

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

451 Seventh Street, SW Washington, DC 20410 www.hud.gov espanol.hud.gov

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

# **Project Information**

**Project Name:** PR-RGRW-01492-W

**HEROS Number:** 900000010466455

**Start Date:** 04/23/2025

State / Local Identifier:

**Project Location:**, Barranquitas, PR 00794

#### **Additional Location Information:**

The project is located at latitude 18.208183, longitude -66.341412 at the address given above. Tax ID Numbers: 246-026-192-07-000, 246-000-003-42-901, 246-026-192-08-000, 246-026-192-06-000, 246-026-192-05-000

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

This project (PR-RGRW-01492-W) entails the award of a grant to Vaka9404 Inc., an agricultural business, at Carr. 770 Km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas PR, 00794. Tax ID Numbers: 246-026-192-07-000, 246-000-003-42-901, 246-026-192-08-000, 246-026-192-06-000, 246-026-192-05-000. Coordinates (latitude 18.208183, longitude -66.341412). The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01492 consist of the purchase of barbed wired, metals posts, a backpack sprayer, a livestock scale, materials to repair the cattle chute, a Priefert Chute and land conditioning. For the fence installation, 1.5-inch metal posts will be used. These posts, measuring 1.5 inches in diameter, will be positioned 10 feet apart and buried two feet deep. The fence will measure approximately 7,900 linear feet. The materials for repairing the cattle chute are: 1/2 in x 20 ft. tubes, 2 in. x 20 ft. tubes, 3" x 3" x 20' blacksmith tube, galvalume sheets and galvalume ridges. These materials will be utilized to repair the area designated for the installation of the Priefert Chute. The Priefert Chute will be placed within the cattle chute on a concrete base measuring 90 inches by 57 inches, with a thickness of 6 inches. The concrete base will be provided by the applicant at a cost of \$8,640.00. Also, as part of the project, land conditioning will include preparing the areas for the fence installation and the location of a new water pipe. For the water pipe installation, a trench measuring 3 feet wide and 700 feet long will be excavated. Additionally, it will be necessary to clear and remove vegetation from all areas to be worked on. The project area is located Carr. 770 km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon within the Municipality of Barranquitas. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years. The project Vaka9404 Inc., PR-RGRW-01492-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #2 - 2. 7 CFR 799,31 (b) (2) (ii): Improvement or repair of farm-related structures under 50 years of age. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Repair, improvements, or minor modifications of farm-related structures under 50 years of age,

CE: #4 - 4. 7 CFR 799.32 (d) (2) (iv): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling occurring specifically in areas with previous ground disturbance, soils that are not likely to possess intact and distinct soil horizons and have the reduced likelihood of possessing historic properties with their original depositional contexts in the area and to the depth to be excavated, also referred to as the plow zone, CE:#6 - 6. 7 CFR 799.32 (d) (3) (i): Fence installation and replacement. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Fence installation and replacement that support agricultural needs, without ground disturbance, CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes new ground disturbance have been classified as CENST and CEST under the waiver.

#### **Level of Environment Review Determination:**

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

#### **Funding Information**

Grant	HUD Program	Program Name	
Number			
B-17-DM-72-	Community Planning and	Community Development Block	\$1,507,179,000.00
0001	Development (CPD)	Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-18-DE-72-	Community Planning and	Community Development Block	\$1,932,347,000.00
0001	Development (CPD)	Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-18-DP-72-	Community Planning and	Community Development Block	\$8,220,783,000.00
0001	Development (CPD)	Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-19-DP-78-	Community Planning and	Community Development Block	\$277,853,230.00
0002	Development (CPD)	Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	

**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** \$30,555.99

**Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]:** \$39,195.99

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

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

Law, Authority, or	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete
Factor			
Endangered	If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project	N/A	
Species Act	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		

08/01/2025 15:40 Page 2 of 3

ask for them to relocate the Boa.		

_				•					
	٠.	$\sim$	m	ın	-	•.	^	-	
De	= L	eі		ш	а	u	u		

Detern	nination:
	This categorically excluded activity/project converts to <b>EXEMPT</b> per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; <b>Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part</b> for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
X	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, <b>publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds"</b> (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR
	This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).
Prepar	er Signature: Date: August 1, 2025
Name	/ Title/ Organization: Ricardo Espiet Lopez / / Department of Housing - Puerto Rico

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 8/12/2025 Name/ Title: Pedro A. de León Rodríguez, MSEM/Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

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

08/01/2025 15:40 Page 3 of 3

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW

Washington, DC 20410 www.hud.gov espanol.hud.gov

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

Pro	ıect	Inforn	nation

Project Name:	PR-RGRW-01492-W

HEROS Number: 900000010466455

**Start Date:** 04/23/2025

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

Juan PR, 00928

State / Local Identifier:

**RE Preparer:** Ricardo Espiet Lopez

**Certifying Office** 

r:

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Ent** 

ity):

**Point of Contact:** 

**Point of Contact:** Justin Neely **Consultant (if applicable):** HORNE LLP

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

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

Project Location: , Barranquitas, PR 00794

#### **Additional Location Information:**

The project is located at latitude 18.208183, longitude -66.341412 at the address given above. Tax ID Numbers: 246-026-192-07-000, 246-000-003-42-901, 246-026-192-08-000, 246-026-192-06-000, 246-026-192-05-000

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

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

This project (PR-RGRW-01492-W) entails the award of a grant to Vaka9404 Inc., an agricultural business, at Carr. 770 Km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas PR, 00794. Tax ID Numbers: 246-026-192-07-000, 246-000-003-42-901, 246-026-192-08-000, 246-026-192-06-000, 246-026-192-05-000. Coordinates (latitude 18.208183, longitude -66.341412). The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01492 consist of the purchase of barbed wired, metals posts, a backpack sprayer, a livestock scale, materials to repair the cattle chute, a Priefert Chute and land conditioning. For the fence installation, 1.5-inch metal posts will be used. These posts, measuring 1.5 inches in diameter, will be positioned 10 feet apart and buried two feet deep. The fence will measure approximately 7,900 linear feet. The materials for repairing the cattle chute are: 1/2 in x 20 ft. tubes, 2 in. x 20 ft. tubes, 3" x 3" x 20' blacksmith tube, galvalume sheets and galvalume ridges. These materials will be utilized to repair the area designated for the installation of the Priefert Chute. The Priefert Chute will be placed within the cattle chute on a concrete base measuring 90 inches by 57 inches, with a thickness of 6 inches. The concrete base will be provided by the applicant at a cost of \$8,640.00. Also, as part of the project, land conditioning will include preparing the areas for the fence installation and the location of a new water pipe. For the water pipe installation, a trench measuring 3 feet wide and 700 feet long will be excavated. Additionally, it will be necessary to clear and remove vegetation from all areas to be worked on. The project area is located Carr. 770 km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon within the Municipality of Barranquitas. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years. The project Vaka9404 Inc., PR-RGRW-01492-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #2 - 2. 7 CFR 799,31 (b) (2) (ii): Improvement or repair of farm-related structures under 50 years of age. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Repair, improvements, or minor modifications of farm- related structures under 50 years of age, CE: #4 - 4. 7 CFR 799.32 (d) (2) (iv): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling occurring specifically in areas with previous ground disturbance, soils that are not likely to possess intact and distinct soil horizons and have the reduced likelihood of possessing historic properties with their original depositional contexts in the area and to the depth to be excavated, also referred to as the plow zone, CE:#6 - 6. 7 CFR 799.32 (d) (3) (i): Fence installation and replacement. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Fence installation and replacement that support agricultural needs, without ground disturbance, CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes new ground disturbance have been classified as CENST and CEST under the waiver.

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

PR-RGRW-01492-W Site Map.pdf

PR-RGRW-01492-W IUGF CEST.pdf

PRDOH Regrow Puerto Rico Program - 5836 Waiver (002).pdf

Farm Service Agency Adopted Categorical Exclusions Identified in FR-6492-N-01.pdf PR-RGRW-01492-W EFOR.pdf

#### **Level of Environmental Review Determination:**

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

58.35(a)(3)(iii)

#### **Determination:**

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

#### **Approval Documents:**

7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer

on:

7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer

on:

# **Funding Information**

Grant / Project Identification Number	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,507,179,000.00
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$1,932,347,000.00
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$8,220,783,000.00
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$277,853,230.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded,
Assisted or Insured Amount:

\$30,555.99

Estimated Total Project Cost:

\$39,195.99

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)			
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORD	STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6				
Airport Hazards	☐ Yes ☑ No	The project site is not within 15,000 feet			
Clear Zones and Accident Potential		of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a			
Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D		civilian airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Mercedita Airport, is located 140,434 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 358,981			

		ft (68 mi) from the project site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	□ Yes ☑ No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 87,014 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
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	Flood Map Number 72000C1155H, effective on 4/19/2005: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORD	DERS, AND REGULATIO	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5
Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	☐ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
Coastal Zone Management Act Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	□ Yes ☑ No	This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 80,086 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	□ Yes ☑ No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. The project is in

		compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	☑ Yes □ No	This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	□ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	□ Yes ☑ No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	□ Yes ☑ No	This project does not occur in the floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988. 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 Barranquitas; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	☑ Yes □ No	Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.
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	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as	☐ Yes ☑ No	The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in

amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149		Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	□ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	☐ Yes ☑ No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 193,742 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
HUD HO	DUSING ENVIRONMEN	NTAL STANDARDS
	ENVIRONMENTAL.	JUSTICE
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	☐ Yes ☑ No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Mitigation Plan	Complete
Endangered	If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in	N/A		
Species Act	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.			

#### **Project Mitigation Plan**

Should new ground disturbance occur the Karst zone must be evaluated and when necessary DNER must be consulted prior to construction activities. 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.

Supporting documentation on completed measures

90000010466455

#### **APPENDIX A: Related Federal Laws and Authorities**

# **Airport Hazards**

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

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

√ No

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

Yes

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Mercedita Airport, is located 140,434 ft from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 358,981 ft (68 mi) from the project site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

#### **Supporting documentation**

#### PR-RGRW-01492-W Airports.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

#### **Coastal Barrier Resources**

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

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

√ No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 87,014 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

#### **Supporting documentation**

#### PR-RGRW-01492-W CBRS.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

#### **Flood Insurance**

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

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

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

✓ Yes

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

PR-RGRW-01492-W FIRM.pdf

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

4. While flood insurance is not mandatory for this project, HUD strongly recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Will flood insurance be required as a mitigation measure or condition?

Yes

✓ No

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

Flood Map Number 72000C1155H, effective on 4/19/2005: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

#### **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Air Quality**

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Coastal Zone Management Act**

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 80,086 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

#### Supporting documentation

# PR-RGRW-01492-W CZM.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

√ No

#### **Contamination and Toxic Substances**

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

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

ASTM Phase I ESA

ASTM Phase II ESA

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

✓ None of the above

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

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

<sup>\*</sup> HUD regulations at 24 CFR § 58.5(i)(2)(ii) require that the environmental review for multifamily housing with five or more dwelling units or non-residential property include the evaluation of previous uses of the site or other evidence of contamination on or near the site. For acquisition and new construction of multifamily and nonresidential properties HUD strongly advises the review include an ASTM Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to meet real estate transaction standards of due diligence and to help ensure compliance with HUD's toxic policy at 24 CFR §58.5(i) and 24 CFR §50.3(i). Also note that some HUD programs require an ASTM Phase I ESA.

Explain:

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

Yes

- \* This question covers the presence of radioactive substances excluding radon. Radon is addressed in the Radon Exempt Question.
- \*\* Utilize EPA's Enviromapper, NEPAssist, or state/tribal databases to identify nearby dumps, junk yards, landfills, hazardous waste sites, and industrial sites, including EPA National Priorities List Sites (Superfund sites), CERCLA or state-equivalent sites, RCRA Corrective Action sites with release(s) or suspected release(s) requiring clean-up action and/or further investigation. Additional supporting documentation may include other inspections and reports.

Barranquitas, PR

3. Evaluate the building(s) for radon. Do all buildings meet any of the exemptions\* from having to consider radon in the contamination analysis listed in CPD Notice <a href="CPD-23-103">CPD-23-103</a>?

Yes

Explain:

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

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

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

Yes

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

✓ No

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

Yes

√ No

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

Explain:

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

File Upload:

Radon Attachments.pdf PR-RGRW-01492-W Radon Memo.docx

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

Non-radon contamination was found in a previous question.

