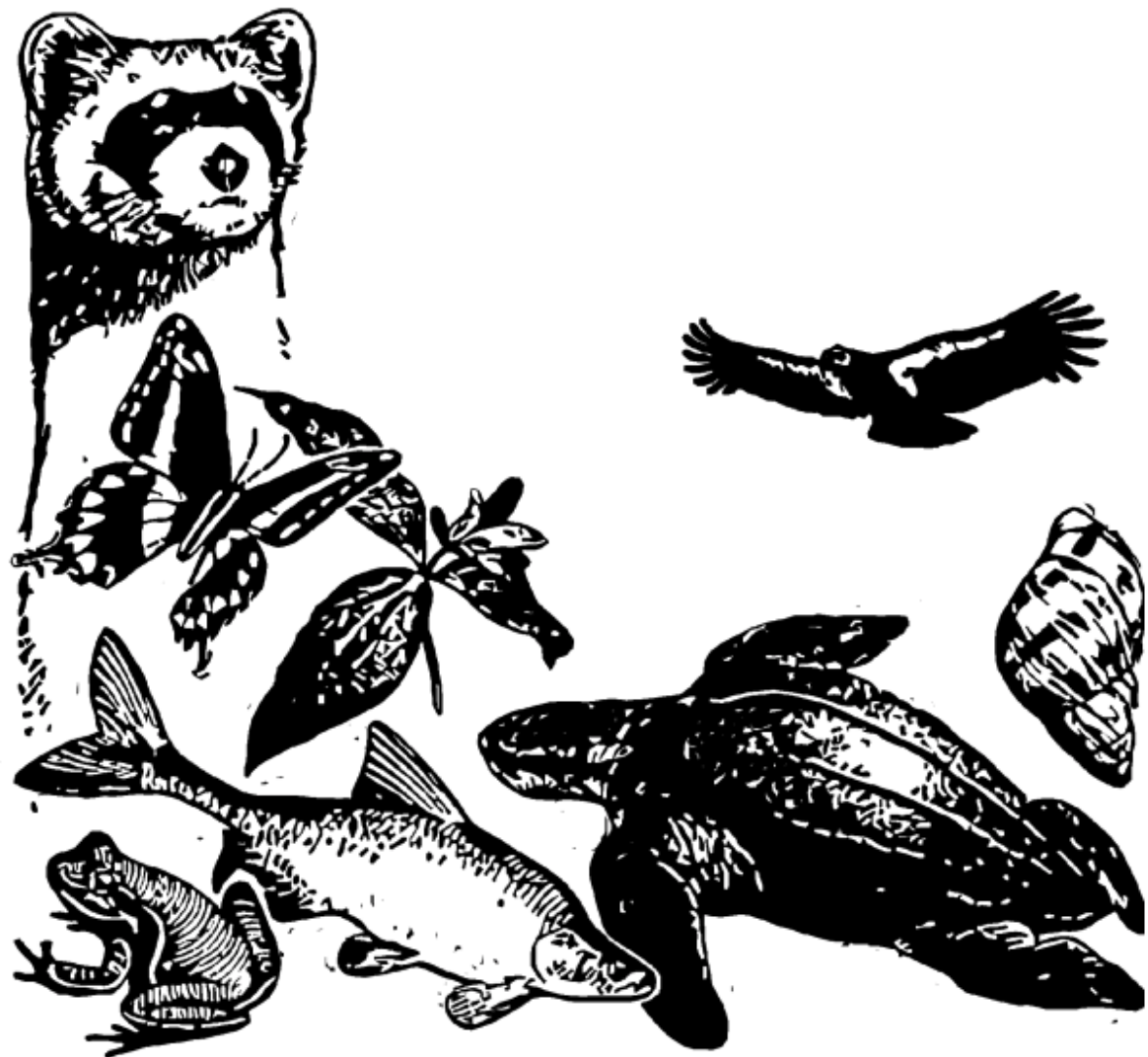


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Species Document Availability

Species with general design guidelines

Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*

Species without general design guidelines available

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus brunnescens*

Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata*

General Project Design Guidelines - Puerto Rican Parrot and 2 more species

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

Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata*

Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus brunnescens*



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 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 Puerto Rican 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 like roadsides or houses, especially if near their habitat in rural areas. This 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 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. The PR boa is considered more active at night. Thus, in order to maximize its detection, the species should be searched at nights prior to habitat disturbance.
5. Once the area has been searched for PR boas, vegetation should first be cleared by hand to the maximum extent possible. Vegetation should be cut about one meter above ground prior to the use of heavy machinery for land clearing. Cutting vegetation by hand will allow boas present on site to move away on their own to adjacent available habitat. Any stone walls or naturally occurring rock piles must be carefully dismantled by hand as these are refuges for the snake. This will allow any boas present to vacate the site without injury.
6. 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.

7. If a PR boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded (see #6). **Do not capture the boa.** If boas need to be moved out of harm's way, designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (PRDNER phone #: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124). If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities at this 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.
8. If a PR boa is captured by the PRDNER, record the name of the PRDNER staff and information on where the PR boa will be taken. This information should be reported to the Service.
9. 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 #7). If not possible, the animal should be left alone until it leaves the vehicle on its own.
10. 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.
11. If a dead PR boa is found, immediately cease all work in that area and record the information accordingly (see #6). 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 that 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.
12. 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:

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

APPENDIX E

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

In Reply Refer To:
Project code: 2023-0106406
Project Name: PR-RGRW-03945

July 19, 2023

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-03945' 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 July 19, 2023, Susan Fischer used the Caribbean DKey; dated February 08, 2023, 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-03945'. The project is located in Lares County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.27301925,-66.87205568647707,14z>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-03945':

Storage structure and barbed-wire fence

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

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

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

Please provide this consistency letter to the lead federal action agency or its designated non-federal representative with a request for its review, and as the agency deems appropriate, to submit for concurrence verification through the IPaC system. The lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative should log into IPaC using their agency email account and click "Search by record locator." They will need to enter the record locator **061-129253506**

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

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

- Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus brunnescens* Endangered
- Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata* Endangered

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

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

Action Description

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

1. Name

PR-RGRW-03945

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-03945':

Storage structure and barbed-wire fence

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.27301925,-66.87205568647707,14z>



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, etc.)

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

Yes

11. Is the project area more than 1 acre?

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

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

Yes

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: SWCA Environmental Consultants
Name: Susan Fischer
Address: 10245 West Little York Road
Address Line 2: Suite 600
City: Houston
State: TX
Zip: 77040
Email: susan.fischer@swca.com
Phone: 3463881157

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

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 a galvanized roof for a storage structure. The project itself is not the development of a hazardous facility nor will the project increase residential densities. Project

activities are therefore an exempt activity. 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/ 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.*

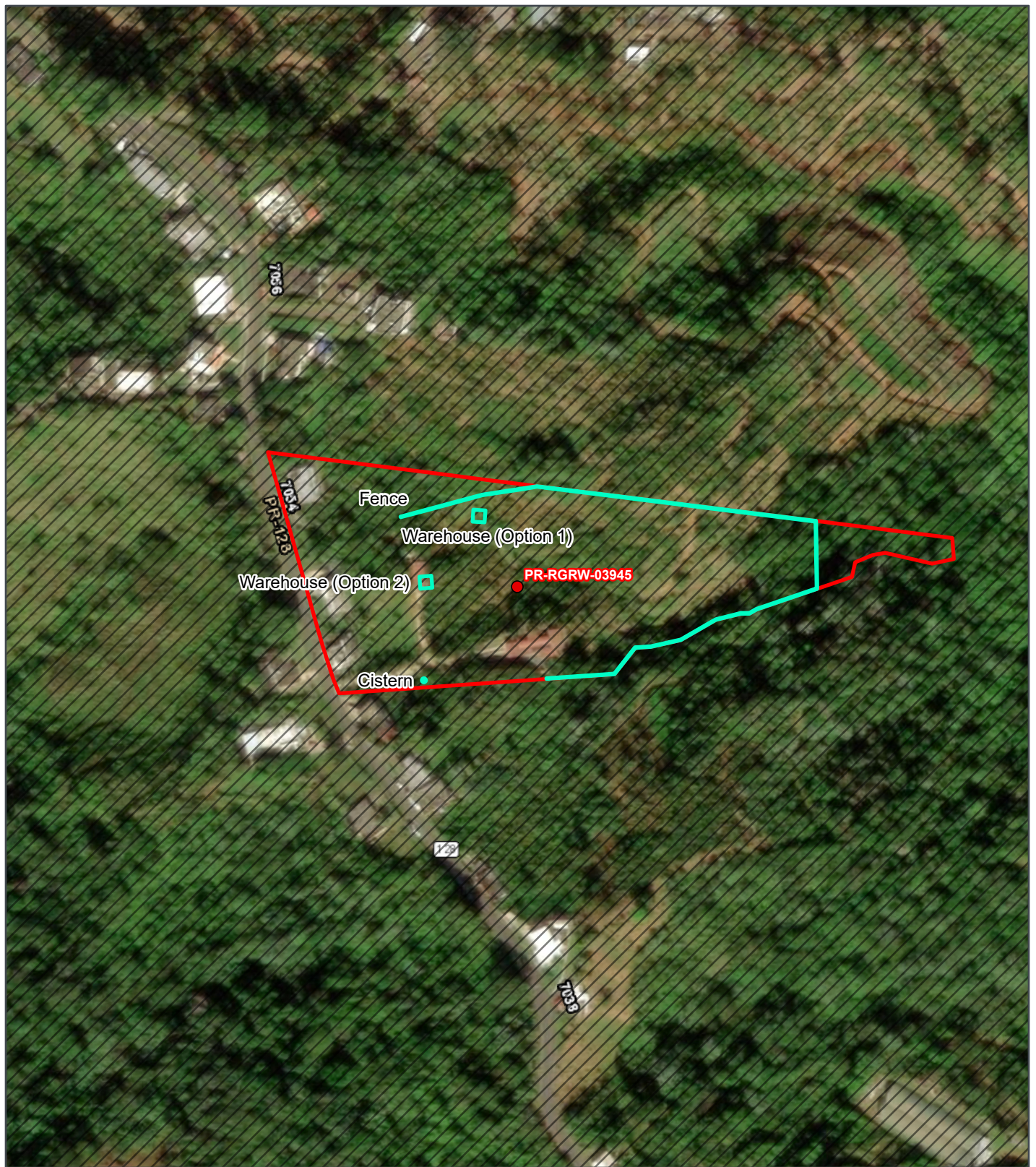
Worksheet Summary

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. No prime farmland or 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-03945



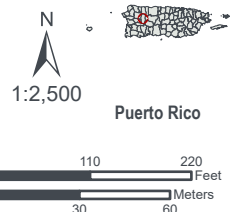
- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
- Prime farmland if drained

- 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

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Data Source: <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
Layout: Prime Farmland
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



Attachment 10

Floodplain Management Partner Worksheet and Advisory Base Flood Elevation Map



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) – PARTNER

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

1. Does [24 CFR 55.12\(c\)](#) exempt this project from compliance with HUD’s floodplain management regulations in Part 55?

