

Environmental Assessment

Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects

24 CFR Part 58

Project Information

Project ID: PR-RGRW-00810

Project Name: ACJ Corp

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

State/Local Identifier: Juana Diaz, PR

Preparer: Gabriela Rodríguez

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Permit and Compliance Officer: Pedro A. De León Rodríguez.

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 0.28-acre site located at Calle 512 Km 4.2 in the Municipality of Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 342-014-570-01-000). The coordinates of the project site are 18.086163, -66.539412.

The proposed project will be situated on a vacant lot proposed to be used for agricultural purposes.

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

The intent use of funds includes the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. Due to the dimensions of the proposed Module at least 6 pillars at an approximate depth of 3 ft are required. The module will be used for leaf crop production under vertical hydroponic system.

The project site is not connected to the local power and water utilities services. However, the location has the infrastructure to connect the proposed module to the water and power utilities. Applicant plans to connect the module to the main electrical meter box, located at coordinates 18.086071 -66.539538, through an electrical conduit to be installed at an approximate depth of 3 ft. Water will be supply to the module, from the local service water meter location, with the installation of underground water pipes on trench of approximately 1 ft depth. Utilities connection points are at an approximate distance of 30 ft from the proposed location of the module. The project site will require clearing, grading, and vegetation removal. However, proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees.

The potential impacts from the proposed actions are included in the analyses below and it is contained within the delimited Area of Potential Effect (APE). This APE has been extended to allow for utility connections and is constrained by the parcel boundary. The visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project. For this project the APE is defined by the 0.28-acre parcel boundary.

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 new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module 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 new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module is currently a vacant lot. Therefore, there is 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
- Appendix E – SHPO Consultation

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001,	Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)	\$11,938,162,230
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: \$100,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$100,000.00

Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6		
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project includes the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The

		nearest civil airport, Mercedita International Airport, is approximately 28,978 feet from the proposed site. The nearest military airport, Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, is approximately 222,019 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.
<p>Coastal Barrier Resources</p> <p>Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Puerto Rico has various Coastal Barrier Resources Systems (CBRS). The project is in south Puerto Rico. The distance to the nearest CBRS unit is 38,373 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.</p>
<p>Flood Insurance</p> <p>Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Project site is located in Zone X, area of minimal flood hazard, as per Floodplain Insurance Map 72000C1660J, effective date November 18, 2009. This project is in compliance with Floodplain Insurance requirements. (See Figures 4 and 5 in Appendix B.)</p>

STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5		
<p>Clean Air</p> <p>Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Project site is not located in a county or air quality management district that is non-attainment status for any criteria pollutants. The Municipio of Juana Diaz 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 purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. Project would have no impact on air quality. The project</p>

		is in compliance with Clean Air Act. Refer to EPA listing in Appendix C .
<p>Coastal Zone Management</p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project is located 33,616 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.</p>
<p>Contamination and Toxic Substances</p> <p>24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>A site visit conducted on December 19, 2023, no debris or rubbish or visible signs vegetative stress, contamination, or toxic substances were identified at the project site. The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations.</p> <p>Site contamination was evaluated through online data searches to determine if toxic sites are located within 3,000-feet of the proposed project.</p> <p>There are no sites of environmental concern identified within 3,000 feet of the project site.</p> <p>Refer 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.</p>
<p>Endangered Species</p> <p>Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The proposed location of project is a vacant lot.</p> <p>According to EPA NEPAAssist Enviromapper, the nearest critical or proposed critical habitat is 51,096 feet to the southwest of the project location. The Official Species List from the U.S.</p>

		<p>Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website lists the Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot, and the Puerto Rican Boa as being able to be found in the area, but there are no critical habitats for them at this location.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The proposed project will have No Effect on listed species or habitats. Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the Project Site, and IPaC species list, it was determined that there would be No Effect for any of the listed species.</p> <p>If a Puerto Rican Boa is encountered, work will cease until it moves off the site or, failing that, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers will be notified for safe capture and relocation of the animal, in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures guidelines.</p> <p>If a Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk or Puerto Rican Parrot 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 #: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Explosive and Flammable Hazards</p> <p>24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project does not include development, construction, or rehabilitation that will increase residential density.</p>

		<p>The project is in compliance with Explosive and Flammable Hazard requirements.</p> <p>Refer to site visit report in Appendix A.</p>
<p>Farmlands Protection</p> <p>Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The project site is designated as 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 from review under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FFPA) as the project is limited to construction of on-farm structures needed for farm operations. No further review is required.</p> <p>This project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act. Refer to Figure 12 in Appendix B.</p>
<p>Floodplain Management</p> <p>Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Project site is not located in a 100-year floodplain per Floodplain Insurance Map 72000C1660J, effective date November 18, 2009. The project site is not located in an Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) special flood hazard area.</p> <p>The proposed project is located in the municipality of Juana Diaz; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.</p> <p>This project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. See Figures 4, 5, and 6 in Appendix B.</p>
<p>Historic Preservation</p> <p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Consultation for the proposed project activities initiated in February of 2023, with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected received in a letter dated February 28, 2023 (SHPO ID: 02-01-23-03). Due to a change in the location of the proposed project activities Consultation was re-initiated.</p>

		<p>This site has been evaluated on January 29, 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 February 27, 2024.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Noise Abatement and Control</p> <p>Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. 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.</p>
<p>Sole Source Aquifers</p> <p>Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>There are no EPA sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The nearest Sole Source Aquifer is 5,363,951 feet to the northwest of the project site. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.</p> <p>Refer to Figure 17 in Appendix B.</p>
<p>Wetlands Protection</p> <p>Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations.</p> <p>The south coast is 40,729 feet south of the property. The closest fresh-water bodies include Rio Guayo 278 feet east of the property and Rio Inabón 7,889 feet west of the property.</p>

		<p>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.</p> <p>The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. Refer to Figure 14 in Appendix B.</p>
<p>Wild and Scenic Rivers</p> <p>Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project is not within proximity of a National Wild and Scenic River (WSR). The distance to the nearest WSR is approximately 268,464 feet. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Refer to Figure 15 in Appendix B.</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
<p>Environmental Justice</p> <p>Executive Order 12898</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No adverse environmental impacts were identified in any other compliance review portion of this project that may disproportionately be high for low-income and/or minority communities. Therefore, this topic complies with Executive Order 12898.</p>

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

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

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact – May require mitigation

(4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOPMENT		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The proposed project is located on a vacant lot. The project site is not zoned as “Residential Intermedio (R-I)”. The proposed action is compliant with the proposed agricultural land use of the Project area and will not contribute to urban sprawl.</p>
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The proposed project is located in relatively flat terrain, vacant lot. Previous use is unknown.</p> <p>Soils in the proposed project area are classified as Montegrande clay (MsC), 2 to 12 percent slopes, surrounded by rural residences, 135 meters above mean sea level.</p> <p>Projects larger than 1 acre must comply with the CWA and develop a SWPPP with the NPDES. The proposed project area is approximately 0.28-acres.</p> <p>The project site will require clearing, grading, and vegetation removal. However, proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees.</p> <p>The project site area is rated “low” for landslide susceptibility (see Figure 16 in Appendix B).</p> <p>There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project.</p>
Hazards and Nuisances	2	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates</p>

including Site Safety and Noise		18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. 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.
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Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
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SOCIOECONOMIC

Employment and Income Patterns	2	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. 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.</p> <p>The proposed project would not negatively impact employment or income patterns.</p>
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Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. 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.</p>
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Environmental Justice	2	<p>In the area (one mile radius) in which project will occur.</p> <p>100% are people of color compared to PR average of 96%</p> <p>73% are low income compared to PR average of 70%</p> <p>16% are unemployed compared to PR average of 15%</p> <p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a</p>
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		<p>40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. This project will result in restoration and increase in income and potential employment opportunities in the local area. The impacts would be beneficial.</p> <p>See EJSscreen Report in Appendix C</p>
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Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The project would not result in any change to regional or local area educational and cultural facilities or increase demand for them.
Commercial Facilities	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. 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	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. 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 purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163,

		<p>-66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations.</p> <p>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 by-products 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.</p>
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The proposed project would not include any bathrooms, wastewater, or sewage facilities. Current farm conditions would remain unchanged.</p>
Water Supply	2	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations.</p> <p>Applicant has access to a water supply from the local utilities. Water will be supplied to the module with the installation of underground water pipes on trench of approximately 1 ft depth. The proposed project will increase the current water demand of operations. The proposed project will have minor impact on water usage.</p>
Public Safety – Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	<p>The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete</p>

		pillars/foundations. 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 purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. 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 purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The proposed project would not involve the creation of new roads nor any increase in long-term traffic on existing roads. There would be some minor use of the existing road during construction. All residents and businesses would retain access to their properties during and after the project.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The proposed project will be situated on urban land with an unknown past use. The proposed project will have no impact to unique natural features or water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The proposed project will occur on land previously used for unknown purposes.

		The proposed project will have no impact on vegetation and wildlife.
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Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
CLIMATE AND ENERGY		
Climate Change Impacts	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. 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 Efficiency/Energy Consumption	2	The project consists of the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The location has the infrastructure to connect the proposed module to the water and power utilities. Applicant plans to connect the module to the main electrical meter box through an electrical conduit to be installed at an approximate depth of 3 ft. Utilities connection points are at an approximate distance of 30 ft from the proposed location of the module. The proposed project will increase the current power demand of operations. The proposed project will have minor impact on power usage.

Additional Studies Performed: None required.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by):

Site inspection was conducted on December 19, 2023 by Carlos Medina.

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:

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

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, Puerto Rico [map](#).

www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Locator/PR.pdf

National 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 purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations.

The project would allow space for the cultivation of leaf crops within a Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module leading to a more efficient processing and growing of the agricultural products. The SOW does involve the connection of the module to existing local electric and water utilities services connection points. Water and power use would increase to a minor degree in the module.

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 purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. 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	<p>If a Puerto Rican Boa is encountered, work will cease until it moves off the site or, failing that, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers will be notified for safe capture and relocation of the animal, in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures guidelines.</p> <p>If a Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk or Puerto Rican Parrot is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded.</p>

	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).
Permits or Agency Approvals Required	
Permit or Approval	Permit Conditions
Ground disturbance	Projects whose earthworks are more than 40 m ³ 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.
Utility Connections- Water supply	The project does involve new connections to the local utility services. Facilities have local water 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.
Utility Connections- LUMA/PRASA	The project does 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.


Determination:

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

The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

Finding of Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]

The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature:  Date: 3/18/2024

Name/Title/Organization: Gabriela Rodríguez, Senior Environmental Scientist, Tetra Tech Inc.

Certifying Officer Signature:  Date: 5/29/2024

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

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an 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-00810		
Applicant Name	ACJ Corp		
Property Address	Calle 512 Km 4.2		
Parcel ID	342-014-570-01		
Coordinates	18.086163, -66.539412		
Inspector Name	Carlos O. Medina		
Inspection Date	12/19/2023		
Building Type	vacant		
Number of Units	0		
Number of Stories	0		
Year Built; Data Source	----; Historian		
ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS (attach photos and notes, as necessary, for any YES answers)			
OBSERVATION ITEMS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
A. Is the structure in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
B. Is structure a greenhouse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
C. Is Electricity connected?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
D. Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Are there any 55-gallon drums visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Are there any (or signs of any) underground storage tanks on the property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Are there signs of ASTs on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	250 gallons Empty
5. Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. Is a water drainage system in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is a warehouse in use for storage of Fertilizer or Pesticides ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9. Is there evidence of a faulty septic system ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is there any visible indication of MOLD ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. Is there any visible evidence of asbestos, chipping, flaking or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

peeling paint, or hazardous materials present in or on the structure?			
13. Are any additional site hazards observed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15. Does the subject property have water frontage ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
16. Is there any indication of the presence of Wetlands ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
17. Are there any obvious signs of animals or birds nesting on or near the site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
19. Is a historic marker present?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Additional Notes:

Case: PR-RGRW-00810
Project Name: ACJ Corp
Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412

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 new Farm in the City module.

Land current in use for: vacant

Past Land use was: unknown

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: Installation of a farm in the city module in the coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412. This container will be measures of 40' x 8' for leaf crop production under vertical hydroponic system. The module will be installed in a concrete pillars.

Any new water connection or power connection?

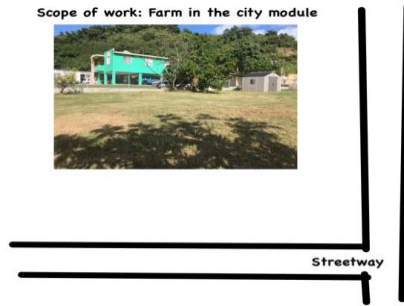
Infrastructure of water and electrical are available in the parcel. At the time of the inspection neither water an electrical are connected to the services. Applicant informed after the installation of the module the electrical power will be installed underground at 3' and the water connections underground at 1' approximately. Both infrastructure are adjacent to the proposed identified area. Approximately 30 feet linear are required for both installation.

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

N/A

Site Sketch

Scope of work: Farm in the city module



Front of Structure

Photo Direction: North



Facing Away From Front

Photo Direction: South



Side #1 of Structure

Photo Direction: North



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction: South



Back of Structure

Photo Direction: East



Facing Away From Back

Photo Direction: West



Side #2 of Structure

Photo Direction: Southwest



Facing Away From Side #2

Photo Direction: Northeast



Streetscape #1

Photo Direction: West



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction: Northeast



Address

Photo Direction: North



Outbuildings

Photo Description: Storage

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: West



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northeast



Structural Details

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: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: East



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

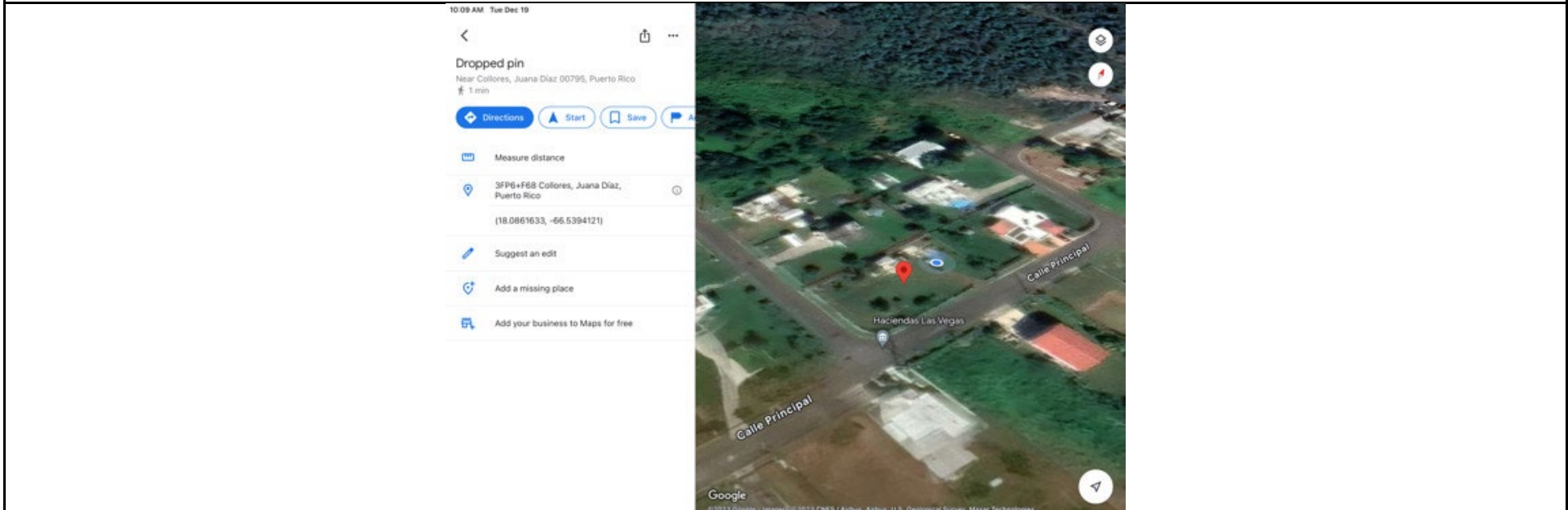
Photo Direction: North



Structural Details

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: North



Aboveground Storage Tanks

Photo Description: Water tank

Photo Direction: West



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation Farm City Module

Photo Direction: North



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation Farm City Module

Photo Direction: South



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation Farm City Module

Photo Direction: Southwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation Farm City Module