# Screen Summary

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-01492-W Toxics.pdf PR-RGRW-01492-W EFOR(1).pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

# **Endangered Species**

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

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

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

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

- ✓ Yes, the activities involved in the project have the potential to affect species and/or habitats.
- 2. Are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area?

No, the project will have No Effect due to the absence of federally listed species and designated critical habitat

- ✓ Yes, there are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area.
- 3. What effects, if any, will your project have on federally listed species or designated critical habitat?

No Effect: Based on the specifics of both the project and any federally listed species in the action area, you have determined that the project will have absolutely no effect on listed species or critical habitat. in the action area.

✓ May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect: Any effects that the project may have on federally listed species or critical habitats would be beneficial, discountable, or insignificant.

Likely to Adversely Affect: The project may have negative effects on one or more listed species or critical habitat.

#### 4. Informal Consultation is required

Section 7 of ESA (16 USC. 1536) mandates consultation to resolve potential impacts to endangered and threatened species and critical habitats. If a HUD-assisted project may affect any federally listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat, then compliance is required with Section 7. See 50 CFR Part 402 Subpart B Consultation Procedures.

Did the Service(s) concur with the finding that the project is Not Likely to Adversely Affect?

✓ Yes, the Service(s) concurred with the finding.

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload the following below:

- (1) A biological evaluation or equivalent document
- (2) Concurrence(s) from FWS and/or NMFS
- (3) Any other documentation of informal consultation

Exception: If finding was made based on procedures provided by a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office, provide whatever documentation is mandated by that agreement.

No, the Service(s) did not concur with the finding.

- 6. For the project to be brought into compliance with this section, all adverse impacts must be mitigated. Explain in detail the exact measures that must be implemented to mitigate for the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation. This information will be automatically included in the Mitigation summary for the environmental review. If negative effects cannot be mitigated, cancel the project using the button at the bottom of this screen.
  - ✓ Mitigation as follows will be implemented:

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.

No mitigation is necessary.

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

#### **Supporting documentation**

PR-RGRW-01492-W\_USFWS Consultation\_Awknowledge Receipt Email.pdf PR-RGRW-01492-W\_USFWS Consultation Package PRDOH.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?



No

# **Explosive and Flammable Hazards**

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

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

✓	No
	Yes

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

✓	No

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

Yes

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

# **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

#### **Farmlands Protection**

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

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

Yes



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

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

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### **Supporting documentation**

# PR-RGRW-01492-W Farmlands.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes



# Floodplain Management

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

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

Yes

- (a) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 58.34 and 58.35(b).
- (b) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 50.19, except as otherwise indicated in § 50.19.
- (c) The approval of financial assistance for restoring and preserving the natural and beneficial functions and values of floodplains and wetlands, including through acquisition of such floodplain and wetland property, where a permanent covenant or comparable restriction is place on the property's continued use for flood control, wetland projection, open space, or park land, but only if:
- (1) The property is cleared of all existing buildings and walled structures; and
- (2) The property is cleared of related improvements except those which:
- (i) Are directly related to flood control, wetland protection, open space, or park land (including playgrounds and recreation areas);
- Do not modify existing wetland areas or involve fill, paving, or other ground disturbance beyond minimal trails or paths; and
- (iii) Are designed to be compatible with the beneficial floodplain or wetland function of the property.
- (d) An action involving a repossession, receivership, foreclosure, or similar acquisition of property to protect or enforce HUD's financial interests under previously approved loans, grants, mortgage insurance, or other HUD assistance.

- (e) Policy-level actions described at 24 CFR 50.16 that do not involve site-based decisions.
- (f) A minor amendment to a previously approved action with no additional adverse impact on or from a floodplain or wetland.
- (g) HUD's or the responsible entity's approval of a project site, an incidental portion of which is situated in the FFRMS floodplain (not including the floodway, LiMWA, or coastal high hazard area) but only if: (1) The proposed project site does not include any existing or proposed buildings or improvements that modify or occupy the FFRMS floodplain except de minimis improvements such as recreation areas and trails; and (2) the proposed project will not result in any new construction in or modifications of a wetland.
- (h) Issuance or use of Housing Vouchers, or other forms of rental subsidy where HUD, the awarding community, or the public housing agency that administers the contract awards rental subsidies that are not project-based (i.e., do not involve site-specific subsidies).
- (i) Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of and accessibility to elderly and persons with disabilities.

Describe:

✓ No

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

Yes

Describe:

✓ No

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

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

Select one of the following three options:

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

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

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

5. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> If you are using best available information, select the FVA option below and provide supporting documentation in the screen summary. Contact your <u>local environmental officer</u> with additional compliance questions.

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

Yes

✓ No

#### **Screen Summary**

# **Compliance Determination**

This project does not occur in the floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988. 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 Barranquitas; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.

#### **Supporting documentation**

## PR-RGRW-01492-W ABFE.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

#### **Historic Preservation**

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

#### Threshold

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

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

✓ Yes, because the project includes activities with potential to cause effects (direct or indirect).

# Step 1 – Initiate Consultation Select all consulting parties below (check all that apply):

✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

Indian Tribes, including Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) or Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs)

Other Consulting Parties

#### Describe the process of selecting consulting parties and initiating consultation here:

Only SHPO was consulted as No Historic Properties Affected was determined and no Tribal Lands were identified.

Document and upload all correspondence, notices and notes (including comments and objections received below).

Was the Section 106 Lender Delegation Memo used for Section 106 consultation?

Yes

No

#### Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

1. Define the Area of Potential Effect (APE), either by entering the address(es) or uploading a map depicting the APE below:

In the chart below, list historic properties identified and evaluated in the APE. Every historic property that may be affected by the project should be included in the chart.

Upload the documentation (survey forms, Register nominations, concurrence(s) and/or objection(s), notes, and photos) that justify your National Register Status determination below.

Address / Location	National Register	SHPO Concurrence	Sensitive
/ District	Status		Information

#### **Additional Notes:**

No Historic Properties present within the APE

2. Was a survey of historic buildings and/or archeological sites done as part of the project?

Yes

✓ No

#### Step 3 –Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

Only properties that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places receive further consideration under Section 106. Assess the effect(s) of the project by applying the Criteria of Adverse Effect. (36 CFR 800.5)] Consider direct and indirect effects as applicable as

per guidance on direct and indirect effects.

Choose one of the findings below - No Historic Properties Affected, No Adverse Effect, or Adverse Effect; and seek concurrence from consulting parties.

✓ No Historic Properties Affected

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload concurrence(s) or objection(s) below.

# **Document reason for finding:**

✓ No historic properties present.

Historic properties present, but project will have no effect upon them.

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.

#### **Supporting documentation**

PR-RGRW-01492-W Historic.pdf PR-RGRW-01492-W SHPO Consultation Package.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

✓ Yes

No

#### **Noise Abatement and Control**

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

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

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

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

An interstate land sales registration

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

✓ None of the above

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

**Supporting documentation** 

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

**Sole Source Aquifers** 

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

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

Yes

✓ No

# 2. Is the project located on a sole source aquifer (SSA)?

A sole source aquifer is defined as an aquifer that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. This includes streamflow source areas, which are upstream areas of losing streams that flow into the recharge area.

< No

✓

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload documentation used to make your determination, such as a map of your project (or jurisdiction, if appropriate) in relation to the nearest SSA and its source area, below.

Yes

3. Does your region have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or other working agreement with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for HUD projects impacting a sole source aquifer?

Yes

No

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.

#### **Supporting documentation**

PR-RGRW-01492-W Sole Source Aquifers.pdf

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

Yes

✓ No

#### **Wetlands Protection**

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

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

✓ No

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

Yes

#### **Screen Summary**

#### **Compliance Determination**

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

#### Supporting documentation

#### PR-RGRW-01492-W Wetlands.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

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

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

✓ No

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

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

#### **Screen Summary**

### **Compliance Determination**

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 193,742 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

#### **Supporting documentation**

#### PR-RGRW-01492-W Wild and Scenic.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

#### **Environmental Justice**

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

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

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

Yes

✓ No

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

#### Screen Summary

#### **Compliance Determination**

No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

#### **Supporting documentation**

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

√ No





#### **Memorandum to File**

**Date:** 4/23/2025

From: Justin Neely

**Environmental Manager** 

SKNeely

CDBG-DR Program

Regrow Puerto Rico Program

Puerto Rico Department of Housing

**Application Number:** PR-RGRW-01492-W

Project: Vaka9404 Inc.

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

After reviewing Application Number PR-RGRW-01492-W under the Regrow Puerto Rico Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

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

 As required by the CPD Notice 23-103, the scientific data reviewed in lieu of testing must consist of a minimum of ten documented test results over the previous ten years. If there are less than ten documented results over this

CDBG-DR Program
Regrow Puerto Rico Program
Memorandum to File
Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing
Page 2 of 3

period, it is understood that there is a lack of scientific data. The latest report for radon testing in Puerto Rico was prepared in 1995 by the U.S. Department of the Interior in Cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. No other completed studies and reports on radon testing are available in Puerto Rico.

- There is no available science-based or state-generated information for Puerto
  Rico for the last ten years that can be used to determine whether the project
  site is in a high-risk area. The Department of Health and Human Services,
  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Environmental
  Public Health Tracking, and Radon Testing map do not include Puerto Rico data.
- There are only two (2) licensed professionals in Puerto Rico who can conduct radon testing using the American National Standards Institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (ANSI/AARST) testing standards, which makes it difficult, time-consuming, and highly expensive to coordinate and secure a site visit for the contamination evaluation.
- Do-it-yourself (DIY) radon test kits are known to be unreliable in assuring and controlling the quality of the test results; they are not readily available in Puerto Rico, and the cost and time required for purchasing and sending them for analysis are unreasonable when weighed against the results' reliability and the need for prompt results.
- Local authorities in Puerto Rico do not have the specialized radon monitoring
  equipment or trained staff needed to conduct the radon testing analysis and
  ensure proper quality control and quality assurance practices are adhered to.
   We also do not have a radiation laboratory certified for radon testing.

CDBG-DR Program
Regrow Puerto Rico Program
Memorandum to File
Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing
Page 3 of 3

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

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

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



# **GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO**

#### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

Thursday, February 6, 2025

### Lauren B Poche

269 Avenida Ponce de León, San Juan, PR, 00917

SHPO-CF-01-31-25-06 PR-RGRW-01492 (Barranquitas), VAKA9404 INC

Dear Ms. Poche,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

only afartis

CARC/GMO/ OJR







Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

Executive Director Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office Cuartel de Ballajá, Third Floor San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents for Consultation

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 review services, among others, that will support the objectives of the agenda for both CDBG-DR and CDBG -MIT Programs.

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,

Aldo A. Rivera Vázquez, PE

Director

Division of Environmental Permitting and Compliance

Office of Disaster Recovery



January 31, 2025

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-01492 – VAKA9404 Inc. – Carr. 770 Km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabón, Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, 000794 – *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 were 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 Vaka9404 Inc., located at Carr. 770 Km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabón, in the municipality of Barranquitas. The undertaking for this project includes the purchase of barbed wire and metal posts for new fencing, a backpack sprayer, livestock scale, cattle chute repair materials, a Priefert Chute, and a new water pipe. The new fence will measure approximately 7,900 linear feet and be constructed with 1.5-inch diameter metal posts placed 10 feet apart to a depth of 2 feet. An existing cattle chute will be repaired with 20-foot diameter blacksmith tubes that range in length from 1.5 inches to 3 inches, as well as galvume sheets and ridges. This area will also be the designated new Priefert Chute installation location, which will require a 90-inch by 57-inch by 6-inch concrete base, which the applicant will provide. The new water pipe installation will require a 3-foot wide, 700-foot-long trench. Some vegetation clearing and ground preparations will



be required for the fence and water pipe installation, as well as chute repair/installation. The property is already connected to utilities, so no new connections will be required.

