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

### **Project Information**

Project ID: PR-RGRW-01629

Project Name: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico/Aguada, PR

Preparer: Gabriela Rodríguez

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

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 0.74-acre site located at Carr 414, Km 5.4, Bo Cruces de Aguada in the Municipality of Aguada, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 096-036-373-41-000). The coordinates of the project site are 18.361295, -67.215793.

The farm has been and is currently being use for agricultural purposes with the growing of hydroponic cilantro.

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

The intent use of funds for the proposed project includes the purchase of a Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) and the purchase and installation of two (2) greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The proposed UTV is a Kawasaki Mule 4010 4 x 4 x 2023 to be used for farm shores and transportation of materials during operations.

The Scope of work (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of two (2) two new greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system at coordinates 18.361706, -67.215659. Each of the proposed greenhouses consists of a metal structure of approximately 24-foot (ft) X 50 ft, with plastic and Saran cover. The greenhouses include 6 growing tables and

an irrigation system which consists of 6 water cisterns (250 gallons each) with 6 water pumps, and timers. Greenhouses will be anchored to the ground with lateral and internal posts. Commonly greenhouses are anchored with 4 inches (lateral posts) and 3 inches (central and frontal) diameter steel poles. Front and side pillars are reinforced by a ratchet fixed to the ground to a maximum depth of 3 feet and attached to the top of each pillar with Galvanized Cord. Lateral and interior pillar spacing varies depending on the greenhouse size. In average, lateral pillar spacing is 8 ft and central pillar spacing is 15 ft. Each of the proposed greenhouses will require at least 20 posts. Proposed greenhouses will be located on bare ground, the proposal does not include the installation of ground cover and no concrete pad is included.

The proposed greenhouses will be connected to the existing power and water utility connections at the applicant's residence. Water for the hydroponic system will be provided from the residential structure, located at approximately distance of 100 linear ft, via an underground PVC tubing system at 1 ft depth. Electricity will be provided from the rear elevation of the applicant house through an underground electrical conduit at 3 ft deep and an approximate distance of 100 linear ft. While the applicant plans to pay for this activity themselves and no HUD funds would be utilized for this portion of work, the potential impacts from this action are included in the analyses below and it is contained within the delimited Area of Potential Effect (APE). The APE for the proposed project is approximately 0.74 acres.

The project site will require minimal clearing, grading, and vegetation removal activities. However, proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees.

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 purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two (2) greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system 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 the two greenhouses is used for agricultural purposes. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with the project. Some ground disturbance will be required.

### Structure of this Environmental Review Report (ERR).

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

Appendix A – Site Inspection Appendix B – Maps Appendix C – Additional Documentation Appendix D – Endangered Species Appendix E – SHPO Consultation

### **Funding Information**

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

### Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$ 66,835.50

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$66,835.50

### 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.

<b>Compliance Factors</b> : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
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STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
<b>Airport Hazards</b> 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The nearest civil airport, "Eugenio María de Hostos", is approximately 43,456 feet from the proposed site. The nearest military airport, "Aeropuerto Internacional Luis Muñoz Marín", is approximately 416,775 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 <b>Appendix B.</b>
<b>Coastal Barrier Resources</b> Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No	Puerto Rico has various Coastal Barrier Resources Systems (CBRS). The project is in western Puerto Rico. The distance to the nearest CBRS unit is 22,967 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 <b>Appendix B</b> .
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes No	The Project site is located in Zone X, area of minimal flood hazard, as per Floodplain Insurance Map 72000C0505J, effective date November 18, 2009. This project is in compliance with Floodplain Insurance requirements. (See Figures 4 and 5 in <b>Appendix B</b> .)

STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5			
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes	No	The Project site is not located in a county or air quality management district that is non- attainment status for any criteria pollutants. The Municipio of Aguada 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. Project would have no impact on air quality. The project is in

		compliance with Clean Air Act. Refer to EPA listing in <b>Appendix C</b> .
<b>Coastal Zone Management</b> Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes No	The project is located 4,074 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 <b>Appendix B</b> .
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)	Yes No	A site visit conducted on December 28, 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system.
		Site contamination was evaluated through online data searches to determine if toxic sites are located within 3,000-feet of the proposed project.
		There are no sites of environmental concern identified within 3,000 feet of the project site. Refer to Figures 8 and 9 in <b>Appendix B</b> and the Site inspection report and photos in <b>Appendix A</b> . The project is in compliance with Contamination and Toxic Substances.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The proposed location of project is an area that has been used for agricultural purposes.
		According to EPA NEPAssist Enviromapper, the nearest critical or proposed critical habitat is 83,270 feet to the northeast of the project location. The Official Species List from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website lists the Puerto Rican Boa as being able to be found in the area, but there are no critical habitats for them at this location.
		A site-specific review of endangered species was conducted, by a biologist, in accordance

