



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**  
 451 Seventh Street, SW  
 Washington, DC 20410  
[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)  
[espanol.hud.gov](http://espanol.hud.gov)

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

**Project Information**

**Project Name:** PR-SBF-09526

**HEROS Number:** 900000010399126

**State / Local Identifier:**

**Project Location:** , Juana Diaz, PR 00795

**Additional Location Information:**

The project is located at latitude 17.990233, longitude -66.482467 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 414-000-007-01-002

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

This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to RUBEN FIGUEROA ORTIZ, a Restaurants and Other Eating Places business, at Carr. 1 KM 112.6 Interior Calle 1, Barrio Pastillo, Sector Cambolla, Juana Diaz, PR 00795. The specific scope of work for this project includes payment of utilities, purchase of inventory, and the purchase of equipment including a new affixed generator (zinc panels must be removed to place on concrete roof), replacement affixed sink, new affixed metal cabinets, tables 96"x30", resin chairs, highchairs, wooden stool, flat top table 30x24x35, flat top table 30x30x35, flat top table 36x30x35, hot food table, refrigerated merchandise, refrigerated 2 section, deli case, heated display case, fryer system, top bottle coolers, 2 burner stove, cauldron 20, sauce pot, troller 3 tier, refrigerator one section, and a cash register.

**Level of Environment Review Determination:**

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

**Funding Information**

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

0002	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
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**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** \$46,221.67

**Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]:** \$46,221.67

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete
Flood Insurance	For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less.	N/A	
Floodplain Management	Mitigation/minimization measures not required as the project activities are not substantial improvement and the building footprint is not being increased. Flood insurance is required.	N/A	

**Determination:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	This categorically excluded activity/project converts to <b>EXEMPT</b> per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; <b>Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part</b> for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, <b>publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds"</b> (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR
<input type="checkbox"/>	This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).

Preparer Signature:  Date: Nov. 1. 2024

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

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:  Date: 11/25/2024

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 Environment Review Record (ERR) for the activity / project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).**

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

**Project Information**

**Project Name:** PR-SBF-09526

**HEROS Number:** 900000010399126

**Start Date:** 05/16/2024

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

**State / Local Identifier:**

**RE Preparer:** Ianmario Heredia

**Certifying Officer** Pedro A. de Leon Rodriguez  
**r:**

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Ent  
ity):**

**Point of Contact:**

**Point of Contact:** Paige Pilkinton  
**Consultant (if applicable):** HORNE LLP

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



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

**Project Location:** , Juana Diaz, PR 00795

**Additional Location Information:**

The project is located at latitude 17.990233, longitude -66.482467 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 414-000-007-01-002

**Direct Comments to:** environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov

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

This project entails the award of a small business recovery grant to RUBEN FIGUEROA ORTIZ, a Restaurants and Other Eating Places business, at Carr. 1 KM 112.6 Interior Calle 1, Barrio Pastillo, Sector Cambolla, Juana Diaz, PR 00795. The specific scope of work for this project includes payment of utilities, purchase of inventory, and the purchase of equipment including a new affixed generator (zinc panels must be removed to place on concrete roof), replacement affixed sink, new affixed metal cabinets, tables 96"x30", resin chairs, highchairs, wooden stool, flat top table 30x24x35, flat top table 30x30x35, flat top table 36x30x35, hot food table, refrigerated merchandise, refrigerated 2 section, deli case, heated display case, fryer system, top bottle coolers, 2 burner stove, cauldron 20, sauce pot, troller 3 tier, refrigerator one section, and a cash register.

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

[PR-SBF-09526 IUGF.pdf](#)

**Level of Environmental Review Determination:**

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

**Determination:**

	This categorically excluded activity/project converts to <b>EXEMPT</b> per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; <b>Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part</b> for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
--	--

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

**Approval Documents:**

[09526-SIG-PAGE.pdf](#)

**7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer**

on:

**7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer**

on:

**Funding Information**

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

**Estimated Total HUD Funded, Assisted or Insured Amount:** \$46,221.67

**Estimated Total Project Cost:** \$46,221.67

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

<b>Compliance Factors:</b> Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
<b>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 &amp; § 58.6</b>		
<b>Airport Hazards</b> Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 22,682.1 feet away. The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.
<b>Coastal Barrier Resources Act</b> Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 236.4 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
<b>Flood Insurance</b> Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C2055J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. The community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. With flood insurance the project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.
<b>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 &amp; § 58.5</b>		

<b>Air Quality</b> Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
<b>Coastal Zone Management Act</b> Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The project is located in the coastal zone but will have no effect because it does not include new construction, conversion, major rehabilitation, or substantial improvement activities. The Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Small Business Financing (SBF) program will have no significant impact on Puerto Rican Coastal Resources and does not require a Federal Consistency Review (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004).
<b>Contamination and Toxic Substances</b> 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.
<b>Endangered Species Act</b> Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project will have No Effect on listed species based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
<b>Explosive and Flammable Hazards</b> Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance

		with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
<b>Farmlands Protection</b> Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
<b>Floodplain Management</b> Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C2055J, effective on 11/18/2009: This project is located in the FFRMS floodplain. The 8-Step or 5-Step Process is required. With the 8-Step or 5-Step Process the project will be in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Juana Diaz; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
<b>Historic Preservation</b> National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	(Circa 2000) Based on the project description the project is covered by a Programmatic Agreement that includes an applicable exemption that exempts this project from the requirements of Section 106. The project is in compliance with Section 106.
<b>Noise Abatement and Control</b> Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
<b>Sole Source Aquifers</b> Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, the project consists of activities that are unlikely to have an adverse impact on groundwater resources. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico.
<b>Wetlands Protection</b> Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this

		section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted.
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers Act</b> Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 257,502 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
<b>HUD HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS</b>		
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE</b>		
<b>Environmental Justice</b> Executive Order 12898	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898.

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Mitigation Plan	Complete
Flood Insurance	For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The	N/A		

	amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less.			
Floodplain Management	Mitigation/minimization measures not required as the project activities are not substantial improvement and the building footprint is not being increased. Flood insurance is required.	N/A		

**Project Mitigation Plan**

Buyer must purchase flood insurance because the grant exceeds \$10,000 and the site is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

**Supporting documentation on completed measures**

## APPENDIX A: Related Federal Laws and Authorities

### Airport Hazards

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

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

No

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

Yes

### Screen Summary

#### Compliance Determination

The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 22,682.1 feet away. The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

#### Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-09526 Airports.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No



## Coastal Barrier Resources

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

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

No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

### Screen Summary

#### **Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 236.4 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

#### **Supporting documentation**

[PR-SBF-09526 CBRS.pdf](#)

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

Yes

No

## Flood Insurance

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Certain types of federal financial assistance may not be used in floodplains unless the community participates in National Flood Insurance Program and flood insurance is both obtained and maintained.	Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 as amended (42 USC 4001-4128)	24 CFR 50.4(b)(1) and 24 CFR 58.6(a) and (b); 24 CFR 55.1(b).

**1. Does this project involve financial assistance for construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of a mobile home, building, or insurable personal property?**

No. This project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance.

Yes

**2. Upload a FEMA/FIRM map showing the site here:**

[PR-SBF-09526 Flood Map.pdf](#)

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

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

No

Yes

**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.

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program must be obtained and maintained for the economic life of the project, in the amount of the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit, whichever is less.

Document and upload 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 below.

Yes, less than one year has passed since FEMA notification of Special Flood Hazards.

No. The community is not participating, or its participation has been suspended.

### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

Flood Map Number 72000C2055J, effective on 11/18/2009: The structure or insurable property is located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. The community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. With flood insurance the project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

#### **Supporting documentation**

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

Yes

No

## Air Quality

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Clean Air Act is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which sets national standards on ambient pollutants. In addition, the Clean Air Act is administered by States, which must develop State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to regulate their state air quality. Projects funded by HUD must demonstrate that they conform to the appropriate SIP.	Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) as amended particularly Section 176(c) and (d) (42 USC 7506(c) and (d))	40 CFR Parts 6, 51 and 93

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

Yes

✓ No

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

### Screen Summary

#### **Compliance Determination**

Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.

#### **Supporting documentation**

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

Yes

✓ No

## Coastal Zone Management Act

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Federal assistance to applicant agencies for activities affecting any coastal use or resource is granted only when such activities are consistent with federally approved State Coastal Zone Management Act Plans.	Coastal Zone Management Act (16 USC 1451-1464), particularly section 307(c) and (d) (16 USC 1456(c) and (d))	15 CFR Part 930

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

Yes

No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload all documents used to make your determination below.

### Screen Summary

#### **Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The project is located in the coastal zone but will have no effect because it does not include new construction, conversion, major rehabilitation, or substantial improvement activities. The Puerto Rican Planning Board (PRBR) determined the Small Business Financing (SBF) program will have no significant impact on Puerto Rican Coastal Resources and does not require a Federal Consistency Review (see attached Resolution JP-2024-004).

#### **Supporting documentation**

[CZM JP-2024-004 Resolution.pdf](#)  
[PR-SBF-09526 CZM.pdf](#)

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

Yes

✓ No

## Contamination and Toxic Substances

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

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

ASTM Phase I ESA

ASTM Phase II ESA

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

None of the above

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

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

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

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

No

Explain:

Based on NEPA data, there are no toxic sites within 3,000 feet of the applicant location. The environmental field observation did not note any items of concern. See the attached environmental field observation report. A google earth review of the area shows no visible hazards. The past land use for the last 10-15 year is commercial.

Yes

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

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

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

Yes

Explain:

✓ No

\* Notes:

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



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

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

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

No

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

Explain:

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

File Upload:

[Radon Attachments.pdf](#)  
[PR-SBF-09526 HORNE Radon Memo.docx](#)

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

Non-radon contamination was found in a previous question.

**Screen Summary****Compliance Determination**

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

**Supporting documentation**

[PR-SBF-09526 Toxics Map.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-09526 EFOR.docx](#)

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

Yes

✓ No

**Endangered Species**

General requirements	ESA Legislation	Regulations
Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) mandates that federal agencies ensure that actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out shall not jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed plants and animals or result in the adverse modification or destruction of designated critical habitat. Where their actions may affect resources protected by the ESA, agencies must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (“FWS” and “NMFS” or “the Services”).	The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 <i>et seq.</i> ); particularly section 7 (16 USC 1536).	50 CFR Part 402

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

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

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

Explain your determination:

This project clears via the project criteria 4 of the USFWS Blanket Clearance Letter. See attached Endangered Species Act self-certification form.

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload all documents used to make your determination below.

Yes, the activities involved in the project have the potential to affect species and/or habitats.

**Screen Summary**

**Compliance Determination**

This project will have No Effect on listed species based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

**Supporting documentation**

[USFWS Self-Certification Form PR-SBF-09526.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-09526 Site Map.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-09526 Endangered Species.pdf](#)

[USFWS Letter UPDATED.pdf](#)

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

Yes

✓ No

## Explosive and Flammable Hazards

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
HUD-assisted projects must meet Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD) requirements to protect them from explosive and flammable hazards.	N/A	24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C

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

No

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

### Screen Summary

#### **Compliance Determination**

Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.

#### **Supporting documentation**

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

Yes

No

## Farmlands Protection

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) discourages federal activities that would convert farmland to nonagricultural purposes.	Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.)	<a href="#">7 CFR Part 658</a>

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

Yes

No

If your project includes new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land or conversion, explain how you determined that agricultural land would not be converted:

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload all documents used to make your determination below.

### Screen Summary

#### Compliance Determination

This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

#### Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-09526 Farmlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

## Floodplain Management

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

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

Yes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Describe:

No

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

Yes

Describe:

No

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



The extent of the FFRMS floodplain can be determined using a Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA), 0.2 percent flood approach (0.2 PFA), or freeboard value approach (FVA). For projects in areas without available CISA data or without FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) or Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs), use the best available information<sup>1</sup> to determine flood elevation. Include documentation and an explanation of why this is the best available information<sup>2</sup> for the site. Note that newly constructed and substantially improved<sup>3</sup> structures must be elevated to the FFRMS floodplain regardless of the approach chosen to determine the floodplain.

Select one of the following three options:

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?

Yes

No

6. Is your project located in any of the floodplain categories below?

Select all that apply:

Floodway.

Do the floodway exemptions at 55.8 or 55.21 apply?

Yes

No

Coastal High Hazard Area (V Zone) or Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA).

Yes

No

None of the above.

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

8-Step Process is inapplicable per 55.13.