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

Please contact me by email at <a href="mailto:lauren.poche@horne.com">lauren.poche@horne.com</a> or phone at 225-405-7676 with any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards,

Januar B. Pocke

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager

LBP/JCO

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

**REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM** 

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Applicant: Vaka9404 Inc.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492 City: Barranquitas

Project Location: Carr. 770 Km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabón, Barranquitas PR, 00794

Project Coordinates: 18.209307 -66.344415; 18.208183 -66.341412; 18.20799 -66.34138

TPID (Número de Catastro): 246-026-192-09-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000

Type of Undertaking:

□ Substantial Repair/Improvements

Construction Date (AH est.): n/a Property Size (acres): 22.45

**SOI-Qualified Archaeologist**: Jaqueline López Meléndez

Date Reviewed: January 15, 2025

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

#### **Project Description (Undertaking)**

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01492 consist of the purchase of barbed wired, metals posts, a backpack sprayer, a livestock scale, materials to repair the cattle chute, a Priefert Chute and land conditioning. For the fence installation, 1.5-inch metal posts will be used. These posts, measuring 1.5 inches in diameter, will be positioned 10 feet apart and buried two feet deep. The fence will measure approximately 7,900 linear feet. The materials for repairing the cattle chute are: 1/2 in x 20 ft. tubes, 2 in. x 20 ft. tubes, 3" x 3" x 20' blacksmith tube, galvalume sheets and galvalume ridges. These materials will be utilized to repair the area designated for the installation of the Priefert Chute. The Priefert Chute will be placed within the cattle chute on a concrete base measuring 90 inches by 57 inches, with a thickness of 6 inches. The concrete base will be provided by the applicant. Also, as part of the project, land conditioning will include preparing the areas for the fence installation and the location of a new water pipe. For the water pipe installation, a trench measuring 3 feet wide and 700 feet long will be excavated. Additionally, it will be necessary to clear and remove vegetation from all areas to be worked on. The project area is located Carr. 770 km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabón within the Municipality of Barranquitas. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years.

#### **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

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Applicant: Vaka9404 Inc.	' '
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492	City: Barranquitas

APE for this project is the location of the new fence, the chute and new water pipe plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project. The area of the proposed items plus the APE is a total of approximately 5 acres.

#### Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61), shows that there are no reported archaeological sites within a half-mile (0.50 miles) radius of the project location. The nearest cultural resource is the Pre-Columbian site known as La Toje (ICP: BR-2), located 0.52 miles northwest. The proposed project is located on mountainous site in Barranquitas at an altitude of 2,165 to 2,526 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area is within mapped soil series: Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes (MoF). The nearest body of water is Bauta River located 0.02 miles (0.03 kilometer) east of the project area.

There are no cultural resource studies within a half-mile radius of the property.

The soil in this area has been classified as Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes (MoF). This is a steep to very steep, well-drained soil on side slopes and narrow hilltops of the strongly dissected uplands. Permeability and the available water capacity are moderate. Runoff is very rapid, and erosion is a hazard. This soil is difficult to work because it is steep to very steep and because of the stickiness and plasticity of the clay.

Visual inspection of the APE and its surroundings found no evidence of cultural materials.

#### **Determination**

No historic properties were identified within the APE.

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 APE. The project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. There are no reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties half-mile radius of the proposed project location. There are 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-01492 is located. The closest freshwater body located 0.02 miles east of the project area. The construction of public roads and residential structures/agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed activities.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Applicant: Vaka9404 Inc.	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492	City: Barranquitas

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

, .
Recommendation (Please keep on same page as SHPO Staff Section)
The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the Puerto Rico SHPO concur that the following determination is appropriate for the undertaking (Choose One):
☑ No Historic Properties Affected
□ No Adverse Effect
Condition (if applicable):
□ Adverse Effect
Proposed Resolution (if appliable)
This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above informatio and:
□ Concurs with the information provided.
□ <b>Does not concur</b> with the information provided.
Comments:

Date:

Carlos Rubio-Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492	City: Barranquitas
Applicant: Vaka9404 Inc.	
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492

<u>Project Coordinates:</u> 18.209307 -66.344415; 18.208183 -66.341412; 18.20799 -66.34138

Table of archaeological sites, historic properties and historic districts located within the project area or within a 0.50-miles radius

Name	SHPO id #	IPRC id #	Distance/Direction	Description	NRHP (listed, eligible, non-eligible, no data)
None	-	-	-	-	-

Table of cultural resources surveys conducted within the project area or within a 0.50-miles radius.

Author	Phase/Title	Year	SHPO / IPRC code	Results	Distance/ Direction
None	-	-	-	-	-



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492 City: Barranquitas

## Project (PR-RGRW-01492) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)

# BEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC DIGRECTING, DIMENIALI ARCHITCHBAL CLAINEA. 554 Collie Ferseo, Suite J-3, Son Juon, P.R. 00920 Tel.(287)785-0290

## **Area of Potential Effect**

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

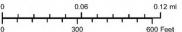
#### Application ID: PR-RGRW-01492

VAKA9404 INC.
Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior,
Bo. La Torre Canabon,
Barranquitas, PR 00794
Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/
246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-05-000
Lat:118.208183, Long: -66.341412





Applicant Structure
Area of Potential Effect
New Fence
New Water Pipe
Parcels



Service Layer Credils: Source: Esri, Maxor, Earlhsto Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Geogle Earlt



#### Source

Centra de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://calastra.crimpr.net/cdprpc/



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492

City: Barranquitas

## Project (PR-RGRW-01492) Location - Aerial Map



# **Location: Aerial Map**Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



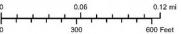
VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon,
Barranquitas, PR 00794
Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/

246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat:118.208183, Long: -66.341412



#### Legend:





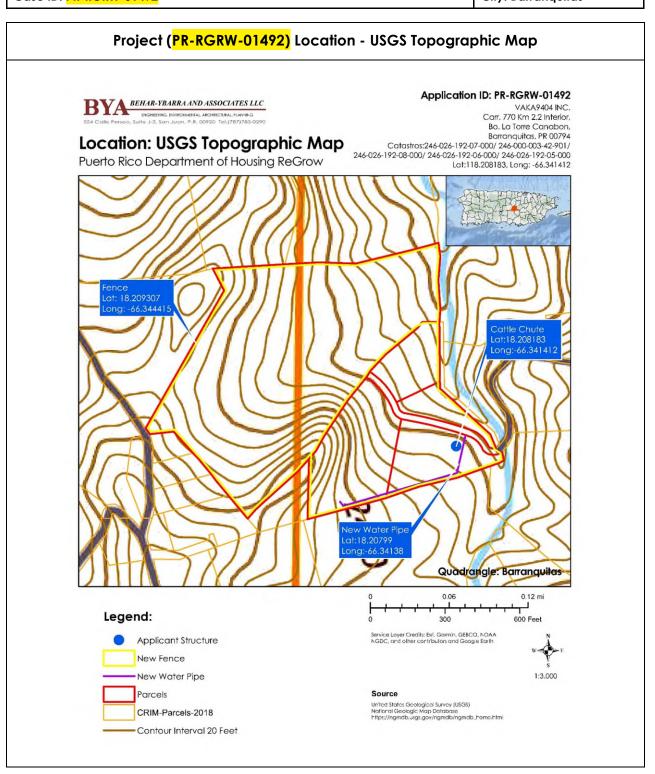
Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxor, Earthstor Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth



#### Source

Junta de Pian'ficacion de Puerto Rico (JPPR), https://jp.pr.gov/

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Applicant: Vaka9404 Inc.	' 1
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492	City: Barranavitas





Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492

City: Barranquitas

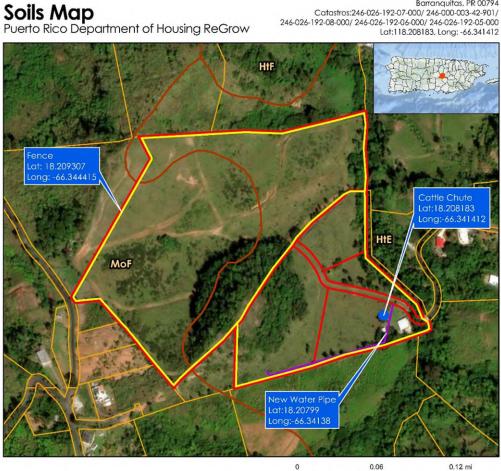
## Project (PR-RGRW-01492) Location – Soils Map



#### Application ID: PR-RGRW-01492

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/

246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat:118.208183, Long: -66.341412



#### Legend:



Soil Map Unit Symbol

300



600 Feet

HtE - Humatas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes New Water Pipe HtF - Humatas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes Parcels MoF - Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes

Source

Soil Map Unit Symbol CRIM-Parcels-2018

Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Mun'c'pales (CRIM) https://calastro.cr/mpr.net/cdprpc/



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492

City: Barranquitas

## Project (PR-RGRW-01492) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map

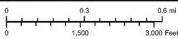


#### Application ID: PR-RGRW-01492

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794

Previous Investigations: Aerial Map Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/
Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow Catastros:246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-000/ 246-026-192-000





Service Layer Credits: Source: Esrl, Maxor, Earthstor Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esrl, Garm'n, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth



Source

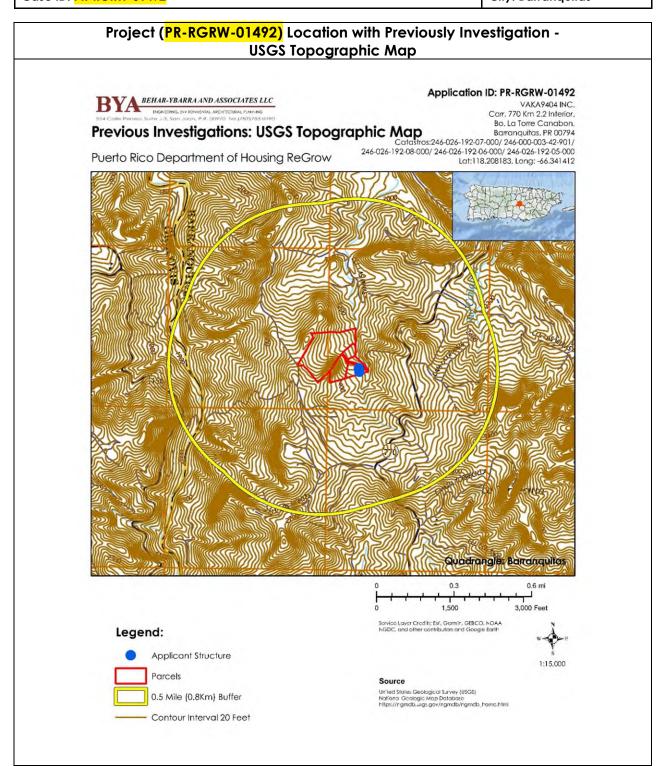
Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) https://catastro.crimpr.net/cdprpc/

Legend:

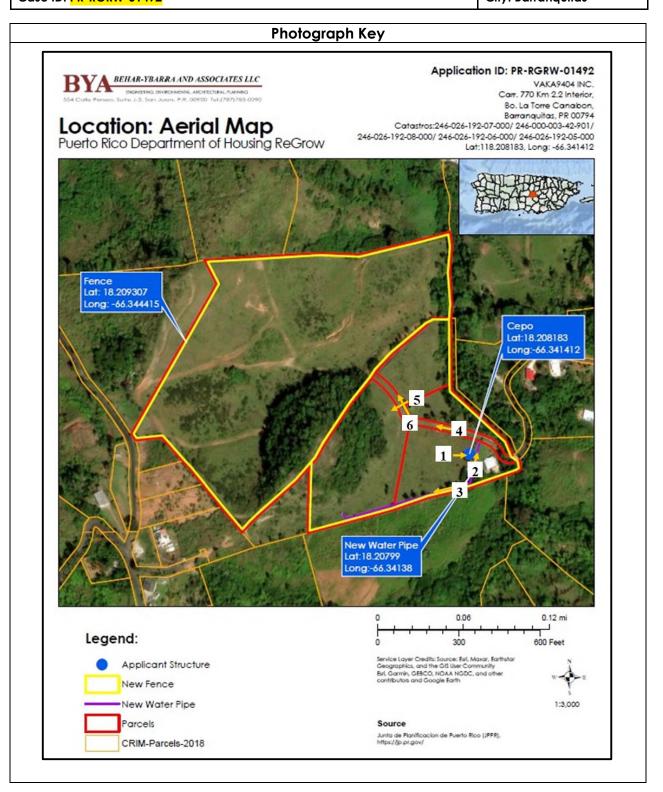
Applicant Structure **Parcels** 0.5 Mile (0.8Km) Buffer



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492 City: Barranquitas



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	SE ANNENO, VOCANO
Applicant: Vaka9404 Inc.	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492	City: Barranguitas



PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM

REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination



Applicant: Vaka9404 Inc.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492 City: Barranquitas



Photo #:1

Date: January 15, 2025

Description (include direction): Area where the Cattle chute will be repaired and the cement base will be installed for the Priefert Chute, looking east.



Photo #:2

Date: January 15, 2025

Description (include direction): Area where the new water pipe will be installed, looking northeast.