☐ Yes

Provide the applicable citation at 24 CFR 55.12(c) here. If project is exempt under 55.12(c)(6) or (8), provide supporting documentation.

[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. Continue to the Worksheet Summary.

☒ No → 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).

Does your project occur in a floodplain?

☒ No → Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.

☐ Yes

Select the applicable floodplain using the FEMA map or the best available information:

☐ Floodway → Continue to Question 3, Floodways

☐ Coastal High Hazard Area (V Zone) → Continue to Question 4, Coastal High Hazard Areas

☐ 500-year floodplain (B Zone or shaded X Zone) → Continue to Question 5, 500-year Floodplains

☐ 100-year floodplain (A Zone) → The 8-Step Process is required. Continue to Question 6, 8-Step Process

3. **Floodways**

Is this a functionally dependent use?

☐ Yes

The 8-Step Process is required. Work with HUD or the RE to assist with the 8-Step Process.
→ *Continue to Worksheet Summary.*

- ☐ No → *Federal assistance may not be used at this location unless an exception in 55.12(c) applies. You must either choose an alternate site or cancel the project.*

4. Coastal High Hazard Area

Is this a critical action such as a hospital, nursing home, fire station, or police station?

- ☐ Yes → *Critical actions are prohibited in coastal high hazard areas unless an exception in 55.12(c) applies. You must either choose an alternate site or cancel the project.*

- ☐ No

Does this action include new construction that is not a functionally dependent use, existing construction (including improvements), or reconstruction following destruction caused by a disaster?

- ☐ Yes, there is new construction of something that is not a functionally dependent use.
New construction must be designed to FEMA standards for V Zones at 44 CFR 60.3(e) (24 CFR 55.1(c)(3)(i)).

→ *Continue to Question 6, 8-Step Process*

- ☐ No, this action concerns only existing construction.

Existing construction must have met FEMA elevation and construction standards for a coastal high hazard area or other standards applicable at the time of construction.

→ *Continue to Question 6, 8-Step Process*

5. 500-year Floodplain

Is this a critical action?

- ☐ No → *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.*

- ☐ Yes → *Continue to Question 6, 8-Step Process*

6. 8-Step Process.

Is this 8-Step Process required? Select one of the following options:

- ☐ 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)(1-3).

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. Continue to Worksheet Summary.*

- ☐ 8-Step Process is inapplicable per 55.12(b)(1-4).

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 the Worksheet Summary below.*

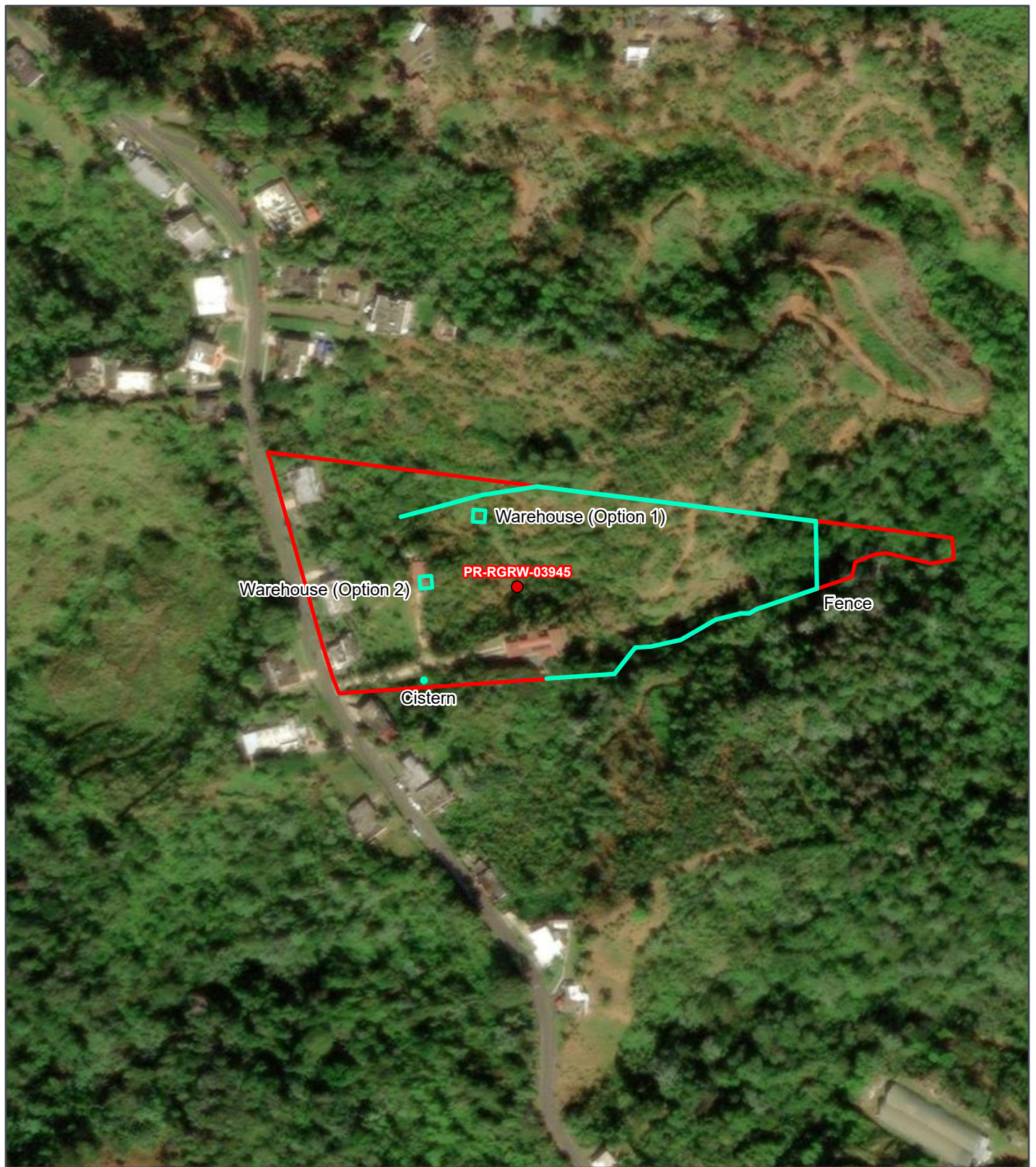
Worksheet Summary

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.

A review of the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) map, Community Panel 72000C0590H (effective date 4/19/2005), shows the project site is in Flood Zone X. The project is not located in the 100-year floodplain or ABFE special flood hazard area; therefore, no further action is required. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988.



REGROW PROGRAM

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

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

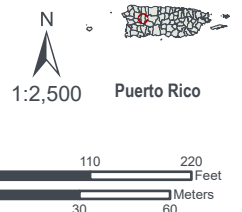
- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ● Site | Zone AE |
| ▭ Site Parcel | Coastal A Zone |
| ▭ Project Footprint (Option) | Coastal A Zone and Floodway |
| ▭ Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) | Zone AE-Floodway |
| ▭ 0.2% Annual Chance Flood | Zone AO |
| ▭ 1% Annual Chance Flood | Zone VE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

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Data Source: https://gis.fema.gov/arcgis/rest/services/DR/PuertoRico_ABFE_1PCT/MapServer

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
Layout: ABFE 1Pct
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



Attachment 11

**Historic Preservation Partner Worksheet,
SHPO Consultation, Historic Property Map,
and Cultural 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.

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:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ *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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

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 proposed locations of the warehouse, cistern and the barbed wire fence line plus a 15-meter horizontal buffer to allow for some variation in final placement during construction and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

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

August 8, 2023

Lauren Bair Poche

HORNE

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

SHPO 07-24-23-08 SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL:
PR-RGRW-03945- JOHNNY TORRES GONZÁLEZ – CARRETERA 129
KILÓMETRO HECTÓMETRO 29.9, BARRIO BUENOS AIRES, LARES, PUERTO
RICO

Dear Ms. Bair,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela
State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB



July 24, 2023

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

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

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-03945 – Johnny Torres Gonzalez– Carretera 129 Kilómetro Hectómetro 29.9, Barrio Buenos Aires, Lares, 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) and the Home Repair, Reconstruction, or Relocation (R3) Program. 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, we are submitting documentation for activities proposed by Johnny Torres Gonzalez in Bo. Buenos Aires at Carretera 129 Kilómetro Hectómetro 29.9 in the municipality of Lares. The proposed activities include the purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment. The project also includes the purchase of new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence. There are two potential locations for construction of the storage structure.

The project will include ground disturbance as well as vegetation clearing and pruning, however, no tree clearing is required for construction. A separate staging area is not proposed. The applicant owns the property, and it is currently used for agricultural purposes; therefore, no acquisition or conversion is required.

Based on the submitted documentation, the Program requests a concurrence that a determination of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for this proposed project.

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


Kindest regards,



Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Senior Manager

Attachments

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---|
| PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination | |  |
| Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | | |
| Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945 | City: Lares | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Project Location: Bo. Buenos Aires Carretera 129 Kilómetro Hectómetro 29.9, Lares, Puerto Rico, 00669 | |
| Project Coordinates: Warehouse (Option1): 18.273672, -66.872543 Warehouse (Option 2): 18.273398, -66.872773 Fence: 18.273501, -66.871789 Cistern: 18.272992, -66.872780 | |
| TPID (Número de Catastro): 186-000-001-38-000 | |
| Type of Undertaking: <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction | |
| Construction Date (AH est.): Houses to the west of the project area: ca. 1975; owner's house: ca. 2012. | Property Size (acres): 3.79 acres total Warehouse (Option1): 324 sq. feet (0.007438 acres) Warehouse (Option 2): 324 sq. feet, (0.007438 acres) Fence: 1178 sq. feet (0.26999 acres) Cistern: 28 sq. feet (0.000649 acres) |


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| SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Erin Edwards, M.P.S. |
| Date Reviewed: June 12, 2023 |
| SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Delise Torres-Ortiz |
| Date Reviewed: June 26, 2023 |

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

Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed project includes the purchase of a galvanized roof to construct a storage structure for fertilizer and equipment. The project also includes the purchase of new supplies, machinery, a new cistern, and barbed wire to create a fence. There are two potential locations for construction of the storage structure.

Option 1 includes construction of the storage structure in the northwestern portion of the parcel, approximately 215 feet (ft) northeast from the existing access driveway. Under Option 1, a galvanized roof that is 324 square feet (sq. ft) in size (18 ft by 18 ft) will be attached to four (4) approximately 20-foot-long poles that will be installed approximately 1.5 to 2 ft deep into the ground and reinforced using metal purlins. Option 1 will require the

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| PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | |
| Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945 | City: Lares |


construction of a new concrete pad that is a maximum of 289 sq. ft (17 ft by 17 ft) in size for the base of the storage structure if this option is chosen. The concrete pad will be slightly smaller in size than the galvanized roof to avoid damage from rainwater. The construction of the concrete pad at this location is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application.

