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

Project Information

Project ID: PR-RGRW-01548

Project Name: GREEN DROP PR, LLC

Responsible Entity: Puerto Rico Department of Housing

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

State/Local Identifier: Puerto Rico / Añasco, PR

Preparer: Patricia Carmenatty

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Permit and Environmental Compliance Officers: Sally Acevedo Cosme, Pedro de León Rodriguez, María T. Torres Bregon, Ivelisse Lorenzo, Ángel Gabriel Lopez Guzmán, Janette Cambrelen, Santa Ramírez, Limary Vélez Marrero,

Juan Carlos Perez Bofill and Mónica M. Machuca Ríos.

Consultant: Behar Ybarra & Associates LLC

Direct Comments to: Puerto Rico Department of Housing:

(environmentcdba@vivienda.pr.gov)

Project Location:

Carr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba, Añasco, PR 00610

Farm in the city module location: latitude 18.260295 longitude -67.09269

Parcel cadastral: 182-066-208-04-000

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01548, consist of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest. The container will be used for protected cultivation, a process of growing crops in a controlled environment (where factors such as light, CO2, temperature/humidity, and airflow are regulated) and includes cultivation in vertical farming and greenhouses where environmental factors are tightly controlled. Because CEA grows cops indoors, it is labor-saving, allows for the reduced use of pesticides, and can be set up just about anywhere. The container will be anchored to 8 supports buried 2 feet deep. The little water needed (5 gallons of water

daily) for the cultivation will be provided by an existing PRASA intake in the property. The power needed to operate the module will come from a PREPA connection that is already installed waiting for the connection. Since the system recycle the water, every 3 months the system must be cleaned disposing an approximately 50 gallon of water that could be used for irrigation. No sewer connection is required for any discharge from the module. The project area is located at PR-430 km. 5.7 within the Municipality of Añasco.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined as the area potentially impacted by ground disturbing activities related to the installation of the Farm in the city module. 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 Farm in the city module plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

A site Map is included in Figure 1, illustrating the location of the Farm in the city module on the property. Photos of the location are included in Section 106 documentation, Appendix 1. Refer to Appendix 4 for Site Inspection Report.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]: The Re-Grow Puerto Rico Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (RGRW) will increase agricultural capacity while promoting and increasing food security inland wide. This Program will enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities. This agricultural project associated with the Greenery Container for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest Module is in keeping with the overall objectives of the Economic Development Program.

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

The existing area for the proposed module placement is used for agricultural purposes. The area where the module will be placed has a flat topography and the surface is covered with grass Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with these greenhouse placements.

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and	\$11,938,162,230.00
B-17-DM-72-0001	Development (CPD) /	
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Development	
B-18-DE-72-0001	Block Grant - Disaster	
	Recovery (CDBG-DR)	

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$100,000.00

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

Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

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

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND REGULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	This project consists only of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest and will have no impact on any Airports. The project is in compliance with the HUD's Airport Hazard regulations without further evaluation. The site is located 18,456 feet from the nearest major civil airport (Eugenio Maria de Hostos in Mayagüez) and 383,179 feet from nearest the military airport (Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan). See the attached Airport map Runway Protection Zone, Figure 2.
Coastal Barrier Resources 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. The project is located 42,686 feet northeast of the nearest Coastal Barrier Resource System, PR-72. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. See the attached CBRS map, Figure 3.

Flood Insurance	Yes	No	The project is located in a Zone X, Panel
Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]			72000C0540J, 11/18/2009 on the FEMA FIRM. The project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance. See attached Flood Map, Figure 4 and Figure 4.1.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS,	AND RE	GULATI	ONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes	No 🔀	This project consists of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest for an agricultural site and is not located in a nonattainment municipality of Puerto Rico (Arecibo, Bayamón, Cataño, Guaynabo, Salinas, San Juan, Toa Baja). The installation and operation of this project will have no impact and is in compliance with the Clean Air Act without further evaluation. See attached published list of Puerto Rico Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for each country by year for all criteria pollutants in Appendix 2.
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes	No	The project is located 24,046 feet from the nearest Coastal Zone Management area and does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is a new construction. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. See the attached CZMA map, Figure 5.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 58.5(i)(2)	Yes	No	This project consists of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest for an agricultural project. 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. There is no site

		of environmental concern identified within 3,000 feet from the project site. The project is in compliance with Contamination and Toxic Substances requirements. See attached Toxics Map, Figure 6.
Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	The project could involve any activity that has an adverse effect on protected species or critical habitats. After reviewing data from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information and Planning Consultation (IPaC) and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) database, the PR boa (Chilabothrus inornatus) and PR Harlequin butterfly (Atlantea tulita) could be found in the project area. The installation of the module will require ground disturbance; however, the scope of work includes continued agricultural use of the property with no intention to cut down trees or making major changes in the topography of the project area because the module will be installed in a space that has been cleared and maintained that way for agricultural purposes.
		Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and analysis of the IPaC lists together with field direct observations of the area where the project will be developed (the surface is mostly covered in grass and is used for agricultural purposes), the proponent has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly since its critical habitat is approximately 33,761 feet from the proposed project site. On the other hand, since the land is currently dedicated mainly to agricultural

		have No effect (NE) on the Puerto Rican boa. 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. As established by the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures Guideline. https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/guideline/design/population/156/office/41430.pdf This project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. See attached Endangered Species map, Figure 7. See attached Appendix 3 for Determination Letter and Consultation Package.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No	This project consists only of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest and does not include development, construction or rehabilitation that will increase residential density. The project is in compliance with Explosive and Flammable Hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use. All areas under the project site are farmland of statewide importance. The scope of work includes the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest, and this is a construction limited to onfarm structures needed for farm operations. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

		See the attached Farmlands map, Figure 8.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes No	The project is located in a Zone X, Panel, 72000C0540J, 11/18/2009 (Figure 4). The site is not located in a Preliminary Firm or an Advisory Base Flood Elevation special flood hazard area. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11988. See attached Flood Map (Figure 9).
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	The site was visited on September 3, 2023, by SOI-qualified archaeologist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE has been defined as the area potentially affected by ground-disturbing activities related to the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest. Documentation with photographs and maps was subsequently submitted to SHPO (attached Appendix 1). In a response from PR SHPO dated October 4, 2023, SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected within the project's Area of Potential Effects (see attached Appendix 1). The property is not considered historic or contributing to an historic district (See attached Historic map, Figure 10). Therefore, this activity is in compliance with National Historic Preservation Act.
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	This project consists only of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest for an agricultural site. The project does not include new construction for residential use or rehabilitation of an existing residential property. The site is rural in nature and there will be no impact to or from the surrounding area from a noise perspective. The Project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulations.

Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No	There are no EPA sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act without further evaluation.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No	There is an unnamed creek 232 feet from where the module will be installed, but according to the scope of work it is outside the area of potential effect. Therefore, no wetland will be affected by the project undertaking. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. See the attached Wetlands map, Figure 11.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The project is located 451,907 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. See Map, Figure 12.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes No	Based on the scope of work for this project, there will be no additional impact on low-income or minority residents. This proposed activity will not have a negative impact on Environmental Justice. Therefore, the proposed activity complies with this section.

Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of

approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.**

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

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

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation		
LAND DEVELOPA	MENT			
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The proposed action is continued agricultural use of property which is compatible with a zoning code of N-C (Non-Rated) and existing land use is SREP-H (Specially Protected Rustic Land - Hydric) There is no urban design associated with this rural, agricultural site.		
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	The soil is currently being used for agriculture purposes. There is no change in land use since the land will continue to be used to agriculture purposes. The soil in the project area has been classified as Consumo clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes (CoE). The Consumo series consists of well drained, very steep soils on side slopes and narrow ridges of the strongly dissected humid uplands. The landslide data indicates moderate to high landslide susceptibility. However, no erosion is expected to occur from this project. The project will not affect the drainage in the area. There will be little to no additional runoff associated with the project. See Landslide Susceptibility Map, Figure 13.		
Hazards and Nuisances	2	There are no specific environmental hazards that have been identified for this site. The site is not in a high Noise Level area, nor will the project generate any additional		

including Site Safety and Noise		noise. Additionally, the project does not include housing or such to where inhabitants would be affected.
Energy Consumption	2	The project is the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest on an existing agricultural farm. The power needed to operate the module will come from a PREPA intake that is already installed waiting for the connection.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONON	AIC .	
Employment and Income Patterns	2	The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on Employment and Income Patterns. However, since the project will include an economic component, it may aid in restoring some employment opportunities and income patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The proposed project will not alter the demographic characteristics of Añasco, PR. The applicant is already located at this location and the project will provide opportunities for the continuous agricultural growth of the business.
Environmental Justice	2	 In the project area within a one-mile radius: The people of color are 100% compared to PR average of 96% 92% of the people are low income compared to PR average of 70% 32% of the people are unemployed compared to PR average of 15% The proposed activities for the installation of the module will have a positive impact on creating jobs for local people. Therefore, the proposed activity complies with this section. See EJScreen Report in Appendix 4.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
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COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES			
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project consists of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest for an agricultural site and will have no impact on educational and cultural facilities.	
Commercial Facilities	2	The proposed project may aid in restoring the demand for local commercial services; however, not to the point of putting undue pressure on commercial facilities.	
Health Care and Social Services	2	The project consists of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Health Care and Social Services.	
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The proposed project will have no impact on Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling services. The products and by-products are agricultural, and any waste would be biodegradable. The remaining construction solid waste materials would be collected for transport to the local landfill.	
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	The installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest is not expected to result in any changes in wastewater or sanitary sewer generation. The proposed project will have no impact on Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers.	
Water Supply	2	The proposed project will not require an additional water supply. No new municipal connections will be provided for potable water. The little water needed (5 gallons of water daily) for the cultivation will be provided by an existing PRASA intake in the property. The proposed project will have no impact on the water supply.	
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The project consists of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest for an agricultural site and will have no impact on Public Safety.	
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The proposed project will have no impact on Parks, Open Space and Recreation. The property being used is agricultural and it will continue as agricultural use.	

