

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-00123-W

HEROS Number: 900000010455663

Start Date: 02/26/2025

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , San Sebastian, PR 00685

Additional Location Information:

Location centroid: Latitude 18.387627, longitude -67.023263 at the address given above. Cadastral: 071-057-245-04-000.

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

The project business is THE BOSS'S FARM LLC located at Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastian PR, 00685. The proposed project includes the purchase of land, an ATV, banana seeds, citrus trees, fertilizer/pesticide, irrigation system, plantain seeds, and land conditioning. The only activity involving ground disturbance will be the land conditioning. The quote covers clearing the entire 16-acre plot, which includes removing vegetation and cutting certain trees to allow access to the farm. The clearing will be done carefully and without heavy machinery, as the applicant wishes to preserve the topsoil layer, which is most fertile for planting. Only trees that pose a safety risk will be removed. Selected contractors will identify vegetation for removal during a preliminary site assessment before starting the cleanup. The irrigation system will cover an area of approximately 9,000 square feet and will be installed on the above ground without anchoring. All piping related to the system will be placed above ground. The system is designed to collect rainwater and distribute it by gravity, eliminating the need for any new utility connections. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general use of the area has remained agricultural for more than 20 years. The project THE BOSS'S FARM LLC PR-RGRW-00123-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #4 - . 7 CFR 799.32 (d) (2) (iv): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling, CE: #8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed, and CE: #9. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xiv): Land smoothing, have been classified as CEST under the waiver. The case was initially an EA, so a SHPO consultation was completed before the waiver was granted.

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

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$149,756.50

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$149,756.50

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete
Endangered Species Act	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024 If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the CM shall contact the local office of the PRDNER (Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources) and ask for them to relocate the Boa.	N/A	
	USFWS Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Conservation Measures 2024		

Determination:

This categorically excluded activity/project converts to EXEMPT 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; Funds may be committed and drawn down after
certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR

03/26/2025 11:21 Page 2 of 3

×	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, publish NOI/RROF 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)).
Prepa	rer Signature: Date: March 26, 2025
Name	/ Title/ Organization: Ricardo J. Espiet López / / Department of Housing - Puerto Rico
Respo	nsible Entity Agency Official Signature: Date: Date:
Name	/ Title: Abdul X. Feliciano Plaza, Permits and Environmental 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).

03/26/2025 11:21 Page 3 of 3

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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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-00123-W

HEROS Number: 900000010455663

Start Date: 02/26/2025

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

Juan PR, 00928

State / Local Identifier:

RE Preparer: Ricardo J. Espiet López

Certifying Office Abdul X Feliciano

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: , San Sebastian, PR 00685

Additional Location Information:

Location centroid: Latitude 18.387627, longitude -67.023263 at the address given

above. Cadastral: 071-057-245-04-000.

Direct Comments to:

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

The project business is THE BOSS'S FARM LLC located at Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastian PR, 00685. The proposed project includes the purchase of land, an ATV, banana seeds, citrus trees, fertilizer/pesticide, irrigation system, plantain seeds, and land conditioning. The only activity involving ground disturbance will be the land conditioning. The quote covers clearing the entire 16-acre plot, which includes removing vegetation and cutting certain trees to allow access to the farm. The clearing will be done carefully and without heavy machinery, as the applicant wishes to preserve the topsoil layer, which is most fertile for planting. Only trees that pose a safety risk will be removed. Selected contractors will identify vegetation for removal during a preliminary site assessment before starting the cleanup. The irrigation system will cover an area of approximately 9,000 square feet and will be installed on the above ground without anchoring. All piping related to the system will be placed above ground. The system is designed to collect rainwater and distribute it by gravity, eliminating the need for any new utility connections. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general use of the area has remained agricultural for more than 20 years. The project THE BOSS'S FARM LLC PR-RGRW-00123-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #4 - . 7 CFR 799.32 (d) (2) (iv): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling, CE: #8. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed, and CE: #9. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xiv): Land smoothing, have been classified as CEST under the waiver. The case was initially an EA, so a SHPO consultation was completed before the waiver was granted.

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

PR-RGRW-00123-W Site Map.pdf

PR-RGRW-00123-W SHPO Package.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-00123-W IUGF.pdf

PR-RGRW-00123-W EFOR(1).pdf

Level of Environmental Review Determination:

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

58.34(a)(12) 58.35(a)(5)

Determination:

√	This categorically excluded activity/project converts to EXEMPT 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; Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, publish NOI/RROF 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:

<u>00123-SIG-PAGE(1).pdf</u> <u>00123-SIG-PAGE(1)(1).pdf</u>

7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer

on:

7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer

on:

Funding Information

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

B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and	g and Community Development Block Grants	
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and Community Development Block Grant		\$0.00
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and	Community Development Block Grants	\$0.00
	Development (CPD)	(Disaster Recovery Assistance)	

Estimated Total HUD Funded, \$149,756.50 **Assisted or Insured Amount:**

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$149,756.50

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	DERS, AND REGULATIO	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6	
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	□ Yes ☑ No	The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 49,582.1 feet away. 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 41,107.5 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 72000C0170H, 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 ORI	STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS 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 37,136.7 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. The project is exempt from radon consideration. 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	Flood Map Number 72000C0170H, effective on 4/19/2005: This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain.			

		The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The
		proposed project is located in the municipality of San Sebastian; 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 amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	□ Yes ☑ No	Based on the project description, the project consists of activities that are unlikely to have an adverse impact on groundwater resources. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in 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 426,243.8 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
HUD HO	USING ENVIRONMEN	ITAL STANDARDS

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE			
Environmental Justice ☐ Yes ☑ No No adverse environmental impacts we			
Executive Order 12898 identified in the project's total		identified in the project's total	
	environmental review. The project is		
compliance with Executive Order 12898.			

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

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

Law, Authority,	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed	Mitigation Plan	Complete
or Factor		Measures		
Endangered	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa	N/A		
Species Act	Conservation Measures 2024			
	If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in			
	the project activity site, work			
	shall cease until the Boa moves			
	off on its own. If the Boa does not			
	move off, the CM shall contact			
	the local office of the PRDNER			
	(Puerto Rico Department of			
	Natural and Environmental			
	Resources) and ask for them to			
	relocate the Boa.			
	USFWS Puerto Rican Harlequin			
	Butterfly Conservation Measures			
	2024			

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. USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024 If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the CM shall contact the local office of the PRDNER (Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources) and ask for them to relocate the Boa. USFWS Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Conservation Measures 2024

Supporting documentation on completed measures

APPENDIX A: Related Federal Laws and Authorities

Airport Hazards

General policy	Legislation	Regulation
It is HUD's policy to apply standards to		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 airport RPZ/CZ is approximately 49,582.1 feet away. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-00123-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 41,107.5 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-00123-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-00123-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 72000C0170H, 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 37,136.7 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-00123-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.

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

✓ Yes

Explain:

No buildings are present at the project location.

No

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

• Buildings tested within five years of the submission of application for HUD assistance: test results document indoor radon levels are below current the EPA's recommended action levels of 4.0 pCi/L. For buildings with test data older than five years, any new environmental review must include a consideration of radon using one of the methods in Section A below.

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. The project is exempt from radon consideration. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-00123-W Toxics.pdf PR-RGRW-00123-W EFOR.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:

USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024 If a Puerto Rican Boa is found in the project activity site, work shall cease until the Boa moves off on its own. If the Boa does not move off, the CM shall contact the local office of the PRDNER (Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources) and ask for them to relocate the Boa. USFWS Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Conservation Measures 2024

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-00123-W_USFWS Consult Package_PRDOH.pdf PR-RGRW-00123-W USFWS Concurrence Letter.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

✓ Yes

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
	Vac

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.		

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-00123-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.		

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

Yes

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

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

- -		1	
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✓ 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 information¹ to determine flood elevation. Include documentation and an explanation of why this is the best available information² for the site. Note that newly constructed and substantially improved³ 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?

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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

Flood Map Number 72000C0170H, effective on 4/19/2005: This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of San Sebastian; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-00123-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-00123-W SHPO Package(1).pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

Noise Abatement and Control

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
HUD's noise regulations protect	Noise Control Act of 1972	Title 24 CFR 51
residential properties from		Subpart B
excessive noise exposure. 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

∕ No

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

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

No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description, the project consists of activities that are unlikely to have an adverse impact on groundwater resources. 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-00123-W Sole Source Aquifers.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

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-00123-W Wetlands.pdf

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

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 426,243.8 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

PR-RGRW-00123-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



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

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

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

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes





United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer to: FWS/R4/CESFO/72131-Gen

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

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

Re: CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-00123-W- The Boss's Farm LLC, San Sebastián, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated March 07, 2025, requesting comments on the above referenced project. As per your request, our comments are provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is proposing the purchase of the land, land conditioning (will require ground disturbance), plantain seeds, and an irrigation system (9,000 m²). The project will be located at PR-445, Km. 6.2, Saltos II Ward (18°23'15.5"N 67°01'23.7"W) in the municipality of San Sebastián, Puerto Rico. According to PRDOH, the 16-acre plot will be cleared (vegetation removal and certain tree cutting) without the use of heavy machinery.

Using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system the proponent has determined that the proposed project lies within the range of Puerto Rican boa (*Epicrates inornatus* now known as *Chilabothrus inornatus*) and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*).

The Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) in the IPaC application was used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species for this project (Project code: 2025-0061125). Based on the answers provided, a technical assistance letter was obtained for the Puerto Rican boa, which determined that the proposed actions for this project may affect likely to adversely affect (MLAA) this species.

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work and existing habitat, PRDOH has determined that the proposed actions may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican boa instead of the MLAA obtained by using the Dkey. For the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly PRDOH has also made a NLAA determination. Conservation measures developed by the Service for these species will be implemented prior to and during the land conditioning to avoid or minimize impacts to these species.

We have reviewed the information provided in your letter and in our files, and concur with your determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly with the implementation of the conservation measures.

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

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

Sincerely,

LOURDES MENA Digitally signed by LOURDES MENA Date: 2025.03.25 10:33:04

Lourdes Mena Field Supervisor

drr

cc: HUD [Federal Register Volume 89, Number 232 (Tuesday, December 3, 2024)] [Notices]

[Pages 95810-95812]

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[FR Doc No: 2024-28293]

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-6492-N-01]

Notice of Adoption of U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to Section 109 of the National Environmental Policy Act

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: HUD has identified categorical exclusions (CEs) to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture--Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA) that cover categories of actions that HUD proposes to adopt. This notice identifies the USDA-FSA CEs and HUD's categories of proposed actions for which it intends to use USDA-FSA's CEs and describes the consultation between the agencies.

DATES: This action is effective upon publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Hayes Knutson, Environmental Planning Division Director, Office of Environment and Energy, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 7282, Washington, DC 20410-5000; telephone 202-402-4270 (this is not a toll-free number); email EnvironmentalPlanningDivision@hud.gov. HUD welcomes and is prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech and communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an

accessible telephone call, please visit https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

National Environmental Policy Act and Categorical Exclusions

Congress enacted the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, (NEPA) in order to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and the environment, recognizing the profound impact of human activity and the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare of humankind. 42 U.S.C. 4321, 4331. NEPA seeks to ensure that agencies consider the environmental effects of their proposed major actions in their decision-making processes and inform and involve the public in that process. NEPA created the

[[Page 95811]]

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which promulgated NEPA implementing regulations, 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 (CEQ regulations).