Photo Direction: Northwest



Scope Of Work

Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation Farm City Module

Photo Direction: North



Scope Of Work

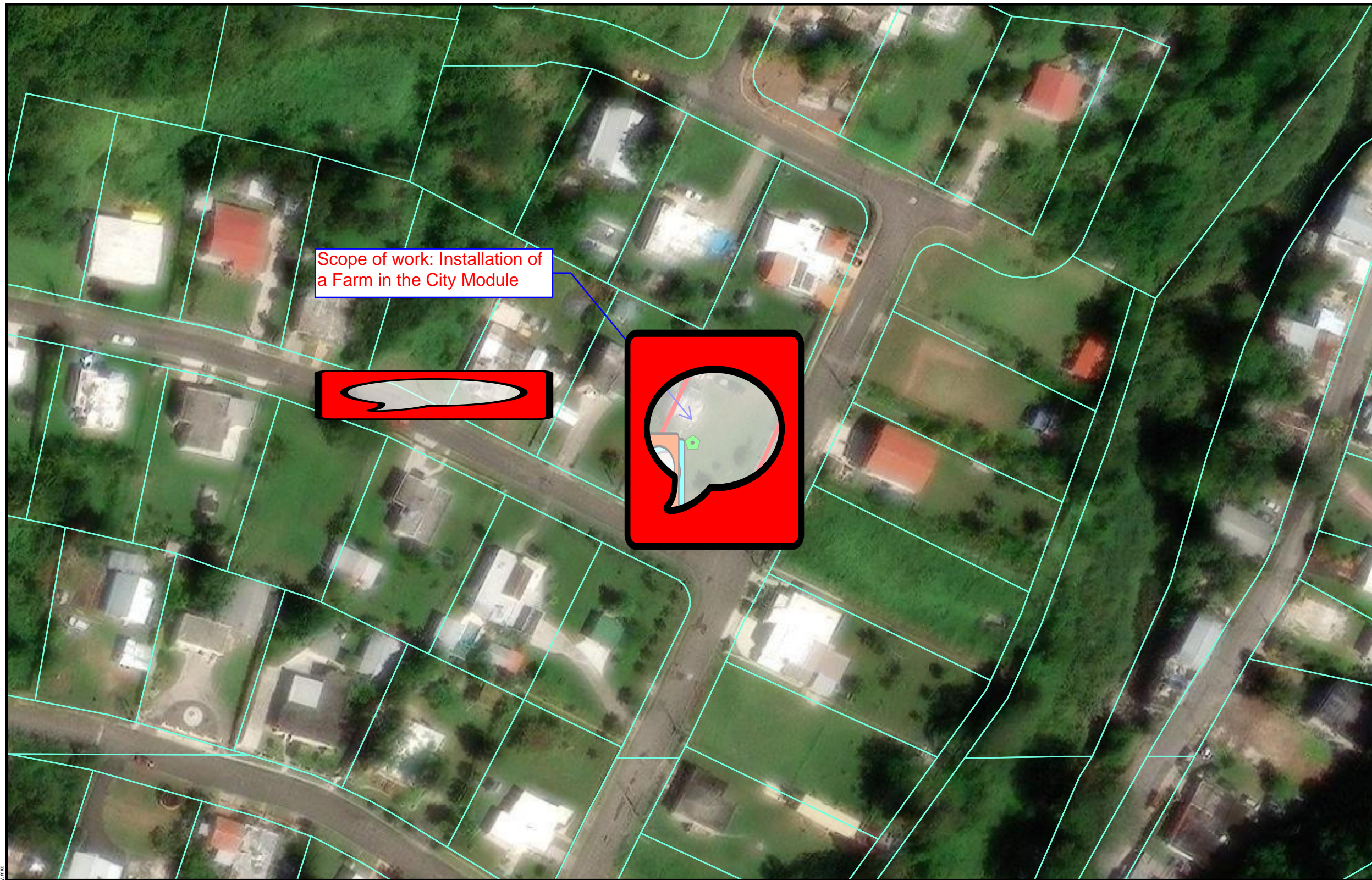
Photo Description: Scope of work: Installation Farm City Module

Photo Direction: North



APPENDIX B

Maps



- Legend**
- Project Parcel
 - Parcels
 - Area of Potential Effect
 - Power connection
 - Water connection

Scope of work: Installation of a Farm in the City Module

PUERTO RICO



Figure 1: PROJECT LOCATION

APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795

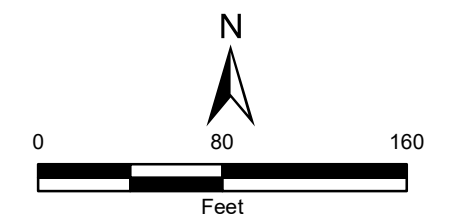
Name of Development: ACJ Corp

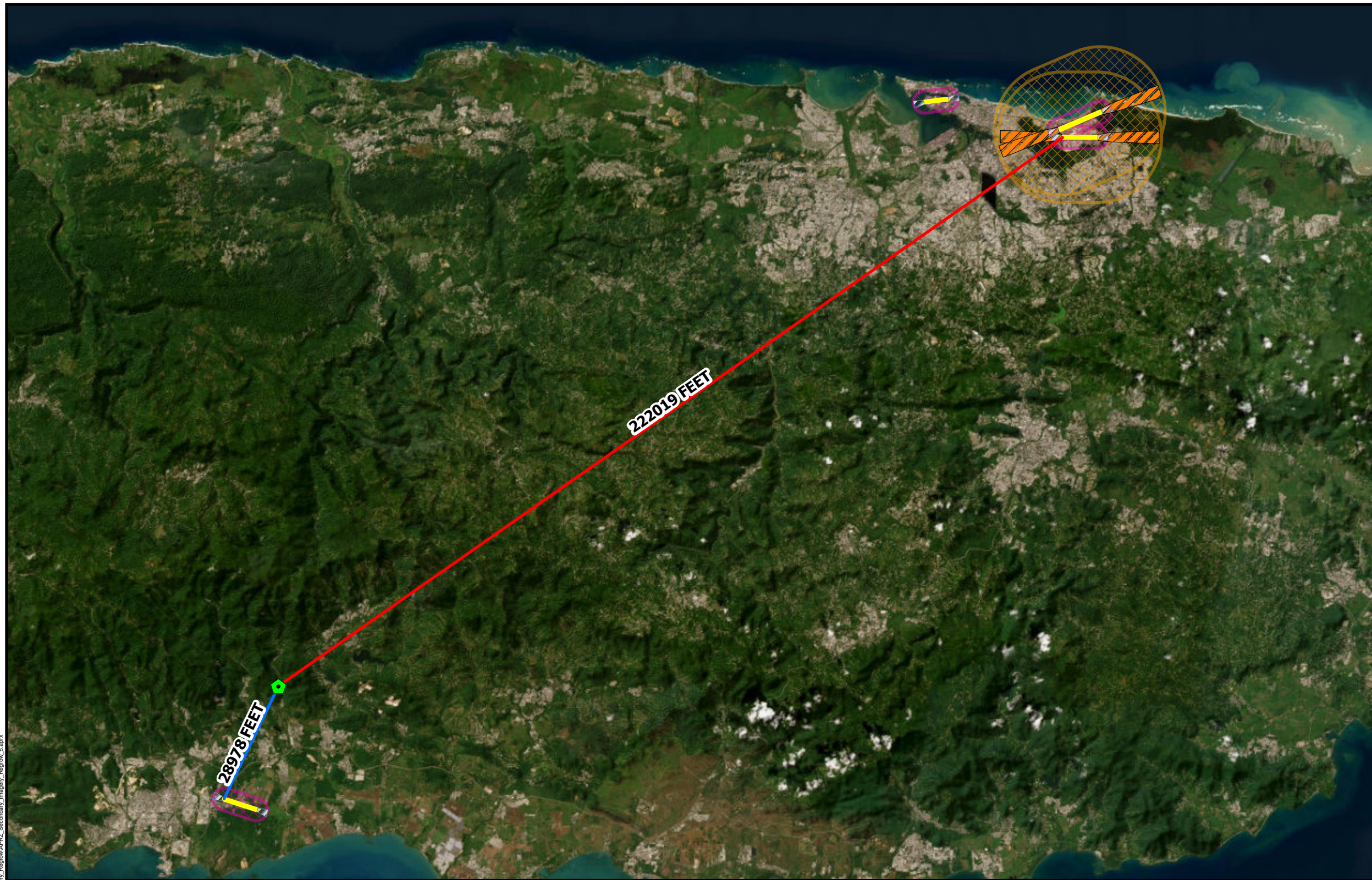
Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163 , -66.539412



Source: CRIM
<https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/>

Author: TG Date: 2/29/2024





Legend

-  Project Parcel
-  Civilian Runway Protection Zones
-  Military Accident Potential Zones
-  Airport Runways
-  Civilian Airport 2,500 Feet Buffer
-  Military Airport 15,000 Feet Buffer

**Distance to Nearest Airport
in Feet: 28,978**

**Distance to Nearest Civilian Airport
in Feet: 28,978**

**Distance to Nearest Military Airport
in Feet: 222,019**

PUERTO RICO



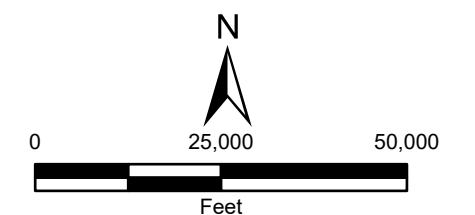
Figure 2: AIRPORT ZONES
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795
Name of Development: ACJ Corp
Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163 , -66.539412



Source: USDOT
<https://www.faa.gov>

Author: TG Date: 2/14/2024





- Legend**
- Project Parcel
 - Coastal Barrier Resources System Boundary**
 - Unit**
 - PR-49P
 - PR-50
 - PR-51
 - PR-52
 - PR-53
 - PR-54
 - PR-55
 - PR-56
 - PR-57

Distance to Nearest Coastal Barrier Resources System:
38373 Feet

PUERTO RICO



File Path: Z:\data\USFWS\Tier2\Regrow\CBRS_Secoundary_Imagery_Regrow_1.mxd



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

Author: TG

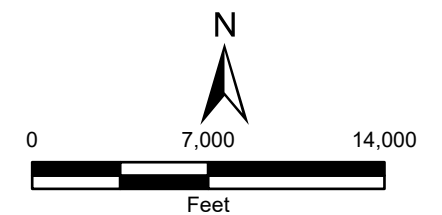
Date: 10/17/2023

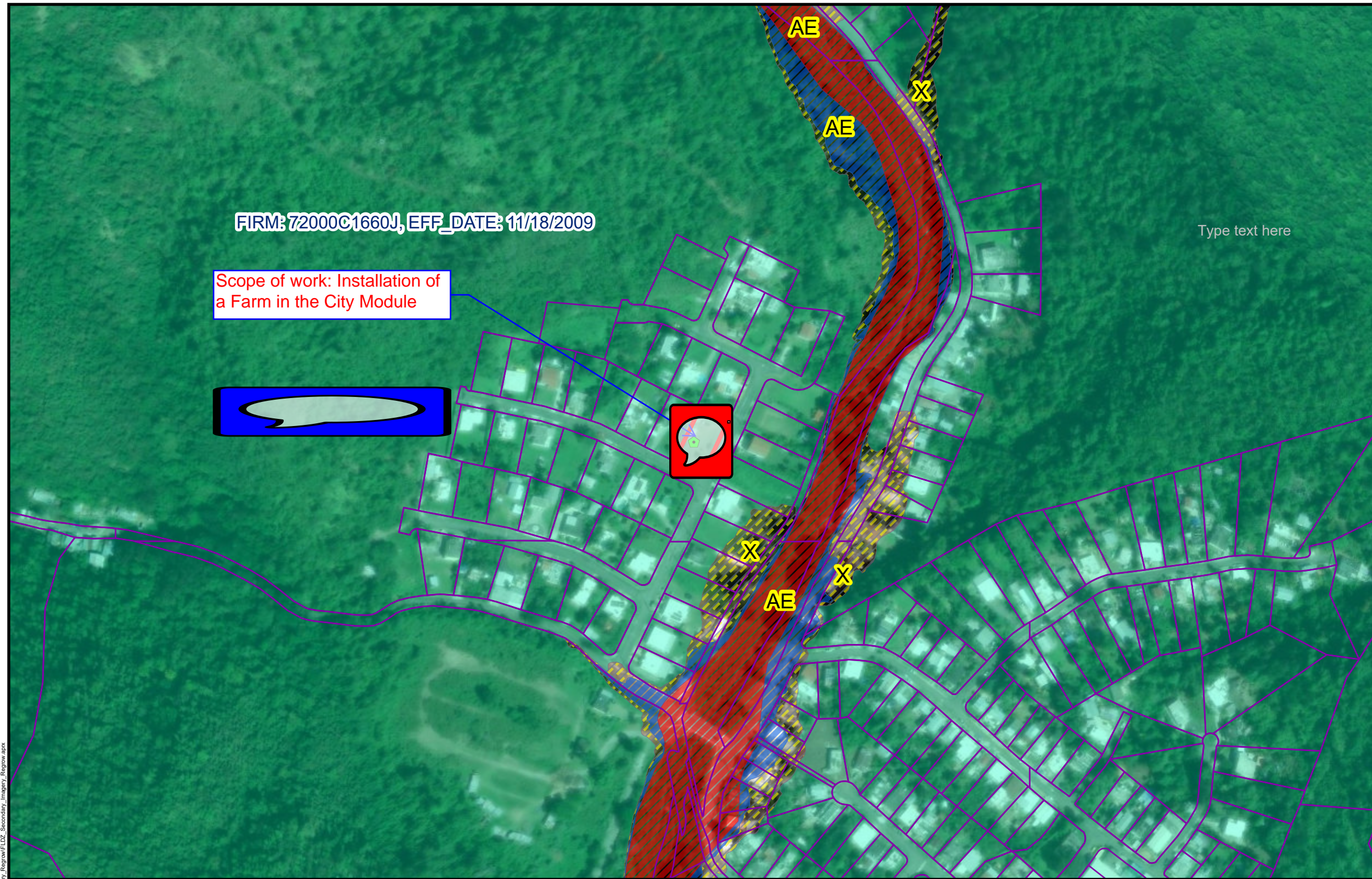
Figure 3: COASTAL BARRIERS IMPROVEMENT ACT
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795

Name of Development: ACJ Corp

Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412





- Legend**
- Project Parcel
 - Parcels
 - FIRM Panels
 - Floodway
 - 100 Yr Floodzone
 - 500 Yr Floodzone
 - Area Of Minimal Flood Hazard
 - Unmapped for Floodplain
 - Area of Potential Effect

Type text here

FIRM: 72000C1660J, EFF_DATE: 11/18/2009

Scope of work: Installation of a Farm in the City Module

PUERTO RICO



Figure 4: FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795

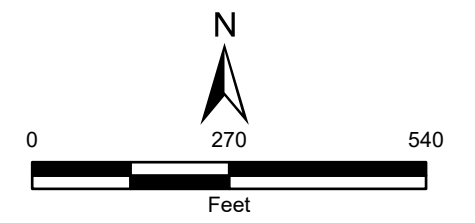
Name of Development: ACJ Corp

Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412

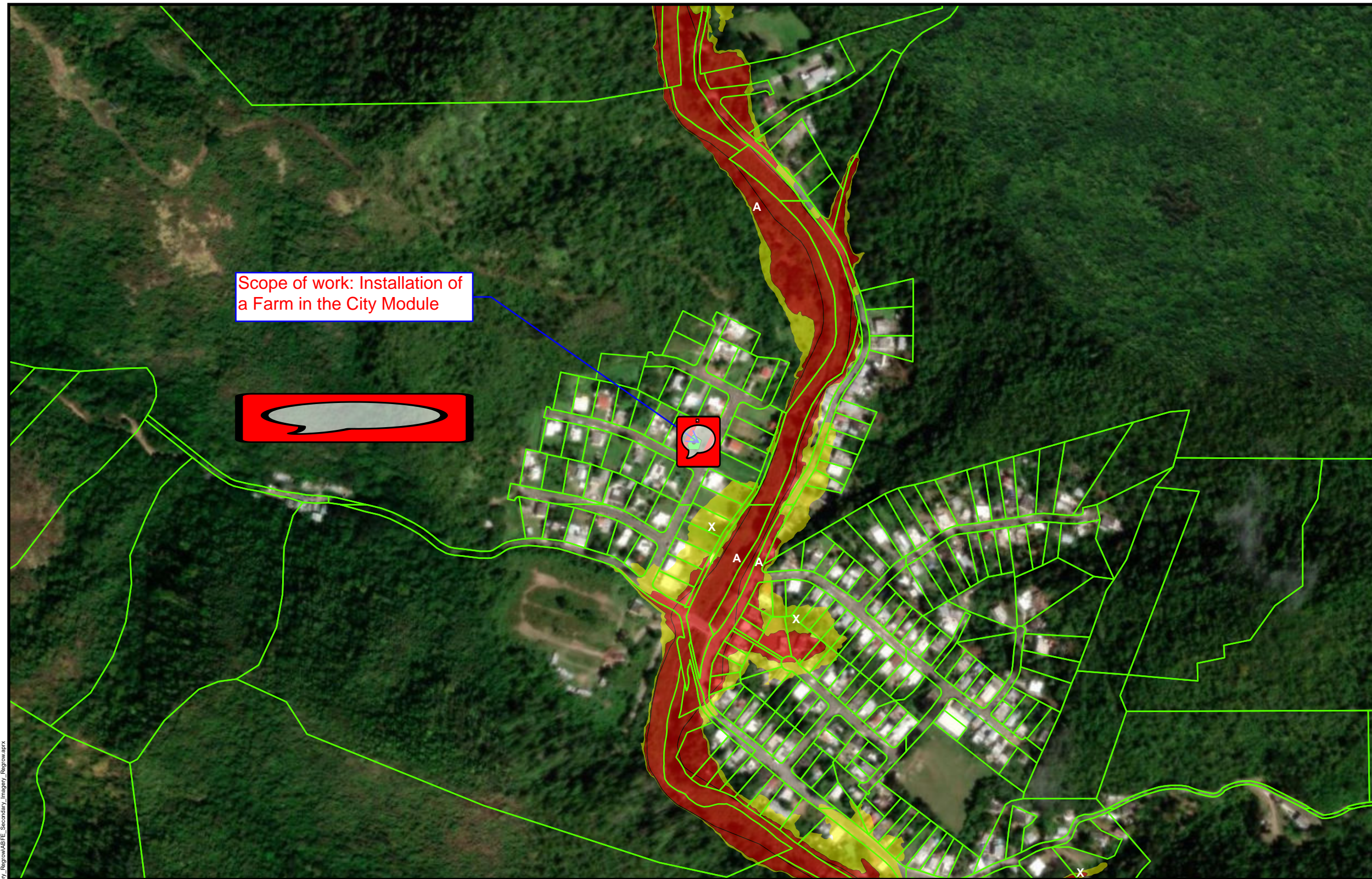


Source: FEMA
<https://msc.fema.gov>

Author: TG Date: 1/4/2024



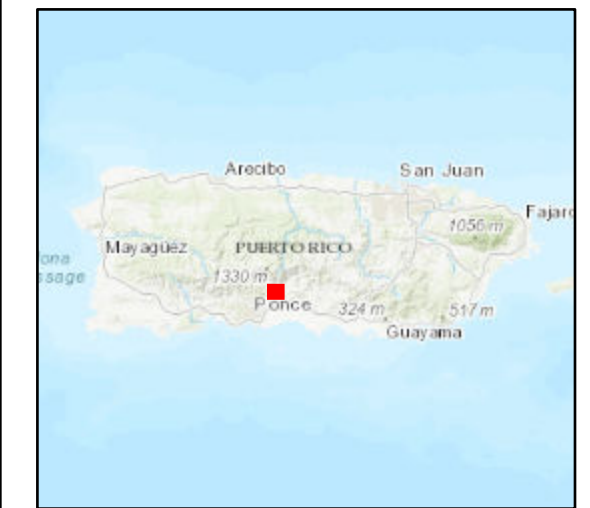
File Path: Z:\data\USPR\Tier2\Regrow\pr\FLDZ_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\FLDZ_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