Transportation and Accessibility	0	The project consists of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest for an agricultural site and will have no impact
		on transportation and accessibility.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES	,	
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources		The proposed project will be situated on previous agriculture property and will have no impact to unique natural features or water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The proposed project will occur on land previously used for agricultural purposes and will continue in that capacity. There may be wildlife attracted to the module container but no negative impact on wildlife.
Climate Change	2	The Re-Grow Program proposed project aims to increase resiliency in the agricultural industry to prepare for future climate related disasters. The project will not contribute to climate change and will provide a minor net benefit by allowing for increased food production.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by): September 3, 2023, Jaqueline Lopez, SOl-Qualified Archaeologist

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

FAA, National Plan for Integrated Airport Systems: www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/npias/reports/NPIAS-Report-2017-2021-Appendix-B-Part6.pdf

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

National Park Service, National Registry of Natural Landmarks. www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/docs/NNLRegistry.pdf

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wild and Scenic Rivers – correspondence to Agency on

October 16, 2018

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

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

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

Sierra Research for Office of Mobile Sources. US Environmental Protection Agency. Report No. SR93-03-02, Evaluation of Methodologies to Estimate Nonroad Mobile Source Usage, March 19, 1993: http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=9100UR51.txt

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

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

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/reports/species-listed-by-state-report?state=PR&status=listed

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

Puerto Rico Planning Board, Communication regarding Floodplain Management, November 29, 2018.

US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory: www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html (compilation of numerous maps)

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Antilles Section, Communication regarding Wetlands Management, November 13, 2018.

Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program Plan, September 2009.

Puerto Rico Planning Board, Communication regarding Coastal Zone Management, November 16, 2018 (No response).

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

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office. E-mail communication regarding October 23, 2018 letter on Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitats.

NOAA Fisheries / National Marine Fisheries Service, NEPA Coordinator Southeast Regional Office. Communication on October 16, 2018 regarding designated critical habitat. (No response).

US Geological Survey, Data Release of May Showing Concentration of Landslides Caused by Hurricane Maria, https://doi:10.5066/F7JD4VRF

List of Permits Obtained: None required.

Public Outreach [24 CFR 58.43]: Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the agricultural community. This project will include a FONSI/NOI-RROF in compliance with NEPA regulations for HUD.

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]: In accordance with 24 CFR 58.32 (Aggregation), there are no cumulative impacts associated with the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest for an agricultural site.

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

The Regrow Program purpose is to enhance and expand agricultural production related to economic revitalization and sustainable development activities while promoting and increasing food security island wide. The "Alternative" action would mean that the applicant would consider other locations for the new Farm in the City module. However, other locations may result in tree clearing prior to construction and/or need to fill in some steep area. Any option that requires going off-site would not contribute to the improvement and growth of agricultural production or enable economic development for this applicant.

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

The 'No-Action' alternative would mean that the applicant would not receive federal funding to provide for the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest for an agricultural site which would inhibit the economic growth opportunity that the applicant would not otherwise have under the PRDOH Re-Grow Puerto Rico program. As a result, these owners may not be able to experience the growth needed to recover and expand their agriculture activities. A provision of the grant allows for economic development for businesses. The No-Action alternative would not allow for the economic development for this applicant.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions: The proposed activity has been found to not have any adverse effects on the environmental nor is there the requirement for further consultation with any agency. There are no environmental review topics addressed that result in the need for formal compliance steps or the requirement for mitigation.

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

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

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	The USFWS determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly since its critical habitat is approximately 33,761 feet from the proposed project site. On the other hand, since the land is currently dedicated mainly to agricultural purposes, the proponent has determined that the proposed project actions will have No effect (NE) on the Puerto Rican boa.
	If a Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly or a PR boa is found, follow the conservation measures recommended by the USFWS in the Consultation Package (See Appendix 4).

Determination:						
$oxed{\boxtimes}$ Finding of	No Significant Im	pact [24 CFR	58.40(g)(1); 4	10 CFR 1	508.27]	
The project v environm	vill not result in a ent.	a significant	impact on	the qu	ality of the	human
☐ Finding of	Significant Impac	:t [24 CFR 58.4	10(g)(2); 40 C	FR 1508	.27]	
The project mo	ay significantly affo	ect the qualit	y of the hum	an envi	ronment.	
Preparer Signatu	vre:	PS		_Date:	12/22/2023	_
Name/Title/Orgo & Associates LLC	anization: <u>Patricia</u>	Carmenatty	/ Environmer	<u>ntal Spe</u>	cialist/ Beha	<u>r Ybarra</u>
Certifying Office	r Signature:	enta O. Ran	ive lebror	Date	e: <u>January 9,</u> 2	024
Name/Title: Sant	a D. Ramírez Lebrón	/ Permits and Er	nvironmental Co	ompliance	e Specialist	

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



Figures



Application ID: PR-RGRW-01548

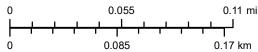
Green Drop PR, LLC Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba Añasco, PR, 00610 Catastro: 182-066-208-04-000 Lat: 18.260295, Lon: -67.09269

Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Legend





Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community and Google Earth



Source

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



Figure 2 PR-RGRW-01548 Airport

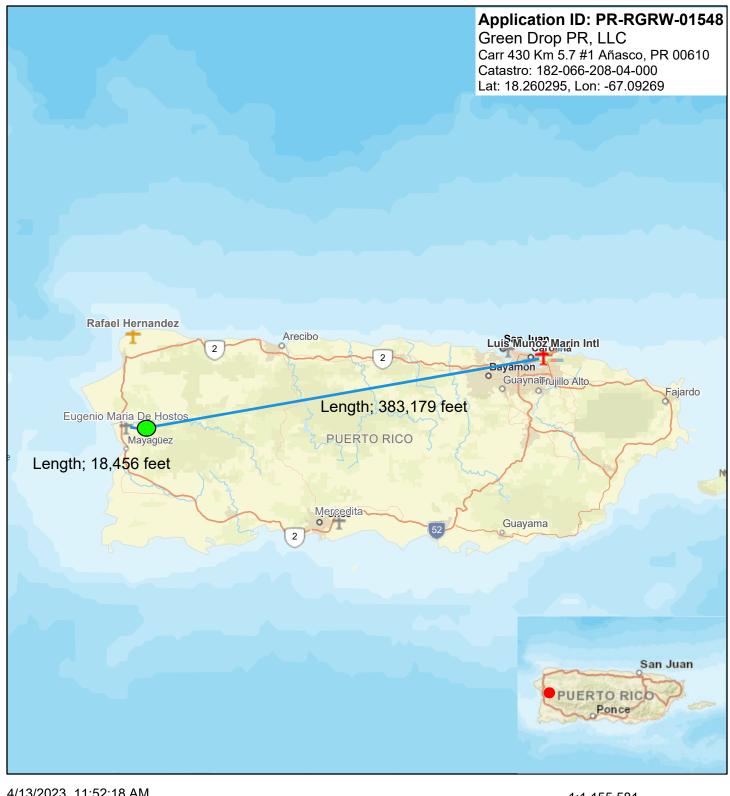
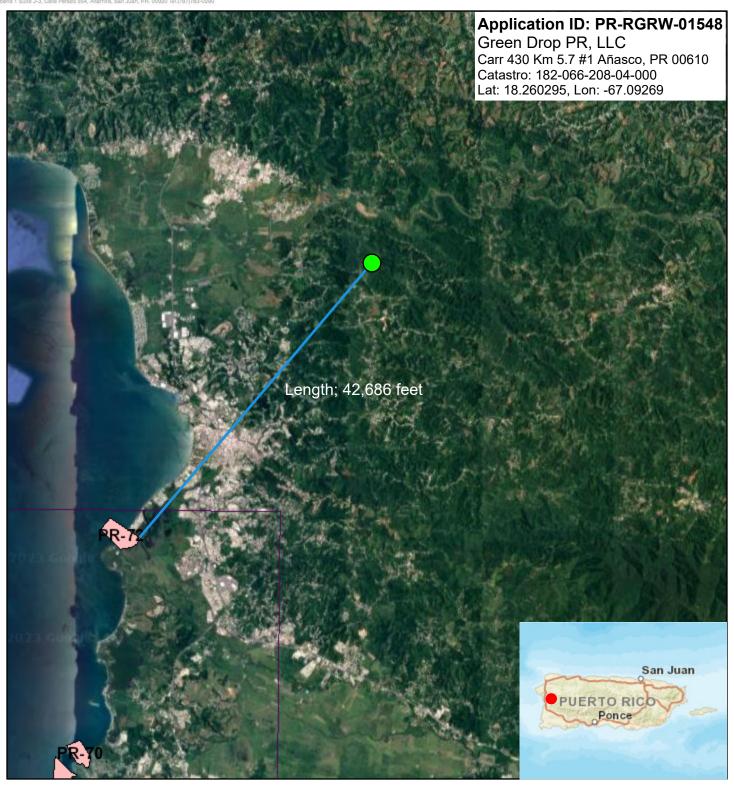






