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

Project Information

Project ID: PR-RGRW-02213

Project Name: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

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

Preparer: Gabriela Rodríguez

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Permit and Compliance Officers: Sally Acevedo Cosme, Pedro De León Rodriguez, María T. Torres Bregón, Ángel G. López-Guzmán, Ivelisse Lorenzo Torres, Santa Damarys Ramírez Lebrón, Janette I. Cambrelén, Limary Vélez-Marrero, Juan Carlos Perez Bofill, Mónica Machuca Ríos, Javier Mercado Barrera, Abdul Feliciano Plaza, and Priscilla Toro Rivera.

Consultant (if applicable): Tetra Tech, 251 Calle Recinto Sur, Ste. 202, San Juan, PR 00091

Direct Comments to: PRDOH (environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov)

Project Location:

The property is a 5.16-acre site located at PR-183 Km. 6.7 Hato ward in the Municipality of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 252-042-218-18-000). The coordinates of the project site are 18.202062, -65.989145. The farm has been and is in used for agricultural purposes with the growing lettuce and cilantro.

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

The intent use of funds for this project includes the purchase of a UTV Power Sport and the purchase and installation of a standby generator. The purchase of the UTV has been submitted and approved as an exempt activity under 24 CFR 58.35 (b) (4). The potential impacts associated to the purchase and installation of the standby generator are included in the analyses below.

The Scope of Work (SOW) for the proposed project consist in the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator at coordinates 18.202062, -65.989145. The installation of the generator includes the construction of a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft, equivalent to a footprint of 32 square feet of an on-site poured concrete pad. Thickness of concrete depends on different factors, for the proposed pad the thickness should be in a range of 4 to 6 inches.

The applicant has installed a transfer switch at the power meter pedestal located next to the proposed generator location. All needed electrical connections from the local utility service are installed on-site. The SOW includes the installation of 40 linear feet of aboveground electrical conduit from the generator to the transfer switch location. No water connections are included as part of the SOW. The proposed action does not include enclosed buildings, residential occupation, or mid- to long-term occupation (more than 4 hours a day) of structures.

Proposed location for the generator is a maintained area. The project site will require minimal clearing and grading activities. Proposed project does not contemplate cutting, pruning, or transplanting of trees. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed project is approximately 0.26 acres.

Site photos are included in **Appendix A**. A site map (Figure 1) is included in **Appendix B**.

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

The Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (RGRW) will increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island wide. This Program will enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. The purpose of this project is to increase the productivity of the farm. This agricultural project associated with the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator to be used as a resilience measure for the operations of the farm, is keeping with the overall objectives of the Economic Development Program.

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

The land proposed for the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator is used for agricultural purposes. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with the project. Some ground disturbance will be required.

Structure of this Environmental Review Report (ERR).

This ERR discusses the Funding Information immediately below. The environmental impacts of the proposed action are discussed in the Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities checklist and Environmental Factors checklist. The listing of Additional Studies Performed, and Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted follows the checklists. The discussions of Public Outreach, Cumulative Impacts, Alternatives, and Summary of Findings and Conclusions are presented at the end of the ERR, before the listing of Mitigation Measures and Determination signatures. The appendices contain detailed information.

Appendix A – Site Inspection

Appendix B – Maps

Appendix C – Additional Documentation

Appendix D - Endangered Species

Funding Information

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

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$ 16,892.25

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$16,892.25

Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATION	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft onsite poured concrete pad. The nearest civil airport, "Aeropuerto Internacional Luis Muñoz Marín (SJU)", is approximately 83,972 feet from the proposed site. The nearest military airport, "Aeropuerto Internacional Luis Muñoz Marín (SJU)", is approximately 83,972 feet from the proposed site. 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. Refer to Figure 2 in Appendix B.

Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No	Puerto Rico has various Coastal Barrier Resources Systems (CBRS). The project is in eastern central region of Puerto Rico. The distance to the nearest CBRS unit is 77,213 feet. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. Refer to Figure 3 in Appendix B .
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes No	The Project site is located in Zone X, area of minimal flood hazard, as per Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) 72000C1230J, effective date November 18, 2009. This project is in compliance with Floodplain Insurance requirements. (See Figures 4 and 5 in Appendix B .)

STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5					
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes No	The Project site is not located in a county or air quality management district that is non-attainment status for any criteria pollutants. The Municipio of San Lorenzo is not listed in the EPA Green Book "Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for all Criteria Pollutants". The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft onsite poured concrete pad. Project will not exceed de minimis levels. The project is in compliance with Clean Air Act. Refer to EPA listing in Appendix C.				
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes No	The project is located 64,824 feet from the nearest Coastal Zone Management area and does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the PR Coastal Zone Management Plan. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. See Figure 7 in Appendix B.				
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)	Yes No	A site visit conducted on January 2, 2024, no debris or rubbish or visible signs vegetative stress, contamination, or toxic substances were identified at the project site. The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel				

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		generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad.
		Site contamination was evaluated through online data searches to determine if toxic sites are located within 3,000-feet of the proposed project. There are no sites of environmental concern identified within 3,000 feet of the project site.
		The proposed action does not include demolition of structures nor mid- to long-term occupation of structures that would require testing for lead-based paint (LBP) and asbestos containing materials (ACM).
		The proposed action does not include enclosed buildings, residential occupation, or mid- to long-term occupation (more than 4 hours a day) of structures. Therefore, the consideration of radon in the contamination analysis is exempted under the CPD Notice #CPD-23-103 and no further consideration or action with respect to radon is needed.
		Refer to CPD-23-103 Notice in Appendix C, to Figures 8 and 9 in Appendix B, and the Site inspection report and photos in Appendix A. The project is in compliance with Contamination and Toxic Substances.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft onsite poured concrete pad. The proposed location of project is an area that has been used for agricultural purposes.
		According to EPA NEPAssist Enviromapper, the nearest critical or proposed critical habitat is 23,046 feet to the east of the project location. The Official Species List from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website lists the Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon, and the Guajón as being able to be found in the area, but there are no critical habitats for them at this location.

A site-specific review of endangered species was conducted in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended: 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) (See **Appendix D**).

The project is "May affect, but not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) the Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon, and the Guajón, provided conservation measures are implemented as part of the project. USFWS concurred with the NLAA determination on September 30, 2024.

If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the Construction Manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the Boa. PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124. Conservation measures can be found at Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa (fws.gov).

If a Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).

Confirmation on the presence/absence of the guajón at the project site must be done prior to any construction activities. All project involved personnel must be informed about the potential presence of the guajón in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement, the boundaries of the project area, the buffer zones, and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field. Areas that can be impacted by construction or any other activity would potentially require the

		relocation of frogs and consultation with the FWS and/or the PDNER. Capture and relocation of frogs should be conducted only by qualified personnel. A before and after photographic record of the project area should be established. In addition, a record of all coquí guajón detections (if detected), including date, time, location, and approximate number of individuals should be established. If a coquí guajón is detected, the Construction Manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the coquí guajón. Refer to Figures 10 and 11 in Appendix B and the Endangered Species Package in Appendix D. This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No	The project does not include development, construction, or rehabilitation that will increase residential density. The project is in compliance with Explosive and Flammable Hazard requirements.
		Refer to site visit report in Appendix A .
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes No	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft onsite poured concrete pad. The parcel northwest area is designated as farmland of statewide importance. Project proposed location is not designated as farmland of statewide importance or prime farmland. The project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to nonagricultural use. Although the project includes new construction, the project is exempt form review under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FFPA) as the project is limited to construction of on-farm structures needed for farm operations. No further review is required.

		This project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act. Refer to Figure 12 in Appendix B.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, as	Yes No	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft onsite poured concrete pad.
amended by Executive Order 13690 particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55		The proposed project is not located in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. FFRMS was determine using the 0.2-Percent-Annual-Chance (PAC) (500- Year) Flood Approach.
		The Project site is not located in an Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) Map special flood hazard area as per ABFE Map, number 72000C1230J, effective date April 13, 2018. Since the project site does not lies within the 1 percent (100-year), nor within the 0.2 PAC floodplain on the ABFE, it is not within the FFRMS.
		PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of San Lorenzo; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
		This project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988 and Order 13690. See Figure 6 in Appendix B .
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	The site was evaluated on February 9, 2024, by an SOI Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian. Additionally, the site was evaluated on February 13, 2024, by an SOI Qualified Archaeologist. SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected within the project's Area of Potential on Effects on March 4, 2024.
		Refer to Figure 13 in Appendix B and the Section 106 Consultation Package in Appendix E . This project is in compliance with Historic Preservation requirements.

Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft onsite poured concrete pad. HUD's noise regulations protect residential properties from excessive noise exposure. HUD noise regulations do not apply as the project does not include new construction for residential use or rehabilitation of an existing residential property. The proposed project is in compliance with Noise Abatement and Control.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No	There are no EPA sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The nearest Sole Source Aquifer is 5,507,231 feet to the northwest of the project site. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements. Refer to Figure 17 in Appendix B .
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft onsite poured concrete pad. The southeast coast is 77,970 feet southeast of the property. The closest fresh-water bodies include an unnamed creek 366 northwest, and the Río Grande de Loiza 666 northeast of the APE. Both identified as a riverine wetland in the NWI map. The NWI maps show no wetlands on the or adjacent to the project site. This project does not impact any on or off-site wetlands and includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. Refer to Figure 14 in Appendix B .
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	This project is not within proximity of a National Wild and Scenic River (WSR). The distance to the nearest WSR is approximately 73,058 feet. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Refer to Figure 15 in Appendix B .

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice	Yes No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in any other compliance review

Executive Order 12898	\boxtimes	portion	of	this	project	that	may
		and/or m	ninority nplies v	y comm	high for nunities. The cutive Orde Appendix C	nerefore r 12898	e, this

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

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

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

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOP	MENT	
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design		The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The proposed project is located on a private farm. The project site is zoned as "Area Desarrollada (AD)". The proposed action is compliant with the current agricultural land use of the Project area and will not contribute to urban sprawl. Project is compatible with the current use of the land because the generator will be used to support agriculture.

Employment and Income Patterns	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. Temporary employment of workers related to construction activities would result, but no new permanent jobs would be created as a result of this project. These workers are expected to come from the local region. However, since the project will include an economic component, it may aid in restoring some employment opportunities and increase income.
SOCIOECONON	AIC .	
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise		The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. During implementation of the project, construction activities may result in temporary elevation of ambient noise levels in immediate areas around active construction areas. The only nearby receptors are the residents of the farm. There is no access to the project area by the public.
		There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project.
		The project site area is rated "low to moderate" for landslide susceptibility (see Figure 16 in Appendix B).
		Proposed location for the generator is a maintained area. The project site will require minimal clearing and grading activities. Proposed project does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees.
		Projects larger than 1 acre must comply with the CWA and develop a SWPPP with the NPDES. The proposed project area is approximately 0.26 acres.
		Soils in the proposed project area are classified as Mucara clay (MfX), 40 to 60 percent slopes, surrounded by farmland with secondary young forest vegetation cover northwest, 90-120 meters above mean sea level.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff		The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The proposed project is located in mountainous terrain that it was and will continue to be for agriculture.

		The proposed project would not negatively impact employment or income patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The proposed project would not result in demographic character changes or displacement. Given the nature of the project area, no relocations or demolition of residential structures or businesses would occur as part of this project.
Environmental Justice	1	In the area (one mile radius) in which project will occur. 100% are people of color compared to PR average of 96% 47% are low income compared to PR average of 70% 5% are unemployed compared to PR average of 15% The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. This project will result in restoration and increase in income and potential employment opportunities in the local area. The impacts would be beneficial. See EJScreen Report in Appendix C

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FA	CILITIES A	ND SERVICES
Educational and Cultural Facilities		The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The project would not result in any change to regional or local area educational and cultural facilities or increase demand for them.
Commercial Facilities		The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The agricultural activity of the project property will improve. Other commercial facilities would not be impacted by the proposed project.
Health Care and Social Services		The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) \times 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. Health care and social services facilities would not be impacted by the proposed project. The project would not increase demand for health care and social services facilities.

Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. Waste vegetation from clearing activities will either be composted on site or at regional composting centers. Soil from grading would be recycled on the farm as fill. Left over construction materials that could be reused on the farm (e.g., piping, structural materials, others) would be stored for later use. The remaining construction solid waste materials would be collected for transport to the local landfill. The amount of impact of solid waste resulting from the construction of the proposed project would be minor. During operations, the products and byproducts would be agricultural, which waste would be biodegradable. Other waste components related to the operation of the proposed project includes recyclable materials such as plastics and cardboard. Recyclables will be set aside and dispose according to the local recycling management plan. The remaining municipal solid waste would be collected for the transport to the local landfill.
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The proposed project would not include any bathrooms, wastewater, or sewage facilities. Current farm conditions would remain unchanged.
Water Supply	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The SOW does not involve water connections or use water for operational purposes. The proposed project does not represent an increase in current water demand.
Public Safety – Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The proposed project would not create any new demand for emergency or health services.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The proposed project would not create or destroy any new parks, open space, or recreational activities. It also would not increase use of those facilities.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The proposed project would not involve the creation of new roads nor any increase in long-term traffic on existing roads. There

							existing		
constru	ıctio	n. All re	sidents	and b	usir	esse	s would re	etain a	ccess to
their pr	ope	rties du	ring and	d afte	r the	e proj	ect.		

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The proposed project will be situated on land previously used for agricultural purposes. The proposed project will have no impact to unique natural features or water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife		The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The proposed project will occur on land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. All vegetative exceedance material resultant from the clearing activities will be disposed as per the Municipal vegetative material management and diversion plan. No vegetative material will be stored or left at site. Proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees. The proposed project will have minimal impact on vegetation and no impact on wildlife.

Environmental	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
CLIMATE AND ENERG	GY	
Climate Change	2	The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel
Impacts		generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The
		project area is rural and does not have urban heat island effects.
		There would be no changes to the site configuration or structure
		that would specifically address the possibility and uncertainty of
		rising sea levels or the possibility of increases in rainfall
		intensity. This is a small agricultural project with no measurable
		impact on climate change factors.
Energy		The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel
Efficiency/Energy	2	generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The
Consumption		applicant has installed a transfer switch at the power meter
		pedestal located next to the proposed generator location. All
		needed electrical connections from the local utility service are

installed on-site. The SOW includes the installation of 40 linear feet of aboveground electrical conduit from the generator to the transfer switch location. The use of the generator on a as needed basis will reduce the energy loss that would be experienced through transmission lines to the site.

Additional Studies Performed: None required.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by):

Site inspection was conducted on January 2, 2024 by Javier Ramos.

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

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

FAA, National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems:

<u>www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/npias/reports/NPIAS-Report-2017-2021-Appendix-B-Part6.pdf</u>

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

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: www.rivers.gov/puerto-rico.php

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

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

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

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

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System:

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-state?stateAbbrev=PR&stateName=Puerto%20Rico&statusCategory=Listed

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

US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory:

www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html (compilation of numerous maps)

Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program Plan, September 2009.

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

US Geological Survey, Data Release of May Showing Concentration of Landslides Caused by Hurricane Maria,

www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/59de6459e4b05fe04ccd39d8

List of Permits Obtained:

None

Public Outreach [24 CFR 58.43]:

The local community has been very proactive in the recovery process. Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the agricultural community. The project will include a FONSI / NOI-RROF in compliance with NEPA regulations for HUD.

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]:

In accordance with 24 CFR 58.32 (Aggregation), there are no cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project. The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The project would allow resilience measures for a more efficient processing and growing of the agricultural products. The SOW does not involve connections to local water or electric utilities (PRASA and PREPA/LUMA) that would increase de utility demand. Therefore, proposed project should have no impact on the local utilities supply or demand.

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

The RGRW Program's goal is to increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island-wide. This Program seeks to enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. Alternative locations off and on property may represent an impact to undisturbed and/or uneven ground, sloped terrain or within forested areas, which could require heavier clearing and grading activities. Any alternative that would involve an off-property location might require the purchase of land, the need for storage area, the movement of products, equipment, infrastructure, water and power utility connections, among others, representing an additional cost. An off-property alternative will not enhance and expand agricultural production or allow for the economic development for this applicant. Given the above-mentioned possible impacts of an alternative location, an off-property alternative was not selected.

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

The project consists of the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator on a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. Under the No Action Alternative, the applicant would

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

Summary of Findings and Conclusions:

The proposed activity has been found to not have any adverse effects on the environment nor is there the requirement for further consultation with federal agencies associated with the topics evaluated above. There are no environmental review topics addressed above that result in the need for additional formal compliance steps with federal agencies or the requirement for mitigations other than those listed below. There may be additional approvals or permits from local agencies. For example, permits may be required from PRDNER for any water or other utility connections and the Office of Permit Management (OGPe) is responsible for granting permits, licenses, certifications, consultations, construction, and any other procedure necessary for business development and land use in Puerto Rico. The appropriate and necessary permits should be obtained by the applicant and/or contractor, from the appropriate Department or concerned agency, prior to construction activities.

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

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

The environmental review topics addressed in this environmental review include all formal compliance steps with federal agencies and mitigations (listed in table below) needed for compliance with 24 CFR 58.

Any permits or approvals that have been issued during the preparation of this environmental review have been included in the evaluation of impacts and mitigations. Any special permit conditions or requirements associated with these permits are listed in the Mitigation Measures and Conditions table below.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Endangered Species	Implement Puerto Rican Boa conservation measures prior to and during construction to avoid or minimize impacts to this species. If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the Construction Manager shall

contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the Boa. PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124. Conservation measures can be found at Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa (fws.gov).

If a Puerto Rican plain pigeon is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).

Confirmation on the presence/absence of the guajón at the project site must be done prior to any construction activities. All project involved personnel must be informed about the potential presence of the guajón in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement, the boundaries of the project area, the buffer zones, and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field. Areas that can be impacted by construction or any other activity would potentially require the relocation of frogs and consultation with the FWS and/or the PDNER. Capture and relocation of frogs should be conducted only by qualified personnel. A before and after photographic record of the project area should be established. In addition, a record of all coquí guajón detections (if detected), including date, time, location, and approximate number of individuals should be established. If a coquí guajón is detected, the Construction Manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the coquí guajón.

Permit or Approval Permit Conditions Ground disturbance Projects whose earthworks are more than 40 m³ must submit an Incidental Permit. The permit must be submitted via the Single Business Portal to the OGPe to be evaluated and physicalized by the Water Quality Division of the PRDNER. Any necessary permits should be obtained by the applicant and/or contractor prior to construction activities. Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ All construction or demolition of structures, which do not Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff contain asbestos or lead-containing paint, in surface areas of project of nine hundred (900) square meters or more, in which the total volume of the components of the earth's that

Permits or Agency Approvals Required

	are to be used as filler or extracted, stored, disposed, disassembled, piled up or removed exceed forty (40) cubic meters, requires the submittal of a "Permiso Único Incidental", including an "Permit for the Erosion Control and Sedimentation Prevention (CES, by its acronym in Spanish)". A Plan CES must be developed by a Professional Engineer and be submitted via the Single Business Portal to the OGPe to be evaluated, approved and physicalized by PRDNER.
Clearing activities	Activities involving the excavation or movement of any component of the terrestrial cortex material that exceeds five hundred (500) cubic meters and up to a maximum of five thousand (5,000) cubic meters require the submittal and approval of a Simple Terrestrial Cortex Removal Permit. Applications are submitted via the Single Business Portal of the OGPe to be evaluated and physicalized by terrestrial Cortex Extraction Permit Division of the PRDNER.
Utility Connections- LUMA/PRASA	The project does not involve new utility connections. Facilities have local utility services connections. However, the applicant is responsible for any permits or actions to ensure legalization of utility connections (if needed) prior to construction activities.
Power generator	The SOW includes a power generator installation. Electricity generators with motor capacity equal or higher than 10 horsepower (HP) require the submittal and approval of an Electric Generator Permit. Applications are submitted via the Single Business Portal of the OGPe to be evaluated and physicalized by the Air Quality Division of the PRDNER. Required permit should be obtained by the applicant prior to construction activities.