		with the Fish and Wildlife Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended: 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) (See <b>Appendix D</b> ). 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 of the listed species. 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. Refer to Figures 10 and 11 in <b>Appendix B</b> and the Endangered Species Package in <b>Appendix D</b> . This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No	The project does not include development, construction, or rehabilitation that will increase residential density. The project is in compliance with Explosive and Flammable Hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes No	Refer to site visit report in <b>Appendix A</b> . The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The project site is designated as farmland of statewide importance. The project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to nonagricultural use. Although the project includes new construction, the project is exempt form review under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FFPA) as the project is limited to construction of on-farm structures needed for farm operations. No further review is required.

		This project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act. Refer to Figure 12 in <b>Appendix B.</b>
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes No	The Project site is not located in a 100-year floodplain per Floodplain Insurance Map 72000C0505J, effective date November 18, 2009. The project site is not located in an Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) special flood hazard area. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Aguada; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
		This project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. See Figures 4, 5, and 6 in <b>Appendix</b> <b>B</b> .
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	The site was evaluated on February 8, 2024, by an SOI Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian. Additionally, the site was evaluated on January 30, 2024, by an SOI Qualified Archaeologist. SHPO concurred with a finding of <b>No Historic Properties Affected</b> within the project's Area of Potential on Effects on March 1, 2024.
		Refer to Figure 13 in <b>Appendix B</b> and the Section 106 Consultation Package in <b>Appendix E.</b> This project is in compliance with Historic Preservation requirements.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. HUD's noise regulations protect residential properties from excessive noise exposure. HUD noise regulations do not apply as the project does not include new construction for residential use or rehabilitation of an existing residential property. The proposed project is in compliance with Noise Abatement and Control.
Sole Source Aquifers	Yes No	There are no EPA sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The nearest Sole Source Aquifer is

Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149			5,111,142 feet to the northwest of the project site. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements. Refer to Figure 17 in <b>Appendix B</b> .
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes	No	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The east coast is 7,2267 feet north of the property. The closest fresh-water bodies include an unnamed creek, tributary of the Río Ingenio, 712 ft east and the Caño de Santi Ponce 1,475 feet northwest of the project area. The NWI maps show no wetlands on the or adjacent to the project site. This project does not impact any on or off-site wetlands and includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. Refer to Figure 14 in <b>Appendix B</b> .
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes	No 🔀	This project is not within proximity of a National Wild and Scenic River (WSR). The distance to the nearest WSR is approximately 493,903 feet. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Refer to Figure 15 in <b>Appendix B</b> .

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes No	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.

**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	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOP/	MENT	
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design		The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The proposed project is located on a private farm. The project site is zoned as "Rural General (R-G)". The proposed action is compliant with the current agricultural land use of the Project area and will not contribute to urban sprawl.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff		The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The proposed project is located in flat terrain, used for agricultural purposes with the growing hydroponic cilantro.
		Soils in the proposed project area are classified as Malaya clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes (McF2); Coloso clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded (CoA); Rio Piedras clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded (RpC2); and Rio Piedras clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded (RpF2). The soil unit intersecting the APE is Rio Piedras clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded (RpF2), surrounded by urban vegetation cover, 30 meters above mean sea level.

		Projects larger than 1 acre must comply with the CWA and develop a SWPPP with the NPDES. The proposed project area is approximately 0.74 acres. The project site will require minimal clearing, grading, and vegetation removal. However, proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees. The project site area is rated "low to moderate" for landslide susceptibility (see Figure 16 in <b>Appendix B</b> ). There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONOA	٨IC	<u>.</u>
Employment and Income Patterns	2	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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.
		The proposed project would not negatively impact employment or income patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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

Environmental	2	In the area (one mile radius) in which project will occur.
Justice		97% are people of color compared to PR average of 96%
		78% are low income compared to PR average of 70%
		6% are unemployed compared to PR average of 15%
		The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. This project will result in restoration and increase in income and potential employment opportunities in the local area. The impacts would be beneficial.
		See EJScreen Report in <b>Appendix C</b>