Legend

- Project Parcel
- Parcels
- PuertoRico_AEF1PCT
- Advisory Base Flood Elevation (zoom in to make visible)
- Flood Hazard Boundary (zoom in to make visible)
- Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LMMA)
- Flood Hazard Extent
 - 1% Annual Chance Flood
 - 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
- Zone/BFE Boundary
- Flood Hazard Area (zoom in to make visible)
 - Flood Hazard Zone
 - A
 - AO
 - AE
 - Coastal A Zone
 - VE
 - X 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
 - A-Floodway
 - AE-Floodway
 - Coastal A Zone and Floodway
 - Area of Potential Effect

PUERTO RICO



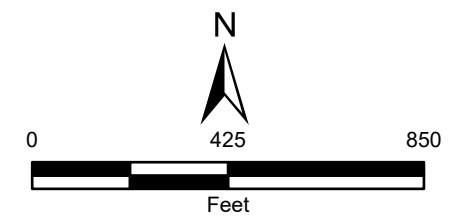
**Figure 6: ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATION
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810**

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795
 Name of Development: ACJ Corp
 Parcel Coordinates :18.086163 , -66.539412

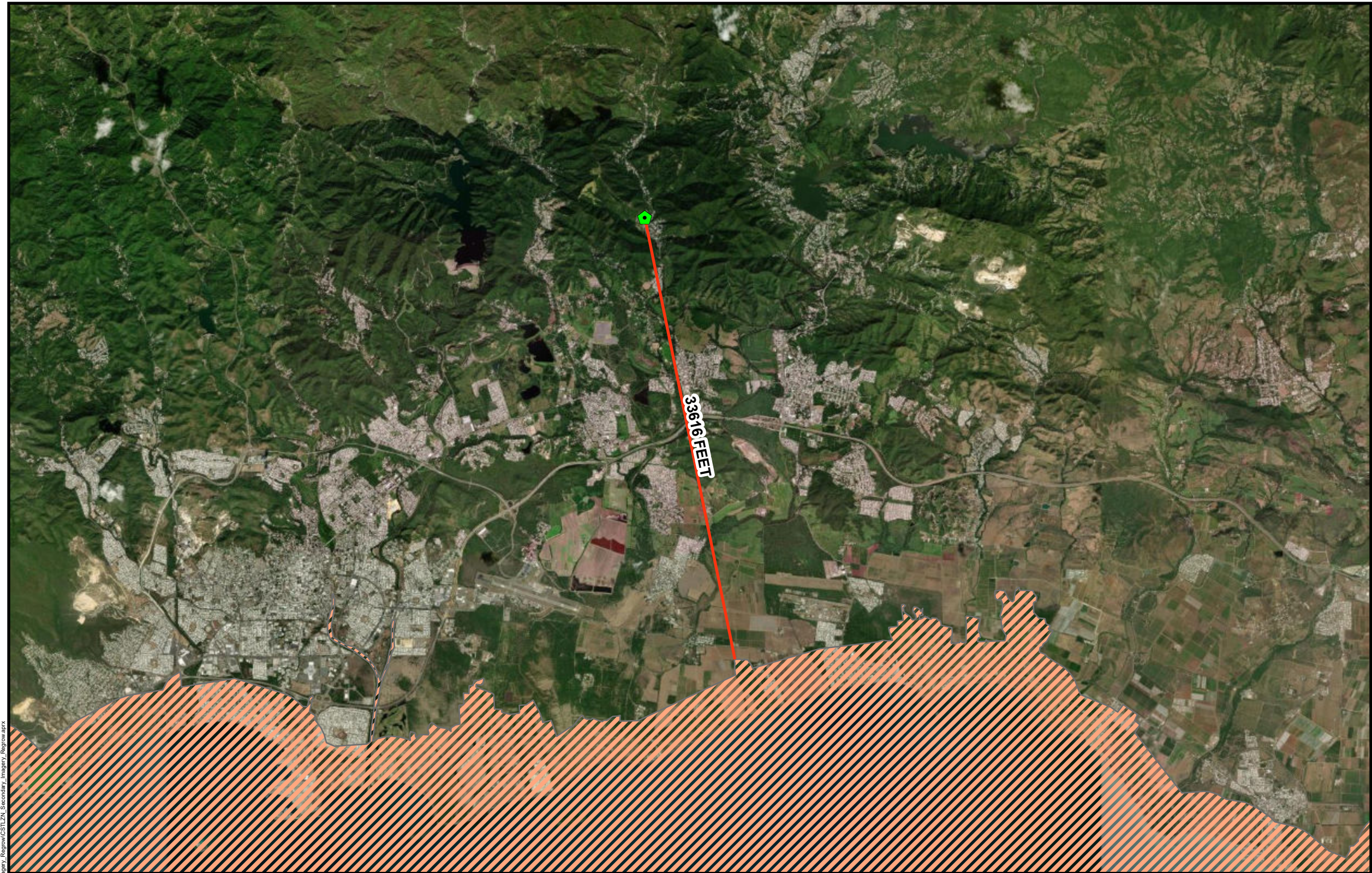


Source: FEMA
<https://gis.fema.gov>



Author: TG Date: 10/27/2023



File Path: Z:\data\USRT\Tier2\Regrow\apx\AEFE_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\AEFE_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



Legend

-  Project Parcel
-  Coastal Zone Management Boundary

Distance to Nearest Coastal Zone:
33616 Feet

PUERTO RICO



**Figure 7: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810**

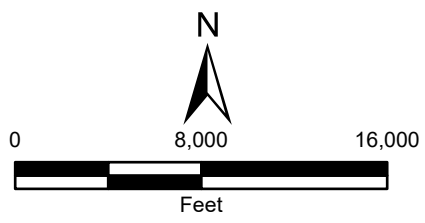
ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795

Name of Development: ACJ Corp
Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412

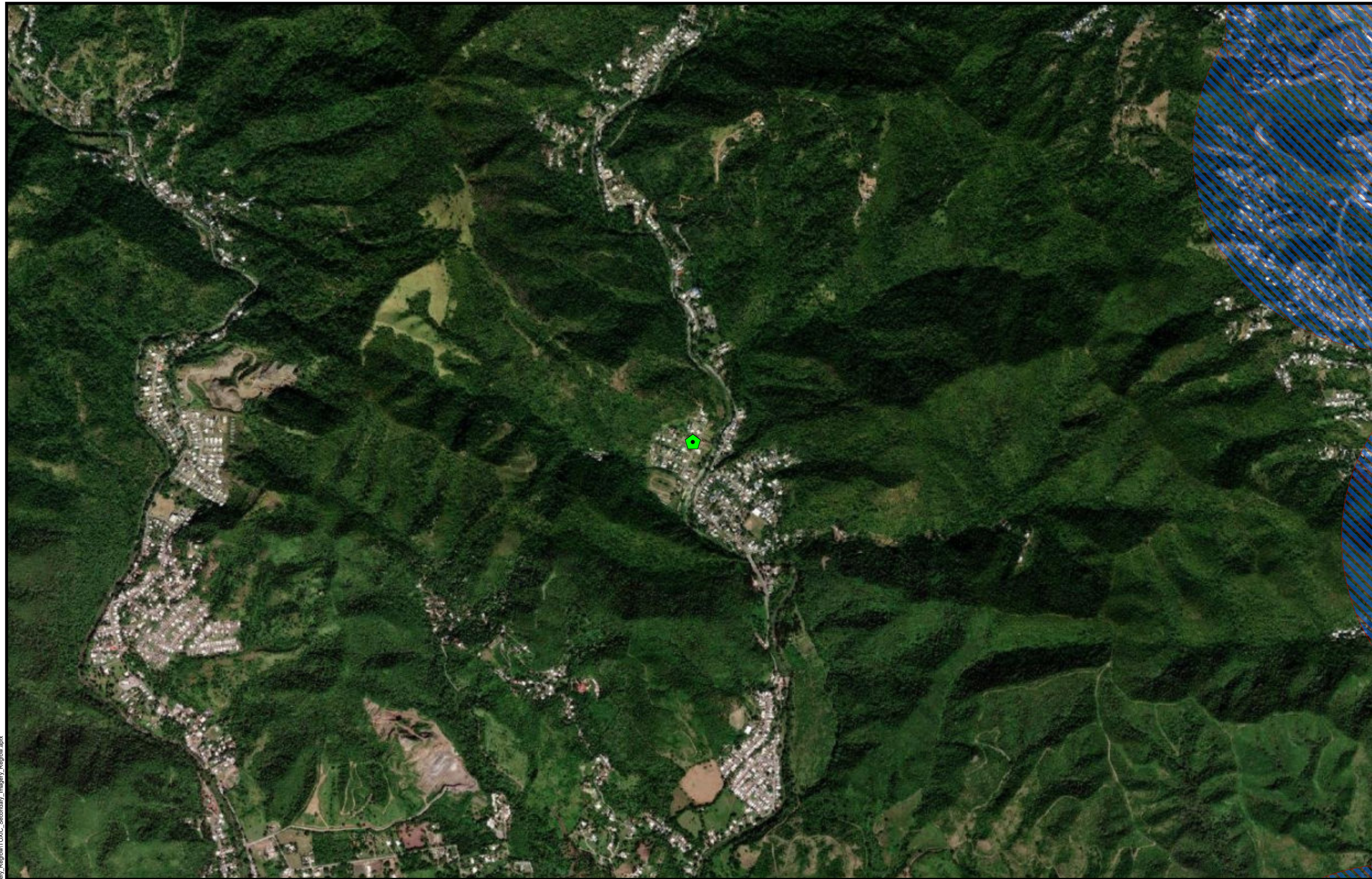


Source: NOAA's Ocean Service
<https://data.noaa.gov>

Author: TG Date: 10/17/2023



File Path: Z:\data\USPR\Tier2\Regrow\pr\CS12LN_Secundary_Imagery_Regrow\CS12LN_Secundary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



- Legend**
- Project Parcel
 - RCRA
 - Toxic Release Inventory Site
 - Superfund Site
 - Brownfield Sites
 - 3000 Ft Buffer TRI
 - 3000 Ft Buffer Superfund
 - 3000 Ft Buffer RCRA
 - 3000 Ft Buffer Brownfield

PUERTO RICO

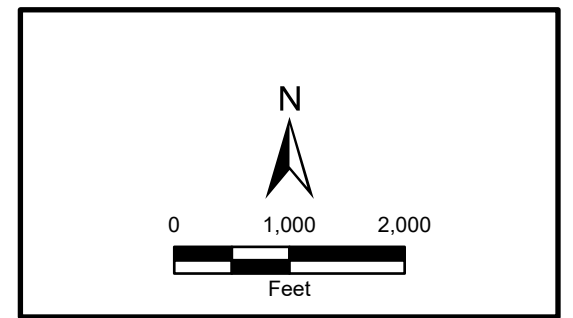


Figure 8: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND GASES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, CONTAMINATION, AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810
ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795
 Name of Development: ACJ Corp
 Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412

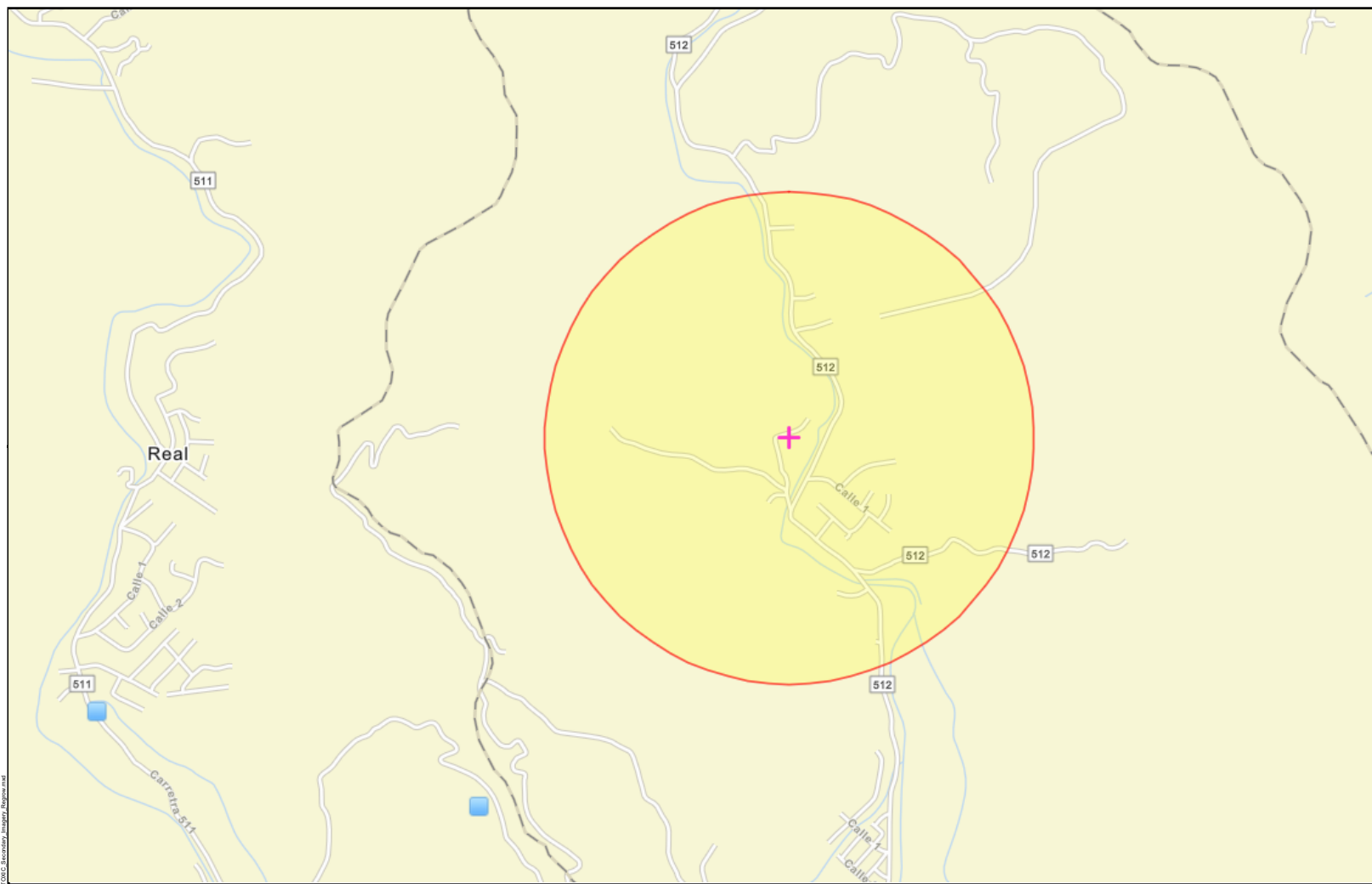


Source: E.P.A.
<https://www.epa.gov/frs/geospatial-data-download-service>



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Author: JB/AK Date: 11/27/2023



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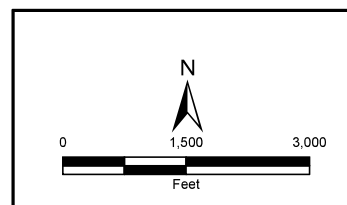
- Superfund (NPL)
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- Toxic Releases (TRI)
- Brownfields (ACRES)
- Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)
- Water Dischargers (NPDES)
- Air Pollution (ICIS-AIR)
- Project Parcel