(a) HUD's mortgage insurance actions and other financial assistance for the purchasing, mortgaging, or refinancing of existing one- to four-family properties in communities that are in the Regular Program of the NFIP and in good standing ( i.e., not suspended from program eligibility or placed on probation under 44 CFR 59.24), where the action is not a critical action and the property is not located in a floodway, coastal high hazard area, or LiMWA;

(b) Financial assistance for minor repairs or improvements on one- to four-family properties that do not meet the thresholds for "substantial improvement" under § 55.2(b)(12);

(c) HUD or a recipient's actions involving the disposition of individual

HUD or recipient held, one- to four-family properties;

(d) HUD guarantees under the Loan Guarantee Recovery Fund Program (24 CFR part 573), where any new construction or rehabilitation financed by the existing loan or mortgage has been completed prior to the filing of an application under the program, and the refinancing will not allow further construction or rehabilitation, nor result in any physical impacts or changes except for routine maintenance;

(e) The approval of financial assistance to lease units within an existing structure located within the floodplain, but only if;

- (1) The structure is located outside the floodway or coastal high hazard area, and is in a community that is in the Regular Program of the NFIP and in good standing (i.e., not suspended from program eligibility or placed on probation under 44 CFR 59.24); and
- (2) The project is not a critical action; and
- (3) The entire structure is or will be fully insured or insured to the maximum extent available under the NFIP for at least the term of the lease.

(f) Special projects for the purpose of improving efficiency of utilities or installing renewable energy that involve the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing structures or infrastructure, do not meet the thresholds for “substantial improvement” under § 55.2(b)(12), and do not include the installation of equipment below the FFRMS floodplain elevation;

5-Step Process is applicable per 55.14.

(a) HUD actions involving the disposition of HUD-acquired multifamily housing projects or “bulk sales” of HUD-acquired one- to four-family properties in communities that are in the Regular Program of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and in good standing (i.e., not suspended from program eligibility or placed on probation under 44 CFR 59.24).

(b) HUD's actions under the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701) for the purchase or refinancing of existing multifamily housing projects, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, board and care facilities, and intermediate care facilities, in communities that are in good standing under the NFIP.

(c) HUD's or the recipient's actions under any HUD program involving

the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing multifamily housing projects, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, board and care facilities, intermediate care facilities, and one- to four-family properties, in communities that are in the Regular Program of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and are in good standing, provided that the number of units is not increased more than 20 percent, the action does not involve a conversion from nonresidential to residential land use, the action does not meet the thresholds for “substantial improvement” under § 55.2(b)(10), and the footprint of the structure and paved areas is not increased by more than 20 percent.

(d) HUD’s (or the recipient’s) actions under any HUD program involving the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing nonresidential buildings and structures, in communities that are in the Regular Program of the NFIP and are in good standing, provided that the action does not meet the thresholds for “substantial improvement” under § 55.2(b)(10) and that the footprint of the structure and paved areas is not increased by more than 20 percent.

(e) HUD's or the recipient's actions under any HUD program involving the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing nonstructural improvements including streets, curbs and gutters, where any increase of the total impervious surface area of the facility is de minimis. This provision does not include critical actions, levee systems, chemical storage facilities (including any tanks), wastewater facilities, or sewer lagoons.

✓ 8-Step Process applies.

## 8. Mitigation

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

Explain:

Mitigation/minimization measures not required as the project activities are not substantial improvement and the building footprint is not being increased. Flood

insurance is required.

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

Buyout and demolition or other supported clearance of floodplain structures.

Insurance purchased in excess of statutory requirement th eunder the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

Permeable surfaces.

Natural landscape enhancements that maintain or restore natural hydrology.

Planting or restoring native plant species.

Bioswales.

Stormwater capture and reuse.

Green or vegetative roofs with drainage provisions.

Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation easements or similar easements.

Floodproofing of structures as allowable (e.g. non-residential floors) .

Elevating structures (including freeboard above the required base flood elevations) .

Levee or structural protection from flooding.

Channelizing or redefining the floodway or floodplain through a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

Flood Map Number 72000C2055J, effective on 11/18/2009: This project is located in the FFRMS floodplain. The 8-Step or 5-Step Process is required. With the 8-Step or 5-Step Process the project will be in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the

municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Juana Diaz; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.

**Supporting documentation**

[8 Step PR-SBF-09526.docx](#)

[PR-SBF-09526 FIRM.pdf](#)

[PR-SBF-09526 ABFE.pdf](#)

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

Yes

No

**Historic Preservation**

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

**Threshold**

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

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

**Threshold (a). Either upload the PA below or provide a link to it here:**

<https://www.hudexchange.info/sites/onecpd/assets/File/PR-FEMA-Prototype-2019-PA-Section-106.pdf>

**Upload exemption(s) below or copy and paste all applicable text here:**

Architecture- Appendix B, Tier I, Allowance B.1: I. First Tier Allowances B. BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES 1. Repair, retrofit, and reconstruction of buildings, and structures less than forty-five (45) years old, unless located in or adjacent to a historic district.

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

**Screen Summary**

**Compliance Determination**

(Circa 2000) Based on the project description the project is covered by a Programmatic Agreement that includes an applicable exemption that exempts this project from the requirements of Section 106. The project is in compliance with Section 106.

**Supporting documentation**

[PR-SBF-09526 Historic Map.pdf](#)

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

Yes

✓ No



## Noise Abatement and Control

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

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

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

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

An interstate land sales registration

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

None of the above

### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### **Supporting documentation**

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

Yes

No



## Sole Source Aquifers

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

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

Yes

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

No

### Screen Summary

#### Compliance Determination

Based on the project description, the project consists of activities that are unlikely to have an adverse impact on groundwater resources. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico.

#### Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-09526 Sole Source Aquifers.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

## Wetlands Protection

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Executive Order 11990 discourages direct or indirect support of new construction impacting wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative. The Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory can be used as a primary screening tool, but observed or known wetlands not indicated on NWI maps must also be processed Off-site impacts that result in draining, impounding, or destroying wetlands must also be processed.	Executive Order 11990	24 CFR 55.20 can be used for general guidance regarding the 8 Step Process.

1. Does this project involve new construction as defined in Executive Order 11990, expansion of a building's footprint, or ground disturbance? The term "new construction" shall include draining, dredging, channelizing, filling, diking, impounding, and related activities and any structures or facilities begun or authorized after the effective date of the Order

✓ No

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

Yes

### Screen Summary

#### **Compliance Determination**

Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted.

#### **Supporting documentation**

[PR-SBF-09526 Wetlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

## Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

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

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

No

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

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

### Screen Summary

#### Compliance Determination

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 257,502 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

#### Supporting documentation

[PR-SBF-09526 W S Rivers.pdf](#)

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

Yes

No

**Environmental Justice**

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Determine if the project creates adverse environmental impacts upon a low-income or minority community. If it does, engage the community in meaningful participation about mitigating the impacts or move the project.	Executive Order 12898	

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

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

Yes

No

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

**Screen Summary**

**Compliance Determination**

No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898.

**Supporting documentation**

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

Yes

No

PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
PARQUE DEL QUINTO CENTENARIO, OLD SAN JUAN  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

**Procedure for Making Determination on Floodplain Management and Wetlands**  
**Eight Step Process**

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) intends to use U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to engage in improvements to redevelop a parking lot as a park. The RUBEN FIGUEROA ORTIZ project is proposed to take place at Carr. 1 KM 112.6 Interior Calle 1, Barrio Pastillo, Sector Cambolla Juana Díaz, PR 00795; 17.990233,-66.482467.

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), RUBEN FIGUEROA ORTIZ, Grant number B-17-DM-72-0001, B-19-DP-72-0001 and B-19-DP-78-0002, is located in the wetland. PRDOH will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the wetland and the potential impacts on the wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project, PR-SBF-09526 is within a municipality with structures damaged by Hurricanes Irma and María and it's located at Carr. 1 KM 112.6 Interior Calle 1, Barrio Pastillo, Sector Cambolla, Juana Díaz, PR 00795, 17.990233,-66.482467, 414-000-007-01-002. This project is for the purchase of equipment including a new affixed generator, replacement affixed sink, new affixed metal cabinets, tables 96"x30", resin chairs, highchairs, wooden stool, flat top table 30x24x35, flat top table 30x30x35, flat top table 36x30x35, hot food table, refrigerated merchandise, refrigerated 2 section, deli case, heated display case, fryer system, top bottle coolers, 2 burner stove, cauldron 20, sauce pot, troller 3 tier, refrigerator one section, and a cash register. There is a mapped NWI estuarine marine wetland mapped on the property. The business is 2,548.2 square feet, and the wetlands on the property are 1,994 square feet.

Pursuant to Executive Orders (EOs) 11988 and 11990, the PRDOH has determined portions of this project be in the Estuarine Marine Wetland. The EOs were enacted to *“avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative”*. Based on the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map, the improvement location lies within the Estuarine Marine Wetland. However, wetland impacts are expected to be minimal, since the proposed action involves the pouring of a 10x20 concrete pad in a disturbed area. The area is located between two structures and already has tiles on the ground.

Detailed below is a summary of the eight-step process and how the PRDOH has or will comply with EO 11988 and EO 11990, as the project site occurs within the wetlands.

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

Regarding EO 11988, based on the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map, the majority of the site is located within the Estuarine Marine Wetland. Wetland impacts are expected to be minimal as a result of this action, as the area is already disturbed and contains tiles on the ground. Regarding EO 11990, the project area was determined to not include wetland areas.

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

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

Based on the program goals, it was determined for Juana Díaz that this project, Small Business Financing Program would be beneficial to the surrounding community. The goal of the Small Business Financing (SBF) Program is to support the recovery and growth of small businesses effected by hurricanes María and Irma. For the improvements, the Municipality of Juana Díaz and PRDOH notified the public of the proposed actions located within the wetlands through an Early Wetland Notice in local newspapers, for purposes of eliciting public comments for consideration during this review.

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

**Step 3- Identification and Evaluation of Practicable Alternatives.**

This project includes payment of utilities, purchase of inventory, and the purchase of equipment including a new affixed generator (new 10x20 concrete pad), replacement affixed sink, new affixed metal cabinets, tables 96”x30”, resin chairs, highchairs, wooden stool, flat top table 30x24x35, flat top table 30x30x35, flat top table 36x30x35, hot food table, refrigerated merchandise, refrigerated 2 section, deli case, heated display case, fryer system, top bottle coolers, 2 burner stove, cauldron 20, sauce pot, troller 3 tier, refrigerator one section, and a cash register. The project aims to The goal of the Small Business Financing Program (SBF) is to support the recovery and growth of small businesses effected by hurricanes Maria and Irma. In accordance with the Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines, practical alternatives to locating the proposed action in a floodplain were identified and evaluated. These included the following alternatives:

- 1) Locating the actions outside of the wetlands;
- 2) Finding alternative methods to accomplish the proposed objectives; and

**Commented [AC1]:** Need to provide alternatives. These are examples of other alternative actions that could be proposed.



3) Impact of taking no action.

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

**Alternative 1**

The action of moving the project activities outside of the wetlands would no serve to grow and support this small business. The selected alleyway is the only location on the business site where the generator and concrete pad could be placed. If the action were to move outside the wetlands the applicant would not be able to purchase a generator and receive the economic support this grant would provide.

**Alternative 2**

The alternative of not pouring a concrete pad but placing the generator on the existing ground would not be beneficial to the business. The current tiles on the alleyway are worn and not flat, this would lead to the generator not working properly or not lasting as long as possible.

**Alternative 3**

The no-action alternative would not lead to the support and growth of the business. The goal of the SBF program is to recover and grow small businesses. Without a generator, the business cannot grow and would not be able to operate when the power goes out.

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

Potential direct and indirect impacts resulting from the proposed action on the wetlands are anticipated to be nonexistent. The ground has already been disturbed through tiling. The pouring of a concrete pad would not impact the wetlands.

Wetlands are not located at the project site or in the project vicinity and are not anticipated to be impacted under this action.

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

Due to the highly disturbed nature of the area mitigation and minimization measures are not necessary.

**Step 6- Reevaluation of the Proposed Action**

Although potential adverse impacts to the wetlands may be reduced by prohibiting any future construction or renovation within it, this option is not practical due to existing severe need within Puerto Rico for developing agricultural capacity and the costs and logistics prohibiting the re-establishment of businesses outside of the wetlands. With respect to wetlands and waters of the United States, the property does not include wetlands identified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI).

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

**Step 7- Publication of the Final Notice**

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

**Step 8- Implementation of the Proposed Action**

The proposed action is anticipated to begin in calendar year 2022.