Determination:

$oxed{\boxtimes}$ Finding of No Si	gnificant Impact [24 C	FR 58.40(g)(1	1); 40 CF	R 1508.2	27]	
The project will no environment.	t result in a significa	ınt impact (on the	quality	of the	humar
Finding of Signif	icant Impact [24 CFR	58.40(g)(2); 4	10 CFR 1	508.27]		
The project may sign	nificantly affect the qu	ality of the h	uman e	nvironm	ent.	
	Huy					
Preparer Signature: _	<i>~</i>	Date	e: 10/14/	2024		

Name/Title/Organization: <u>Gabriela Rodríguez, Seni</u> <u>Inc.</u>	or Environmental Scientist, Tetra Tech
Certifying Officer Signature:I. Lorenzo	<u>Dat</u> e:_October 22, 2024
Name/Title:Permits and Environmental Compl	iance Specialist

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

APPENDIX A

Site Inspection and Photos





Environmental Field Observation - Puerto Rico Department of Housing

APPLICANT INFORMATION					
Application ID	PR-RGRW-02213				
Applicant Name	Samaritano	s Greens Inc.			
Property Address	Bo. Hato Ca	rr 183 KM 6.	7		
Parcel ID	252-042-21	252-042-218-18			
Coordinates	18.202062,-	18.202062,-65.989145			
Inspector Name)S			
Inspection Date					
Building Type					
Number of Units	1				
Number of Stories	1				
Year Built; Data Source		ın			
ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS (attach			essarv. for any YES answers)		
OBSERVATION ITEMS	YES	NO	COMMENTS		
A. Is the structure in use?	V		Applicant house		
B. is structure a greenhouse?	Ø		Greens houses.		
C. Is Electricity connected?	Ø		Power meter		
D. Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	V		Water meter		
1. Are there signs of poor housekeeping on site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, storm debris, solid waste, petroleum products, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, vehicle batteries, abandoned vehicles, pits, pools, ponds of hazardous substances, etc.)		☑			
2. Are there any 55-gallon drums visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?		Ø			
3 . Are there any (or signs of any) underground storage tanks on the property?		Ø			
4 . Are there signs of ASTs on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.		Ø			
5. Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?		Ø			
6. Is a water drainage system in use?		V			
7. Is a warehouse in use for storage of Fertilizer or Pesticides ?					
8. Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?		Ø			
9. Is there evidence of a faulty septic system?		V			
10. Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?		V			
11. Is there any visible indication of MOLD?		$\overline{\checkmark}$			







12 . Is there any visible evidence of asbestos , chipping , flaking or peeling paint , or hazardous materials present in or on the structure?	V	
13. Are any additional site hazards observed?	V	
14 . Is there any permanent standing water , such as a pond or stream, located on the site (do not include ponding from recent rain / weather events)?	V	
15 . Does the subject property have water frontage ?	V	
16 . Is there any indication of the presence of Wetlands ?	Ø	
17 . Are there any obvious signs of animals or birds nesting on or near the site?	Ø	
18 . Is the applicant aware of any significant historical event or persons associated with the structure, or of it being located in a historic district/area?	V	
19. Is a historic marker present?	☑	

Additional Notes: Case: PR-RGRW-02213

Project Name: Samaritanos Greens Inc Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145

Is the field graded? For what purpose the field was graded? Month, Year: None

Scope of Work: The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of a standby generator.

Land current in use for: The farm is currently used for growing lettuce and cilantro.

Past Land use was: The farm has always been used for growing lettuce and cilantro.

Where the applicant plans to do the ground disturbances for the scopes of work, add the coordinates, descriptions and approximately the measurements: Scope of work: coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145. The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of a standby diesel generator of 15 KW. The generator will be place in a concrete slab approximately measuring 4'X 6'. The transfer switch is already placed behind the power meter pedestal.

Any new water connection or power connection? No new connections.

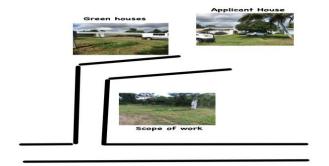
If the scope of work included tools, machinery or farms products, Where the applicant will be storing them? N/A







Site Sketch





Front of Structure
Photo Direction: Northeast



Facing Away From Front

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Direction: Northeast

Side #1 of Structure



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Direction: West



Facing Away From Back

Photo Direction: East





Photo Direction: Northwest



Facing Away From Side #2

Photo Direction: Southeast





Photo Direction: Southeast

Streetscape #1

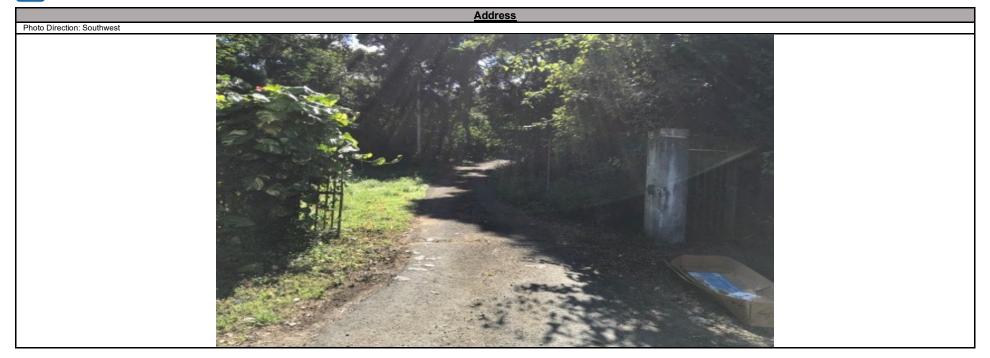


Streetscape #2

Photo Direction: Northwest









<u>Outbuildings</u>

Photo Direction: Northeast

Photo Description: Applicant house





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest

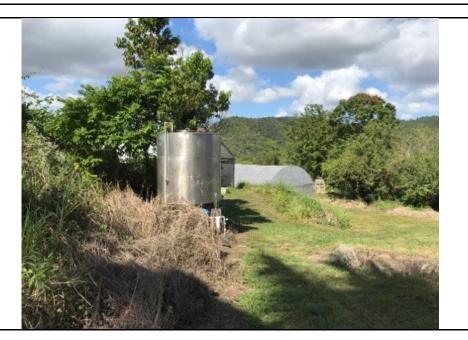




Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northeast





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: West



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest





Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast





Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast





Structure Occupied

Photo Description: Applicant House
Photo Direction: Northwest





Greenhouse Photos

Photo Description: Green houses

Photo Direction: Southwest





Electricity Connected

Photo Description: Power meter

Photo Direction: Northeast





Photo Description: Water meler
Photo Direction: Northwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Northwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Northwest





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Southeast



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Southeast





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Southwest



APPENDIX B

Maps



APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc. Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145

Figure 1: PROJECT LOCATION

PUERTO RICO

PUERTO RICO o Ponce

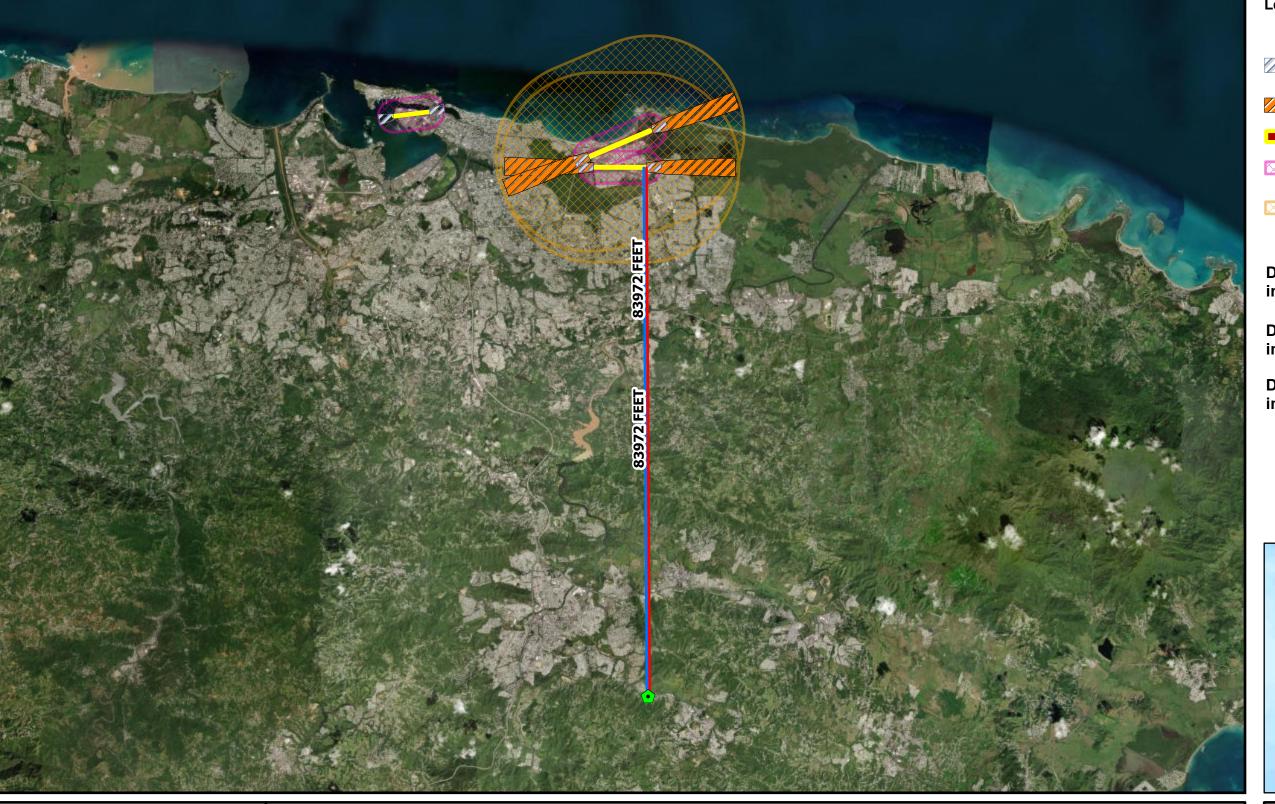
San Juan

Parcels

Project Parcel Boundaries

https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/

TETRA TECH



Legend

Project Parcel

Civilian Runway Protection

Military Accident Potential Zones

Airport Runways

Civilian Airport 2,500 Feet Buffer

Military Airport 15,000 Feet Buffer

Distance to Nearest Airport in Feet: 83,972

Distance to Nearest Civilian Airport

in Feet: 83,972

Distance to Nearest Military Airport

in Feet: 83,972

PUERTO RICO



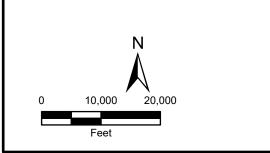
Figure 2: AIRPORT ZONES APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

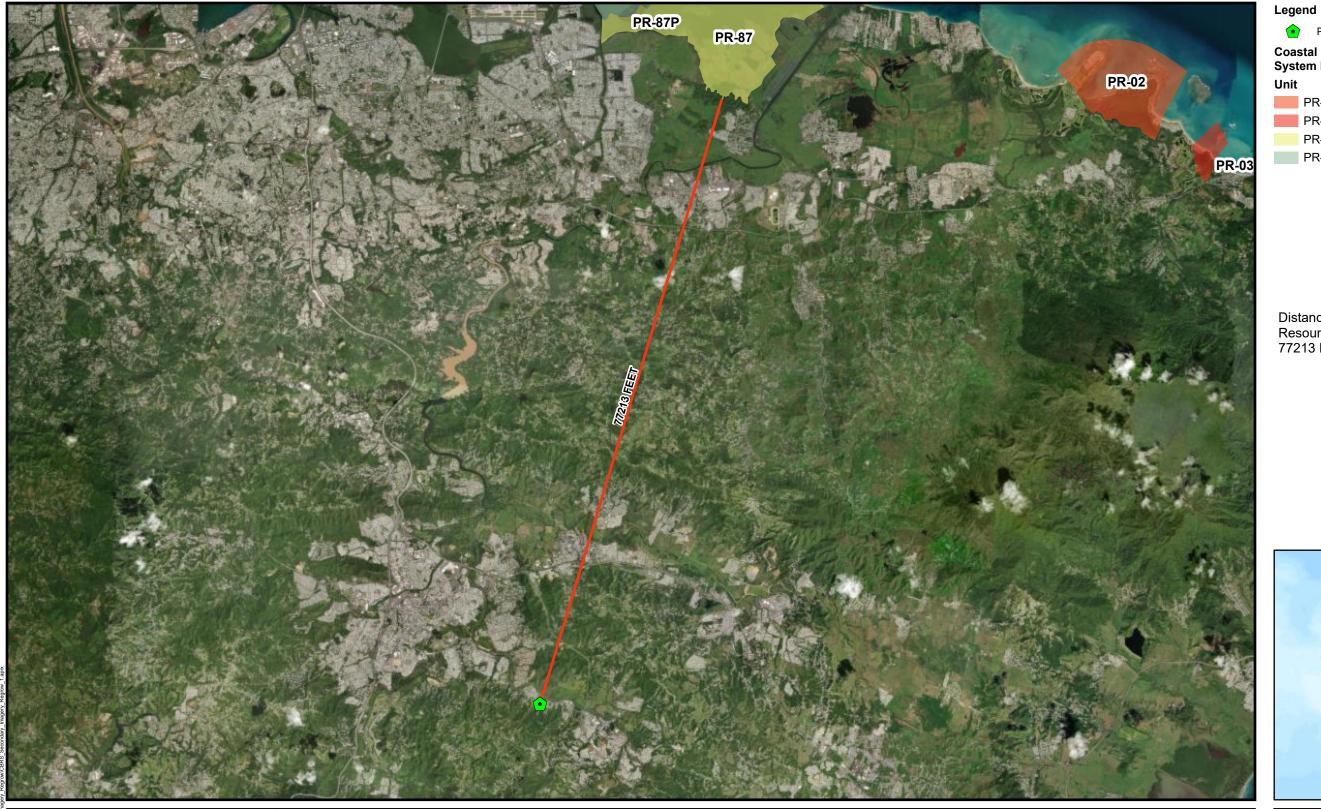
ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145







Coastal Barrier Resources
System Boundary
Unit
PR-02
PR-03
PR-87
PR-87

• Project Parcel

Distance to Nearest Coastal Barrier Resources System: 77213 Feet

PUERTO RICO





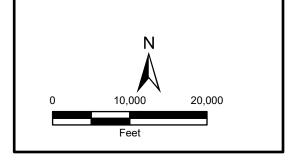
Source: U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service https://www.fws.gov

Author: TG Date: 10/17/2023

Figure 3: COASTAL BARRIERS IMPROVEMENT ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.
Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145



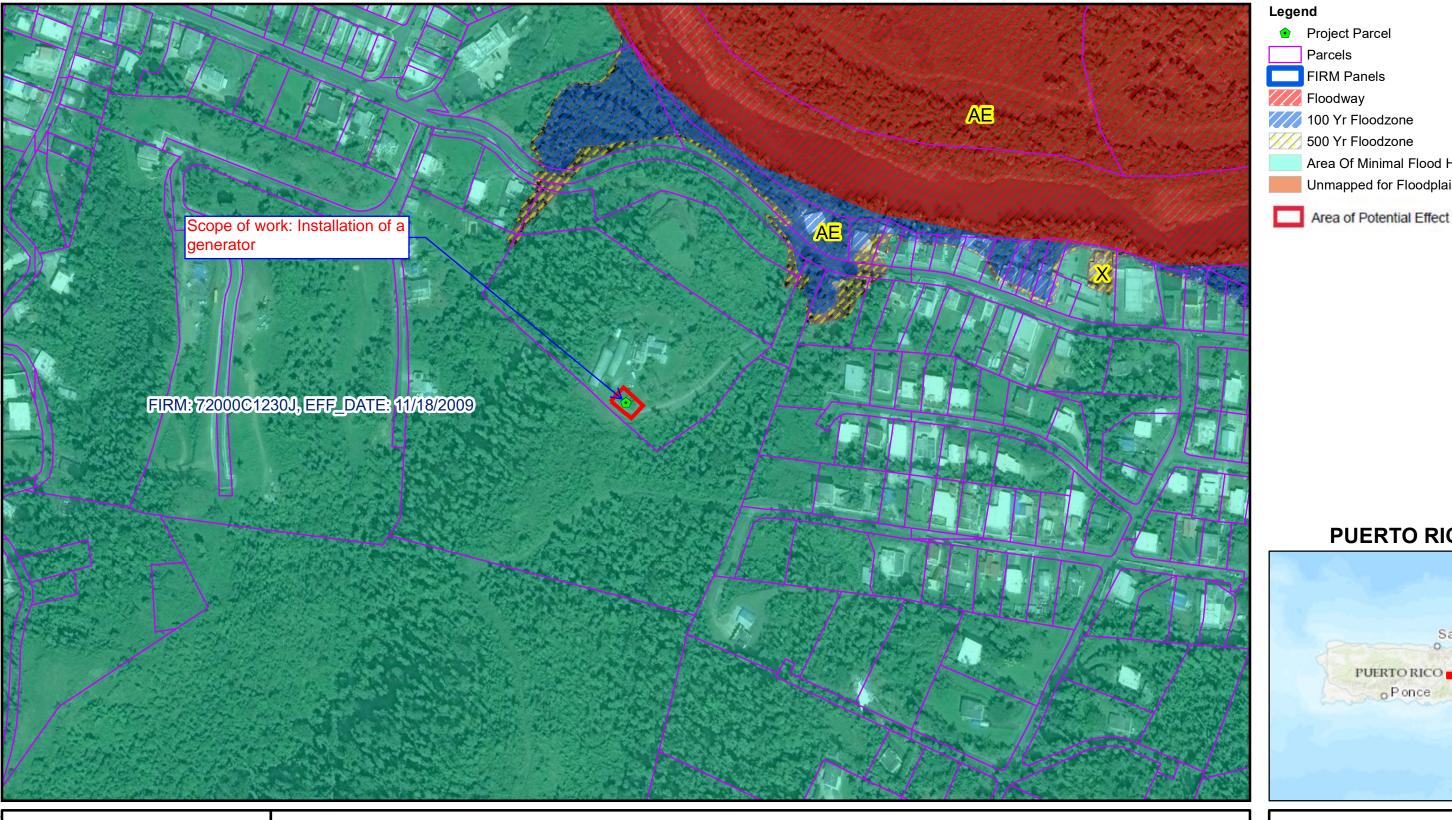


Figure 4: FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213**

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc. Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145

500

PUERTO RICO

PUERTO RICO o Ponce

San Juan

Parcels

500 Yr Floodzone

Area Of Minimal Flood Hazard

Unmapped for Floodplain

Source: FEMA

https://msc.fema.gov

TETRA TECH

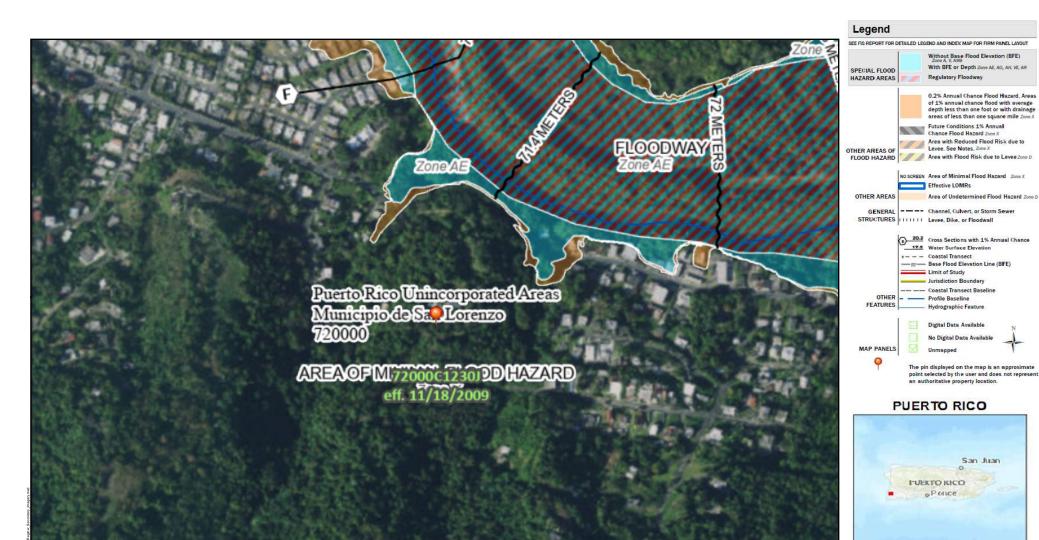
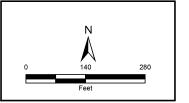


FIGURE 5: NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER FIRMETTE APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

