ATTACHMENT 16

COPY OF THE USACE NATIONWIDE PERMIT FOR SECTION II OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT



March 16, 2023

Regulatory Division South Permits Branch Antilles-Miami Section SAJ-2021-01874 (NW-AMG)

Angel J. Alicea-Rodriguez PR Highway and Transportation Authority (PRHTA) PO Box 42007 San Juan, PR 00940 Sent via email: <u>aalicea@dtop.pr.gov</u>

Dear Mr. Alicea-Rodriguez :

You requested re-verification of a project that we previously verified on October 5, 2021. Our file number is SAJ-2021-01874. The project would result in construction of a new bridge crossing Rio Grande de Arecibo as part of a new segment of the Utuado-Adjuntas interconnection highway PR-10 in the municipality of Utuado.

Construction would include a long span bridge for a rural highway which contains one 3.65-meter lane with a 3.00-meter shoulder heading north, and two 3.65-meter lanes with a 1.80-meter shoulder heading south for a total roadway width of 15.75 meters The bridge will have four spans and three piers from which Pier #2 is located within the Ordinary High Water mark (OHWM) of Rio Grande de Arecibo.

The construction of the new bridge includes the placement of riprap on both sides of the stream channel for erosion protection. Excavation of 2,766.05 cubic yards of material within the OHWM will be required in preparation for the construction of the proposed bridge structure. The material to be discharged within the OHWM consists of 383.48 cubic yards of concrete, 1,160.33 cubic yards of riprap, and 535.4790 cubic yards of fill material to fill the voids after the foundations and columns are poured to reach the base level for the discharge of the riprap layer. Permanent impacts within of the OHWM amount to 0.35 acre, including concrete and riprap. According to the Permittee, no wetlands are expected to be impacted by the proposed project.

The project site consists of a section of the Rio Grande de Arecibo located in the immediate vicinity of Highway PR-10 Int. with State Road PR-123, Arenas and Guaonico Wards, Utuado, Puerto Rico (Latitude 18.2343°, Longitude -66.7190°. You stated in your request in subsequent communication on March 14, 2023 that there are no changes to that project.

Your project is authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) Number 14. This verification is valid until <u>March 14, 2026.</u> Some of the terms, conditions and regional conditions may have changed because our previous verification was based on the 2017 Federal Register and Regional Conditions. This letter is based on the project being performed in accordance with: the drawings attached to our previous letter; the terms and conditions found on pages 2867 to 2877, inclusive, of the January 13, 2021 Federal Register (86 FR 2744); the Regional Conditions dated February 25, 2022; and the entirety of our previous letter, including the general conditions, special conditions, and attachments (except for the expiration date and the references to the 2017 Federal Register and Regional Conditions).

Project Specific Special Conditions:

- 1. **Reporting Address:** The Permittee shall submit all reports, notifications, documentation, and correspondence required by the general and special conditions of this permit to either (not both) of the following addresses:
 - For electronic mail (preferred): SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil (not to exceed 15 MB).
 - b. For standard mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Enforcement Section, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

The Permittee shall reference this permit number, SAJ-2021-01874 (NW – AMG), on all submittals.

- 2. Permit Conditions Prevail: If information in the permit attachments conflict with the special conditions of this permit, the requirements of the permit special conditions shall prevail.
- **3. Commencement Notification:** Within 10 days from the date of initiating the work authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall submit a completed "Commencement Notification" form (Attached).
- 4. Self-Certification: Within 60 days of completion of the work authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall complete the attached "Self-Certification Statement of Compliance" form (Attached) and submit it to the Corps. In the event that the completed work deviates in any manner from the authorized work, the Permittee shall describe the deviations between the work authorized by this permit and the work as constructed on the "Self-Certification Statement of Compliance" form.

The description of any deviations on the "Self-Certification Statement of Compliance" form does not constitute approval of any deviations by the Corps.