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



Applicant: Vaka9404 Inc.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492 City: Barranquitas



Photo #:3

Date: January 15, 2025

Description (include direction): General area where the new water pipe and fence will be installed, looking southwest.



Photo #:4

Date: January 15, 2025

Description (include direction): General area of the project, looking northwest.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM



Applicant: Vaka9404 Inc.

**Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination** 

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01492 City: Barranquitas



Photo #:5

Description (include direction): General area of the project, looking southwest.

Date: January 15, 2025



Photo #:6

Date: January 15, 2025

Description (include direction): General area of the project, looking northwest.





June 24, 2025

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

Email: <a href="mailto:caribbean\_es@fws.gov">caribbean\_es@fws.gov</a>, <a href="mailto:Lourdes\_Mena@fws.gov">Lourdes\_Mena@fws.gov</a>,

RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing / CDBG-DR Re-Grow Program
PR-RGRW-01492-W - VAKA9404 INC
Endangered Species Concurrence for NLAA Determination

Dear Ms. Mena:

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is requesting an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project PR-RGRW-01492-W, located at PR-770 Road Km 2.2 Interior, La Torre Cañabón Ward, Barranquitas, PR 00794. The project coordinates are latitude 18.20818, and longitude -66.34141. A map of the project site location can be found in Appendix A: Figure 1.

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01492 consist in the purchase of barbed wired, metals posts, a backpack sprayer, a livestock scale, materials to repair the cattle

chute, a Priefert Chute and land conditioning. For the fence installation, 1.5-inch metal posts will be used. These posts, measuring 1.5 inches in diameter, will be positioned 10 feet apart and buried 2 feet deep. The fence will measure approximately 7,900 linear feet. The materials for repairing the cattle chute are: ½-ich x 20-foot tubes, 2-inch x 20-foot tubes, 3" x 3" x 20' blacksmith tube, galvalume sheets and galvalume ridges. These materials will be utilized to repair the area designated for the installation of the Priefert Chute. The Priefert Chute will be placed within the cattle chute on a concrete base measuring 90 inches by 57 inches, with a thickness of 6 inches. The concrete base will be provided by the applicant. Also, as part of the project, land conditioning will include preparing the areas for the fence installation and the location of a new water pipe. For the water pipe installation, a trench measuring 3 feet wide and 700 feet long will be excavated. Additionally, it will be necessary to clear and remove vegetation from all areas to be worked on.

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 and critical habitats:

Name of the species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate	
Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered	
Critical Habitat		
There are no critical habitats at this location.		

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

#### Existing Habitat Conditions at Project Area:

The project area where activities will be taking place consists of approximately 28–acres of land located at PR–770 Road Km 2.2 Interior, La Torre Cañabón Ward, Barranquitas, PR 00794. According to the U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database (NLCD) (Appendix A: Figure 4), the majority of the project area consists of mostly herbaceous land with some patches of Evergreen Forest and shrubs. A topographic map is included, see Appendix A: Figure 3. The project is located in Zone X on the FEMA Flood Map, panel number 72000C1155H, dated 04/19/2005 and ABFE Map, see Appendix A: Figure 5–6. A Preliminary FIRM has not been developed for this area. There is a mapped NWI riverine, R5UBH (Appendix A: Figure 7). The nearest critical habitat is 69,827 ft. away (Appendix A: Figure 2).

Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years. The soil in this area has been classified as Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes (MoF). This is a steep to very steep, well-drained soil on side slopes and narrow hilltops of the strongly dissected uplands. Permeability and the available water capacity are moderate. Runoff is very rapid, and erosion is a hazard. This soil is difficult to work because it is steep to very steep and because of the stickiness and plasticity of the clay.

## **Species Effects Analysis:**

A Species List of Caribbean Ecological Services can be found in Appendix C

## Puerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)

Considered to be a habitat generalist, the Puerto Rican Boa tolerates a wide variety of terrestrial and arboreal habitats, including rocky areas, haystack hill, trees and branches, rotting stumps, caves, plantations, various types of forested areas such as karst and mangrove forests, forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges (USFWS 2011). The IPaC Determination Key (Dkey) for the Puerto Rican Boa, dated 10/19/2024, was used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on the answers inputted into the DKey along with the scope of work, which does include ground disturbance and vegetation removal, it has been determined that the proposed project will have a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" on the Puerto Rican Boa (Appendix C).

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.

All literature cited can be found in Appendix E.

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, we have made the following effects determinations:

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will be implemented
Puerto Rican Boa	Not Likely to Adversely	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa
(Chilabothrus inornatus)	Affect (NLAA)	Conservation Measures 2024

PR-RGRW-01492-W USFWS Informal Consultation Page 4 / 4

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

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

Sincerely,

Aldo A. Rivera-Vázquez, PE

Director – Permits and Environmental Compliance Division
Disaster Recovery Office, CDBG-DR/MIT Program
environmentalog@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320

#### **Attachments:**

Appendix A:

Figure 1 - Location Map

Figure 2 – Endangered Species Map

Figure 3 – USGS Topographic Map

Figure 4 - Land Cover Map

Figure 5 - Firm Map

Figure 6 - ABFE Map

Figure 7 - Wetlands Map

Appendix B: Field Observation Report

Appendix C: Species List Caribbean Ecological Services and Consistency Letter

Appendix D: Species Conservation Measures

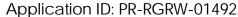
Appendix E: Literature Cited

C: Angel López-Guzmán

**Deputy Director** 

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

# Appendix A Maps



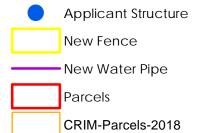
BYA BEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC
ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL, ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING
554 Callie Persod, Suite J-3, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel. (787)783-0290

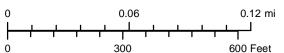
# Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



# Legend:





Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth



1:3,000

#### Source

Junta de Planificacion de Puerto Rico (JPPR), https://jp.pr.gov/

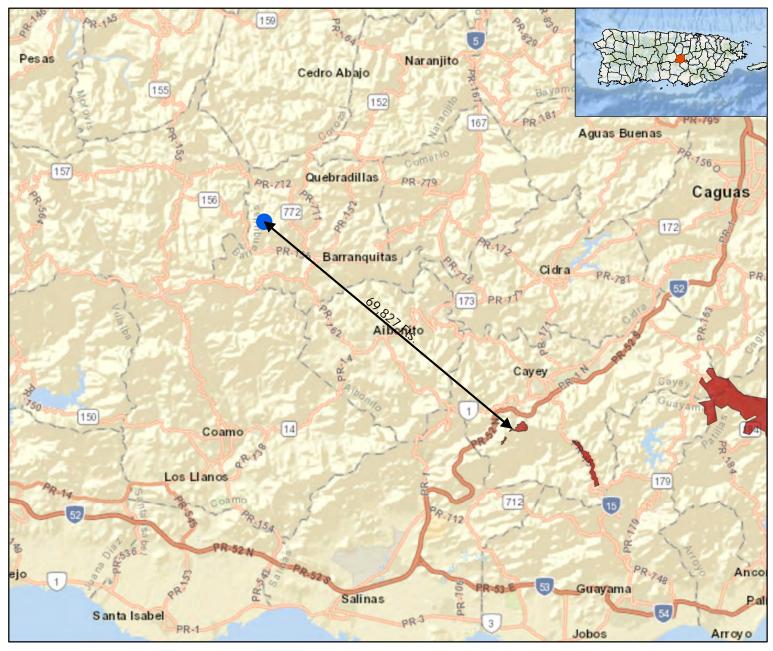


VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon,

# Threatened and Endangered Species Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000

Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



# Legend:



PR-RGRW-01492



Critical Habitat



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



#### Source

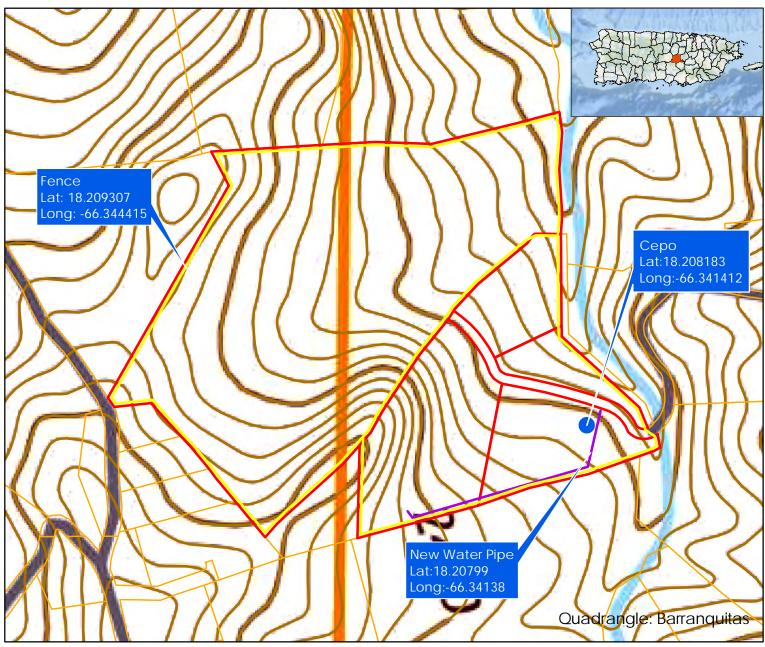
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC
ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTURAL PLANNING
554 Callie Persod, Suite J-3, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel. (787) 783-0290

# Location: USGS Topographic Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

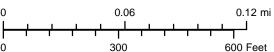
VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



# Legend:



CRIM-Parcels-2018
Contour Interval 20 Feet



Service Layer Credits: Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth



1:3,000

#### Source

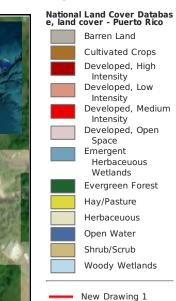
United States Geological Survey (USGS)
National Geologic Map Database
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb\_home.html

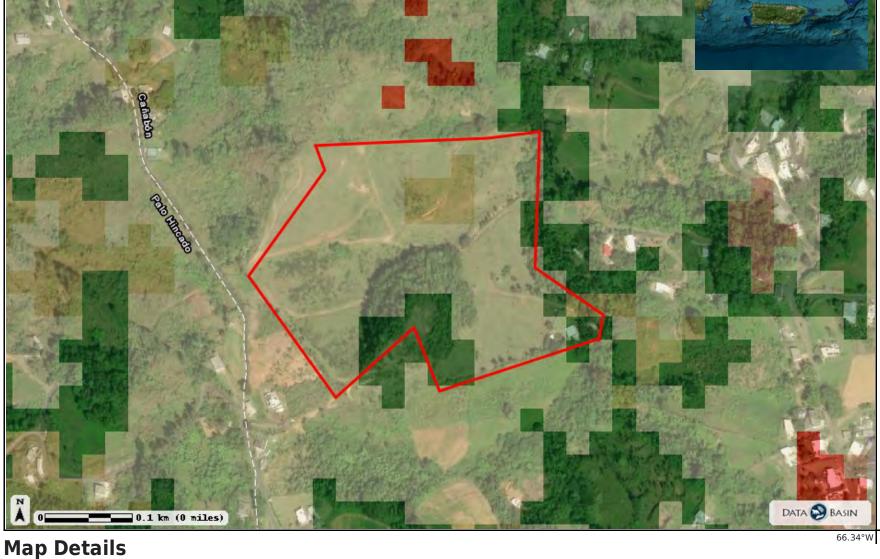


66.35°W

# PR-RGRW-01492-W Land Cover Map

#### Legend





#### **Datasets**



National Land Cover Database, land cover - Puerto Rico https://databasin.org/datasets/e95aa06e05624f3087559eca884db034/

Credits: USGS National Land Cover Database 2001 Layers:

• layer1

PR-RGRW-01492-W

Vaka9404 Inc.