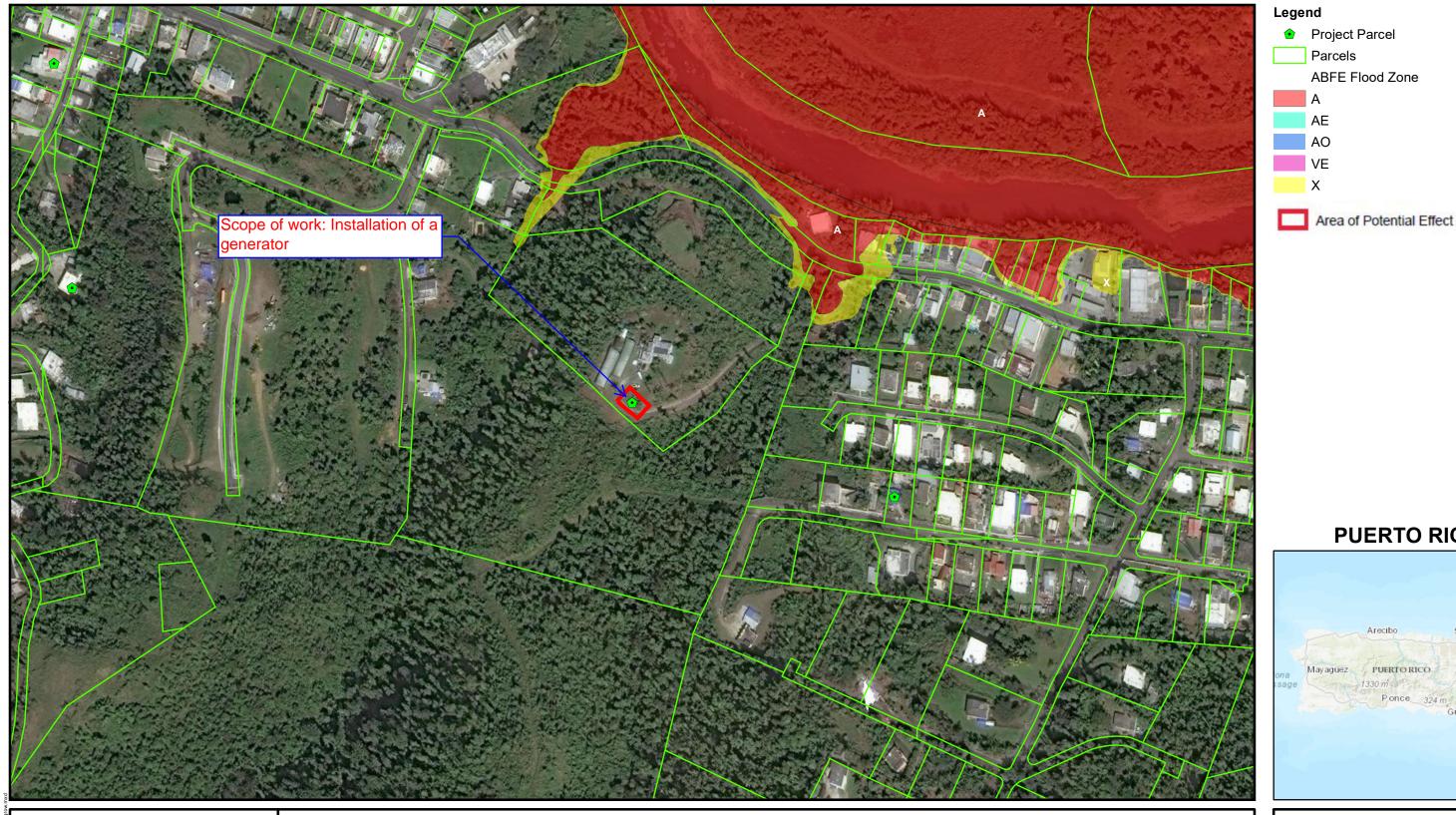
ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754 Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145



TETRA TECH
Source: FEMA
https://www.msc.fema.gov

Date: 5/31/2023



TETRA TECH

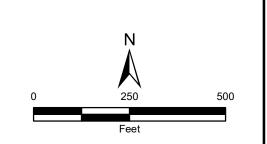
Date: 2/29/2024

Source: FEMA

https://gis.fema.gov

Figure 6: ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (ABFE) MAP **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213**

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754 Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc. Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145



PUERTO RICO

PUERTO RICO

Ponce 324 m 517 m

Parcels

ΑE ΑO VE

ABFE Flood Zone



Legend



Coastal Zone Management Boundary

Distance to Nearest Coastal Zone: 64824 Feet

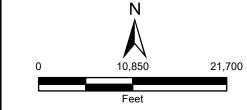
PUERTO RICO



Figure 7: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

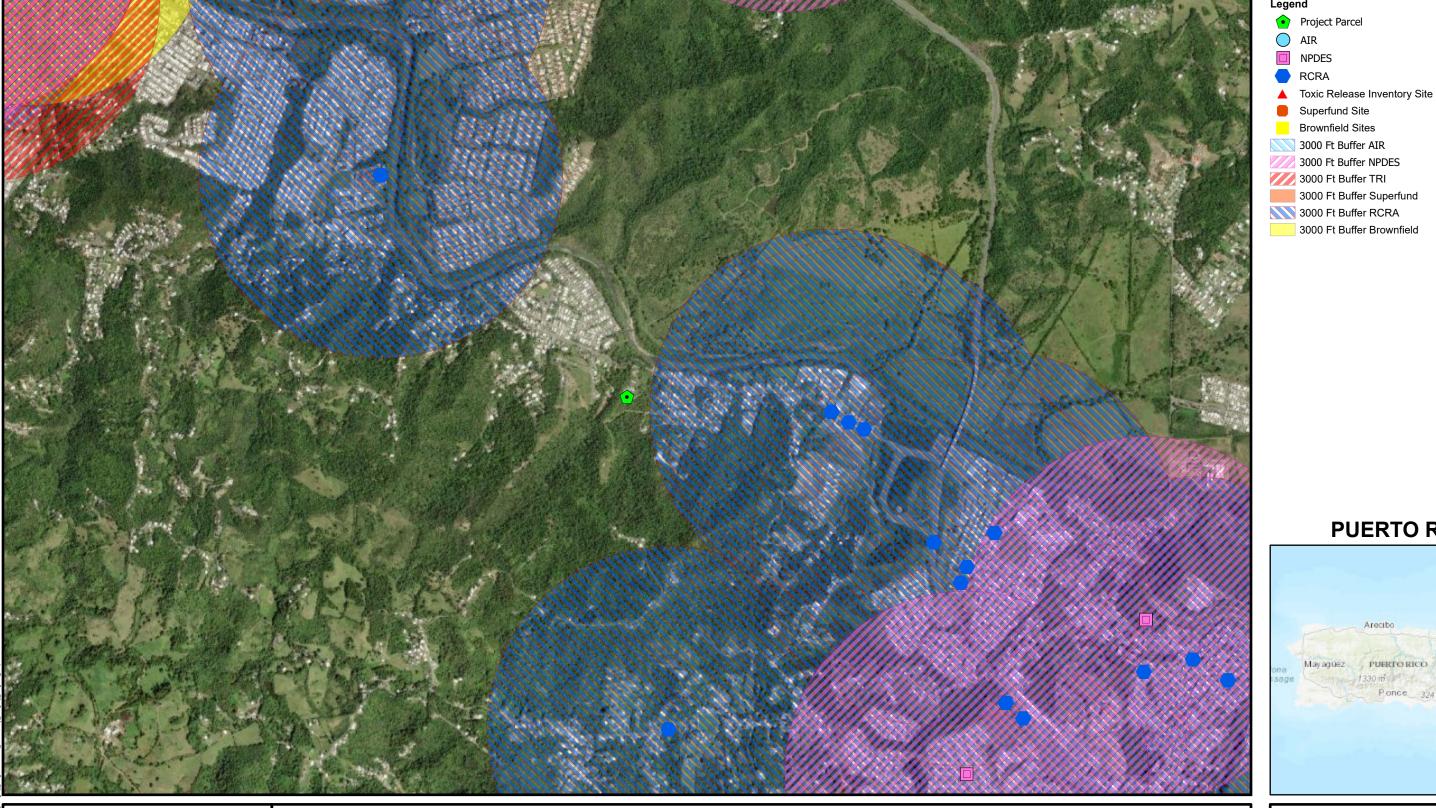
Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc. Parcel Coordinates:18.202062, -65.989145



TETRA TECH

Source: NOAA's Ocean Service https://data.noaa.gov

Date: 10/17/2023



PUERTO RICO

Brownfield Sites 3000 Ft Buffer AIR 3000 Ft Buffer NPDES

3000 Ft Buffer Superfund

3000 Ft Buffer Brownfield

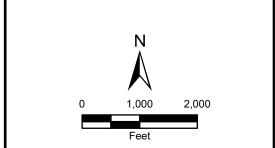


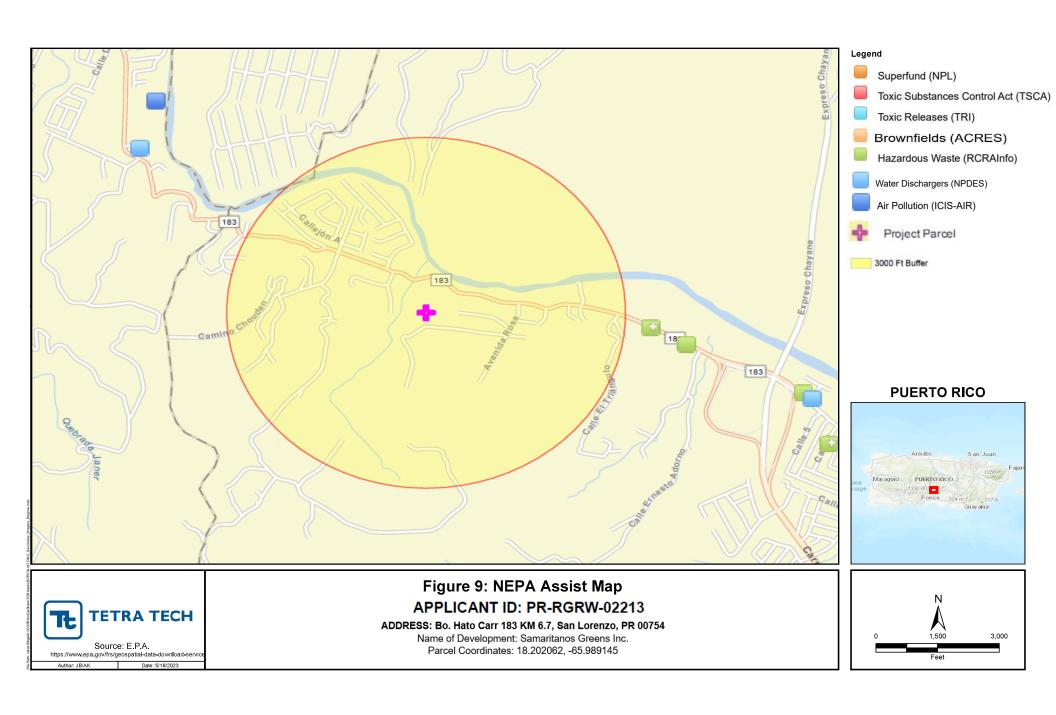


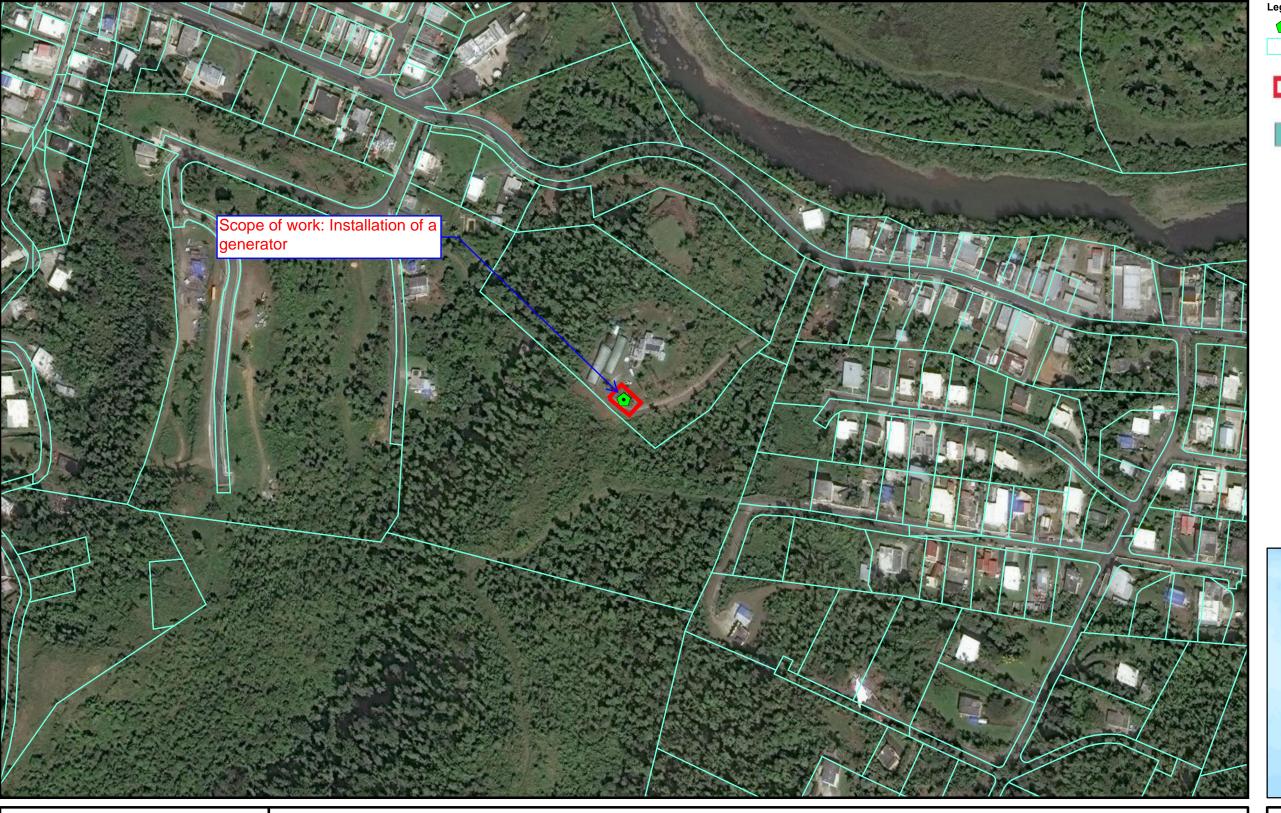
ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754 Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

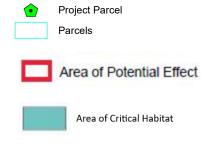
Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145

TETRA TECH Source: E.P.A. https://www.epa.gov/frs/geospatial-data-download-service Author: JB/AK Date: 1/3/2024









PUERTO RICO



Figure 10: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

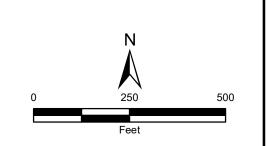
Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145

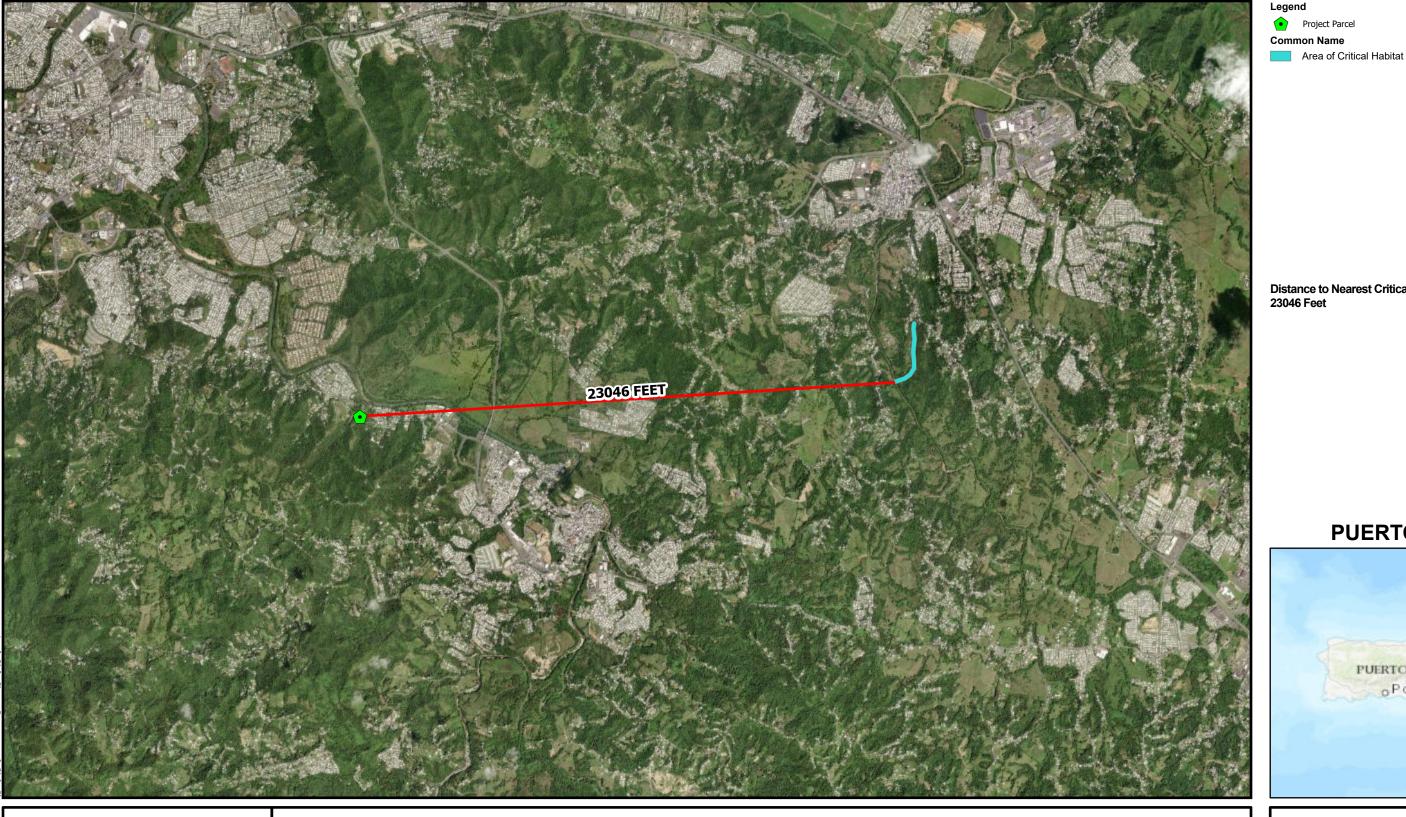
TETRA TECH

Source: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE https://ecos.fws.gov

Author: TG

Date: 3/12/2024







Distance to Nearest Critical Habitat: 23046 Feet

PUERTO RICO



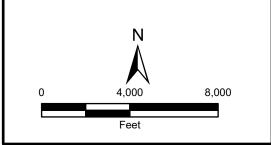
Figure 11: CRITICAL HABITATS **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213**

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145







TETRA TECH

https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov

Figure 12: FARMLAND PROTECTION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213**

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc. Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145

PUERTO RICO

All areas are prime farmland

Prime farmland if drained Prime farmland if irrigated

Prime farmland if irrigated and

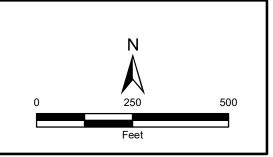
Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