# **WETLANDS PUBLICATIONS**



# CDBG-DR PROGRAM

## Small Business Financing (SBF) Program

### ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

#### APPLICATION GENERAL INFORMATION

Application No.:	PR-SBF-09526	Applicant Name:	Ruben Figueroa Ortiz

#### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Address:  
Carr. 1 km 112.6 Int Calle 1, Bo. Pastillo, Sector Cambolla, Juana Diaz, PR 00795


Latitude:	17.9902203	Longitude:	-66.4825509
Property Type:	Commercial	Year Built:	2005
Number of Buildings:	1	Are Utilities Connected?	Yes

Property Remarks:  
The right side of the restaurant connects to another restaurant.

Is there evidence of damage from a previous disaster?	No
---	----

Damage Remarks:

#### SIGNATURES OF INSPECTION REPORT

Environmental Inspector:	<u>Blas Guernica</u>		<u>May 17, 2024</u>
	Printed Name	Signature	Date

**ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS**

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

**REQUIRED PHOTOS**



**Front of Property**



**Front of Property**



**Rear of Property**



**Rear of Property**



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



**Rear of Property**



**Rear of Property**



**Rear of Property**



**Rear of Property**



**ADDITIONAL PHOTOS** (add additional pages as necessary)



**Left Side of Property**



**Left Side of Property**



**Front of Property Outward**



**Rear of Property Outward**

**ADDITIONAL PHOTOS** (add additional pages as necessary)





Rear of Property Outward



Left Side of Property Outward



Right Side of Property Outward



Streetscape

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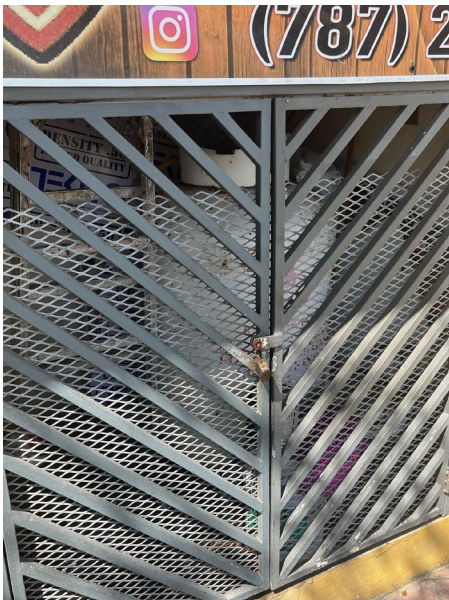




Streetscape



AST



AST



Water Frontage

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO  
PUERTO RICO PLANNING BOARD

July 24, 2024

**RESOLUTION JP-2024-004**

Federal Consistency Certification with the  
Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program  
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and  
Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)

The United States (U.S.) Government, through Major Disaster Declarations (DR-4336 and DR-4339), declared Puerto Rico a disaster area after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and María. Considering this event, the U.S. Congress approved Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for Puerto Rico's unmet disaster recovery needs, and Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for the Commonwealth's long-term planning and risk mitigation activities. Moreover, the Congress approved additional CDBG-DR funds for the Commonwealth in response to Major Disaster Declarations: DR-4336, DR-4339, DR-4473, and DR-4671.

The damage caused by high-speed winds, storm surges, earthquakes, flooding, and landslides attributed to major disasters, had devastating effects on Puerto Rico's coastal areas that need to be addressed in an expeditious manner. While many of the direct emergency needs have been met, disaster recovery and mitigation need of the Commonwealth are on-going and will continue into the near future.

The Law Number 75 of June 24, 1975, as amended (Organic law of the Puerto Rico Planning Board) grants the Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) the responsibility and powers to guide the comprehensive development of Puerto Rico, guaranteeing the general well-being of its current and future inhabitants.

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq) establishes that federal agency activities including the award of Federal Assistance must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved state management programs. The Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) is the designated state agency to review and determine Federal Consistency with the PR Coastal Zone Management Program according to established procedures at 15 CFR Part 930. This sui-generis process at the Puerto Rico Planning Board is under exclusive federal jurisdiction.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is formally the Grantee for the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funds. The Governor of Puerto Rico designated the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) as the grantee for the purposes of administering the program and executing grant agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the federal oversight agency for the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funding.

Taking into consideration the high volume of requests for federal assistance that has been generated as part of the recovery process following the disaster declarations and the current need to expedite this process, the PRPB proceeded to carry out a review of Federal Consistency with the PMZCPR for the following federal assistance programs:

- CDBG-DR eligible activities provided in Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA), and outlined in the applicable Federal Register Notices, the CDBG-DR Action Plan and CDBG-DR Program Guidelines.
- CDBG-MIT eligible activities provided in Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA), and outlined in the applicable Federal Notices, the CDBG-MIT Action Plan and CDBG-MIT Program Guidelines.

After considering the information provided by PRDOH in relation to the eligible projects and activities to be awarded by the above-mentioned programs, the PR Planning Board (PRPB) in their meeting held on July 24, 2024, agreed the following:

- A. The following activities or projects to be financed under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs have no significant impact on Puerto Coastal Resources and do not require Federal Consistency review:
1. Activities to be financed under the following programs:
    - a. **Community Energy and Water Resilience Installations Program (CEWRI)**: The Program provide single-family homeowners energy and water efficiency improvements to promote resilience by installing PV systems with battery backup for critical loads and water storage systems.
    - b. **The Workforce Training Program (WFT)**: supports entities throughout the Island to offer training in job skills related to the reconstruction and economic growth of Puerto Rico. Also, those skills necessary to situate the Island in the economy of the future.
    - c. **Small Business Financing Program (SBF)**: will provide a Recovery Grants phase (grants awards of up to \$150,000) for working capital and movable equipment for small businesses and microenterprises that suffered physical and/or financial losses due to the Hurricanes. Start-ups created after the Hurricanes are also eligible if they can show their creation was the result of a closure of a previous business of same owner(s), after damages caused by the Hurricanes.
    - d. **Re-grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program**: Develop, Increase and improve agricultural capacity and addresses 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.
  2. Projects or activities that are exempt from construction permits according to Act 161-2009, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Permit Process Reform Act" and the "Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation" (Regulation Number 9473).
- B. Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for demolition of structures with the purpose of restoring green areas, water retention areas and habitat recovery is consistent with the PRCZMP.
- C. Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for projects that involve demolition for reconstruction, reconstruction or construction of a new structure is consistent with the PRCZMP if the project fulfills the following requirements:
1. The project must comply with land use regulations established under the PR Land Use Plan, Territorial Plans and special plans that apply according to the location of the project.
  2. The structure to be constructed or reconstructed must comply with applicable regulations and parameters established in the "Joint Regulation for Evaluation and Expedition of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation" (Regulation Number 9473).



3. Each project must provide evidence of compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing copy of the Environmental Compliance Determination emitted by OGPe.
  4. The structure to be built or rehabilitated must be located outside flood risk zones according to the "Recommended Base Flood Level Maps" (FEMA Advisory Maps) effective on April 13, 2018, or the most recent FEMA map that applies according to the location of the project.
  5. Structures located within a flood hazard zone must evidence compliance with the Special Flood Hazard Zone Regulations (Planning Regulation Number 13) by providing copy of the FEMA Elevation Certificate (form ff-206-fy22-152) completed and signed by an engineer or surveyor.
  6. In the case of projects that are located within Historic Zones designated by the PR Planning Board, or if the structure was designated as a Historic Site, the project must have the endorsement of the Puerto Rican Culture Institute.
- D. Federal assistance awarded under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs for infrastructure projects (sidewalks, roads, highways, service lines, public squares) are consistent with the PRCZMP with the condition that the applicant fulfill the following requirements before the construction phase of the project:
1. Evidence compliance with the PR Environmental Policy Law (Law number 416 of September 22, 2004) by providing copy of the Environmental Compliance Determination emitted by the PR Permit Management Office (OGPe).
  2. Evidence compliance with the Special Flood Hazard Zone Regulations (Planning Regulation Number 13) when it is required depending on the nature and location of the project.
  3. In the case of projects that are located within Historic Zones designated by the PR Planning Board, the project must have the endorsement of the Puerto Rican Culture Institute.

The Office of Geology and Hydrogeology of the Puerto Rico Planning Board will provide a conditioned certification letter which will allow the applicant to have access to the funds to complete the design and permitting phase. The applicant must fulfill the above-mentioned requirements 90 days before beginning the construction phase.

- E. Furthermore, The PR Planning Board on February 1, 2023, issued Resolution JP-339 that covers Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Therefore, federal assistance awarded through the "Infrastructure Coordination Program" to match the non-federal items that are required for projects under PA and HMGP programs **are covered by Resolution JP-339 and will not require to be submitted to the PRPB for federal consistency review.**
- F. Hence, Projects for the reconstruction, repair, or rehabilitation of structures for water-dependent uses (piers, boat ramps etc.) **are not covered under this Resolution and must be filed at the US Army Corps of Engineers through RSS.**

This General Federal Consistency Certification will be in effect for five (5) years from the notification date of this resolution. The Certification at reference will be renewed or amended if necessary to extend its validity or address other matters.

The following parties shall be notified: William Rodríguez, Secretary, PR Department of Housing (PRDH); Angel G. López Guzman, Permits and Environmental Compliance Division, PRDH; Juna C. Perez Bofill, PRHD; Aldo A. Rivera, PRHD; Alberto Mercado, José A. Cedeño Maldonado, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Donna M. Mahon, HUD and Magaly Massanet Rodríguez, Director, Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program, DNER.

**ADOPTED** in San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 24, 2024



PLAN. JULIO LASSÚS RUIZ, LLM, MP, PPL  
President



PLAN. REBECCA RIVERA TORRES, MRP, PPL  
Vice-President



ING. JOSÉ DÍAZ DÍAZ, MEM, BSIE  
Associate Member



LEMUEL RIVERA RIVERA, BSEE, CAPM  
Associate Member

**Certify:** That this Resolution is copy of the agreement adopted by Puerto Rico Planning Board in its meeting of **July 24, 2024**. I expedite and notify this copy to the parties under my sign and official stamp of the Puerto Rico Planning Board stamp, for general use and knowledge.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today, **AUG 16 2024**



Edgardo Vázquez Rivera  
Secretary



### Self-Certification

<http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/ES/Index.html>

#### Endangered Species Act Certification

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office developed a Blanket Clearance Letter in compliance with Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for federally funded projects.

The Service determined that projects in compliance with the following criteria are not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species.

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) certifies that the following project **RUBEN FIGUEROA ORTIZ (PR-SBF-09526)**, consists of payment of utilities, purchase of inventory, and the purchase of equipment including a new affixed generator, replacement affixed sink, new affixed metal cabinets, tables 96"x30", resin chairs, highchairs, wooden stool, flat top table 30x24x35, flat top table 30x30x35, flat top table 36x30x35, hot food table, refrigerated merchandise, refrigerated 2 section, deli case, heated display case, fryer system, top bottle coolers, 2 burner stove, cauldron 20, sauce pot, troller 3 tier, refrigerator one section, and a cash register.

Project located at Carr. 1 KM 112.6 Interior Calle 1, Barrio Pastillo, Sector Cambolla, Juana Díaz, PR 00795, complies with:

Check	Project Criteria
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Street resurfacing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Construction of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Reconstruction or emergency repairs of existing buildings, facilities and homes.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Rehabilitation of existing occupied single-family homes, and buildings; provided that equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation and that the lighting associated to the new facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.

<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Demolition of dilapidated single-family homes or buildings; provided that the demolition debris is disposed in certified receiving facilities; equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Rebuilding of demolished single-family homes or buildings, provided that the new construction is within the existing footprint of the previous structure and/or within pre-existing grassed or paved areas, and that the lighting associated to the new facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) of roads, bridges and highways, when limited to actions that do not involve cutting native vegetation or mayor earth moving; and are not located within, or adjacent to, drainages, wetlands, or aquatic systems. These activities include the installation of potable water and sanitary pipelines.
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Improvements to existing recreational facilities, including the installation of roofs to existing basketball courts, provided that the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from the beach.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Construction of electric underground systems in existing towns and communities, provided that the property is not a wetland area and the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from the beach.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Construction of facilities on vacant properties covered with grasses in urban areas, provided that the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from the beach.
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Construction of houses, buildings or acquiring lands in urban areas covered by grass for relocation of low-income families and/or facilities that have been affected by weather conditions.