5. Cultural Resources/Historic Properties:

- a. No structure or work shall adversely affect, impact, or disturb properties listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP), or those eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.
- b. If, during the ground disturbing activities and construction work within the permit area, there are archaeological/cultural materials encountered which were not the subject of a previous cultural resources assessment survey (and which shall include, but not be limited to: pottery, modified shell, human remains, ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, evidence of structures or any other physical remains that could be associated with native cultures or early colonial settlement), the Permittee shall immediately stop all work and ground-disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the discovery and notify the Corps at the addresses listed in the **Reporting Address Special Condition** within the same business day (8 hours). The Corps shall coordinate with the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Officer (PRSHPO) to assess the significance of the discovery and devise appropriate actions.
- c. Additional cultural resources assessments may be required of the permit area in the case of unanticipated discoveries as referenced in accordance with the above Special Condition and, if deemed necessary by the SHPO or Corps, in accordance with 36 CFR 800 or 33 CFR 325, Appendix C (5). Based on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend, or revoke the permit in accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall not resume on non-federal lands without written authorization from the SHPO for finds under his or her jurisdiction, and from the Corps.
- d. In the unlikely event that unmarked human remains are identified on non-federal lands, all work and ground disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the human remains shall immediately cease and the Permittee shall immediately notify the Corps and Choose an item within the same business day (8-hours). The Corps shall coordinate with the appropriate SHPO. Based on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend, or revoke the permit in accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall

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6. Endangered Species Conservation Measures:

a. The Permittee shall comply with the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) previously provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to and during the road damage repairs, to avoid or minimize impacts to federally listed species, as agreed between the Permittee and the Service through their consultation.

b. The Permittee shall comply with the attached U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office "Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)", revised January 2020 (Attached).

c. The Permittee shall limit the removal of vegetation of the project during the months of January to July to minimize disruption to any breeding activity within or near the proposed construction area. Specially if any breeding activity of the following federally protected species is observed: Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (Buteo platypterus brunnescens), Puerto Rican parrot (Amazona vittata) and/or Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk (Accipiter striatus venator).

d. This permit does not authorize the take of an endangered species, in particular the federally protected Puerto Rican boa. To legally take a listed species, separate authorization under the ESA (e.g., an ESA section 10 permit, or a Biological Opinion under ESA section 7, with "incidental take" provisions with which you must comply) is required.

- 7. Erosion Control: Prior to the initiation of any work authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall install erosion control measures along the perimeter of all work areas to prevent the displacement of fill material outside the work area into waters of the United States. The erosion control measures shall remain in place and be maintained until all authorized work is completed and the work areas are stabilized.
- 8. Fill Material: The Permittee shall use only clean fill material for this project. The fill material shall be free from items such as trash, debris, automotive parts, asphalt, construction materials, concrete block with exposed reinforcement

bars, and soils contaminated with any toxic substance in toxic amounts, in accordance with Section 307 of the Clean Water Act.

- 9. Section 401 General Water Quality Certification. You must file a "Notice of Intent to be covered by the General Water Quality Certificate" (EQB Form GWQC-1, see Enclosure 4). Please email the form to the Point Sources Permits Division of the Puerto Rico Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, with a copy to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, via email at: fuentesprecisadas@jca.pr.gov and SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil. Please include the Corps reference number in the subject line.
- **10. Construction Completion.** Within 30 days from the date of completing the authorized work, all temporary equipment and materials shall be removed from the area and the impacted areas of waters of the United States, including wetlands, completely restored to pre-existing conditions.

If you are unable to access the internet or require a hardcopy of any of the abovereferenced documents, please contact me by telephone at 904-232-2017.

Sincerely,

Ashley Gonzalez

Ashley Gonzalez Project Manager

Enclosures

Enclosure 1- General Conditions

Enclosure 2- Joint Permit Application 1792 and Drawings by Gabriel Berris & Associates, Inc.

- Enclosure 3- USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures
- Enclosure 4- Notice of Intent to be covered by the General Water Quality Certificate
- **Enclosure 5- Commencement Notification**
- Enclosure 6- Self-Certification Statement of Compliance
- Enclosure 7- Permit Transfer Request

Copy/ies Furnished: Herminio Alamo-Morales, <u>h.alamo@bha-llc.com</u> César Collazo Ramírez, <u>cesar.collazo@bha-llc.com</u>

bcc: CESAJ-RD-PE



March 16, 2023

Regulatory Division South Permits Branch Antilles-Miami Section SAJ-2021-01874 (NW-AMG)

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bcc: CESAJ-RD-PE

GENERAL CONDITIONS 33 CFR PART 320-330

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on March 14, 2026.

2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.

3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort of if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

4. If you sell the property associated with this permit you must obtain the signature of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.

5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.