To comply with NEPA, agencies determine the appropriate level of review for any major Federal action--an environmental impact statement (EIS), environmental assessment (EA), or categorical exclusion (CE). 40 CFR 1501.3. If a proposed action is likely to have significant environmental effects, the agency must prepare an EIS and document its decision in a record of decision. 40 CFR part 1502, 1505.2. If the proposed action is not likely to have significant environmental effects or the effects are unknown, the agency may instead prepare an EA, which involves a more concise analysis and process than does an EIS. 40 CFR 1501.5. Following the EA, the agency may conclude that the action will have no significant effects and document that conclusion in a finding of no significant impact. 40 CFR 1501.6. If the analysis concludes that the action is likely to have significant effects, however, then an EIS is required.

Under NEPA and the CEQ regulations, a Federal agency also can establish CEs--categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment--in their agency NEPA procedures. 42 U.S.C. 4336e(1); 40 CFR 1501.4, 1507.3(e)(2)(ii), 1508.1(d). If an agency determines that a CE covers a proposed action, it then evaluates the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. 40 CFR 1501.4(b). If no extraordinary circumstances are present, the agency may apply the CE to the proposed action without preparing an EA or EIS. 42 U.S.C. 4336(a)(2), 40 CFR 1501.4. If extraordinary circumstances are present, the agency nevertheless may still categorically exclude the proposed action if it determines that there are circumstances that lessen the impacts or other conditions sufficient to avoid significant effects.

Section 109 of NEPA, enacted as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, allows a Federal agency to ``adopt'' another Federal agency's CEs for proposed actions. 42 U.S.C. 4336c. To use another agency's CEs under section 109, the borrowing agency must identify the relevant CE listed in another agency's (``establishing agency'') NEPA procedures that covers the borrowing agency's category of proposed actions or related actions; consult with the establishing agency to ensure that the proposed adoption of the CE for a category of actions is appropriate; identify to the public the CE that the borrowing agency plans to use for its proposed actions; and document adoption of the CE. 42 U.S.C. 4336c. HUD has prepared this notice to meet these statutory requirements.

HUD Programs

For many HUD programs, HUD is authorized by statute to allow Responsible Entities (REs), typically states, units of general local government, and tribes, to assume responsibility to conduct NEPA reviews under HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58. For other HUD programs, HUD performs the environmental review under 24 CFR part 50. HUD intends to apply these categorical exclusions to reviews conducted under both parts 50 and 58.

Both parts 50 and 58, as well as 24 CFR part 51, contain additional environmental requirements that certain HUD projects must comply with. Proposed actions that are categorically excluded from NEPA but still subject to these requirements are known as `Categorically Excluded Subject to'' the requirements listed in 24 CFR 58.5 and 50.4 (CEST), and proposed actions that are categorically excluded from NEPA but not subject to these requirements are known as `Categorically Excluded Not Subject to'' the requirements listed in Sec. Sec. 58.5 and 50.4 (CENST). HUD has evaluated the identified USDA-FSA CEs and has designated each as CENST or CEST in Section II. USDA-FSA Categorical Exclusions.

HUD Regulatory Limitations on Adopting CEs

HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 58.36 and 50.17 limit HUD's ability to utilize adopted categorical exclusions without a waiver. This notice will not go into effect until 58.36 and 50.17 are amended or until a waiver of these regulations is issued.

II. USDA-FSA Categorical Exclusions

HUD has identified the following CEs listed in USDA-FSA regulation, 7 CFR part 799 Subpart D--Categorical Exclusions, for adoption. Under each CE, HUD has described categories of proposed actions for which HUD, under part 50, or an RE, under part 58, may use the CE and if the activity will be evaluated as CENST or CEST. The list of categories comprises the proposed actions for which HUD contemplates using the CEs at this time, primarily in support of agricultural activities funded with HUD's Community Development Block Grant--Disaster Recovery (CDBG-

DR) program. However, HUD may expand the use of the CEs identified below to other substantially similar agricultural activities, where appropriate. 1. 7 CFR 799.31(b)(2)(i): Existing fence repair. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Repair, improvement, or minor modification of existing fences. 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 farmrelated structures under 50 years of age. 3. 7 CFR 799.32(d)(2)(i): Minor construction, such as a small addition. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Minor construction, such as a small addition, without ground disturbance, of agricultural related structures. 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. 5. 7 CFR 799.32(d)(2)(xiii): Trough or tank installation. HUD Level of Review: CENST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural water trough or tank installation without ground disturbance. 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.

7. 7 CFR 799.32(e)(2)(iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility.

HUD Level of Review: CEST.

Potential application to HUD activities:

Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance

8. 7 CFR 799.32(e)(2)(xi): Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed.

[[Page 95812]]

HUD Level of Review: CEST.

Potential application to HUD activities:

Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling in areas or to depths not previously disturbed for agricultural efforts.

9. 7 CFR 799.32(e)(2)(xiv): Land smoothing.

HUD Level of Review: CEST.

Potential application to HUD activities:

Land smoothing for agricultural needs.

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.

11. 7 CFR 799.32(e)(2)(xxxviii): Wells.

HUD Level of Review: CEST.

Potential application to HUD activities:

Well installation and repairs for agricultural needs, with ground disturbance.

III. Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances

When applying the adopted CEs, HUD or the RE will evaluate the proposed action to ensure evaluation of integral elements listed above. In addition, in considering extraordinary circumstances, HUD will consider whether the proposed action has the potential to result in significant effects as described in USDA-FSA's extraordinary circumstances listed at 7 CFR 799.33. USDA-FSA defines extraordinary circumstances in which a normally categorically excluded action may have a significant environmental effect, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; a proposed action connected to other actions with potential impacts; a proposed action that is related to other proposed actions with cumulative impacts; proposed actions that do not comply with 40 CFR 1506.1 Limitations on actions during the NEPA process; and/or contains violations of any existing Federal, State, or local government law, policy, or requirements.

IV. Consultation With USDA-FSA and Determination of Appropriateness

HUD and USDA-FSA began consultation in December 2023 to identify USA-FSA CEs that could apply to HUD proposed agricultural actions. This consultation included a review of USDA-FSA's experience developing and applying the CEs and the types of actions for which HUD plans to utilize the CEs. Based on this consultation and review, HUD has determined that the types of agricultural projects it intends to undertake are substantially similar to such projects for which USDA-FSA has applied the CE. Accordingly, the impacts of HUD projects will be substantially similar to the impacts of USDA-FSA projects, which are not significant, absent the existence of extraordinary circumstances. Therefore, HUD has determined that its proposed use of the agricultural-related CEs, as described within this notice, would be appropriate.

V. Conclusion

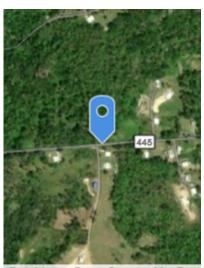
This notice documents adoption of the USDA-FSA CEs listed above in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 4336c(4), and they will be available for use by HUD and REs effective either upon amendment of 24 CFR 58.36 and 50.17 or upon issuance of a waiver of these regulations.

Marion McFadden, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. [FR Doc. 2024-28293 Filed 12-2-24; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-00123
Applicant Name:	The BOSS'S FARM LLC
Parcel ID:	071-057-245-04-000
Latitude:	18.387627
Longitude:	-67.023263
Street Address:	Carretera 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II
Municipio:	San Sebastian
Zip Code:	00685
Site Inspector:	Patricia Carmenatty
Date of Visit:	November 2, 2024
Time of Visit:	10:02
Building Type:	n/a





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	FIELD OBSERVATIONS				
	Question Answer Notes				
A.	Is the structure in use?	No			
В.	Is the structure a greenhouse?	No	Purchase of a land and Land conditioning		
C.	Is Electricity connected? (Utilities or Well)	No			
D.	Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	No			
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.	No			
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?	No			
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?	Yes			
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)?	No			
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 historcal 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: West Comments: Streetscape #2 Photo Direction: East Comments:

Photo Direction: Northwest

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 2

Photo Direction: North



Photo Direction: Northeast

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 4

Photo Direction: Northwest

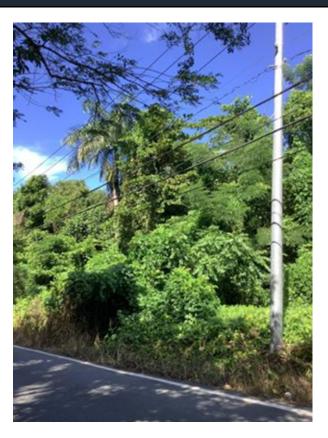


Photo Direction: North

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 6

Photo Direction: Northeast



Photo Description:

Photo Direction: West



Architectural Details 8

Photo Direction:

East

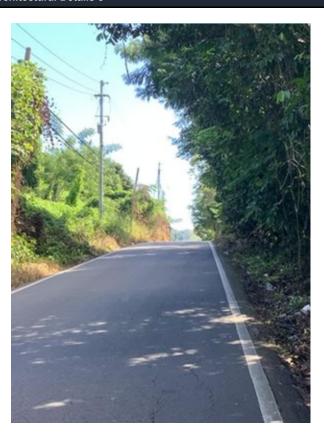


Photo Description:

Photo Direction: Northeast



Architectural Details 10

Photo Direction: North



Photo Direction: Northwwest

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 12

Photo Direction: Northeast



Photo Direction: North

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 14

Photo Direction: Northeast



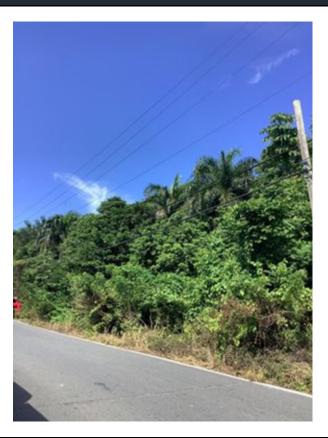
Photo Direction: North

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 16

Photo Direction: North west



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Architectural Details 27			
Photo Direction:			
Photo Description:			





March 7, 2025

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

Email: Caribbean_es@fws.gov; Lourdes_Mena@fws.gov

RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing / CDBG-DR Re-Grow Program
PR-RGRW-00123-W - The Boss's Farm LLC
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-00123-W, located at PR-445 Road Km 6.2, Saltos II Ward, San Sebastián, PR 00685. The project coordinates are latitude 18.38763, and longitude -67.02326. 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-00123-W include the purchase of the land, land conditioning, plantain seeds, and an irrigation system. The only activity involving ground disturbance will be the land conditioning. The quote covers clearing the entire

16-acre plot, which includes removing vegetation and cutting certain trees to allow access to the farm. The clearing will be done carefully and without heavy machinery, as the applicant wishes to preserve the topsoil layer, which is most fertile for planting. Only trees that pose a safety risk will be removed. Selected contractors will identify vegetation for removal during a preliminary site assessment before starting the cleanup. The irrigation system will cover an area of approximately 9,000 square feet and will be installed on the above ground without anchoring. All piping related to the system will be placed above ground. The system is designed to collect rainwater and distribute it by gravity, eliminating the need for any new utility connections.