Ángel G. López-Guzmán  
Deputy Director

11/1/2024

Date



USFWS Self-Certification  
[Case Number]

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

Office of Disaster Recovery

**Address:** P.O. Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928

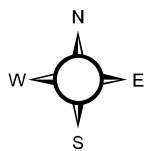
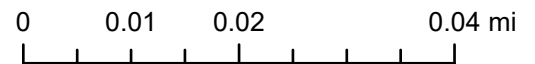
**Telephone and Ext:** 787-274-2527 ext. 4320

**Email:** [environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov)

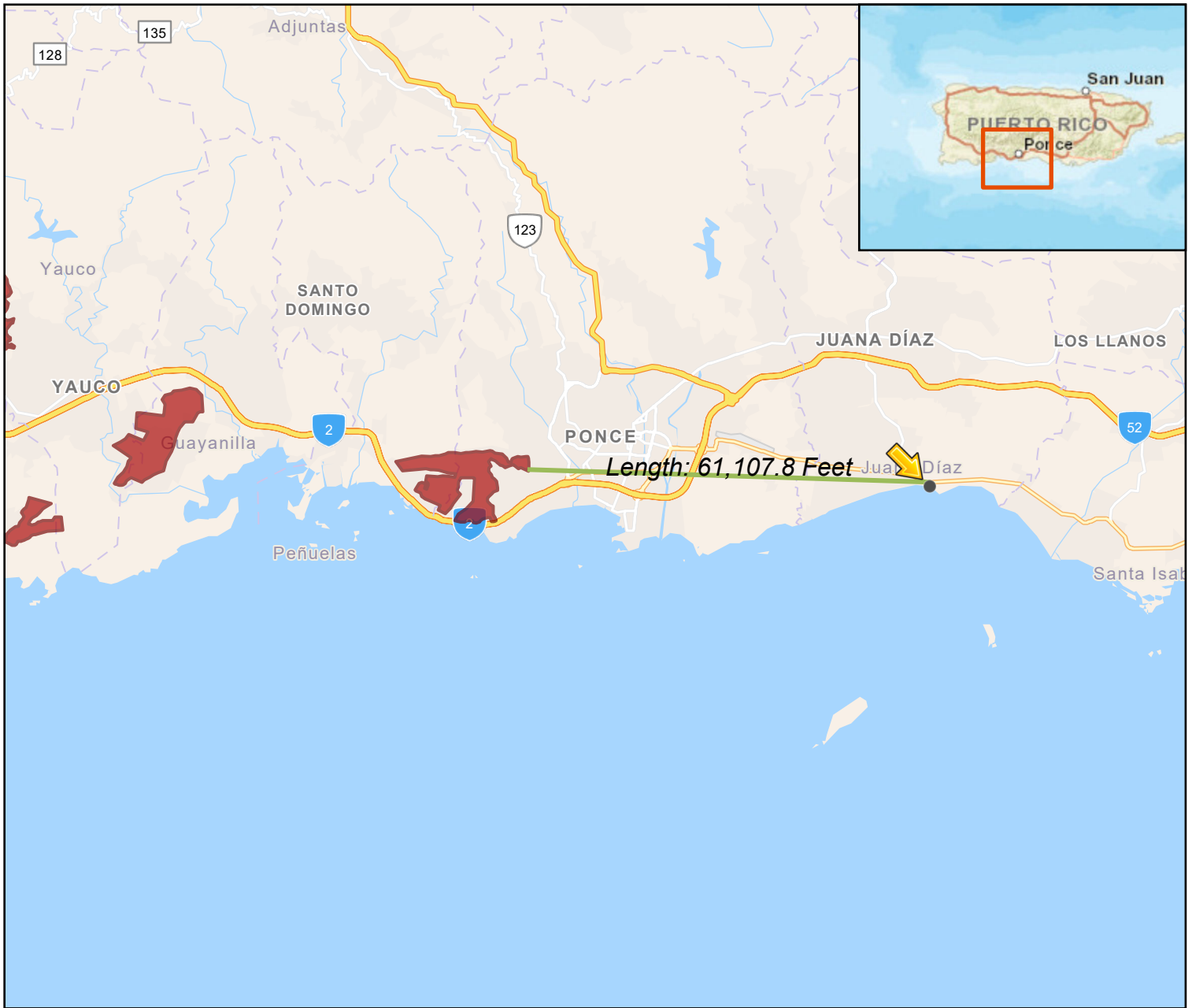
# PR-SBF-09526 Site Map



Legend

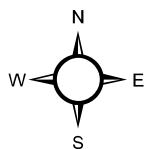
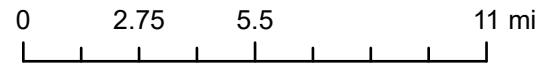


# PR-SBF-09526 Endangered Species



Legend

USFWS\_Critical\_Habitat - Critical Habitat - Polygon Features - Final (agency service)



Endangered Species Habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



## Memorandum to File

**Date:** 10/30/2024

**From:** Chris Rickard  
CDBG-DR Program  
Small Business Financing Program  
Puerto Rico Department of Housing

**Application Number:** PR-SBF-09526

**Project:** RUBEN FIGUEROA ORTIZ

### **Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing**

After reviewing Application Number PR-SBF-09526 under the Small Business Financing Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

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

- As required by the CPD Notice 23-103, the scientific data reviewed in lieu of testing must consist of a minimum of ten documented test results over the previous ten years. If there are less than ten documented results over this period, it is understood that there is a lack of scientific data. The latest report for radon testing in Puerto Rico was prepared in 1995 by the U.S. Department of the Interior in Cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. No other completed studies and reports on radon testing are available in Puerto Rico.
- There is no available science-based or state-generated information for Puerto Rico for the last ten years that can be used to determine whether the project site is in a high-risk area. The Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**), National Environmental Public Health Tracking, and Radon Testing map do not include Puerto Rico data.
- There are only two (2) licensed professionals in Puerto Rico who can conduct radon testing using the American National Standards Institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (**ANSI/AARST**) testing standards,

which makes it difficult, time-consuming, and highly expensive to coordinate and secure a site visit for the contamination evaluation.

- Do-it-yourself (**DIY**) radon test kits are known to be unreliable in assuring and controlling the quality of the test results; they are not readily available in Puerto Rico, and the cost and time required for purchasing and sending them for analysis are unreasonable when weighed against the results' reliability and the need for prompt results.
- Local authorities in Puerto Rico do not have the specialized radon monitoring equipment or trained staff needed to conduct the radon testing analysis and ensure proper quality control and quality assurance practices are adhered to. We also do not have a radiation laboratory certified for radon testing.

As part of the evaluation for this determination, PRDOH sent information requests to six (6) local agencies at the state and federal levels. We received responses from the following agencies:

- United States Geological Survey;
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Puerto Rico Department of Health; and
- United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The agencies mentioned above confirmed the lack of scientific data on Radon testing for Puerto Rico and the technical difficulties that we face to comply with HUD's Radon testing requirement. For the above-mentioned reasons, Radon testing is infeasible and impracticable for this property, and no further consideration of Radon is needed for the environmental review.

Signature: *Chris Rickard*

Date: 10/30/2024





# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services

Field Office

P.O. Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622

**JAN 14 2013**

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R4/CESFO/BKT/HUD

Mr. Efrain Maldonado  
Field Office Director  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
235 Federico Costa Street, Suite 200  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918

Re: Blanket Clearance Letter for Federally  
sponsored projects, Housing and Urban  
Development

Dear Mr. Maldonado:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is one of two lead Federal Agencies responsible for the protection and conservation of Federal Trust Resources, including threatened or endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA). In the U.S. Caribbean, the USFWS has jurisdiction over terrestrial plants and animals, the Antillean manatee and sea turtles when nesting. The National Marine Fisheries Service has jurisdiction over marine species, except for the manatee. The ESA directs all Federal agencies to participate in conserving these species. Specially, section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to consult with the USFWS to ensure that actions they fund authorize, permit, or otherwise carry out will not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. The USFWS issued regulations in 1986 detailing the consultation process. As part of this consultation process, the USFWS review development projects to assist Federal agencies on the compliance of the ESA.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) typically allocate grant funds for rural and urban development projects. Obligations under the ESA, as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), require HUD to perform consultation and an environmental impact review prior to the project's authorization. Primarily, these projects involve repair or reconstruction of existing facilities associated with developed land.

In order to expedite the consultation process, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office has developed this Blanket Clearance Letter (BCL) to cover for activities and projects that typically result in no adverse effects to federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. If projects comply with the project criteria discussed below, no further consultation with the USFWS is needed.

Project Criteria

1. Street resurfacing.
2. Construction of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.
3. Reconstruction or emergency repairs of existing buildings, facilities and homes.
4. Rehabilitation of existing occupied single family homes, and buildings; provided that equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation and that the lighting associated to the new facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
5. Demolition of dilapidated single family homes or buildings; provided that the demolition debris is disposed in certified receiving facilities; equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation.
6. Rebuilding of demolished single family homes or buildings, provided that the new construction is within the existing footprint of the previous structure and/or within pre-existing grassed or paved areas, and that the lighting associated to the new facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
7. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) of roads, bridges and highways, when limited to actions that do not involve cutting native vegetation or mayor earth moving; and are not located within, or adjacent to, drainages, wetlands, or aquatic systems. These activities include the installation of potable water and sanitary pipelines.
8. Improvements to existing recreational facilities, including the installation of roofs to existing basketball courts, provided that the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from the beach.
9. Construction of electric underground systems in existing towns and communities, provided that the property is not a wetland area and the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from the beach.
10. Construction of facilities on vacant properties covered with grasses in urban areas, provided that the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from the beach.
11. Construction of houses, buildings or acquiring lands in urban areas covered by grass for relocation of low income families and/or facilities that have been affected by weather conditions.

Determination:

Based on the nature of the projects described above and habitat characteristics described on project criteria, we have determined that the actions and type of projects described above may be conducted within this BCL without adversely affecting federally-listed



species under our jurisdiction. Thus, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

In all situations, HUD, and the municipalities are expected to implement Best Management Practices, where applicable, to ensure that impacts from erosion and stream sedimentation are appropriately minimized.

The Service encourages your agency to enhance the conservation of our trust resources (i.e.; listed species, wetlands, aquatic habitats, migratory birds and marine mammals). We therefore, provide the following recommendations that have proven to help in this way.

Water Crossing Structures:

1. Use of bottomless culverts or single span bridges instead of traditional box or RCP culverts or any other water crossing structure that impacts the stream bottom, particularly in streams which support native fish. The use of bottomless culverts or a short span bridge would provide a more stable crossing and would not alter the stream habitat. However, if bottomless structures or bridges are not feasible due to cost or engineering constraints, we recommend the following criteria be used to maintain good habitat in the streams:
  - a. The stream should not be widened to fit the bridge since this can lead to sedimentation during low flows and possible bank erosion during high flows. Rather, the bridge should be designed to fit the stream channel at the point of crossing. Culverts should be sized to carry natural bank full flow. Additional flow can be capture by culverts placed at a higher elevation so as not to impact bank full flows.
  - b. Bridge abutments, wing walls or any other structures should not intrude into the active stream channel.
  - c. All culvert footings must be countersunk into the stream channel at both the invert and outlet ends at a minimum of 10% of the culvert height. This will align the water crossing structure with the slope of the stream.
  - d. Waterways must not be blocked as to impede the free movement of water and fish. Materials moved during construction, such as grubbing, earth fills, and earth cut materials must not be piled where they can fall back into the stream and block the drainage courses.
  - e. Appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation controls measures are to be undertaken to protect water quality until riverbanks are re-vegetated. It has been our experience that appropriate erosion and/or sedimentation control measures are not implemented properly by project contractors. In order to function properly, silt fences need to be buried 6" (proper depth is marked by a line on the silt fence) and supported at regular intervals by wood stakes. For that reason we are recommending that



the enclosed drawing of proper silt fence installation is included in all final project construction plans.

- f. Upon completion of a water crossing construction, any temporary fill, must be removed from the construction area and disposed in a landfill.

Limitations:

Actions that do not meet the above project criteria, such as actions requiring placement of fill, disturbance, or modification to land outside of an existing access road or ROW; actions that occur on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forest vegetation; actions requiring excavation, clearing of native vegetation, or alteration of storm water drainage patterns; or actions that require lighting which can be directly or indirectly seen from a beach, must be individually coordinated through the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**The Service reserves the right to revoke or modify this BCL if:**

1. New information reveals that the categories of work covered in this BCL may affect listed or designated critical habitat in a manner, or to an extent, not previously considered.
2. The categories of work included in this BCL are subsequently modified to include activities not considered in this review.
3. New species are listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected.