Carr. 770 Km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabón

Barranquitas PR, 00794

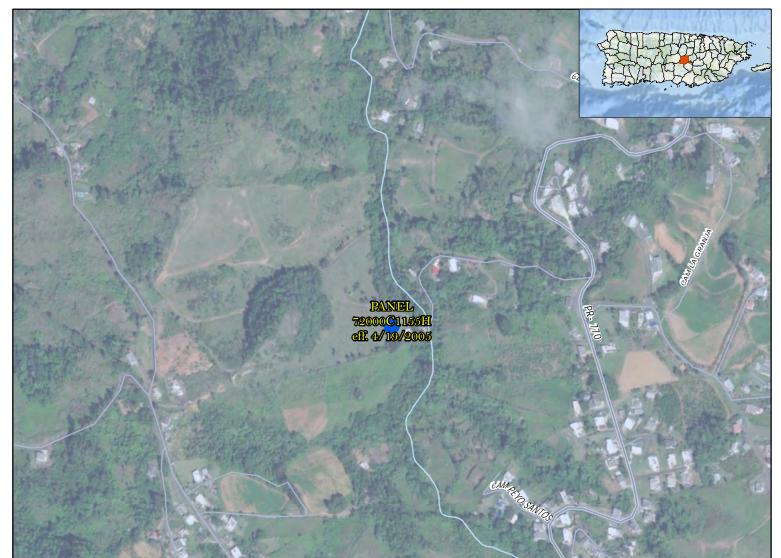
18.208183 -66.341412



VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon,

# Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



# Legend:



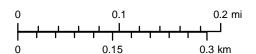
PR-RGRW-01492



FIRM Panel



Area of Minimal Flood Hazard-Zone X



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth

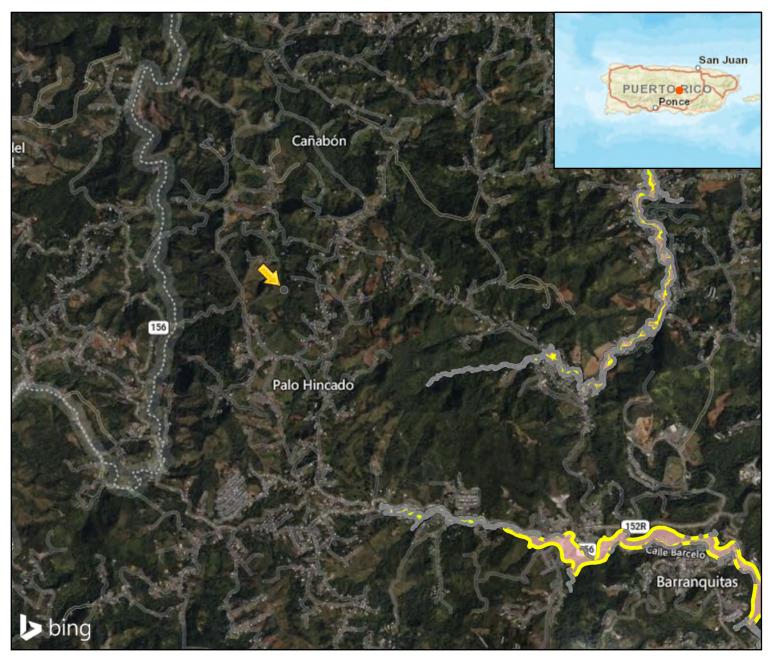


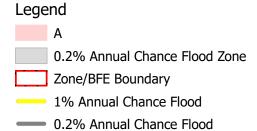
#### Source

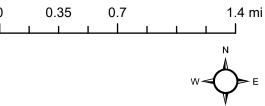
FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer



## PR-RGRW-01492-W ABFE







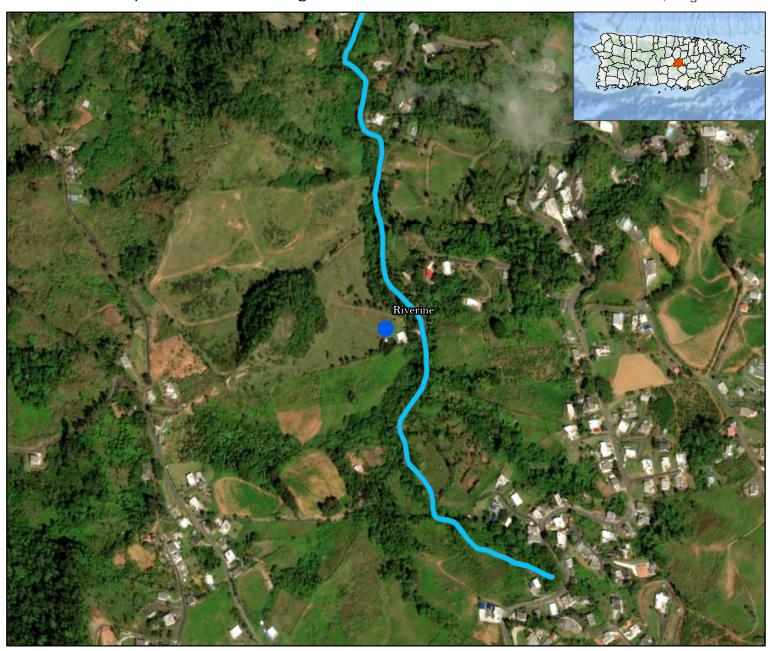
**FEMA Map Service** 

ABFE 1PCT

## Wetlands

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

VAKA9404 INC.
Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior,
Bo. La Torre Canabon,
Barranquitas, PR 00794
Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/
246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-05-000
Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



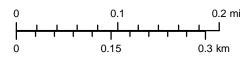
### Legend:



PR-RGRW-01492



Riverine



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other



1:6,000

#### Source

contributors

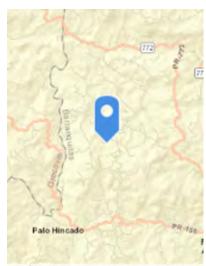
FWS National Wild and Scenic Rivers System https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php

## Appendix B Field Observation Report



#### APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-01492	
Applicant Name:	VAKA9404 INC	
Parcel ID:	246-026-192-07-000 / 246-000-003- 42-901	
Latitude:	18.208058	
Longitude:	-66.341016	
Street Address:	Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior Bo. La Torre Cañabon	
Municipio:	Barranquitas	
Zip Code:	00794	
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez	
Date of Visit:	September 28, 2023	
Time of Visit:	12:40	
Building Type:		





Esri, HERE, Ga... Powered by Esri

Esri	Maxar	Fa	Powered	hv	Feri

FIELD OBSERVATIONS								
	Question	Answer	Notes					
A.	Is the structure in use?	Yes	Structure is in use and will be expanded					
В.	Is the structure a greenhouse?	No						
C.	Is Electricity connected? (Utilities or Well)	Yes	Water is provided by electric company					
D.	Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	Yes	Water is provided by community water well and stream					
1.	Are there signs of poor housekeeping on site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, strom debris, solid waste, petroleum products, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, vehicle batteries, abandoned vehicles, pits, pools, ponds of hazardous substances, etc.)	No						
2.	Are there any 55-gallon drums visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?	No						
3.	Are there any (or signs of any) underground storage tanks on the property?	No						
4.	Are there signs of AST on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.	Yes	Water box					
5.	Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?	No						
6.	Is a water drainage system in use?	No						
7.	Is a warehouse in use for storage of Fertilizer or Pesticides?	Yes						
8.	Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?	No						
9.	Is there evidence of a faulty septic system?	No						
10.	Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?	No						
11.	Is there any visible indication of mold?	No						
12.	Is there any visible evidence of asbestos, chipping, and flaking or peeling paint, or hazardous materials present in or on the structure?	No						
13.	Are any additional site hazards observed?	No						
14.	Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site(do not include ponding from recent rain / weather events)?	Yes	Stream in property					
15.	Does the subject property have water frontage?	No						
16.	Is there any indication of the presence of wetlands?	No						
17.	Are there any obvious signs of animals or birds nesting on or near the site?	No						
18.	Is the applicant aware of any signifcant historical event or persons associated with the structure, or of it being located in a historic district/ area?	No						
19.	Is a historic marker present?	No						

Streetscape #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



#### Streetscape #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Address

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo repair and extension Coordinates: 18.208183, -66.341412



#### **Architectural Details 2**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo repair and extension





Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo repair and extension



#### **Architectural Details 4**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo repair and extension





Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Priefert chute and balance will be 15ft x 5ft



#### **Architectural Details 6**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Priefert chute and balance



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Espeques to be removed



#### **Architectural Details 8**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Espeques to be removed



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Herbicide and fertilizer storage



#### **Architectural Details 10**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview





Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Wooden espeques will be replaced with metal espeques



#### **Architectural Details 12**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water box, water is provided by stream





Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water pipes running underground



#### **Architectural Details 14**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water line will go underground





Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water line will go underground



#### **Architectural Details 16**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo overview



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream in property



#### **Architectural Details 18**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream in property

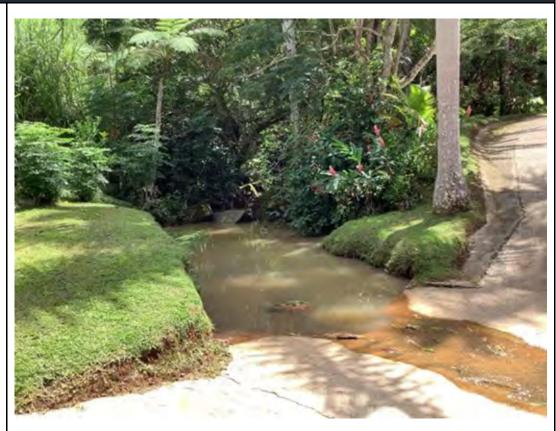
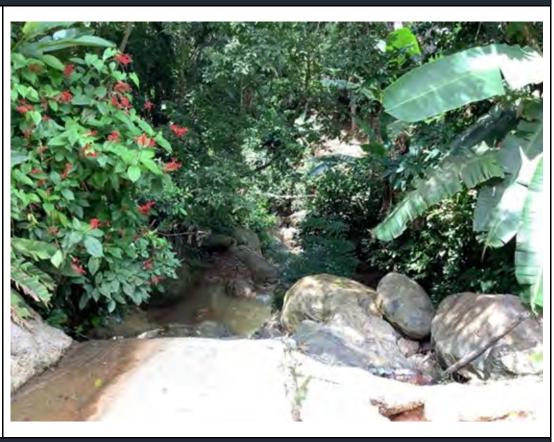




Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream



#### **Architectural Details 20**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Community water well



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water stream



## Appendix C USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation



## United States Department of the Interior



#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

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

In Reply Refer To: 06/16/2025 14:16:15 UTC

Project code: 2025-0108961

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01492-W

Subject: Technical Assistance letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-01492-W' for specified

threatened and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to the IPaC determination key titled Caribbean Determination Key (DKey).

#### Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the assisted evaluation keys in IPaC. This letter is provided pursuant to the Service's authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.). On June 16, 2025, Chris Rickard used the Caribbean DKey; dated January 03, 2025, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online IPaC application to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-01492-W'. The project is located in Barranquitas County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@18.20923175,-66.34304237665195,14z">https://www.google.com/maps/@18.20923175,-66.34304237665195,14z</a>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01492-W':

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01492 consist of the purchase of barbed wired, metals posts, a backpack sprayer, a livestock scale, materials to repair the cattle chute, a Priefert Chute and land conditioning. For the fence installation, 1.5inch metal posts will be used. These posts, measuring 1.5 inches in diameter, will be positioned 10 feet apart and buried two feet deep. The fence will measure approximately 7,900 linear feet. The materials for repairing the cattle chute are: 1/2 in x 20 ft. tubes, 2 in. x 20 ft. tubes, 3" x 3" x 20' blacksmith tube, galvalume sheets and galvalume ridges. These materials will be utilized to repair the area designated for the installation of the Priefert Chute. The Priefert Chute will be placed within the cattle chute on a concrete base measuring 90 inches by 57 inches, with a thickness of 6 inches. The concrete base will be provided by the applicant. Also, as part of the project, land conditioning will include preparing the areas for the fence installation and the location of a new water pipe. For the water pipe installation, a trench measuring 3 feet wide and 700 feet long will be excavated. Additionally, it will be necessary to clear and remove vegetation from all areas to be worked on. The project area is located Carr. 770 km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabón within the Municipality of Barranguitas. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years.