PUERTO RICO

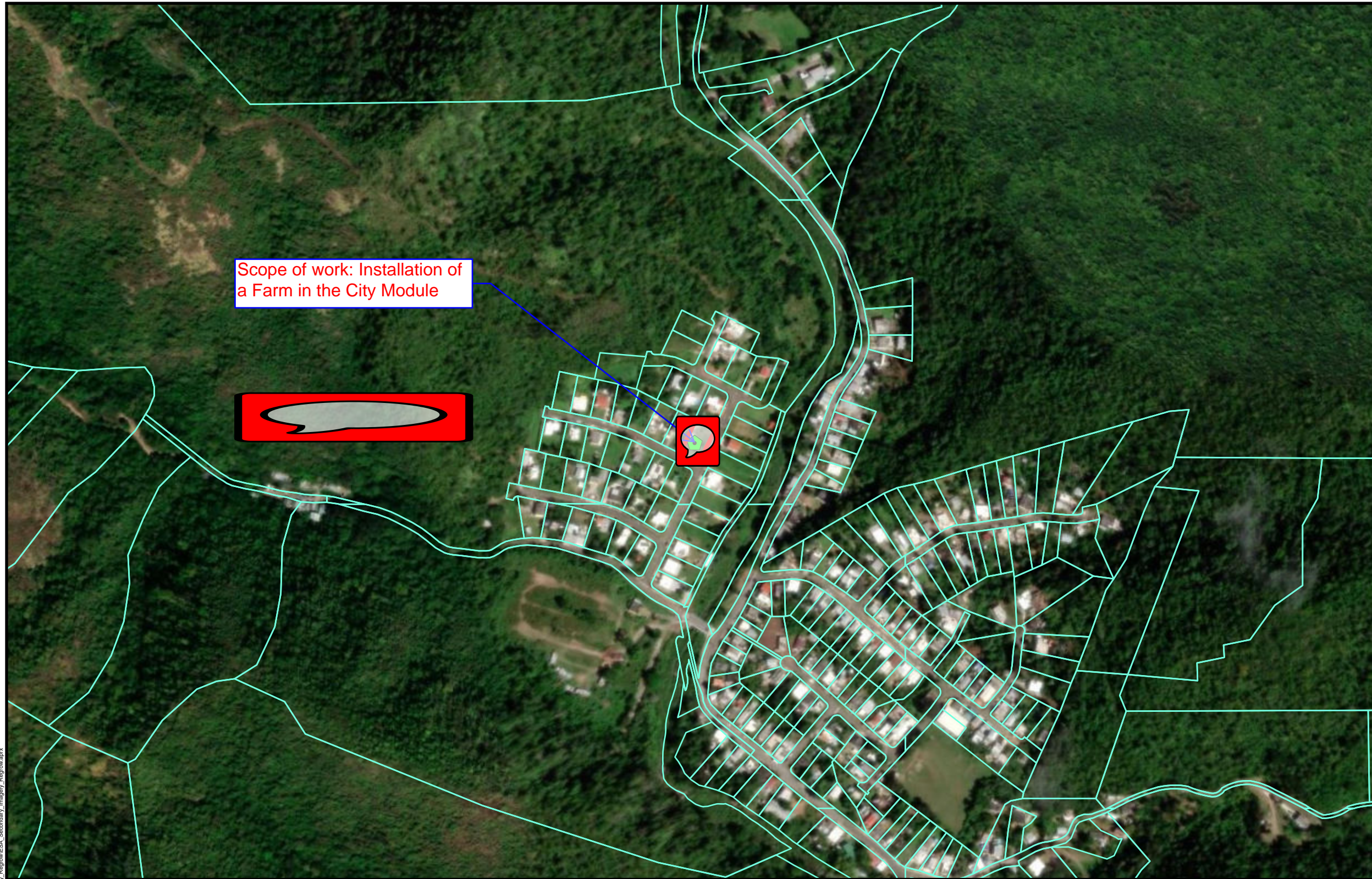






Figure 9: NEPA Assist Map
 Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-00810

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795
 Name of Development: ACJ Corp
 Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412



Source: E.P.A.
<https://www.epa.gov/frs/geospatial-data-download-service>
 Author: JB/AK Date: 5/18/2023



- Legend**
-  Project Parcel
 -  Parcels
 -  Area of Potential Effect
 -  Area of Critical Habitat

Scope of work: Installation of a Farm in the City Module

PUERTO RICO



**Figure 10: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810**

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795

Name of Development: ACJ Corp

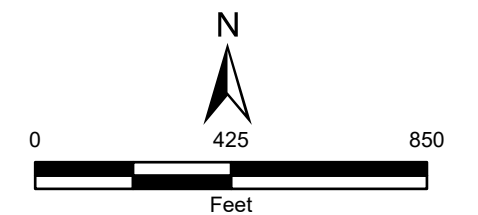
Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412



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

Author: TG

Date: 11/27/2023



File Path: Z:\data\USFWS\Tier2\Regrow\ESA_Secodary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



- Legend**
- ⬠ Project Parcel
 - Common Name**
 - No common name

Distance to Nearest Critical Habitat:
51096 Feet

PUERTO RICO



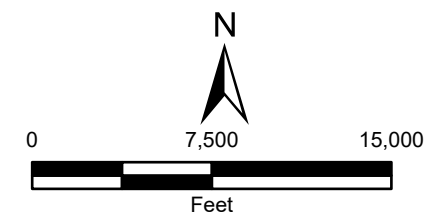
Figure 11: CRITICAL HABITATS
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00716
Name of Development: ACJ Corp
Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412

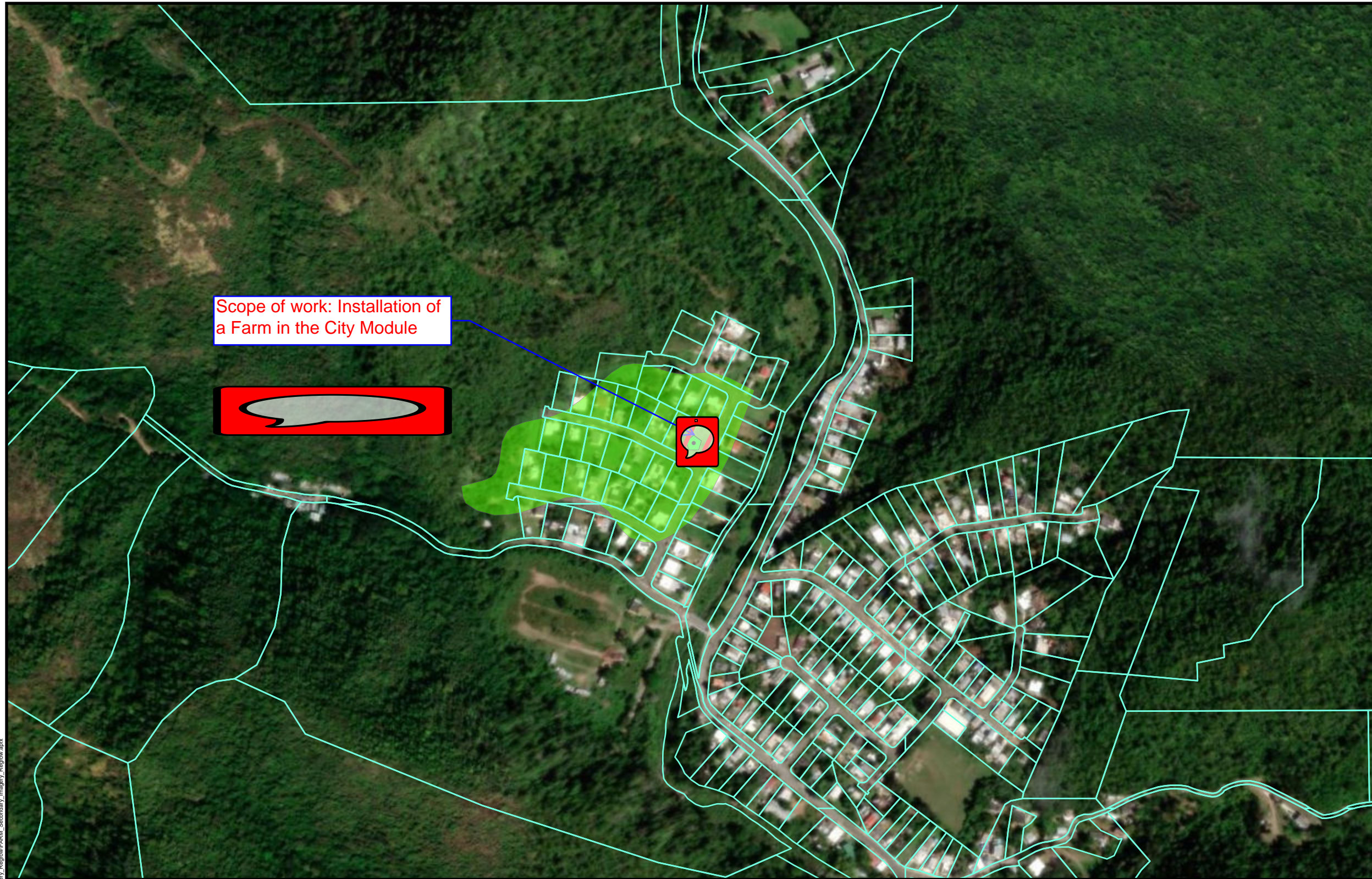


Source: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
<https://ecos.fws.gov>

Author: TG Date: 11/3/2023



File Path: Z:\data\USFWS\TheRegrow\pr\CRITICAL_HABITATS_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow\CRITICAL_HABITATS_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



Legend

Project Parcel

Farm Class

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
- Prime farmland if drained
- Prime farmland if irrigated
- Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
- Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Area of Potential Effect

PUERTO RICO



Figure 12: FARMLAND PROTECTION
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810

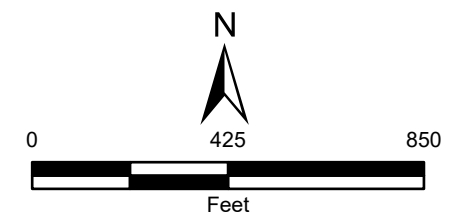
ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795

Name of Development: ACJ Corp
 Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412

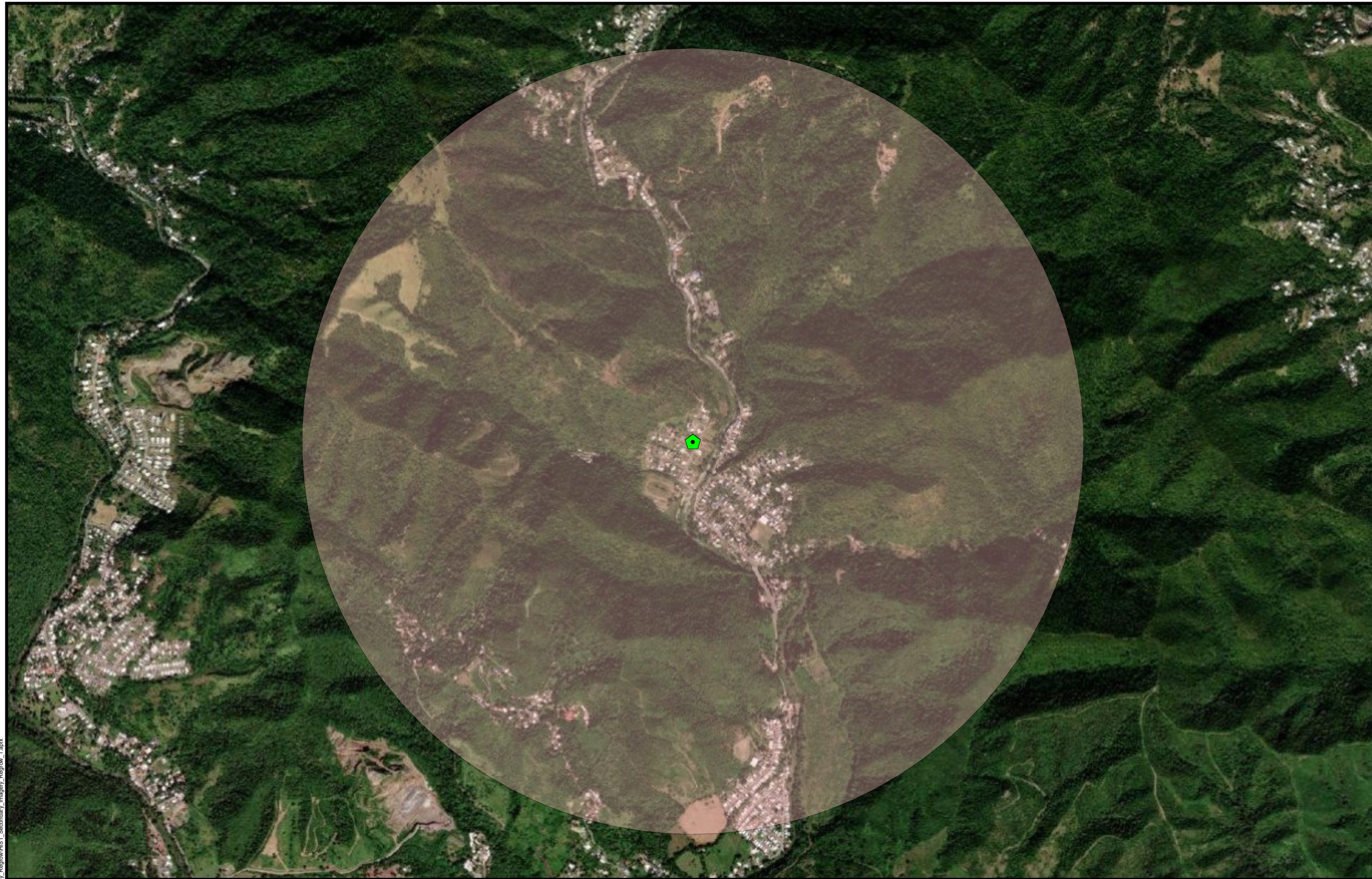


Source: USDA
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

Author: TG Date: 11/3/2023



File Path: Z:\data\USRT\Tier2\Regrow\aprx\FARM_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



- Legend**
- Project Parcel
 - Historic ICP Sites
 - Cultural Resource Building Point
 - Cultural Resource District Point
 - Cultural Resource Site Point
 - Cultural Resource Structure Point
 - Historic Comunidades
 - Traditional Urban Centers
 - Cultural Resource Building Polygon
 - Cultural Resource District Polygon
 - Cultural Resource Site Polygon
 - Cultural Resource Structure Polygon
 - 1 Mile Property Buffer

PUERTO RICO



Figure 13: HISTORIC PRESERVATION

APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795

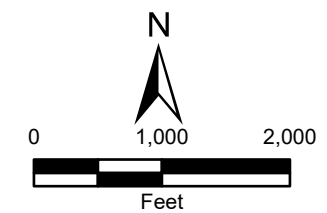
Name of Development: ACJ Corp

Parcel Coordinates: -66.539412, 18.086163

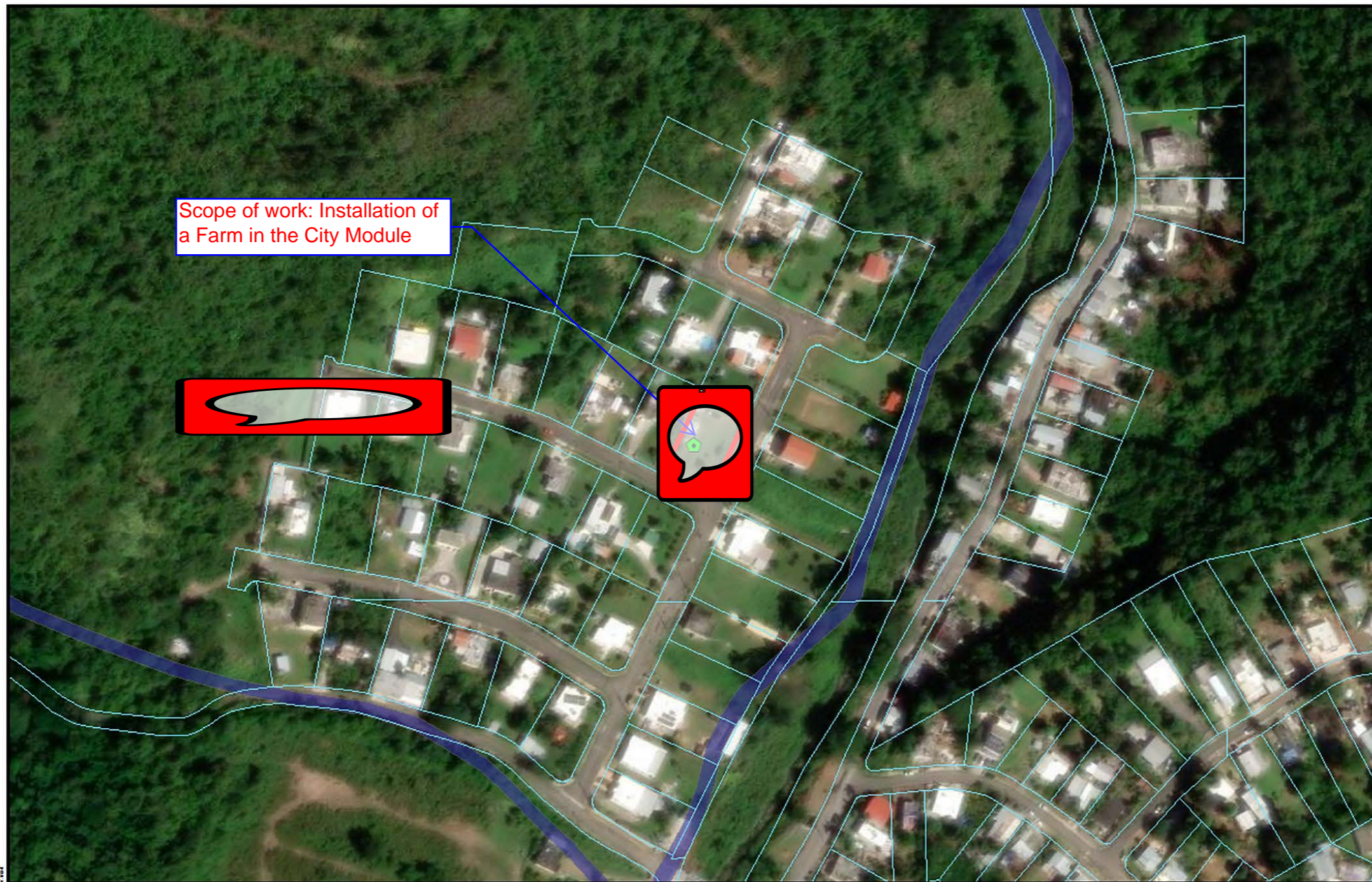


Source: National Park Service
<https://www.nps.gov/>

Author: TG Date: 11/3/2023



File Path: Z:\data\USPRT\Tier2\Regrow\aparc\IST_Secundary_Imagery_Regrow\IST_Secundary_Imagery_Regrow_1.aprx