Environmental	Impact				
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation			
COMMUNITY FA	COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES				
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system.			
		Waste vegetation from clearing activities will either be composted on site or at regional composting centers. Soil from grading would be recycled on the farm as fill. Left over construction materials that could be reused on the farm (e.g.,			

		piping, structural materials, greenhouse covering fabrics) 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.
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The proposed project would not include any bathrooms, wastewater, or sewage facilities. Current farm conditions would remain unchanged.
Water Supply	2	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. Facilities are currently connected to local utility service. Water for the hydroponic system will be provided from the residential structure, located at approximately distance of 100 linear ft, via an underground PVC tubing system at 1 ft depth. The proposed project will increase the current water demand of the area. The proposed project will have minor impact on water usage.
Public Safety – Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The proposed project will be situated on land previously used for agricultural purposes. The proposed project will have no impact to unique natural features or water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife		The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The proposed project will occur on land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. All vegetative exceedance material resultant from the clearing activities will be disposed as per the Municipal vegetative material management and diversion plan. No vegetative material will be stored or left at site. Proposal does not contemplate cutting, pruning or transplanting of trees. The proposed project will have minimal impact on vegetation and no impact on wildlife.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation	
CLIMATE AND ENERGY			
Climate Change Impacts	2	The project consists of the purchase of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. Facilities are currently connected to local utility service. Electricity will be provided from the rear elevation of the applicant house through an underground electrical conduit at 3 ft deep and an approximate distance of 100 linear ft. The proposed project will increase the current energy demand of the	

area. The proposed project will have minor impact on energy
usage.

### Additional Studies Performed: None required.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by):

Site inspection was conducted on December 28, 2023 by Javier Ramos.

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

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

FAA, National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems:

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 <u>map.</u> <u>www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Locator/PR.pdf</u>

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

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: <u>www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics</u>

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-</u> <u>state?stateAbbrev=PR&stateName=Puerto%20Rico&statusCategory=Listed</u>

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Mapping Service: <u>https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home\_</u> (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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. The project would allow the increase and a more efficient processing and growing of the agricultural products. The possibles cumulative impacts associated to the proposed project are related to the increase in energy and water demand for operational purposes of the new greenhouses. Power and water demand increase is minor.

### 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 of a UTV and the purchase and installation of two greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system. Under the No Action Alternative, the applicant would not receive federal funding for the proposed action, which would inhibit

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

### Summary of Findings and Conclusions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Environmental Decourage and call for them to releast the			
	Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the			
	Boa. 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 <sup>3</sup> 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.			
Clearing activities	Activities involving the excavation or movement of any			
	component of the terrestrial cortex material that exceeds five			
	hundred (500) cubic meters and up to a maximum of five			
	thousand (5,000) cubic meters require the submittal and			
	approval of a Simple Terrestrial Cortex Removal Permit.			
	Applications are submitted via the Single Business Portal of			
	the OGPe to be evaluated and physicalized by terrestrial			
	Cortex Extraction Permit Division of the PRDNER.			
Utility Connections- Water supply	The project does not involve new connections to the local			
	utility services. Facilities have local water utility services			
	connection that will be used to connect the new greenhouses.			
	Water for the hydroponic system will be provided from the			
	residential structure, located at approximately distance of 100 linear ft, via an underground PVC tubing system at 1 ft			
	depth. 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 not involve new utility connections. Facilities			
	have local utility services connections. Facilities have local			
	electrical utility services connections. Facilities have local			
	connect the new greenhouses. Electricity will be provided			
	from the rear elevation of the applicant house through an			
	underground electrical conduit at 3 ft deep and an			
	approximate distance of 100 linear ft. 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: 3/21/2024 Name/Title/Organization: <u>Gabriela Rodríguez, Senior Environmental Scientist, Tetra Tech</u> Inc.

Certifying Officer Signature: \_

1acres

\_Date: April 18, 2024

Name/Title: Sally Z. Acevedo Cosme- 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-01629				
Applicant Name	FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA,INC				
Property Address					
Parcel ID					
Coordinates	18.361295,	-67.215793			
Inspector Name	Javier Ramo	os			
Inspection Date	/ /	}			
Building Type					
Number of Units	0				
Number of Stories	0				
Year Built; Data Source		an			
ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS (attach	photos and n	otes, as nece	essary, for any YES answers)		
OBSERVATION ITEMS	YES	NO	COMMENTS		
A. Is the structure in use?		V			
B. is structure a greenhouse?	V		Cilantro planting area.		
C. Is Electricity connected?	R		Power meter in front of applicant house		
D. Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	V		Water meter		
<b>1.</b> Are there signs of <b>poor housekeeping</b> 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.)		Ø			
2. Are there any 55-gallon drums visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?		Ŋ			
<b>3</b> . Are there any (or signs of any) <b>underground storage tanks</b> on the property?		Q			
<b>4</b> . Are there signs of <b>ASTs</b> on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.		V			
5. Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?		Ŋ			
6. Is a water <b>drainage system</b> in use?		Ŋ			
7. Is a warehouse in use for storage of <b>Fertilizer or Pesticides</b> ?	V		Pesticides storage area		
8. Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?		Ø			
9. Is there evidence of a faulty septic system?		Ŋ			
10. Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?		V			
<b>11</b> . Is there any visible indication of <b>MOLD</b> ?		$\checkmark$			





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

Additional Notes: Case: PR-RGRW-01629 Project Name: Finca Mi Buena Cosecha. inc Coordinates: 18.361295, -67.215793

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

Scope of Work: The proposed project includes the purchase of a UTV and the construction of two

greenhouses and an hydroponic irrigation system.