Option 2 includes the construction of the storage structure in the southwestern portion of the parcel, approximately 100 ft north of the existing access driveway. Under Option 2, a galvanized roof that is approximately 324 sq. ft in size (18 ft by 18 ft) and would be attached to four (4) approximately 20-foot-long poles that will be installed approximately 1.5 to 2 ft deep into the ground and reinforced using metal purlins. There is an existing concrete pad that is 600 sq. ft in size (20 ft by 30 ft) located at the project site for Option 2; therefore, construction of a concrete pad at this location will not be required. The roof will only cover 324 sq. ft of the 600 sq. ft existing pad. Following installation of the new galvanized roof, the remaining portion of the concrete pad will eventually be used as a garage. However, construction of a garage at this location is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application. In the future, the Applicant plans to purchase concrete blocks to create walls for the storage structure at either location. The purchase of the concrete blocks is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application.

Both Option 1 and Option 2 will create a new storage structure for fertilizer and equipment to support existing coffee cultivation and harvesting activities. While Option 1 would locate the new storage structure in close proximity to cultivation and harvest areas, Option 2 is the preferred location because it is close to the existing residence and existing and proposed cisterns and contains an existing concrete platform for the storage structure.

The project includes the purchase and installation of a new 1,000-gallon water cistern that is approximately 36 sq. ft in size (6 ft by 6 ft). The water cistern would be installed on an existing concrete pad adjacent to the existing cistern that is located to the south of the existing access driveway in the northwestern portion of the parcel, approximately 135 ft south of Option 2 and 250 ft southwest of Option 1. The new cistern will collect water for the Applicant's existing irrigation system and may require a utility connection to convey the additional water. The future purchase of an additional water connection is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application. No electricity is proposed for the storage structure. Any future purchase of electrical connections is not included in the applicant's Intended Use of Grant Funds application.

The project includes the purchase of six (6) approximately 50-foot barbed wire rolls to create two (2) separate fences in the northwestern and southeastern portions of the property. The fence would extend a maximum of 430 ft along the southeastern property boundary and

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| PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination | |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | | |
| Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945 | City: Lares | |

approximately 200 ft within the northwestern portion of the property, additional fencing needed, beyond the 300 ft included in the intended use of grant funds would be purchased with the Applicant's own funds. The fence would be installed on posts extending approximately 0.5 to 1 ft into the ground. The project also includes the purchase of supplies, including fertilizer, coffee trees, and a utility vehicle to expand coffee cultivation and harvesting on the project site. Coffee cultivation areas will be located in the center of the parcel, to the east of both Option 1 and Option 2.


The project will include ground disturbance as well as vegetation clearing and pruning, however, no tree clearing is required for construction. A separate staging area is not proposed. The applicant owns the property, and it is currently used for agricultural purposes; therefore, no acquisition or conversion 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 proposed locations of the warehouse, cistern and the barbed wire fence line plus a 15-meter horizontal buffer to allow for some variation in final placement during construction and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted 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 reported but vandalized historical materials to the northeast of the project area associated with SHPO-LR0200007 (discussed below), but no significant cultural properties within a half-mile (mi) radius of the project location. One (1) archaeological evaluation and two (2) studies of cultural resources have been conducted within the 0.5 mi review radius; cultural resources were observed at SHPO-LR0200007, located approximately 0.3 mi to the northwest of the project area. The proposed project is located in a mountainous area surrounded by dense vegetation, at an elevation of 1,443 ft (440 meters [m]) above mean sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses one mapped soil series: HmF2 (Humatas Clay, 40 – 60 percent slopes). The project area APE is in the northwest

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| PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | |
| Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945 | City: Lares |


portion of the island, on and around a ridgetop with previously cleared areas surrounded by dense vegetation. The general project area is located in a rural area of Lares, on a ridgetop with moderately steep north and south-facing undulating slopes, with dense, mountainous vegetation interspersed with open cleared fields and residential and agricultural buildings. The closest freshwater source is a small unnamed stream that runs N-S, located 0.68 mi (1.1 kilometers [km]) to the east of the project area. The north coast is approximately 14.8 mi (23.8 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.

The Hacienda La Esperanza (aka Toño Alcover Farm) (Código ICP-LR-32, SHPO-LR0200007) is located approximately 0.30 mi to the northwest of the project site. SHPO noted in their files: "Structures associated with the old coffee farm or Hacienda La Esperanza (also known as the Toño Alcover Farm) observed remnants are a 2-story warehouse and powerhouse or machine room, built in vernacular style, some elements with stonework edges, deteriorated and vandalized. OBSERVATIONS: structures are located on a plot of 2 cuerdas (1.94 acres) remaining from the original property, which was administered at the beginning of the century by the Rullán Mayol family, later being sold to Pedro Alcover Ferrá, who passed on as an inheritance to his son Antonio Alcover Pol. When the latter died, he left the estate to his children, who sold most of the land. The current owner is the widow of Antonio Alcover Pol. Bibliography López & Paraliticci (Record Inv. OECH, 1990, Vol. 4:139)". The eligibility for listing in the national Register is pending.

A survey was performed in 2009 and was numbered Código SHPO 10-08-09-06. This survey was for a new telecommunication tower site and was sponsored by the Federal Communications Commission. A finding of No Historic Properties Affected was recorded for this survey. The final survey performed in the area was Código ICP-CAT-LR-96-03-01, SHPO #08-07-96-01 under the supervision of the Aqueduct and Sewers Authority (AAA) in 1996. A

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| PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination | |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | | |
| Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945 | City: Lares | |

positive finding was made for historical fragments of a wall, but there was no NRHP determination found.


The project area is in a rural area of Lares, directly south of Lares and the Lares Centros Urbanos. The area is mountainous with dense tropical vegetation. The project site sits on the downward slope of a mountain, with some housing to the west, north, and south. Historic aerials from 1975 (<https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>) show five buildings at the west end of the project area, but they do not show up on a 1968 historic aerial. Google Earth shows that the owner's house was not built until around the middle of 2012. As the project site sits on the downward slope of a ridge side and is surrounded by dense vegetation, the project site will not be visible from Hacienda La Esperanza. Houses to the south and west will most likely see the project site, but there are already existing farming/warehouse facilities on the property, and the new warehouse, fence, and cistern will not add new adverse visual effects to the 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 project actions will not affect historic properties that compose the Area of Potential Effect. The project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. There are some deteriorated reported archaeological materials, but no significant cultural properties within a half-mile radius of the proposed project location. No eligible 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-03945 is located. The closest freshwater body is approximately 0.68 mi (1.1 km) to the east of the project area. The size of the proposed project activities is small (1,530 total sq. ft [0.278069 ac] for one galvanized roof, cistern and fence line) and construction of public roads/residential structures/agricultural infrastructure has impacted the surrounding terrain. Furthermore, the historic structures and associated historic material located to the northwest of the project area are not visually accessible from the proposed project area. Therefore, no impact to cultural properties is anticipated for this reconstruction project.

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| PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination | |  GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING |
| Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | | |
| Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945 | City: Lares | |

Recommendation

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

☒ No Historic Properties Affected

☐ No Adverse Effect

Condition (if applicable):

☐ Adverse Effect

Proposed Resolution (if applicable)

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

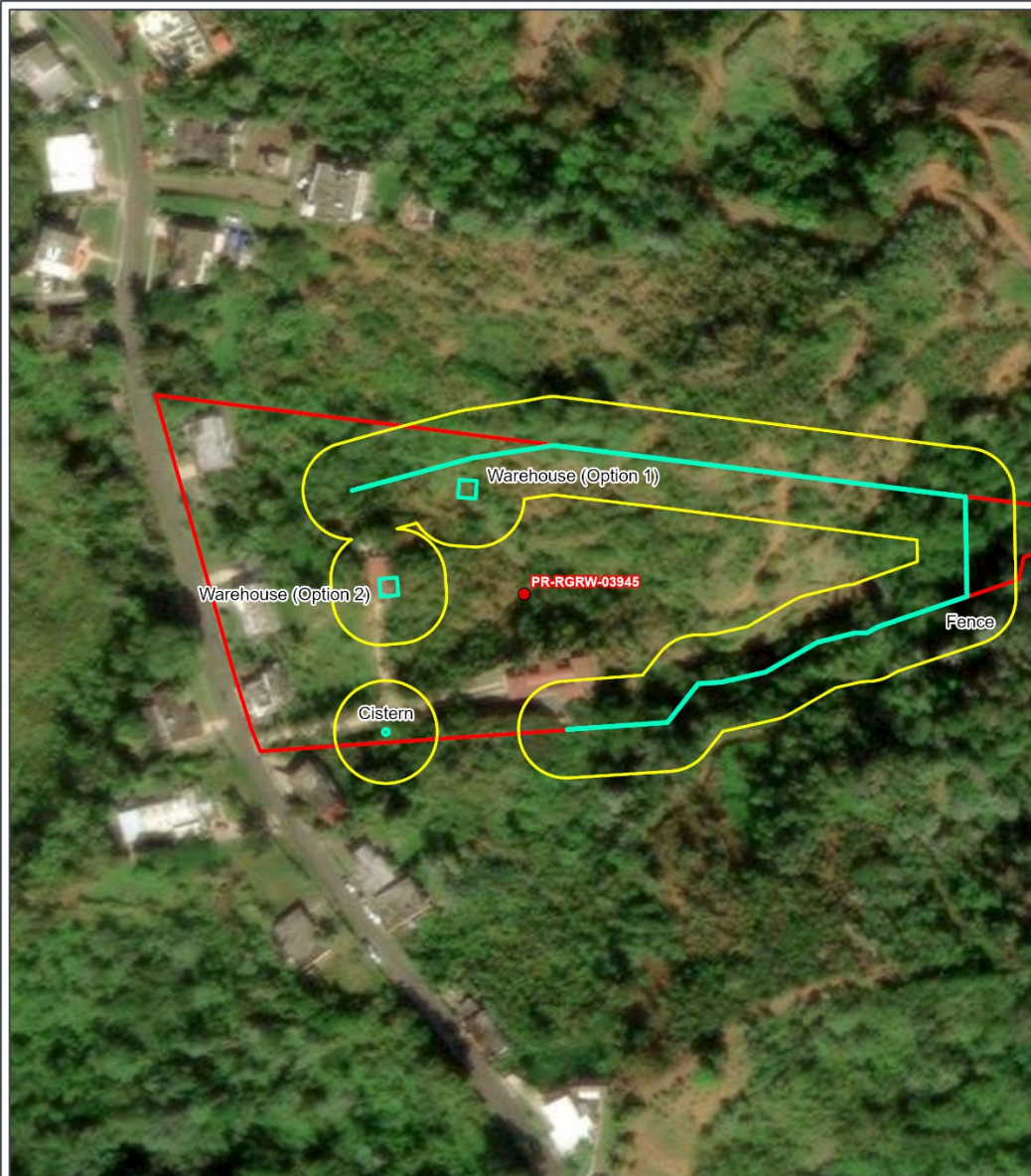
| | |
|--|-------|
| The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above information and: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concurs with the information provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not concur with the information provided. | |
| Comments: | |
| Carlos Rubio-Cancela State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

Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

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



REGROW PROGRAM

Project Location Area of Potential Effects (APE) Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

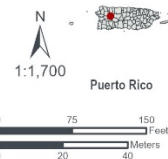
- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- ▭ APE (Buffer (15-meters))

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669
Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000

Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023

Layout: APE
Apx: 72428_ReGrowTex2Maps

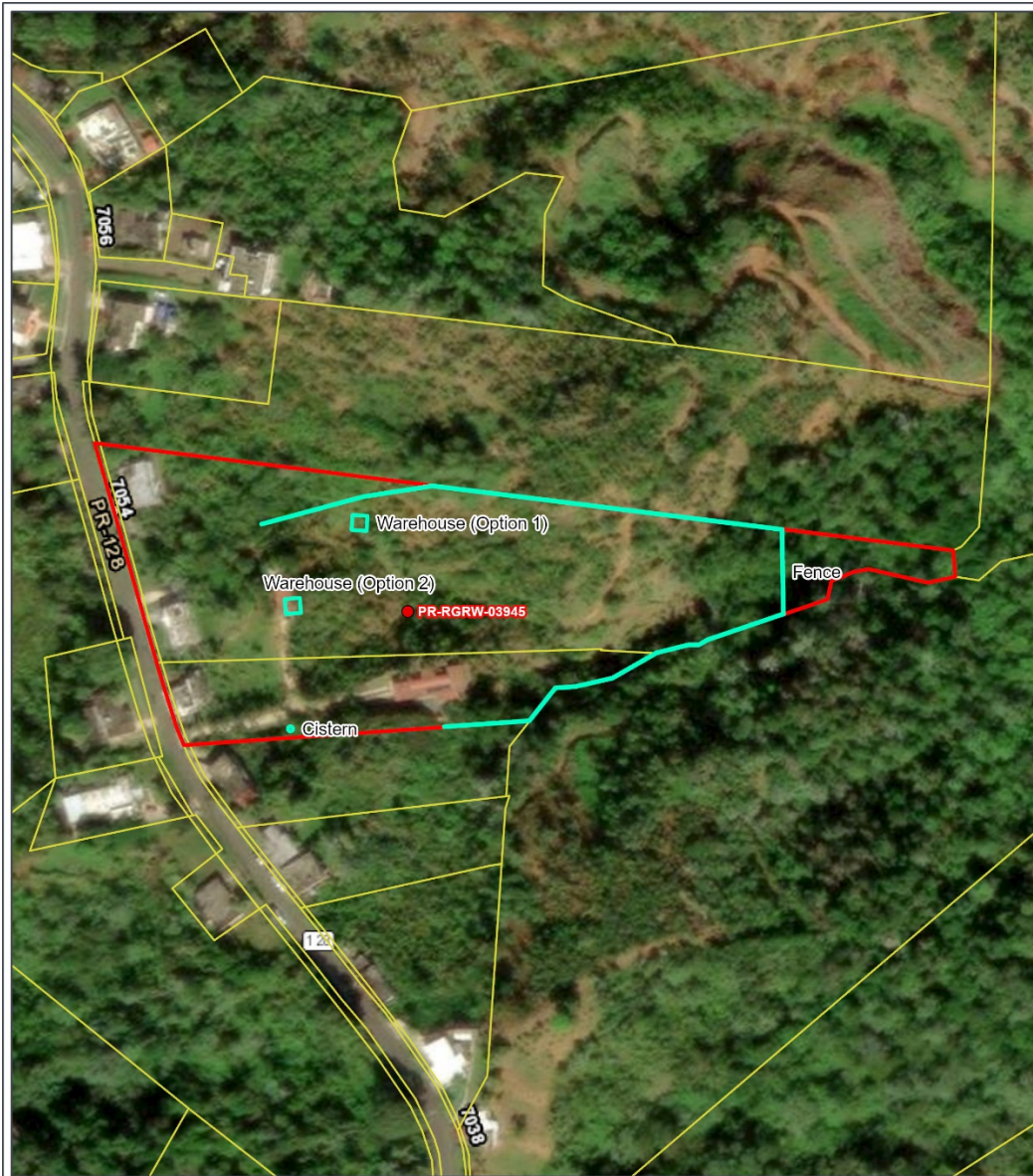


Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure A-2:
Site Vicinity**

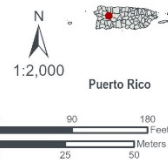
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669
Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.871972°W 18.273439°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/8/2023
Layout: Site Vicinity
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

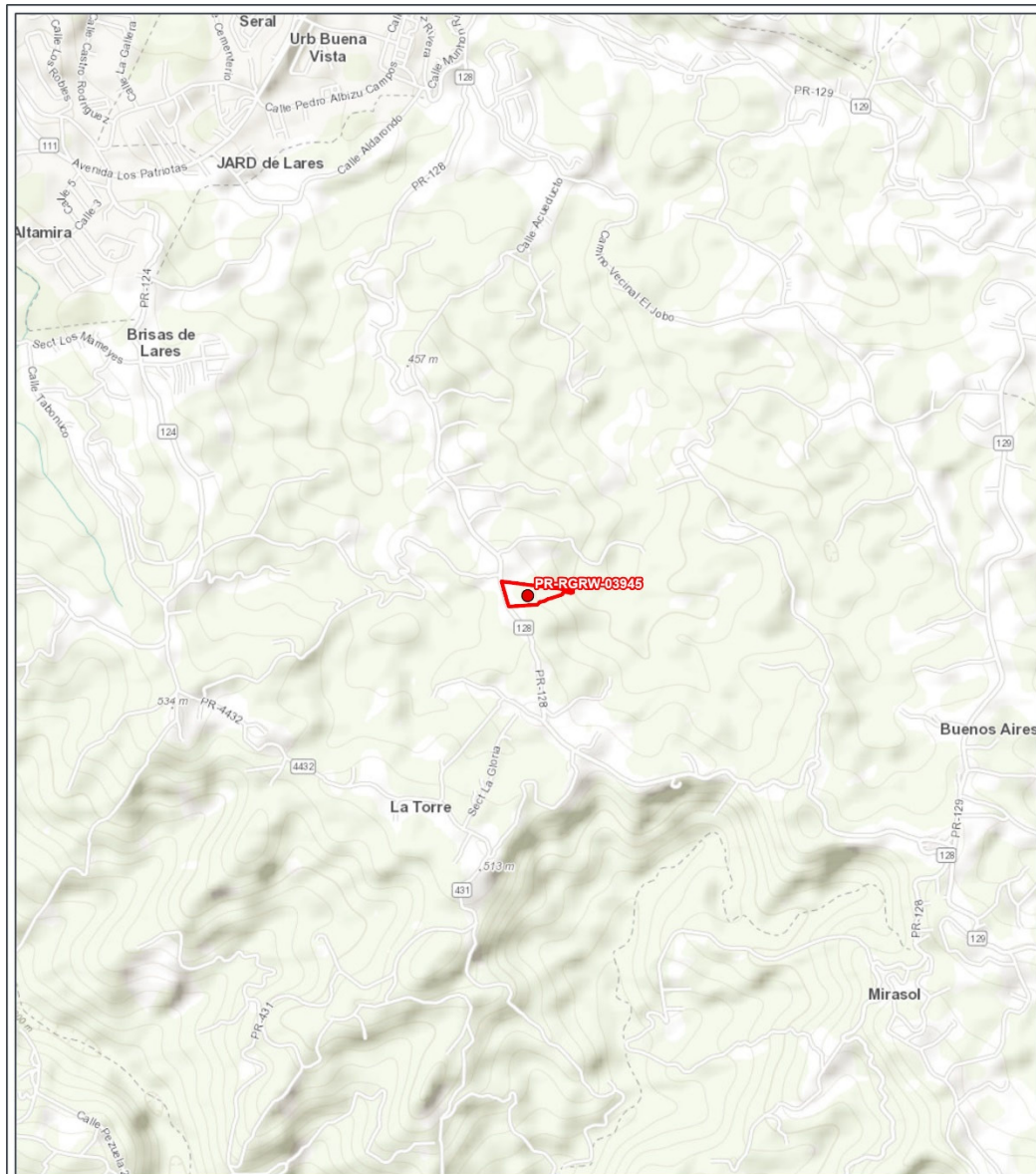


Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure A-1:
Site Location**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

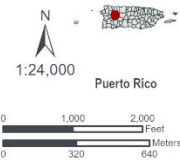
● Site
□ Site Parcel

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023

Layout: Site Location
Apx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map (Only if Archaeology Review is Required)