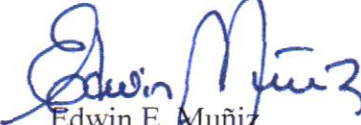
It is our mission to work with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of our people.

To obtain additional information on threatened and endangered species, you may visit our website <http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/ES> where you will also find the Map of the Species by Municipality and the Map of Critical Habitat. The USFWS has also developed a web based tool called IPac. Please visit <http://www.ecos.fws.gov/ipac> and familiarize yourself with the features we offer. We encourage you to begin your project planning process by requesting an **Official Species List** for your individual project that will include all species that may occur in the vicinity of the action area and includes a map of the action area. The site will also identify designated critical habitat, or other natural resources of concern that may be affected by your proposed project. At this time, best management practices or conservation measures are not available at the site but we expect the site to continue growing in its offering.

These maps provide information on the species/habitat relations within a municipality and could provide the applicants an insight if the proposed action is covered under this BCL or may affect a species, thus requiring individual review.

If you have any additional question regarding this BCL, please do not hesitate to contact Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor, at 787-851-7297 extension 206.

Sincerely yours,



Edwin E. Muñiz  
Field Supervisor

Enclosures (Fact Sheets)

cc: OCAM, San Juan  
Office of Federal Funds, 78 Municipalities of Puerto Rico  
AAA  
PRFAA  
DNER

**Radon**  
**Attachments**



August 20, 2024

Mrs. Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez
Director
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division
City View Plaza II – Suite 7000
#48 Rd. 165 km 1.2
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069

Via email: guerrero.carmen@epa.gov

RE: Request for information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) kindly requests your assistance in gathering data, information, or reports related to radon testing in Puerto Rico, as this information is crucial for our compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103.

This Notice emphasizes the importance of radon testing and mitigation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assisted properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery and Mitigation (CDBG-DR/MIT), is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental requirements under CDBG-DR/MIT programs. To fulfill our obligations under this Notice, we must compile comprehensive and up-to-date information on radon levels, testing practices, and any mitigation efforts within the islands of Puerto Rico.

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following information:

Radon testing data – Results from radon testing conducted within your agency's purview, including details on location, testing methods, and recorded radon levels.

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

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

Historical data – If available, historical data or trends in radon levels within the regions you monitor that may impact HUD-assisted housing.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Oleg Povelko, Povelko.Oleg@epa.gov
Mr. Matthew Lautita, lautita.matthew@epa.gov



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

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Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

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





August 20, 2024

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

Via email: [OIA@cdc.gov](mailto:OIA@cdc.gov)

**RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico**

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Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365  
Tel. (787) 274-2527 | [www.viviendap.rg.pr.gov](http://www.viviendap.rg.pr.gov)

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

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Sincerely,

  
William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.  
Secretary



August 20, 2024

Mrs. Anais Rodríguez  
Secretary  
Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources  
Carretera 8838, km. 6.3, Sector El Cinco,  
Río Piedras San Juan, PR 00926

Via email: [anais.rodriguez@dma.pr.gov](mailto:anais.rodriguez@dma.pr.gov)

**RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico**

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CDBG-DR/MIT Program  
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Sincerely,

  
William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.  
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Luis Márquez, [secretariogaire@dma.pr.gov](mailto:secretariogaire@dma.pr.gov)  
Eng. Amarilys Rosario, [aire@dma.pr.gov](mailto:aire@dma.pr.gov)  
Mrs. Elid Ortega, [ortega@dma.pr.gov](mailto:ortega@dma.pr.gov)



August 20, 2024

Dr. Carlos R. Mellado López  
Secretary  
Puerto Rico Department of Health  
PO Box 70184  
San Juan, PR 00936-8184

Via email: [drCarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov](mailto:drCarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov)

**RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico**

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August 20, 2024

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

Via email: [hswyers@usgs.gov](mailto:hswyers@usgs.gov)

**RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico**

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.  
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Raúl Hernández Dabla, [rahernandez2@salud.pr.gov](mailto:rahernandez2@salud.pr.gov)

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.  
Secretary

Cc: Mr. R. Randall Schumann, [rschumann@usgs.gov](mailto:rschumann@usgs.gov)

**From:** Charp, Paul (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP) <pac4@cdc.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2024 6:36 AM  
**To:** Miranda, Sandra (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Irizarry, Jessica (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Rzeszotarski, Peter (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP); Vinson, D. Aaron (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)  
**Cc:** Kostak, Liana (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Vazquez, Germaine (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)  
**Subject:** RE: REHi: Puerto Rico Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Good morning, Sandra and others,

In response to the request from Mr. William Rodriguez of the Department of Housing, Government of Puerto Rico, I have reviewed all the available data within the CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network system for data related to radon in Puerto Rico. In addition to the tracking data available on the internet, I also reached out to Mr. Aaron Vinson of the NCEH Tracking Branch.

I was not able to find any data in the CDC systems and this was confirmed by Mr. Vinson. We also reached out the US Environmental Protection Agency who indicated they had no radon data in their systems. Please relay this information to Mr. Rodriguez in your response to his requests

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

Paul A. Charp, Ph.D., Fellow, HPS  
Senior Health Physicist  
Emerging Environmental Hazards and Health Effects Branch (EEHHEB)  
Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice (DEHSP)  
National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
pcharp@cdc.gov  
770-488-0723 office  
404.388.0614 Cell





**From:** Schumann, R. Randall <rschumann@usgs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 4:39 PM  
**To:** Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Weyers, Holly S <hsweyers@usgs.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Information- Radon testing and levels

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

In the early 1990s the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducted geologic assessments of radon potential for all 50 states and the territories of Guam and Puerto Rico, in collaboration with the U.S. EPA. I conducted the geologic radon potential assessment for Puerto Rico. The PDF file of the report is too large to attach to this message but it can be obtained at <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1993/0292k/report.pdf>. The USGS did not conduct indoor radon testing and we did not conduct field studies associated with this assessment; it was based on existing data. Mr. David Saldana of the Puerto Rico Department of Health kindly provided us with data for 610 homes that were tested for indoor radon by his agency between 1993 and 1995, which are summarized in the report. I am not aware of any other radon-related geologic studies conducted in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Best regards,

R. Randall Schumann  
Scientist Emeritus  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Geosciences and Environmental Change Science Center  
Denver, Colorado, USA  
[rschumann@usgs.gov](mailto:rschumann@usgs.gov)  
<https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/r-randall-schumann>

-----

**From:** Raul Hernandez Doble <rhernandez2@salud.pr.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 2:13:31 PM  
**To:** Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Dr. Carlos Mellado <drcarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Mayra Toro Tirado <mtoro@salud.pr.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]Request for Information- Radon testing and levels

Good afternoon. Ms. Medina

I regret to inform that we do not have any recent information on radon testing, since we do not have a certified radiation laboratory certified for radon testing. There are companies that sell test kits available online that can be done and mailed to a testing laboratory. There are also lists of radon contractors and these companies that process radon testing cartridges with instructions, on the Environmental Protection Agency Indoor air Quality web page. The last radon study in Puerto Rico done by the PR Department of Health was done on the year 1993.

Raul Hernandez Doble  
Director, Seccion Salud Radiologica  
Division de Salud Ambiental  
Secretaria Auxiliar para la Vigilancia y la Proteccion de la Salud Publica  
[rhernandez2@salud.gov.pr](mailto:rhernandez2@salud.gov.pr)  
Phone: (787)765-2929 ext. 3210



---

**From:** Reyes, Brenda <Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:48 AM  
**To:** Cesar O Rodriguez Santos <cesarrodriguez@drna.pr.gov>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov>; Silvina Cancelos Mancini <silvina.cancelos@upr.edu>; Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Povetko, Oleg (he/him/his) <Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Saludos.

La EPA esta trabajando una respuesta a su petición. Se sometió borrador a la directora y el subdirector para su aprobación y firma.

Brenda Reyes Tomassini  
Public Affairs  
U.S. EPA  
Region 2  
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division  
(787) 977-5869/(787) 977-5865  
Mobile: 202-834-1290

---

**From:** Silvina Cancelos Mancini <[silvina.cancelos@upr.edu](mailto:silvina.cancelos@upr.edu)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 15:04  
**To:** Melanie Medina Smaine <[mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Elaine Dume Mejia <[Edume@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:Edume@vivienda.pr.gov)>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <[Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov)>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <[aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov)>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <[maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov](mailto:maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov)>; Reyes, Brenda <[Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov](mailto:Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov)>; Povetko, Oleg <[Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov](mailto:Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Estimada Melanie Medina

Quería dejarte saber que recibimos su correo el 21 de agosto al igual que el de Maritza Rosa el pasado 4 de septiembre. Ya las personas involucradas de EPA, junto conmigo y el Dr. Marín estamos al tanto del asunto y estamos trabajando para poder enviarles la información.

Atentamente

Silvina Cancelos  
Professor  
Associate Director  
Mechanical Engineering Department  
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez  
Call BOX 9000 Mayaguez PR 00680  
Tel: 787-832-4040 ext 5956  
email: [silvina.cancelos@upr.edu](mailto:silvina.cancelos@upr.edu)



Bubble Dynamics Lab  
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez



EPA REGION 2  
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

September 23, 2024

**VIA EMAIL**

William O. Rodriguez Rodriguez, Esq.  
Secretary  
Puerto Rico Department of Housing  
Barbosa Ave. 606 Building Juan C. Cordero  
San Juan, PR 00917  
Email: W.Rodriguez@vivienda.pr.gov

**RE: EPA Response to August 20, 2024 request for information of data on radon testing and levels in Puerto Rico**

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodriguez Rodriguez:

This communication is in response to your letter of August 20, 2024 addressed to the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) and referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico.

EPA's National Radon Action Plan 2021–2025 sets a goal for the nation to find, fix and prevent high indoor radon levels in 8 million buildings by 2025 and prevent 3,500 lung cancer deaths per year. Under this Plan, leaders from across multiple sectors are working together to plan, guide, and sustain nationwide action to prevent exposure to radon.

Due to the lack of data in Puerto Rico, EPA undertook an investigation in collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez (UPRM) Campus, Departments of Civil Engineering and Surveying and Mechanical Engineering, to find out if radon presented a problem in Puerto Rico. Up until 2021, the only data we had for Puerto Rico was a 1993-1995 mail-in radon screening study referred to by the U.S. Geological Survey report (USGS, 1995) in which the USGS concluded that several areas of Puerto Rico have the geologic potential to generate indoor radon levels exceeding the EPA Action Level of 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter), perhaps locally reaching very high levels above 50 pCi/L, if a house construction and

ventilation allow for soil-gas radon to enter and concentrate within the structure.<sup>1</sup> According to the USGS report, most of these areas are located in the northwest part of the island. Please note that the actual 1993-1995 study documentation is not available to the EPA.

Typical radon testing technology used in mainland United States (charcoal canisters or electric-powered devices) are impractical in Puerto Rico because of high humidity and power outages. The recovery and rebuilding of communities following the aftermath of 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria presented an opportunity to develop radon prevention and mitigation strategies in 2019. Initially, EPA sampled indoor radon air in over 170 single-family residences in the municipalities of San Sebastian, Lares, Ciales, Arecibo, Morovis, Camuy, and Hatillo and later expanded the project to other municipalities such as Rincon, Aguada, Aguadilla, Isabela, Quebradillas, Barceloneta and Vega Baja. The quality assurance protocols were anchored in American National Standards Institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (ANSI/AARST) standards of practice (ANSI/AARS, 2019). The sampling was designed in two stages: scoping and confirmatory sampling. The scoping sampling was conducted using Corentium Home (CH) electronic monitors and E-Perm systems. Locations measuring above the EPA Action Level of 4 pCi/L with CH were measured at the second stage of the sampling using RAD7 and Corentium Pro Continuous Radon Monitors (CRMs). Nationally certified radon sampling professionals led by one such professional from the UPRM conducted confirmatory sampling in the second stage. Also, during the study, the nationally certified radon mitigation professionals inspected several homes with elevated indoor radon levels.

Mapping radon in Puerto Rico proved to be a complicated endeavor given the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. EPA and UPRM continue to work on the project, however, results have not been finalized, and no scientific report has been published yet. Unfortunately, EPA cannot share preliminary data at this time because it contains privileged information. Nevertheless, preliminary data from the study does show homes with levels over 4 pCi/L (EPA Action Level) that might need mitigation to protect the health of their inhabitants.