6. You must allow a representative from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

COMMENCEMENT NOTIFICATION

Within ten (10) days of initiating the authorized work, submit this form via electronic mail to <u>saj-rd-enforcement@usace.army.mil</u> (preferred, not to exceed 15 MB) <u>or</u> by standard mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Section, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

- 1. Department of the Army Permit Number: SAJ-2021-01874 (NWP-MRV)

Date

	my Corps of Engineers (US		*	Form Approved -				
	5. The proponent agency is CEC		RMIT	OMB No. 0710-0003 Expires: 02-28-2022				
The public reporting burden for this collection o for reviewing instructions, searching existing da information. Send comments regarding the burd at <u>whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-co</u> be subject to any penalty for failing to comply w RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO THE ABOV	ta sources, gathering and mainta len estimate or burden reduction lections@mail.mil. Respondents ith a collection of information if it	aining the data ne suggestions to t should be aware	eeded, and completing he Department of Defe e that notwithstanding a	and reviewing the collection of nse, Washington Headquarters Service any other provision of law, no person sha				
	PRIVACY AC	T STATEMENT						
Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10 Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Program will be used in evaluating the application for a p local government agencies, and the public and is voluntary, however, if information is not provior reproducible copies which show the location an	ns of the Corps of Engineers; Fin ermit, Routine Uses: This information may be made available as part o ded the permit application cannot	al Rule 33 CFR ation may be sha f a public notice t be evaluated no	320-332. Principal Purp ared with the Departme as required by Federal or can a permit be issue	bose: Information provided on this form nt of Justice and other federal, state, an- law. Submission of requested information ed. One set of original drawings or good				
and be submitted to the District Engineer having								
System of Record Notice (SORN). The information				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
and may be accessed at the following website:				View/Article/570115/a1145b-ce.aspx				
	(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE							
1. APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE		3. DATE RECEIVED	4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETE				
	(ITEMS BELOW TO BE	FILLED BY APP	PLICANT)					
5. APPLICANT'S NAME		8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE (agent is not required)						
First - Alexandra Middle -	Last - Velázquez Delgado	First - LAREE	OO Middle	- Last - GONZALEZ				
Company - PR Highway and Transportatio	n Authority	Company - Ga	ABRIEL BERRIZ &	ASSOCIATES, INC				
E-mail Address - avelazquez@dtop.pr.gov		E-mail Address	-falconpr2010@gm	ail.com				
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:		9. AGENT'S A	DDRESS:					
Address- P.O.Box 42007		Address- PMB 268, 35 JUAN CARLOS DE BORBON 67						
City - San Juan State - PR 2	tip - 00940 Country - USA	City - GUAYNABO State - PR Zip - 00969 Country - USA						
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOS. WAREA CODE		10. AGENTS PHONE NOS. W/AREA CODE						
a. Residence b. Business 787-721-8787x15	c. Fax	a. Residence b. Business c. Fax 787-637-3603						
	STATEMENT OF							
11. I hereby authorize, <u>PLAN. LAREDO GON</u> supplemental information in support of this	ZALEZ to act in my behalf as r permit application. SIGNATURE OF APPLICA		APR 2 9 2021	ECIBIDO-MAY 13 2021 AM11:10				
NA	ME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIP	TION OF PRO	ECT OR ACTIVITY					
12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE (see instructio BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARE	And the set approximate a			e				
13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN (if ap RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO	plicable)	14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (if applicable) Address PR-123, INT./PR-10						
15. LOCATION OF PROJECT			3					
Latitude: •N 18.2343 Longitu	de: •W -66.7190	City - UTUAI	00 s	tate- PR Zip- 00641				
16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF K	NOWN (see instructions)		D	RNA				
State Tax Parcel ID	Municipality UTU	ADO						
Section - Township -		Range	. №179	12 .				

17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE From the Adjuntas take State Road PR-123 until it connects to the southern tip of existing State Road PR-10. From Arecibo, take the PR-10 to the south to the intersection with the State Road PR-123.

18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features)

Puerto Rico Highway & Transportation Authority propose to construct a new bridge over Rio Grande de Arecibo as part of the Utuado-Adjuntas interconnection highway in the Municipality of Utuado.

We are requesting USACE authorization for the proposed works under the NWP-No.14: Linear Transportation Projects.

A field determination of the OHWM was conducted to determine the extent of the impacts on jurisdictional waters.

19. Project Purpose (Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)

Puerto Rico Highway & Transportation Authority plans to construct a new segment (Section II) of the Utuado-Adjuntas highway PR-10. The new bridge will connect the existing (North) portion of the Puerto Rico State Road PR-10 with the proposed alignment which will then connect to existing (South) PR-10 in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico.

USE BLOCKS 20-23 IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED

20. Reason(s) for Discharge

The proposed bridge is required to connect the new proposed Section II of PR Highway PR-10 to the already constructed northern segment.

21. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards:

Type Amount in Cubic Yards Type Amount in Cubic Yards Poured Rip-Rap: 1,517.6573 CY Type Amount in Cubic Yards

Concrete: 383.4778 CY

22. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled (see instructions)

Acres 0.3467 acres of waters of the USA. Wetlands will not be impacted.

or

Linear Feet

23. Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation (see instructions)

A Long span bridge is proposed in order to minimize the area impacted by the new PR-10 alignment print and reduce the deposit of filling material. Discharge is minimal and has been limited to small portions of one of the bridge foundations and column and portions of rip-rap that will be installed for slope protection (to reduce scouring and erosion).

- Significant portions of the proposed structures will be placed outside the OHWM.

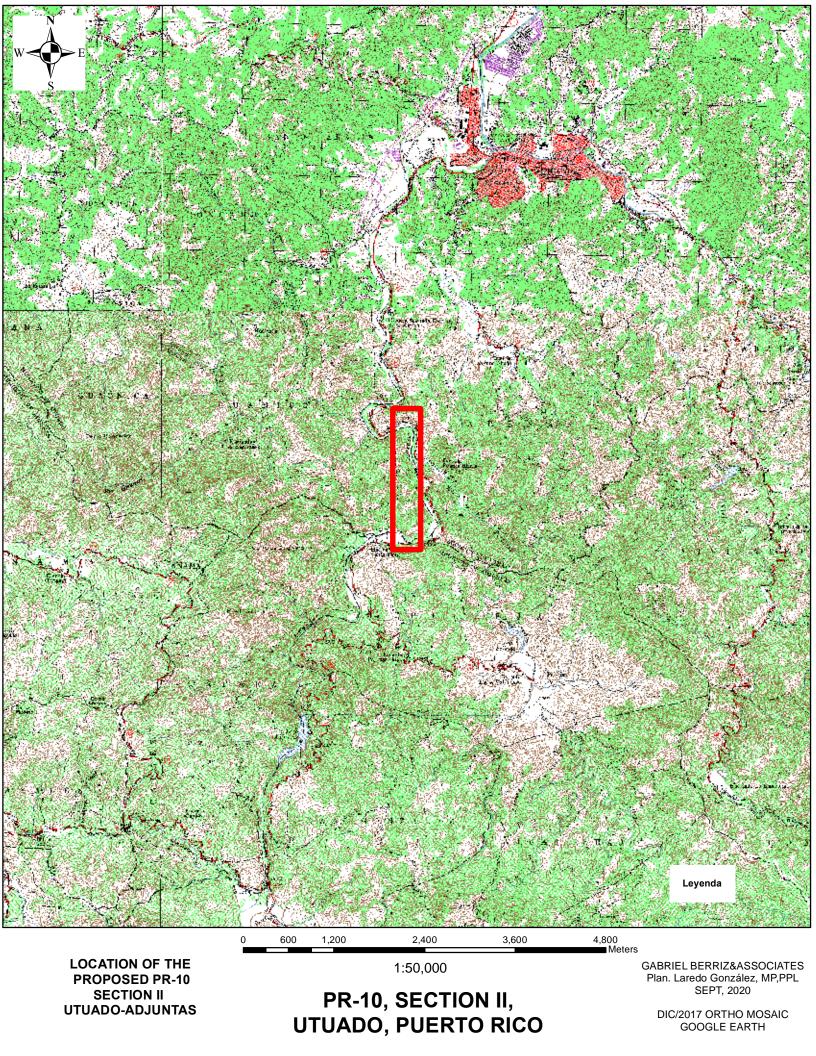
- An HH study (included) was conducted to assess existing conditions and define design guidelines..