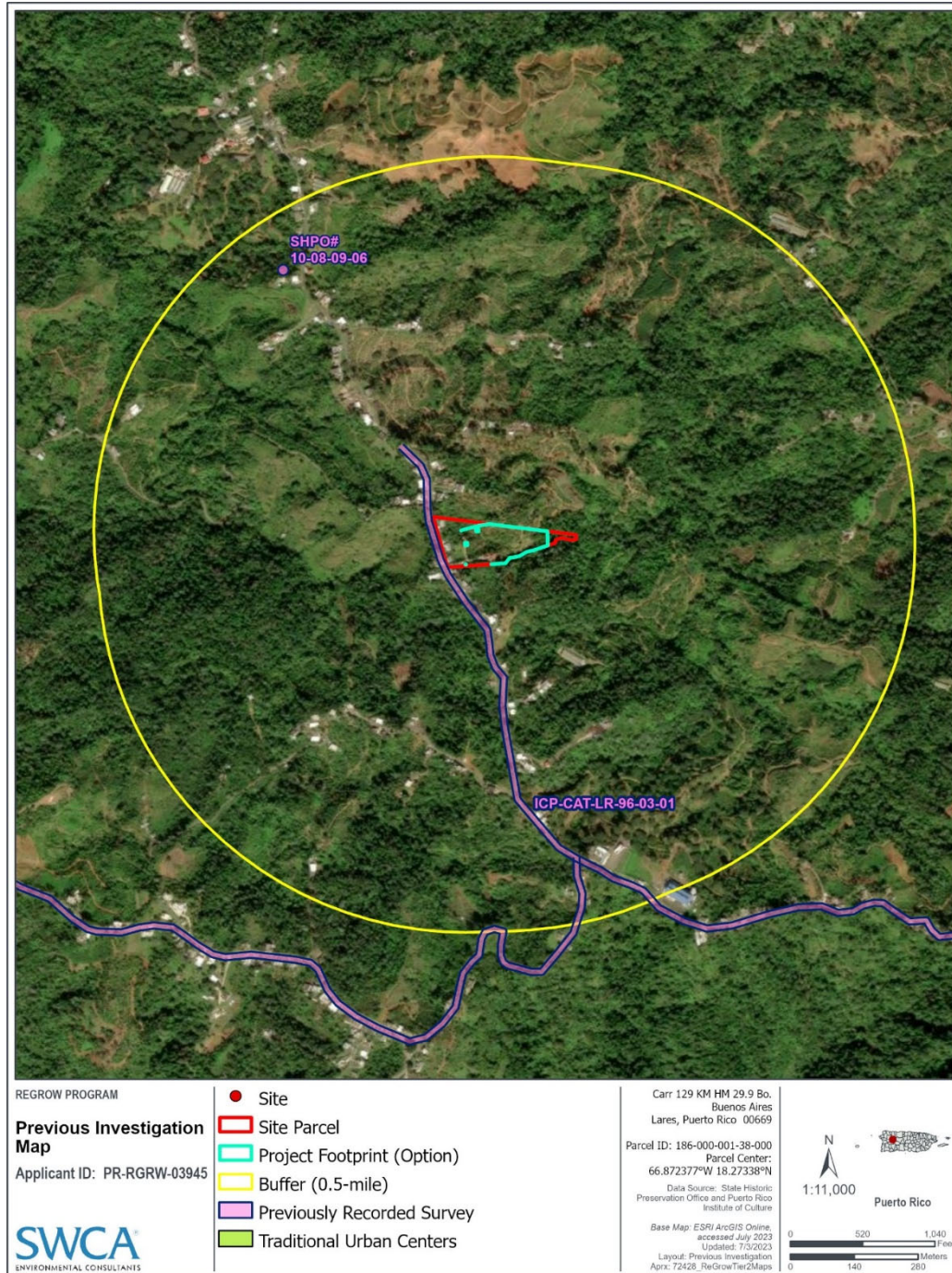


Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map

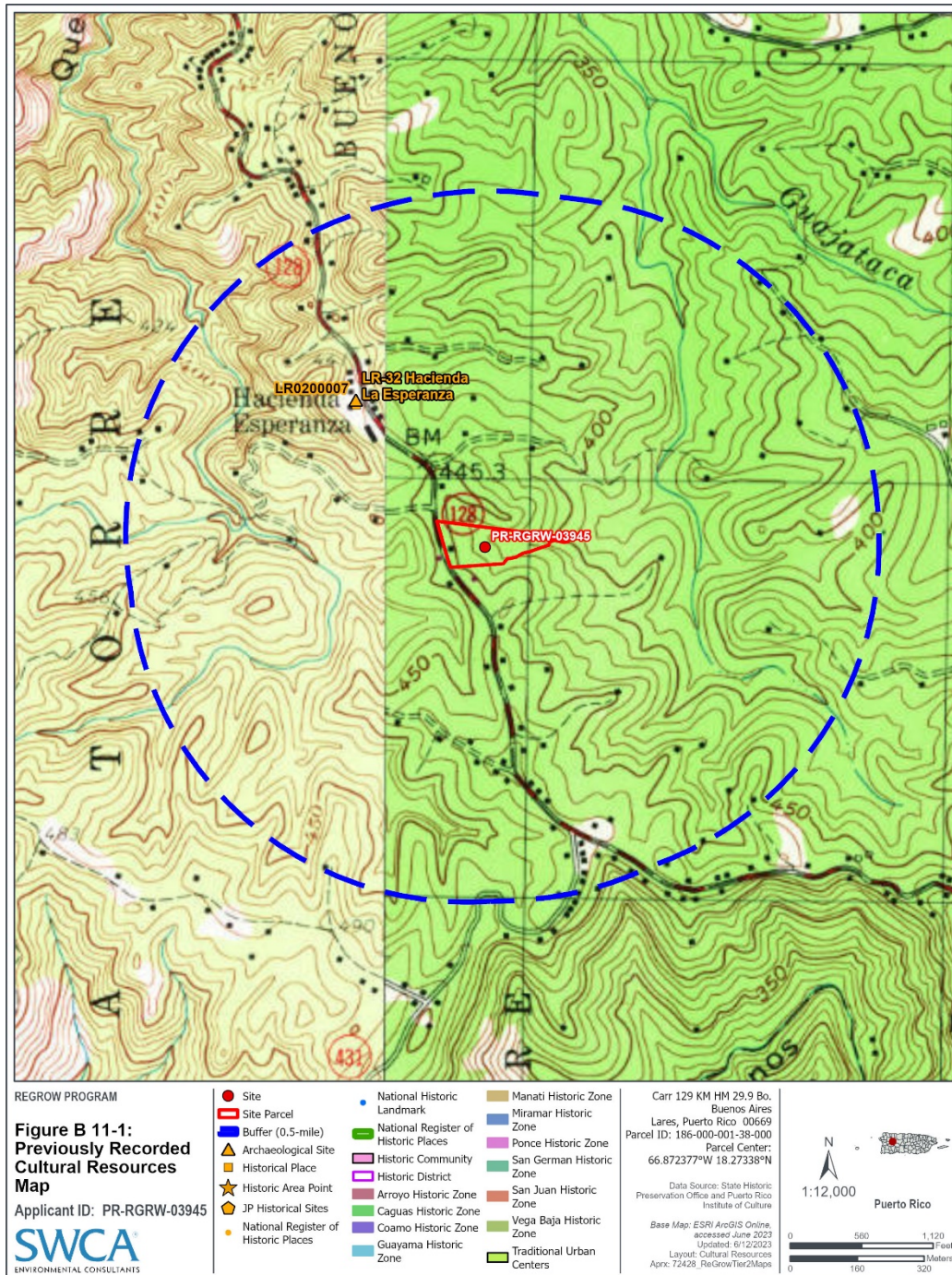


Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

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



Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Photograph Key



Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Photo #:
01

Date:
05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

North

Description: This picture is an overview of option 1 for the project location for a galvanized roof 18x18ft (ReGrow funds) taken from the dirt access road showing the area's vegetation and a partial view of a tarp where the galvanized roof will be. The applicant will turn the galvanized roof into a warehouse with his funds.



Photo #:
02

Date:
05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

Southwest

Description:

This picture is an overview taken from the northeast corner of the option one site location for a galvanized roof of 18x18ft, which will be developed into a warehouse. The picture shows a concrete block, a partial view of the tarp with equipment inside, and vegetation.



Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Photo #:

03

Date:

05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

North

Description:

This picture is an overview of the second option for a galvanized roof 18x18ft taken from the concrete access road to an existing structure. The galvanized roof will be replaced and reinforced on this structure with ReGrow funds if this option is selected.



Photo #:

04

Date:

05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

Southwest

Description:

This picture is an overview of the second option for a galvanized roof 18x18ft replacement and reinforcement, taken from the northeast corner showing a partial view of the structure and the inside.



Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Photo #:

05

Date:

05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

Northwest

Description:

This picture was taken from the beginning of where the northeast to northwest fence will be located, showing the vegetation and the property. The fence will use barbed wire with metal posts and is going to be 1 ft deep approximately.



Photo #:

06

Date:

05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

North

Description:

This picture was taken from a middle point where the northeast to northwest fence will run. The fence will be a barbed wire with metal posts and is going to be 1 ft deep approximately. The picture shows one of the posts marking the property line.



Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Photo #:
07

Date:
05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

Southeast

Description:

This picture was taken from the beginning of where the southwest to the southeast fence will be located, showing the vegetation and the metal post that will be used with barbed wire, 1 ft deep approximately.



Photo #:
08

Date:
05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

South

Description:

This picture overviews the site location for a cistern right next to the existing one (left), which was bought by the previous owner and will be placed on an existing concrete platform. This cistern will help with the crops with an above-ground irrigation system (not funded by ReGrow).



Applicant: Johnny Torres Gonzalez

Case ID: PR-RGRW-03945

City: Lares

Photo #:
09

Date:
05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

West

Description:

Overview of two properties directly viewing the project location, built around the 1970s/1980s. These residences don't belong to the applicant or are part of his property (please check the blueprint provided by the applicant).



Photo #:
10

Date:
05/26/ 2023

Photo Direction:

Southeast

Description: This picture is an overview of the property showing the areas where the coffee will be planted; the applicant mentioned the areas where there are no plantains on the hillside are where coffee will be grown. Coffee must be 8 to 9 inches deep on the ground.





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:

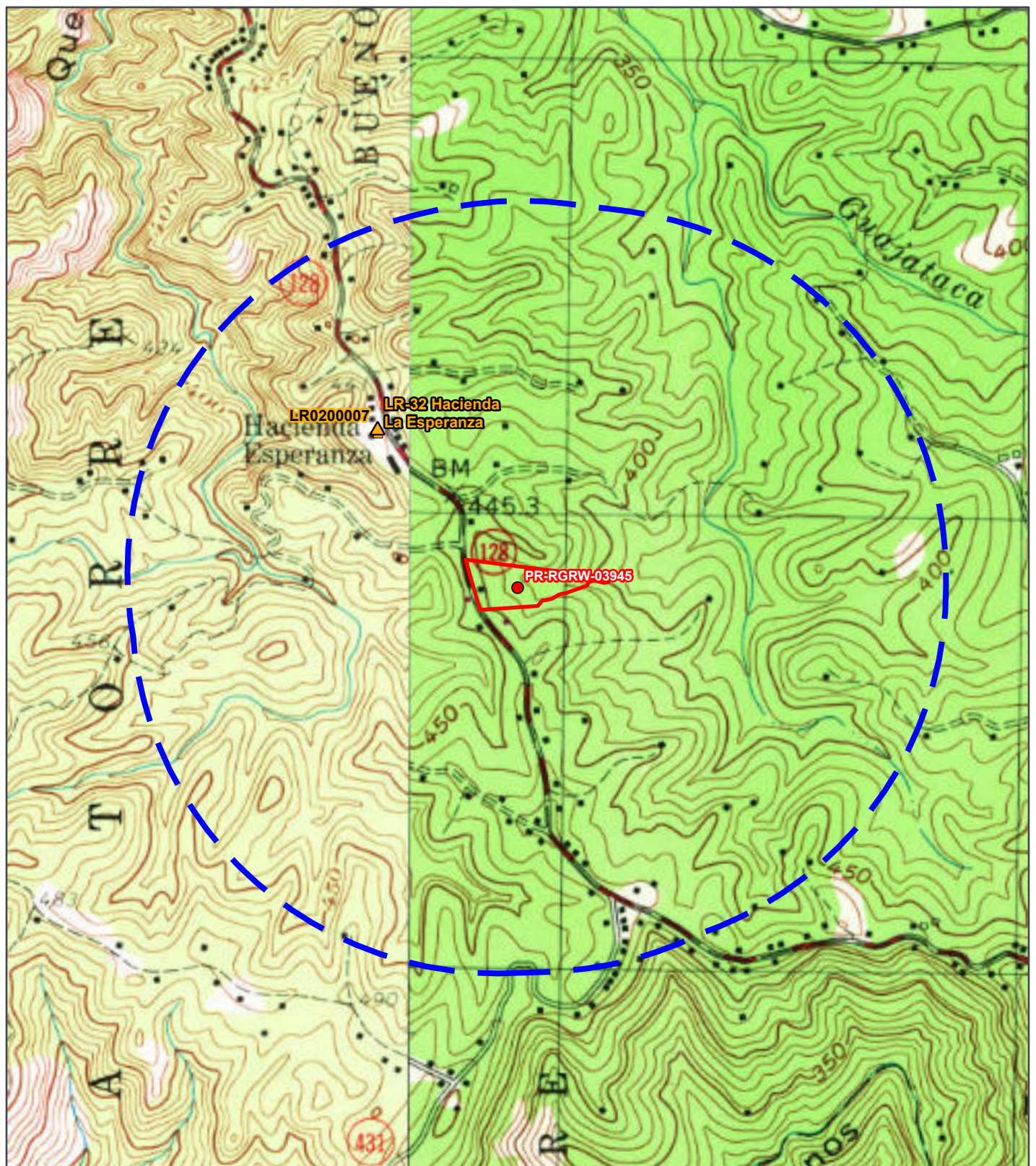
The U.S. Department of Housing (HUD) approved the allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) funds on February 9, 2018. It also approved the allocation of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds on January 27, 2020. The purpose of these allocations is to address 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