Land current in use for: The farm is currently used for cilantro planting.

Past Land use: Growing of cilantro

Where the applicant plans to do the ground disturbances for the scopes of work, add the coordinates, descriptions and approximately the measurements:

Scope of work: 18.361706,-67.215659 The construction of two greenhouses with an hydroponic irrigation system. Approximately size for each greenhouse will be 24' X 50', in metal, plastic and saran. Water for the hydroponic system will be provided from the rear elevation of the applicant house, thru a underground PVC tube at 1' deep and a linear of 100' approximately. The hydroponic system consist in plastic tubes and a cistern overground in the same APE. Electricity will be provided from the rear elevation of the applicant house thru an underground conduit at 3' deep and a linear of 100' approximately.

Any new water connection or power connection?

Water for the hydroponic system will be provided from the rear elevation of the applicant house, thru a underground PVC tube at 1'

deep and a linear of 100' approximately. Electricity will be provided from the rear elevation of the applicant house thru an underground

conduit at 3' deep and a linear of 100' approximately.

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

The UTV to be purchased will be storage in the applicant house in the coordinates: 18.361295,-67.215793

TETRA TECH





Site Sketch











Back of Structure







Streetscape #1







Photo Description: Green houses

Outbuildings

### Photo Direction: Southwest





Photo Description: Architectural details Photo Direction: Northwest Structural Details

# <image><section-header>

Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southeast





## Photo Description: Architectural details Photo Direction: Northeast Structural Details Photo Description: Architectural details Photo Direction: Southwest



### Photo Description: Architectural details

### Photo Direction: Northeast



Structural Details

### Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Northwest





### Photo Description: Architectural details

### Photo Direction: Northeast



Photo Description: Architectural details

### Photo Direction: Southeast





### Photo Description: Architectural details





Photo Description: Architectural details

Photo Direction: Southwest





### Photo Description: Architectural details

### Photo Direction: Southeast

Photo Direction: Northwest






Greenhouse Photos

#### Photo Description: Cilantro planting







Electricity Connected

#### Photo Description: Power meter

#### Photo Direction: Northeast





 Water Connected

 Photo Direction: Southeast



Warehouse Use

# Photo Director: Southwest









Scope Of Work

#### Photo Description: Rear area of the house for electricity and water connections

#### Photo Direction: Northeast



# **APPENDIX B**

Maps





# Figure 1: PROJECT LOCATION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

ADDRESS: Carr 414, Km 5.4, Bo Cruces de Aguada, Aguada, PR. 00602 Name of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Parcel Coordinates: 18.361295, -67.215793

Source: CRIM https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/ Author: TG Date: 3/14/2024

#### Legend





Area of Potential Effect

Water connections

Power connections







Figure 2: AIRPORT ZONES **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629** 

ame of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA,

#### Legend



Project Parcel

**Civilian Runway Protection** Zones



Military Accident Potential Zones



Civilian Airport 2,500 Feet Buffer

Military Airport 15,000 Feet Buffer

**Distance to Nearest Airport** in Feet: 43,456

**Distance to Nearest Civilian Airport** in Feet: 43,456

**Distance to Nearest Military Airport** in Feet: 416,775

### **PUERTO RICO**



Fee







# Figure 3: COASTAL BARRIERS IMPROVEMENT ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

ADDRESS: Carr 414, Km 5.4, Bo Cruces de Aguada, Aguada, PR. 00602 Name of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA,INC Parcel Coordinates: 18.361295, -67.215793

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

Author: TG

Date: 10/17/2023

Legend

• Project Parcel

#### Coastal Barrier Resources System Boundary

Unit

PR-75 PR-75P

Distance to Nearest Coastal Barrier Resources System: 22967 Feet







# Figure 4: FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

ame of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

#### 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









# Figure 6: ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

Coordin

ame of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

#### Legend

Project Parcel
 Parcels
 ABFE Flood Zone
 A
 AE
 AO
 VE
 X







Figure 7: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

te of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC



#### Legend



Distance to Nearest Coastal Zone: 4074 Feet







Figure 8: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND GASES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, CONTAMINATION, AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629** 

e of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC.