Figure 3 PR-RGRW-01548 CBRS





☐ CBRS Map Panels

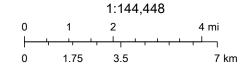
CBRS Units

Otherwise Protected Area

System Unit

PR-RGRW-01548





Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette Figure 4

250

500

1.000

1.500

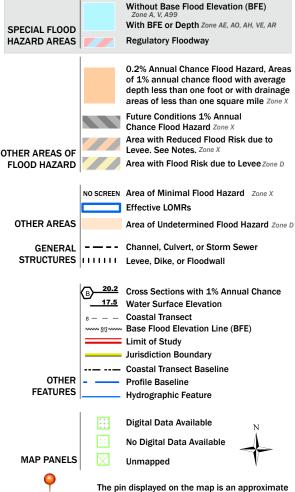




2,000

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT



This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

point selected by the user and does not represent

an authoritative property location.

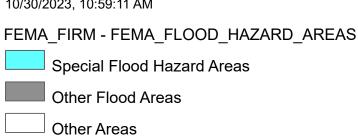
The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 8/23/2023 at 1:09 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



Figure 4.1 PR-RGRW-01548 Flood Hazard





PR-RGRW-01548

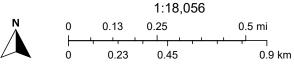


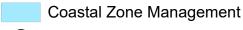




Figure 5 PR-RGRW-01548 CZM

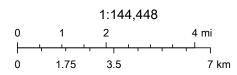


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PR-RGRW-01548



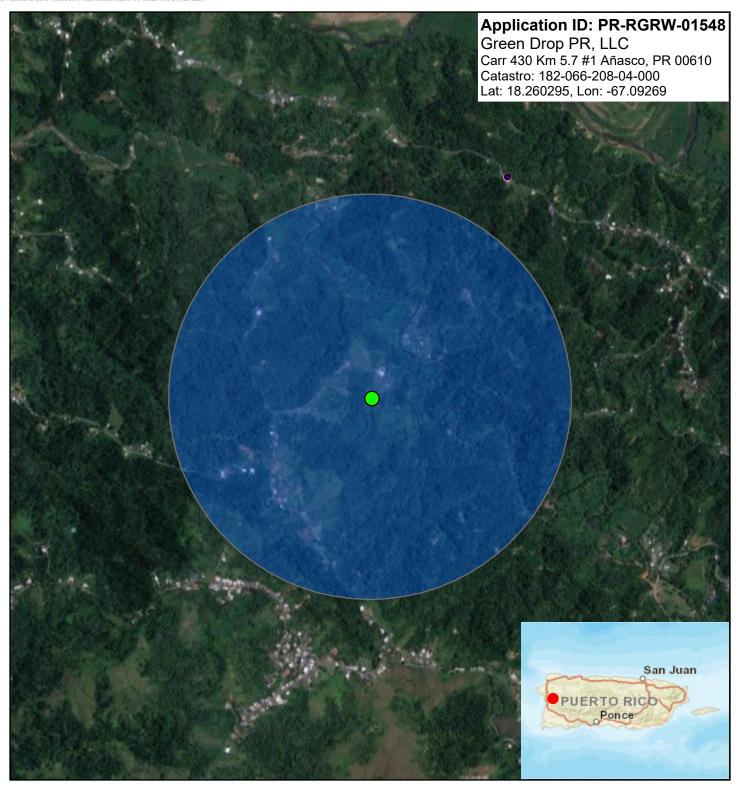


Source

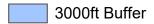
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NOAA Office for Coastal Management (NOAA/OCM) https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/53132



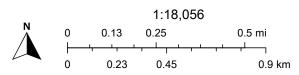
Figure 6 PR-RGRW-01548 Toxic



8/23/2023, 1:22:29 PM



- PR-RGRW-01548
- FACILITY INTERESTS
- ICIS



Source

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Facility Registry Service (FRS) https://www.epa.gov/frs



Figure 7 PR-RGRW-01548 Endangered Species



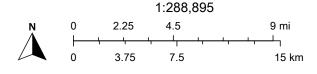
4/13/2023, 4:55:34 PM

Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species

Proposed

USFWS Critical Habitat - Final

PR-RGRW-01548



Source

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/



Figure 8 PR-RGRW-01548 Farmland

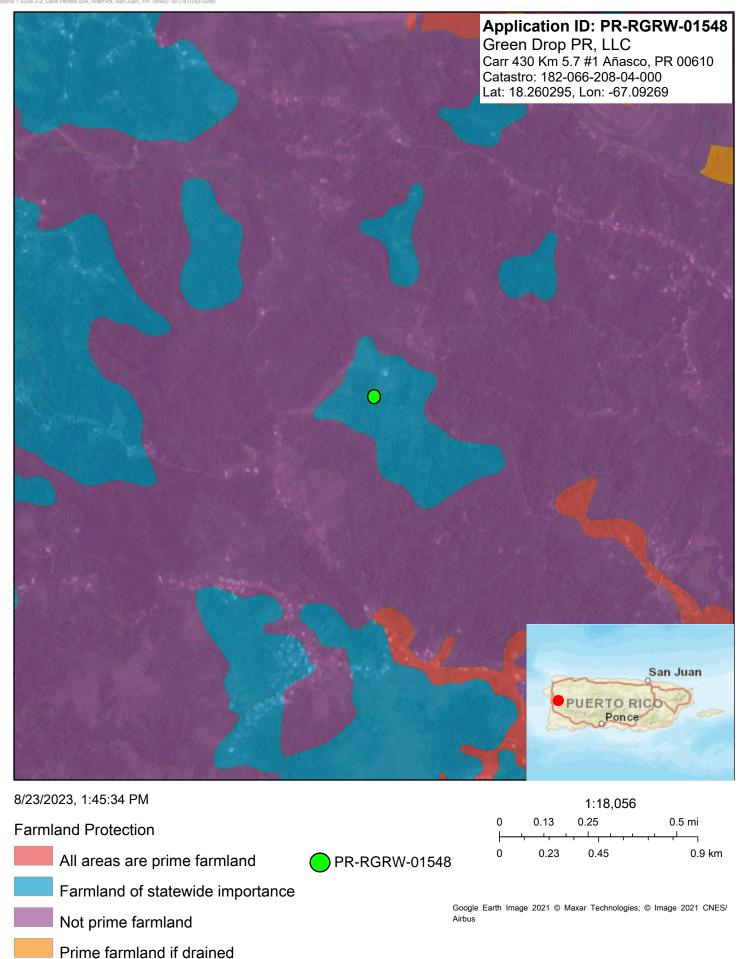
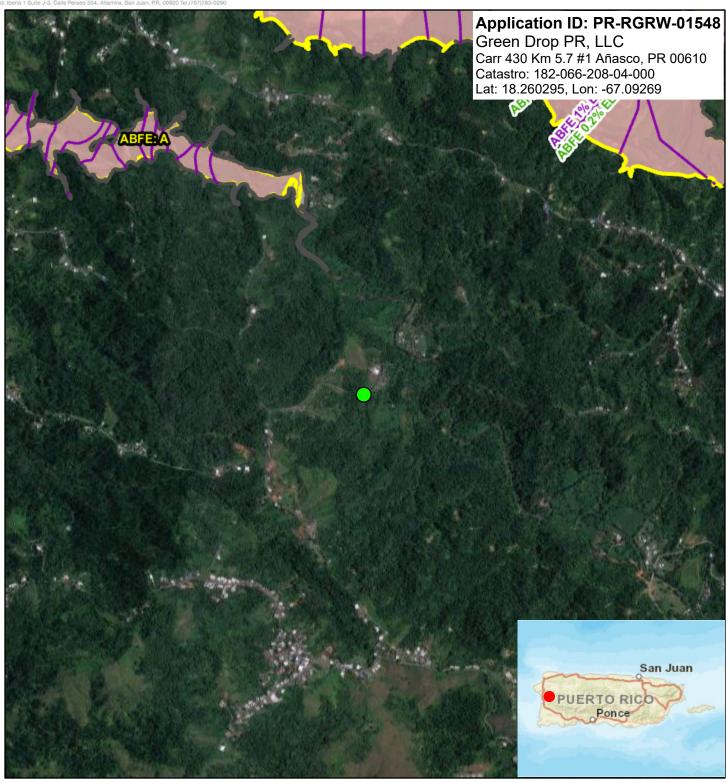