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 11-1: Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

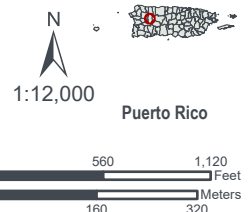
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| ● Site | ● National Historic Landmark | ■ Manati Historic Zone |
| ■ Site Parcel | ■ National Register of Historic Places | ■ Miramar Historic Zone |
| ■ Buffer (0.5-mile) | ■ Historic Community | ■ Ponce Historic Zone |
| ▲ Archaeological Site | ■ Historic District | ■ San German Historic Zone |
| ■ Historical Place | ■ Arroyo Historic Zone | ■ San Juan Historic Zone |
| ★ Historic Area Point | ■ Caguas Historic Zone | ■ Vega Baja Historic Zone |
| ★ JP Historical Sites | ■ Coamo Historic Zone | ■ Traditional Urban Centers |
| ● National Register of Historic Places | ■ Guayama Historic Zone | |

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669
Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Data Source: State Historic
Preservation Office and Puerto Rico
Institute of Culture

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/12/2023
Layout: Cultural Resources
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



Attachment 12
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 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.

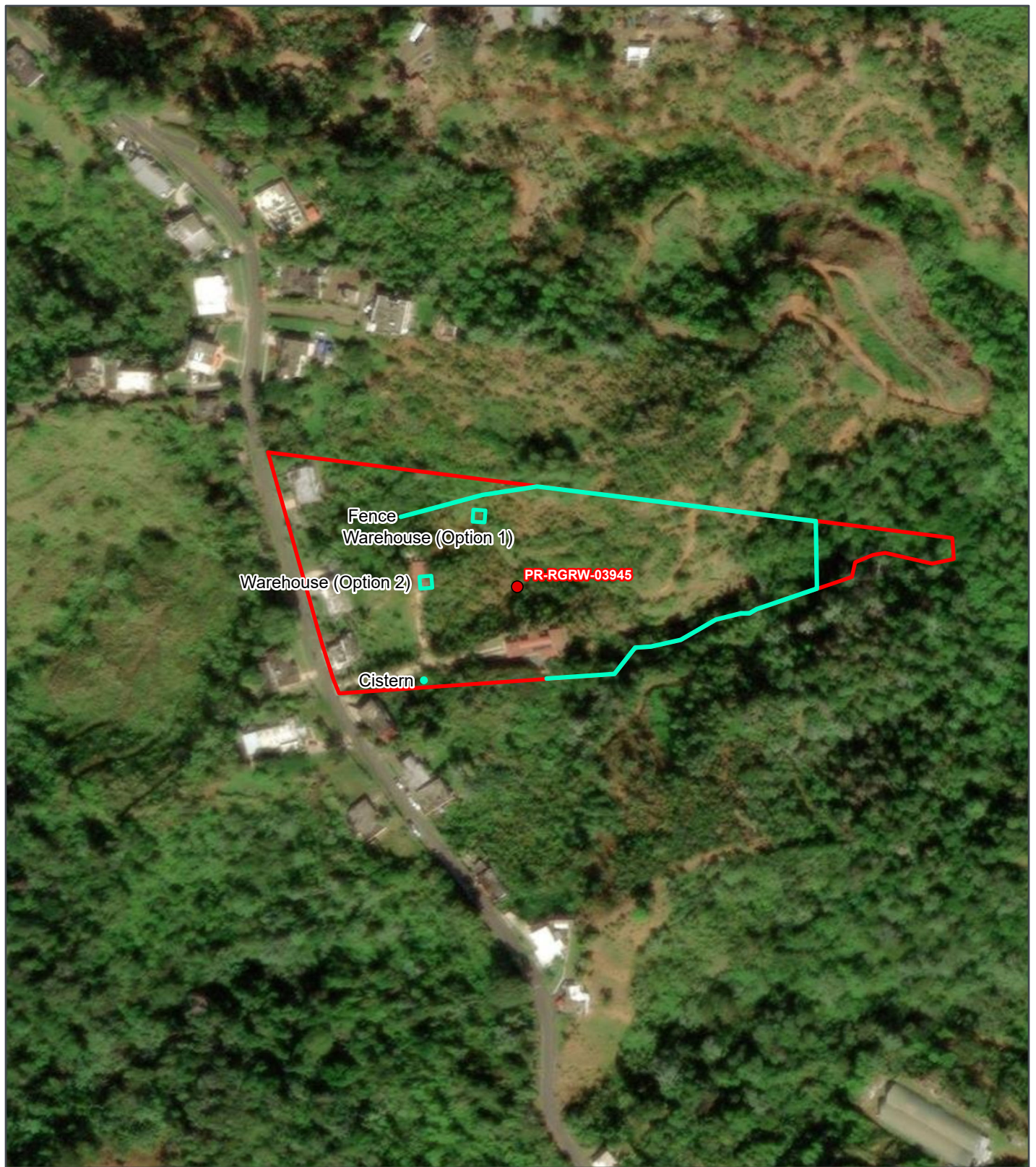
Worksheet Summary

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. No wetlands were determined to be present on site. The project is in compliance with this section. No further evaluation is required. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990.



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 12-1: Wetlands Protection Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945

SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

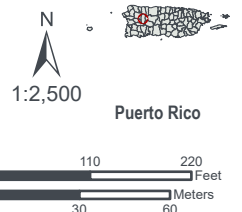
- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- - NHD Stream
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

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

Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.872377°W 18.27338°N

Data Source: <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/data-download>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023
Layout: Wetlands Protection



Attachment 13

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 | | |
| https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/wild-and-scenic-rivers | | |

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:

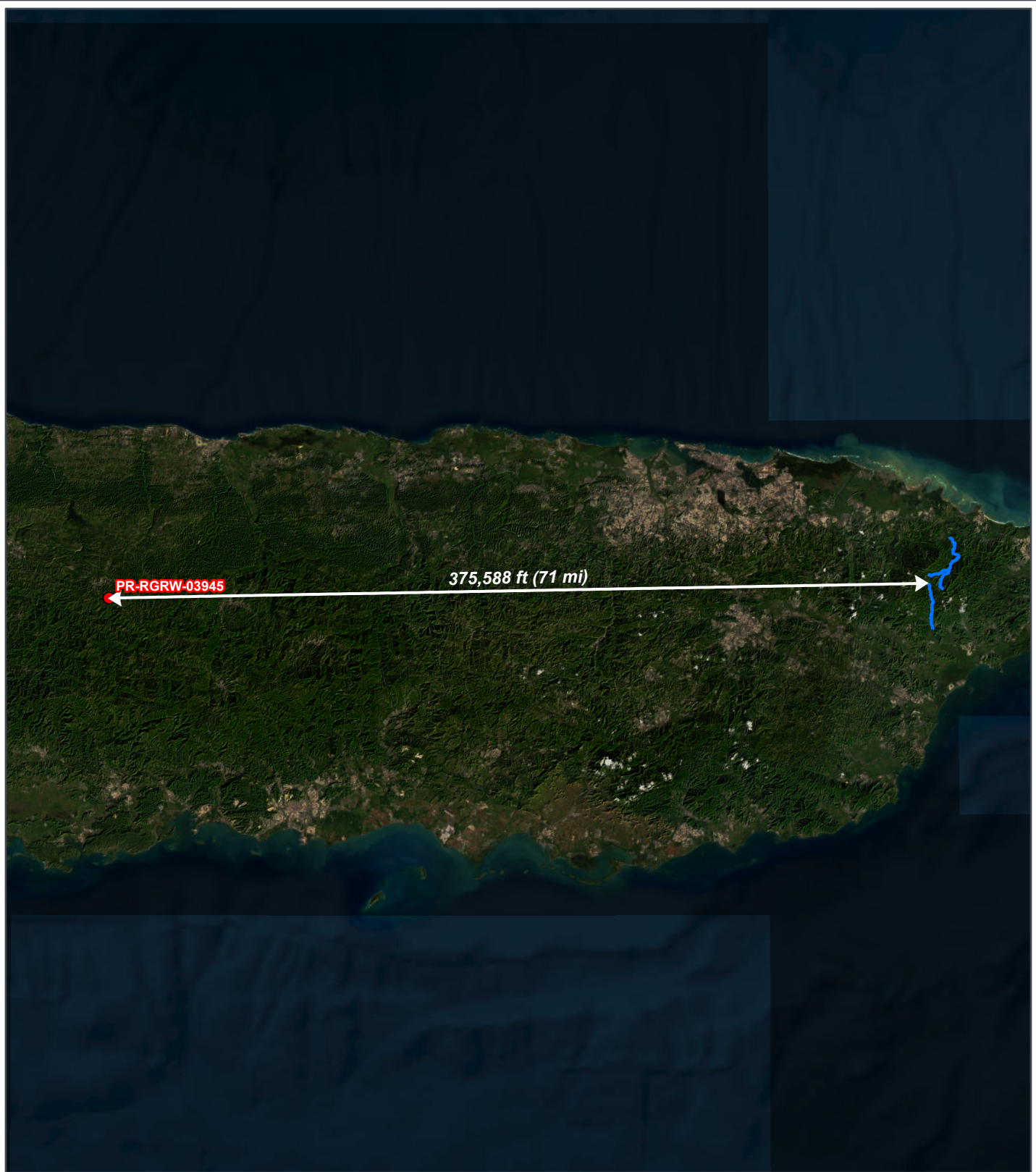
- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your region

A review of the USFWS National Wild and Scenic River mapper identified no Wild and Scenic Rivers or National Rivers Inventory (NRI) rivers present in Lares Municipio. The closest Wild and Scenic River segment is located 375,588 feet (71 miles) from the project site. The project is in compliance with this section. 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 13-1:
National Wild and
Scenic River Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-03945



- Site
- National Wild and Scenic River

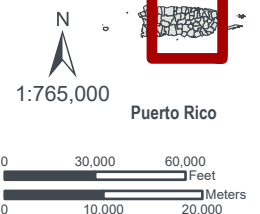
Carr 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo.
Buenos Aires
Lares, Puerto Rico 00669

Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000
Parcel Center:
66.331132°W 18.283096°N

Data Source: https://apps.fs.usda.gov/arcx/rest/services/EDW/EDW_WildScenicRiverSegments_01/MapServer

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed June 2023
Updated: 6/6/2023

Layout: Wild and Scenic Rivers



Attachment 144
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 → *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. Were these adverse environmental impacts disproportionately high for low-income and/or minority communities?