Legend



- AIR
- NPDES
- RCRA
- ▲ Toxic Release Inventory Site
- Superfund Site
- **Brownfield Sites**
- 3000 Ft Buffer AIR
- 3000 Ft Buffer NPDES
- 3000 Ft Buffer TRI
  - 3000 Ft Buffer Superfund
- 3000 Ft Buffer RCRA
  - 3000 Ft Buffer Brownfield









# Figure 10: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

ame of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC









# Figure 11: CRITICAL HABITATS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

e of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Legend
Project Parcel
Common Name
Puerto Rico harlequin butterfly

Distance to Nearest Critical Habitat: 83270 Feet







# Figure 12: FARMLAND PROTECTION **APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629**

ame of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA,

#### 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







# Figure 13: HISTORIC PRESERVATION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

e of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC



#### 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





# Figure 14: WETLANDS APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

ame of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC



#### 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







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

Author: TG

Date: 10/23/2023

# Figure 15: WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

e of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

# Legend

Project Parcel
 Wild and Scenic Rivers

# Distance to Nearest Wild and Scenic River: 493903 Feet







Source: PRDOH https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=10506ecc7f15491daee17647f19248ee Author: TG Date: 2/29/2024

# Figure 16: SLOPE AND EROSION APPLICANT ID: PR-RGRW-01629

ame of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC.



# Legend Project Parcel Parcels Landslide Susceptibility Extremely High Very High High Moderate Low Area of Potential Effect







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-01629

ame of Development: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC.



Legend
Project Parcel
Sole Source Aquifer
Biscayne Aquifer SSA



Biscayne Aquifer SSA Streamflow and Recharge Source Zones

Distance to Nearest Aquifer: 5,111,142 FT



**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 February 29, 2024

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

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

#### Change the State:

PUERTO RICO 🗸	GO

Notes		Download	National Datas	et: dbf   xls	Data	dictionary (	(PDF)
	Area Name	Nonattainment in Year	Redesignation to Maintenance	Classification	or/ Part	(2010)	State/ County FIPS Codes
(2008)		1112131415161718192021222324	//		Part	32,185	72/013
Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	18192021222324	//		Part	22,921	72/021
Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	18192021222324	//		Whole	28,140	72/033
PM-10 (1987)	Mun. of Guaynabo, PR	929394959697989900010203040506070809	02/11/2010	Moderate	Part	90,470	72/061
		18192021222324	//		Part	23,802	72/061
Dioxide (2010)	Salinas,	18192021222324	//		Part	23,401	72/123
Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	18192021222324	//		Part	147,963	72/127
	San Juan, PR	18192021222324	//		Part	52,441	72/137
	NAAQS RICO Lead (2008) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) PM-10 (1987) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010) Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	NAAQSArea NameRICOLead (2008)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)PM-10 (1987)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	NAAQS NameArea NameNonattainment in YearPRCOLead (2008)Arecibo, PR1112131415161718192021222324Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur Dioxide PRSan Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur Sulfur Sulfur PRSan Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur PRSan Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur PRSan Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur PRSan Juan, PR18192021222324Sulfur Pioxide Sulfur 	NAAQS NameArea NameRedesignation to MaintenanceRICOLead (2008)Arecibo, PR1111213141516171819202122324//Sulfur Dioxide (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324//Mun. of Guaynabo, PR92939495969798990001020304050607080902/11/2010Sulfur Dioxide (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324//Sulfur Dioxide (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324//Sulfur Dioxide (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324//Sulfur Dioxide (2010)San Juan, PR18192021222324//Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur Culfur Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur PRSan Juan, PR18192021222324//Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur Sulfur CulfurSan Juan, PR18192021222324//Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur PRSan Juan, PR18192021222324//	NAAQS NameArea NameNonattainment in YearRedesignation to MaintenanceClassificationRECO	NAAQS NameArea NameNonattainment in YearRedesignation to MaintenanceWhole or/ MaintenancePRICOLead (2008)Arecibo, PRIntenancePartSulfur (2010)San Juan, PRIntenanceIntenanceSulfur (2010)San Juan, PRIntenanceIntenanceSulfur (2010) <t< td=""><td>NAAQS NameArea NameNonattainment in YearRedesignation to MaintenanceWhole or/ MaintenancePopulation Part 22,921IEAcd (2008)Arecibo, PRPart32,185Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRPart32,185Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRPart22,921Joixide (2010)San Juan, PRPart22,921Joixide (2010)San Juan, PRWhole PRPart22,921Joixide (2010)San Juan, PRMun. of PRWhole Part28,140Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRDivide PRPart23,802Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRDivide PRPart23,802Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRPart23,802Sulfur (2010)Guayamab, PRPart23,802Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRPart23,401Sulfur (2010)PRPart23,401Sulfur (2010)PRPart23,401</td></t<>	NAAQS NameArea NameNonattainment in YearRedesignation to MaintenanceWhole or/ MaintenancePopulation Part 22,921IEAcd (2008)Arecibo, PRPart32,185Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRPart32,185Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRPart22,921Joixide (2010)San Juan, PRPart22,921Joixide (2010)San Juan, PRWhole PRPart22,921Joixide (2010)San Juan, PRMun. of PRWhole Part28,140Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRDivide PRPart23,802Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRDivide PRPart23,802Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRPart23,802Sulfur (2010)Guayamab, PRPart23,802Sulfur (2010)San Juan, PRPart23,401Sulfur (2010)PRPart23,401Sulfur (2010)PRPart23,401