Although many states have developed laws and regulations governing radon disclosure, certification, and mitigation, Puerto Rico lacks legislation or mandatory radon testing provisions for new construction, remodeling, selling or buying homes. Given this loophole and aiming to answer your request, the EPA can provide information on Best Management Practices for sampling indoor radon in Puerto Rico.

<sup>1</sup> Reference: USGS. Geologic Radon Potential of Guam and Puerto Rico, Report 93-292-K. Washington, DC: USGS. Retrieved 9/11/2024, from <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1993/0292k/report.pdf>.

CITY VIEW PLAZA II BUILDING, 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
ROUTE 185 GUAYNABO, PR 00988

2

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at 787-977-5865 or [guerrero.carmen@epa.gov](mailto:guerrero.carmen@epa.gov) or have your staff contact Reyes, Brenda at [reyes.brenda@epa.gov](mailto:reyes.brenda@epa.gov) or (787) 977-5869.

Sincerely,  
**CARMEN GUERRERO PEREZ**  
Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez  
Director

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

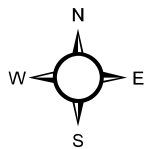
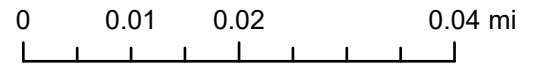
cc: Roberto Mendez, Esq (Acting Secretary, PR Department of Natural and Env. Resources)  
Melany Medina: [mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov)  
Elaine Dume Mejia: [Edume@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:Edume@vivienda.pr.gov)  
Luz S Colon Ortiz: [Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov)  
Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez: [aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov](mailto:aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov)  
Cesar O. Rodriguez: [cesarrodriiguez@drna.pr.gov](mailto:cesarrodriiguez@drna.pr.gov)  
Marita Rosa Olivares: [maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov](mailto:maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov)

# PR-SBF-09526 ABFE



## Legend

- AE
- Coastal A Zone
- VE
- Zone/BFE Boundary

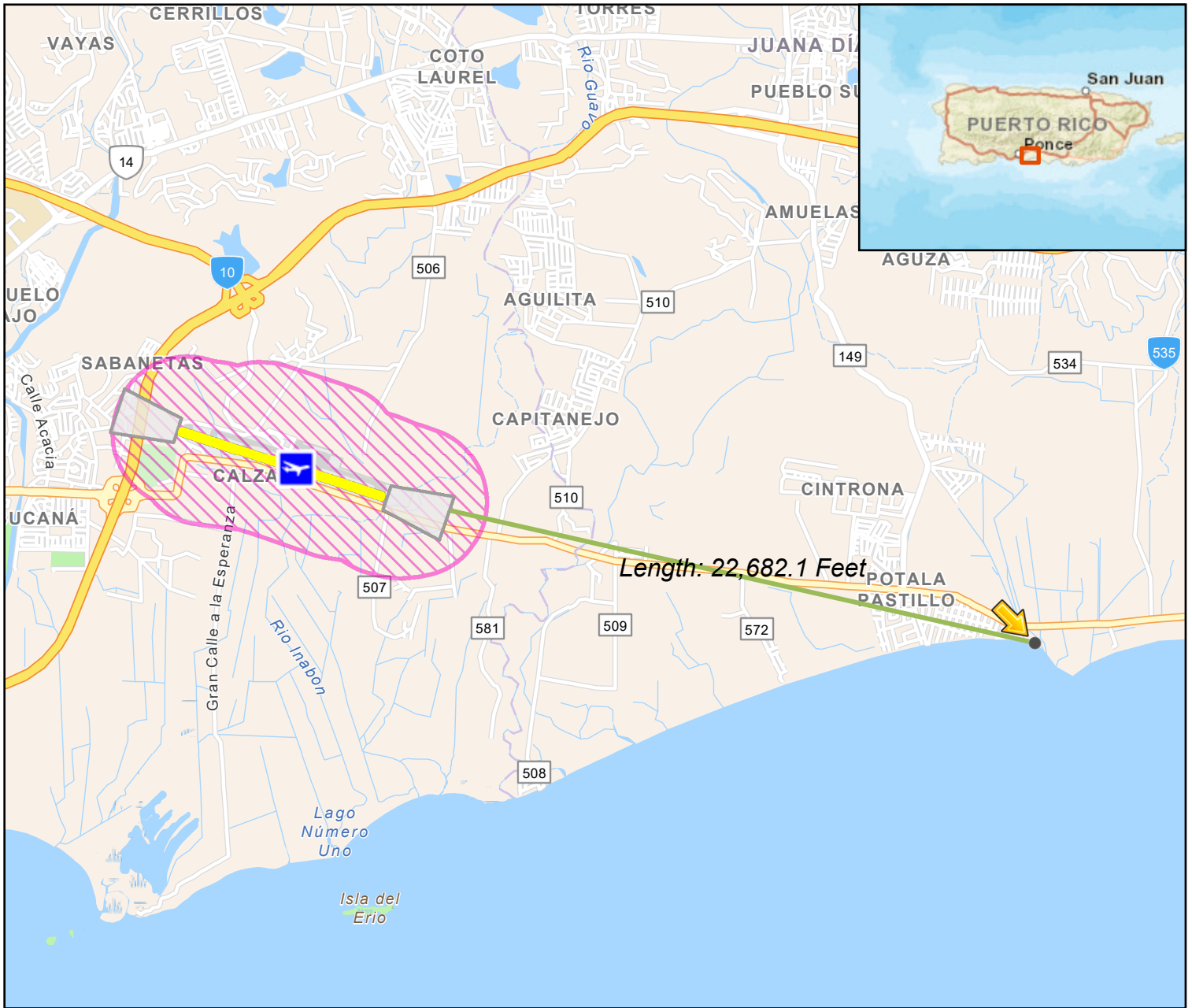


FEMA Map Service





ABFE 1PCT

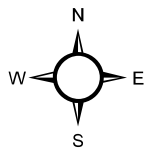
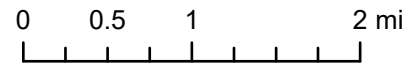


# PR-SBF-09526 Airports



## Legend

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



Runway Protection Zones

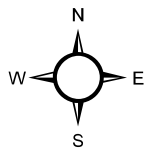
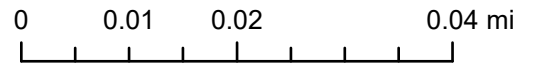
Major Civil and Military Airports

# PR-SBF-09526 CBRBS



### Legend

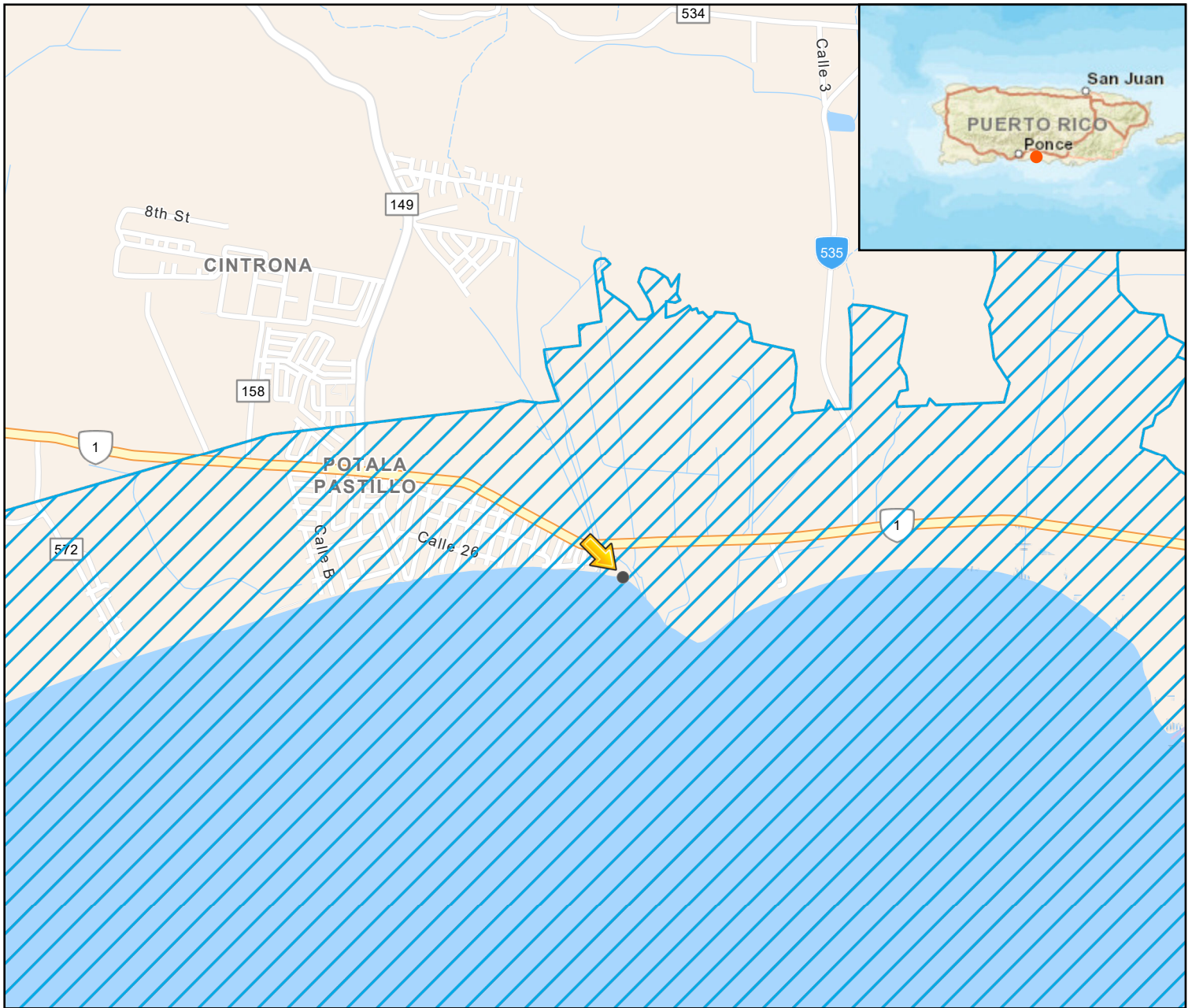
System Unit



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

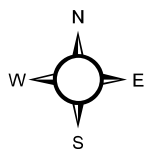
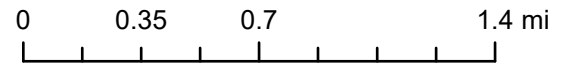
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program