- Legend**
- Project Parcel
 - Parcels
- WETLAND TYPE**
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
 - Estuarine and Marine Wetland
 - Freshwater Emergent Wetland
 - Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
 - Freshwater Pond
 - Lake
 - Riverine
- Area of Potential Effect

PUERTO RICO

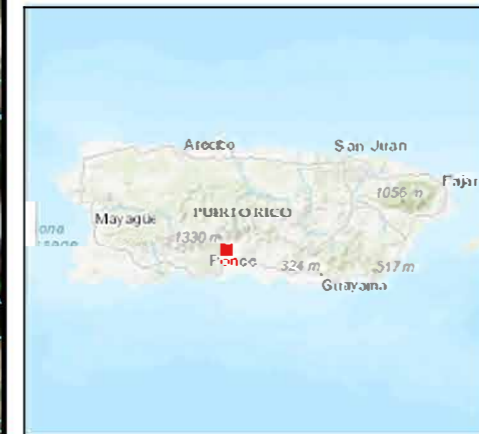
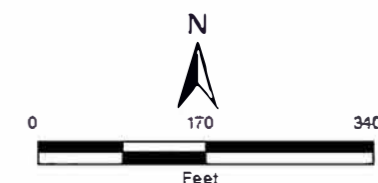


Figure 14: WETLANDS





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

Author: TG Date: 1/5/2024



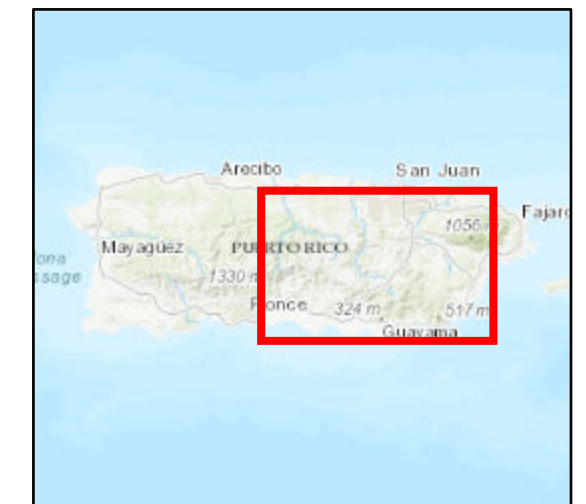


Legend

-  Project Parcel
-  Wild and Scenic Rivers

Distance to Nearest Wild and Scenic River: 268464 Feet

PUERTO RICO



**Figure 15: WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT
 APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810**

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795

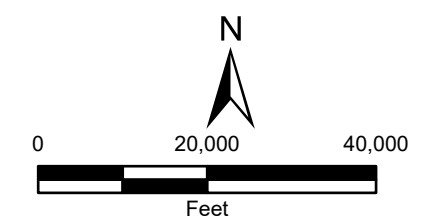
Name of Development: ACJ Corp

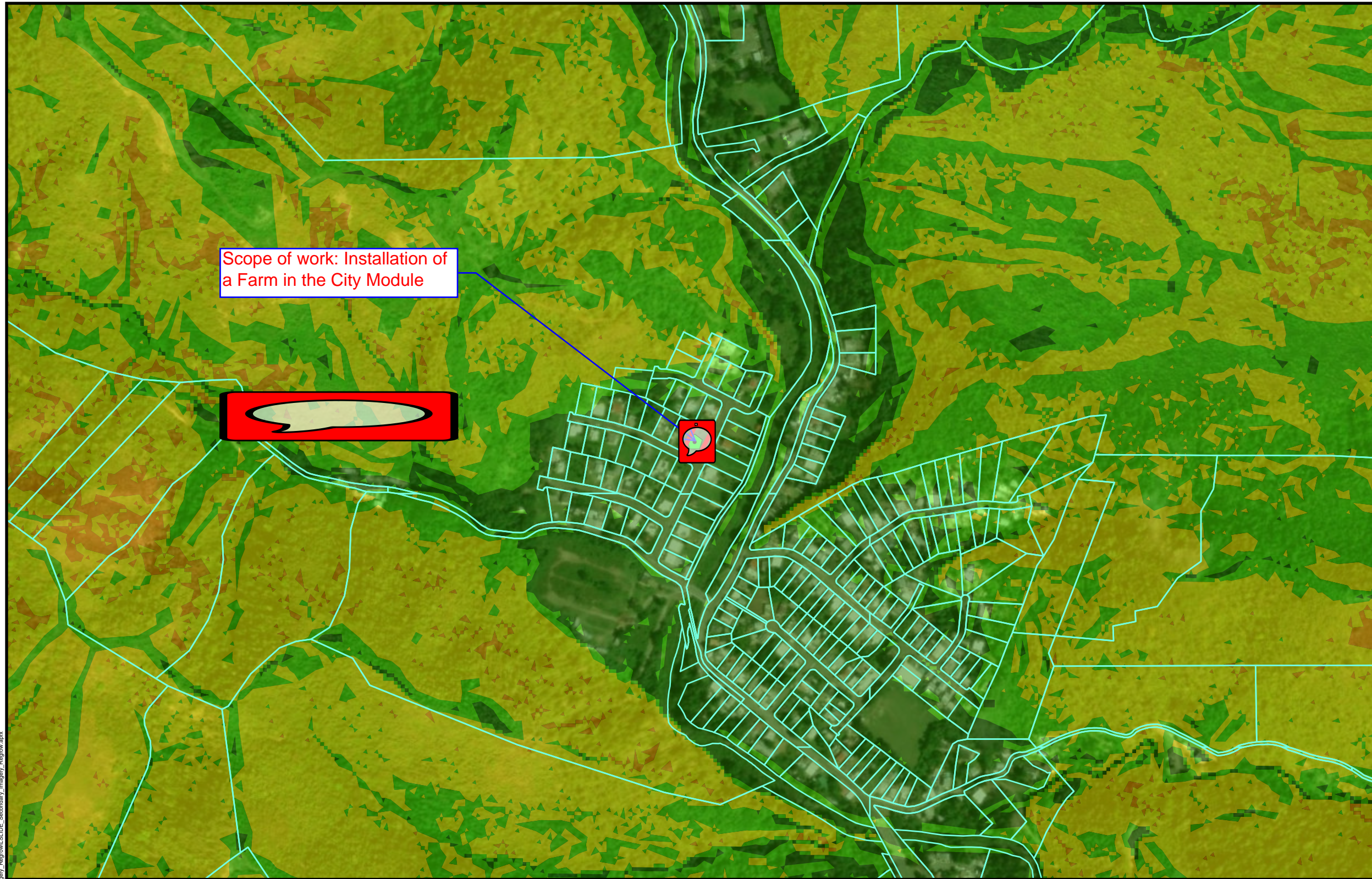
Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412



Source: U. S. Forest Service
<https://www.fs.usda.gov>

Author: TG Date: 10/23/2023





Legend

- ◆ Project Parcel
- Parcels

Landslide Susceptibility

- Extremely High
- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Area of Potential Effect

PUERTO RICO



Figure 16: SLOPE AND EROSION
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795

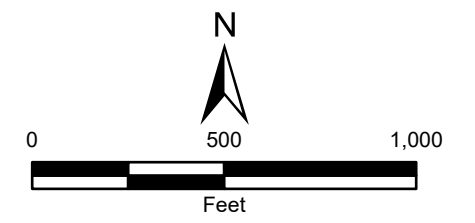
Name of Development: ACJ Corp

Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412



Source: PRDOH
<https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=10506ecc7f15491daee17647f19248ee>

Author: TG Date: 11/3/2023



File Path: Z:\data\USRT\Tier2\Regrow\aparc\SLIDE_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow.aprx



- Legend**
- ◆ Project Parcel
 - Streamflow and Recharge Source Zones
 - Sole Source Aquifer
 - Biscayne Aquifer SSA

Distance to Nearest Aquifer:
5,363,951 FT

PUERTO RICO

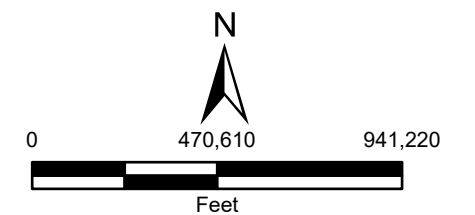


Source: USGS
<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/epa-sole-source-aquifers>

Author: TG Date: 2/21/2024

Figure 17: SOLE SOURCE AQUIFERS
APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-00810

ADDRESS: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Diaz, PR 00795
 Name of Development: ACJ Corp
 Parcel Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412



File Path: Z:\data\USPR\TheRegrow\SSA\QUIFER_Secondary_Imagery_Regrow_Laprx

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 December 31, 2023

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

* The 1997 Primary Annual PM-2.5 NAAQS (level of 15 µg/m³) is revoked in attainment and maintenance areas for that NAAQS. For additional information see the PM-2.5 NAAQS SIP Requirements Final Rule, effective October 24, 2016. (81 FR 58009)

Change the State:

PUERTO RICO

Important Notes

Download National Dataset: [dbf](#) | [xls](#) | [Data dictionary \(PDF\)](#)

County	NAAQS	Area Name	Nonattainment in Year	Redesignation to Maintenance	Classification	Whole or Part County	Population (2010)	State/County FIPS Codes
PUERTO RICO								
Arecibo Municipio	Lead (2008)	Arecibo, PR	11121314151617181920212223	//		Part	32,185	72/013
Bayamon Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	22,921	72/021
Catano Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Whole	28,140	72/033
Guaynabo Municipio	PM-10 (1987)	Mun. of Guaynabo, PR	929394959697989900010203040506070809	02/11/2010	Moderate	Part	90,470	72/061
Guaynabo Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	23,802	72/061
Salinas Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	Guayama-Salinas, PR	181920212223	//		Part	23,401	72/123
San Juan Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	147,963	72/127
Toa Baja Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	52,441	72/137

Important Notes

EJScreen Community Report

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

Juana Díaz Municipio, PR

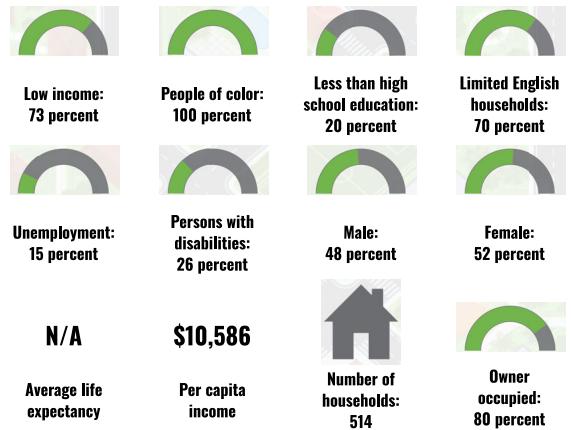
1 mile Ring around the Area
 Population: 1,588
 Area in square miles: 3.28

A3 Landscape



March 5, 2024
 PR-RGRW-00810
 Search Result (point)
 0 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 mi
 0 0.07 0.15 0.3 km
 Esri, HERE, Garmin, ICF, Mapbox

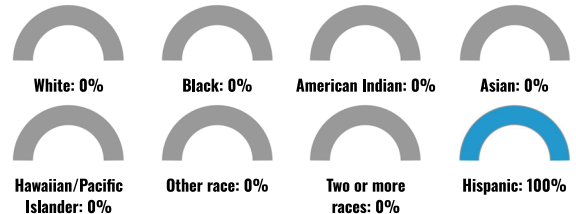
COMMUNITY INFORMATION



LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	9%
Spanish	91%
Total Non-English	91%

BREAKDOWN BY RACE



BREAKDOWN BY AGE



LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



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

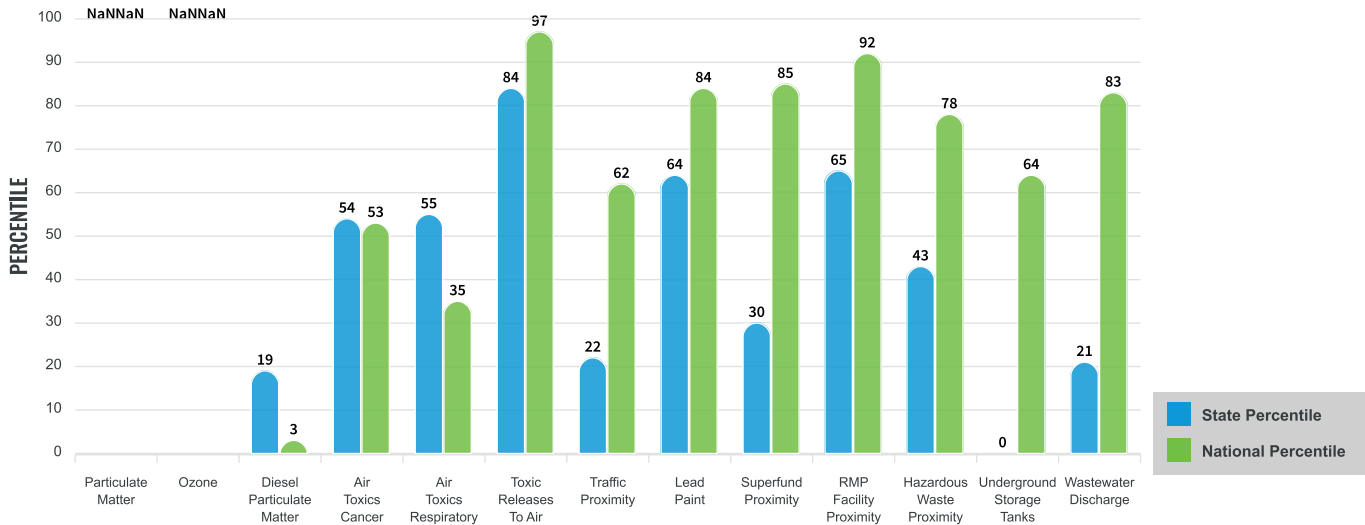
Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

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

EJ INDEXES

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

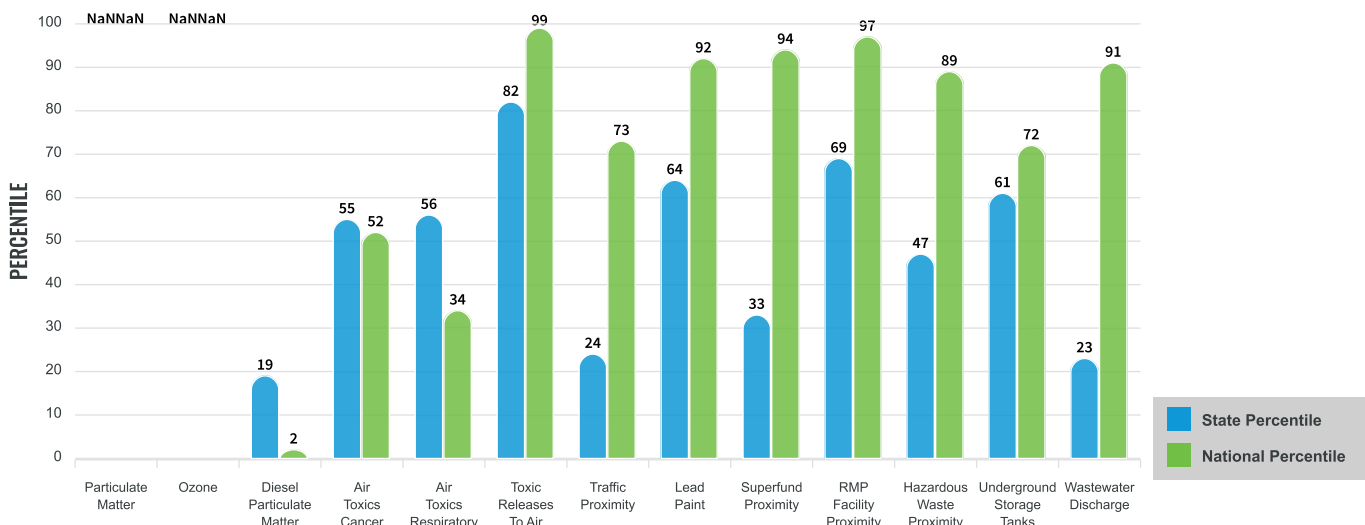
EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

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

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



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

Report for 1 mile Ring 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 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.08	N/A
Ozone (ppb)	N/A	N/A	N/A	61.6	N/A
Diesel Particulate Matter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.0183	0.0667	19	0.261	0
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	20	20	15	25	5
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.2	0.19	17	0.31	4
Toxic Releases to Air	2,400	4,300	83	4,600	75
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	23	180	25	210	26
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.15	0.16	64	0.3	42
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.054	0.15	28	0.13	46
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.28	0.47	62	0.43	66
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.27	0.76	43	1.9	41
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	0.56	1.7	63	3.9	41
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.00036	2.3	21	22	40
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	87%	83%	47	35%	98
Supplemental Demographic Index	45%	43%	48	14%	99
People of Color	100%	96%	31	39%	98
Low Income	73%	70%	45	31%	95
Unemployment Rate	16%	15%	60	6%	92
Limited English Speaking Households	70%	67%	50	5%	99
Less Than High School Education	20%	21%	48	12%	80
Under Age 5	2%	4%	34	6%	19
Over Age 64	24%	22%	59	17%	78
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A%	N/A	20%	N/A

*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	0
Water Dischargers	0
Air Pollution	0
Brownfields	0
Toxic Release Inventory	0

Other community features within defined area:

Schools	1
Hospitals	0
Places of Worship	0

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	No
Impaired Waters	Yes

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

Report for 1 mile Ring around the Area

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS					
INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%	N/A
Heart Disease	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	N/A
Asthma	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A
Cancer	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	N/A
Persons with Disabilities	31.7%	21.6%	91	13.4%	98

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

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS					
INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	29%	32%	49	14%	87
Lack of Health Insurance	8%	7%	65	9%	55
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

Date: January 22, 2024

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-00810
Street Address: Calle 512 Km 4.2
Municipality: Juana Diaz

Subject – Endangered Species No Effect Determination for PR-RGRW-00810

Tetra Tech conducted a site-specific review of endangered species 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 located at Calle 512 Km 4.2, in the Municipality of Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 342-014-570-01).