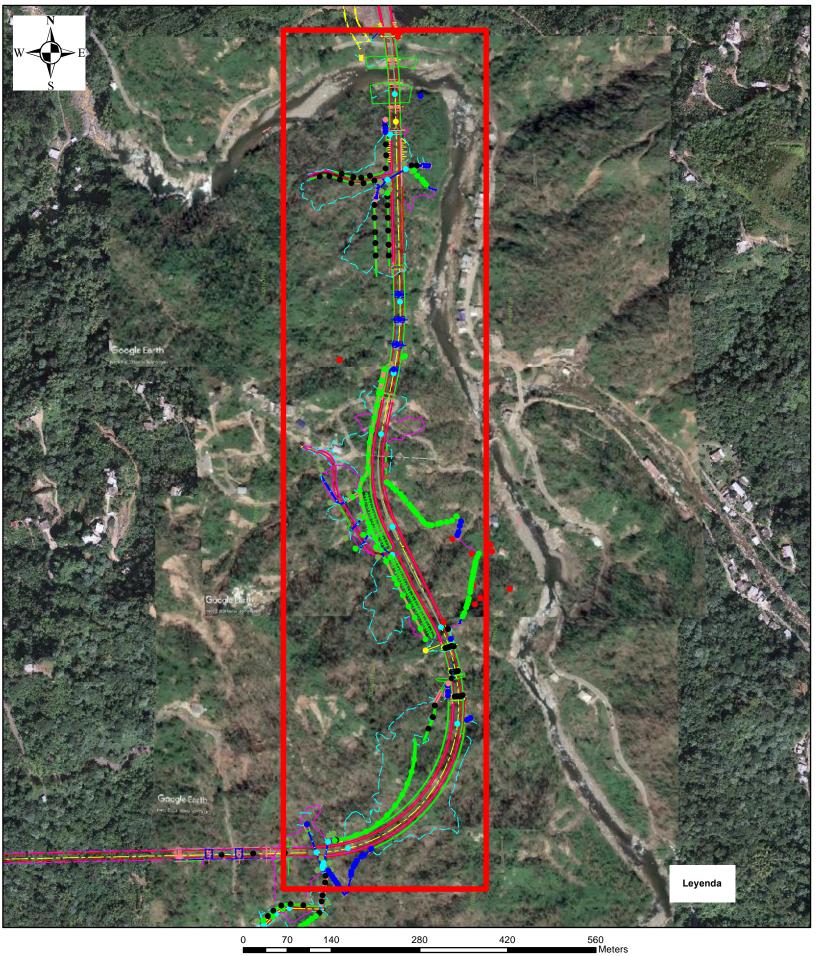
- The proposed structure will not affect the water conveyance function of the river.

24. Is Any Portion of the	Work Already Complete?	Yes No IF YES,	DESCRIBE THE COMPL	ETED WORK				
25. Addresses of Adjoin	ing Property Owners, Lesse	ees, Etc., Whose Property A	Adjoins the Waterbody (if m	ore than can be entered here, please at	tach a supplemental list).			
a. Address- PR HIGH	WAY AND TRANSPOR	RTATION AUTH., P.O.	Box 42007,					
City - SAN JUAN		State -	DD	Zip - 00940				
ONY - SAN JUAN		Otale -	I K	20 - 00940				
b. Address- PR AQUE	DUCT AND SEWER A	UTHORITY (PRASA).	PO BOX 7066,					
City - SAN JUAN		State -	PR	Zip - 00916				
c. Address-								
City -		State -		Zip -				
d. Address-								
City -		State -		Zip -				
e. Address-								
City -		State -		Zip -				
26. List of Other Certifica	ates or Approvals/Denials re		State, or Local Agencies	for Work Described in This Ap	plication.			
AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL*	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED			
PRDNER	TREE REMOVAL		2011-04-11	2011-08-01				
SHPO	SECTION 106	04-30-13-01	2013-06-11	2013-07-12				
USFWS	ESA CONSULT.		2012-06-14	2013-07-02				
		-						
* Would include but is no	ot restricted to zoning, building		-					
27. Application is hereby	y made for permit or permits	to authorize the work desc		certify that this information in				
applicant.	further certify that I posses		e the work described here	in or am acting as the duly aut Plan.	NONZEO AGENI OT INE Digitally signed by Plan. Laredo Gonzalez DN: cn=Plan. Laredo Gonzalez.			
_ (ll	umpy	APR 2 9 2021		Laredo	o=GBA.ou, email=falconpr2010@gmail.co m.c=US			
	RE OF APPLICANT	DATE who desires to undertak		TURE OF AGENTGonzalez (applicant) or it may be sig	Date: 2021.05.07 11 BATE			
	e statement in block 11 h			(approach of it may be sig	nea by a duly			
18 U.S.C. Section 100	01 provides that: Whoeve	er, in any manner within t	the jurisdiction of anv d	epartment or agency of the	United States			
knowingly and willfully	falsifies, conceals, or co	overs up any trick, schem	ne, or disguises a mate	rial fact or makes any false	, fictitious or fraudulent			
	hall be fined not more the			to contain any false, fictitic ars or both.	us or traudulent			