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	
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)	Threatened	
Critical Habitat		
There are no critical habitats at this location.		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Existing Habitat Conditions at Project Area:

According to the U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database, the topography of the 16-acre farm, located at PR-445 Road Km 6.2, Saltos II Ward, San Sebastián, PR 00685, consists primarily of evergreen forest (Appendix A: Figure 3). The project area itself is located at latitude 18.38763 and longitude -67.02326, and the soil in and around the property consists of Colinas clay loam (CID) 12 to 20 percent slopes, and Colinas clay loam (CIE) 20 to 40 percent slopes (Appendix A: Figure 4). The species being examined for this project are the Puerto Rican Boa and the Puerto-Rican Harlequin Butterfly. An Endangered Species Map (Appendix A: Figure 5) shows that the proximity of the two species to the site location is approximately 19,308 feet from a critical habitat site. The project is located in Zone X on the FEMA Flood Map, Panel number 72000C0170H, dated 4/19/2005, and ABFE Map, see Appendix A: Figure 6 and 7. A Preliminary FIRM has not been developed for this area. There is a mapped NWI riverine that intersects the parcel and is located south-west of the project site. This

riverine is listed by the National Wetlands Inventory as R4SBC, see Appendix A: Figure 8. The project activities will not occur within a natural or man-made wetland, and no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated as a result of the project activities.

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 February 26, 2025, 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, 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.

Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)

According to Fish and Wildlife Services, Interior, the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly can be found in various parts of Puerto Rico. The butterflies are active during the daytime and their diet consists of nectar from specific tree species. They are known to be found within 0.6 miles from a water source as they depend on water for survival and rely on the tender new growth of the host plant, *Oplonia spinosa* (Prickly Bush), for both egg laying and feeding by caterpillars. The Harlequin Butterfly has a fragmented population among remnants of native forest, located in the northwestern and central portion of the island. The parcel for the project is located 22,992 feet from a critical habitat site (Appendix A: Figure 5). Due to the scope of work which includes tree clearing or brush removal which is an activity that would have an impact on the butterfly, the decision was made to err on the side of caution, and a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly was made (Appendix C).

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 (Chilabothrus inornatus)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)	Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	USFWS Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Conservation Measures 2024

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 <u>environmentcdbg@vivienda.pr.gov</u> | 787.274.2527 ext. 4320

Attachments:

Appendix A:

Figure 1 – Location Map

Figure 2 - USGS Topographic Map

Figure 3 - Land Cover Map

Figure 4 - Soils Map

Figure 5 – Endangered Species Map

Figure 6 - Firm Map

Figure 7 - ABFE Map

Figure 8 – Wetlands Map

PR-RGRW-00123-W USFWS Informal Consultation Page 5 / 5

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





Location: Aerial MapPuerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

The Boss's Farm LLC. Car. 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastián, PR 00685 Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263 Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000



Legend:



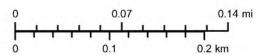
PR-RGRW-00123



PR-RGRW-00123-Parcel



CRIM-PARCELAS-2018



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 Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth



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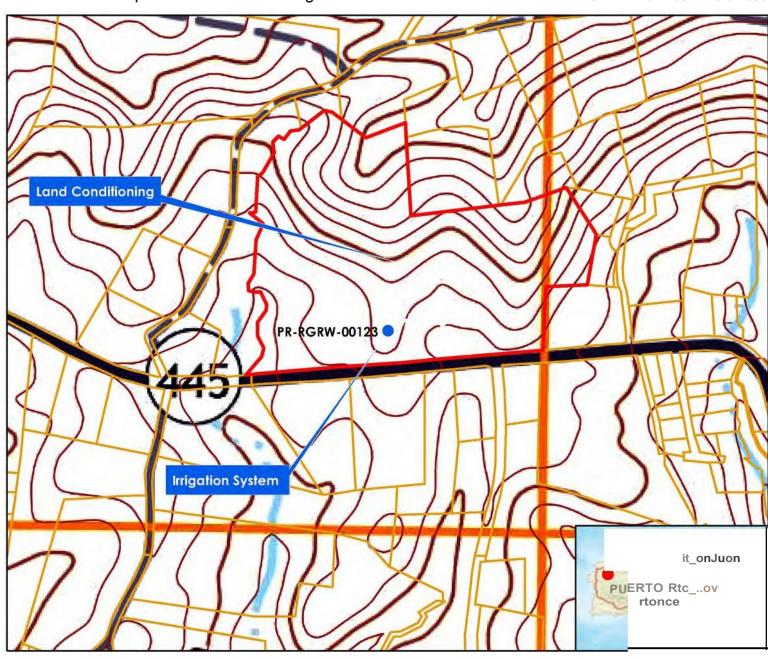
Source

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

Location: USGS Topoaraphic Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing Grow

The Boss's Farm LLC. Car. 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastian, PR 00685 Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263 Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000



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PR-RGRW-00123



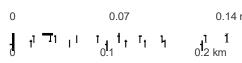
PR-RGRW-00123-Parcel



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Quadrangle: Moca



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Source

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PR-RGRW-00123 Land Cover Map

Legend



Map Details

Datasets



0.1 km (0 miles)

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

Credits: USGS National Land Cover Database 2001

Layers: • layer1

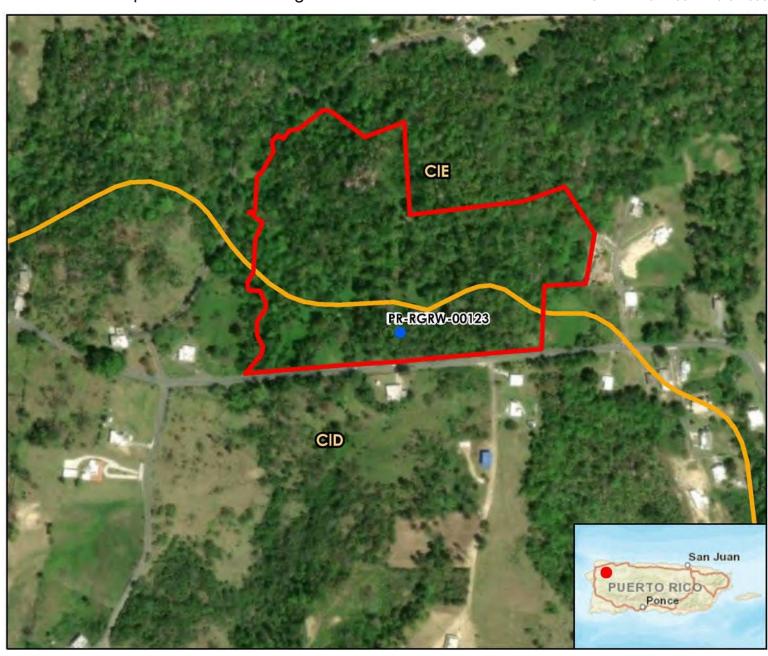
PR-RGRW-00123 THE BOSS'S FARM LLC Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II San Sebastian PR, 00685 18.387627, -67.023263 67.02°W

DATA BASIN

Soils Map

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

The Boss's Farm LLC.
Car. 445 KM 6.2,
Barrio Saltos II,
San Sebastian, PR 00685
Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263
Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000

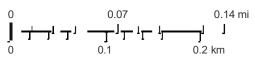


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Soil Map Unit Symbol

CID- Colinas clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes **CIE-** Colinas clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes



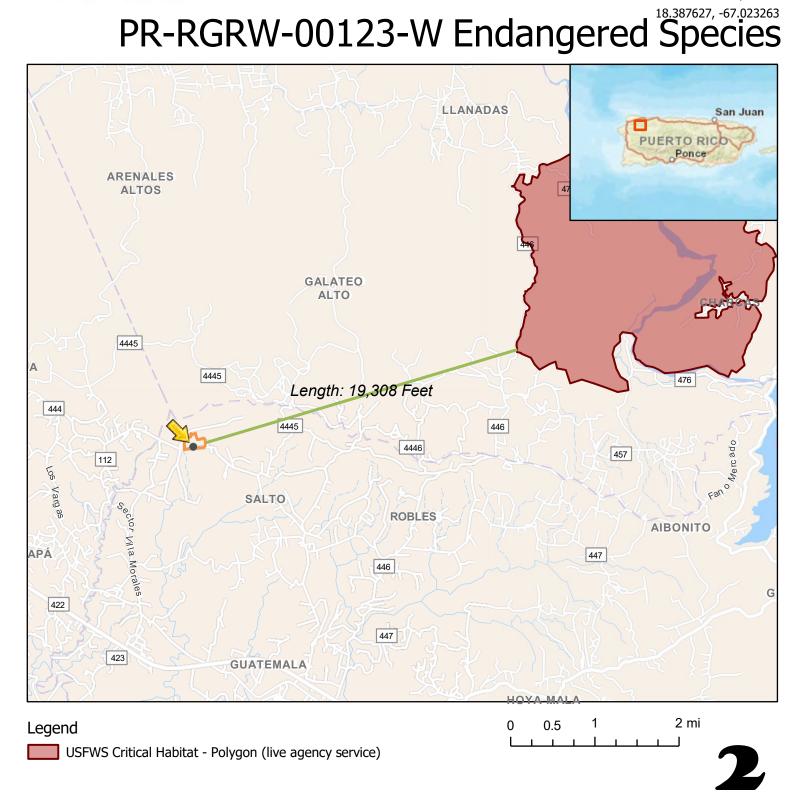
Service LayerCredits:Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Jo pan, METI. Esri Chino (Hong Kong), Esri K0<eo, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, {c) OpenStreetMop contributor.; and the GtS User Community Source: Esri, Maxor, Eorlhstar Geographies. and the GtS User Community



Source

Natural Resources Conservation service (NRCS) Gridded Soil Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO) https://dato.nal.usda.gov/dotosel/ soil-survey-geogrophic-dotobase-ssurgo

THE BOSS'S FARM LLC Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II San Sebastian PR, 00685



Endangered Species Habitat

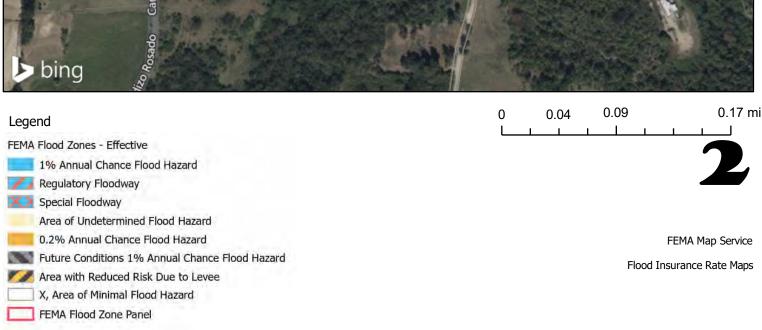
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



THE BOSS'S FARM LLC Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II San Sebastian PR, 00685 18.387627, -67.023263