reclaimed of excess salts and sodium

irrigated

Farmland of statewide importance Farmland of statewide importance, if





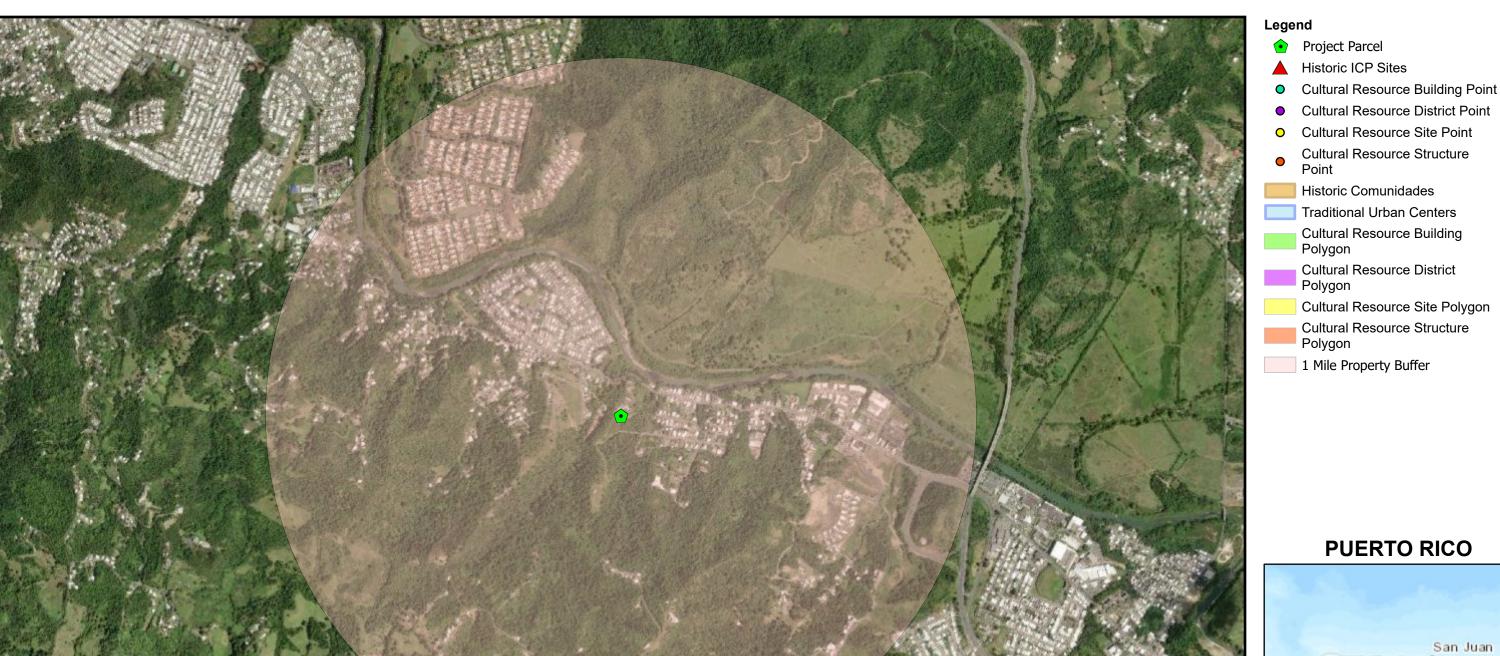


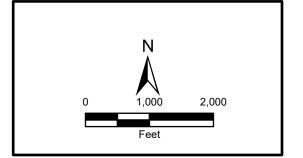


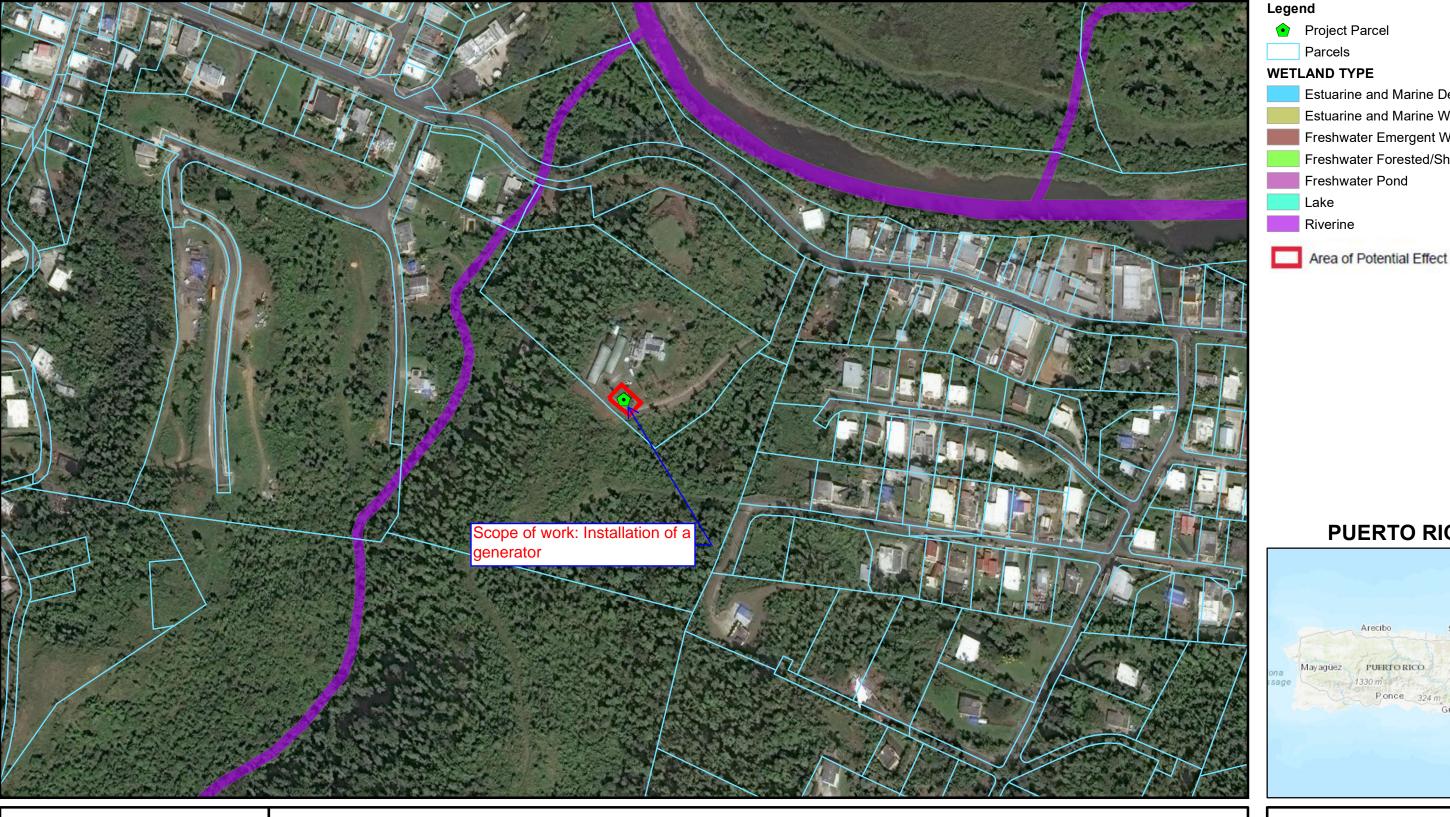


Figure 13: HISTORIC PRESERVATION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213**

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc. Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145





PUERTO RICO

Parcels

Lake Riverine

Freshwater Pond

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater Estuarine and Marine Wetland Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland



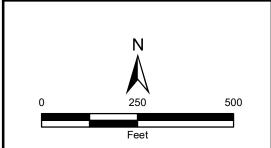
Figure 14: WETLANDS **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213**

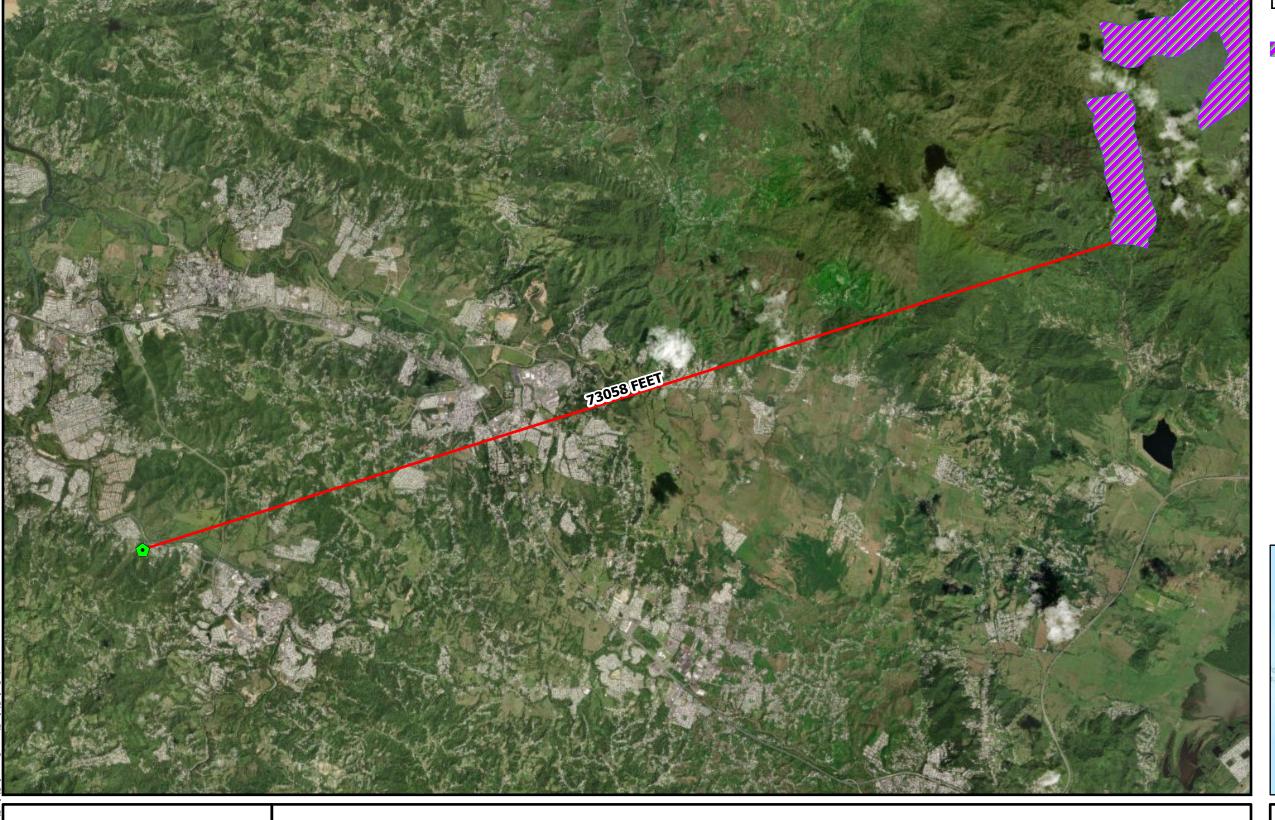
ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc

Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145







Legend

◆ Project Parcel

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Distance to Nearest Wild and Scenic River: 73058 Feet

PUERTO RICO



Figure 15: WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Parcel Coordinates:18.202062, -65.989145



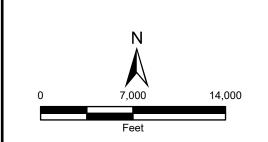
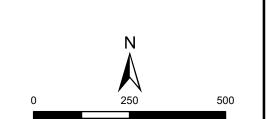




Figure 16: SLOPE AND EROSION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213**

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145



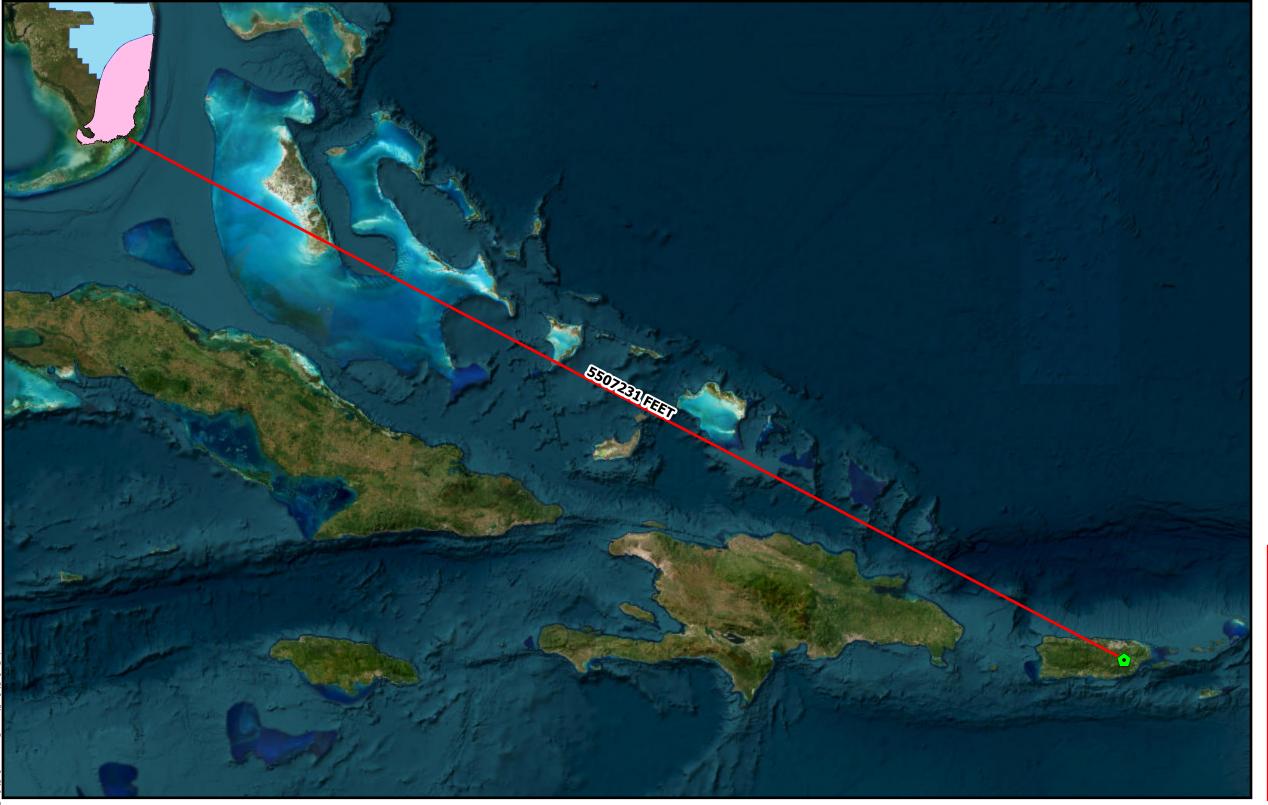
PUERTO RICO

PUERTO RICO o Ponce

San Juan

TETRA TECH nttps://usgs.maps.arcgis.com apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=10506ecc7f15491daee17647f19248e

Date: 2/29/2024



Project Parcel

Sole Source Aquifer

Biscayne Aquifer SSA

Biscayne Aquifer SSA
Streamflow and Recharge
Source Zones

Distance to Nearest Aquifer: 5,507,231 FT

PUERTO RICO





Source: USGS https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/epasole-source-aquifers

Author: TG

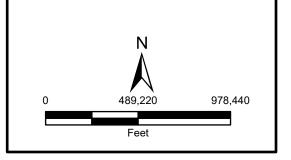
Date: 2/21/2024

Figure 17: SOLE SOURCE AQUIFERS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145



APPENDIX C

Additional Information



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

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

Data is current as of July 31, 2024

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

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

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Area Name Arecibo, PR San Juan, PR	Nonattainment in Year 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19202 12223 24	Redesignation to Maintenance	Classification	Whole or/ Part County	Population (2010)	FIPS Codes
San Juan, PR		//		Part	22 195	
San Juan, PR		//		Part	22 195	
	18192021222324				32,103	72/013
C I DD		//		Part	22,921	72/021
San Juan, PR	18192021222324	//		Whole	28,140	72/033
Mun. of Guaynabo, PR	929394959697989900010203040506070809	02/11/2010	Moderate	Part	90,470	72/061
San Juan, PR	18192021222324	//		Part	23,802	72/061
Guayama- Salinas, PR	18192021222324	//		Part	23,401	72/123
San Juan, PR	18192021222324	//		Part	147,963	72/127
San Juan, PR	18192021222324	//		Part	52,441	72/137
	Guayama- Salinas, PR San Juan, PR	Guayama- Salinas, PR 18192021222324 San Juan, PR 18192021222324	Guayama-Salinas, PR 18192021222324 // San Juan, PR 18192021222324 //	Guayama-Salinas, PR San Juan, PR 18192021222324 //	Guayama-Salinas, PR 18192021222324	Guayama-Salinas, PR 18192021222324

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2024-07-31

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Notice: CPD-23-103

Issued: January 11, 2024

This notice will be effective 90 days after the date issued. For Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and Department of Hawaiian Homelands Recipients, however, it will be effective two years after the date issued.

Expires: This Notice is effective until amended, superseded, or rescinded

Special attention of:
Regional Directors
Field Office Directors
CPD Directors and field office staff
OEE Directors and field office staff
PIH Directors and field office staff
Office of Housing Directors and division
staff
ONAP Administrators and field office staff
OLHCHH Directors and Healthy Homes
Representatives

Program Environmental Clearance Officers
Responsible Entities
Public Housing Authorities

Tribes

Tribally Designated Housing Entities

SUBJECT: Departmental Policy for Addressing Radon in the Environmental Review Process

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Notice is to clarify that radon must be considered in the contamination analysis for 24 CFR Parts 50 or 58, as applicable; to provide guidance on recommended best practices for considering radon; and to identify the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs that have established specific radon guidance. This Notice does not impose radon testing requirements; however, it does include guidance on strategies for considering radon in the site contamination analysis.

This notice applies *only* to projects that are subject to HUD's contamination regulations at 24 CFR 50.3(i) or 24 CFR 58.5(i). It does not apply to the purchase of single family homes with an FHA-backed mortgage nor Section 184 and Section 184A loan guarantees. This notice also does *not* preempt any existing, federal state, or local requirements regarding radon. It also does not preempt the radon requirements found in HUD's Office of Housing programs following the Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide, Healthcare Mortgage Insurance Program Handbook, Rental Assistance Demonstration Program Notice and supplemental guidance, or other current or future radon guidance that is more prescriptive. See section IV of this notice for links to Housing radon guidance documents.

Compliance with this notice is required 90 days after the date issued for all HUD programs subject to 24 CFR Parts 50 and 58, with the exception of Tribe, Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE), and Department of Hawaiian Homeland (DHHL) recipients. In

recognition of the need to provide additional support for radon programs, compliance with this notice is required starting January 11, 2026 for Tribe, TDHE, and DHHL recipients.

II. Radon and its health effects

Radon is a radioactive gas that forms when radium and certain other radioactive metals break down in rocks, soil, and water.¹ It is found in nearly all soils and moves through the soil to the air and into structures through cracks and other areas of permeability. Building materials and groundwater may also be a source of indoor radon. Once inside, radon concentrations can build to high levels, regardless of the age, condition, or design of the building.

The most common pathway for human exposure to radon is inhalation indoors. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall.² The risk of adverse health effects from radon in indoor air depends largely on two main variables: the level of radon exposure and the length of time exposed. Many radon-induced lung cancers can be prevented by testing and reducing radon levels in existing buildings and by using radon resistant construction techniques for all new construction.³

The goal for mitigating radon in buildings is to reduce radon concentrations in indoor air as low as reasonably achievable and practicable considering the efficacy of current industry-standard radon reduction systems and environmental conditions (e.g., geology and climate). The most effective strategy to protect the health and safety of occupants is to prevent radon from entering the building by using radon resistant construction techniques; another effective strategy is to reduce the level of radon inside existing buildings by installing and operating a radon reduction system. An effective radon reduction system achieves two main goals: it reduces the concentration of radon gas in the home by venting it safely outside the structure and removes the radon gas from under the foundation before it can come into the home.

III. Considering radon in the environmental review

HUD's environmental regulations at 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2)(i) and (ii)⁴ state that,

[i]t is HUD's policy that all properties that are being proposed for use in HUD programs be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gases, and radioactive substances, where a hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property.

The environmental review of multifamily housing . . . , must include the evaluation of . . . other evidence of contamination on or near the site, to ensure that occupants of proposed sites are not

¹ National Institute of Health, Periodic Table, Element Summary, "Radon", https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/element/Radon.

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Health Risk of Radon", https://www.epa.gov/radon/health-risk-radon.

³ https://www.epa.gov/radon/health-risk-radon.

⁴ HUD's contamination policy at 24 CFR 50.3(i)(1) and (2) implements the same substantive policy with slightly different text, https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-A/part-50/subpart-A/section-50.3.

adversely affected by any of the hazards listed in paragraph (i)(2)(i) of this section.

As radon is a radioactive substance, HUD or the responsible entity (RE) must consider it as part of the site contamination analysis for projects that:

- Require an environmental review at the level of *Categorically Excluded Subject to 50.4* or 58.5 ("CEST"), *Environmental Assessment*, or *Environmental Impact Statement*; and
- Involve structures that are occupied or are intended to be occupied at least four (4) hours a day.

Note: HUD's contamination policy does not apply to projects that are Exempt or Categorically Excluded Not Subject to 50.4 or 58.5 ("CENST").

HUD encourages environmental review preparers to follow the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommendations about assessing the health risk from radon exposure and when to reduce radon levels in indoor air. Because more people are exposed to moderate levels of radon, most radon-induced lung cancer results from long-term exposure to low or moderate radon levels in the home, as opposed to short term exposure to very high levels of radon. The EPA recommends homes be fixed if the radon level is 4 pCi/L or more. Because there is no known safe level of exposure to radon, EPA also recommends that Americans consider fixing their home for radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L⁶. Indoor air radon levels vary across the U.S. and from parcel to parcel due to differences in geology, climate, seasonal variation, building construction, and other conditions. Additionally, because radon cannot be seen, tasted, or smelled, the only method for determining the precise radon level in a specific building is to test the indoor air.

Exemptions from having to consider radon in the contamination analysis⁷:

- Buildings with no enclosed areas having ground contact.
 - o 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/L⁸ 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

⁵ World Health Organization, *Handbook on Indoor Radon; A Public Health Perspective* (January 1, 2009). p. x, 2, https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241547673.

⁶ https://www.epa.gov/radon/what-epas-action-level-radon-and-what-does-it-mean

⁷ These exemptions are specific to this notice and do not all comport with the requirements in the MAP Guide, Healthcare Mortgage Insurance Program Handbook, RAD Program Notice and supplemental guidance or other program guidance.

⁸ Or the EPA's current recommended level for reducing radon levels in indoor air, https://www.epa.gov/radon/health-risk-radon.

- 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.

A. How to consider radon in the HUD Environmental Review

This section details how environmental review preparers may consider radon in the HUD environmental review in order to satisfy 24 CFR 50.3(i) or 24 CFR 58.5(i) ¹⁰. This section provides a recommended "best practice" method; however, preparers may utilize one of the alternate options if they choose not to implement the best practice.

i. Recommended Best Practice

When considering radon in the contamination analysis, HUD strongly recommends using the American National Standards Institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (ANSI/AARST) radon testing standards for single- and multi- family buildings, schools, and large buildings, including those constructed using radon-resistant construction techniques. The ANSI/AARST standard describes how to conduct testing, interpret test results, and draft a Radon Test Report to document the process for the building owner (and to use as documentation for the ERR).

The ANSI/AARST standards can be viewed online for free and are intended to be implemented by licensed radon professionals. To find a licensed radon professional in your area contact the State/Tribe's radon program office, ¹² National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP), ¹³ or the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB). ¹⁴

There may also be state and/or local radon requirements, depending on the jurisdiction. Contact the relevant State/Tribal radon control program to ensure the project complies with State/Tribal requirements.¹⁵

Note: Although testing is not required under this notice, *testing is the only way to determine the radon level within a building*.

⁹ Note that the allowance for the use of test results within the previous five years is specific to this notice and does *not* comport with the ANSI/AARST standards.