Important Notes

# SEPA EJScreen Community Report

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



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.

#### **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 unemploved, 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.

 $\equiv$ 

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.361303,-67.215797

# **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE In USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.08	N/A
Ozone (ppb)	N/A	N/A	N/A	61.6	N/A
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.0327	0.0667	44	0.261	2
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	20	20	15	25	5
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.2	0.19	17	0.31	4
Toxic Releases to Air	18,000	4,300	98	4,600	95
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	10	180	13	210	16
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.061	0.16	38	0.3	28
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.033	0.15	4	0.13	30
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.22	0.47	56	0.43	59
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.086	0.76	13	1.9	17
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )		1.7	60	3.9	31
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)		2.3	68	22	78
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	88%	83%	51	35%	98
Supplemental Demographic Index	47%	43%	57	14%	99
People of Color	97%	96%	11	39%	94
Low Income	78%	70%	56	31%	97
Unemployment Rate	6%	15%	31	6%	67
Limited English Speaking Households	72%	67%	55	5%	99
Less Than High School Education	32%	21%	78	12%	92
Under Age 5	3%	4%	56	6%	34
Over Age 64	20%	22%	43	17%	67
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	3

#### Other community features within defined area:

Schools 0
Hospitals 0
Places of Worship 0

#### Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	No
Impaired Waters	Yes

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

Report for 1 mile Ring Centered at 18.361303,-67.215797

# **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	29%	21.6%	83	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	59%	32%	90	14%	99
Lack of Health Insurance	4%	7%	16	9%	24
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 Centered at 18.361303,-67.215797

# **APPENDIX D**

Endangered Species



Date: February 20, 2024

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01629 Street Address: CARR 414, KM 5.4, BO CRUCES DE AGUADA Municipality: Aguada

#### Subject – Endangered Species No Effect Determination for PR-RGRW-01629

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 CARR 414, KM 5.4, BO CRUCES DE AGUADA, in the Municipality of Aguada, Puerto Rico (Parcel ID# 096-036-373-41).

The proposed project is for the purchase and installation of two (2) two new greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system at coordinates 18.361706, -67.215659. Each of the proposed greenhouses consists of a metal structure of approximately 24-foot (ft) X 50 ft, with plastic and Saran cover. The greenhouses include 6 growing tables and the irrigation system which consists of 6 water cisterns (250 gallons each) with 6 water pumps, and timer. Field is not graded. The SOW does not include new connections to local utility services. The proposed greenhouses will be connected to the existing power and water utility connections at the applicant residence. Water for the hydroponic system will be provided from the residential structure, located at approximately distance of 100 linear ft, via an underground PVC tubing system at 1 ft depth. Electricity will be provided from the rear elevation of the applicant house thru an underground electrical conduit at 3 ft deep and an approximate distance of 100 linear ft.

Surrounding landscape includes residences to the north and west of the parcel, with pasture and crop lands to the south and east. The farm has been and is currently in use for agricultural purposes with the growing of hydroponic cilantro. The area planned for the greenhouse construction is a flat, maintained section of the parcel. No vegetation removal is needed for the project.

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 Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	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



Puerto Rican Boa. 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 Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	No Effect	No Conservation Measures

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

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.