PR-RGRW-00123-W FIRM

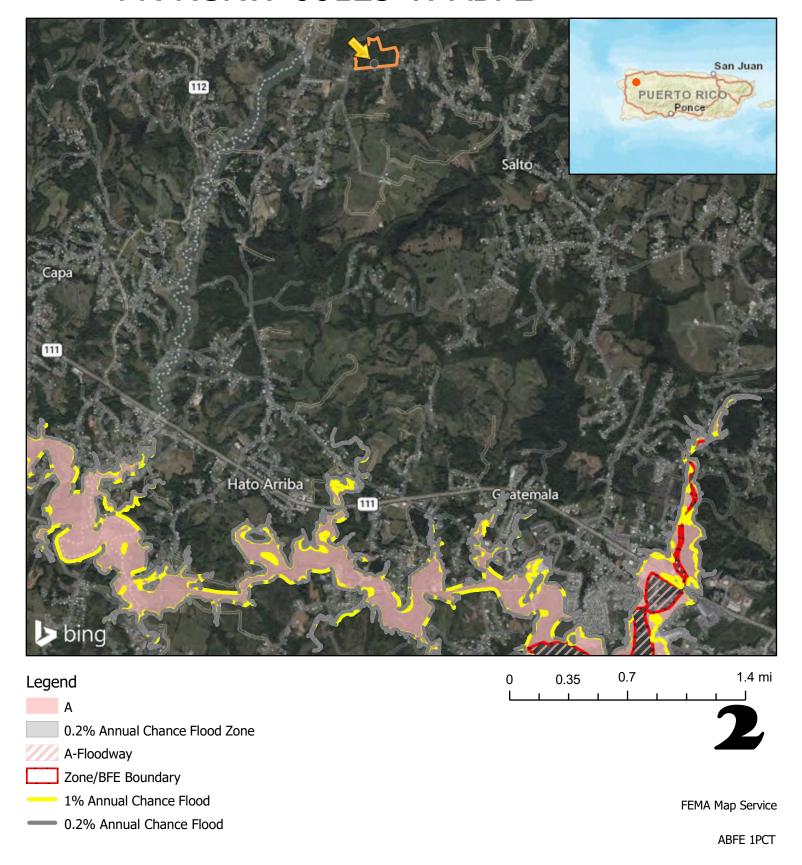






THE BOSS'S FARM LLC Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II San Sebastian PR, 00685 18.387627, -67.023263

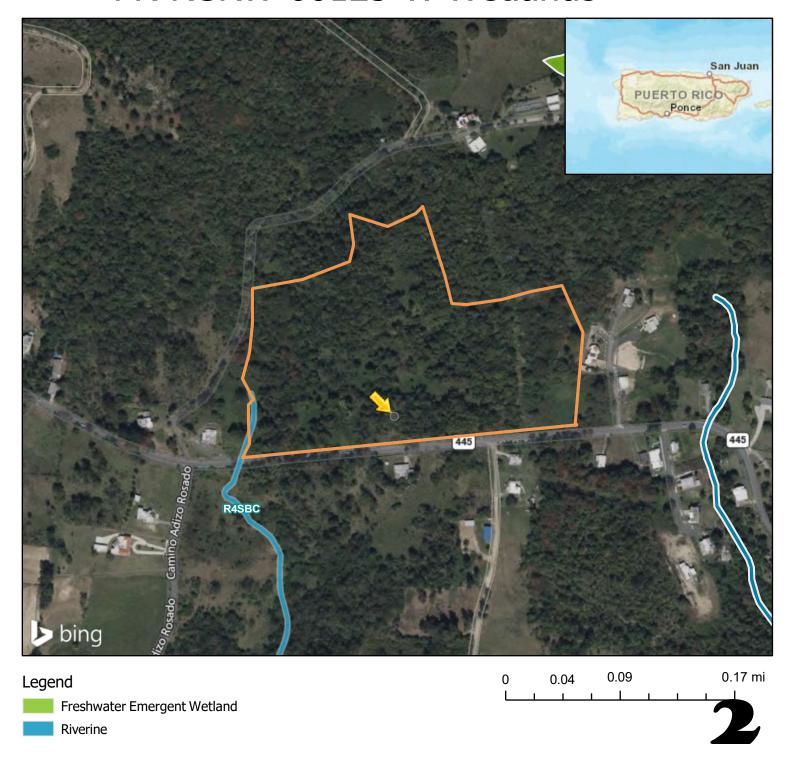
PR-RGRW-00123-W ABFE





THE BOSS'S FARM LLC Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II San Sebastian PR, 00685 18.387627, -67.023263

PR-RGRW-00123-W Wetlands



National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Appendix B:

Field Observation Report



APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

	74
Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-00123
Applicant Name:	The BOSS'S FARM LLC
Parcel ID:	071-057-245-04-000
Latitude:	18.387627
Longitude:	-67.023263
Street Address:	Carretera 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II
Municipio:	San Sebastian
Zip Code:	00685
Site Inspector:	Patricia Carmenatty
Date of Visit:	November 2, 2024
Time of Visit:	10:02
Building Type:	n/a





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FIELD OBSERVATIONS			
Question	Answer	Notes	
A. Is the structure in use?	No		
B. Is the structure a greenhouse?	No	Purchase of a land and Land conditioning	
C. Is Electricity connected? (Utilities or Well)	No		
D. Is water connected? (Utilities or Well)	No		
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		
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.	No		
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?	No		
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?	Yes		
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)?	No		
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		

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS. Field Observation Report - PR-RGRW-00123 Streetscape #1 Photo Direction: West Comments: Streetscape #2 Photo Direction: East Comments:





Photo Direction: Northwest

Photo Description:



Architectural Details 2

Photo Direction: North





Photo Direction: Northeast

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Architectural Details 4

Photo Direction: Northwest



Photo Direction: North

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Architectural Details 6

Photo Direction: Northeast



Photo Direction: West

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Architectural Details 8

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Architectural Details 9 Photo Direction: Northeast Photo Description: **Architectural Details 10** Photo Direction: North Photo Description:

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Architectural Details 12

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Architectural Details 14

Photo Direction: Northeast



Photo Direction: North

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Architectural Details 16

Photo Direction: North west





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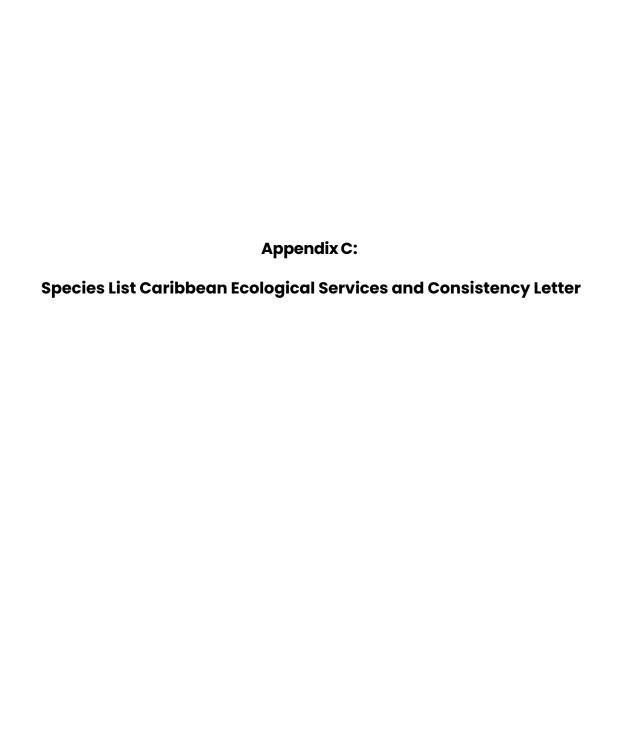
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United States Department of the Interior



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: 02/26/2025 14:29:23 UTC

Project code: 2025-0061125

Project Name: PR-RGRW-00123-W

Subject: Technical Assistance letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-00123-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 February 26, 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-00123-W'. The project is located in San Sebastián County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.38845555,-67.02291561744315,14z



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-00123-W':

The proposed project will be funded by the RGRW program. The proposed project, located at latitude 18.38763, and longitude -67.02326, includes the purchase of the land, land conditioning, plantain seeds, and an irrigation system. The only activity involving ground disturbance will be the land conditioning. The quote covers clearing the entire 16-acre plot, which includes removing vegetation and cutting certain trees to allow access to the farm. The clearing will be done carefully and without heavy machinery, as the applicant wishes to preserve the topsoil layer, which is most fertile for planting. Only trees that pose a safety risk will be removed. Selected contractors will identify vegetation for removal during a preliminary site assessment before starting the cleanup. The irrigation system will cover an area of approximately 9,000 square feet and will be installed on the above ground without anchoring. All piping related to the system will be placed above ground. The system is designed to collect rainwater and distribute it by gravity, eliminating the need for any new utility connections.

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)EndangeredMay affect

<u>Consultation with the Service is not complete.</u> Further consultation with the Caribbean Ecological Services office is required for those species with a determination of "may affect" listed above. Please contact the Caribbean Ecological Services office to discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species.

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

Action Description

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

1. Name

PR-RGRW-00123-W

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-00123-W':

The proposed project will be funded by the RGRW program. The proposed project, located at latitude 18.38763, and longitude -67.02326, includes the purchase of the land, land conditioning, plantain seeds, and an irrigation system. The only activity involving ground disturbance will be the land conditioning. The quote covers clearing the entire 16-acre plot, which includes removing vegetation and cutting certain trees to allow access to the farm. The clearing will be done carefully and without heavy machinery, as the applicant wishes to preserve the topsoil layer, which is most fertile for planting. Only trees that pose a safety risk will be removed. Selected contractors will identify vegetation for removal during a preliminary site assessment before starting the cleanup. The irrigation system will cover an area of approximately 9,000 square feet and will be installed on the above ground without anchoring. All piping related to the system will be placed above ground. The system is designed to collect rainwater and distribute it by gravity, eliminating the need for any new utility connections.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.38845555,-67.02291561744315,14z



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

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

IPaC Record Locator: 284-157915854

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

IPaC Record Locator: 284-157915854 02/26/2025 14:29:23 UTC

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

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

Yes

Project code: 2025-0061125

11. Is the project area more than 1 acre?

Yes

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

No

13. 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?

No

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

Automatically answered

Yes

02/26/2025 14:29:23 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

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development



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

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

In Reply Refer To: 02/26/2025 14:11:19 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0061125

Project Name: PR-RGRW-00123-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:

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

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: 2025-0061125

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: 2025-0061125

Project Code: 2025-0061125 Project Name: PR-RGRW-00123-W

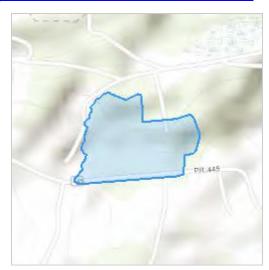
Project Type: Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural

Project Description: The proposed project will be funded by the RGRW program. The

proposed project, located at latitude 18.38763, and longitude -67.02326, includes the purchase of the land, land conditioning, plantain seeds, and an irrigation system. The only activity involving ground disturbance will be the land conditioning. The quote covers clearing the entire 16-acre plot, which includes removing vegetation and cutting certain trees to allow access to the farm. The clearing will be done carefully and without heavy machinery, as the applicant wishes to preserve the topsoil layer, which is most fertile for planting. Only trees that pose a safety risk will be removed. Selected contractors will identify vegetation for removal during a preliminary site assessment before starting the cleanup. The irrigation system will cover an area of approximately 9,000 square feet and will be installed on the above ground without anchoring. All piping related to the system will be placed above ground. The system is designed to collect rainwater and distribute it by gravity, eliminating the need for any new utility connections.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.38845555,-67.02291561744315,14z



Counties: San Sebastián County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

Project code: 2025-0061125

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

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

Project code: 2025-0061125 02/26/2025 14:11:19 UTC

REPTILES

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

Endangered

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

General project design guidelines:

 $\frac{https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/K64A3QOJTBBCHECLEOGZFQ6VVI/documents/generated/7159.pdf$

INSECTS

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly Atlantea tulita

Threatened

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

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9005

General project design guidelines:

 $\frac{https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/K64A3QOJTBBCHECLEOGZFQ6VVI/documents/generated/7168.pdf}{}$

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 ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. 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)

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

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ 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). The incidental take of migratory birds is the injury or death of birds that results from, but is not the purpose, of an activity. The Service interprets the MBTA to prohibit incidental take.