ENG FORM 4345, FEB 2019

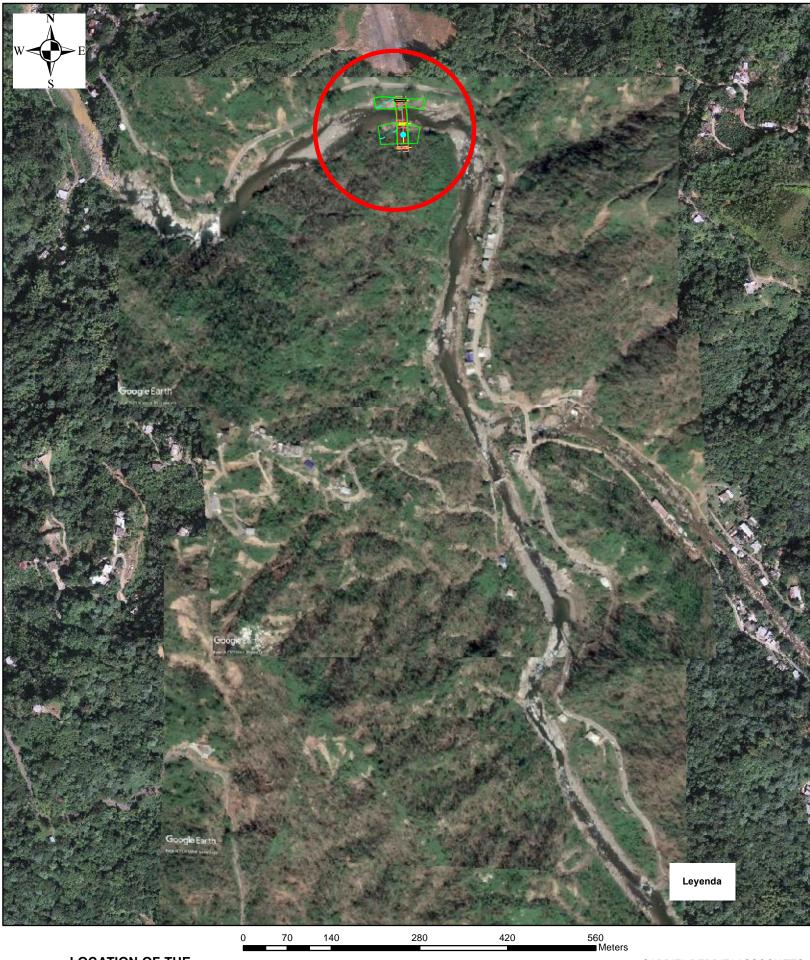
FIGURES





VIEW OF THE PROPOSED PR-10 SECTION II UTUADO-ADJUNTAS 1:6,000

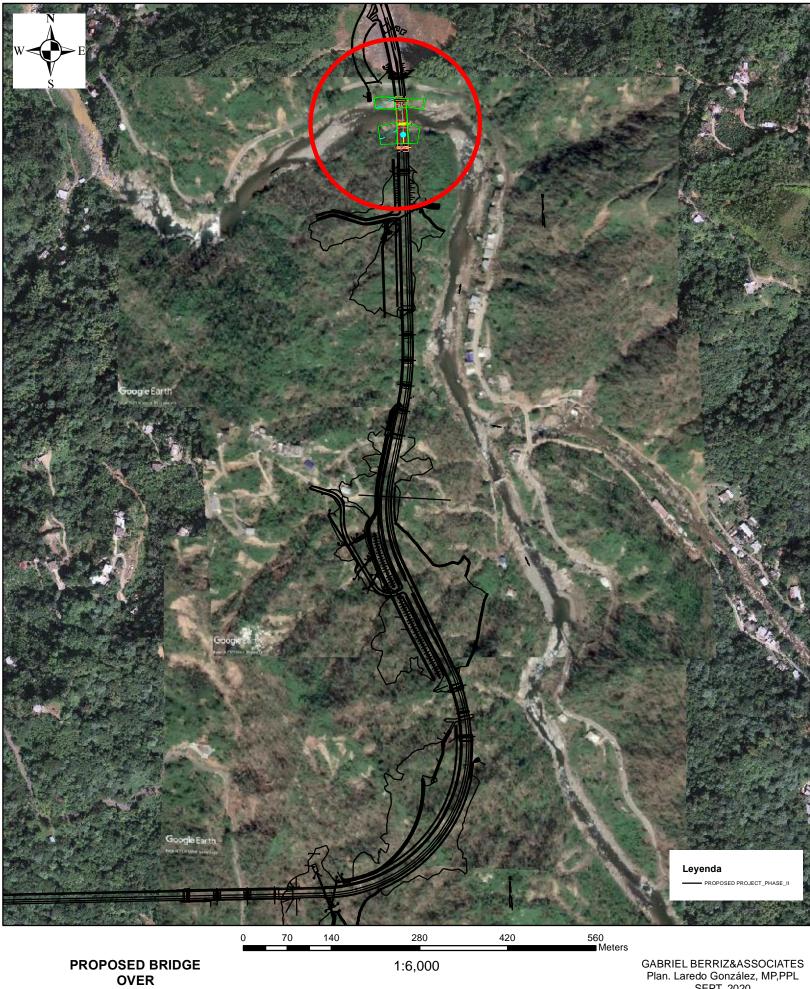
PR-10, SECTION II, UTUADO, PUERTO RICO GABRIEL BERRIZ&ASSOCIATES Plan. Laredo González, MP,PPL SEPT, 2020



LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED BRIDGE "RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO" RIVER 1:6,000

PR-10, SECTION II, UTUADO, PUERTO RICO

GABRIEL BERRIZ&ASSOCIATES Plan. Laredo González, MP,PPL SEPT, 2020



"RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO" RIVER

PR-10, SECTION II, UTUADO, PUERTO RICO

GABRIEL BERRIZ&ASSOCIATES Plan. Laredo González, MP,PPL SEPT, 2020

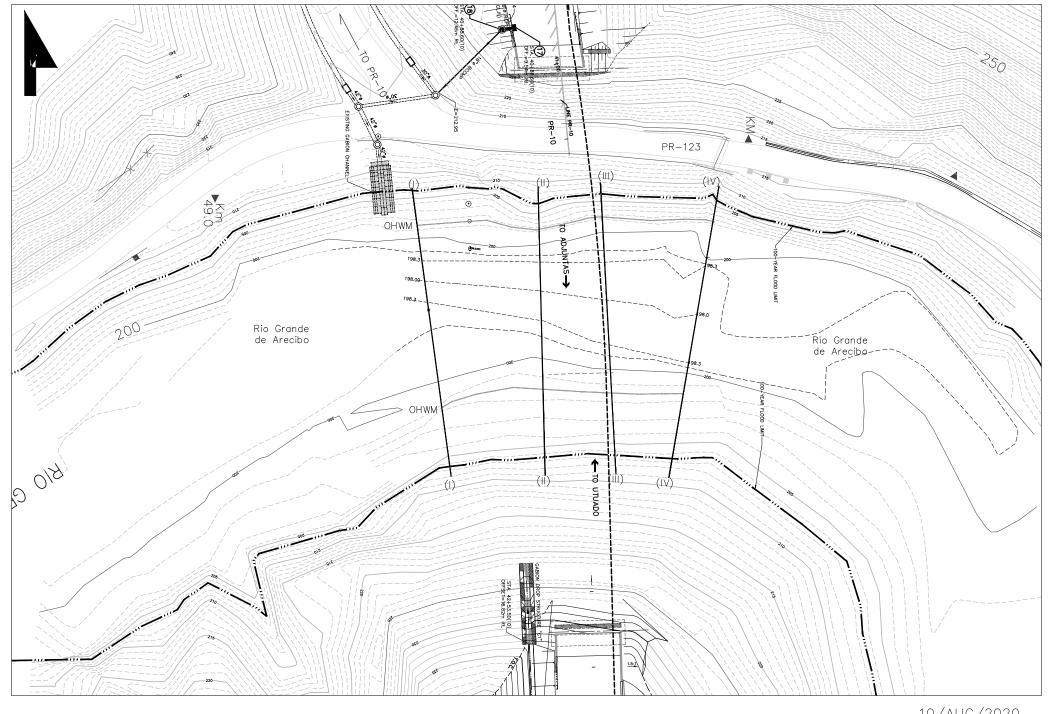


VIEW OF THE PROPOSED BRIDGE OVER "RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO" RIVER