Figure 9 PR-RGRW-01548 ABFE





Flood Hazard Zone

Α

X 0.2% Annual Chance Flood

Zone/BFE Boundary

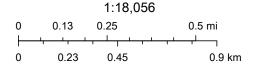
Flood Hazard Extent

1% Annual Chance Flood

____ 0.2% Annual Chance Flood





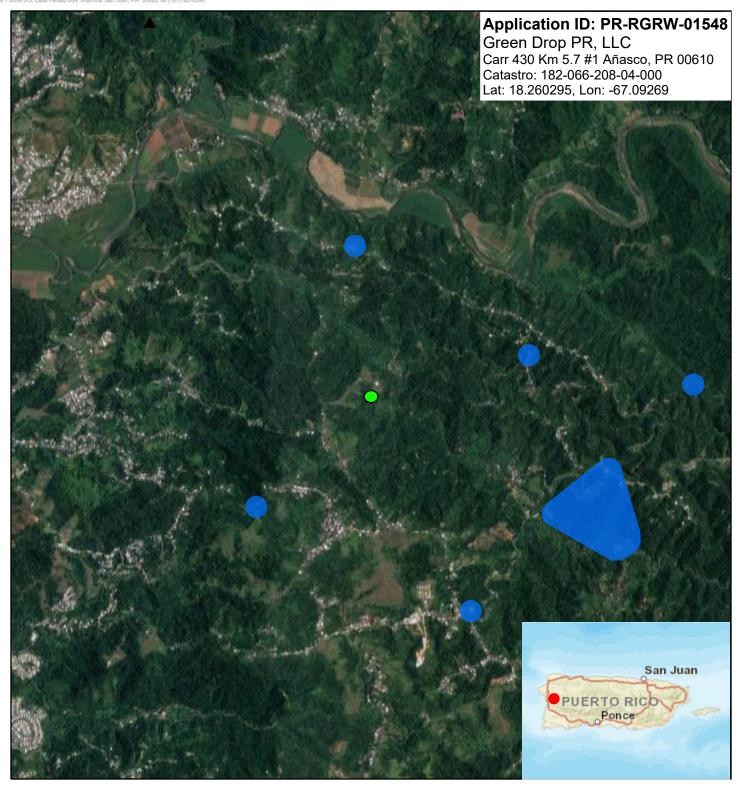


Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer



Figure 10 PR-RGRW-01548 Historic Preservation

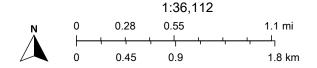


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Cultural_Resourses - Archeological Resourses

PR-RGRW-01548

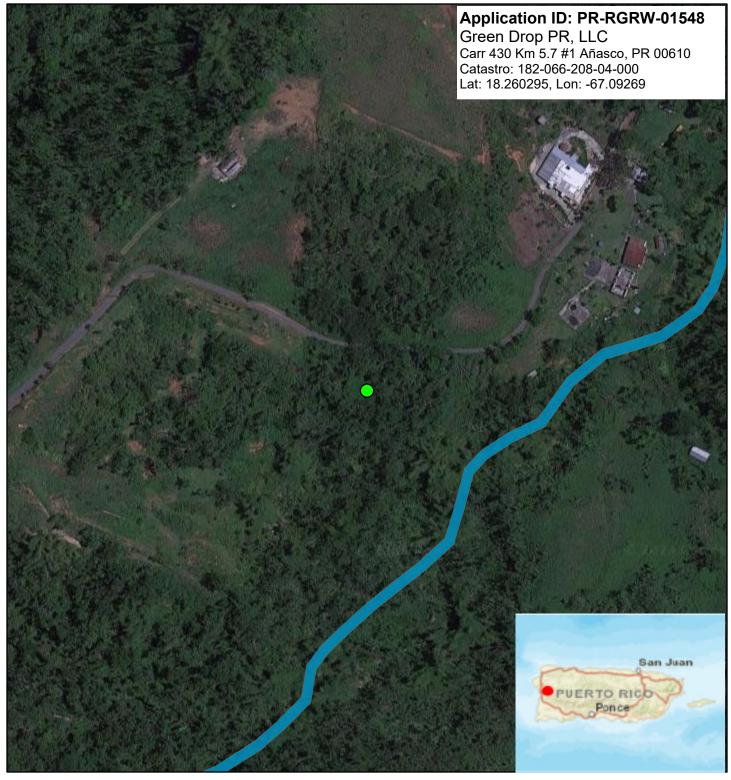


Source

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



Figure 11 PR-RGRW-01548 Wetland



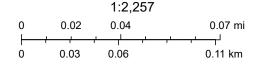
10/30/2023, 9:42:23 AM

WETLANDS - National Wetlands Inventory









Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): National Wetlands Inventory https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory



Figure 12 PR-RGRW-01548 Wild and Scenic River



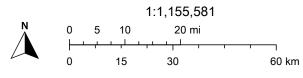
4/13/2023, 1:25:02 PM



National Wild and Scenic River Line



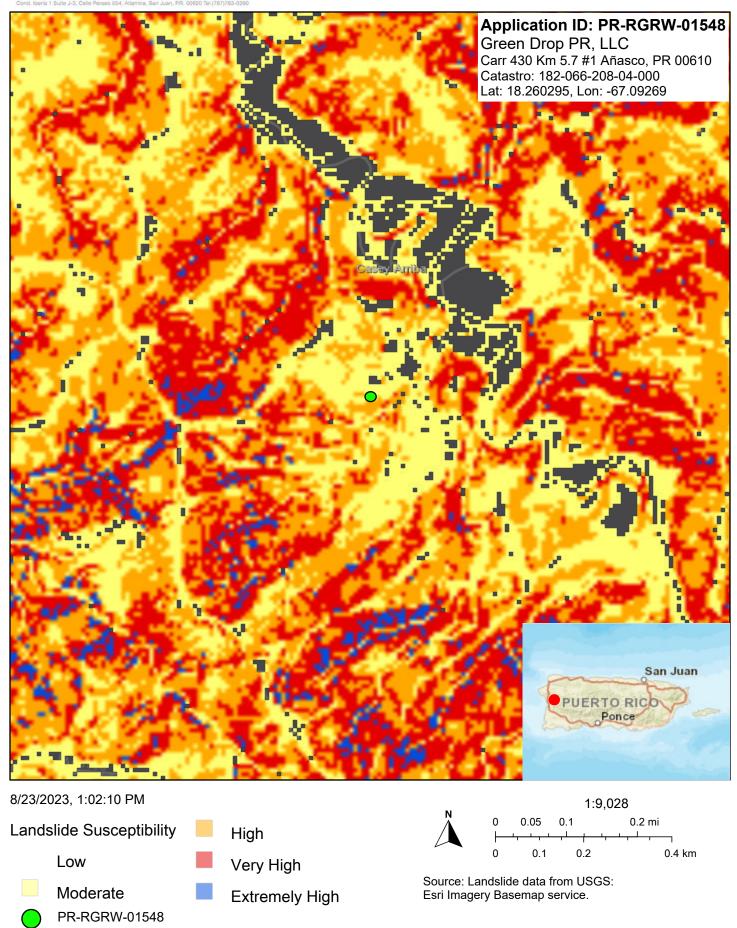
PR-RGRW-01548



Source

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Wild and Scenic Rivers System https://www.rivers.gov/mapping-gis.php

Figure 13 **Landslide**





Appendix 1



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

October 4, 2023

Lauren Bair Poche

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

SHPO 09-27-23-07 SECTION 106 NHPA EFFECT DETERMINATION SUBMITTAL: PR-RGRW-01548- GREEN DROP PR, LLC - CARRETERA 430 KM 5.7 #1, BARRIO CASEY ARRIBA, AÑASCO, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Bair,

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,

Cárlos A. Rubio-Cancela

State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/MB





September 27, 2023

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-01548 – Green Drop PR, LLC – Carr 430 Km 5.7 #1, Bo. Casey Arriba, Añasco, Puerto Rico – No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

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

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, HORNE is submitting documentation for activities proposed by Green Drop PR, LLC at Carr 430 Km 5.7 #1 in Bo. Casey Arriba in the municipality of Añasco. The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01548 consist of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest. The container will be used for protected cultivation, a process of growing crops in a controlled environment (where factors such as light, CO2, temperature/humidity, and airflow are regulated) and includes cultivation in vertical farming and greenhouses where environmental factors are tightly controlled. Because CEA grows crops indoors, it is labor-saving, allows for the reduced use of pesticides, and can be set up just about anywhere. The container will be anchored to 8 supports buried 2 feet deep. The little water needed (5 gallons of water daily) for the cultivation will be provided by an existing PRASA intake in the property. The power needed to operate the module will come from a PREPA connection that is installed waiting for the connection.