¹⁰ This section does not apply to projects that are subject to the MAP Guide, Healthcare Mortgage Insurance Program Handbook or RAD Program Notice and supplemental guidance or other current or future HUD radon guidance that is more prescriptive.

¹¹ ANSI/AARST Standards (In lieu of developing a federal radon testing standard, the EPA references the ANSI/AARST Standards), https://standards.aarst.org/ (https://standards.aarst.org/ (https://standards.aarst.org/ (https://standards.aarst.org/ (https://standards.aarst.org/ (https://standards.aarst.org/ (https://standards-practice).

¹² The National Radon Program Services, "State Radon Programs Information", https://sosradon.org/state.

¹³ NRPP, https://nrpp.info.

¹⁴ NRSB, https://www.nrsb.org.

¹⁵ https://sosradon.org/state.

ii. Alternative Options

Using the ANSI/AARST radon testing standards is not the only option available for considering the risk that occupants may be exposed to high radon levels. ¹⁶ If the environmental review preparer chooses not to conduct radon testing per the ANSI/AARST standards, one of the following alternative strategies ¹⁷ must be used to consider radon in the contamination analysis. Review the HUD program office guidance in Section IV to ensure the strategy used to consider radon in the contamination analysis complies with specific program office requirements for the project. ¹⁸

1. Do-it-yourself (DIY) radon test kits may be used to measure radon levels in single-family dwelling units. In HUD single-family buildings¹⁹ with multiple units, one DIY test kit must be used for each dwelling unit. DIY radon test kits may be available for low or no cost through State/Tribal radon program offices and are available to purchase through the National Radon Program Services website and some state radon control program websites.²⁰

When using a DIY test kit, there can be quality control issues that affect the quality of the test results. To ensure the DIY test results are as accurate as possible, it is important to read the entire test kit instructions before activating the test device and to follow them fully. The EPA's *Citizen's Guide to Radon*²¹ and the ANSI/AARST standard for testing single-family housing are excellent resources for detailed instructions about conducting the radon test, including where to place the test device(s), how to prepare the home (whether to close the windows, turn off fans, the length of time to test), how to document the test process, and interpret the results. HUD encourages that test devices be approved by either the NRPP or NRSB. Contact the National Radon Program Services helpline, the State/Tribal radon program office, or the local health department for assistance.²²

2. In remote or other areas where there are no licensed/certified radon professionals and/or DIY test kits cannot be shipped to a lab in sufficient time, the local government, such as a local health department or environmental department, may decide to purchase radon monitoring equipment and train staff to use it. Monitoring equipment, such as continuous radon monitors, should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and intended use and staff should ensure proper quality control and quality assurance practices are adhered to.

¹⁶ High levels of radon are those that are at or above 4 pCi/L.

¹⁷ Alternative to measuring radon levels in indoor air using the ANSI/AARST standards.

¹⁸ Note: REs and HUD must also ensure that the strategy used complies with any state or local laws and regulations regarding radon.

¹⁹ HUD defines "single family building" as a residential building with one to four dwelling units.

²⁰ National Radon Program Services, https://sosradon.org/purchase-kits.

²¹ EPA, A Citizen's Guide to Radon: The Guide to Protecting Yourself and Your Family from Radon (EPA 402/K-12/002, December 2016), https://www.epa.gov/radon/publications-about-radon.

²² The National Radon Program Services, which has phone, email, and mail connections, is operated by Kansas State University for the US EPA, https://sosradon.org/Contact. (The phone numbers may also be reached by persons with hearing or speech difficulties by dialing 711 via teletype (TTY) or telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD)).

- 3. Scientific data review. Available science-based information may be used to determine whether the project site is located in an area that has average documented radon levels at or above 4 pCi/L. Contact the State/Tribal radon program office (or health department), as needed, for assistance with obtaining and interpreting available science-based information about radon levels in the area. Science-based information includes, but is not limited to:
- State/Tribe-generated radon information, such as surveys of radon levels from collecting radon measurement data or geological studies that identify high risk areas.
- Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Environmental Public Health Tracking, Radon Testing map.²³ This map provides radon test data from national radon testing laboratories and states that can be viewed by state or county. Radon test data ranges from 1988 to the present.

Environmental review preparers may *not* use the EPA Map of Radon Zones nor EPA State Maps of Radon Zones for considering radon levels at a project site for compliance with 24 CFR 50.3(i) or 24 CFR 58.5(i) because it is not appropriate for a site-specific analysis of radon risk, which is required for a HUD environmental review.

Note: Although science-based, a document review *does not* determine the radon level in a specific building; where feasible, HUD recommends using one of the radon testing strategies.

When conducting a scientific data review in lieu of testing, there must be a minimum of 10 (ten) documented test results over the previous 10 years for which data is available in a given county for the scientific data review approach to be utilized. If there are less than 10 documented results over this period, then there is a lack of scientific data for the purposes of this notice and no further consideration of radon is needed if testing is infeasible or impracticable.

Additionally, testing data utilized should cover the smallest geographic area for which the minimum amount of documented test results exist, up in size to the county in which the project is located. The best available data must be used. Best available data refers to the most current data that best indicates the level of radon concentration at a project site. Whenever possible, utilize the average of the previous 10 years of data.

There may be certain scenarios in which use of the Recommended Best Practice or Alternative Options identified above may not be feasible or practicable due to limited access to testing (e.g., lack of licensed radon professionals in the project area) and lack of scientific data (e.g., there are less than 10 documented test results over the previous 10 years). Refer to section **C. Documenting the environmental review record** below for documentation requirements in these scenarios.

6

²³ CDC, "National Environmental Public Health Tracking, Radon Testing", https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/tracking/topics/RadonTesting.htm.

B. Mitigating Radon

When radon testing determines indoor air radon levels are at or above 4 pCi/L or the scientific data review determines the project site is located in an area that has documented radon levels at or above 4 pCi/L, the Environmental Review Record (ERR) must include a mitigation plan. When the determination is based on a scientific data review, if feasible, HUD recommends conducting radon testing (using one of the testing strategies described in the previous sections) to confirm radon levels in the building(s) proposed for HUD funding. If testing then demonstrates that radon levels within the building are below 4 pCi/L, mitigation would *not* be required; environmental review preparers can simply document the test results in the ERR.

The mitigation plan²⁴ must identify the radon level; consider the risk to occupants' health; describe the radon reduction system that will be installed; whenever possible, establish an ongoing maintenance plan to ensure the system is operating as intended; establish a reasonable timeframe for implementation (i.e., integrate radon mitigation activities into an annual plan or a 5-year plan that is already completed for HUD funded activities); and require post-installation testing. Where feasible, post-installation testing should be conducted by a licensed radon professional. In an area where there are no licensed radon professionals, there may be other personnel, such as trained staff, other professionals (i.e., engineers, geologist, scientists, public health staff) who have experience conducting radon testing or have the relevant skills and knowledge to follow the device instructions or ANSI/AARST test protocols and mitigation standards. For assistance Contact the EPA's local radon program office, state/Tribe radon program office, the National Radon Program Services, or refer to the applicable ANSI/AARST standard for guidance.

If using the ANSI/AARST mitigation standard to install the radon reduction system, follow the guidance in the standard to draft the mitigation and the operation, maintenance, and monitoring plans.

C. Documenting the environmental review record

Under HUD's regulations, 24 CFR 58.38(a)(3) or 50.11, HUD, or the RE, is required to document the radon evaluation as part of the contamination analysis in the ERR. For ERRs documented using the HUD Environmental Review Online System (HEROS), document the radon evaluation in the Contamination and Toxic Substances factor Compliance Determination screen and upload supporting documentation. For Office of Housing projects, document the radon evaluation in the HEROS Housing Requirements Screen.

If testing is not conducted and not otherwise required by program guidance, the documentation will need to provide evidence of average documented radon test results covering the project site or its county, other science-based information suggesting radon levels at the project site, or evidence of a lack thereof.

²⁴ Example of an areawide radon testing plan: Home Forward, Multnomah County, Oregon at: http://homeforward.org/content/radon-information.

²⁵ EPA Regional, State, and Tribal Radon contacts, https://www.epa.gov/radon/epa-map-radon-zones-and-supplemental-information#datainfo; National Radon Program Services, https://sosradon.org/main or 800 644-6999.

In instances where radon testing will be conducted but cannot be conducted until after the environmental review record is certified -such as with new construction or certain rehabilitation projects- then the initial documentation would not include a radon evaluation but must include a condition for post-construction radon testing followed by mitigation if needed. The environmental preparer must update the environmental review record with the radon evaluation and proof of any required mitigation when complete.

Acceptable methods to document radon consideration in the ERR include:

- ANSI/AARST standard: Include a copy of the test report and mitigation plan (if applicable) as described in the standard in the ERR. For Office of Housing programs, follow program guidance requirements on timing and documentation.
- DIY and other radon test strategies: Document the test device, time period of test, test conditions (HVAC system off windows closed, outside temperature), test results, and other conditions relevant to test conditions. Refer to the applicable ANSI/AARST standard as guidance.
- Review of CDC radon testing data, geologic studies/maps, other scientific data: Describe and cite the maps and data used to determine the area wide radon levels and include copies of all supporting documentation (maps/studies) in the ERR.
- In instances where HUD grantees, applicants, and recipients are unable to obtain science-based data, environmental review preparers must consider the feasibility of radon testing if they have not already. If the grantee, applicant, or recipient determines that testing is infeasible or impracticable, the environmental review must document the basis for this determination. Acceptable documentation in these scenarios where testing is infeasible and science-based data is not available includes but is not limited to: correspondence with state and local radon control agencies indicating a lack of scientific data evidencing radon levels at the project site, a copy of CDC Environmental Health Tracking Network information showing the project site is located in a county with a lack of scientific data, and a basis for the conclusion that testing would be infeasible or impracticable. The RE, grantee, applicant, or recipient is not required to submit additional documentation substantiating their decision that testing is infeasible or impracticable.
- When all this is documented in the ERR, *no* further consideration of radon is needed and no further action with respect to radon is needed for the environmental review.

Examples of acceptable documentation of radon consideration in the ERR:

A project site is located in a county in which the CDC Radon Testing data shows that
more than 10 tests have been conducted over the last 10 years. The average of the 200
tests completed in the county over the last 10 years is 4.5 pCi/L. Since scientific data

²⁶ Common instances where this determination may occur include a lack of funding for testing or the cost of testing is prohibitively high when compared with the cost of a particular low-dollar project.

indicates that average radon levels in the county in which the project is located are greater than 4.0 pCi/L, the grantee must either test for radon or formulate a mitigation plan they will implement.

- Radon testing data from the CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network map shows data for the county in which the project site is located, which is the smallest area for which data is available. The data shows the annual mean pre-mitigation radon measurement in tested buildings for the most recent 10-year period as 1.8 pCi/L. There is no other available evidence of radon levels in the area. The local government chooses to establish a radon testing plan to confirm radon levels in specific buildings are below 4 pCi/L. The test plan timeframe aligns with the RE's housing rehabilitation plan.
- A project site is located in a county in which the CDC Radon data shows that more than 10 tests have been conducted over the last 10 years. The average of the 220 tests completed in the county over the last 10 years in 3.2 pCi/L. The responsible entity or HUD reviewer documents the results in the environmental review records and therefore satisfies this notice's requirement that radon be considered as part of the environmental review process.
- A project site is located in a county in which the CDC data shows that fewer than 10 tests have been conducted over the last 10 years. The RE or HUD reviewer documents the lack of scientific data in the environmental review records. The RE has reviewed the cost of radon testing for the project and determined that testing is infeasible because the cost to test for this project would cut too much into the project's small budget. They note this determination in the environmental review record.

The local EPA radon contact person and the National Radon Program Services may be able to assist with developing a testing plan. The EPA's *A Citizen's Guide to Radon* (for single family homes) and the ANSI/AARST standards (single family and multifamily buildings) are a good source for guidance on the information that is included in a test plan.

Note: HUD or a Responsible Entity must reject projects in areas that have sufficient documented radon levels at or above 4 pCi/L if no mitigation has been proposed or performed.

IV. HUD program office documents addressing radon

Current HUD program office guidance regarding radon testing and mitigation is listed below. Each HUD program office is responsible for issuing program-specific radon guidance. Program guidance may be updated as Departmental policies develop; be sure to use the most current guidance. Additionally, this notice does not preempt or modify existing HUD program-specific radon requirements, such as those found in the Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide, the Healthcare Mortgage Insurance Program Handbook 4232.1 Rev-1, the RAD Program Notice and Supplemental Notice 4B, or other current or future radon guidance that is more prescriptive. For questions concerning program office guidance, contact your program office representative.

- Office of Housing, Multifamily Housing, Multifamily Accelerated Processing Guide (4430.G), Section 9.6.3,
 - https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/administration/hudclips/guidebooks/hsg-gb4430
- Office of Housing, Office of Residential Care Facilities, *Healthcare Mortgage Insurance* Program Handbook (4232.1), Section 7.8, Rev-1), or most recent edition, https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/42321S2C7HSGH.PDF
- Office of Housing, Office of Recapitalization, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program (Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23 (HA)) and Supplemental Notice 4B (Notice H-2023-08 PIH-2023-19 (HA)), https://www.hud.gov/RAD/library/notices
 - o Quick Reference Guide, Environmental Review Requirements for RAD Conversions (2020), https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4216/environmental-reviewrequirements-for-rad-transactions/. Check RAD Resource Desk for future guidance, https://www.radresource.net/index.cfm
- Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH), Radon Information for PIH Programs (Notice 2013-06 (HA)), https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/PIH2013-06.PDF and https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/radon/

V. **Resources**

HUD resources for implementation of this notice Α.

Costs for radon testing and mitigation are considered eligible program costs for many HUD grant programs. As such, costs for radon testing and mitigation could be included in the total project costs funded or insured by HUD. Note: Costs for ongoing operation and/or maintenance of installed mitigation systems may not be eligible under certain HUD programs. For questions about the eligibility of the ongoing maintenance of radon mitigation systems, as well as other funding-specific questions, contact your HUD program office contact.

Table A on the following page, notes the major HUD programs for which radon testing and/or mitigation under 24 CFR 50.3(i) or 24 CFR 58.5(i) is an eligible program expense. This list is non-exhaustive; for other HUD programs please contact the appropriate program office contact.

Table A: HUD programs and radon testing and mitigation as an eligible expense

Program or grant name	Is radon testing an eligible expense?	Is radon mitigation an eligible expense? ²⁷
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Yes	Yes
Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV)	Yes	Yes
Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)	Yes	Yes
Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)	Yes	Yes
Community Project Funding (CPF) Grants	Yes	Yes
Continuum of Care Program (CoC)	Yes	Yes
Emergency Solutions Grants Program	Yes	Yes
FHA-Insured Healthcare Loans	Yes	Yes
FHA-Insured Multifamily Loans	Yes	Yes
Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP)	Yes	Yes
HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP)	Yes	Yes
HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)	Yes	Yes
Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes	Yes
Housing Trust Fund (HTF)	Yes	Yes
HUD Section 8 renewals with capital repairs	Yes	Yes
HUD Section 8(bb) Transfer of Budget Authority.	Yes	Yes
Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)	Yes	Yes
Indian Housing Block Grant Program (IHBG)	Yes	Yes
Public Housing Capital and Operating Funds	Yes	Yes
Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)	Yes	Yes
Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program	Yes	Yes
Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program	Yes	Yes
Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program	Yes	Yes
Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP)	Yes	Yes
Transfers of Rental Assistance with HUD Held or Insured Debt and/or Use Restrictions ("Section 209 Transfers.")	Yes	Yes

²⁷ Note: The term "radon mitigation" refers only to initial installation of a radon mitigation system and does *not* encompass ongoing maintenance.

B. Other radon resources

- EPA radon website, https://www.epa.gov/radonNational Radon Program Services, https://sosradon.org/
 - o Helpline: 1-800-557-2366
 - o Comprehensive radon information, links to state radon programs and radon testing and mitigation information, and access to radon helplines
- CDC, National Center for Environmental Health, "Radon", https://www.cdc.gov/radon/
 - o National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network testing data map: https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/tracking/topics/RadonTesting.htm
- ANSI/AARST radon testing protocols and mitigation standards, https://standards.aarst.org/
- HUD 3-part radon webinar series sponsored by the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes and Public and Indian Housing, https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/radon/
- Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, *About Radon*, https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/healthyhomes/radon
- OEE, *Radon Fact Sheet*, https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4955/oee-radon-fact-sheet/
- OEE Radon and HUD-Assisted Projects Webinar Series, https://www.hudexchange.info/news/radon-and-hud-assisted-projects-webinar-series/

For questions concerning this Notice, contact your local OEE field environmental office staff, https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/hud-environmental-staff-contacts/



EJScreen Community Report

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

San Lorenzo Municipio, PR



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the User Community, Esri, HERE, Garmin, IPC

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

PR-RGRW-02213

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	5%
Spanish	95%
Total Non-English	95%

1 mile Ring around the Area Population: 5,429 Area in square miles: 3.55

COMMUNITY INFORMATION









51 percent

Low income: 47 percent





Limited English households: 53 percent

Unemployment: 5 percent

N/A

Average life

expectancy

disabilities: 12 percent

\$20,656

Per capita

income

49 percent



households:

1.970

Owner occupied: 86 percent

BREAKDOWN BY RACE









American Indian: 0%



Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0%

Other race: 0%

races: 0%

Hispanic: 100%

BREAKDOWN BY AGE



LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



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

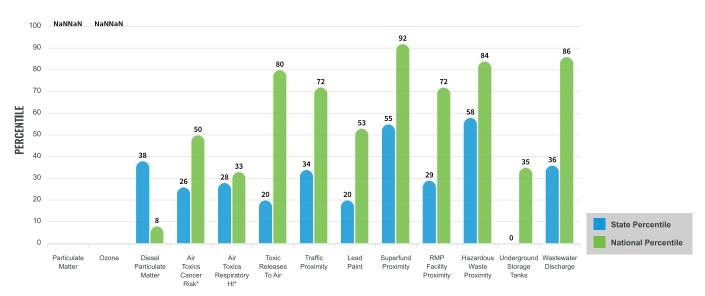
Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

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

EJ INDEXES

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

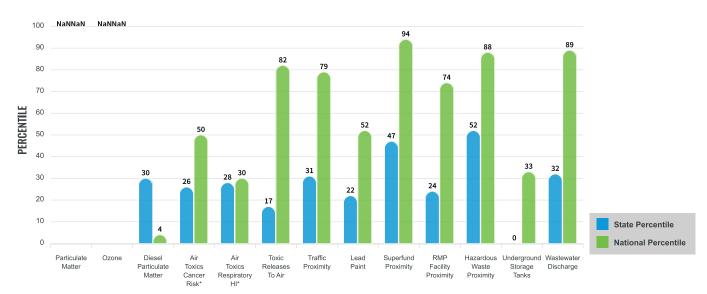
EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

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

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



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

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Report for 1 mile Ring around the Area

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA		
POLLUTION AND SOURCES							
Particulate Matter (µg/m³)	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.08	N/A		
Ozone (ppb)	N/A	N/A	N/A	61.6	N/A		
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m³)	0.0352	0.0667	46	0.261	2		
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	20	20	15	25	5		
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.2	0.19	17	0.31	4		
Toxic Releases to Air	360	4,300	23	4,600	41		
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	45	180	39	210	38		
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.026	0.16	23	0.3	20		
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.11	0.15	65	0.13	70		
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.12	0.47	34	0.43	35		
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.68	0.76	66	1.9	54		
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km²)	0.13	1.7	0	3.9	29		
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.0023	2.3	44	22	55		
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS							
Demographic Index	74%	83%	14	35%	92		
Supplemental Demographic Index	30%	43%	14	14%	95		
People of Color	100%	96%	29	39%	97		
Low Income	47%	70%	13	31%	78		
Unemployment Rate	5%	15%	26	6%	56		
Limited English Speaking Households	52%	67%	18	5%	98		
Less Than High School Education	15%	21%	35	12%	72		
Under Age 5	1%	4%	32	6%	17		
Over Age 64	18%	22%	36	17%	61		
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A%	N/A	20%	N/A		

*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of estimatories of health risks over geographic areas of the country, on the finitive risks to specific individuals or locations, cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figures and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are provided to the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are provided to the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update are provided to the Air Toxics Data

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund C	
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities)
Water Dischargers	2
Air Pollution	I
Brownfields)
Toxic Release Inventory)

Other community features within defined area:

Schools 0	
Hospitals 0	
Places of Worship	

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	No
Impaired Waters	Yes

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

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS					
INDICATOR VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILI					
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%	N/A
Heart Disease	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	N/A
Asthma	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A
Cancer	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	N/A
Persons with Disabilities	14.2%	21.6%	15	13.4%	61

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

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS					
INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	16%	32%	20	14%	65
Lack of Health Insurance	8%	7%	69	9%	57
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Report for 1 mile Ring around the Area

APPENDIX D

Endangered Species



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Bayamón | Mayagüez | Maricao | Río Grande | St Croix P.O. Box 491 Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622



In Reply Refer to: FWS/R4/CESFO/72129-Gen

Submitted Via Electronic Mail: jcperez@vivienda.pr.gov

Juan Carlos Pérez-Bofill, PE, MEng. Director – Disaster Recovery CDBG-DR Program Puerto Rico Department of Housing P.O. Box 21365 San Juan, P.R 00928-1365

> Re: CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-02213 Samaritanos Green Inc., San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated September 03, 2024, requesting informal consultation on the above referenced project. As per your request, our comments are provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is proposing the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator with the construction of a 4 feet (Ft) x 8 Ft on-site poured concrete pad and the installation of 40 linear feet of aboveground electrical conduit from the generator to the transfer switch location. The project will be located at State Road PR-183, Km 6.7, Hato Ward (18°12'07.4"N 65°59'20.9"W) in the municipality of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico. No tree removal will be required.