The proposed project is for the purchase and installation of a new Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The module will be used for leaf crop production under a vertical hydroponic system. The proposed project area is not connected to the local power and water utilities services however, the location has the infrastructure to connect the proposed module to the water and power utilities. The applicant plans to connect the module to the main electrical meter box through an electrical conduit to be installed at an approximate depth of 3 ft. Water will be supplied to the module with the installation of underground water pipes in trenches approximately 1 ft in depth. Utility connection points are at an approximate distance of 30 ft from the proposed location of the module. The field has not been graded.

The proposed project area is within a maintained, cleared lot. A small shed and water tank are located on the edge of the parcel and a fence follows the parcel boundary. Surrounding landscape includes residential lots on all sides of the parcel with a road bordering directly east and south of the parcel.

The National Wetlands Inventory indicated that no wetlands are located within the parcel (Figure 14).

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:

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

No Critical Habitats were noted within the project area (Figure 10). Based on site review and site photos, no suitable habitat was found within the proposed project area for the listed species. 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:

Species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures to be implemented (if needed)
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	No Effect	No Conservation Measures
Puerto Rican Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>)	No Effect	No Conservation Measures
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	No Effect	No Conservation Measures

A 'No Effect' determination has been made based on the lack of suitable habitat for the listed species, as well as previous disturbance and current land use of the proposed project area.

If a Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk or Puerto Rican Parrot 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 #: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).

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.

Attachments:

IPaC Resource List

Shelby McDowell



B.S. Biologist, Tetra Tech

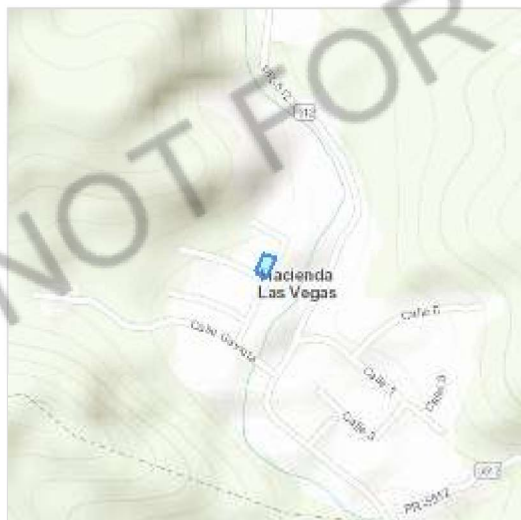
IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Juana Díaz County, Puerto Rico



Local office

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (787) 834-1600

📠 (787) 851-7440

✉ CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Office Park I

State Road #2 Km 156.5, Suite 303}

Mayaguez, PR 00680

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

-
1. Species listed under the [Endangered Species Act](#) are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).

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

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Birds

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

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628	Endangered

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

There are no documented cases of eagles being present at this location. However, if you believe eagles may be using your site, please reach out to the local Fish and Wildlife Service office.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds
<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
<https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

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

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

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

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the [Eagle Act](#) should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

Migratory birds

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

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

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

The [data](#) in this location indicates there are no migratory [birds of conservation concern](#) expected to occur in this area.

There may be migratory birds in your project area, but we don't have any survey data available to provide further direction. For additional information, please refer to the links above for recommendations to minimize impacts to migratory birds or contact your local FWS office.

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

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the

locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and

3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

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

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

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

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

What if I have eagles on my list?

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

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

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

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

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

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as Federal approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rico broad-winged hawk 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 Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk is a small hawk with dark chocolate-brown upperparts, heavily streaked rufous breast, and a broadly banded black and white tail. Adult male and female are similar in appearance, but the female is slightly larger. This species occurs in elfin woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest, Carite Commonwealth Forest, and El Yunque National Forest as well as within hardwood plantations, shade coffee plantations, and mature secondary forests. The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk population is estimated at about 125 individuals island-wide.



The broad-winged hawk was federally listed in 1994. The broad-wing prefers to hunt from a perch under the forest canopy for a better view of potential prey in a forest clearing, trail or river below. Each hunting pair requires a range of 40 hectares (98 acres). The Broad-wing builds a nest of sticks in February and March, laying 2 to 4 white/brown-spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs for almost a month while the male searches for food. The young fledge around April or May about 1 month after hatching and can fly about 6 weeks after hatching. The parents feed the young for a few weeks after they leave the nest. The voice is a high-pitched whistle.

The hawk is an uncommon and local resident in the El Yunque National Forest, the Río Abajo State Forest, and the Toro Negro State Forest.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the hawk 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 here.

1. 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 hawk (February and March), if the hawk 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 USFWS 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 broad-winged hawk 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.

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

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

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon (Parrot) (*Amazona vittata*)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as Federal approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rican Parrot 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 Puerto Rican amazon (*Amazona vittata*), also known as the Puerto Rican parrot (Puerto Rican Spanish: cotorra puertorriqueña) or iguaca, is the only extant parrot endemic to the archipelago of Puerto Rico and belongs to the Neotropical genus *Amazona*. Measuring 28–30 cm (11.0–11.8 in), the bird is a predominantly green parrot with a red forehead and white rings around the eyes.



The parrot was federally listed as endangered in 1967. The parrot reaches sexual maturity at between three and four years of age. It reproduces once a year (between the months of February to June) and is a cavity nester. Once the female lays eggs, she will remain in the nest and continuously incubate them until hatching (about 24 to 28 days). The chicks are fed by both parents and will fledge 60 to 65 days after hatching. This parrot's diet is varied and consists of flowers, fruits, leaves, bark and nectar obtained from the forest canopy.

The species is the only remaining native parrot to Puerto Rico and has been listed as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union since 1994. Once widespread and abundant, the population declined drastically in the 19th and early 20th centuries with the removal of most of its native habitat; the species has completely vanished from Vieques and Mona Island. Conservation efforts commenced in 1968 to save the bird from extinction. The habitat of the parrot is generally identified as

the Palo Colorado, Palma de Sierra, and Tabonuco forests types of the upper zones of the Luquillo Mountains within the El Yunque National Forest.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the hawk 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 here.

1. 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 parrot (January to July), if the parrot is determined to be present. The parrot selects a large, deep tree cavity, usually in a Palo Colorado tree. The parrot normally does not build its own nest but, many times, parrot biologists do build artificial cavities that are accepted by the parrot. A check with DNER should occur if large Palo Colorado trees are in the general construction area.
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 parrot 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.

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

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

USFWS Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures

Puerto Rican Boa

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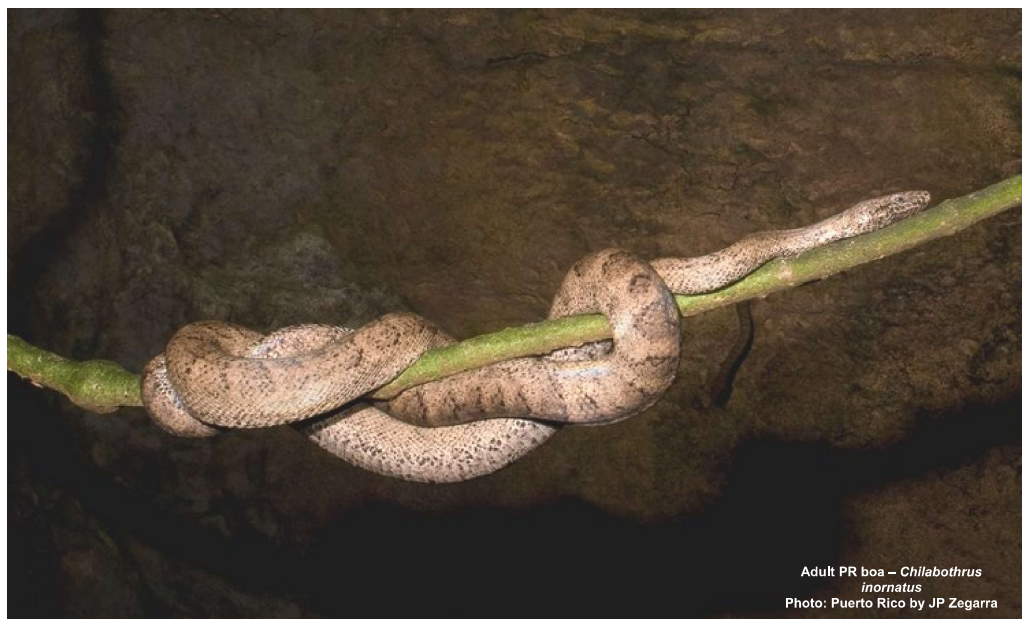


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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

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

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



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

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

Conservation Measures:

1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the PR boa in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming the species as well as penalties for harassing or harming PR boas. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
2. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
3. Once areas are clearly marked, and prior to the use of heavy machinery and any construction activity (including removal of vegetation and earth movement), a biologist or personnel with experience on this species should survey the areas to be cleared to verify the presence of any PR boa within the work area.
4. The PR boa is considered more active at night. Thus, in order to maximize its detection, the species should be searched at nights prior to habitat disturbance.
5. Once the area has been searched for PR boas, vegetation should first be cleared by hand to the maximum extent possible. Vegetation should be cut about one meter above ground prior to the use of heavy machinery for land clearing. Cutting vegetation by hand will allow boas present on site to move away on their own to adjacent available habitat. Any stone walls or naturally occurring rock piles must be carefully dismantled by hand as these are refuges for the snake. This will allow any boas present to vacate the site without injury.
6. For all boa sightings (dead or alive), record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where it was found. PR boa data should also include a photo of the animal (dead or alive), site GPS coordinates, the time and date, and comments on how the animal was detected and its behavior.

7. If a PR boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded (see #6). **Do not capture the boa.** If boas need to be moved out of harm's way, designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (PRDNER phone #: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124). If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities at this area must stop until the boa moves out of harm's way on its own. Activities at other work sites, where no boas have been found after surveying the area, may continue.
8. If a PR boa is captured by the PRDNER, record the name of the PRDNER staff and information on where the PR boa will be taken. This information should be reported to the Service.
9. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize PR boa casualties by heavy machinery or motor vehicles being used on site. Any heavy machinery left on site (staging) or near potential PR boa habitat (within 50 meters of potential boa habitat), needs to be thoroughly inspected each morning before work starts to ensure that no boas have sheltered within engine compartments or other areas of the equipment. If PR boas are found within vehicles or equipment, do not capture the animal and let it move on its own or call PRDNER Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (see #7). If not possible, the animal should be left alone until it leaves the vehicle on its own.
10. PR boas may seek shelter in debris piles. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize boa casualties associated with sheltering in debris piles as a result of project activities. Debris piles should be placed far away from forested areas. Prior to moving, disposing or shredding, debris piles should be carefully inspected for the presence of boas. If debris piles will be left on site, we recommend they be placed in areas that will not be disturbed in the future.
11. If a dead PR boa is found, immediately cease all work in that area and record the information accordingly (see #6). If the PR boa was accidentally? killed as part of the project actions, please include information on what conservation measures had been implemented and what actions that will be taken to avoid further killings. A dead boa report should be sent by email (see contacts below) to the Service within 48 hours of the event.
12. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact the PRDNER for further guidance.

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

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

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 prickly (*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.

1. 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 pigeon 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 #: ((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

Section 106 Consultation



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

February 27, 2024

Lauren Bair Poche

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

SHPO: CF -02-21-24- 12 PR RGRW- 00810 – ACJ CORP – HACIENDA LAS VEGAS, CALLE
RUISEÑOR 17, CARRETERA 512 KM 4.5, JUANA DIAZ, PUERTO RICO (SHPO: 02-01-23-03)

Dear Ms. Poche,

Our Office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with 54 USC 306108 (commonly known as Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act, as amended*) and 36 CFR Part 800: *Protection of Historic Properties* from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is to advise and assist federal agencies and other responsible entities when identifying historic properties, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or reduce the project's effects.

Our records support your finding of **no historic properties affected** within the project's area of potential effects.

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela
State Historic Preservation Officer
CARC/GMO/OEDJR



February 22, 2024

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

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

RE: SHPO ID: 02-01-23-03 Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-00810 – ACJ Corp – Hacienda Las Vegas, Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5, Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected*

Updated Project Location: ACJ Corp – Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Díaz, 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 updated documentation for activities proposed by ACJ Corp, in the municipality of Camuy. Consultation for the proposed project was initiated in February 2023, and in a letter dated February 28, 2023 your office concurred with a finding of no historic properties affected for the proposed activities at Hacienda Las Vegas, Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5. Due to a change in project planning, activities will no longer occur at this address.

Consultation is being re-initiated due to a change in the location of the proposed project activities from the property at Hacienda Las Vegas, Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5 to a different property located at Calle 512 Km 4.2 in the municipality of Juana Díaz. The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of a new

Greenery “Farm in the City” Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The module will be used for leaf crop production under vertical hydroponic system. The applicant plans to connect the module to the main electrical meter box through an electrical conduit to be installed at an approximate depth of 3 ft. Water will be supply to the module with the installation of underground water pipes on trench of approximately 1 ft depth. Utilities connection points are at an approximate distance of 30 ft from the proposed location of the module.

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		
Subrecipient: ACJ Corp		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810	City: Juana Diaz	

Project Location: Calle 512 Km 4.2, Juana Díaz, PR, 00795	
Project Coordinates: 18.086163, -66.539412	SHPO ID: 02-01-23-03
TPID (Número de Catastro): 342-014-570-01-000	
Type of Undertaking:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size (acres): 0.28

SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Pollyanna Clark, MA, RPA
Date Reviewed: 1/29/2024


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)

Consultation for the proposed project activities was originally initiated in February of 2023, with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected received in a letter dated February 28, 2023 (SHPO ID: 02-01-23-03). Consultation is being re-initiated due to a change in the location of the proposed project activities. The original scope of work identified the project location as Parcel 342-014-584-11-000 at coordinates: 18.0864387, -66.53869185. The proposed project has since been relocated to the southwest to Parcel 342-014-570-01-000.

The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of a new Greenery "Farm in the City" Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module. The applicant proposes the installation of a 40-foot (ft) x 8 ft farm in the city module at coordinates 18.086163, -66.539412 anchored to on-site poured concrete pillars/foundations. The module will be used for leaf crop production under vertical hydroponic system. The land is currently a vacant lot.

Project site is not connected to the local power and water utilities services. However, the location has the infrastructure to connect the proposed module to the water and power utilities. Applicant plans to connect the module to the main electrical meter box through an electrical conduit to be installed at an approximate depth of 3 ft. Water will be supply to the module with the installation of underground water pipes on trench of approximately 1 ft depth. Utilities connection points are at an approximate distance of 30 ft from the proposed location of the module. Field has not been graded.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
Subrecipient: ACJ Corp	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810	City: Juana Diaz

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 installation of 40-ft x 8 ft the proposed module, the installation of below ground water and electric connection, with a 15-meter buffer to allow for variation of final equipment placement. For this project the APE is defined by the 0.28-acre parcel boundary. 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 shows that the project area has no previously identified archaeological sites within a 0.25 miles radius of the APE.

Three archaeological studies have been performed within a quarter-mile radius of the APE. In 2000, José Rivera Meléndez performed a Phase 1A-B archaeological survey for the Phase 1A-B, "Bridge over the Guayo River Project" located 0.21 miles southeast of the project area. Results were negative for archaeological materials; however, the Rabanos School (Escuela Rábanos) was identified as an eligible historic structure during the study.