- 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

R4SBC

Project code: 2025-0061125 02/26/2025 14:11:19 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

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

Appendix D:

Species Conservation Measures

Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

Puerto Rican Boa

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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.

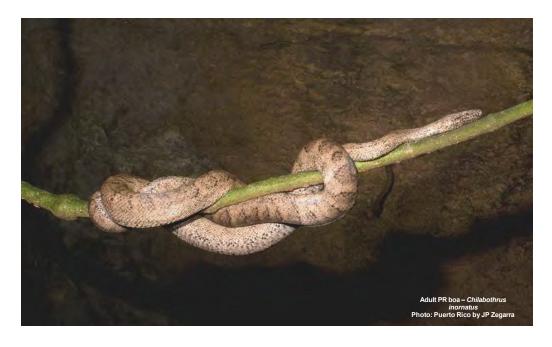


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

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



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

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (Atlantea tulita)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) mandates Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of federally listed species. Section 7 (a)(2) requires the Federal 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 federally listed species or adversely modify designated critica! habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or any other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, or destroy it eggs or any other of its life stage (caterpillars, chrysalis) is subject to penalties under the ESA. Thus, Federal Actions agencies must initiate consultation with the Service under Section 7 of the ESA for any action that could affect the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, the Federal Action agency must submit a project package to the Service with the established minimum requirements (see below). The conservation measures included below should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly. Download the project evaluations fact sheet to learn more about the requirements or visit our project evaluations webpage.



The Puerto Rican (PR) harlequin butterfly (Atlantea tulita), is a threatened species endemic to Puerto Rico, whose currently known range is limited to the Northem Karst

February 2024

physiographic region and the West-central Volcanic-serpentine physiographic region of the Island. Through this range, we have identified six areas occupied by the PR harlequin butterfly that we refer to as a populations: (1) along the coastal cliff in the municipalities oflsabela, Quebradillas, and Camuy; (2) Guajataca in the municipality oflsabela; (3) Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest between the municipalities of Arecibo and Utuado; (4) Río Encantado area along the municipalities of Arecibo, Florida and Ciales; (5) Maricao Commonwealth Forest in the municipality of Maricao; and (6) Susúa Commonwealth Forest between the municipalities of Sabana Grande and Yauco. In addition, adult PR harlequin butterflies have been anecdotally reported in other areas of Puerto Rico, including the municipalities of Aguadilla, Barceloneta, Ciales, Florida, Luquillo, Ceiba, Guánica, San Germán, Las Marias and Lares.

The PR harlequin butterfly is a medium sized butterfly with a life cycle includes four distinct anatomical stages: imago (adult), egg, larva (caterpillar, with several size phases called instars), and chrysalis. The species has a wingspan of about 5.1 to 6 centimeters (cm) (2 to 2.5 inches (in)) wide and is characterized by its orange, brownish-black and beige coloration pattems. The caterpillar (larva) is dark orange with a brownish black to black, thin sub-lateral line, over a thin line of white intermittent dots crossing the body from the head to the anal plate, and has spines with hairs on each body segment. The caterpillar is less than .476 centimeters (cm) (0.19 in) in the first instar (growth stage between molts) and about 3.3 cm (1.29 in) in the fifth instar. Both eggs and caterpillars have been found almost exclusively on the host plant prickly bush (Oplonia spinosa). The chrysalis (pupa from which the butterfly (adult, or imago) emerges) of the PR harlequin butterfly is black, with orange and white dashes, and yellow pimples. The size of chrysalis is around 3 cm (1.2 in). In the wild, the chrysalis is more often found attached to branches of plants located close to the host plant, but it has been observed attached to dried twigs of the host plant.

The **PR** harlequin butterfly is difficult to detect, and the species is easily misidentified with other common butterflies such as the monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus portoricensis), Antillean crescent (Antillea pelops), and Gulf fritillary (Agraulis vanilla insularis). The PR harlequin butterfly adults seem to be more active in the moming, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, when they are often observed flying searching for food or patrolling their territory for mating or laying eggs. The species flies slowly and is weak and fragile; thus, it is considered a poor disperser. There is information that this butterfly can disperse up to 1,026 meters (m) (3366.1 feet (ft)), approximately 1 kilometer (km) (0.6 mile (mi)) from one breeding site to another. The species seems to have specific ecological requirements for reproduction and its dispersion.

The PR harlequin butterfly was federally listed as threatened on January 3, 2023 (87 FR 73655), due to threats related to habitat modification and loss, its small populations size, and because of analyses of projected effects on the species resulting from relevant factors like increment of urban development rate and climate changes, which may negatively influence the continued existence of the species in the foreseeable future.

The Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the PR harlequin butterfly and its

February 2024

habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional recommendations can be made besides the ones presented in this document.

- 1. All project construction personnel must be informed about the potential presence of the PR harlequin butterfly or its occupied host plant, prickly bush (Oplonia spinosa), in the project areas and the need to avoid harming the species and its occupied host plant. All personnel will be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing species protected under the Endangered Species Act. Educational material (e.g., posters, flyers, or signs with photos or illustrations of all the life stages of the PR harlequin butterfly (i.e., eggs, caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult) as well as its host plant, should be prepared and available to all personnel for reference.
- 2. Before starting any project activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement, the boundaries of the work area in the field clearly delineate to avoid unnecessary habitat impacts. Once the project areas are clearly marked, and before any work activity, including site preparation, personnel with knowledge and ability to identify the **PR** harlequin butterfly (all life stages) and the prickly bush must survey the areas where the work will be performed for the presence of the species and its host plant. It is important to note that the PR harlequin butterfly can be observed year-round in all its life stages; thus, oviposition (egg-laying) may occur at any time during the year.
- 3. If the prickly bush is present on the project site, try to avoid cutting it off, even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalis are present.
- 4. If there is no prickly bush within the project area, and the butterfly is observed flying within the project area, do not harass, harm, pursue, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct, the species.
- 5. Adult butterflies are often observed flying near the host plant as part of their mating behavior and laying eggs. Project-related activities must stop if the prickle bush is found in the project area and the PR harlequin butterfly is observed flying in that same area where the plan is located. A temporary 50-meter (164 feet) buffer zone of no activity or human disturbance should be established and clearly marked around that prickly bush until the butterfly moves out on its own.
- 6. Once the PR harlequin butterfly has moved away, within a period of 24 to 36 hours, a search of the prickly bush that has been buffered should be conducted to determine the presence of eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids of the butterfly on the plant. The contractor or the Applicant should send a report of the observation and its findings to caribbean_es@fws.gov after the 36-hour search is concluded.
- 7. If, after the initial search or after the 24 to 36-hour search, any life stage of the PR harlequin butterfly is found in the prickly bush, take the following actions:
 - o Clearly mark the host plant with flagging tape.

February 2024

- o Establish a 10-meter (32-foot) buffer zone around the bush to protect it.
- o Eggs are typically found on the prickly bush's newly grown, tender branches. Once an egg hatches, the caterpillar moves and feeds throughout the plant. Therefore, avoid cutting offthe prickly bush within the project site even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
- o Work within the 1O-meter buffered area may resume when no signs of any live life stage of the butterfly are detected, which usually takes approximately 60 to 120 days.
- 8. For all PR harlequin butterfly sightings (all life stages), the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where the butterfly was found must be recorded. Data should also include a photo of the butterfly (if possible) and the habitat where it was observed, site GPS coordinates, and comments on how the butterfly was detected and its behavior. All PR harlequin butterfly sighting reports should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office at caribbean es@fws.gov.
- 9. For questions regarding the PR harlequin butterfly, the Point of Contact is:
 - José Cruz-Burgos, Threatened and Endangered Species Program Coordinator:

o Mobile: 305-304-1386

o Office phone: 786-244-0081

o Office Direct Line: 939-320-3120

o Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov

Appendix E:

Literature Cited

Literature Cited:

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

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

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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.



DEPARTAMENTO DE LA VIVIENDA PROGRAMA RENACER AGRÍCOLA DE PUERTO RICO – AGRICULTURA URBANA Y RURAL FORMULARIO SOBRE USO PREVISTO DE LOS FONDOS

Yo, Lisette Perez Amaro, representante autorizado/a para el negocio THE BOSS'S FARM LLC, con el Caso Número PR-RGRW-00123 para el Programa Renacer Agrícola de Puerto Rico – Agricultura Urbana y Rural (**Programa Renacer Agrícola**), por la presente reconozco que fondos de subvención por la suma de \$149,756.50 se usarán de conformidad con el uso de fondos descrito a continuación.

Además, reconozco que, como parte del proceso de revisión de recibos, el Formulario sobre Uso Previsto de los Fondos será comparado con los recibos recopilados para verificar el cumplimiento con la información provista en dicho formulario.

Item	Equipment Expense Type RGRW	Unmet Need	Initials
ATV	Farm Equipment (Regrow Only)	\$9,499.00	494
Banana seeds	Production Supplies (Regrow Only)	\$9,000.00	PA
Citrus trees	Production Supplies (Regrow Only)	\$4,620.00	124
Fertilizer/Pesticide	Production Supplies (Regrow Only)	\$8,937.50	- PA
Irrigation system	Farm Equipment (Regrow Only)	\$14,500.00	AR
Land	Land (Regrow Only)	\$89,000.00	-PA
Land conditioning	Farm Infrastructure (Regrow Only)	\$5,200.00	AR
Plantain seeds	Production Supplies (Regrow Only)	\$9,000.00	44

\$149,756.50

Total de Uso Previsto de los
Fondos

Además, reconozco y entiendo que:

 El incumplimiento con el uso previsto de los fondos descrito en este Formulario podría requerir el pago de los fondos a Departamento de la Vivienda. Programa CDBG-DR
Programa Renacer Agrícola de PR -Agricultura Urbana y Rural
Formulario Sobre Uso Previsto de los Fondos
Page 2 / 2

- Los fondos del Programa Renacer Agrícola solo pueden ser utilizados para actividades elegibles y
 el uso permitido de los fondos, según se establece en las Guías del Programa Renacer Agrícola.
- El Formulario sobre Uso Previsto de los Fondos será revisado por el equipo del Programa Renacer Agrícola y, si es aprobado, será el formulario oficial que se utilizará durante el proceso de revisión de los recibos.

Lisette Perez Amaro	J.R. As	10/08/2024
Nombre	Firma	Fecha



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Lauren B Poche

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

SHPO-CF-12-12-24-09 PR-RGRW-00123 (San Sebastian), The Boss's Farm LLC.