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,

James B. Pocke

Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Senior Manager

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Applicant: Green Drop PR, LLC	. ,
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548	City: Añasco

	<u> </u>			
Project Location: Carr. 430 Km. 5.7 #1 Bo. Casey Arriba, Añasco, PR 00610				
Project Coordinates: 18.260295, -67.09269				
TPID (Número de Catastro): 182-066-208-04-000				
Type of Undertaking:				
□ Substantial Repair/Improvements				
Construction Date (AH est.): n/a Property Size (acres): 11.8				

SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Jaqueline López Meléndez
Date Reviewed: September 3, 2023

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

Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01548, consist of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest. The container will be used for protected cultivation, a process of growing crops in a controlled environment (where factors such as light, CO2, temperature/humidity, and airflow are regulated) and includes cultivation in vertical farming and greenhouses where environmental factors are tightly controlled. Because CEA grows cops indoors, it is labor-saving, allows for the reduced use of pesticides, and can be set up just about anywhere. The container will be anchored to 8 supports buried 2 feet deep. The little water needed (5 gallons of water daily) for the cultivation will be provided by an existing PRASA intake in the property. The power needed to operate the module will come from a PREPA connection that is installed waiting for the connection. Since the system recycle the water, every 3 months the system must be cleaned disposing an approximately 50 gallon of water that could be used for irrigation. No sewer connection is required for any discharge from the module. The project area is located at PR-430 km. 5.7 within the Municipality of Añasco.

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 farm in the city module plus a 15-meter buffer and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Green Drop PR, LLC	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548	City: Añasco

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, archaeological materials of significant cultural properties within a half-mile (0.50 miles) radius of the project location. The closest reported archaeological site to the PR-RGRW-01548 project area is Hacienda Alicia (ICP: MY-66) located 0.81 miles southwest. The proposed project is located in Añasco, at an elevation of 246 feet above sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area is within mapped soil series: Consumo. The project area APE is in CoE. The nearest bodies of water are: two unnamed creeks, one 0.08 miles east and the other 0.21 miles southeast, and the Casey River located 0.22 miles northeast. The west coast is approximately 5.90 miles west from the project area.

Within 0.50 miles radius of the project area no archaeological surveys have been conducted.

The project area does not have cultural resources that are listed either on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or in a Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. On September 2, 2023, we visually inspected the project area. The area where the module will be placed has a flat topography and the surface is covered with grass.

The soil in the project area has been classified as Consumo clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes (CoE). The Consumo series consists of well drained, very steep soils on side slopes and narrow ridges of the strongly dissected humid uplands.

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

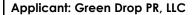
The project area does not have cultural resources that are listed either on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or in a Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. On September 2, 2023, we visually inspected the project area. No cultural remains can be observed on the surface of the parcel.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM	
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM	GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	
Applicant: Green Drop PR, LLC	•
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548	City: Añasco

Determination

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-01548 is located. The construction of public roads and agricultural infrastructure has minimally impacted the surrounding terrain. Therefore, no historic cultural properties will be affected by this reconstruction project.

Recommendation (Please keep on same page as SHPO S	staff Section)
The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the following determination is appropriate for the undertaking	
□ No Adverse Effect	
Condition (if applicable):	
☐ Adverse Effect	
Proposed Resolution (if appliable)	
This Section is to be Completed by SH	IPO Staff Only
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has rand:	eviewed the above information
☐ Concurs with the information provided.	
□ Does not concur with the information provided.	
Comments:	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela	Data
State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548



City: Añasco

Project (PR-RGRW-01548) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)

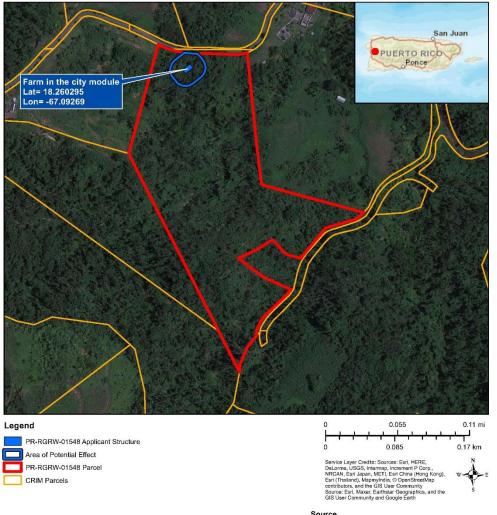


Area of Potential Effect

Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01548

Green Drop PR, LLC Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba Añasco, PR, 00610 Catastro: 182-066-208-04-000 Lat: 18.260295, Lon: -67.09269



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



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548 City: Añasco

Project (PR-RGRW-01548) Location - Aerial Map

BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC

Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01548

Green Drop PR, LLC Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba Añasco, PR, 00610 Catastro: 182-066-208-04-000 Lat: 18.260295, Lon: -67.09269





Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548 City: Añasco

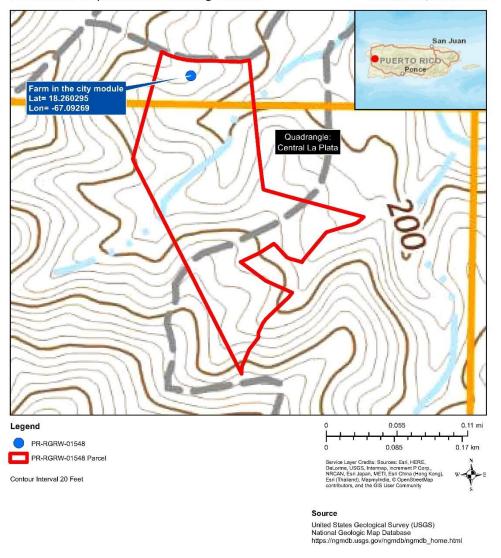
Project (PR-RGRW-01548) Location - USGS Topographic Map

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

Location: USGS Topographic Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01548

Green Drop PR, LLC Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba Añasco, PR, 00610 Catastro: 182-066-208-04-000 Lat: 18.260295, Lon: -67.09269





Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination

Applicant: Green Drop PR, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548

City: Añasco

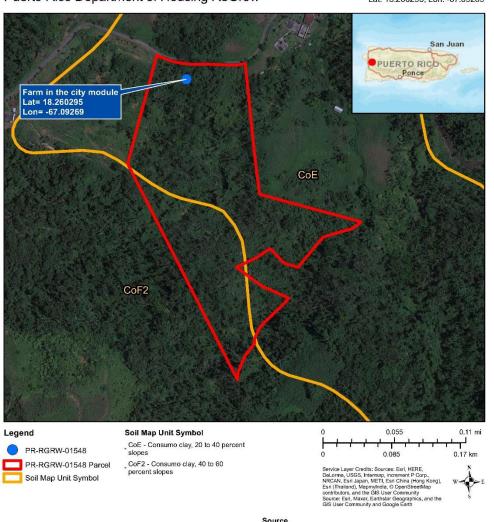
Project (PR-RGRW-01548) Location – Soils Map



Soils Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01548

Green Drop PR, LLC Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba Añasco, PR, 00610 Catastro: 182-066-208-04-000 Lat: 18.260295, Lon: -67.09269



Source

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



Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548 City: Añasco

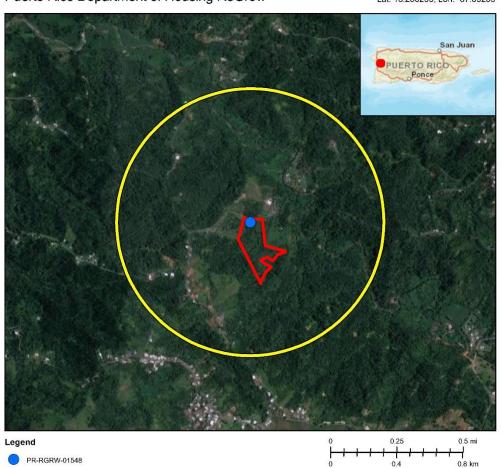
Project (PR-RGRW-01548) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map



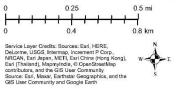
Previous Investigations: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01548

Green Drop PR, LLC Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba Añasco, PR, 00610 Catastro: 182-066-208-04-000 Lat: 18.260295, Lon: -67.09269