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

SpeciesListing StatusDeterminationPuerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)EndangeredNLAA

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

Please provide this technical assistance letter to the lead federal action agency or its designated non- federal representative with a request for its review, and as the agency deems appropriate, to submit for concurrence verification through the IPaC system. The lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative should log into IPaC using their agency email account and click "Search by record locator." They will need to enter the record locator **658-163352724** 

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

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

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

#### **Action Description**

Project code: 2025-0108961

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

#### 1. Name

PR-RGRW-01492-W

#### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01492-W':

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01492 consist of the purchase of barbed wired, metals posts, a backpack sprayer, a livestock scale, materials to repair the cattle chute, a Priefert Chute and land conditioning. For the fence installation, 1.5inch metal posts will be used. These posts, measuring 1.5 inches in diameter, will be positioned 10 feet apart and buried two feet deep. The fence will measure approximately 7,900 linear feet. The materials for repairing the cattle chute are: 1/2 in x 20 ft. tubes, 2 in. x 20 ft. tubes, 3" x 3" x 20' blacksmith tube, galvalume sheets and galvalume ridges. These materials will be utilized to repair the area designated for the installation of the Priefert Chute. The Priefert Chute will be placed within the cattle chute on a concrete base measuring 90 inches by 57 inches, with a thickness of 6 inches. The concrete base will be provided by the applicant. Also, as part of the project, land conditioning will include preparing the areas for the fence installation and the location of a new water pipe. For the water pipe installation, a trench measuring 3 feet wide and 700 feet long will be excavated. Additionally, it will be necessary to clear and remove vegetation from all areas to be worked on. The project area is located Carr. 770 km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabón within the Municipality of Barranquitas. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@18.20923175,-66.34304237665195,14z">https://www.google.com/maps/@18.20923175,-66.34304237665195,14z</a>



#### QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

Yes

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

#### Automatically answered

Yes

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

Yes

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

No

#### **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Horne LLP Name: Chris Rickard

Address: 10000 Perkins Rowe, Building G

City: Baton Rouge

State: LA Zip: 70810

Email chris.rickard@horne.com

Phone: 7062063592



## United States Department of the Interior



#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office Post Office Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622-0491 Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440

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

In Reply Refer To: 06/13/2025 18:15:24 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0108961

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01492-W

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-the-endangered-species-act-with-the-caribbean-ecological%20Services-field-office-template-letter.pdf

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

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

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

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

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

This species list is provided by:

Project code: 2025-0108961

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 (939) 320-3135

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

Project code: 2025-0108961

Project Code: 2025-0108961 **Project Name:** PR-RGRW-01492-W

Project Type: Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural

Project Description: The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01492 consist of the purchase of

barbed wired, metals posts, a backpack sprayer, a livestock scale,

materials to repair the cattle chute, a Priefert Chute and land conditioning. For the fence installation, 1.5-inch metal posts will be used. These posts, measuring 1.5 inches in diameter, will be positioned 10 feet apart and buried two feet deep. The fence will measure approximately 7,900 linear feet. The materials for repairing the cattle chute are: 1/2 in x 20 ft. tubes, 2 in. x 20 ft. tubes, 3" x 3" x 20' blacksmith tube, galvalume sheets and galvalume ridges. These materials will be utilized to repair the area designated for the installation of the Priefert Chute. The Priefert Chute will be placed within the cattle chute on a concrete base measuring 90 inches by 57 inches, with a thickness of 6 inches. The concrete base will be provided by the applicant. Also, as part of the project, land conditioning will include preparing the areas for the fence installation and the location of a new water pipe. For the water pipe installation, a trench measuring 3 feet wide and 700 feet long will be excavated. Additionally, it will be necessary to clear and remove vegetation from all areas to be worked on. The project area is located Carr. 770 km. 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabón within the Municipality of Barranguitas. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general area has been for agricultural purposes for over 20 years.

#### **Project Location:**

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https:// www.google.com/maps/@18.20923175,-66.34304237665195,14z



Counties: Barranquitas County, Puerto Rico

#### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

Project code: 2025-0108961

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.

Project code: 2025-0108961 06/13/2025 18:15:24 UTC

#### **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:

 $\frac{https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/V2V2EVTKNRHHBJJ3CYGD5VJFTY/documents/generated/7159.pdf}{}$ 

#### CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

## USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

#### **BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES**

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>2</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup>. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

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

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their nests, should follow appropriate regulations and implement required avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

The data in this location indicates that no eagles have been observed in this area. This does not mean eagles are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if eagles may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

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

#### **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup> prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

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

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

### **WETLANDS**

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

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

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

#### **RIVERINE**

R5UBH

Project code: 2025-0108961 06/13/2025 18:15:24 UTC

### **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Horne LLP Name: Chris Rickard

Address: 10000 Perkins Rowe, Building G

City: Baton Rouge

State: LA Zip: 70810

Email chris.rickard@horne.com

Phone: 7062063592

## Appendix D Species Conservation Measures

# Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

## Puerto Rican Boa

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



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



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

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

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

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



Last Revised: January 2024

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

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

#### **Conservation Measures:**

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

Last Revised: January 2024

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

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

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

## Appendix E

Literature Cited

## Literature Cited:

Maps: Data basin. Maps | Data Basin. (n.d.). https://databasin.org/maps/new/#datasets=e95aa06e05624f3087559eca884db034

2024a. Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC). Available at: http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/. Accessed June, 2025.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (n.d.). Fact Sheets. Caribbean Endangered and Threatened Animals. Sea Grant Puerto Rico

Francis John K. and Alemañy Salvador. 1994. Juglans jamaicencis C. DC. https://data.fs.usda.gov/research/pubs/iitf/sm\_iitf072%20%20(4).pd

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2011. Puerto Rican Boa (Epicrates inornatus) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region. Boquerón, Puerto Rico.

## APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-01492	
Applicant Name:	VAKA9404 INC	
Parcel ID:	246-026-192-07-000 / 246-000-003- 42-901	
Latitude:	18.208058 -66.341016	
Longitude:		
Street Address:	Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior Bo. La Torre Cañabon	
Municipio:	Barranquitas	
Zip Code:	00794	
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez September 28, 2023	
Date of Visit:		
Time of Visit:	12:40	
Building Type:		





Esri, HERE, Ga... Powered by Esri

Esri, Maxar, Ea...

FIELD OBSERVATIONS				
	Question	Answer	Notes	
A.	Is the structure in use?	Yes	Structure is in use and will be expanded	
B. Is the structure a greenhouse?		No		
C. Is Electricity connected? (Utilities or Well)		Yes	Water is provided by electric company	
D.	Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	Yes	Water is provided by community water well and stream	
1.	Are there signs of poor housekeeping on site? (mounds of rubble, garbage, strom debris, solid waste, petroleum products, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, vehicle batteries, abandoned vehicles, pits, pools, ponds of hazardous substances, etc.)	No		
2.	Are there any 55-gallon drums visible on site? If yes, are they leaking?	No		
3.	Are there any (or signs of any) underground storage tanks on the property?	No		
4.	Are there signs of AST on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list approximate size and contents, if known.	Yes	Water box	
5.	Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel?	No		
6.	Is a water drainage system in use?	No		
7.	Is a warehouse in use for storage of Fertilizer or Pesticides?	Yes		
8.	Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent parcel?	No		
9.	Is there evidence of a faulty septic system?	No		
10.	Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel?	No		
11.	Is there any visible indication of mold?	No		
12.	Is there any visible evidence of asbestos, chipping, and flaking or peeling paint, or hazardous materials present in or on the structure?	No		
13.	Are any additional site hazards observed?	No		
14.	Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, located on the site(do not include ponding from recent rain / weather events)?	Yes	Stream in property	
15.	Does the subject property have water frontage?	No		
16.	Is there any indication of the presence of wetlands?	No		
17.	Are there any obvious signs of animals or birds nesting on or near the site?	No		
18.	Is the applicant aware of any significant historical event or persons associated with the structure, or of it being located in a historic district/ area?	No		
19.	Is a historic marker present?	No		

Streetscape #1

Photo Direction:

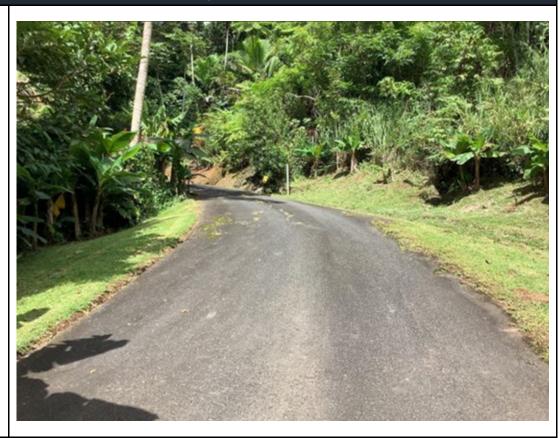
Comments:



## Streetscape #2

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Address

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo repair and extension Coordinates: 18.208183, -66.341412



## **Architectural Details 2**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo repair and extension



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo repair and extension



## **Architectural Details 4**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo repair and extension



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Priefert chute and balance will be 15ft x 5ft



## **Architectural Details 6**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Priefert chute and balance



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Espeques to be removed



## **Architectural Details 8**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Espeques to be removed



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Herbicide and fertilizer storage



## **Architectural Details 10**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Wooden espeques will be replaced with metal espeques



## **Architectural Details 12**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water box, water is provided by stream



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water pipes running underground



## **Architectural Details 14**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water line will go underground



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water line will go underground



## **Architectural Details 16**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Cepo overview



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream in property



## **Architectural Details 18**

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream in property

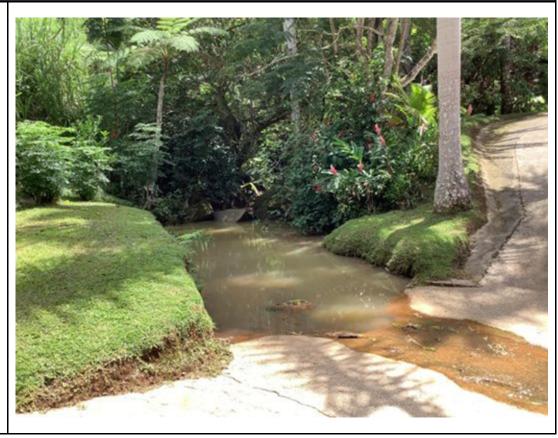
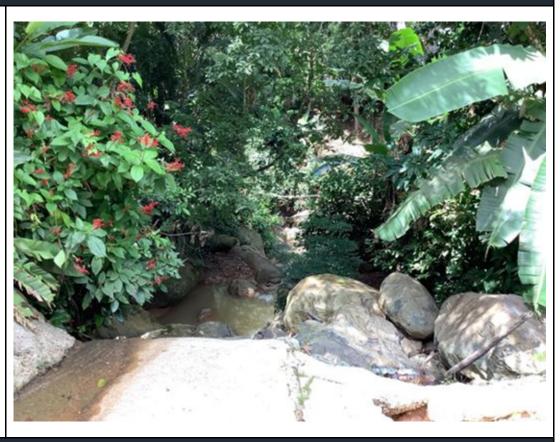


Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream



## **Architectural Details 20**

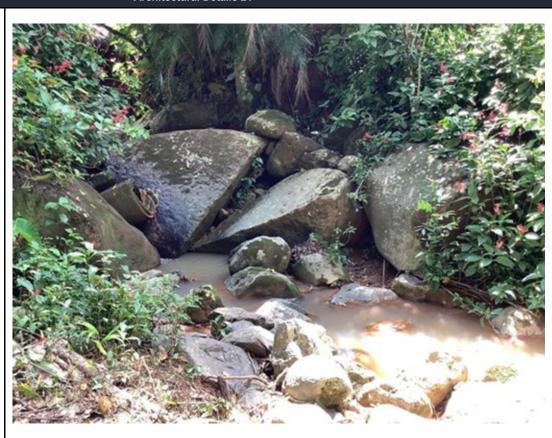
Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Community water well



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water stream



From: Caribbean ES, FW4
To: environmentcdbg
Cc: Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] USFWS Endangered Species Concurrence Consultation\_CDBG-DR\_PR-RGRW-01492-W

**Date:** Monday, July 7, 2025 7:26:58 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

Mr. Rivera

The Service acknowledge receipt of the Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) Technical Assistance letter obtained by using the Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) (Project Code: 2025-0108961) for project named CDBG-DRPR-RGRW-01492-W — VAKA9404 INC in the municipality of Barranquitas. No further consultation is required unless the project scope of work change or new information regarding listed species becomes available. Keep this email for your records.

**Thanks** 

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (786) 244-0081 caribbean\_es@fws.gov

## For project evaluations, please visit our <u>Consultation Guidelines</u> website.

**From:** environmentcdbg <environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 4:58 PM

**To:** Caribbean ES, FW4 <Caribbean\_ES@fws.gov>; Mena, Lourdes <Lourdes\_Mena@fws.gov> **Subject:** [EXTERNAL] USFWS Endangered Species Concurrence Consultation\_CDBG-DR\_PR-RGRW-01492-W

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

To whom it may concern:

In order to complete the environmental review process regarding the case **PR-RGRW-01492-W** for the CDBG-DR Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program, we are requesting USFWS concurrence with the determinations included in the attached letter

## PR-RGRW-01492-W\_USFWS Consultation Package\_PRDOH.pdf

We look forward for your response in order to move forward our environmental review process.