Dear Ms. Poche,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/ MB







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



December 12, 2024

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

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

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-00123 – The Boss's Farm LLC. – Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastian Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected*

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, HORNE is providing information for your review and requesting your concurrence regarding the above-referenced projects on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH). On February 9, 2018, an allocation of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds 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 The Boss's Farm LLC located at Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II, in the municipality of San Sebastian. The undertaking for this project includes the purchase of the land, land conditioning, plantain seeds, and an irrigation system. The only activity involving ground disturbance will be the land conditioning. The quote covers clearing the entire 16-acre plot, which includes removing vegetation and cutting certain trees to allow access to the farm. The clearing will be done carefully and without heavy machinery, as the applicant wishes to preserve the topsoil layer, which is most fertile for planting. Only trees that pose a safety risk will be removed. Selected contractors will identify vegetation for removal during a preliminary



site assessment before starting the cleanup. The irrigation system will cover an area of approximately 9,000 square feet and will be installed on the above ground without anchoring. All piping related to the system will be placed above ground. The system is designed to collect rainwater and distribute it by gravity, eliminating the need for any new utility connections. Based on the submitted documentation, the Program requests a concurrence that a finding of **no historic properties affected** is appropriate for this proposed project.

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

Kindest regards,

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager

LBP/JLE

Attachments

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

Applicant: The Boss's Farm LLC.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123

City: San Sebastián

Project Location: Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastian PR, 00685

Project Coordinates: 18.387627 -67.023263

TPID (Número de Catastro): 071-057-245-04-000

Type of Undertaking:

☐ Substantial Repair/Improvements

Construction Date (AH est.): n/a | Property Size (acres): 16.5

SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jaqueline López Meléndez

Date Reviewed: November 5, 2024

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

Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-00123 consist of the purchase of the land, land conditioning, plantain seeds, and an irrigation system. The only activity involving ground disturbance will be the land conditioning. The quote covers clearing the entire 16-acre plot, which includes removing vegetation and cutting certain trees to allow access to the farm. The clearing will be done carefully and without heavy machinery, as the applicant wishes to preserve the topsoil layer, which is most fertile for planting. Only trees that pose a safety risk will be removed. Selected contractors will identify vegetation for removal during a preliminary site assessment before starting the cleanup. The irrigation system will cover an area of approximately 9,000 square feet and will be installed on the above ground without anchoring. All piping related to the system will be placed above ground. The system is designed to collect rainwater and distribute it by gravity, eliminating the need for any new utility connections. The project area is located at Bo. Saltos II, Carretera 445 Km. 6.2 within the Municipality of San Sebastián. Based on a review of historical aerial imagery, the general use of the area has remained agricultural for more than 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 APE for this project is the location of the land clearing which is 16 acres plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123	City: San Sebastián
Applicant: The Boss's Farm LLC.	' '
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	

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 Finca Monte Sol (ICP: SS-18), located 1.70 miles southeast. The proposed project is located on mountainous site in San Sebastian at an altitude of 541 to 722 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area is within mapped soil series: Colinas clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes (CIE) and Colinas clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes (CID). The nearest body of water is an unnamed creek located 0.01 miles (0.01 kilometer) west of the project area.

Within the 0.50 miles radius there was one (1) archaeological survey, with negative results.

In the project area we have two types of soils: Colinas clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes (CIE) and Colinas clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes (CID). CIE soils is on side slopes and ridgetops of limestone hills. This soil is not suited to cultivated crops. The slope, runoff, and past erosion, the hazard of further erosion, and the shallowness to soft limestone are severe limitations. CID soil is on foot slopes and side slopes of low rounded limestone hills. This soil is not suited to cultivated crops. Slope, past erosion, hazard of further erosion, and shallowness to soft limestone are severe limitations.

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 project actions will not affect historic properties that compose the Area of Potential Effect. 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 within a 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-00123 is located. The closest freshwater body located 0.01 miles west 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 project 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: The Boss's Farm LLC.	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123	City: San Sebastián

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123	City: San Sebastián
Recommendation (Please keep on same page as SHPO Staff Secti	on)
The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the Puerto Ric following determination is appropriate for the undertaking (Choose	
No Historic Properties Affected □ □ □ □ □ □ □	
□ No Adverse Effect	
□ Adverse Effect	
This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff	Only
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed and:	-
 □ Concurs with the information provided. □ Does not concur with the information provided. 	

	ana.	
	□ Concurs with the information provided.	
	□ Does not concur with the information provided.	
	Comments:	
Ì	Carlos Rubio-Cancela	Date:
	State Historic Preservation Officer	Dale.

Applicant: The Boss's Farm LLC.	
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123

Project Coordinates: 18.387627 -67.023263

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
Ethel V. Schlafer	IA-IB/ Mejoras a la infraestructura de agua potable mediante el hincado de pozo en el barrio Salto	2000	SHPO: 10- 14-98-01	Negative	0.43 mi southeast



Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián

Project (PR-RGRW-00123) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

Area of Potential Effect

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-00123

The Boss's Farm LLC. Car. 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastián, PR 00685 Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263 Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000



Legend:

PR-RGRW-00123

Land Conditioning

Irrigation-System

Area of Potential Effect (15 Mts.)

PR-RGRW-00123-Parcel

CRIM Parcels 2018

0 0.07 0.14 mi 0 0.1 0.2 km

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Korg), Esri Korea, Esri (Thoirand), NGCC. (c) Openstraedtmap contributors, and the GIS User Community Source: Esri, Maxim, Esri Installation, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth



Source

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



Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián

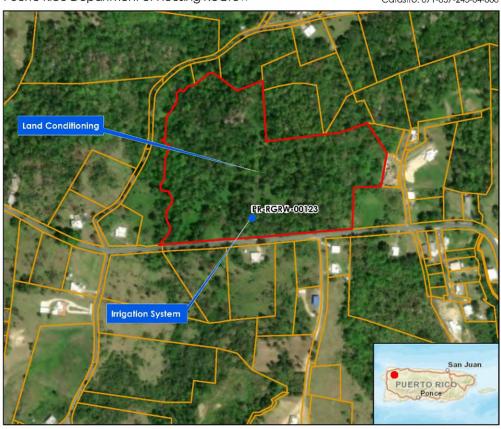
Project (PR-RGRW-00123) Location - Aerial Map



Location: Aerial MapPuerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

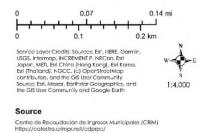
Application ID: PR-RGRW-00123

The Boss's Farm LLC. Car. 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastián, PR 00685 Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263 Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000



Legend:







Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián

Project (PR-RGRW-00123) Location - USGS Topographic Map Application ID: PR-RGRW-00123 BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS The Boss's Farm LLC. Car. 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastián, PR 00685 Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263 Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000 **Location: USGS Topographic Map**Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow Land Conditioning GRW-00123 Irrigation System PUERTO RICO Ponce Legend: PR-RGRW-00123 Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCar., Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thoi and), NGCC, (c) OpenSiteetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community PR-RGRW-00123-Parcel CRIM-PARCELAS-2018 Source Contour Interval 20 Feet Uriled States Geological Survey (USGS) National Geologic Map Database https://rgmdb.usgs.gov/rgmdb/ngmdb_home.html Quadrangle: Moca



Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián

Project (PR-RGRW-00123) Location – Soils Map



Soils MapPuerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-00123

The Boss's Farm LLC. Car. 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastián, PR 00685 Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263 Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000



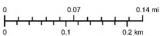
Legend:



PR-RGRW-00123-Parcel Soil Map Unit Symbol

Soil Map Unit Symbol

CID-Colinas clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes CIE- Colinas clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Erf, HERE, Garmin USGS, Informap, In CREMENT P, NRCan, Etri Japan, Mell, Est Critina (Hong Kong), Erif Korce, Est (finaland), NGCC. (c) OpenStreatMap contribution, and the GS User Community Science: Erf, Maxxe: Earlistor Geographics, and the GS User Community.



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Gridded Sol Survey Geographic Database (gSSURGO) https://datan.a.usda.gov/dataset/ soil survey-geographic database ssurgo



Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián

Project (PR-RGRW-00123) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map



Application ID: PR-RGRW-00123

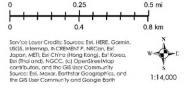
The Boss's Farm LLC. Car. 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastián, PR 00685 Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263 Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000

Previous Investigations: Aerial MapPuerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



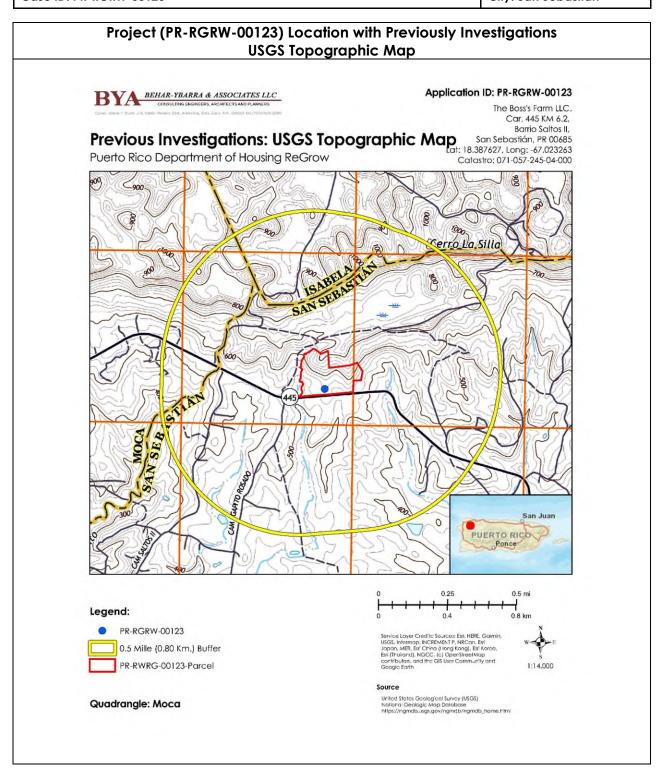








Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián





Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián

Photograph Key



Area of Potential Effect Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-00123

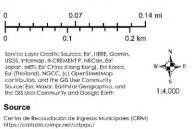
The Boss's Farm LLC. Car. 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastián, PR 00685 Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263 Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000



Legend:







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



Applicant: The Boss's Farm LLC.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián



Photo #:1

Date: November 5, 2024

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



Photo #:2

Date: November 5, 2024

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

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



Applicant: The Boss's Farm LLC.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián



Photo #:3

Date: November 5, 2024

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



Photo #:4

Date: November 5, 2024

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

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



Applicant: The Boss's Farm LLC.

Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián



Photo #:5

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

Date: November 5, 2024



Photo #:6

Date: November 5, 2024

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

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



Case ID: PR-RGRW-00123 City: San Sebastián



Photo #:7

Date: November 5, 2024

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



Photo #:8

Date: November 5, 2024

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000



MEMORANDUM FOR: Marion M. McFadden, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

for Community Planning and Development, D

THROUGH: Kera Package, Deputy Assistant Secretary

for Grant Programs, DG

FROM: Kristin Fontenot, Director, Office of Environment and Energy, DGE

SUBJECT: Puerto Rico Department of Housing - ReGrow Puerto Rico Program:

24 CFR 58.36 Waiver to Utilize the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency Adopted Categorical Exclusions Identified in

FR-6492-N-01

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to the waiver authority of §7(q) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (codified at 42 U.S.C. §3535(q)) and 24 CFR § 5.110, I hereby temporarily waive the requirement of 24 CFR § 58.36 as provided in more detail below. This temporary waiver is limited to the Puerto Rico Department of Housing's (PRDOH) agricultural activities under the ReGrow Puerto Rico Program¹ for two (2) years, effective at the execution of the waiver.