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

PRDOH used the Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) in the IPaC application to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on federally listed species (Project code: 2024-0051092). Based on the answers provided, a concurrence letter was obtained for the Puerto Rican boa and guajón which determined that the proposed actions for this project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) these species.

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Based on the nature of the project, Scope of work, information available, and analysis of the site (flat, maintained, grassy mowed area), PRDOH has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican plain pigeon. Conservation measures will be implemented in case an encounter with these species occur.

We have reviewed the information provided and in our files, and concur with PRDOH's determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican plain pigeon with the implementation of the conservation measures. Also, the Service acknowledge receipt of the NLAA concurrence letter for the Puerto Rican boa and guajón.

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

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

Sincerely,

LOURDES MENA Digitally signed by LOURDES MENA Date: 2024.09.30 19:31:47 -04'00'

Lourdes Mena Field Supervisor

drr

cc:

DNER HUD





September 3, 2024

Lourdes Mena Acting Field Supervisor Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office Park I, Suite 303 State Road #2 Km 156.5 Mayagüez, Puerto Rico 00680

Email: caribbean es@fws.gov; Lourdes Mena@fws.gov

RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing / Re-Grow Program

PR-RGRW-02213 – Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Endangered Species Concurrence for NLAA Determination

Dear Ms. Mena:

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is requesting an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project PR-RGRW-02213, located at PR-183 Road Km 6.7, Hato Ward, San Lorenzo, PR (Parcel ID# 252-042-218-18-000).

The proposed project is part of the Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (RGRW) that aims to increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security island-wide. This Program will enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities.

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-02213 consist in for the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator at coordinates 18.202062, -65.989145. The installation of the generator includes the construction of a 4-foot x 8-foot on-site poured concrete pad. According to the applicant, a transfer switch was installed 10 years ago for the use of the photovoltaic system. A new transfer switch will need to be installed for the generator. All needed electrical connections from the local utility service are installed on-site. The SOW includes the installation of 40 linear feet of aboveground electrical conduit from the generator to the transfer switch location. No water connections are included as part of the SOW. Field is not graded.

The proposed project area is located on a flat, maintained, grassy area that is frequently mowed. Surrounding landscape includes relatively flat areas with forested sections to the

east and west, cleared sections to the south, and the residence and greenhouses to the north of the proposed project area. Trees will not be removed during this project. The National Wetlands Inventory indicated that no wetlands are located within the parcel.

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

Name of the species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate				
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (Patagioenas inornata wetmorei)	Endangered				
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered				
Guajón (Eleutherodactylus cooki)	Threatened				
Critical Habitat					
There are no critical habitats within the project area.					

Based on site review and site photos, no suitable habitat was found within the proposed project area for the listed species.

The Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon habitat requirements per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are as follows: "The Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon is a large pigeon about the size and shape of a domestic pigeon. At a distance the species appears pale blue-gray. The head, hindneck, breast, and the top central part of the folded wing are washed with a wine color. The wing coverts are margined with white. Legs and feet are dark red. A variety of fruits and seeds, and livestock feed provide nourishment for this species. Approximately 70 percent of the foods come from tree branches, and 30 percent from the ground. Principal foods at Cidra are royal palm (Roystonea borinquena); mountain immortelle (Erythrina poeppigiana); West Indies trema (Trema lamarckiana); and white prickle (Zanthoxylum martinicense). Water is usually taken from the axils of bromeliads or from water retaining blossoms of the African tulip-tree. Nesting occurs primarily in bamboo groves and the hardwood canyons of Cidra."

The Puerto Rican Boa habitat requirements per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are as follows: "The Puerto Rican Boa is considered a habitat generalist and tolerates a wide variety of habitat types (terrestrial and arboreal). These include: rocky areas and haystack hills, trees and branches, rotting stumps, caves (entrances and inside), plantations, various types of forested areas such as karst and mangrove forests, forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges. Cave ecosystems and their surrounding forests are considered particularly important because of the availability of such ecological resources such as prey, shelter, thermal gradients, and mates for reproduction."

The coquí guajón habitat requirements per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are as follows: "The coquí guajón utilizes large to small caves and crevices formed by different sized granite boulders within rocky streams. This type of habitat is commonly known as *quajonal*. The species also has been detected using road culverts and adjacent to

Puerto Rico's sewer and aqueduct water facilities. Projects that occur upstream or upland where the species occurs may also impact its habitat further downstream."

Based on the nature of the project, previous site disturbance, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the Project Site, and IPaC species list, we have made the following effects determinations:

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will be implemented		
Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon	Not Likely to Adversely	USFWS Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon		
(Patagioenas inornata wetmorei)	Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures 2024		
Puerto Rican Boa	Not Likely to Adversely	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa		
(Chilabothrus inornatus)	Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures 2024		
Guajón	Not Likely to Adversely	USFWS Guajon Conservation		
(Eleutherodactylus cooki)	Affect (NLAA)	Measures 2023		

Given the current land use and frequent disturbance and lack of sightings of the listed species within the vicinity, PRDOH has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect the listed species provided the attached Conservation Measures are implemented as part of the proposed project. The automated informal consultation process was completed on August 23 through USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation website (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/).

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determinations included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species.

For any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information below.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Juan Carlos Pérez Bofill, PE, MEng.

Director - Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program

environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320

Attachments:

Appendix A:

Figure 1 – Project Location Map

Figure 2 - Area of Potential Effect Map

Figure 3 – Wetland Map

Figure 4 – Endangered Species Map

PR-RGRW-02213 USFWS Informal Consultation Page 4 / 4

> Figure 5 – Critical Habitats Map Figure 6 – Farmland Protection Map

Appendix B: Species List Caribbean Ecological Services and Consistency Letter

Appendix C: Site Photos

Appendix D: USFWS Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon Conservation Measures 2024

Appendix E: USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024

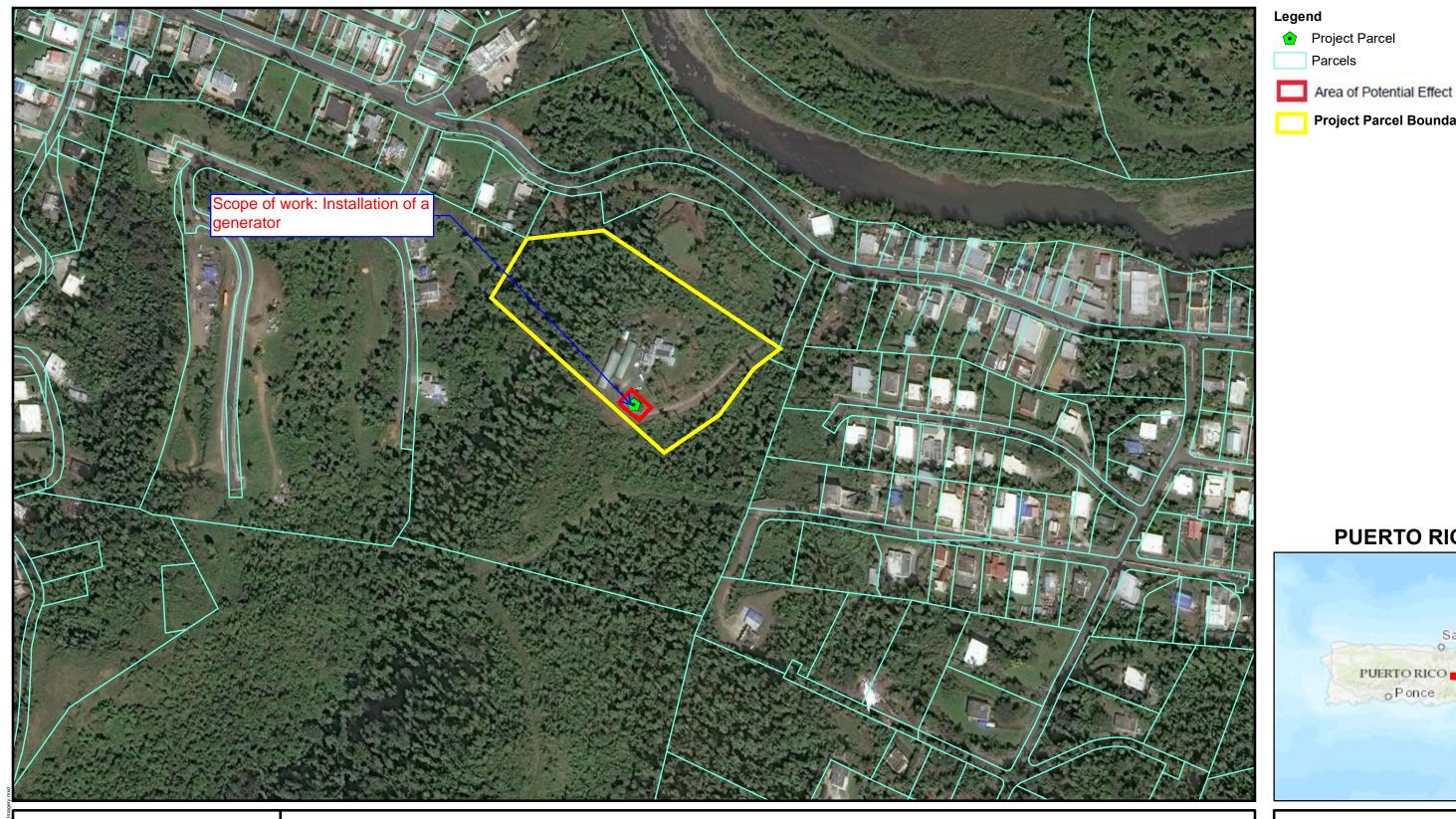
Appendix F: USFWS Guajón Conservation Measures 2023

C: Angel G. López-Guzmán, MSEM

Deputy Director

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division





TETRA TECH

https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/



APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc. Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145



Parcels

Project Parcel Boundaries

PUERTO RICO

PUERTO RICO o Ponce

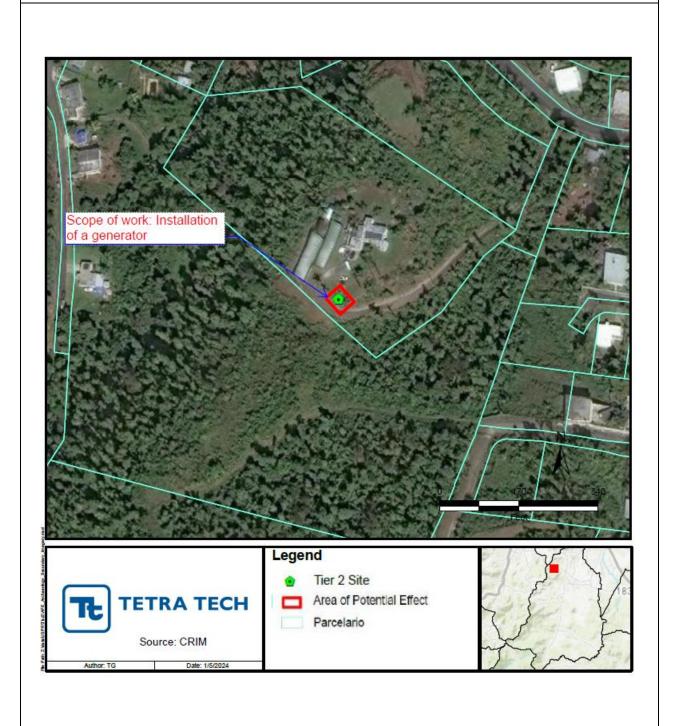
San Juan

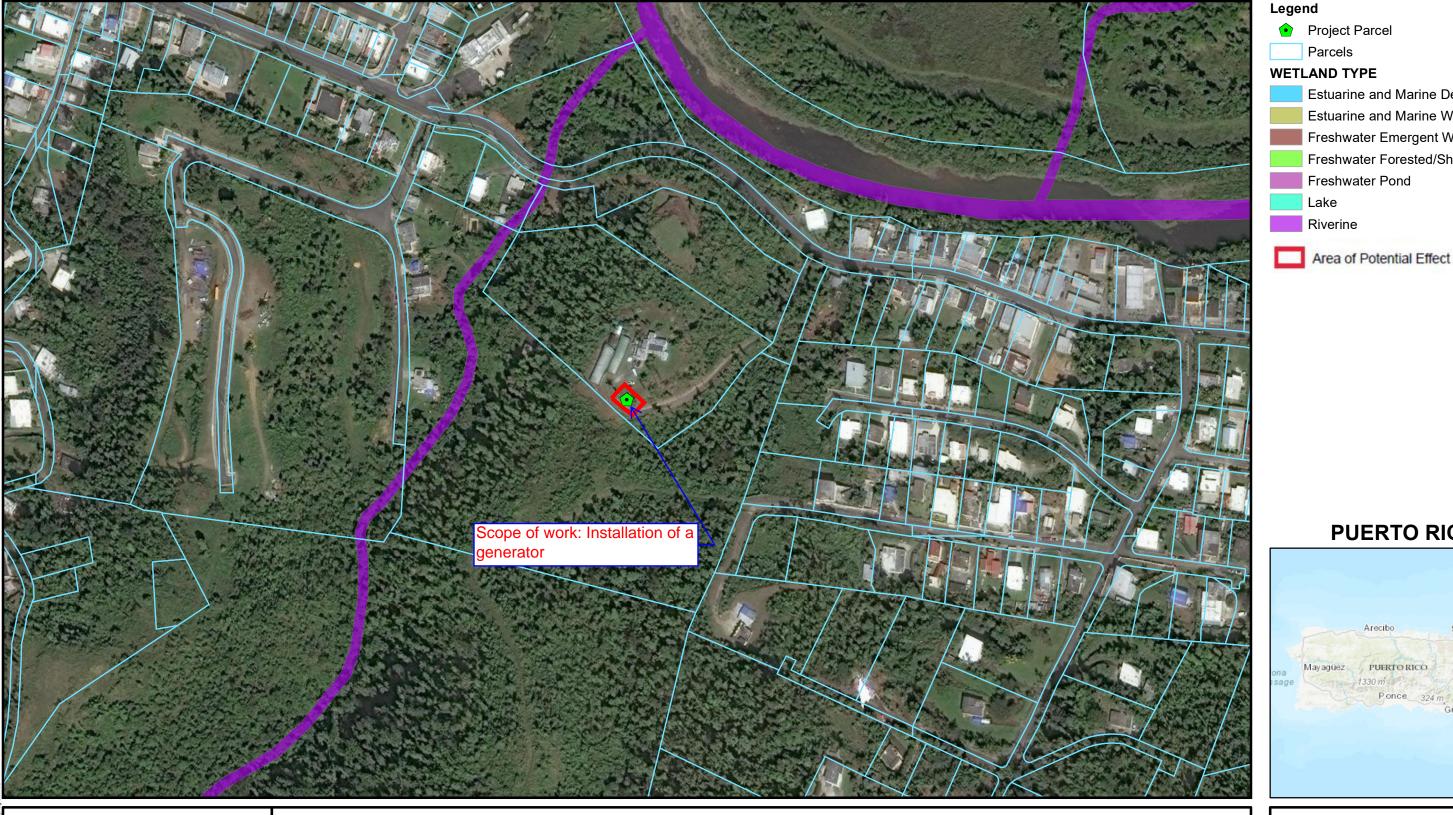


Subrecipient: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo

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





PUERTO RICO

Parcels

Lake Riverine

Freshwater Pond

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater Estuarine and Marine Wetland Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland





Date: 3/13/2024

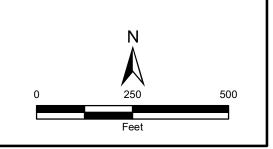
https://www.fws.gov

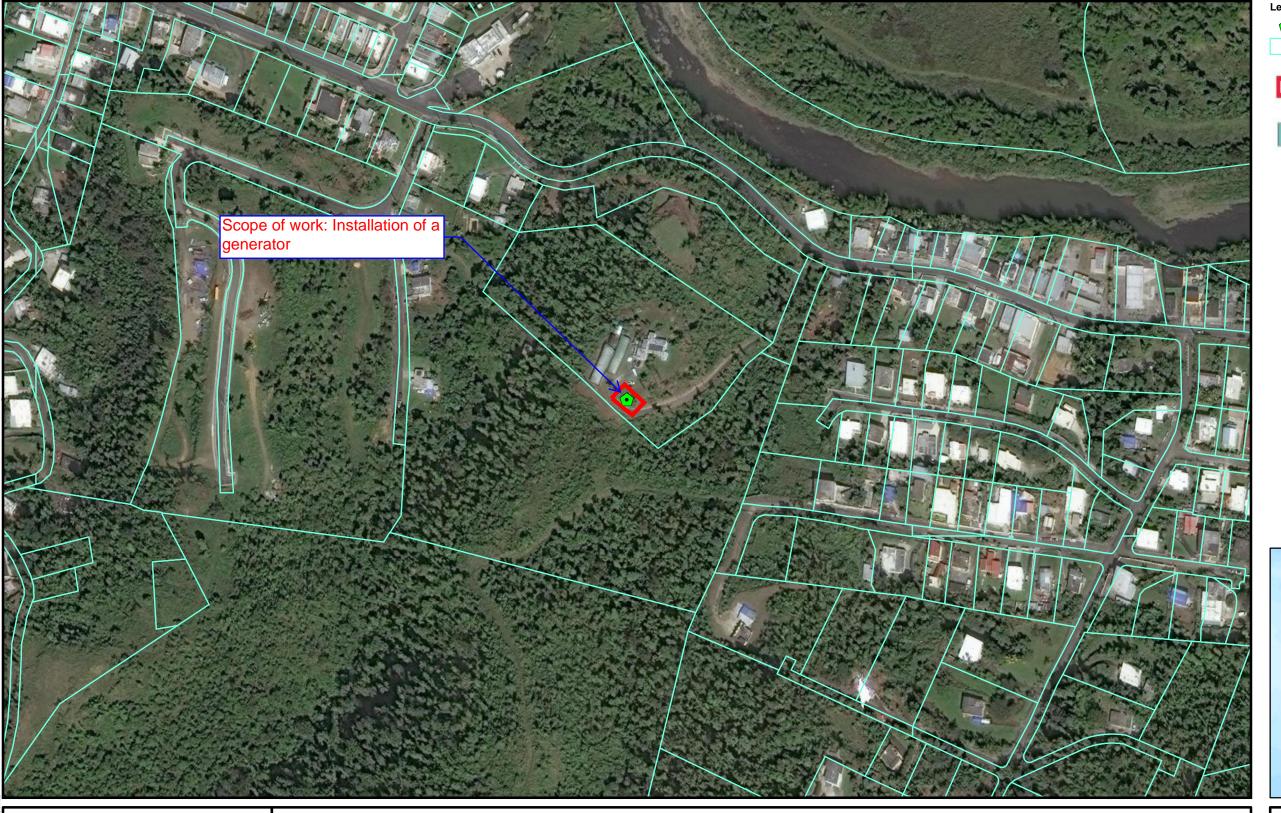
WETLANDS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc

Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145







Project Parcel
Parcels

Area of Potential Effect

Area of Critical Habitat

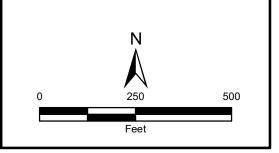


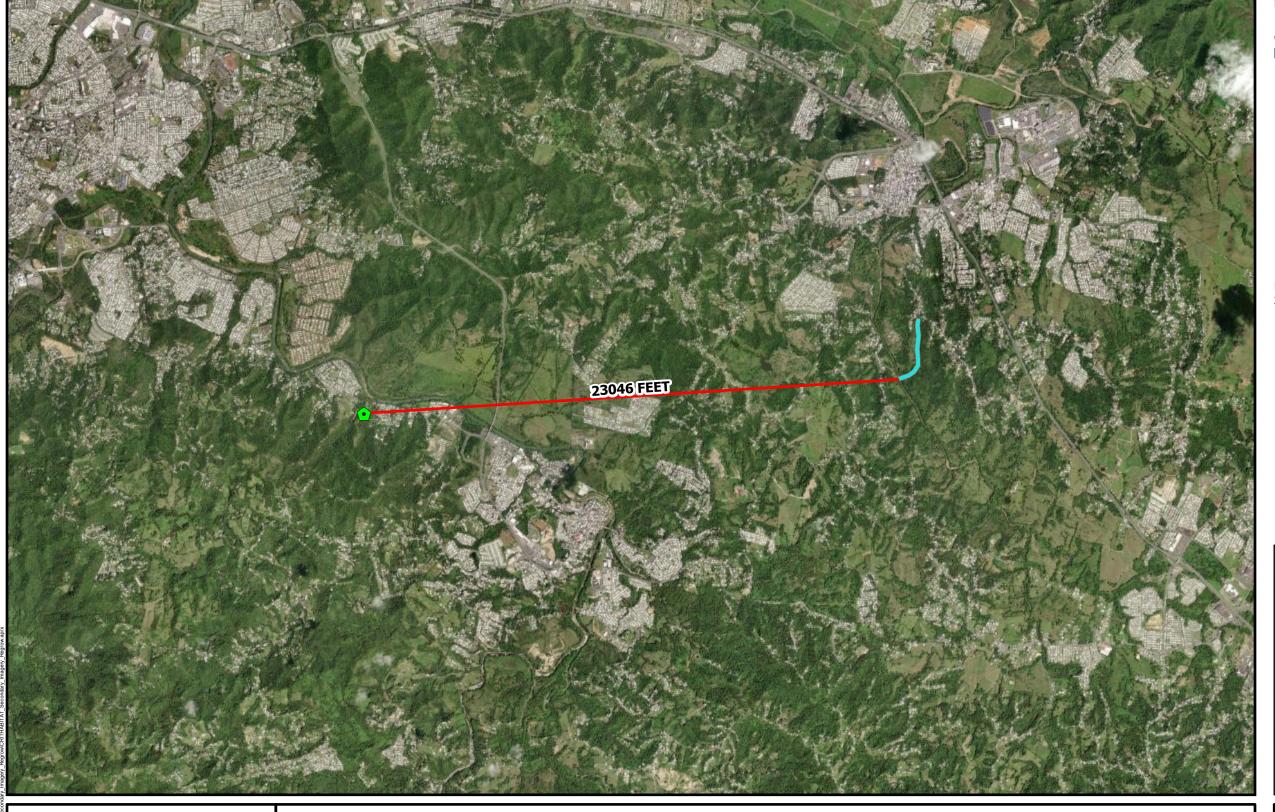


ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.
Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145







Distance to Nearest Critical Habitat: 23046 Feet

PUERTO RICO



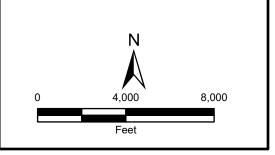


CRITICAL HABITATS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754

Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145





PUERTO RICO

All areas are prime farmland

Prime farmland if drained Prime farmland if irrigated

Prime farmland if irrigated and

Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

reclaimed of excess salts and sodium

irrigated

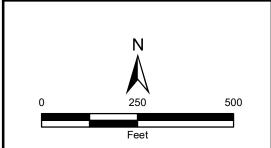
Farmland of statewide importance Farmland of statewide importance, if



FARMLAND PROTECTION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-02213

ADDRESS: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754 Name of Development: Samaritanos Greens Inc. Parcel Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145





Appendix B: Species List Caribbean Ecological Services and Consistency Letter



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (787) 834-1600 Fax: (787) 851-7440

Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>

In Reply Refer To: February 19, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0051092 Project Name: PR-RGRW-02213

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

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

Project code: 2024-0051092

to <u>caribbean es@fws.gov</u>. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

 $\frac{https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/consultation-under-section-7-of-the-endangered-species-act-with-the-caribbean-ecological\%20Services-field-office-template-letter.pdf$

When a federal agency, after discussions with the Service, determines that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any listed species, or adversely modify any designated critical habitat, and the Service concurs, the informal consultation is complete, and the proposed project moves ahead. If the proposed action is suspected to affect a listed species or modify designated critical habitat, the Federal agency may then prepare a Biological Assessment (B.A.) to assist in its determination of the project's effects on species and their habitat. However, a B.A. is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a B.A. where the agency provides the Service with an evaluation on the likely effects of the action to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a B.A. are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a federal agency determines, based on its B.A. or biological evaluation, that listed species and/ or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to further consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species, and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation process. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

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

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

This species list is provided by:

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

Attachment(s):

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

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 (787) 834-1600

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0051092 Project Name: PR-RGRW-02213

Project Type: Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural

Project Description: The intent use of funds for this project includes the purchase of a UTV

Power Sport and the purchase and installation of a standby generator. While the purchase of the UTV has been submitted and approved as an exempt activity under 24 CFR 58.35 (b)(4), the potential impacts associated to the purchase and installation of the standby generator are included in the analyses below. The farm has been and is in used for agricultural purposes with the growing lettuce and cilantro. The Scope of Work (SOW) for the proposed project consist in the installation of a 15kW standby diesel generator at coordinates 18.202062, -65.989145. The installation of the generator includes the construction of a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The applicant has installed a transfer switch at the power meter pedestal located next to the proposed generator location. All needed electrical connections from the local utility service are installed on-site. The SOW includes the installation of 40 linear feet of aboveground electrical conduit from the generator to the transfer switch location. No water connections are included as part of the SOW. Field is not graded.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2021065,-65.98915631146882,14z



Counties: San Lorenzo County, Puerto Rico

Project code: 2024-0051092 02/19/2024

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

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

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

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

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

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

BIRDS

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon Patagioenas inornata wetmorei

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7955

REPTILES

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628

General project design guidelines:

https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/SWMMGNO65NHEZF2N5WNTFJCXOU/

documents/generated/7159.pdf

AMPHIBIANS

NAME STATUS

Guajon Eleutherodactylus cooki

Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6963

General project design guidelines:

https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/SWMMGNO65NHEZF2N5WNTFJCXOU/

documents/generated/7136.pdf

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act¹ and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

- 1. The <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> of 1940.
- 2. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

THERE ARE NO BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF YOUR PROJECT AREA.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

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

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

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

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

WETLANDS

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

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

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Project code: 2024-0051092 02/19/2024

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Tetra Tech

Name: Shelby McDowell Address: 2301 Lucien Way #120

City: Maitland

State: FL Zip: 32751

Email shelby.mcdowell@tetratech.com

Phone: 4096591563



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440 Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>

In Reply Refer To: 08/23/2024 17:33:14 UTC

Project code: 2024-0051092 Project Name: PR-RGRW-02213

Subject: Concurrence letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-02213' for specified threatened

and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to

the IPaC determination key titled Caribbean Determination Key (DKey).

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the assisted evaluation keys in IPaC. This letter is provided pursuant to the Service's authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.). On August 23, 2024, Shelby McDowell used the Caribbean DKey; dated April 03, 2024, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online IPaC application to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-02213'. The project is located in San Lorenzo County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2021065,-65.98915631146882,14z



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-02213':

The intent use of funds for this project includes the purchase of a UTV Power Sport and the purchase and installation of a standby generator. While the purchase of the UTV has been submitted and approved as an exempt activity under 24 CFR 58.35 (b)(4), the potential impacts associated to the purchase and installation of the standby generator are included in the analyses below. The farm has been and is in used for agricultural purposes with the growing lettuce and cilantro. The Scope of Work (SOW) for the proposed project consist in the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator at coordinates 18.202062, -65.989145. The installation of the generator includes the construction of a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The applicant has installed a transfer switch at the power meter pedestal located next to the proposed generator location. All needed electrical connections from the local utility service are installed on-site. The SOW includes the installation of 40 linear feet of aboveground electrical conduit from the generator to the transfer switch location. No water connections are included as part of the SOW. Field is not graded.

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

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

Based on the answers provided in IPaC, the proposed project is consistent with a "may affect but is not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) for the species listed above because your project impacts to the species will be avoided or minimized using the **Conservation Measures** you agreed to implement. These conservation measures must be implemented during the project development to ensure compliance with Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA.

No further action is required for the species listed above. However, be aware that reinitiation of consultation may be necessary if later modifications are made to the project so that it no longer meets the criteria or outcome described above, or if new information reveals effects of the action that could affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed.

The Service will notify you within 30 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) determination for federally listed species in the Caribbean. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluate the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having unanticipated impacts. In such instances, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the DKey.

Note: Projects located within the range of the Puerto Rican boa or the Virgin Islands tree boa might encounter these species during project activities. **This letter does not provide take to handle or move these species**. If relocation of the species is needed, please contact either the

Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DNER) at 787-724-5700, 787-230-5550, or 787-771-1124 for projects in Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) at 340-775-6762 for projects in the Virgin Islands. Otherwise, contact the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (caribbean_es@fws.gov) to determine whether the consultation needs to be reinitiated.

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

• Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon *Patagioenas inornata wetmorei* Endangered

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

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

Action Description

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

1. Name

PR-RGRW-02213

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-02213':

The intent use of funds for this project includes the purchase of a UTV Power Sport and the purchase and installation of a standby generator. While the purchase of the UTV has been submitted and approved as an exempt activity under 24 CFR 58.35 (b)(4), the potential impacts associated to the purchase and installation of the standby generator are included in the analyses below. The farm has been and is in used for agricultural purposes with the growing lettuce and cilantro. The Scope of Work (SOW) for the proposed project consist in the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator at coordinates 18.202062, -65.989145. The installation of the generator includes the construction of a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The applicant has installed a transfer switch at the power meter pedestal located next to the proposed generator location. All needed electrical connections from the local utility service are installed on-site. The SOW includes the installation of 40 linear feet of aboveground electrical conduit from the generator to the transfer switch location. No water connections are included as part of the SOW. Field is not graded.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2021065,-65.98915631146882,14z



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

Project code: 2024-0051092

08/23/2024 17:33:14 UTC

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

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

No

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

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

13. Will the proposed project implement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife <u>Puerto Rican boa</u> <u>Conservation Measures?</u>

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

15. Will the proposed project involve the installation of retaining walls or gabions? *No*

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

Yes

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

Yes

Project code: 2024-0051092 08/23/2024 17:33:14 UTC

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Tetra Tech

Name: Shelby McDowell Address: 2301 Lucien Way #120

City: Maitland

State: FL Zip: 32751

Email shelby.mcdowell@tetratech.com

Phone: 4096591563

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development





Front of Structure
Photo Direction: Northeast



Facing Away From Front

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Direction: Northeast

Side #1 of Structure



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Direction: West



Facing Away From Back

Photo Direction: East





Photo Direction: Northwest



Facing Away From Side #2

Photo Direction: Southeast





Photo Direction: Southeast

Streetscape #1

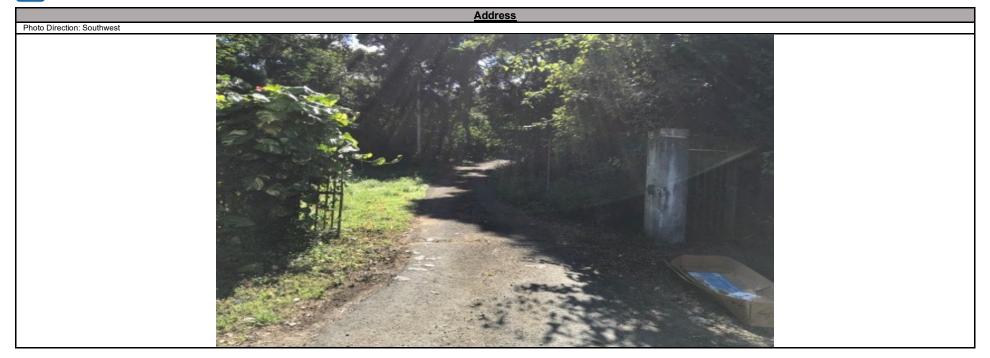


Streetscape #2

Photo Direction: Northwest









<u>Outbuildings</u>

Photo Direction: Northeast

Photo Description: Applicant house





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest

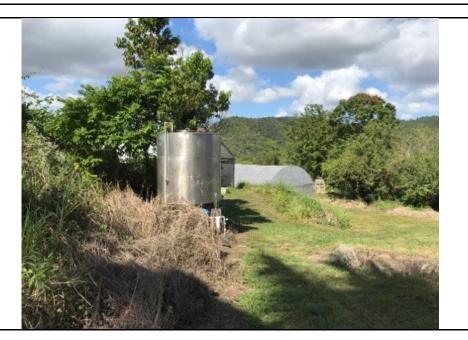




Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northeast





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: West



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast





Structure Occupied

Photo Description: Applicant House
Photo Direction: Northwest





Greenhouse Photos

Photo Description: Green houses

Photo Direction: Southwest





Electricity Connected

Photo Description: Power meter
Photo Direction: Northeast





Photo Description: Water meter
Photo Direction: Northwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Northwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Northwest





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Southeast



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Southeast





Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation of a Generator

Photo Direction: Southwest



Appendix D: USFWS Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon Conservation Measures 2024

Guidelines for Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon

The Puerto Rican plain pigeon is a large pigeon about the size and shape of a domestic pigeon. At a distance the species appears pale blue-gray. The head, hindneck, breast, and the top central part of the folded wing are washed with a wine color. The wing coverts are margined with white. Legs and feet are dark red. A variety of fruits and seeds, and livestock feed provide nourishment for this species. Approximately 70 percent of the foods come from tree branches, and 30 percent from the ground. Principal foods at Cidra are royal palm (Roystonea borinquena); mountain immortelle (Erythrina poeppigiana); West Indies trema (Trema lamarckiana); and white prickle (Zanthoxylum martinicense). Water is usually taken from the axils of bromeliads or from water-retaining blossoms of the African tulip-tree. Nesting occurs primarily in bamboo groves and the hardwood canyons of Cidra.

- For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction
 workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will
 educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures to
 follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency spill
 response protocols.
- 2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
- 3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this pigeon (late January to early July), if the paigeon is determined to be present.
- 4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the DNER and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
- 5. If a pigeon is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).

- 6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.
- 7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable environmental compliance and permitting requirements. This information shall be submitted to the PRDNER as shown in Number 5 above.
- 8. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact PRDNER for further guidance.

Appendix E: USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024

Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

Puerto Rican Boa

Generated August 01, 2024 02:11 PM UTC, IPaC v6.112.0-rc2



IPaC - Information for Planning and Consultation (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/): A project planning tool to help streamline the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service environmental review process.

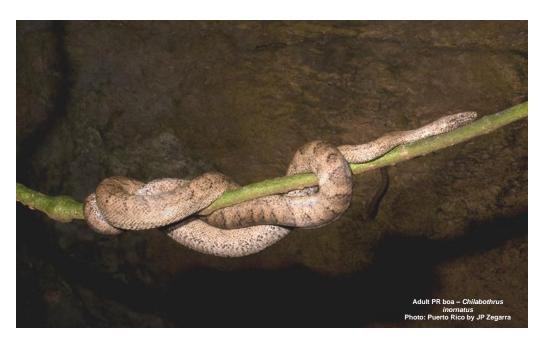


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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

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

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



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

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

Conservation Measures:

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

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

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

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Program Coordinator
 - o Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - o Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 - o Email: jan_zegarra@fws.gov
 - o Office phone (786) 933-1451

Appendix F: USFWS Guajón Conservation Measures 2023

Caribbean ES Coqui Guajon Project Guidelines

Guajon

Generated August 01, 2024 01:24 PM UTC, IPaC v6.112.0-rc2



IPaC - Information for Planning and Consultation (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/): A project planning tool to help streamline the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service environmental review process.



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

Conservation Measures for the Coquí Guajón (Eleutherodactylus cooki)

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

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





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

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

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

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

Conservation Measures:

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

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

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

If you have any questions regarding the comments above, please contact the Service Monday to Friday $8:00~\mathrm{am}-4:30~\mathrm{pm}$

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
 - o Email: jose cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - 0 (305) 304-1386
- Jan P. Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 - o Email: janz_zegarra@fws.gov
 - 0 (786) 933-1451

Last Revised: October 2023

Guidance for Repair, Replacement, and Clean-up of structures in Streams and Waterways of Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands

In Puerto Rico (PR) and US Virgin Islands (USVI), flooding caused by heavy rainfall events, tropical storms, and hurricanes can damage stream crossings (bridges, culverts, low-water crossings, etc.) and in-stream structures (piers, docks, etc.), and create debris jams. Many streams in PR and USVI support an array of aquatic species, including anadromous and catadromous native fish and a suite of native shrimp. Repair and clean-up activities in streams have the potential to adversely affect these species and their habitat, causing sedimentation in areas downstream of the project and disruption of sediment transport leading to channel instability.

This guidance applies to repair, replacement, and clean-up projects related to storm damage or natural processes. The guidance applies to creeks, rivers, and tidally-influenced waters in PR and USVI. All projects in aquatic habitats should be considered with the following conditions below.

General Guidance for Road Crossing Structures

Road-Stream Crossing Removal and Associated Channel Restoration

If a temporary crossing structure will be removed, the affected area should be restored to a natural state. Following structure removal, the stream channel should be reconstructed to match natural bankfull (i.e., channel shape from effective discharge or channel forming discharge [Figure 1]) width, channel slope and active floodplain dimensions, which exist upstream and downstream of the structure being removed. This activity should occur to restore physical and biological aquatic habitat connectivity, most notably, passage for aquatic and terrestrial organisms.

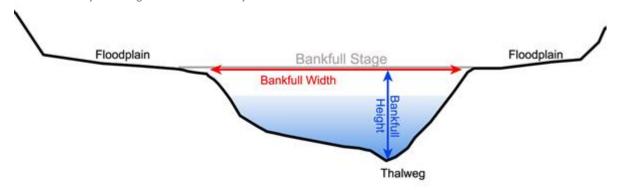


Figure 1. Bankfull Cross Section.

Road-Stream Crossing Replacement Structure

Replacement with a culvert or open-bottomed structure. Culvert refers to a variety of closed-bottomed metal and concrete structures. Open-bottomed structures include arches, three-sided boxes and bridges. Structure widths should be at least 1.2 times bankfull width with stable bank rocks on both sides. Structures should be constructed in a manner that accommodates 100-year flows, (Figures 2 and 3) and allows for natural stream processes including sediment and woody debris transport to the greatest degree possible given the structure dimensions. Flood relief culverts (Figure 4) on unconfined floodplains may be used. Crossings with large unconfined floodplains may require additional capacity or may include floodplain relief structures.

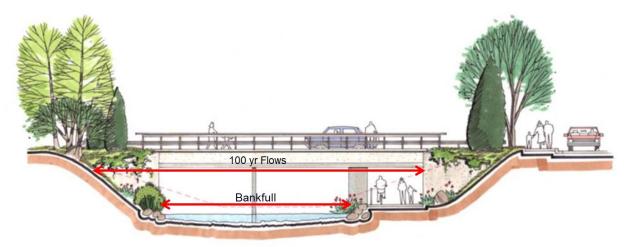


Figure 2. 100 yr Flow Design.



Figure 3. Bridge with Floodplain and Height Capacity for 100 yr Flows.



Figure 4. Bankfull Channel Culvert with Flood Relief Culverts at Floodplain Elevation.

Design Criteria

Stream crossing designs are intended to replicate the natural stream processes within and immediately adjacent to a culvert or opened-bottom structure. Aquatic organism passage, sediment transport and flood and wood conveyance within the structure are intended to imitate the stream conditions upstream and downstream of the crossing, as close to natural conditions as the structure type allows (Figures 5 and 6). Culverts and open-bottomed structures, when properly sized and designed, can accomplish these natural stream processes. Culverts should be partially filled with

material that simulates the natural streambed. Open-bottomed structures should contain substrate that matches the natural stream channel.



Figure 5. Poor design has resulted in scour and degradation below culvert and obstruction to fish passage.



Figure 6. Bankfull Bottomless Arch Culvert with Floodplain Relief Drain.

Implementation of a replacement project requires a high level of information and site-specific data regarding stream hydrology and geomorphology, as well as engineering and construction expertise. Project design criteria include several components as described below.

Structure Width

The width of structures (at bankfull or top of bank elevation) should be equal to or greater than 1.2 times bankfull channel width. A single structure span of the width is preferred but multiple culverts are allowed, and should be accompanied with flood relief drains. The minimum structure width of a culvert should be five feet to allow placement of substrate material. The width of the structures within the vertical adjustment potential should be equal to or greater than 1.2 times bankfull channel width. No piers, footers, piles, or abutments should be within 1.2 times bankfull width, unless there are constraints in placement and design criteria which then should allow for a minimum amount of structures.

Structure Alignment

The structure should achieve optimal orientation relative to both the road and stream channel. Replacement structures are sometimes shifted to achieve better alignment with the natural stream channel pattern at the crossing location. Skew angle should be in line with stream channel orientation.

Structure Capacity

The structure should accommodate a 100-year flood flow without significant change in substrate size and composition. To meet this requirement, unconstrained channel types may require structures wider than 1.2 times bankfull or additional flood relief structures. The headwater depth to structure height ratio should not exceed 0.8:1 for 100-year flows in order to allow for additional vertical clearance for woody debris and sediment transport.

Channel Slope

The culvert structure slope should match an appropriate reference reach of the natural stream (assessed at a minimum of approximately 20-30 times the channel width upstream and 20-30 times the channel width downstream of the site, though a suitable reference reach could be located further upstream or downstream). The maximum slope should not exceed 3.5 percent because of difficulties in retaining substrate within the structure at higher gradients, increasing both costs and design complexity. Bridges do not have a maximum slope range.

Embedment

If a culvert is used, the bottom of the culvert should be buried into the streambed not less than 20 percent of the culvert height.