<u>Attachments:</u>

IPaC Resource List

Shelby McDowell

Shelby McDowell

B.S. Biologist, Tetra Tech



### United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2024-0050347 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01629 February 16, 2024

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Once a species list is obtained for the proposed project, an effect determination for endangered and threatened species should be made. The applicant could make an effect determination by using available keys on IPaC for specific species. For species with no determination keys, the applicant should request concurrence from the Service by sending a project package
to <u>caribbean\_es@fws.gov</u>. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

#### https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/consultation-under-section-7-of-theendangered-species-act-with-the-caribbean-ecological%20Services-field-office-templateletter.pdf

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

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

#### https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultationhandbook.pdf

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

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

This species list is provided by:

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

Attachment(s):

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

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

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

This species list is provided by:

#### **Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office**

Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 (787) 834-1600

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code:2024-0050347Project Name:PR-RGRW-01629Project Type:Restoration / Enhancement - AgriculturalProject Description:The Scope of work (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of two (2)<br/>two new greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system at coordinates<br/>18.361706, -67.215659. Each of the proposed greenhouses consists of a<br/>metal structure of approximately 24-foot (ft) X 50 ft, with plastic and<br/>Saran cover. The greenhouses include 6 growing tables and the<br/>irrigation system which consists of 6 water cisterns (250 gallons each)<br/>with 6 water pumps, and timer. Field is not graded.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@18.36155675,-67.21565328102534,14z</u>



Counties: Aguada County, Puerto Rico

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

There is a total of 1 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

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

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

#### REPTILES

 NAME
 STATUS

 Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus
 Endangered

 No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
 Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628</a>

 General project design guidelines:
 <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U3FYSK5BDJDBXJUXCEKWFUPNSY/documents/generated/7159.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/U3FYSK5BDJDBXJUXCEKWFUPNSY/documents/generated/7159.pdf</a>

### **CRITICAL HABITATS**

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

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

## USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

# **BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES**

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>1</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the <u>"Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"</u>.

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

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

# **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats<sup>3</sup> should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the <u>"Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"</u>.

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

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

# WETLANDS

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

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

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

#### THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency:Tetra TechName:Shelby McDowellAddress:2301 Lucien Way #120City:MaitlandState:FLZip:32751Emailshelby.mcdowell@tetratech.comPhone:4096591563

# **APPENDIX E**

Section 106 Consultation



## GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

March 1, 2024

Lauren Bair Poche HORNE 10000 Perkins Rowe, Suite 610, Bldg G Baton Rogue, LA 70810

SHPO: CF-02-27-24-07 PR-RGRW-01629 – AGUADA -FINCA MI BELLA COSECHA INC. CARRETERA 414, KM 5.4, BARRIO CRUCES DE AGUADA, PUERTO RICO

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,

my of

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



OFICINA ESTATAL DE CONSERVACIÓN HISTÓRICA OFICINA DEL GOBERNADOR

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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



February 27, 2024

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

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

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-01629 – Finca Mi Buena Cosecha, Inc. – Carr 414, Km 5.4, Bo Cruces de Aguada, Aguada, Puerto Rico – No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, HORNE is submitting documentation for activities proposed by Finca Mi Buena Cosecha, Inc. located at Carr 414, Km 5.4, Bo Cruces de Aguada, in the municipality of Aguada. The undertaking for this project includes the purchase and installation of two (2) greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation systems. Each of the proposed greenhouses consists of a metal structure of approximately 24-foot (ft) X 50 ft, with plastic and Saran cover. The greenhouses include 6 growing tables and an irrigation system which consists of 6 water cisterns (250 gallons each) with 6 water pumps, and timers. The proposed greenhouses will be connected to the existing power and water utility connections at the applicant's residence. Water for the hydroponic system will be provided from the residential structure, located at an approximate distance of 100 linear ft, via an underground PVC tubing system at 1 ft depth. Electricity will be



provided from the rear elevation of the applicant house through an underground electrical conduit at 3 ft deep and an approximate distance of 100 linear ft.

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 <u>lauren.poche@horne.com</u> or phone at 225-405-7676 with any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards, Jauan B Pode Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager LBP/JLE

Attachments



Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629

City: Aguada

Project Location: Carr 414, Km 5.4, Bo Cruces de Aguada, Aguada, PR. 00602				
Project Coordinates: 18.361295, -67.215793				
<b>TPID</b> (Número de Catastro): 096-036-373-41-000				
Type of Undertaking:				
🗆 Substantial Repair				
☑ New Construction				
Construction Date (AH est.): c1990	Property Size (acres): 0.74			

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Maria F. Lopez Schmid				
Date Reviewed: 02/08/2024				
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Steven J. Sarich, M.S., RPA				
Date Reviewed: January 30, 2024				

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

#### Project Description (Undertaking)

The intent use of funds for the proposed project includes the purchase and installation of two (2) greenhouses with a hydroponic irrigation system.

The farm has been and is currently in use for agricultural purposes with the growing of hydroponic cilantro. The Scope of work (SOW-1) is the purchase and installation of two (2) two new greenhouses with hydroponic irrigation system at coordinates 18.361706, -67.215659. Each of the proposed greenhouses consists of a metal structure of approximately 24-foot (ft) X 50 ft, with plastic and Saran cover. The greenhouses include 6 growing tables and an irrigation system which consists of 6 water cisterns (250 gallons each) with 6 water pumps, and timers. Field is not graded.