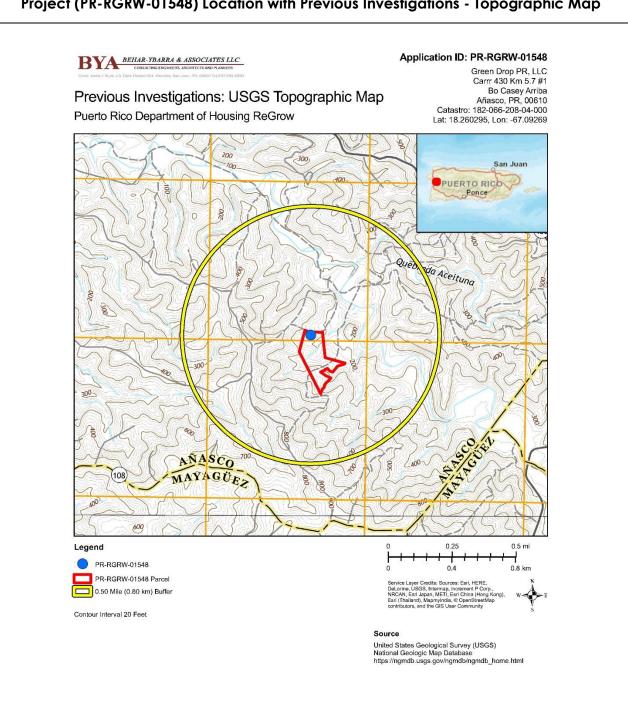


Source



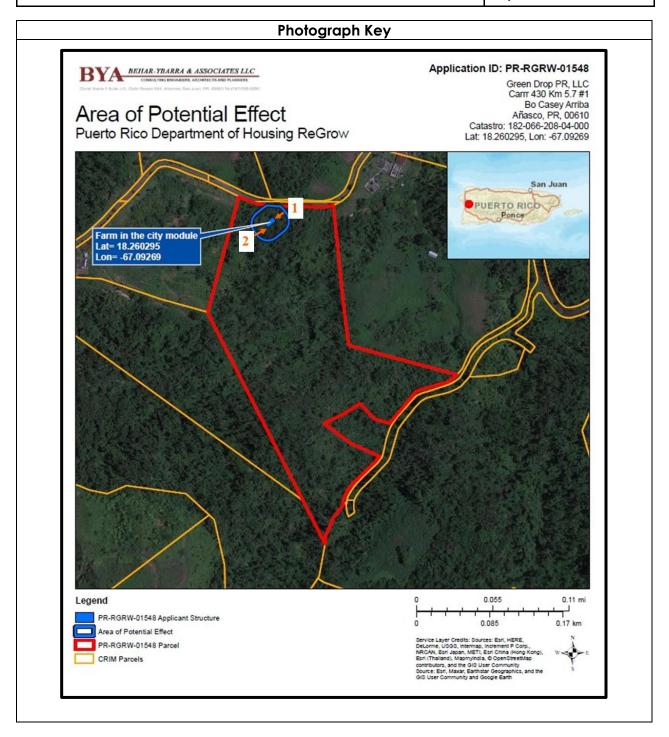
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548 City: Añasco

Project (PR-RGRW-01548) Location with Previous Investigations - Topographic Map





Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548 City: Añasco



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



Applicant: Green Drop PR, LLC

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01548 City: Añasco



Photo #: 1

Date: September 2, 2023

Description (include direction): General area where the module will be installed, looking southwest.



Photo #: 2

Date: September 2,2023

Description (include direction): General area where the module will be installed, looking northeast.



October 20, 2022

Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

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

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela:

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

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

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

Cordially,

Juan C Pérez Bofill, P.E. M.Eng Director of Disaster Recovery CDBG DR-MIT



Appendix 2



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

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

Data is current as of March 31, 2023

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

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

Change the State:	
PUERTO RICO 🕶	GO

Important	Notes		Download	National Datas	et: dbf xls	Data	dictionary	(PDF)
	NAAQS	Area Name	Nonattainment in Year	Redesignation to Maintenance	Classification	Whole or/ Part County	Population (2010)	State/ County FIPS Codes
PUERTO	RICO							
Municipio	(2008)	Arecibo, PR	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	//		Part	32,185	72/013
Bayamon Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	22,921	72/021
0.4	Sulfur	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Whole	28,140	72/033
Guaynabo Municipio	PM-10	Mun. of Guaynabo, PR	929394959697989900010203040506070809	02/11/2010	Moderate	Part	90,470	72/061
Guaynabo Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	23,802	72/061
Calinas	Sulfur	Guayama-	181920212223	//		Part	23,401	72/123
Con Ivon	Sulfur	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	147,963	72/127
Toa Baja Municipio	Sulfur Dioxide (2010)	San Juan, PR	181920212223	//		Part	52,441	72/137

Important Notes

Discover. Connect. Ask.



Appendix 3



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



In Reply Refer to: FWS/R4/CESFO/72011-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-01548 Green Drop PR, LLC, Añasco, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated October 31, 2023, 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) on behalf of Green Drop PR, LLC (the Applicant) is proposing the consist of the installation of a 40 Feet x 8 Feet Farm in the city module for a controlled environment vertical harvest. The project will be located at PR-430 Km. 5.7, #1 Casey Arriba Ward (18°15'37.1"N 67°05'33.7"W), in the municipality of Manatí, Puerto Rico.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (the Service) online IPaC application was used (project code: 2024-0006901) to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species for this project. Based on the answers provided, a consistency letter was obtained for the Puerto Rican boa which determined that the proposed actions for this project would have no effect (NE) on this specie. As for the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly a consultation is required.

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and analysis of the IPaC lists together with field direct observations of the area where the project will be developed (the

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

surface is mostly covered in grass and is used for agricultural purposes), the proponent has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly since its critical habitat is approximately 33,761 feet from the proposed project site.

We have reviewed the information provided in your letter and our files and concur with your determination that the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly. Also, the Service acknowledge receipt of the DKey consistency letter with the NE determination for the Puerto Rican boa.

Please be aware that the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly measures were amended to clarify how they are appropriately applied. Therefore, the Service recommends the applicant to adopt the implementation of the below updated conservation measures for the proposed actions.

- 1. The contractor must inform all personnel about the potential presence of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly or its occupied host plant "prickly bush" (*Oplonia spinosa*) in the project areas. A pre-work meeting should inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming this butterfly and its occupied host plant. Educational material (e.g., posters, flyers or signs with photos or illustrations of all the life stages of the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (i.e., eggs, caterpillar, chrysalids and adult, and 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 contractor must clearly delineate the boundaries of the working area in the field 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 Puerto Rican 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 Puerto Rican 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 chrysalids 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 Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is observed flying in that same area. 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 Puerto Rican 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 any 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 Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly is found in the prickly bush, take the following actions:

Mr. Pérez-Bofill

- o Clearly mark the host plant with flagging tape.
- o Establish a 10-meter (32-foot) buffer zone around the bush to protect it.
- Eggs are typically found on the prickly bush's newly grown, tender branches.
 Once an egg hatches, the caterpillar moves and feeds throughout the bush.
 Therefore, avoid cutting off the prickly bush within the project site even if no eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalids are present.
- Work within the 10-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 Puerto Rican 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 Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly sighting reports should be sent to the USFWS Caribbean Ecological Service Field Office at caribbean es@fws.gov.
- 9. For questions regarding the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, the Point of Contacts are: José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator:

Mobile: 305-304-1386
 Office phone: 786-244-0081
 Office Direct Line: 939-320-3120
 Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 Carlos Pacheco, Fish and Wildlife Biologist:

o Mobile: 786-847-5951

Office Direct Line: 939-320-3113
 Email: carlos pacheco@fws.gov

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 yours,

Edwin E. Muñiz Field Supervisor October 31, 2023

Mr. Edwin Muñiz Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office PO Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622

Email: caribbean_es@fws.gov; edwin_muniz@fws.gov

RE: Puerto Rico Department of Housing Re-Grow PR-RGRW-01548 – Green Drop PR, LLC – Informal Consultation Endangered Species Evaluation

Dear Mr. Muñiz:

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-01548, located at PR-430 Km. 5.7, #1 Casey Arriba Ward, Añasco, PR 00610; coordinates 18.260295, -67.092690, see Appendix A: Figures 1 & 2.

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

The proposed activities for PR-RGRW-01548 consist of the installation of 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a controlled environment vertical harvest. The container will be used for protected cultivation, a process of growing crops in a controlled environment (where factors such as light, CO2, temperature/humidity, and airflow are regulated) and includes cultivation in vertical farming and greenhouses where environmental factors are tightly controlled. Because CEA grows crops indoors, it is labor-saving, allows for the reduced use of pesticides, and can be set up just about anywhere. The container will be anchored to 8 supports buried 2 feet deep. The little water needed (5 gallons of water daily) for the cultivation which will be provided by an existing PRASA intake in the property. The power needed to operate the module will come from a PREPA connection that is installed waiting for the connection. Since the system recycles the water, every 3

months the system must be cleaned disposing an approximately 50 gallon of water that could be used for irrigation. No sewer connection is required for any discharge from the module.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined as the area potentially impacted by ground disturbing activities related to the installation of the 40' x 8' Farm in the city module for a Controlled Environment Vertical Harvest, see Appendix A: Figure 3.

Existing Conditions and Trends:

The proposed project parcel 182-066-208-04-000 is designated as Farmland of statewide importance, see Appendix A: Figure 4. The existing area for the proposed module will be to the north part of the parcel, refer to Appendix C. The proposed project area has been classified as Consumo clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes (CoE). The Consumo series consists of well drained, very steep soils on side slopes and narrow ridges of the strongly dissected humid uplands. The surface is mostly covered in grass and is used for agricultural purposes. Therefore, there is no change in land use associated with this placement. In addition, the closer Final Critical Habitat is located at 33,761 feet from the project location, see Appendix A: Figure 5.

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

Name of species	Threatened/Endangered/Candidate	
R	Reptiles	
Puerto Rican boa	Endangered	
(Chilabothrus inornatus)	Endangered	
	nsects	
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly	Threatened	
(Atlantea tulita)	mrediened	
Critic	al Habitat	
There are no critical ha	bitats within the project area.	

The nature of the project, scope of work, information available, a careful analysis of the IPaC, the Puerto Rico Boa conservation measures, the Caribbean Dkey dated October 19, 2023, in the US Fish and Wildlife Service's online IPaC application, and the observations during the field visit, were used to evaluate the potential impacts to federally listed species from this project. Based on that information and the answer inputted into the Dkey, it was determined that the proposed action will have "No Effect" determination

on the Puerto Rican Boa, and a "Not likely Adversely Affect" on the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita), see Appendix B.