☐ Yes

Explain:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

→ *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.](#)

→ *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 increasing fertilizer storage capacity and 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

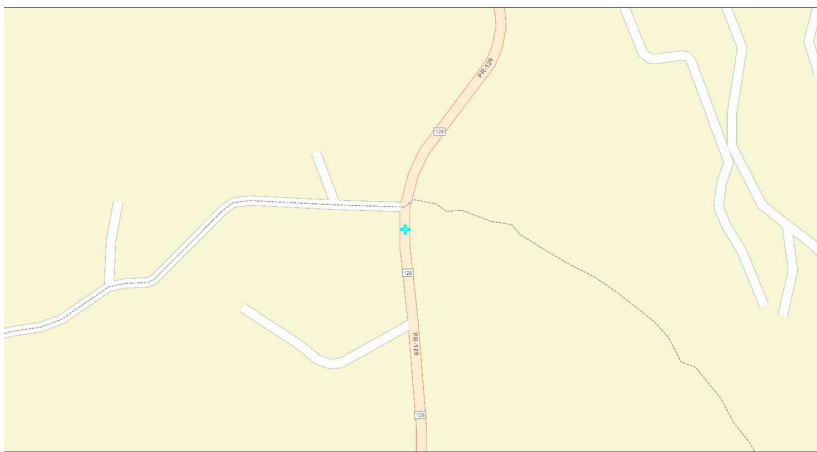
This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

Lares Municipio, PR

1 mile Ring Centered at 18.281264,-66.852745

Population: 2,865

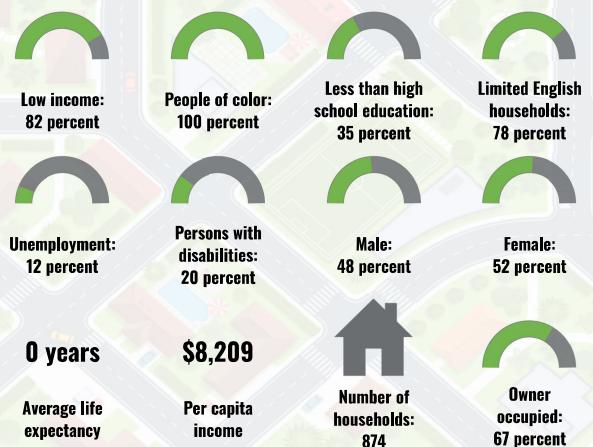
Area in square miles: 3.14



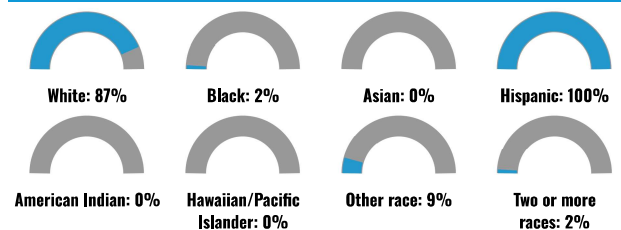
Jul 30, 2023
RGRW-03945

1:2,257
0 0.03 0.06 0.09 0.12 0.15 0.17 mi
0 0.04 0.08 0.12 0.16 0.20 km
Data: Community Maps Contributors, Esri, HERE, Garmin,
Foursquare, Swatch, GeoTechniques, Inc, Mapbox, USGS,
RPI, US Census Bureau

COMMUNITY INFORMATION



BREAKDOWN BY RACE



BREAKDOWN BY AGE



LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

| LANGUAGE | PERCENT |
|-------------------|---------|
| English | 2% |
| Spanish | 98% |
| Total Non-English | 98% |

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.

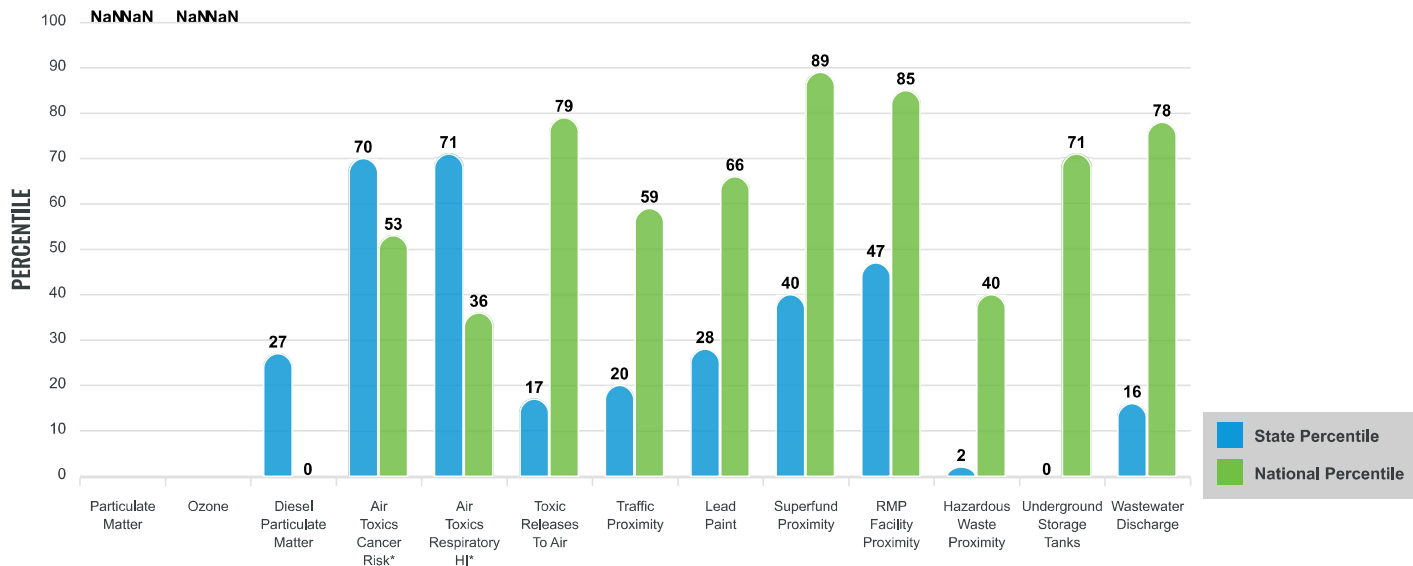
Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

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.

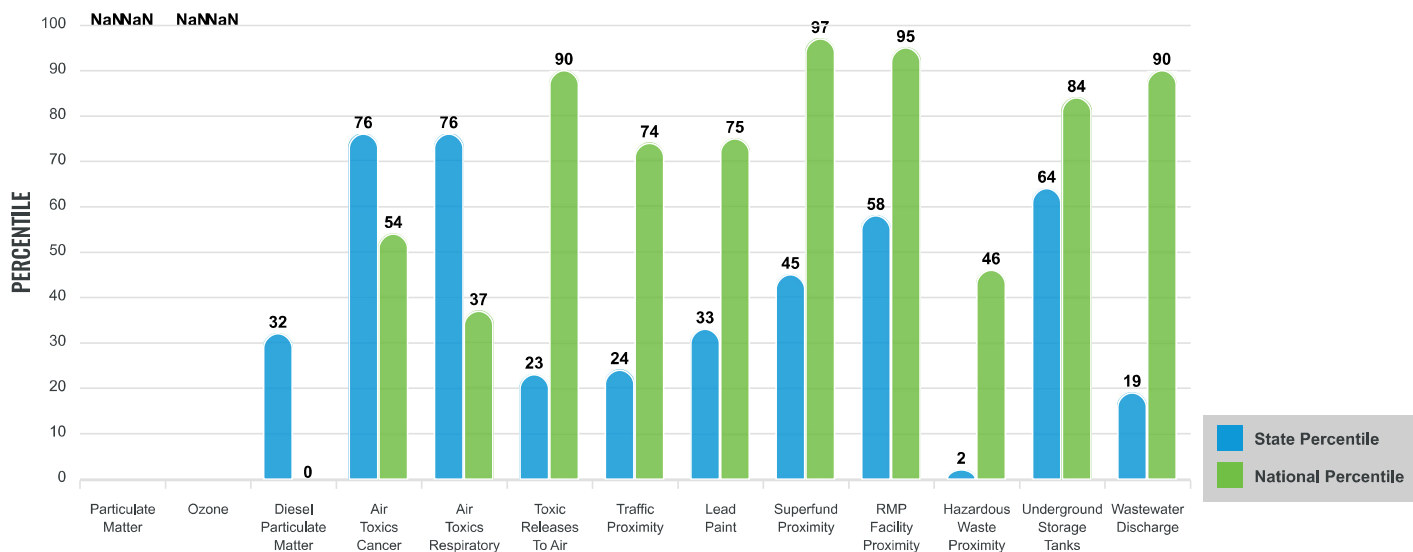
EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



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 18.281264,-66.852745

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

| SELECTED VARIABLES | VALUE | STATE AVERAGE | PERCENTILE IN STATE | USA AVERAGE | PERCENTILE IN USA |
|---|---------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| POLLUTION AND SOURCES | | | | | |
| 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 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) | 0.0207 | 0.0667 | 26 | 0.261 | 0 |
| 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 | 200 | 4,300 | 16 | 4,600 | 32 |
| Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road) | 16 | 180 | 20 | 210 | 22 |
| Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing) | 0.031 | 0.16 | 26 | 0.3 | 21 |
| Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance) | 0.06 | 0.15 | 35 | 0.13 | 50 |
| RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance) | 0.15 | 0.47 | 43 | 0.43 | 44 |
| Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance) | 0.05 | 0.76 | 1 | 1.9 | 9 |
| Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²) | 0.48 | 1.7 | 63 | 3.9 | 39 |
| Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance) | 0.00028 | 2.3 | 18 | 22 | 38 |
| SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | | | |
| Demographic Index | 91% | 83% | 67 | 35% | 99 |
| Supplemental Demographic Index | 52% | 43% | 74 | 14% | 99 |
| People of Color | 100% | 96% | 31 | 39% | 98 |
| Low Income | 82% | 70% | 65 | 31% | 97 |
| Unemployment Rate | 12% | 15% | 50 | 6% | 87 |
| Limited English Speaking Households | 78% | 67% | 69 | 5% | 99 |
| Less Than High School Education | 35% | 21% | 85 | 12% | 94 |
| Under Age 5 | 3% | 4% | 52 | 6% | 31 |
| Over Age 64 | 23% | 22% | 57 | 17% | 77 |
| 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 18.281264,-66.852745