The ReGrow Puerto Rico Program is one of the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) programs supported by PRDOH. This program offers financial assistance to small and medium agricultural businesses and non-governmental organizations engaged in sustainable agricultural activities that contribute to strengthening the agricultural economy since the impacts of Hurricane Irma and Maria. As with all HUD-funded projects, the ReGrow Puerto Rico Program is subject to HUD's environmental review regulations.

Since HUD predominantly supports residential and community development activity, the proposed agricultural projects supported in the ReGrow Puerto Rico Program fall outside the listed activities in 24 CFR 58 Subpart D – Environmental Review Process: Documentation, Range of Activities, Project Aggregation and Classification. As a result, these projects, many with a minimum potential to impact the environment, must be evaluated as an Environmental Assessment (EA) and require additional time and resources to complete compared to lower levels of environmental reviews like a Categorical Exclusion (CE).

This temporary waiver issued to the PRDOH will allow the department to utilize specific CEs identified by the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA), per 7 CFR 799 Subpart D- Categorical Exclusions, and adopted by HUD in FR-6492-N-01²

¹ https://cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/re-grow-pr-urban-rural-agriculture-program/

² https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/03/2024-28293/notice-of-adoption-of-us-department-of-agriculture-farm-service-agency-categorical-exclusions

through the Section 109 process of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), enacted as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023. In total, there are eleven (11) applicable CEs adopted in FR-6492-N-01 that are consistent with ReGrow Puerto Rico's CDBG-DR funded program that can be utilized to document environmental compliance.

The \$172,500 million ReGrow Puerto Rico program contains 2,596 applications. Approximately 200 of the applications require an EA level of review under Part 58 but would be classified as one (1) of the eleven (11) adopted USDA-FSA CEs. These include such activities as minor rehabilitation of agricultural buildings and structures; fence repairs; installation of generators; new construction of agricultural structures for agricultural production and livestock; and farmland management activities. Despite their limited impact, however, they do not meet HUD's categorical exclusions at 24 CFR § 58.34 and 35, because these are not activities HUD typically supports.

Pursuant to 24 CFR § 58.36, Environmental Assessments, "If a project is not exempt or categorically excluded under § § 58.34 and 58.35, the responsible entity must prepare an EA..." To date, PRDOH has processed 106 of the 200 identified projects as an EA, with approximately 100 remaining for review. Based on the 106 reviews completed between May 2022 and April 2024, each EA has taken approximately four (4) months to complete, at an average cost of \$13,000. Based on the available data, it will take an equivalent time of two (2) years and \$1.3 million to complete the remaining 100 reviews as EAs. Through this waiver, PRDOH is permitted to utilize the adopted CEs listed in FR-6492-N-01, expediting the environmental reviews process to complete the remaining 100 projects. The use of the adopted CEs will allow PRDOH to process each review within days and at a fraction of the initial cost. This will expedite the agricultural recovery efforts and will preserve the cost savings to address additional disaster recovery efforts.

FINDINGS:

- 1. Agricultural activities as referenced above, do not meet the criteria of HUD's 24 CFR § 58.35 (a) and (b), and therefore require the completion of an environmental assessment level of review pursuant to 24 CFR § 58.36.
- 2. An environmental assessment requires additional analysis of environmental factors beyond the related laws and authorities required for a HUD categorical exclusion at 24 CFR § 58.35 (a).
- 3. Many of the CDBG-DR activities funded through the ReGrow Puerto Rico program are consistent with the USDA-FSA's categorical exclusions.
- 4. HUD consulted with the USDA-FSA and documented the consultation and their approval of the use of eleven (11) categorical exclusions.
- 5. Performing environmental assessments has an average cost of \$13,000.
- 6. HUD adopted USDA-FSA's eleven (11) categorical exclusions through publication in the Federal Register, FR-6492-N-01
- 7. Upon approval of a temporary waiver of 24 CFR § 58.36, PRDOH will be permitted to utilize the adopted CEs listed in FR-6492-N-01.

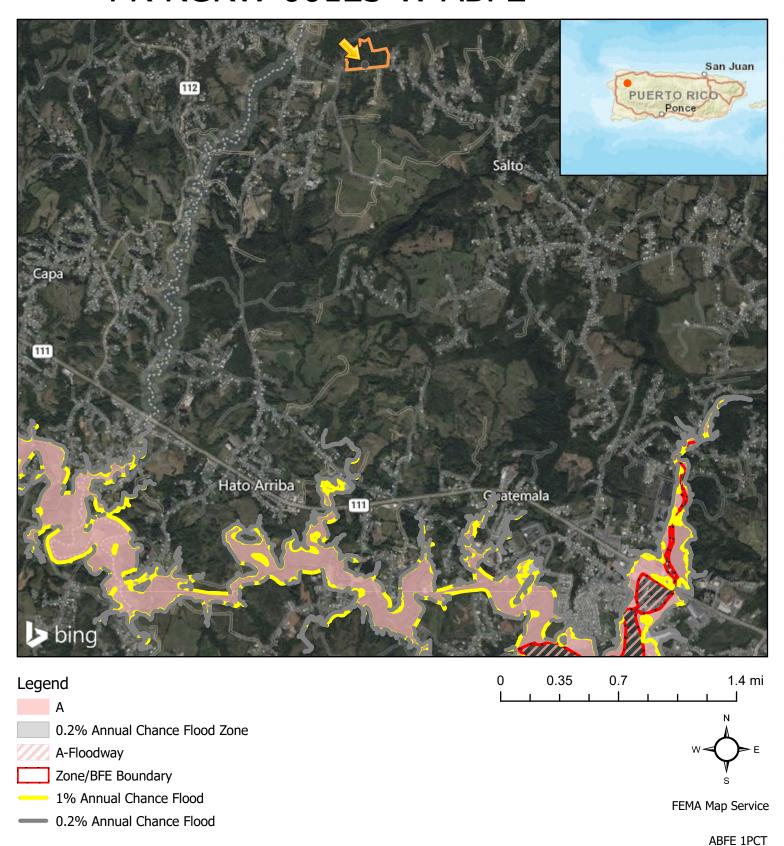
DETERMINATIONS:

- 1. To assist with the timely recovery of the agricultural community, a temporary waiver of 24 CFR § 58.36 must be granted to utilize another agency's adopted CE through the NEPA Section 109 process, enacted as part of the FRA of 2023.
- 2. The approval of this temporary waiver is consistent with HUD's objective to perform an analysis of a project's impacts to the environment or the environment's impact on the project.
- 3. Adopting the USDA-FSA's categorical exclusions, FR-6492-N-01, ensures that the environmental review will be conducted to a level appropriate to the activity and environmental impact.
- 4. Pursuant to the authority contained in 24 CFR § 5.110, the above findings constitute good cause for granting the temporary waiver of 24 CFR § 58.36.
- 5. This temporary waiver shall be effective for two (2) years, upon the date the waiver is issued.