# PR-SBF-09526 CZM



## Legend

 Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary

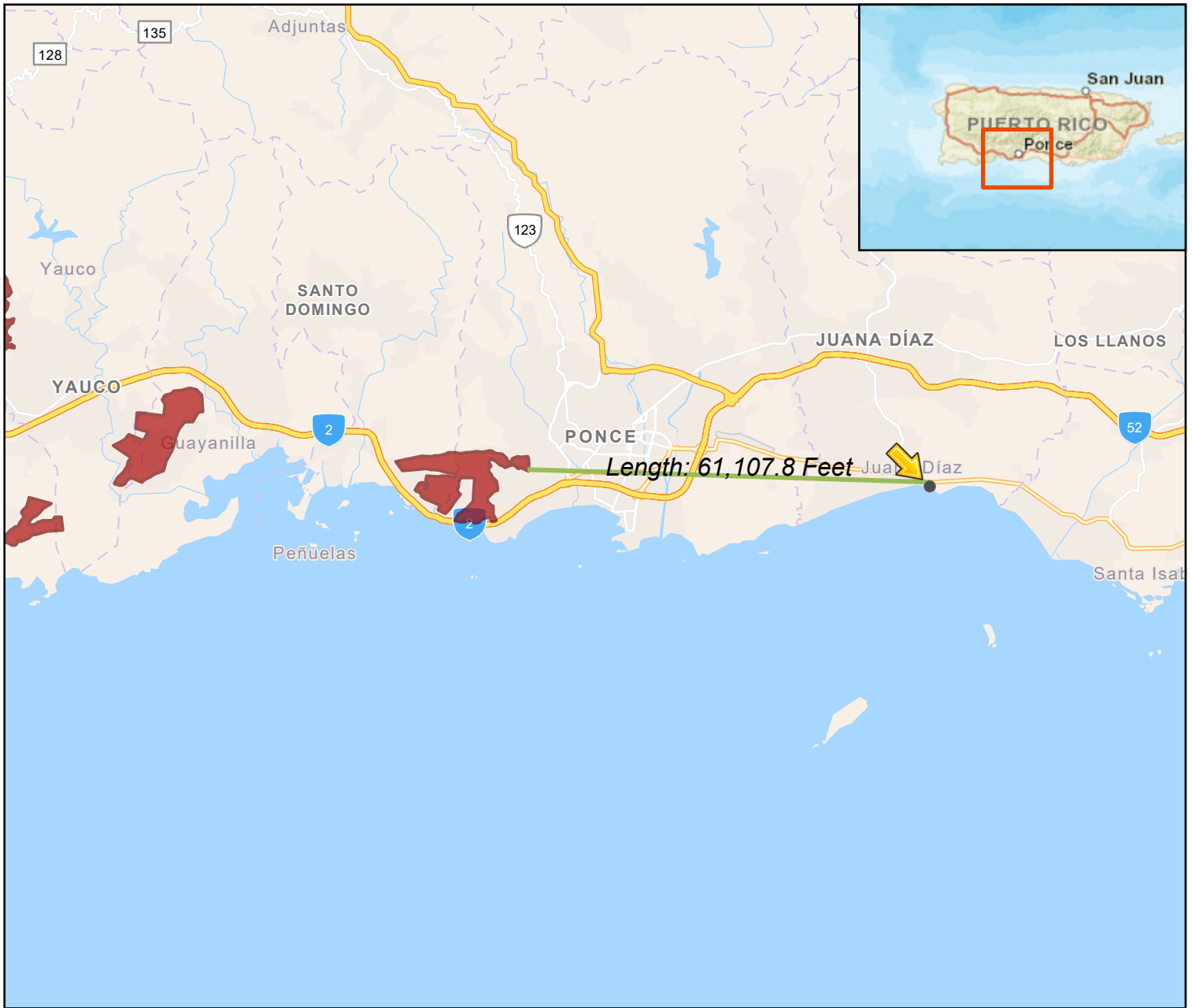


NOAA

Coastal Zone Management Act

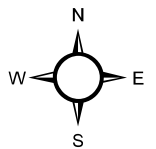
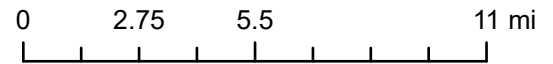


# PR-SBF-09526 Endangered Species



Legend

■ USFWS\_Critical\_Habitat - Critical Habitat - Polygon Features - Final (agency service)



Endangered Species Habitat

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

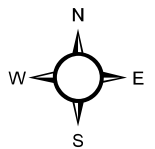
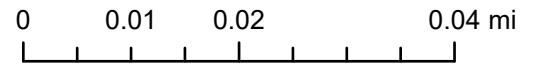
# PR-SBF-09526 Farmlands



Legend

ClassName

Not Prime Farmland



USGS USA Soils

Farmland dataset












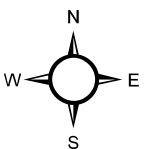
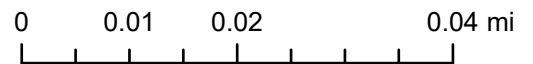
# PR-SBF-09526 Flood Map



Legend

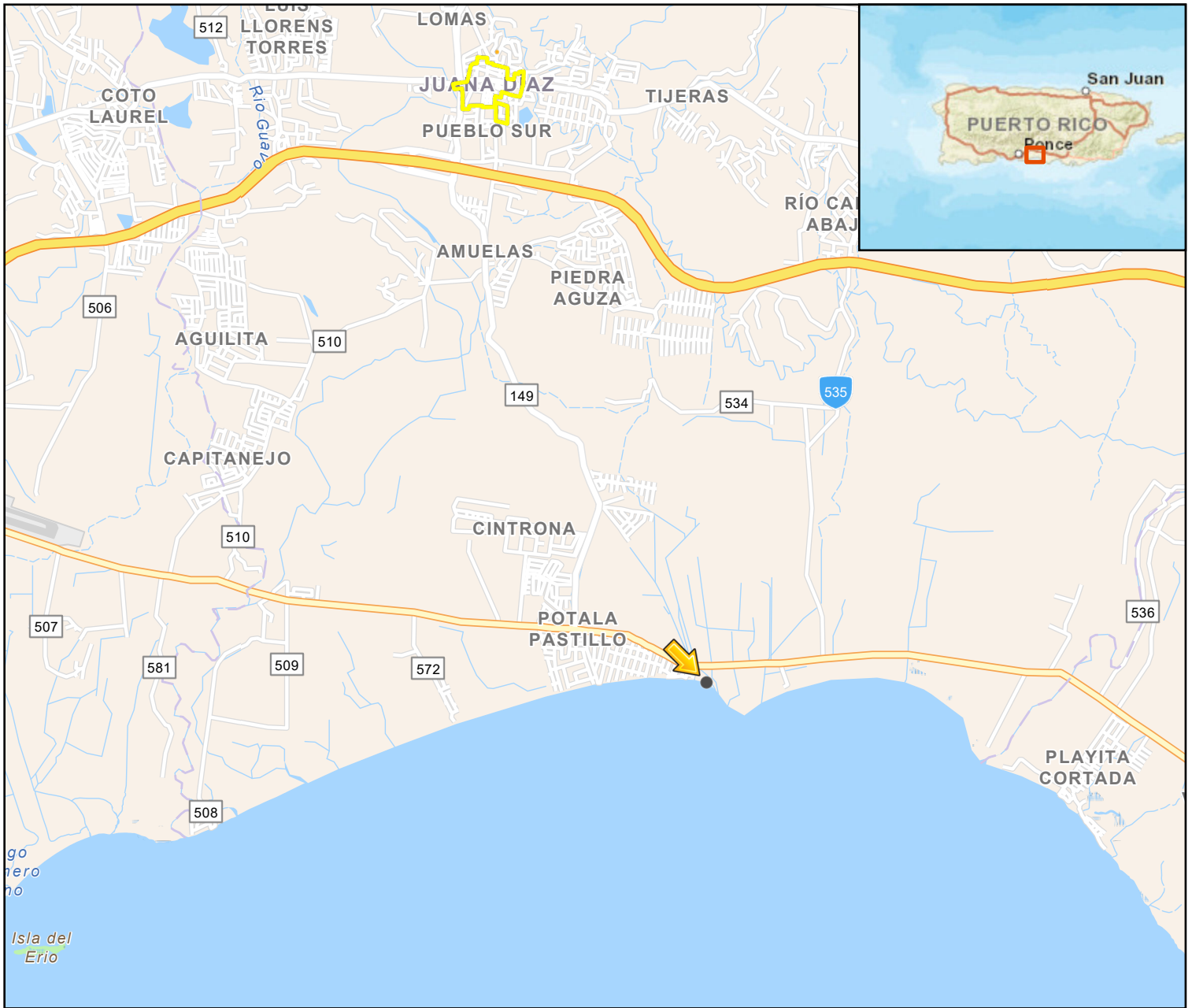
FEMA Flood Zones - Effective

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



FEMA Map Service  
 Flood Insurance Rate Maps

# PR-SBF-09526 Historic Map

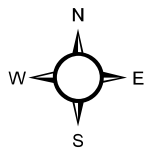
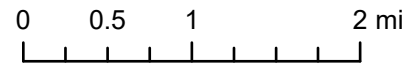


## Legend

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

Traditional Urban Centers

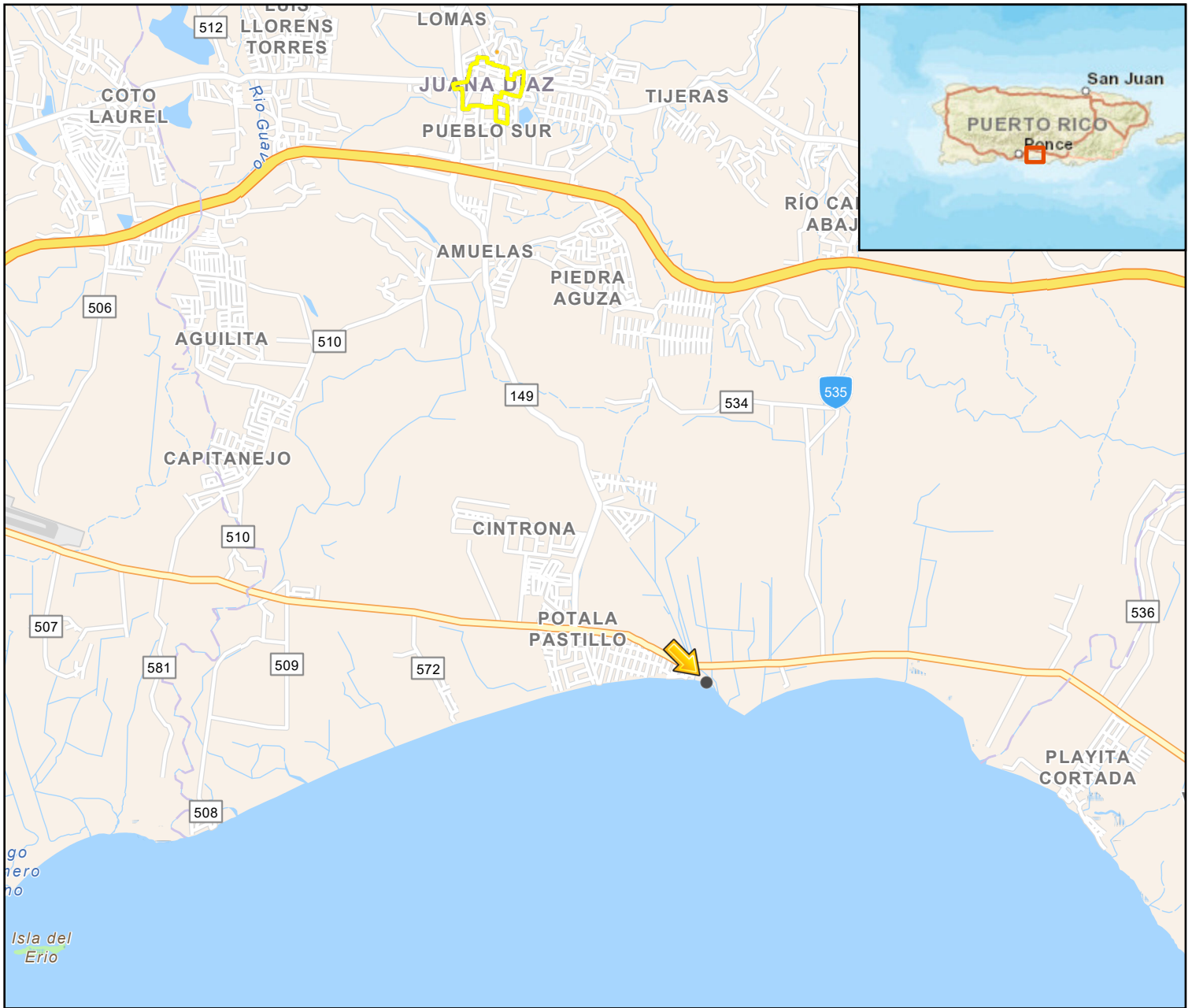
National Register Of Historic Places Points



National Register of Historic Places

Local Historic Areas digitized by Horne

# PR-SBF-09526 Historic Map

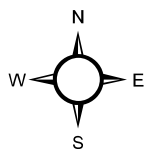
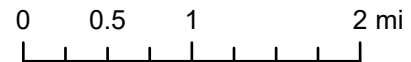


## Legend

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

National Register Of Historic Places Points

Traditional Urban Centers



National Register of Historic Places

Local Historic Areas digitized by Horne



## BANCO DE DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO PARA PUERTO RICO PROGRAMA DE FINANCIAMIENTO PARA PEQUEÑAS EMPRESAS FORMULARIO SOBRE USO PREVISTO DE LOS FONDOS

Yo, Rubén Figueroa Ortiz, representante autorizado/a para el negocio Rubén Figueroa Ortiz HNC Rubén Figueroa Ortiz, con el Caso Número PR-SBF-09526 para el Programa de Financiamiento para Pequeñas Empresas (**Programa SBF**, por sus siglas en inglés, o **Programa**), por la presente reconozco que fondos de subvención por la suma de \$46,221.67 se usarán de conformidad con el uso de fondos descrito a continuación.

Además, reconozco que el Formulario sobre Uso Previsto de los Fondos se utilizará durante el proceso de revisión de recibos para verificar el cumplimiento mediante una comparación entre dicho formulario y los recibos recibidos durante el proceso de revisión.