In 1992, an archaeological study, "Improvements to the aqueduct system in the Guaraguao, Callabo and Portillo del Bo sectors in Collores de Juana Diaz" located 0.07 miles southeast of the project area resulted in negative findings.

In 2006, the Highway and Transportation Authority Office of Environmental Studies performed archaeological studies on 35 projects. The ID numbers were EAP 3564 and ICP/CAT-AD-06-04-08 and the title was "Emergency Project Inspection Report PR-143 from Adjuntas to Barranquitas; PR-503, PR-139 and PR-132 in Ponce; PR-120 and PR-128 in Maricao; PR-611 in Utuado; PR-135 and PR-518 in Adjuntas; PR-656 and PR-123 in Arecibo; PR-771 in Barranquitas; PR". The studies resulted in negative findings, and no additional work recommended for the 35 projects. These archaeological studies are also listed in Table 1.


PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REgROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		
Subrecipient: ACJ Corp		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810		City: Juana Diaz

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


Author	Title	Year	SHPO/IPRC ID	Results	Location
José Rivera Meléndez	Phase 1A-B, Bridge over the Guayo River Project, state road #512 km 3.9, bo. Colors, Joanna Diaz PR. For J. O. Virella & Associates	2000	09-14-00-01	Positive	0.21 mi SE
SIBANACAN	Improvements to the aqueduct system in the Guaraguao, Callabo and Portillo del Bo sectors in Collores de Juana Diaz, Second Stage for American Anthropological Association	1992	06-25-93-09	Negative	0.07 mi SE
Jaqueline López Meléndez, Highway and Transportation Authority Office of Environmental Studies	Emergency Project Inspection Report PR-143 from Adjuntas to Barranquitas; PR-503, PR-139 and PR-132 in Ponce; PR-120 and PR-128 in Maricao; PR-611 in Utuado; PR-135 and PR-518 in Adjuntas; PR-656 and PR-123 in Arecibo; PR-771 in Barranquitas; PR	2006		Negative	0.15 miles N/NE

The project area is on Montegrande clay (MsC), 2 to 12 percent slopes. This soil type makes the probability of finding *in situ*, significant, and undisturbed cultural resources low.


Determination

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

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

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: ACJ Corp	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810	City: Juana Diaz

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that project actions will not affect the historic properties that compose the Area of Potential Effect. Three previous cultural resource surveys within a 0.25 miles radius of the APE have had negative results with regards to the presence of archaeological resources, and the Montegrande clay (MsC), 2 to 12 percent slopes further reduce the likelihood of archaeological resources being present within or near the APE. The eligible historic structure, the Rabanos School, is located approximately 0.21 miles southeast of the APE outside of the project viewshed. 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 HOUSING
Subrecipient: ACJ Corp	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810	City: Juana Diaz

Recommendation

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

No Historic Properties Affected

No Adverse Effect

Condition (if applicable):

Adverse Effect

Proposed Resolution (if applicable)

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

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

Subrecipient: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Diaz

Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map








TETRA TECH

Source: CRIM

Author: TG Date: 9/22/2022

Legend

-  Tier 2 Site
-  Historic Comunidades
-  Traditional Urban Centers
-  Cultural Resource District Polygon
-  Parcelario

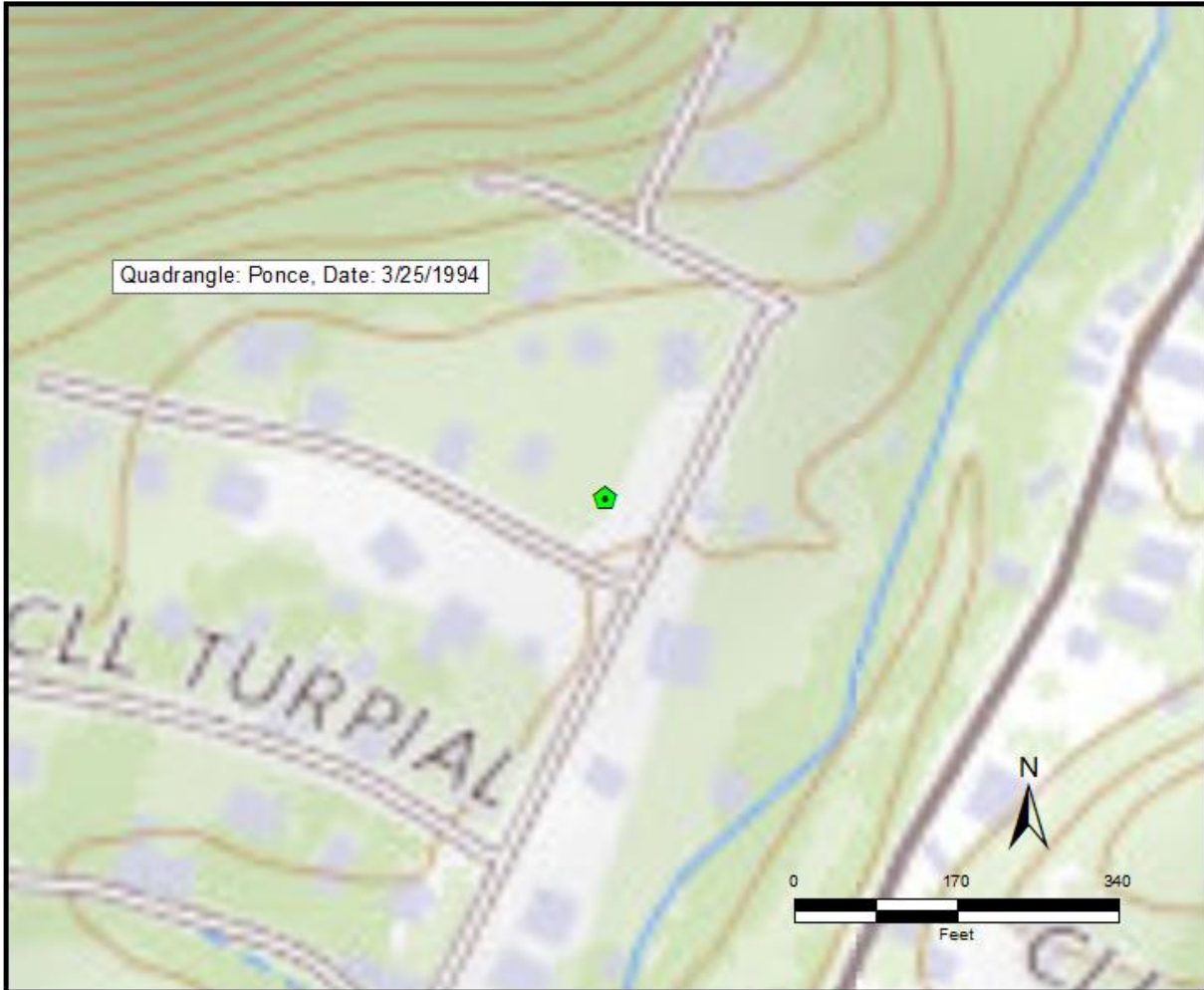


Subrecipient: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Diaz

Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map







Source: USGS

Author: TG

Date: 9/19/2023

Legend

-  Tier 2 Site
-  Historic Comunidades
-  Traditional Urban Centers
-  Cultural Resource District Polygon

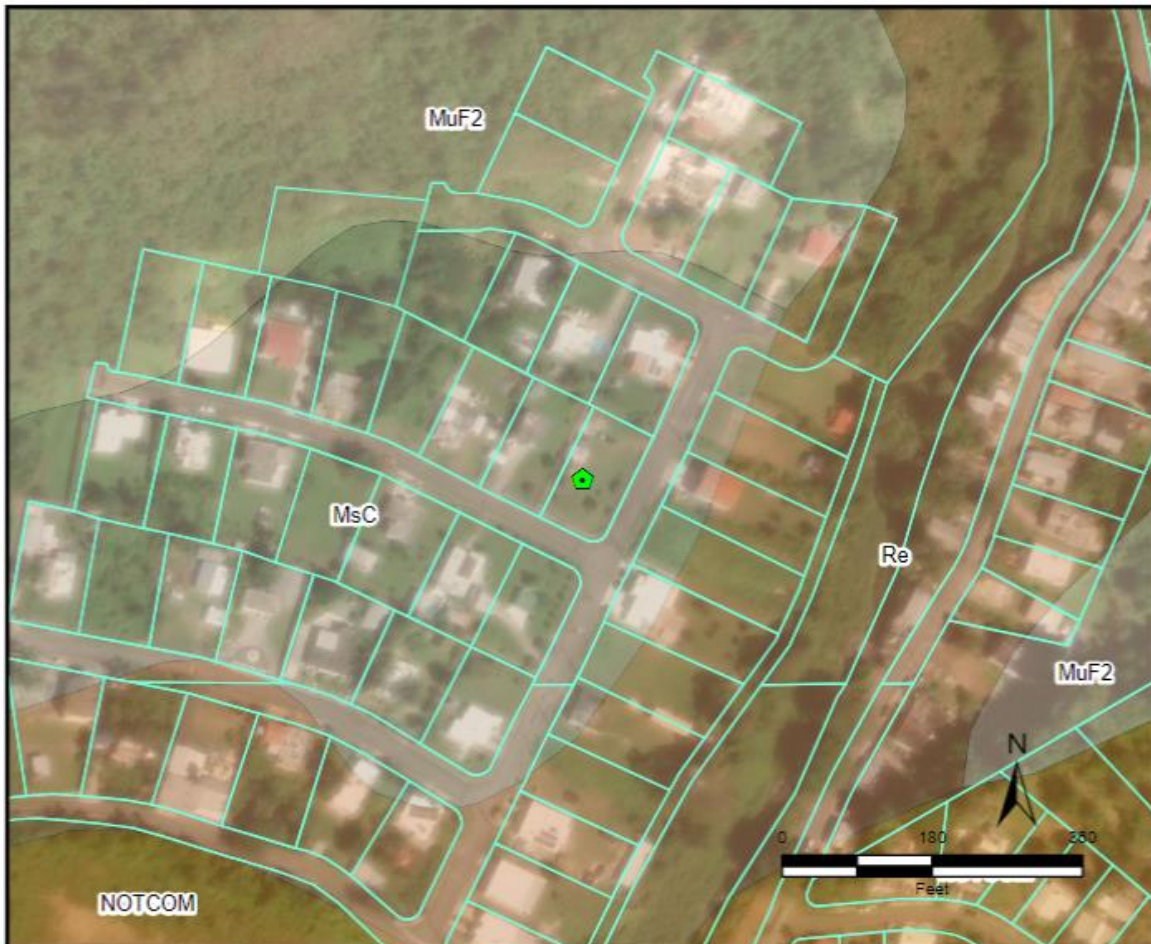










Subrecipient: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Diaz

Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map



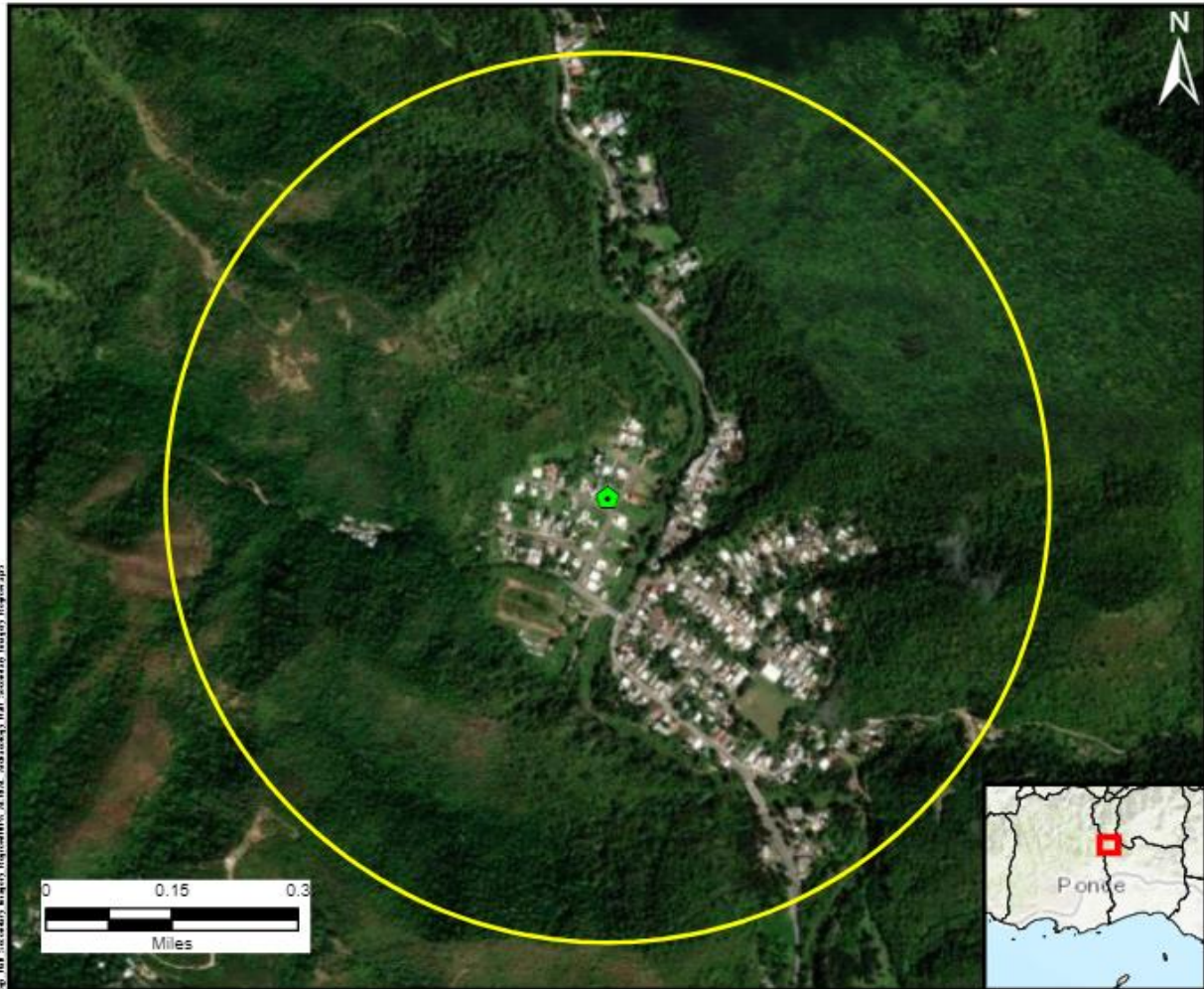
 <p>TETRA TECH</p> <p>Source:USDA</p> <p>Author: TG Date: 11/16/2023</p>	<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 2 Site Parcelario <p>Soil Type</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MsC:Montegrande clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes MuF2:Mucers silt clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded NOTCOM:No Digital Data Available Re:Reilly gravelly loam	
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Subrecipient: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Diaz

Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map



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Source: National Park Service

Legend

- Tier 2 Site
- Half Mile Buffer
- Historic Comunidades
- Traditional Urban Centers
- Cultural Resource District Polygon

Author: TG

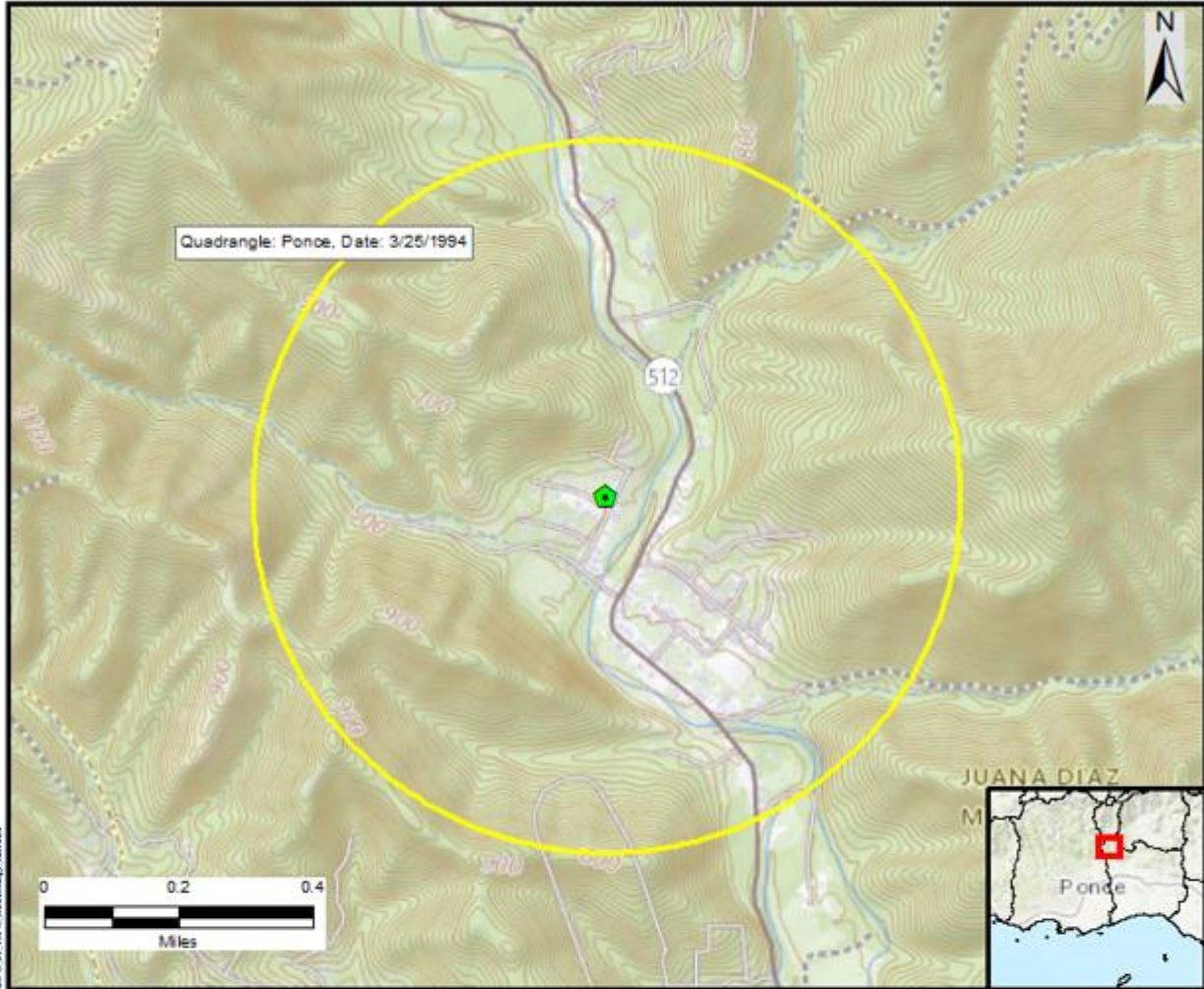
Date: 11/16/2023

Subrecipient: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Diaz

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



Source: National Park Service

Author: TG

Date: 7/21/2023

- Legend
-  Tier 2 Site
 -  Half Mile Buffer
 -  Historic Comunidades
 -  Traditional Urban Centers
 -  Cultural Resource District Polygon

Subrecipient: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Diaz

Photograph Key



Subrecipient: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Diaz



Photo #: 1

Description (include direction): Scope of work; Installation of a farm in the city module, view to the north.