Sincerely,

# PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE DIVISION Disaster Recovery Office

environmentcdba@vivienda.pr.gov | 787.274.2527

Visit us: recuperacion.pr.gov

Contact us: infocdba@vivienda.pr.gov



NOTA DE CONFIDENCIALIDAD: Esta transmisión electrónica contiene información perteneciente al Departamento de Vivienda de Puerto Rico, la cual es confidencial y / o privilegiada legalmente. Si usted no es el destinatario previsto, informe inmediatamente al remitente por correo electrónico de respuesta o por teléfono que este mensaje se le ha transmitido inadvertidamente y elimine este correo electrónico de su sistema. Si ha recibido esta transmisión por error, por la presente se le notifica que cualquier divulgación, copia, distribución o cualquier acción basada en el contenido de la información está estrictamente prohibida. El uso, difusión, distribución o reproducción no autorizados de este mensaje por personas que no sean el destinatario previsto está estrictamente prohibido y puede ser ilegal.

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:** This electronic transmission contains information belonging to the Puerto Rico Housing Department, which is confidential and/or legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately advise the sender by reply e-mail or telephone that this message has been inadvertently transmitted to you and delete this e-mail from your system. If you have received this transmission in error, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information is strictly prohibited. Unauthorized use, dissemination, distribution of this message by other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited and may be unlowful?

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service. For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

# Radon Attachments



August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: guerrero.carmen@epa.gov

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

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

Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103. This Notice emphasizes the importance of radon testing and milligation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assited properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery and Miligation (CDBG-DR/MII), is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental requirements under CDBG-DR/MII programs. To fulfill our obligations under this Notice, we must compile comprehensive and up-to-date information on radon levels, testing practices, and any miltigation efforts within the Islands of Puerto Rico. Rico.

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

 $\underline{Radon\ testing\ data} - Results\ from\ radon\ testing\ conducted\ within\ your\ agency's\ purview,\ including\ details\ on\ location,\ testing\ methods,\ and\ recorded\ radon\ levels.$ 

Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Davila, Rio Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel. (787) 274-2527 | www.nivenda.pr.gov



August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

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

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

Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103. This Notice emphasizes the importance of radon testing and militigation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assited properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery and Militigation (CDBG-DR/MIT), is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental requirements under CDBG-DR/MIT programs. To fulfill our obligations under this Notice, we must compile comprehensive and up-to-date information on radon levels, testing practices, and any militigation efforts within the Islands of Puerto Rico.

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

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

Barbosa Ave. #606 , Building Juan C. Cordeto Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel. (767) 274-2527 | <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/j.com/noenda.pr.g.gg/">https://doi.org/10.1002/j.com/noenda.pr.g.gg/</a>

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

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

<u>Policies and quidelines</u> – Information or any policy, guideline, or protocol your agency follows concerning radon testing, exposure limits, or mitigation.

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

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

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

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

llmn ( rez Rodfiguez, Esq.

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

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

<u>Policies and auidelines</u> – Information or any policy, guideline, or protocol your agency follows concerning radon testing, exposure limits, or

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

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

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

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

Sincerely.

My Rodríguez, Esq.

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: OIA@cdc.gov

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

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

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

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following

 $\frac{Radon\ testing\ data}{Results} - Results\ from\ radon\ testing\ conducted\ within\ your\ agency's\ purview,\ including\ details\ on\ location,\ testing\ methods,\ and\ recorded\ radon\ levels.$ 

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



August 20, 2024

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

Via email: anais.rodriquez@drna.pr.gov

## RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing

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

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

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following

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

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

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

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

agency has produced or commissioned that address radon testing or mitigation.

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

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

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

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

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

D. Rodríguez, Esq

CD8G-DR/MIT Pro Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerli

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

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

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

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

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

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.

Secretary

Mr. Luis Márquez, <u>secretariaaire@drna.pr.gov</u> Eng. Amarilys Rosario, <u>aire@drna.pr.gov</u> Mrs. Elid Ortega, <u>eortega@drna.pr.gov</u>



August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: drcarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov

#### RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing nd levels within Puerto Rico

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

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

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

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

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

Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel. (787) 274-2527 | <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/noses/21365">https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/noses/21365</a> San Juan, PR 00928-1365



August 20, 2024

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

Vía email: hsweyers@usgs.gov

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

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

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

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following

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

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

Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365 Tel (787) 274-2527 | www.vivienda.or.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely.

Ladriguez Rodriguez, Esq.

Mr. Raúl Hernández Doble, rhernandez2@salud.pr.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely

Ariauez Rodriguez, Esq.

Mr. R. Randall Schumann, rschumann@usgs.gov

From: Charp, Paul (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP) <pac4@cdc.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 6:36 AM

To: Miranda, Sandra (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Irizarry, Jessica (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Rzeszotarski, Peter

(CDC/NCEH/DEHSP); Vinson, D. Aaron (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)

Cc: Kostak, Liana (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Vazquez, Germaine (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)

Subject: RE; REHi: Puerto Rico Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

## Good morning, Sandra and others,

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

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

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

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



From: Schumann, R. Randall <rschumann@usgs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 4:39 PM

To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Weyers, Holly S <hsweyers@usgs.gov> Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A.

Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>

Subject: RE: Request for Information- Radon testing and levels

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

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

Best regards,

R. Randall Schumann
Scientist Emeritus
U.S. Geological Survey
Geociences and Environmental Change Science Center
Denver, Colorado, USA
rschumann@usgs.gov
https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/r-randall-schumann

----

From: Raul Hernandez Doble <rhernandez2@salud.pr.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 2:13:31 PM

To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Dr. Carlos Mellado <drcarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov> Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Mayra Toro Tirado <mtoro@salud.pr.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Good afternoon, Ms. Medina

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

Raul Hernandez Doble
Director, Seccion Salud Radiologica
Division de Salud Ambiental
Secretaria Auxiliar para la Vigilancia y la Proteccion de la Salud Publica
rhernandez2@salud.gov.pr

Phone: (787)765-2929 ext. 3210

From: Reyes, Brenda <Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov> Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:48 AM

To: Cesar O Rodriguez Santos <cesarrodriguez@drna.pr.gov>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov>;

Silvina Cancelos Mancini <silvina.cancelos@upr.edu>; Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>

Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez

<aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Povetko, Oleg (he/him/his) <Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

#### Saludos.

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

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

\_\_\_

From: Silvina Cancelos Mancini <silvina.cancelos@upr.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 15:04

To: Melanie Medina Smaine < mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov >

Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia < Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz < Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez

<a href="mailto:aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov"><a href="mailto:Aarivera@vivie

<<u>Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov</u>>; Povetko, Oleg <<u>Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov</u>>

Subject: Re: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

#### Estimada Melanie Medina

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

## Atentamente

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



Bubble Dynamics Lab



September 23, 2024

#### VIA EMAIL

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

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

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodríguez Rodríguez

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

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

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

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

Typical radon testing technology used in mainland United States (charcoal canisters or electric-powered devices) are impractical in Puerto Rico because of high humidity and power outages. The recovery and rebuilding of communities following the aftermath of 2017 Hurricanes Irms and Maria presented an opportunity to develop radon prevention and mitigation strategies in 2019. Initially, EPA sampled indoor radon air in over 170 single-family residences in the municipalities of San Sebastian, Lares, Ciales, Arecibo, Morovis, Camuy, and Hatillo and later expanded the project to other municipalities such as Rincon, Aguada, Aguadalli, stabela, Questradillas, Barecloneta and Vega Baja. The quality assurance protocols were anchored in American National Standards institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (ANSI/AARS) standards of practice (ANSI/AARS) 1939. The sampling was designed in two stages: scoping and confirmatory sampling. The scoping sampling was conducted using Corentium Home (CH) electronic monitors and E-Perm ystems. Locations measuring above the EPA Action Level of 4 pCI/L with CH were measured at the second stage of the sampling using RAD7 and Corentium Pro Continuous Radon Monitors (CRMs). Nationally certified and on sampling professionals led by one such professional from the UPRM conducted confirmatory sampling in the second stage. Also, during the study, the nationally certified radon mitigation professionals inspected several homes with elevated indoor radon levels. Typical radon testing technology used in mainland United States (charcoal canisters or electric-powered levels.

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

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

CITY VIEW PLAZA II BUILDING, 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR ROUTE 165 GUAYNABO, PR 00968

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

Sincerely,

CARMEN **GUERRERO** PEREZ

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

Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez Director

Roberto Mendez, Esq (Acting Secretary, PR Department of Natural and Env. Resources)

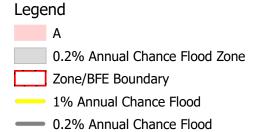
Melany Medina: mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov Elaine Dume Mejia: Edume@vivienda.pr.gov Luz S Colon Ortiz: Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov
Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez: aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov Cesar O. Rodriguez: cesarrodriguez@drna.pr.gov Marita Rosa Olivares: maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov

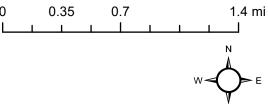
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Reference: USGS. Geologic Radon Potential of Guam and Puerto Rico, Report 93-292-K, Washington, DC: USGS. Retrieved 9/11/2024, from https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1993/0292k/report.pdf.



# PR-RGRW-01492-W ABFE







FEMA Map Service

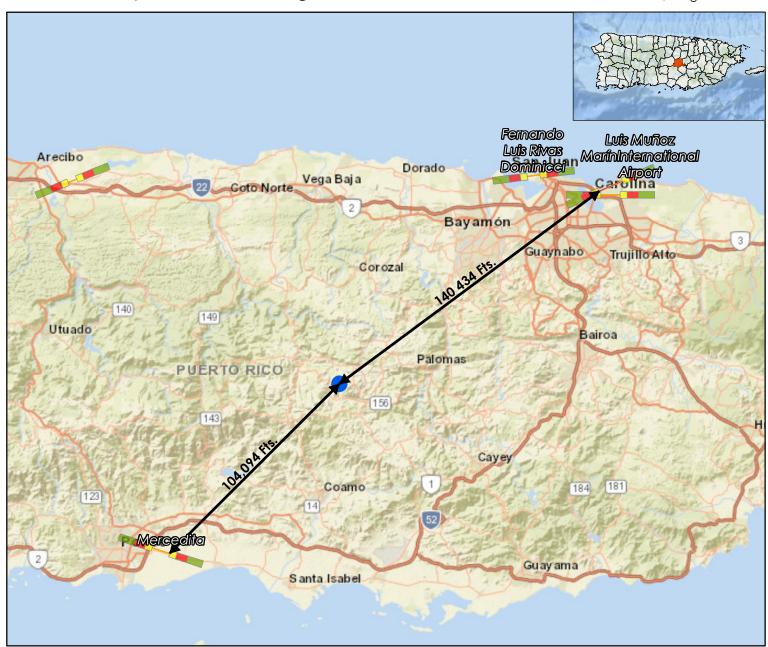
ABFE 1PCT

BEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL, ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING Suite J-3, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel.(787)783-0290

**Airports Map** 

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



## Legend:



PR-RGRW-01492

Accident\_Potential\_Zone\_Rev2



APZ 1



APZ 2



Clear Zone

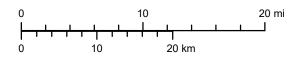




SJU Military Runaway



PR Airport Runaway



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



1:500,000

## Source

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) https://adds-faa.opendata.arcgis.com/ BEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL, ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon,

# Coastal Barrier Resources System Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



## Legend:



PR-RGRW-01492

## Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS)