Name of the species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures that will be implemented		
Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)	No Effect (NE)	USFWS Puerto Rico Boa Conservation Measures 2020		
Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita)	Not likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)	No Conservation Measures		
	Critical Habitats			
There are no	critical habitats within the	e project area.		

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determination included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species. For any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information below.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue.

Cordially

Juan Carlos Perez Bofill, PE, MEng.

Director for Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Program

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

Attachments:

Appendix A:

Figure 1 - Location Site Map

Figure 2 - Topographic Map

Figure 3 - Area of Potential Effect Map

Figure 4 - Farmland Protection Map

Figure 5 - Critical Habitats Map

Appendix B: Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)

Appendix C: Field Visit Photos

C: Angel G. López-Guzmán, MSEM

Deputy Director

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division

PR-RGRW-01548 USFWS Informal Consultation Letter Page 4 / 4

Literature Cited:

Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)
USFWS Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628

Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly (Atlantea tulita) Species Profile for Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly (Atlantea tulita) (fws.gov)

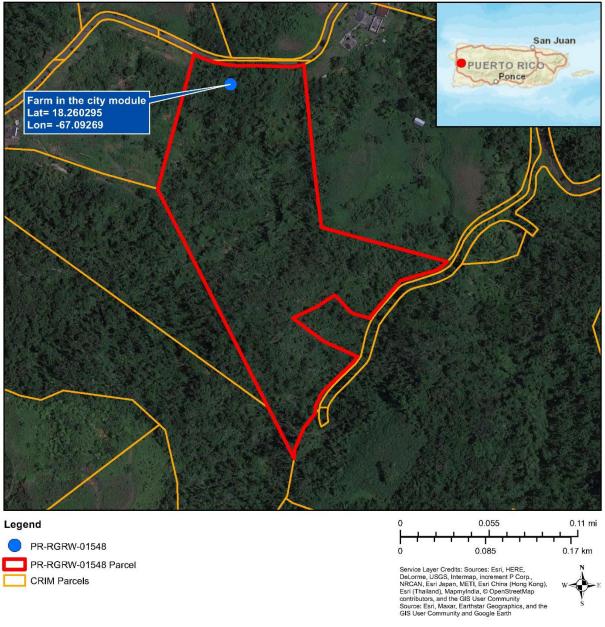


BYA BEHAR-YBARRA & ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01548

Green Drop PR, LLC Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba Añasco, PR, 00610 Catastro: 182-066-208-04-000 Lat: 18.260295, Lon: -67.09269

Location: Aerial Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Source

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

Figure 1: PR-RGRW-001548 Location Map



Application ID: PR-RGRW-01548

Green Drop PR, LLC Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba Añasco, PR, 00610 Catastro: 182-066-208-04-000 Lat: 18.260295, Lon: -67.09269

Location: USGS Topographic Map Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow

San Juan PUERTO RICO Ponce Farm in the city module Lat= 18.260295 Lon= -67.09269 Quadrangle: Central La Plata Legend 0.055 0.11 mi PR-RGRW-01548 0.17 km PR-RGRW-01548 Parcel Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Contour Interval 20 Feet

Source

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

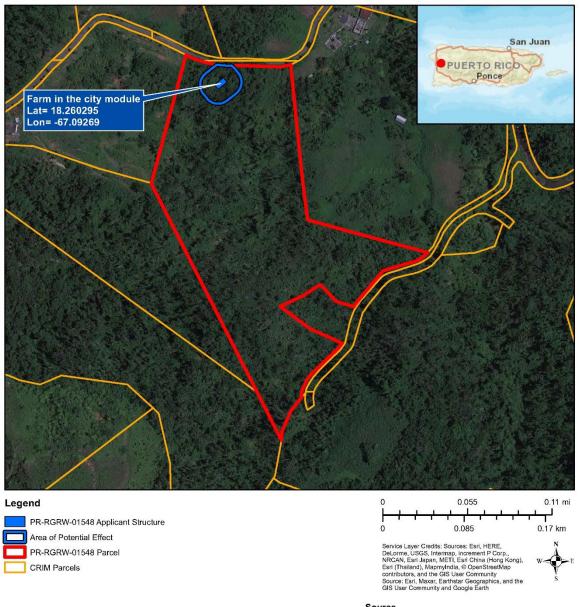
Figure 2: PR-RGRW-01548 Topographic Map

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

Application ID: PR-RGRW-01548

Green Drop PR, LLC Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba Añasco, PR, 00610 Catastro: 182-066-208-04-000 Lat: 18.260295, Lon: -67.09269

Area of Potential Effect Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow



Source

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

Figure 3: PR-RGRW-01548 Area of Potential Effect Map

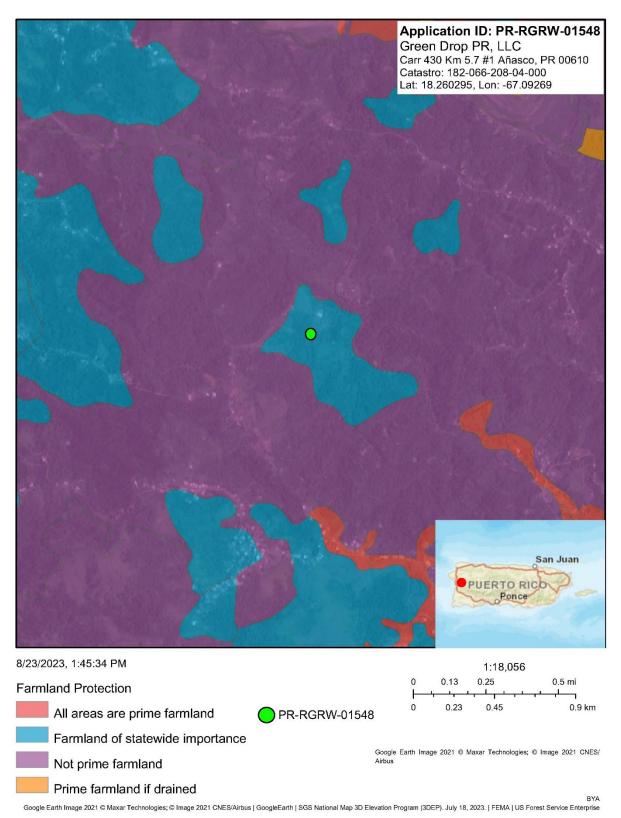


Figure 4: PR-RGRW-01548 Farmland Protection Map

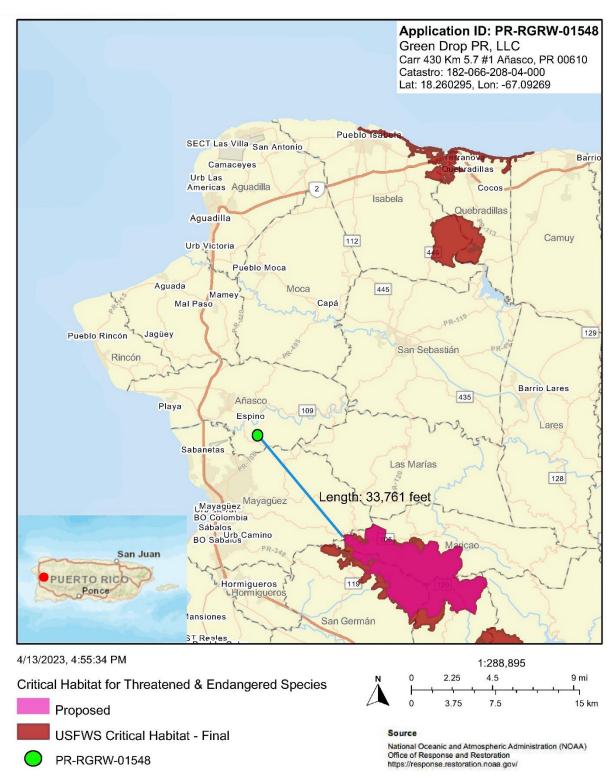


Figure 5: PR-RGRW-01548 Critical Habitats Map

Appendix B: Infor	mation for Planr	ning and Consu	ltation (IPaC)	



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

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

In Reply Refer To: October 19, 2023

Project Code: 2024-0006901 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01548

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

This species list is provided by:

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

Attachment(s):

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

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

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

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0006901 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01548

Project Type: Restoration / Enhancement - Agricultural

Project Description: Project Location: Carr. 430 Km. 5.7 #1 Bo. Casey Arriba, Añasco, PR

00610

Project Coordinates: 18.260295, -67.09269

TPID (Número de Catastro): 182-066-208-04-000

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2602178,-67.09270677392523,14z



Counties: Añasco County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

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.