Elevation

For open-bottomed structures, the footings or foundation should be designed to be stable for the maximum scour depth. The structure should also provide a low flow channel.

Substrate

Material in structures should match the natural stream channel. Bed materials should match natural stream bed mobility characteristics. Bank and other key bed structural elements (e.g. steps, weirs, ribs, etc.) should be stable at the 100-year flow.

Geotechnical analysis

Structure design and construction methods may be influenced by soil composition and subsurface conditions including, but not limited to, the presence of bedrock and clay. The need for geotechnical analysis is determined on a project-specific basis and is not always necessary.

These recommendations promote the use of the U.S. Forest Service's Stream Simulation approach for designing road-stream crossings, an approach which our agencies have successfully used on previous projects to support recovery of anadromous and catadromous fishes by restoring stream habitat.

Specific Conditions for Road-Stream Crossings:

A. Bridge and Culvert Repair, Replacement, or Upgrade to a Higher Preference Order

All bridge and culvert projects should follow the guidelines below and the General Conditions in D. General design drawings and recommendations are shown in Appendix A. Stream crossing structures are listed in order of preference from 1 (most preferred) to 4 (least preferred). Bridges that fully span the stream and have no instream pilings are preferred over other crossing types and should be used whenever possible as they minimize impacts to listed species and critical habitat, and reduce the need for future repairs.

Order of Preference	Structure	Project Description	Conditions
		Repair/ reinforcement	Follow the General Conditions listed in D. below.
N/A	Bridge	Repair/reinforcement with new rip rap	Placement of new rip rap in-stream should be consulted on with the Service on a case-by-case basis for specific recommendations.
1	Bridge – no in-stream pilings	Replacement or upgrade	 Remove all remnants of the damaged structure from the stream channel and dispose of in an off-site disposal area. Follow the General Conditions listed in D. below.
2	Bridge – with in-stream pilings	Replacement or upgrade	All bridge replacements and upgrades that require in-stream supports should be consulted on with the Service on a case- by-case basis for specific recommendations.
3	Culvert – bottomless	Replacement or upgrade	 Culvert width should be 1.2 times bankfull width. Multiple culverts are needed when the maximum culvert width available is reached, but bankfull width has not been reached. Culvert slope should match channel grade. It is recommended that floodplain relief drains be installed in road approaches.
4	Culvert – box, elliptical or round (in order of preference for minimization of impacts)	Replacement	 Culvert width should be 1.2 times bankfull width. Culvert should be counter sunk below substrate to a depth of 20% of the culvert diameter (round) or rise (elliptical, box). Multiple culverts are needed when the maximum culvert width available is reached, but bankfull width has not been reached. Culvert slope should match channel grade. It is recommended that floodplain relief drains be installed in road approaches.

B. Demolition and Removal of Damaged Structures

- Conduct activities in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the stream bottom and banks.
- The structure should be lifted or floated out of the stream, not dragged on the bottom.
- Wooden pilings should be cut or pinched off at the substrate level.

- Remove all remnants of the damaged structure from the stream channel and dispose of in an offsite disposal area.
- In addition, follow the General Conditions listed in D. below.

C. Debris Removal

- When feasible and safe, natural woody debris should remain in the stream.
- Conduct activities in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the stream bottom and banks.
- Debris should be lifted or floated out of the stream, not dragged on the bottom.
- In addition, follow the General Conditions listed in D. below.

D. General Conditions for all Projects

- 1. Keep in-stream work to a minimum.
- 2. Conduct work activities from atop a stable streambank or reinforced platform, when feasible, and in a manner that does not degrade or destabilize the streambank.
- 3. Install erosion and sediment control devices before any work is performed, and closely monitor and maintain for the life of the construction project. Implement the appropriate best management practices for preventing and minimizing erosion and sediment outlined in the following manuals: Florida Stormwater, Erosion, and Sediment Control Inspector's Manual (July 2008), and State of Florida Erosion and Sediment Control Designer and Reviewer Manual (July 2007).
- 4. Keep land clearing to the minimum level necessary for project completion. Stream bank vegetation should be left intact to the extent practicable. Cutting vegetation is preferred to root grubbing near streams.
- 5. Cover disturbed areas with erosion controls mats and revegetated promptly with native grasses.
- Locate debris collection sites, borrow sites, fill dirt stockpiles, and equipment staging areas at least 200 feet from stream channels to minimize the potential of sediments and contaminants entering the waterway.

E. Low Water Crossings-Fords

 All recommendations for Low Water Crossings-Fords can be found in the U.S. Forest Service Publications Number 0625 1808—SDTDC Titled "Low-Water Crossings: Geomorphic, Biological, and Engineering Design Considerations".

Contact Information: Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Marelisa Rivera

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

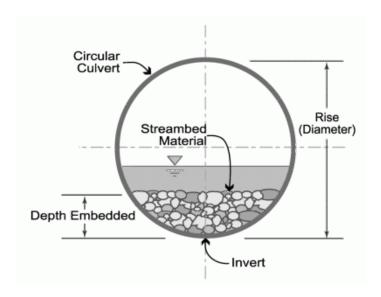
P.O. Box 491

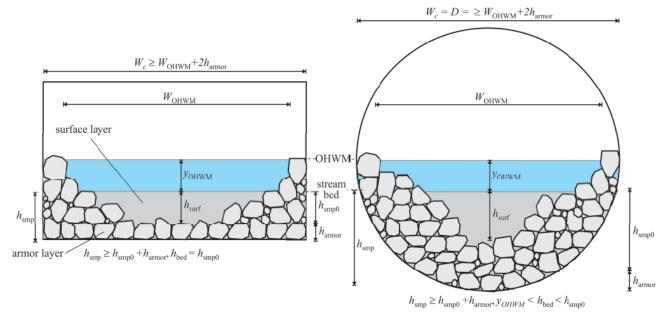
Carr 301, Bo Corozo

Boqueron, Puerto Rico 00622 Phone: (787) 851-7297 x 206 https://www.fws.gov/caribbean/

8

Appendix A General Design Drawings for Fish Passage Structures





APPENDIX E

Section 106 Consultation



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

March 4, 2024

Lauren Bair Poche

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

SHPO CF-02-27-24-09 SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL: PR-RGRW-02213 – SAMARITANOS GREENS INC. – BO. HATO CARR 183 KM 6.7, SAN LORENZO, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Poche,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB





February 27, 2024

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

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

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-02213 – Samaritanos Greens Inc. – Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected*

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, HORNE is submitting documentation for activities proposed by Samaritanos Greens Inc. located at Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, in the municipality of San Lorenzo. The undertaking for this project includes the purchase and installation of a standby generator. The installation of the generator includes the construction of a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The applicant has installed a transfer switch at the power meter pedestal located next to the proposed generator location. All needed electrical connections from the local utility service are installed on-site. The scope of work includes the installation of 40 linear feet of above ground electrical conduit from the generator to the transfer switch location. No water connections are required.



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

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

Kindest regards,

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager

LBP/JLE

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Subrecipient: Samaritanos Greens Inc.	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213	City: San Lorenzo

	•	
Project Location: Bo. Hato Carr 183 KM 6.7, San Lorenzo, PR 00754		
Project Coordinates: 18.202062, -65.989145		
TPID (Número de Catastro): 252-042-218-18-000		
Type of Undertaking:		
□ Substantial Repair		
Construction Date (AH est.): 1990	Property Size (acres): 5.16	

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Maria F. Lopez Schmid
Date Reviewed : 02/09/2024
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Pollyanna Clark, MA, RPA
Date Reviewed: 2/13/2024

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

Project Description (Undertaking)

The intent use of funds for this project includes the purchase and installation of a standby generator, the potential impacts associated to the purchase and installation of the standby generator are included in the analyses below. The farm has been and is in used for agricultural purposes with the growing lettuce and cilantro. The Scope of Work (SOW) for the proposed project consist in the installation of a 15-kW standby diesel generator at coordinates 18.202062, -65.989145. The installation of the generator includes the construction of a 4-foot (ft) x 8 ft on-site poured concrete pad. The applicant has installed a transfer switch at the power meter pedestal located next to the proposed generator location. All needed electrical connections from the local utility service are installed on-site. The SOW includes the installation of 40 linear feet of aboveground electrical conduit from the generator to the transfer switch location. No water connections are included as part of the SOW. Field is not graded.

Area of Potential Effects

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the concrete slab for the standby generator. Will be located at coordinates 18.202062, -65.989145, plus a 15-meter horizontal buffer to allow for some

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Subrecipient: Samaritanos Greens Inc.	,
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213	City: San Lorenzo

variation in final placement during construction and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the project area has no previously identified archaeological sites within 0.25 or 0.5-mile radius of the APE.

A total of 11 Phase IA and Phase IA-B archaeological studies have been performed within a quarter-mile radius of the APE. Of note, in 1987, Jesús S. Figueroa Lugo performed a survey within the project area with negative findings for archaeological resources within the APE. The ID numbers are EAP0120 and ICP/CAT-SL-87-01-01, and the report title is, "Phase IA-B, Urbanización Vistas De San Juan". These Phase 1A and 1A-B archaeological studies are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Cultural Resource Studies Conducted Within a Quarter-Mile Radius of Project Area

Author	Title	Year	SHPO/IPRC ID	Results	Location
Jesús S.	Phase IA-B,	1987	ICP/CAT-	Negative	0.0 mi;
Figueroa Lugo	Urbanización Vistas De San Juan		SL-87-01-01		within the APE
Antonio	Phase IA-B, Rio	1983	# HPF-1983	Positive	0.19 mi E
Daubon,	Grande de Loiza		/ ICP #		
Sociedad	Archaeological		(TBD)		
Espeleo-	Survey				
arquelogica de					
PR					
Antonio	Phase IA, Vistas Del Río		ICP/CAT-	Negative	0.16 mi NW
Daubón Vidal	Carretera 183, KM 6.2		SL-88-01-		
			03/		
			EAP0122		
Antonio	Phase IA, Aguas	1998	EAP0087	Positive;	0.26 mi N
Daubón Vidal	Buenas Sanitary Trunk -			Recommended	
	Caguas, San Lorenzo -			Phase 1B.	
	Caguas				

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Author	Title	Year	SHPO/IPRC ID	Results	Location
Virginia Rivera y Maritza Torres	Phase IA-B, Troncal Sanitaria San Lorenzo- Caguas		#07-09-98- 01 (Island wide) /ICP # (TBD)	Positive	0.17 mi N
Marisol Rodriguez	Phase IA-B, Vistas de San Juan PR-183, bo. Hato	1999	#05-05-99- 05/ ICP# (TBD)	Negative	0.30 mi NW
Jaime G. Vélez Vélez	Phase IA, Improvements to the Water Supply System from Caguas to San Lorenzo	2000	ICP/CAT- CS-00-19- 01/ EAP 1807	Positive; Recommended Phase 1B in pumping and water intake area and monitoring	0.11 mi N
Herminio Rodriguez	Phase IA-B, Vistas del Rio, Bo. Hato.	2001	#06-25-99- 08 / ICP # (TBD)	Negative	0.24 mi NW
Leila M. Comulda Torres	Phase IA-B, Reconnaissance Survey of Archaeological sites in the Municipality of San Lorenzo	2006- 2007	# HPF-72- 06-21560 /ICP # (TBD)	Positive	0.20 mi N
Virginia Rivera y Maritza Torres	Phase IA-B, Troncal Sanitaria San Lorenzo- Caguas		#07-09-98- 01 (Island wide) /ICP # (TBD)	Positive	0.17 mi N
Marisol Martínez Garayalde	Phase IA, Multifamily Residential Project	2006	ICP/CAT- SL-06-08- 02/ EAP6392	Negative	0.24 mi S

The closest fresh water source is Río Grande de Loíza 0.13 mi NE (0.20 kilometers). The project area is on MxF: Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes. This soil type makes the probability of finding *in situ*, significant, and undisturbed cultural resources very low.

Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Subrecipient: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo

Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the project area is **not** within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. Additionally, there are **no** NRHP-listed historic properties within the quarter mile buffer zone from the APE.

The proposed project is located in a rural, mountainous agricultural area on the outskirts of residential subdivisions and south of the Río Grande de Loíza. The property lies southwest of Route PR-183 in San Lorenzo near the boundary line with the town of Gurabo to the north, and Caguas to the west. A circa 1985 building is located north of the APE geocoordinates. The building is present on a 1994 aerial image, shown below left, but not on a 1977 aerial image. The building on the property has a slab on grade foundation, concrete walls, and a concrete flat roof. The property has three large metal and mesh greenhouses and various other metal and canvas structures.





Figure 1 & 2. Detail of 1994 aerial image showing the building on the property, and the rear elevation, view to the northwest.

This building is modern, and it **does not** meet the requirements to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSEAG
Subrecipient: Samaritanos Greens Inc.	,
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213	City: San Lorenzo

Determination

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

- Direct Effect:
 - o N/A
- Indirect Effect:
 - o N/A

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that no previously identified historic properties are located within or adjacent to the proposed project Area of Potential Effect. There are no reported archaeological sites within a half-mile radius of the proposed project area. There are no known archaeological sites or NRHP listed/eligible historic properties within or adjacent to the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of case PR-RGRW-02213. The proposed project area is not within the boundaries or visual APE of any NRHP listed/eligible historic properties, or to a Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. In 1987, the APE was previously surveyed with negative findings for archaeological resources. In addition, Mucara clay (MfX) soils with very steep slopes (40 to 60 percent) further reduces the likelihood of archaeological resources being present within or near the APE. The closest freshwater body is approximately 0.13 mi NE (0.20 kilometers). Based on our data analyses, the probabilities for new significant archaeological sites to be found on or near the project area is considered low. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSEAG	
Subrecipient: Samaritanos Greens Inc.	,	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213	City: San Lorenzo	

Recommendation

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

⋈ No Historic Properties Affected
□ No Adverse Effect
Condition (if applicable):
□ Adverse Effect
Proposed Resolution (if appliable)

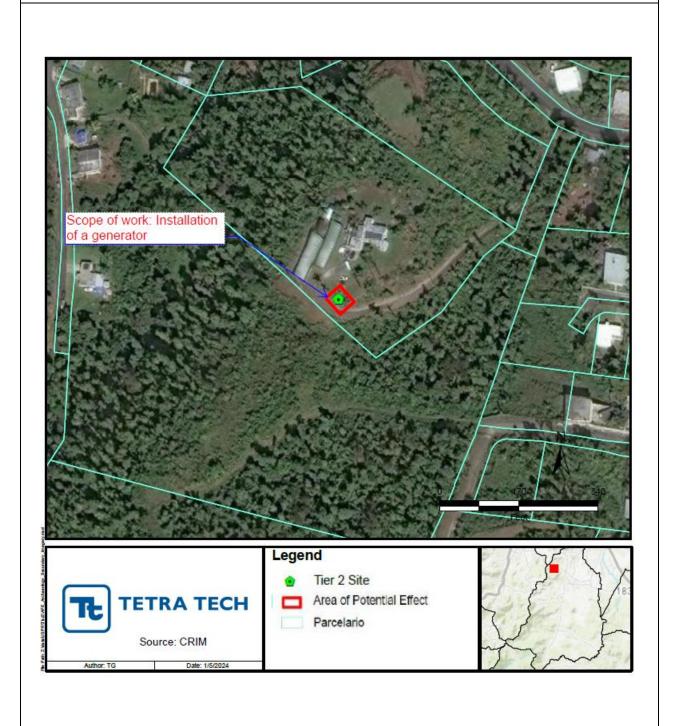
This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

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The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed and:	d the above information
□ Concurs with the information provided.	
□ Does not concur with the information provided.	
Comments:	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:



Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo

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





Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Subrecipient: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo

Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map Historic Comunidades TETRA TECH Traditional Urban Centers Cultural Resource District Polygon Source: CRIM Date: 11/16/2023

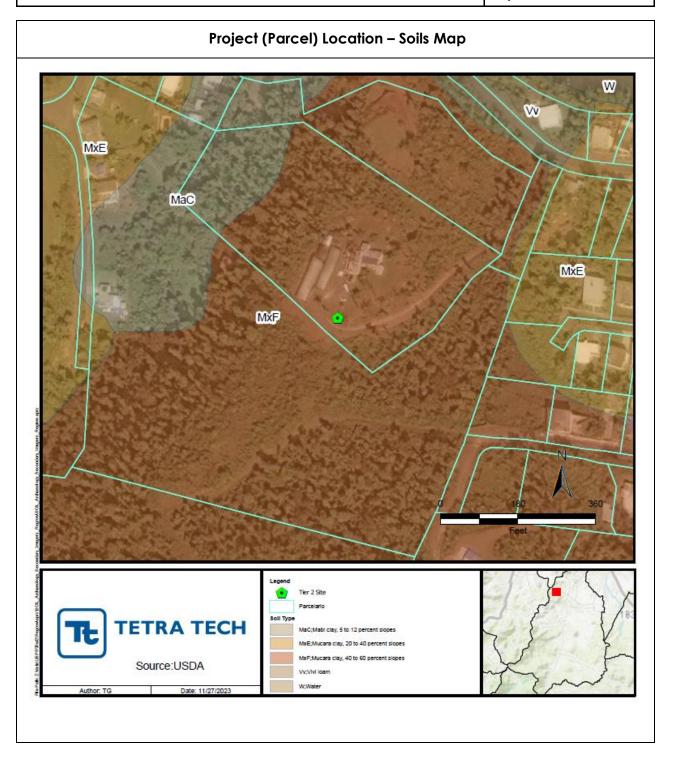


Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo

Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map Quadrangle: Juncos, Date: 3/25/1994 Legend Tier 2 Site TETRA TECH Historic Comunidades Traditional Urban Centers Source: USGS Cultural Resource District Polygon Date: 9/19/2023



Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo



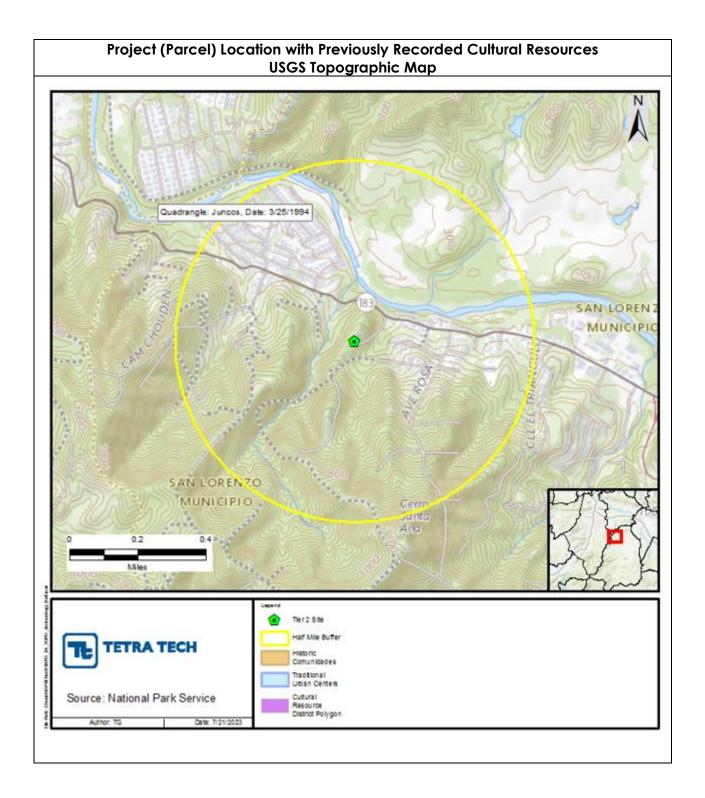


Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo

Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map Traditional Urban Tier 2 Site Centers Half Mile Buffer Cultural Resource District Polygon **TETRA TECH** Historic Comunidades Source: National Park Service



Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Subrecipient: Samaritanos Greens Inc.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo

Photograph Key



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo



Photo #: 1

Date: 1/2/2024

Description (include direction): Scope of work: Installation of a Generator, view to the northwest.

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



Photo #: 2

Date: 1/2/2024

Description (include direction): Scope of work: Installation of a Generator, view to the northwest.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Case ID: PR-RGRW-02213 City: San Lorenzo



Photo #: 3

Date: 1/2/2024

Description (include direction): Scope of work: Installation of a Generator, view to the northeast.

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



Photo #: 4

Date: 1/2/2024

Description (include direction): Scope of work: Installation of a Generator, view to the east.



October 20, 2022

Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

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

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela:

The U.S. Department of Housing (HUD) approved the allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) funds on February 9, 2018. It also approved the allocation of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds on January 27, 2020. The purpose of these allocations is to address unsatisfied needs as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017; and to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to mitigate disaster risks and reduce future losses.

To comply with the environmental requirements established by HUD, the Department of Housing of Puerto Rico (PRDOH) contracted Horne Federal LLC to provide environmental registry review services, among others, that will support the objectives of the agenda for both CDBG-DR and CDBG -MIT Programs.

In line to expedite the processes, Horne Federal LLC, is authorized to submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer, documentation of projects related to both the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT on behalf of PRDOH.

Cordially,

Juan C. Pérez Bofill, P.E. M.Eng Director of Disaster Recovery

CDBG DR-MIT