Date: 12/19/2023



Photo #: 2

Description (include direction): Scope of work; Installation of a farm in the city module, view to the southwest.

Date: 12/19/2023

Subrecipient: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Diaz



Photo #: 3

Description (include direction): Scope of work; Installation of a farm in the city module, view to the southwest.

Date: 12/19/2023



Photo #: 4

Description (include direction): Utilities connection area for future installation of water and power services for farm in the city module, view to the northeast.

Date: 12/19/2023



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



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

February 28, 2023

Lauren Bair Poche
HORNE- Architectural Historian Manager
10000 Perkins Rowe, Suite 610 Bldg. G
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

SHPO: 02-01-23-03 PR-RGRW-00810 ACJ CORP. LOCALIZADO EN LA HACIENDA LAS VEGAS CALLE RUISEÑOR #17, CARR. 512 KM. 4.5, JUANA DIAZ, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Bair,

Our Office has received and reviewed the documentation above referenced project in accordance with 54 USC 306108 (commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended) and 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is to advise and assist federal agencies and other responsible entities when identifying historic properties, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or reduce the project's effects.

Our records support your finding of **no historic properties affected** within the project's area of potential effects. Please note that should the Agency discover other historic properties at any point during project implementation, you should notify the SHPO immediately.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, do not hesitate to contact our Office.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela
State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/IMC



February 2, 2023

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela
Director Ejecutivo
Oficina Estatal de Conservación Histórica
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-00810 – ACJ Corp – Hacienda Las Vegas, Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5, Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected*

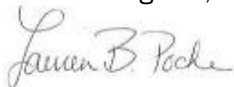
Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, HORNE is providing information for your review and requesting your concurrence regarding the above-referenced projects on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) and the Home Repair, Reconstruction, or Relocation (R3) Program. On February 9, 2018, an allocation of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds was approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 28, 83 FR 5844, to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in meeting unmet needs in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. On August 14, 2018, an additional \$8.22 billion recovery allocation was allocated to Puerto Rico under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 157, 83 FR 40314. With these funding allocations, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (Housing) aims to lead a comprehensive and transparent recovery for the benefit of Puerto Rico residents.

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, we are submitting documentation for activities proposed by ACJ Corp at Hacienda Las Vegas, Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5 in the municipality of Juana Díaz. This undertaking consists of the installation of a greenery vertical harvest container (a Farm in the City module), which will be placed on a concrete base that requires ground disturbance. Based on the submitted documentation prepared by SOI-qualified Lauren Bair Poche, M.A. and Jennifer Ort, M.S., the Program requests a concurrence that a determination of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for this proposed project.

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


Kindest regards,



Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Senior Manager

Enclosures

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		
Applicant: ACJ Corp		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810	City: Juana Díaz	

Project Location: Hacienda Las Vegas Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5	
Project Coordinates: 18.0864387, -66.53869185	
TPID (Número de Catastro): 342-014-584-11-000	
Type of Undertaking: <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a	Property Size (acres): 0.33 acres

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.
Date Reviewed: 1/27/2023
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jennifer Ort, M.S.
Date Reviewed: 1/27/2023


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

Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed activities for ACJ Corp. include installing a greenery vertical harvest container(a Farm in the City module). The container will be connected to existing electrical service, and a waterline trench has already been excavated and will be connected to existing infrastructure. The module will be placed on a concrete base, which will require ground disturbance. The project area is located at Hacienda Las Vegas Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5 within a residential area. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the project area was an active agricultural field in 1962 (the earliest imagery available for the area) through ca. 1998, when the neighborhood was present. A small structure is present at the eastern end of the parcel by 2015.

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 entire 0.33-acre parcel and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.


PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: ACJ Corp	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810	City: Juana Díaz

Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this Undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61) shows that there is one cultural property within a half-mile (mi) radius of the project location: Escuela Rábanos (SHPO ID: JD0200007), a historic school. The proposed project is located within the southern coastal plains region at the base of the Cordillera Central mountain range. The area is generally level, situated within the Río Guayo river valley, and bounded to the east and west by mountains, at an elevation of 422 feet (ft; 128.6 meters [m]) above modern sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses two mapped soil series: Montegrande clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes on the northwest side, and Reilly gravelly loam on the southeast side of the parcel. The project area APE is an open field within an active dairy processing complex. The closest freshwater source is the Río Guayo located 0.02 miles (mi; 0.03 kilometers [km]) east and adjacent to the project parcel. The southern coast is approximately 7.77 mi (12.5 km) from the project area.

Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

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


PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM ReGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: ACJ Corp	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810	City: Juana Díaz

Determination

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

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

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that project actions will not affect historic properties that compose the Area of Potential Effect. One cultural property is located within 0.5-mile of the project location. The project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. No known archaeological sites or NRHP listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel in which the Area of Potential Effect of case PR-RGRW-00810 is located. The closest freshwater body is 0.02 mi (0.03 km) east and adjacent to the project area. The construction of public roads has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no impact to cultural properties is anticipated for this reconstruction project.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REgROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Applicant: ACJ Corp	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810	City: Juana Díaz

Recommendation

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

- No Historic Properties Affected
- No Adverse Effect
 Condition (if applicable):
- Adverse Effect
 Proposed Resolution (if applicable)

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

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

Applicant: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Díaz

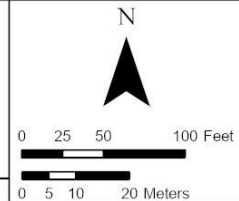
Project (Parcel) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)



Hacienda Las Vegas Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5, Juan Díaz, Puerto Rico



- Legend
- PR-RGRW-00810
 - Project Parcel/APE



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere Scale: 1:1,000



Applicant: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Díaz

Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map

Historic Properties - Aerial Base
Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Re-Grow Program

Latitude: 18.0865
Longitude: -66.5387



Application ID#: PR-RGRW-00810

Address: Hacienda Las Vegas Calle Ruisenor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5, Juana Diaz, PR 00716





Applicant: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Díaz

Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map

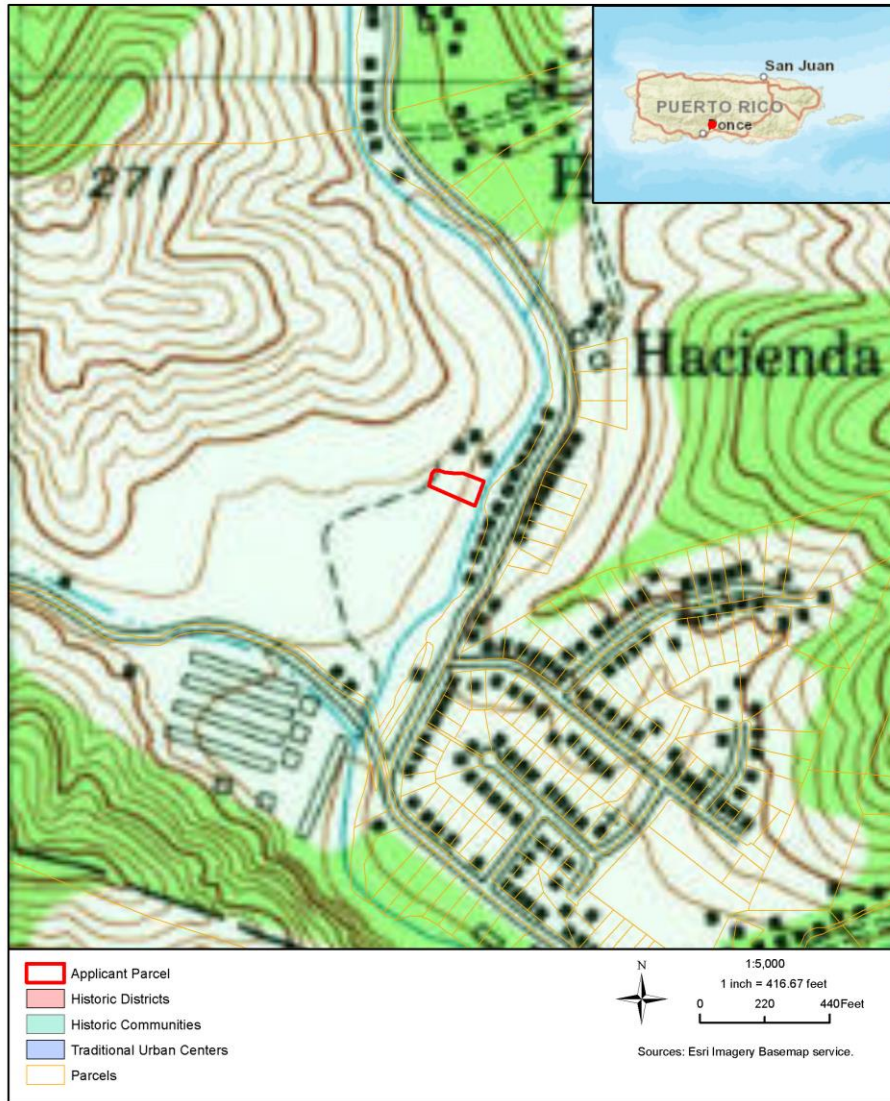
Historic Properties - Topographic Base
Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Re-Grow Program

Latitude: 18.0865
Longitude: -66.5387



Application ID#: PR-RGRW-00810

Address: Hacienda Las Vegas Calle Ruisenor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5, Juana Diaz, PR 00716



Applicant: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Díaz

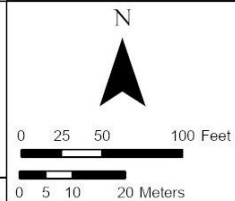
Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map



Hacienda Las Vegas Calle Ruisseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5, Juan Díaz, Puerto Rico



- Legend
- PR-RGRW-00810
 - ▭ Project Parcel/APE
 - ▭ NRCS Soil Units



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

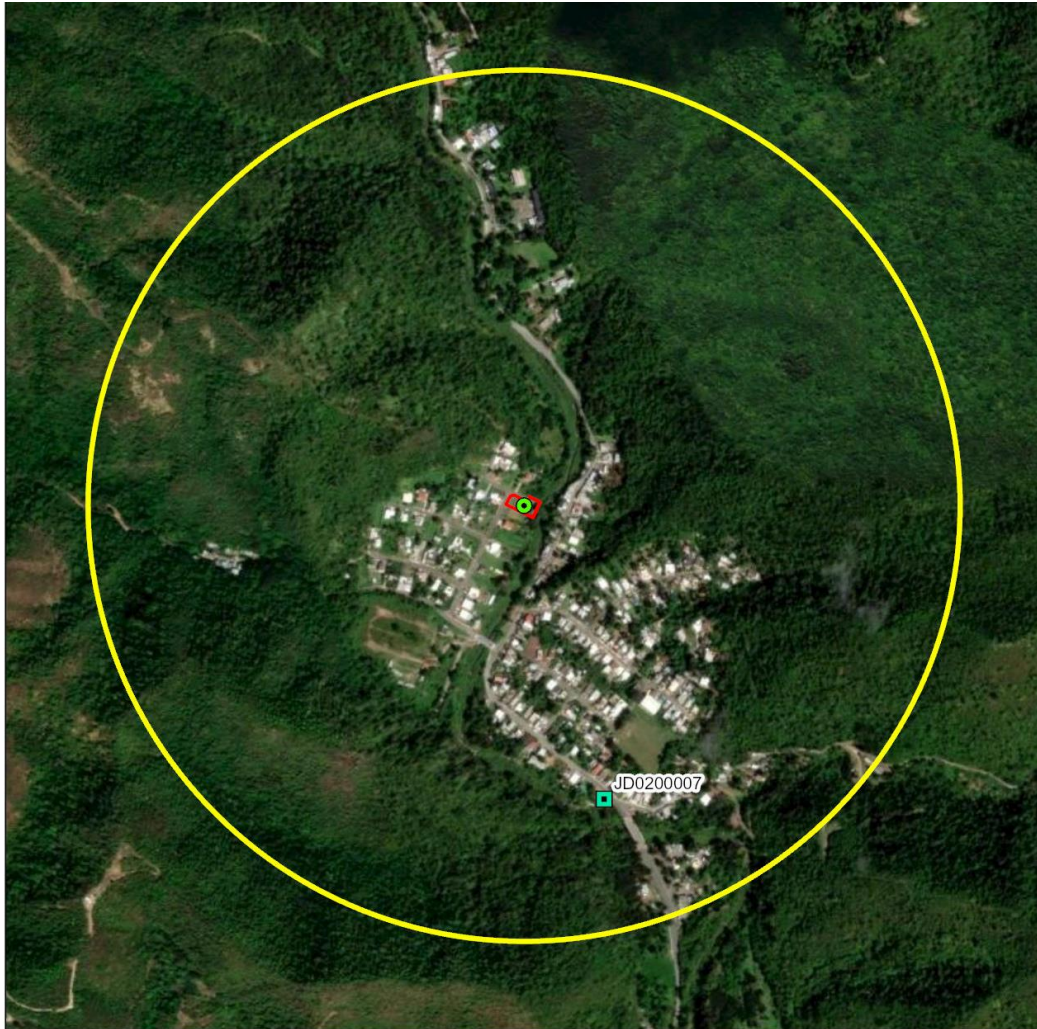
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Applicant: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Díaz

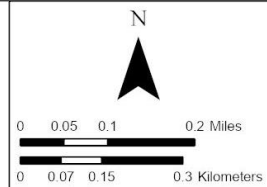
Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map



Hacienda Las Vegas Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5, Juan Diaz, Puerto Rico



- Legend
- PR-RGRW-00810
 - Above-Ground Resource
 - Project Parcel/APE
 - Half-Mile Buffer



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere Scale: 1:9,000



Applicant: ACJ Corp

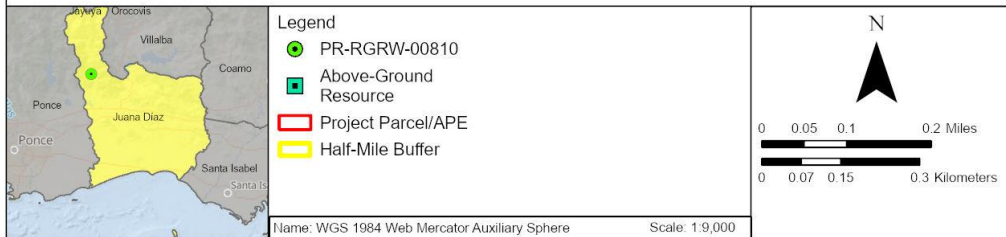
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Díaz

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



Hacienda Las Vegas Calle Ruisenor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5, Juan Díaz, Puerto Rico



Applicant: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Díaz

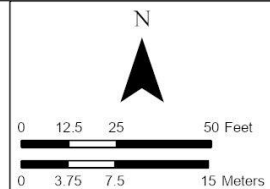
Photograph Key



Hacienda Las Vegas Calle Ruiseñor #17, Carr 512 Km 4.5, Juan Díaz, Puerto Rico



- Legend
- PR-RGRW-00810
 - Project Parcel/APE



Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere Scale: 1:400

Applicant: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Díaz



Photo #: 1

Description (include direction): Overview of proposed container location. Looking southeast.

Date: 1/10/2023



Photo #: 2

Description (include direction): Overview of electric connection location. General project area is visible in the background. Looking southeast

Date: 1/10/2023

Applicant: ACJ Corp

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00810

City: Juana Díaz



Photo #: 3

Description (include direction): Overview of connection to water system location. General project area is visible in the background. Looking southeast.

Date: 1/10/2023



Photo #: 4

Description (include direction): Overview of water system installation. Looking southeast.

Date: 1/10/2023



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