The proposed greenhouses will be connected to the existing power and water utility connections at the applicant's residence. Water for the hydroponic system will be provided from the residential structure, located at approximately distance of 100 linear ft, via an underground PVC tubing system at 1 ft depth. Electricity will be provided from the rear elevation of the applicant house through an underground electrical conduit at 3 ft deep and an approximate distance of 100 linear ft. While the applicant plans to pay for this activity themselves and no HUD funds would be utilized for this portion of work, the potential impacts from this action are included in the analyses below and it is included within the delimited Area of Potential Effect (APE).

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629	City: Aguada

#### 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 0.74-acre parcel, and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

#### Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

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

The landscape topography and soils are important when determining the probability of an archaeological site being found and the potential for site preservation in a given location. Four soil units are mapped within the 0.25-mile radius of the APE, including one soil unit that directly intersects the APE. These soil units include Malaya clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes (McF2); Coloso clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded (CoA); Rio Piedras clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded (RpC2); and Rio Piedras clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded (RpF2). The soil unit intersecting the APE is Rio Piedras clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded (RpF2). Rio Piedras soils are formed in residuum of eroded, thinly bedded siltstone and shale and are typically very deep with slow permeability. These soils are described as extremely acidic, which can impact the preservation of certain classes of artifacts and archaeological features. The overall topography of the 0.25-mile buffer ranges from relatively flat to very steeply sloped. However, the local topography of the APE is relatively flat, having been modified by prior mechanical grading and agricultural activity. The Rio Piedras soils present in the area have also been impacted by natural erosion with C horizon parent material as shallow as 69 centimeters below the ground surface. Given the natural soil erosion and minimal depositional activity, extreme acidity of the soil intersecting the APE, and shallow and surficial ground disturbances from prior landscape modification and current commercial land use, the potential for in situ archaeological sites is considered low.

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program ReGrow Puerto Rico Program	
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUTERTO RICO
Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629	City: Aguada

#### Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that the project area is **not** within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. Additionally, there are **no** NRHP-listed historic properties within the quarter mile buffer zone from the APE.

The proposed project is located in a rural, mountainous terrain among a residential and agricultural area. The property lies west of Route PR-414 in Aguada near the boundary line with the town of Rincón to the west. A circa 1990 building is located south of the APE geocoordinates. The building and it is present on a 1993 aerial image, shown below left, but not on a 1983 aerial image. The building is the applicant's house (shown below right) is a one-story reinforced concrete house with low profile front gable concrete roof. The full front porch roof is supported by concrete Solomonic columns on rectangular bases and the entrance porch is enclosed with concrete balustrades.



Figure 1 & 2. Detail of 1993 aerial image showing the house on the property, and house façade, view to the northeast.

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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629	City: Aguada

#### Determination

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

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

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that no previously identified historic properties are located within or adjacent to the proposed project Area of Potential Effect. The project area is/is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. There are no reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties within a quarter-mile radius of the proposed project location. No known archaeological sites or NRHP listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel in which the Area of Potential Effect of case PR-RGRW-01629 is located.

Given the natural soil erosion and minimal depositional activity, extreme acidity of the soil intersecting the APE, and shallow and surficial ground disturbances from prior landscape modification and current commercial land use, the potential for *in situ* archaeological sites is considered low. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

Puerto Rico 2017 Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629	City: Aguada

#### 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):

 $\boxtimes$  No Historic Properties Affected

□ No Adverse Effect

Condition (if applicable):

□ Adverse Effect

Proposed Resolution (if appliable)

#### This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

The	Puerto	Rico	State	Historic	Preservation	Office	has	reviewed	the	above	informatic	bn
and	:											

 $\Box$  **Concurs** with the information provided.

 $\Box$  **Does not concur** with the information provided.

#### Comments:

Carlos Rubio-Cancela	Data:	
State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:	



Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629

City: Aguada

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





Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629

City: Aguada

#### Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map





Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Source: USGS

Author: TG

Date: 9/19/2023

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629

City: Aguada

# Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map Quadrangle: Rincon, Date: 2/21/1997 Quadrangle: Rincon, Date: 2/21/1997 340 170 ee Legend Tier 2 Site Aguada TETRA TECH Historic Comunidades

Traditional Urban Centers

Cultural Resource District Polygon



Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629





Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629

City: Aguada

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





Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629





Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629





Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629





Subrecipient: FINCA MI BUENA COSECHA, INC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01629







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

CDBG-DR FUNDS I HOUSING