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS

| INDICATOR | HEALTH VALUE | STATE AVERAGE | STATE PERCENTILE | US AVERAGE | US PERCENTILE |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| Low Life Expectancy | N/A | -99999900% | N/A | 20% | N/A |
| Heart Disease | N/A | -999999 | N/A | 6.1 | N/A |
| Asthma | N/A | -999999 | N/A | 10 | N/A |
| Cancer | N/A | -999999 | N/A | 6.1 | N/A |
| Persons with Disabilities | 20.5% | 21.6% | 42 | 13.4% | 87 |

CLIMATE INDICATORS

| INDICATOR | HEALTH VALUE | STATE AVERAGE | STATE PERCENTILE | US AVERAGE | US PERCENTILE |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| Flood Risk | N/A | -99999900% | N/A | 12% | N/A |
| Wildfire Risk | N/A | -99999900% | N/A | 14% | N/A |

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

| INDICATOR | HEALTH VALUE | STATE AVERAGE | STATE PERCENTILE | US AVERAGE | US PERCENTILE |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| Broadband Internet | 34% | 32% | 59 | 14% | 92 |
| Lack of Health Insurance | 9% | 7% | 75 | 9% | 61 |
| 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 18.281264,-66.852745

Appendix C
Environmental Site Inspection
Report



ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM

ReGrow

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Applicant Name: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Program ID: PR-RGRW-03945 |
| Project Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 | Parcel ID: 186-000-001-38-000 |
| Parcel Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires | Municipio: Lares |
| Zip Code: 00669 | |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Inspector Name: Delise Torres Ortiz | Inspection Date: May 26 th , 2023 |
|-------------------------------------|--|

General Site Conditions

| | | |
|---|-----|--------------|
| Was property accessible by vehicle? | Yes | Comment: |
| Access issues? | Yes | Comment: Dog |
| Are water wells present? | No | Comment: |
| Are creeks or ponds present? | No | Comment: |
| Are any potential wetlands on-site or visible on adjacent parcel? | 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 | Comment: The applicant mentioned the area's preparations were before applying for the ReGrow funds. |
| Are commercial or industrial hazardous facilities at parcel or within visual sight? | No | Comment: |
| Are there signs of underground storage tanks? | No | Comment: |
| Are above-ground tanks >10 gallons present? If Yes, also state condition. | Yes | Comment: Water cistern |



ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM
ReGrow

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| Are 55-gallon drums present? If Yes, also state condition. | No | Comment: |
| Are abandoned vehicles or electrical equipment present? | No | Comment: |
| Is other potential environmentally hazardous debris on the parcel? | No | Comment: |
| Is there non-environmentally hazardous debris on the parcel? | No | Comment: |
| Are any leaks, soil stains, or stressed vegetation present associated with any of the above or separately? | No | Comment: |
| Are there any pungent, foul or noxious odors? | No | Comment: |
| Are there any potentially hazardous trees that could fall? | No | Comment: |
| Are any bird nests visible? | No | Comment: |
| Are there any animal burrows visible? | No | Comment: |
| Are there any buildings in direct visual sight of the project locations? | Yes | Comment: The applicant's residence was built around 2010, and three houses could have a partial direct view of the project location, built between the 1970s to 1980s. |
| | | |



ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM

ReGrow

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? | No | Comment: |
|--|----|----------|

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

Delise Torres Ortiz
{Delise Torres-Ortiz}
{May 26th, 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 #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Photo #: 01 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: North | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of option 1 for the project location for a galvanized roof 18x18ft (ReGrow funds) taken from the dirt access road showing the area's vegetation and a partial view of a carp where the galvanized roof will be. The applicant plans to develop the galvanized roof into a warehouse with his funds. | |



| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Photo #: 02 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: Southwest | |
| Description: This picture is an overview taken from the northeast corner of the option one site location for a galvanized roof of 18x18ft, which will be developed into a warehouse. The picture shows a concrete block, a partial view of the carp with equipment inside, and vegetation. | |



| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Photo #: 03 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | |
| Description: This picture is an overview taken from the southeast corner of option one site location for a galvanized roof of 18x18ft, which will be developed into a warehouse, showing the vegetation, the applicant, and the carp with the equipment inside. | |




| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Photo #: 04 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: Northeast | |
| Description: This picture is an overview taken from the southwest corner of option one site location for a galvanized roof of 18x18ft, which will be developed into a warehouse, showing the vegetation and the carp with the equipment inside. | |



| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Photo #: 05 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Southeast | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of option one site location for a galvanized roof of 18x18ft, which will be developed into a warehouse, showing the vegetation and the construction materials for the warehouse. | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 06 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: North | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the center of the project location option one for a galvanized roof 18x18ft (ReGrow funds), which will later be developed into a warehouse with the applicant's funds; it shows equipment, a partial view of the carp, and vegetation. | | |


| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |


| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Photo #: 07 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: East | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the center of the project location option one for a galvanized roof 18x18ft (ReGrow funds), which will later be developed into a warehouse with the applicant's funds; it shows construction materials and vegetation. | | |

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Photo #: 08 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: South | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the center of the project location option one for a galvanized roof 18x18ft (ReGrow funds), which will later be developed into a warehouse with the applicant's funds; it shows a partial view of construction materials, the applicant, and vegetation. | |

A photograph showing a man in a yellow shirt and dark shorts standing on a dirt path, looking towards a steep, reddish-brown soil bank. The bank is covered with various green plants and vegetation. In the foreground, there are stacks of concrete blocks.

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Photo #: 09 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: West | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the center of the project location option one for a galvanized roof 18x18ft (ReGrow funds), which will later be developed into a warehouse with the applicant's funds; it shows a partial view of the carp, the vegetation, and an artificial pond for tilapias. | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 10 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: North | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the second option for a galvanized roof 18x18ft taken from the concrete access road to an existing structure. The galvanized roof will be replaced and reinforced on this structure with ReGrow funds if this option is selected. | | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Photo #: 11 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: Southwest | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the second option for a galvanized roof 18x18ft replacement and reinforcement, taken from the northeast corner showing a partial view of the structure and the inside. | |




| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 12 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the second option for a galvanized roof 18x18ft replacement and reinforcement, taken from the southeast corner showing a partial view of the structure and the inside. | | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Photo #: 13 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: Northeast | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the second option for a galvanized roof 18x18ft replacement and reinforcement, taken from the southwest corner showing a partial view of the structure and the inside. | |

A photograph showing the interior of a large, open-sided structure with a corrugated metal roof. The structure is supported by dark metal posts. Inside, there is a red tractor with a red container attached, and various other items like a blue container and some tools are visible. The ground is dirt.

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 14 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Southeast | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the second option for a galvanized roof 18x18ft replacement and reinforcement, taken from the northwest corner, showing a partial view of a small warehouse at the back of option 2, construction materials, and an empty gas tank. | | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Photo #: 15 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the beginning of where the northeast to northwest fence will be located. The wall will use barbed wire with metal posts and is going to be 1 ft deep approximately. | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 16 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the beginning of where the northeast to northwest fence will be located, showing the vegetation and the property. The fence will use barbed wire with metal posts and is going to be 1 ft deep approximately. | | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 17 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: North | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from a middle point where the northeast to northwest fence will run. The fence will be a barbed wire with metal posts and is going to be 1 ft deep approximately. The picture shows one of the posts marking the property line. | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 18 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from an endpoint where the northeast to northwest fence will run. The fence will be a barbed wire with metal posts and is going to be 1 ft deep approximately. | | |


| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |


| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Photo #: 19 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Southeast | | |
| Description: This picture was taken from the beginning of where the southwest to the southeast fence will be located, showing the vegetation and the metal post that will be used with barbed wire, 1 ft deep approximately. | | |

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Photo #: 20 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: South | |
| Description: This picture overviews the site location for a cistern right next to the existing one (left), which was bought by the previous owner and will be placed on an existing concrete platform. This cistern will help with the crops with an above-ground irrigation system (not funded by ReGrow). | |


A photograph showing a large, grey, cylindrical cistern in a lush garden. The cistern is positioned on a concrete platform. To the left of the cistern, there is a small table and chairs. The garden is filled with various plants, including a large banana plant and many ferns. The background is a dense wall of green foliage. The foreground is a concrete path.


| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Photo #: 21 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: West | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the property showing the areas where the coffee will be planted; the applicant mentioned the areas where there is no vegetation on the hillside are where coffee will be grown. Coffee must be 8 to 9 inches deep on the ground. | | |


| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 22 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Northwest | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the property showing a closer look of the areas where the coffee will be planted; the applicant mentioned the areas where there is no vegetation on the hillside are where coffee will be grown. Coffee must be 8 to 9 inches deep on the ground. | | |


| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Photo #: 23 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Southeast | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the property showing the areas where the coffee will be planted and an artificial pond; the applicant mentioned the areas where there is no vegetation on the hillside are where coffee will be grown. Coffee must be 8 to 29 inches deep on the ground. | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 24 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: South | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the property showing the areas where the coffee will be planted; the applicant mentioned the areas where there are no plantains on the hillside are where coffee will be grown. Coffee must be 8 to 9 inches deep on the ground. | | |


| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Photo #: 25 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: Southeast | | |
| Description: This picture is an overview of the property showing the areas where the coffee will be planted; the applicant mentioned the areas where there are no plantains on the hillside are where coffee will be grown. Coffee must be 8 to 9 inches deep on the ground. | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Photo #: 26 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |  |
| Photo Direction: West | | |
| Description: This picture presents a property that could have a direct view of the project location, built around the 1970s to 1980s. Even though it is inside the map, this residence doesn't belong to the applicant or is part of his property (please check the blueprint provided by the applicant). | | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Project #: Johnny Torres Gonzalez | Photographer: Delise Torres Ortiz |
| Location Address: Carretera 129 KM HM 29.9 Bo. Buenos Aires, Lares 00669 | Coordinates: 18.273447, -66.872792 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Photo #: 27 | Date: 05/26/ 2023 |
| Photo Direction: West | |
| Description: This picture presents two properties directly viewing the project location, built around the 1970s to 1980s. Even though it is inside the map, these residences don't belong to the applicant or are part of his property (please check the blueprint provided by the applicant). | |

A photograph showing a hillside with two white, two-story houses. The houses are built on a grassy slope and are surrounded by dense tropical vegetation, including palm trees and banana plants. In the foreground, there is a small, open-sided structure with a roof. The sky is blue with some clouds. The photo is taken from a slightly elevated position, looking down at the houses.