DECISION:			
Approve	Disapprove	Date	
Comments			



PR-RGRW-00123-W ABFE





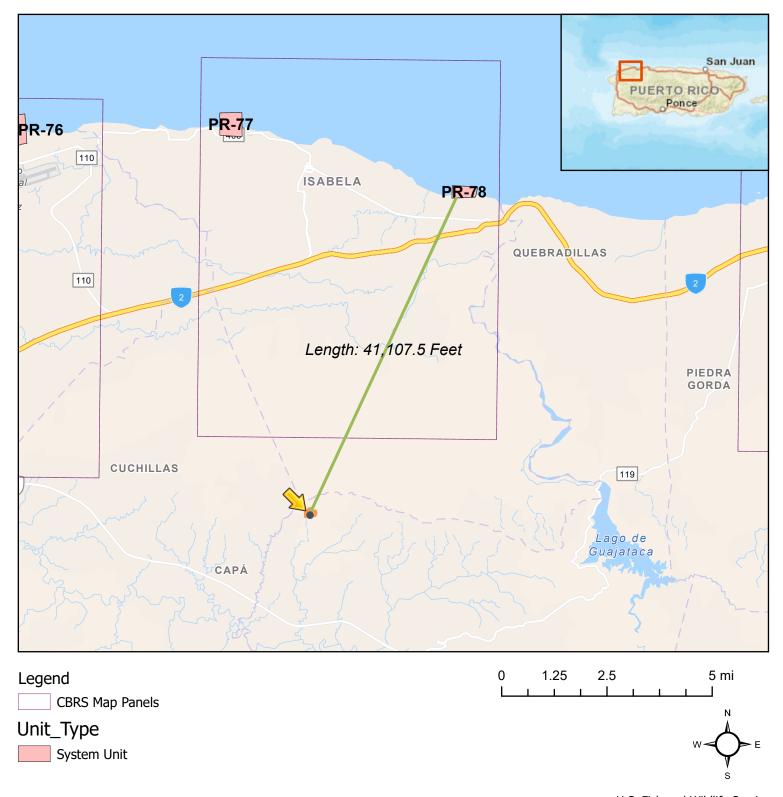
PR-RGRW-00123-W Airports



Major Civil and Military Airports



PR-RGRW-00123-W CBRS

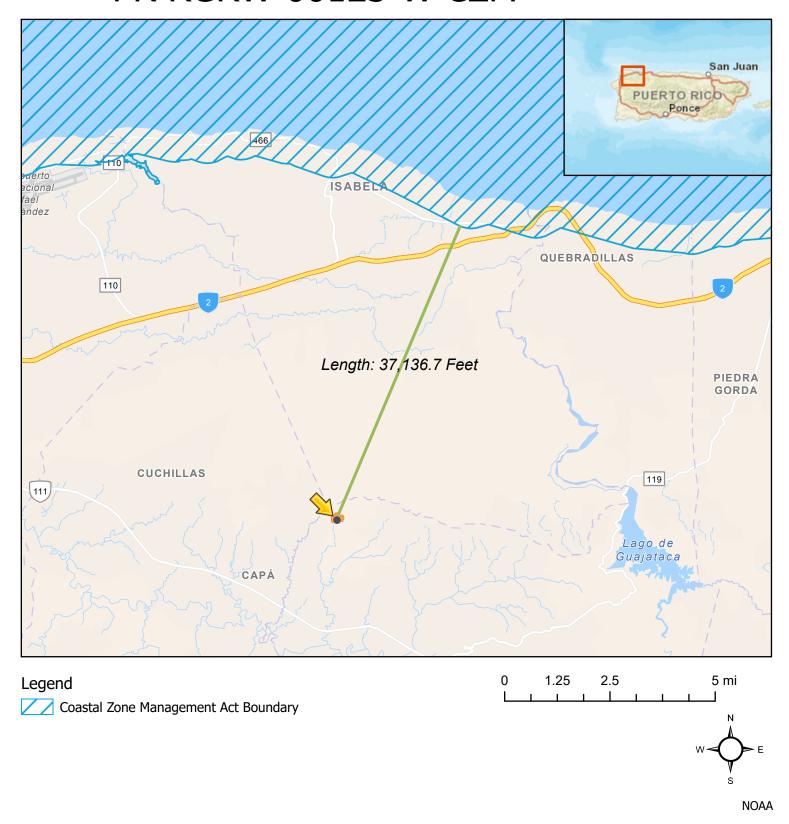


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program



PR-RGRW-00123-W CZM

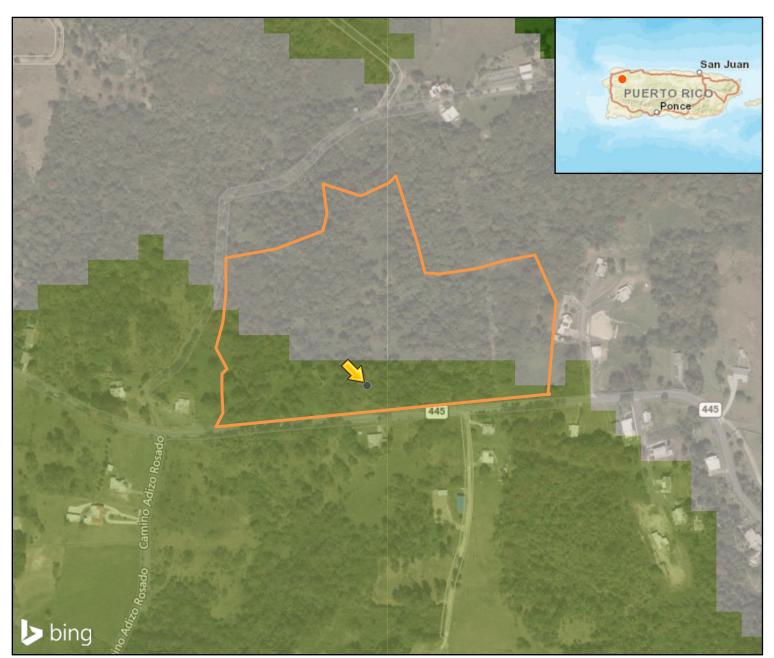


Coastal Zone Management Act



THE BOSS'S FARM LLC Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II San Sebastian PR, 00685 18.387627, -67.023263

PR-RGRW-00123-W Farmlands



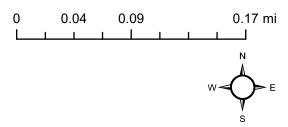


ClassName

Prime Farmland

Farmland of Statewide Importance

Not Prime Farmland



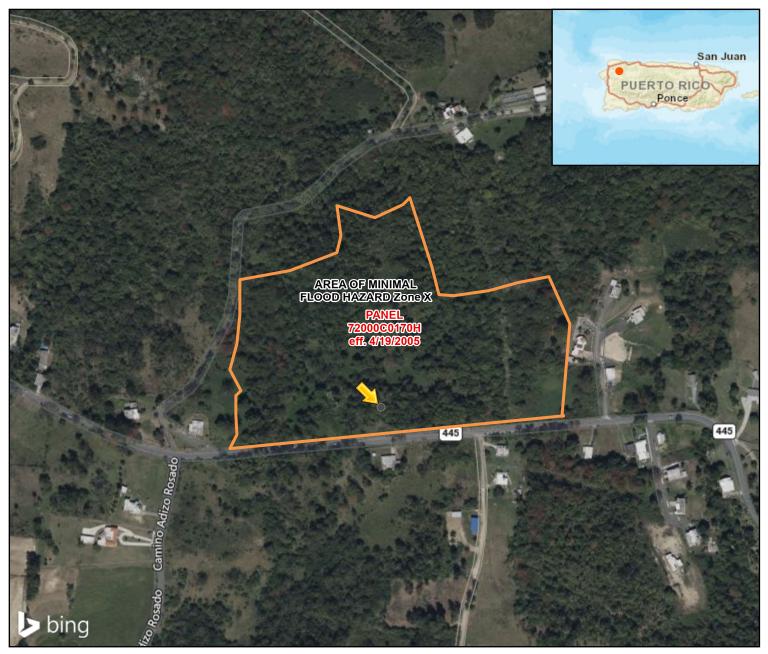
USGS USA Soils

Farmland dataset



THE BOSS'S FARM LLC Carr. 445 Km. 6.2 Barrio Saltos II San Sebastian PR, 00685 18.387627, -67.023263

PR-RGRW-00123-W FIRM





FEMA Flood Zone Panel



Location: Aerial MapPuerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

The Boss's Farm LLC. Car. 445 KM 6.2, Barrio Saltos II, San Sebastián, PR 00685 Lat: 18.387627, Long: -67.023263 Catastro: 071-057-245-04-000



Legend:



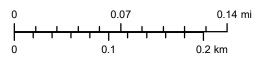
PR-RGRW-00123



PR-RGRW-00123-Parcel



CRIM-PARCELAS-2018



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 Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth



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Source

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

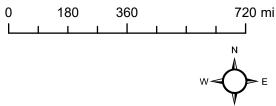


PR-RGRW-00123-W Sole Source Aquifers



Legend

Sole Source Aquifers - EPA August 2019

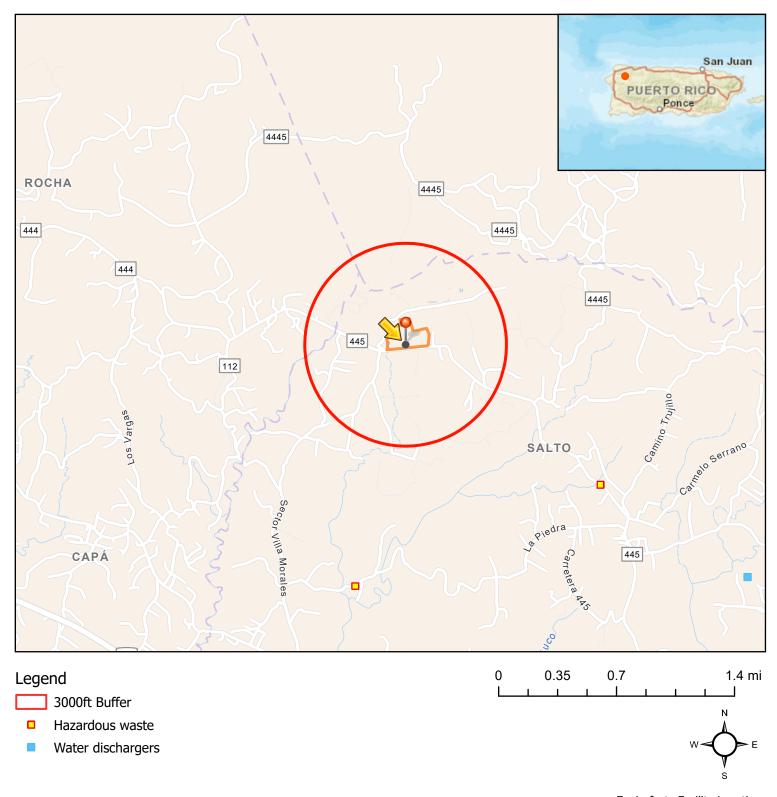


Sole Source Aquifers

EPA



PR-RGRW-00123-W Toxics

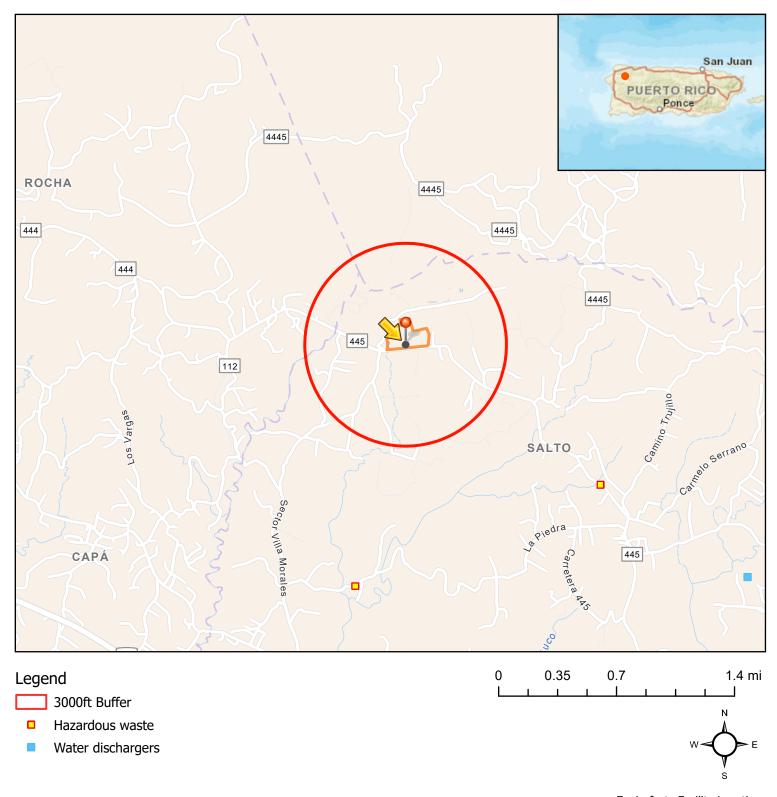


Envirofacts Facility Locations

EPA

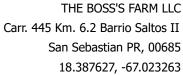


PR-RGRW-00123-W Toxics



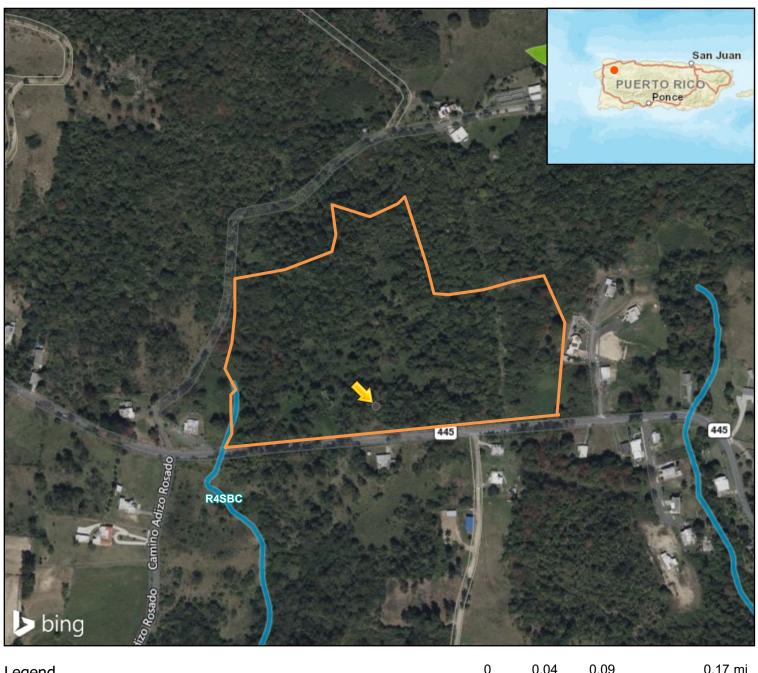
Envirofacts Facility Locations

EPA





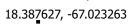
PR-RGRW-00123-W Wetlands





National Wetlands Inventory

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





PR-RGRW-00123-W Wild and Scenic



National Wild and Scenic River System

National Park Service