Respuesta		Capital de Trabajo Solicitado Cantidad mensual	Promedio Mensual para el Negocio	Total de meses solicitados (6 meses máx.)	Total \$	Iniciales
Sí <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Inventario	\$498.83			RF
Sí <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alquiler o Hipoteca para las instalaciones de negocio	\$0.00			RF
Sí <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Salario para los empleados del negocio	\$0.00			RF
Sí <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Servicios Públicos	\$231.50			RF

Muebles o Equipos					
Respuesta(Si/No)	Item	Num de Unidades		Costo por Unidad	Unmet Need
Si	Generador Electrico 10Kw	1	1	\$5,123.42	\$5,123.42
Si	Mesa 96"x 30"	10	10	\$217.42	\$2,174.20
Si	Sillas en Resina	40	40	\$50.17	\$2,006.80
Si	Sillas de Infantes	2	2	\$306.62	\$613.24
Si	Armario en Metal 18"x 72"	1	1	\$886.42	\$886.42
Si	Armario en metal (utc)	1	1	\$724.75	\$724.75
Si	Stool Madera	3	3	\$328.92	\$986.76
Si	Stainless Steel Sink	1	1	\$724.75	\$724.75
Si	Flat Top Table 30x24x35	1	1	\$206.27	\$206.27
Si	Flat Top Table 30x30x35	1	1	\$222.94	\$222.94
Si	Flat Top Table 36x30x35	1	1	\$239.72	\$239.72
Si	Hot Food Table 12"x 20"	1	1	\$4,404.25	\$4,404.25
Si	Refrigerator Merchandise	1	1	\$2,112.92	\$2,112.92
Si	Refrigerator 2 Section	1	1	\$3,785.42	\$3,785.42
Si	Deli Case Refrigerade	1	1	\$5,569.42	\$5,569.42
Si	Heated Display Case 26"W	1	1	\$557.44	\$557.44
Si	Fryer System	1	1	\$1,226.50	\$1,226.50
Si	Top Bottle Coolers 6 pta	1	1	\$3,791.00	\$3,791.00
Si	Estufa 3 Hornillas	1	1	\$925.39	\$925.39
Si	Caldero #20	2	2	\$100.29	\$200.58
Si	Sauce Pot 14qt	2	2	\$83.62	\$167.24
Si	Trolley 3 Tier 30"x 16"x33	1	1	\$178.34	\$178.34
Si	Refrigerator One-Section	1	1	\$2,224.42	\$2,224.42
Si	Caja Registradora	1	1	\$2,787.50	\$2,787.50

\$ 4,381.98  
 Capital de Trabajo Total

\$ 41,839.69  
 Equipo Mueble Total

\$ 46,221.67  
 Total



Además, reconozco y entiendo que:

- La falta de cumplimiento con el uso previsto de los fondos descrito en este Formulario podría requerir el pago de los fondos al Banco de Desarrollo Económico para Puerto Rico.
- El propósito del uso solicitado de los fondos de SBF es solo para actividades elegibles y el uso permitido de los fondos, según se establece en las Guías del Programa SBF.
- El Formulario sobre Uso Previsto de los Fondos será revisado por el equipo del Programa SBF y, **si es aprobado**, será el formulario oficial que se utilizará durante el proceso de revisión de los recibos.

Rubén Figueroa Ortiz

Nombre



Firma

10/31/2023

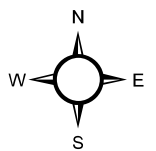
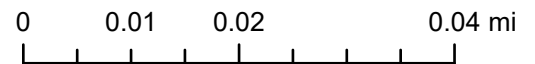
Fecha



# PR-SBF-09526 Site Map



Legend

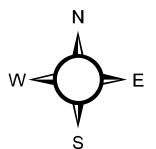
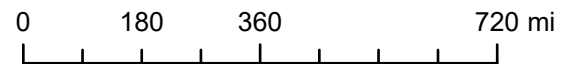


# PR-SBF-09526 Sole Source Aquifers



**Legend**

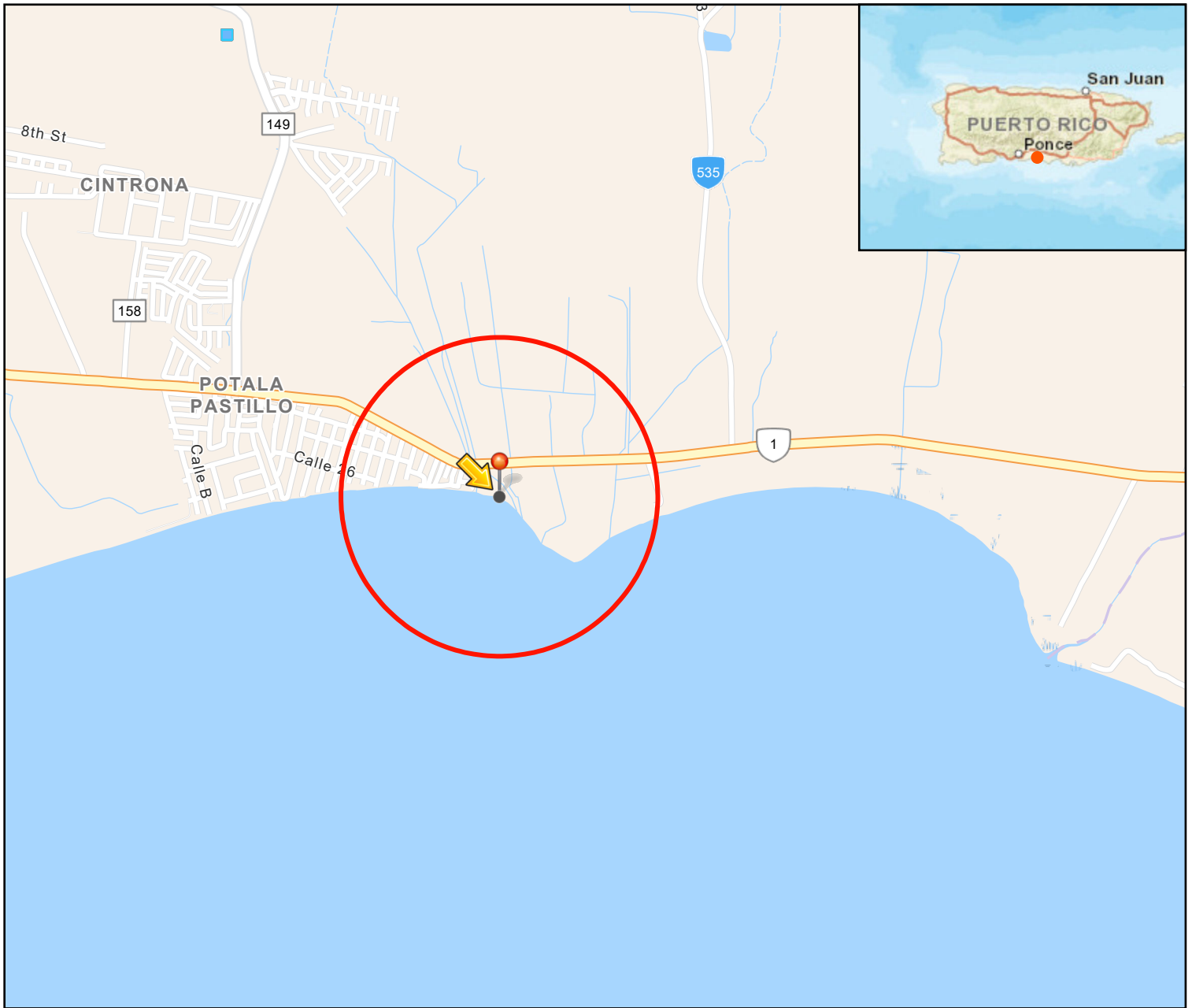
 Sole Source Aquifers - EPA August 2019



Sole Source Aquifers

EPA

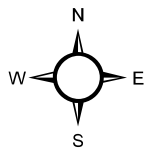
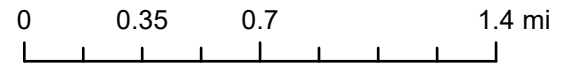
# PR-SBF-09526 Toxics Map



## Legend

■ Water dischargers

○ 3,000 ft buffer

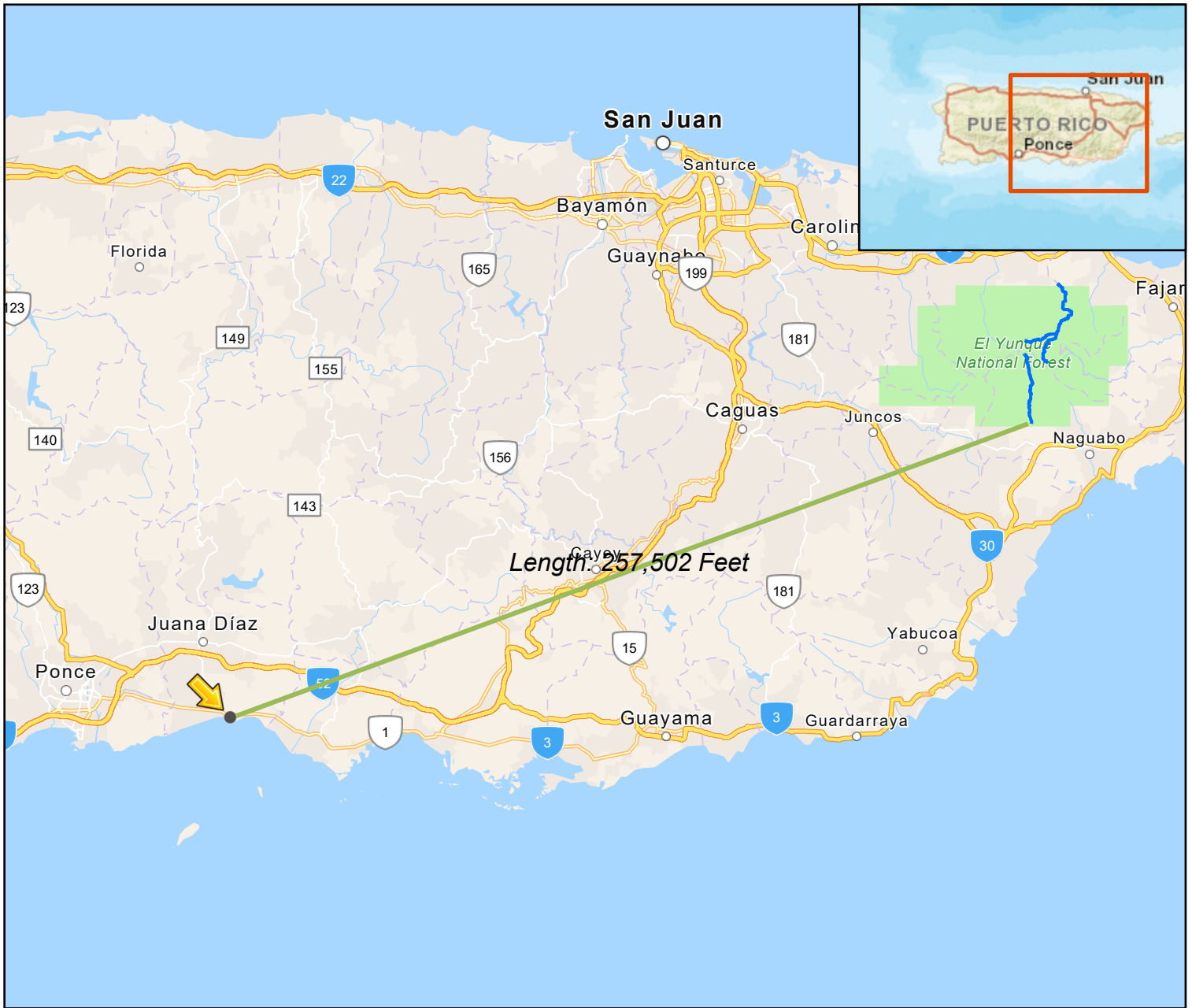


Envirofacts Facility Locations

EPA

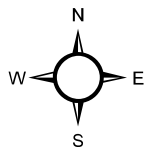
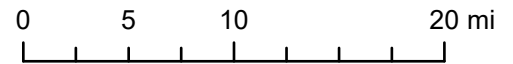


# PR-SBF-09526 Wild & Scenic Rivers



## Legend

— Wild and Scenic Rivers



National Wild and Scenic River System

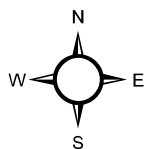
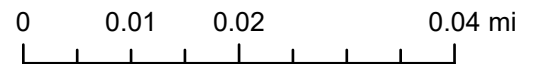
National Park Service

# PR-SBF-09526 Wetlands



### Legend

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Riverine



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service