Otherwise Protected Area



System Unit



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

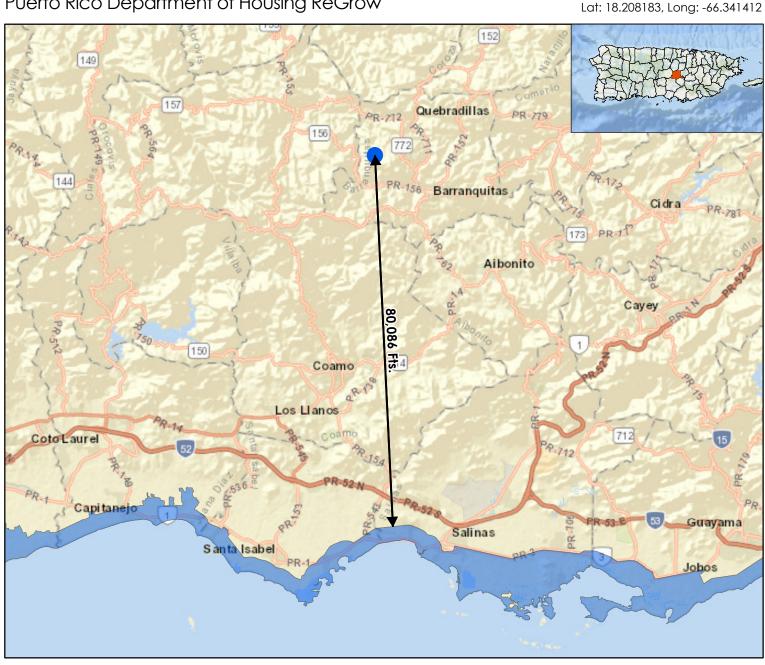


### Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act BEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL, ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING Suite J-3, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel.(787)783-0290

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000

# Coastal Zone Management Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



## Legend:



PR-RGRW-01492



Coastal Zone Management



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



1:250,000

### Source

NOAA Office for Coastal Management (NOAA/OCM) https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/53132

BYABEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC

ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL, ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING

554 College Parson Suite 1-3 Son Jugo P. P. 00920, Tel / 7871/783-0290

**Farmland Protection** 

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



## Legend:



PR-RGRW-01492



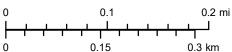
All areas are prime farmland



Farmland of statewide importance



Not prime farmland



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth



1:6,000

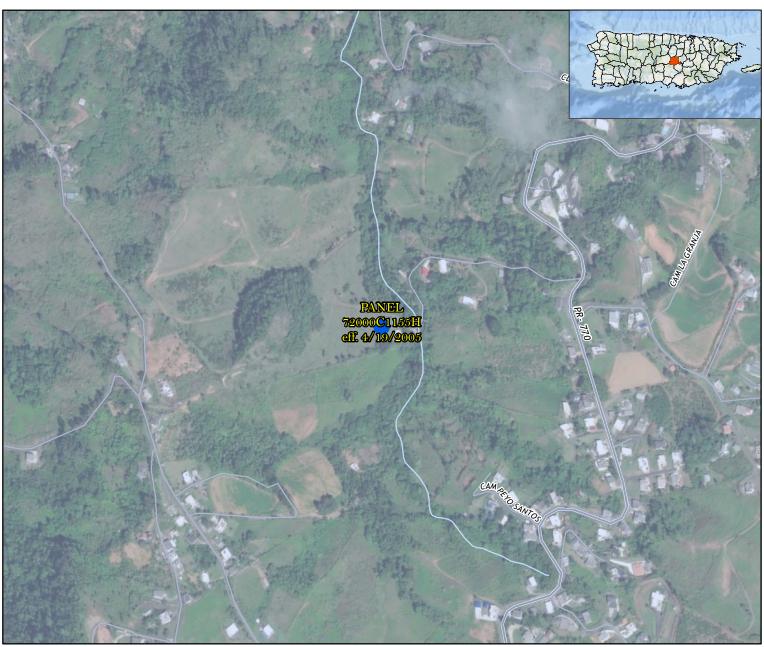
#### Source

NRCS Gridded Soil Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO) https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/soil-survey-geographic-database-ssurgo BEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL, ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794

# Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow Catastros:246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412

Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



## Legend:



PR-RGRW-01492



FIRM Panel



Area of Minimal Flood Hazard-Zone X



Service Laver Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth



#### Source

FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer BEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC

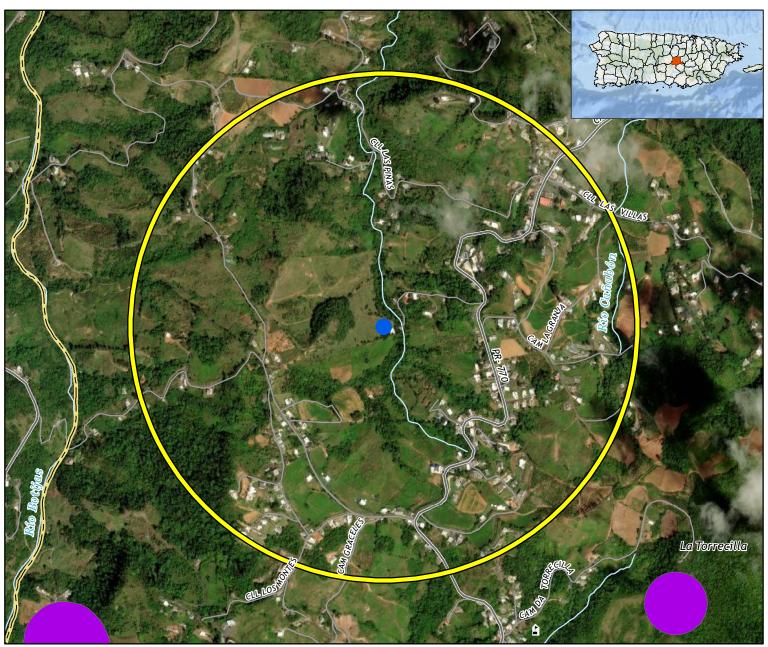
ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL, ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING

554 Calle Perseo, Suite J-3, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel. (787)783-0290

# **Historic Preservation**

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



## Legend:



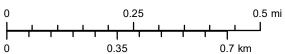
PR-RGRW-01492



Archaeological Resource Zones



Buffer 0.5 Mile



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth



1:12,000

#### Source

National Park Service (NPS) - National Register of Historic Places(NRHP) https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) https://oech.pr.gov/Pages/default.aspx

## Application ID: PR-RGRW-01492

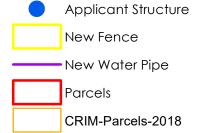


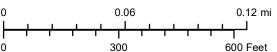
# Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



## Legend:





Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth



1:3,000

#### Source

Junta de Planificacion de Puerto Rico (JPPR), https://jp.pr.gov/



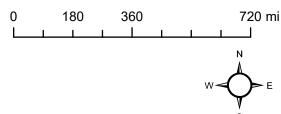
1<u>8</u>.208183 -<u>66</u>.341412

# PR-RGRW-01492-W Sole Source Aquifers



Legend

Sole Source Aquifers - EPA August 2019



Sole Source Aquifers

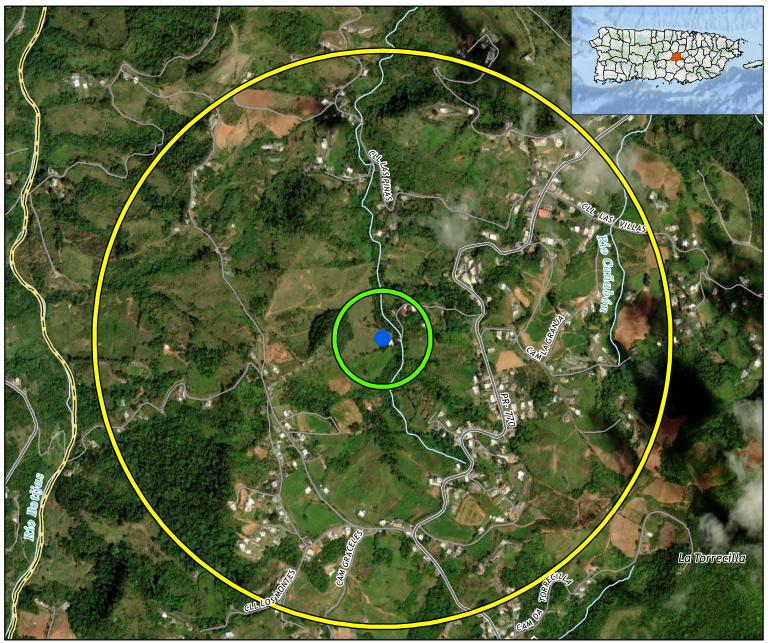
**EPA** 

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/

# Toxic and Hazardous Facilities

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000 Lat: 18.208183, Long: -66.341412



## Legend:



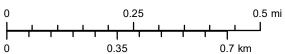
PR-RGRW-01492



Buffer500Fts



Buffer 3,000 Fts.



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors and Google Earth



1:12,000

#### Source

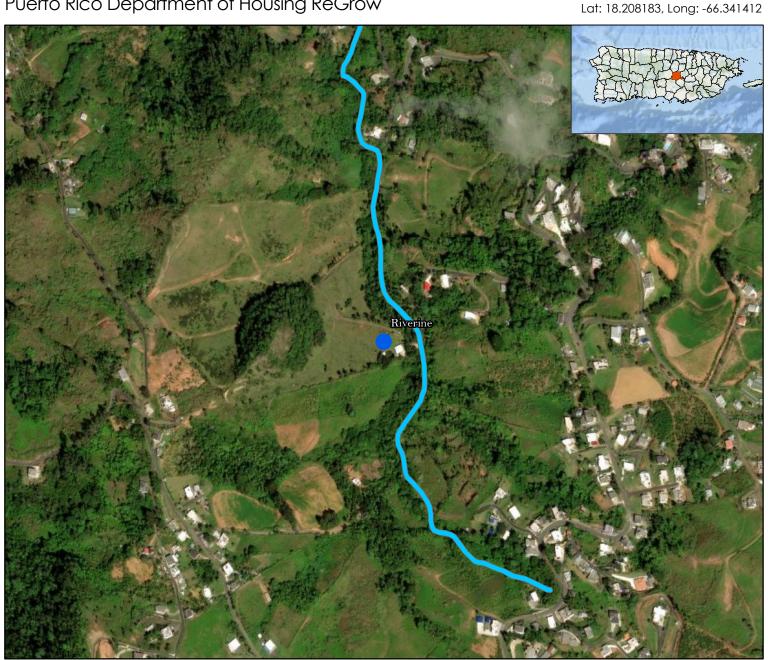
EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS) https://www.epa.gov/frs

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/

246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000

# Wetlands

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



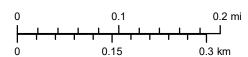
## Legend:



PR-RGRW-01492



Riverine



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



FWS National Wild and Scenic Rivers System https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php

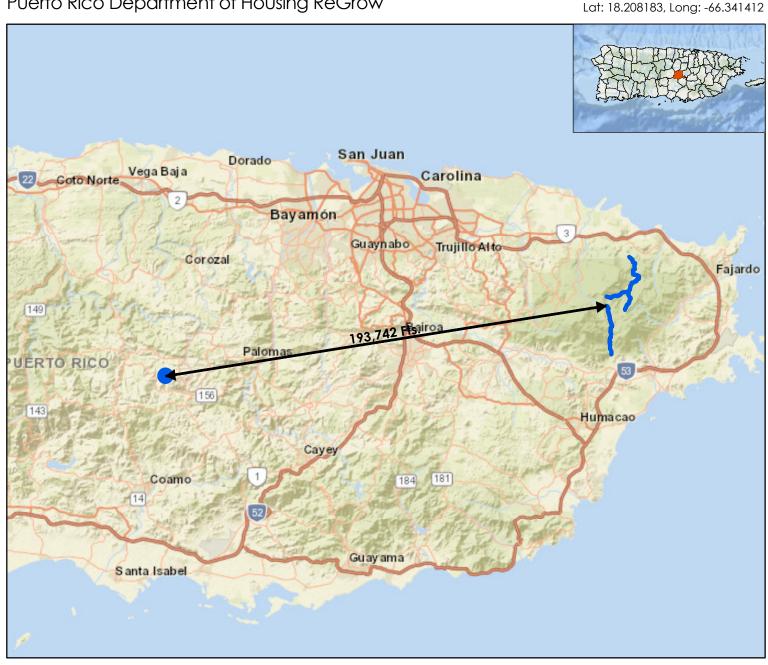
Source

BEHAR-YBARRA AND ASSOCIATES LLC ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL, ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING Suite J-3, San Juan, P.R. 00920 Tel.(787)783-0290

VAKA9404 INC. Carr. 770 Km 2.2 Interior, Bo. La Torre Canabon, Barranquitas, PR 00794 Catastros:246-026-192-07-000/ 246-000-003-42-901/ 246-026-192-08-000/ 246-026-192-06-000/ 246-026-192-05-000

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

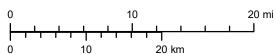


## Legend:



PR-RGRW-01492

Wild and Scenic Rivers



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



1:500,000

## Source

FWS National Wild and Scenic Rivers System https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php