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

REPTILES

NAME STATUS

Puerto Rican Boa Chilabothrus inornatus

Endangered

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

General project design guidelines:

 $\underline{https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/2S37EAF4AVHPFDLS6PRFOGHZ5Y/documents/generated/7140.pdf}$

INSECTS

NAME

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

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

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

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

- 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

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

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

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

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

WETLANDS

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

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

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

10/19/2023

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Yazmin Acevedo

Address: Perseo St. 554 Cond. Iberia Suite J-3

Address Line 2: Altamira
City: San Juan
State: PR
Zip: 00920

Email yacevedo@byaea.com

Phone: 7877830290



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

Phone: (787) 834-1600 Fax: (787) 851-7440 Email Address: <u>CARIBBEAN ES@FWS.GOV</u>

In Reply Refer To: October 19, 2023

Project code: 2024-0006901 Project Name: PR-RGRW-01548

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-01548' for specified threatened

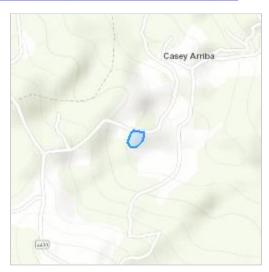
and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to

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 October 19, 2023, Yazmin Acevedo used the Caribbean DKey; dated October 12, 2023, 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-01548'. The project is located in Añasco County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2602178,-67.09270677392523,14z



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01548':

Project Location: Carr. 430 Km. 5.7 #1 Bo. Casey Arriba, Añasco, PR 00610

Project Coordinates: 18.260295, -67.09269 TPID (Número de Catastro): 182-066-208-04-000

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Caribbean DKey, you determined the proposed Action will have "No Effect" on the following species:

SpeciesListing StatusDeterminationPuerto Rican Boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)EndangeredNo effect

Thank you for informing the Service of your "No Effect" determination(s) for this project. No further consultation/coordination for this project is required for these species. However, be aware that reinitiation of consultation may be necessary if later modifications are made to the project so that it no longer meets the criteria or outcome described above, or if new information reveals effects of the action that could affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed.

This letter serves as documentation of your consideration of the federally listed species as required under section 7 of the ESA. However, effects to the other federally listed species or critical habitat as listed below from the "IPaC print-out for the project" (see below) should be considered as part of your ESA review for the project.

The Service will notify you within 30 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a "No Effect" (NE) determination for Federally listed species in the Caribbean. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NE concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluate the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having unanticipated impacts. In such instances, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the DKey.

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

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

• Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly *Atlantea tulita* Threatened

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

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

Action Description

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

1. Name

PR-RGRW-01548

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01548':

Project Location: Carr. 430 Km. 5.7 #1 Bo. Casey Arriba, Añasco, PR 00610

Project Coordinates: 18.260295, -67.09269

TPID (Número de Catastro): 182-066-208-04-000

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@18.2602178,-67.09270677392523,14z



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

Yes

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

Automatically answered

Yes

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Yazmin Acevedo

Address: Perseo St. 554 Cond. Iberia Suite J-3

Address Line 2: Altamira
City: San Juan
State: PR
Zip: 00920

Email yacevedo@byaea.com

Phone: 7877830290





Photo #: 1

Date: September 2, 2023

Description (include direction): General area where the module will be installed, looking southwest.



Photo #: 2

Date: September 2, 2023

Description (include direction): General area where the module will be installed, looking northeast.



Appendix 4

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter (µg/m³)	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.08	N/A
Ozone (ppb)	N/A	N/A	N/A	61.6	N/A
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m³)	0.0342	0.0667	45	0.261	2
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	24	20	15	25	5
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.2	0.19	17	0.31	4
Toxic Releases to Air	1,800	4,300	76	4,600	70
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	30	180	30	210	30
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.044	0.16	31	0.3	25
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.05	0.15	22	0.13	43
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.13	0.47	39	0.43	40
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.42	0.76	52	1.9	47
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km²)	0.22	1.7	60	3.9	32
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.0003	2.3	19	22	38
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	96%	83%	87	35%	99
Supplemental Demographic Index	59%	43%	90	14%	99
People of Color	100%	96%	30	39%	97
Low Income	92%	70%	87	31%	99
Unemployment Rate	32%	15%	88	6%	98
Limited English Speaking Households	77%	67%	65	5%	99
Less Than High School Education	35%	21%	84	12%	94
Under Age 5	3%	4%	51	6%	30
Over Age 64	33%	22%	86	17%	92
Low Life Expectancy	N/A	N/A%	N/A	20%	N/A

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

APPLICANT/LOCATION INFORMATION

Applicant ID:	PR-RGRW-01548
Applicant Name:	Green Drop PR, LLC
Parcel ID:	182-066-208-04-000
Latitude:	18.260351
Longitude:	-67.092745
Street Address:	Carrr 430 Km 5.7 #1 Bo Casey Arriba
Municipio:	Añasco
Zip Code:	00610
Site Inspector:	Egon Gonzalez
Date of Visit:	August 11, 2023
Time of Visit:	13:57
Building Type:	

19. Is a historic marker present?





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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Question Answer Notes A. Is the structure in use? Nο New structure B. Is the structure a greenhouse? Yes C. Is Electricity connected? (Utilities or Well) Electricity is connected LUMA Yes D. Is water connected? (Utilities or Well) Yes Water is provided by AAA Are there signs of poor housekeeping on site? (mounds of rubble, No garbage, strom debris, solid waste, petroleum products, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, vehicle batteries, abandoned vehicles, pits, pools, ponds of hazardous substances, etc.) 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 No property? Are there signs of AST on the parcel or adjacent parcel? If yes, list No approximate size and contents, if known. Is there any stained soil or pavement on the parcel? No 6. Is a water drainage system in use? No Is a warehouse in use for storage of Fertilizer or Pesticides? Yes 8. Are there any groundwater monitoring wells on the site or adjacent No parcel? Is there evidence of a faulty septic system? Nο 10. Is there distressed vegetation on the parcel? No 11. Is there any visible indication of mold? 12. Is there any visible evidence of asbestos, chipping, and flaking or No peeling paint, or hazardous materials present in or on the structure? 13. Are any additional site hazards observed? No Is there any permanent standing water, such as a pond or stream, Yes Stream in property located on the site(do not include ponding from recent rain / weather 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 No 18. Is the applicant aware of any signifcant historcal event or persons No associated with the structure, or of it being located in a historic district/

No

Front of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments: Lechuga romana o americana, rabano, yautia, limones, 20ft x40ft coordinates: 18.260350, -67.092673



Facing Away from Front

Photo Direction:



Side #1 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away From Side #1

Photo Direction:



Back of Structure

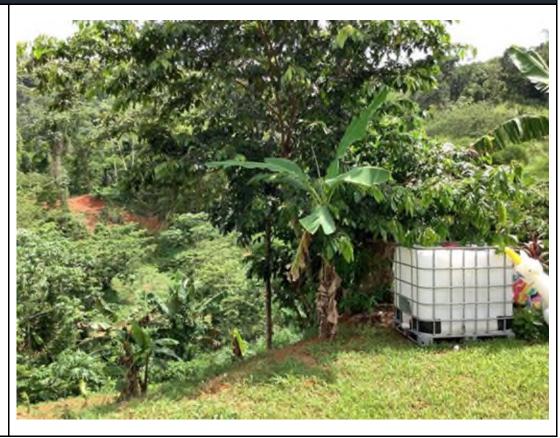
Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Back

Photo Direction:



Side #2 of Structure

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Facing Away from Side #2

Photo Direction:



Streetscape #1

Photo Direction:

Comments:



Streetscape #2

Photo Direction:



Photo Direction:

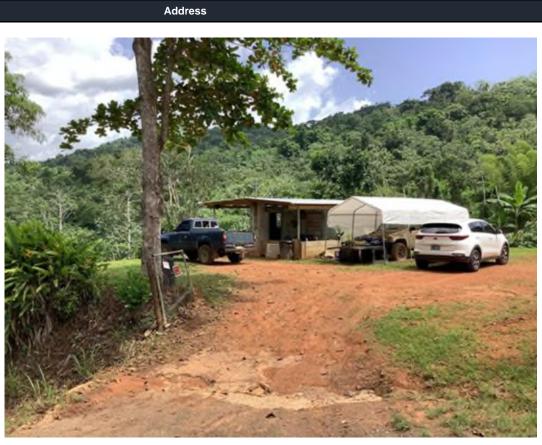


Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Plantain



Architectural Details 2

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Papaya



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water tank



Architectural Details 4

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water is connected



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream located in property



Architectural Details 6

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream located in property



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Stream located in property



Architectural Details 8

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Overview



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Fertilizer and pesticide storage



Architectural Details 10

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Electricity is in process of being connected

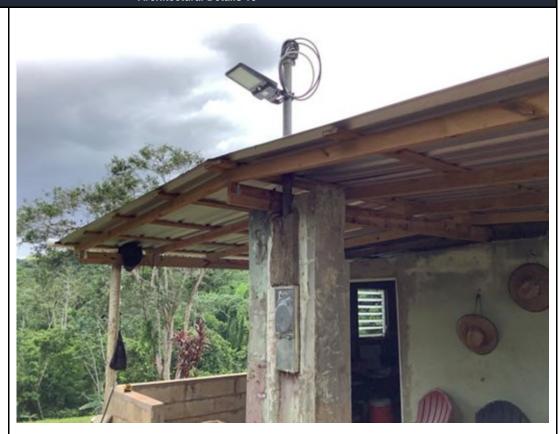


Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Farm in the city overview



Architectural Details 12

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Ground is going to be leveled with gravel rocks, and water will be diverted by gravity



Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Fertilizer and pesticide storage



Architectural Details 14

Photo Direction:

Photo Description: Water is connected by AAA