PR-10, SECTION II, UTUADO, PUERTO RICO

1:500

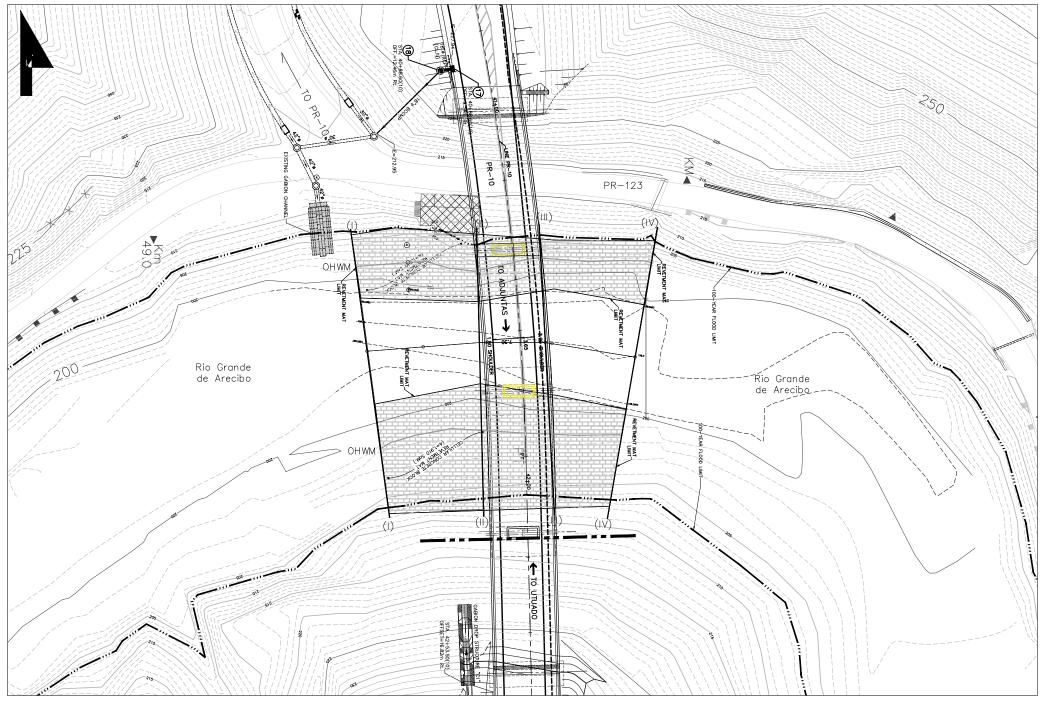
GABRIEL BERRIZ&ASSOCIATES Plan. Laredo González, MP,PPL SEPT, 2020



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PR-10, SECTION II, BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO, UTUADO-ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO.

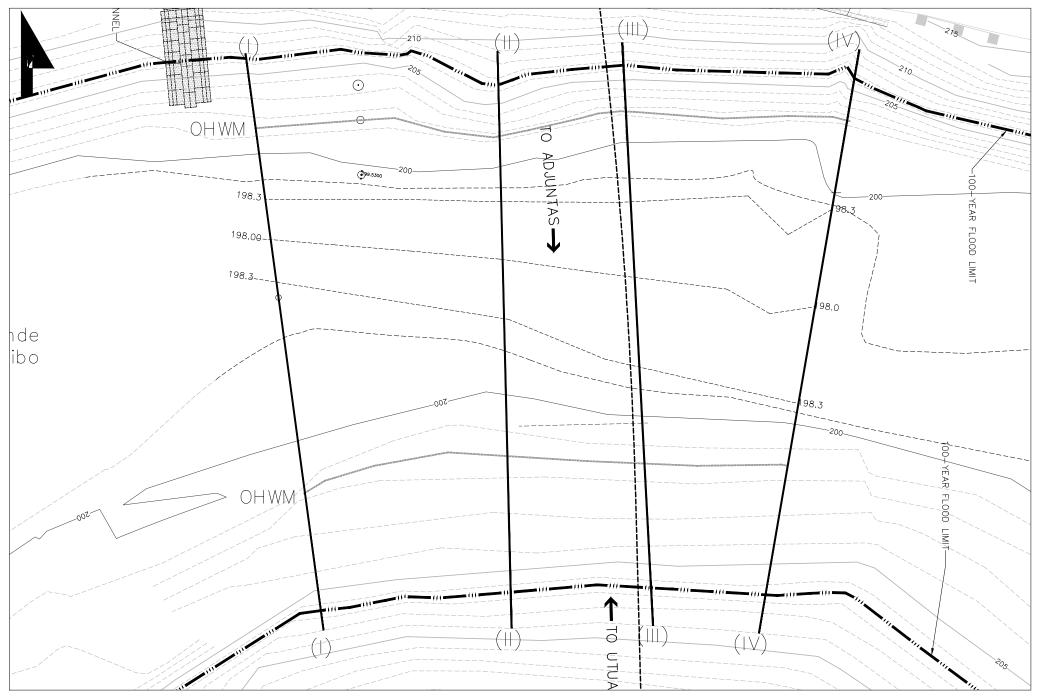
10/AUG/2020 SCALE: 1:1,000 Drawn by: L.Gonzalez



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General View Proposed conditions General View Proposed conditions



10/AUG/2020 SCALE: 1:500 Drawn by: L.Gonzalez



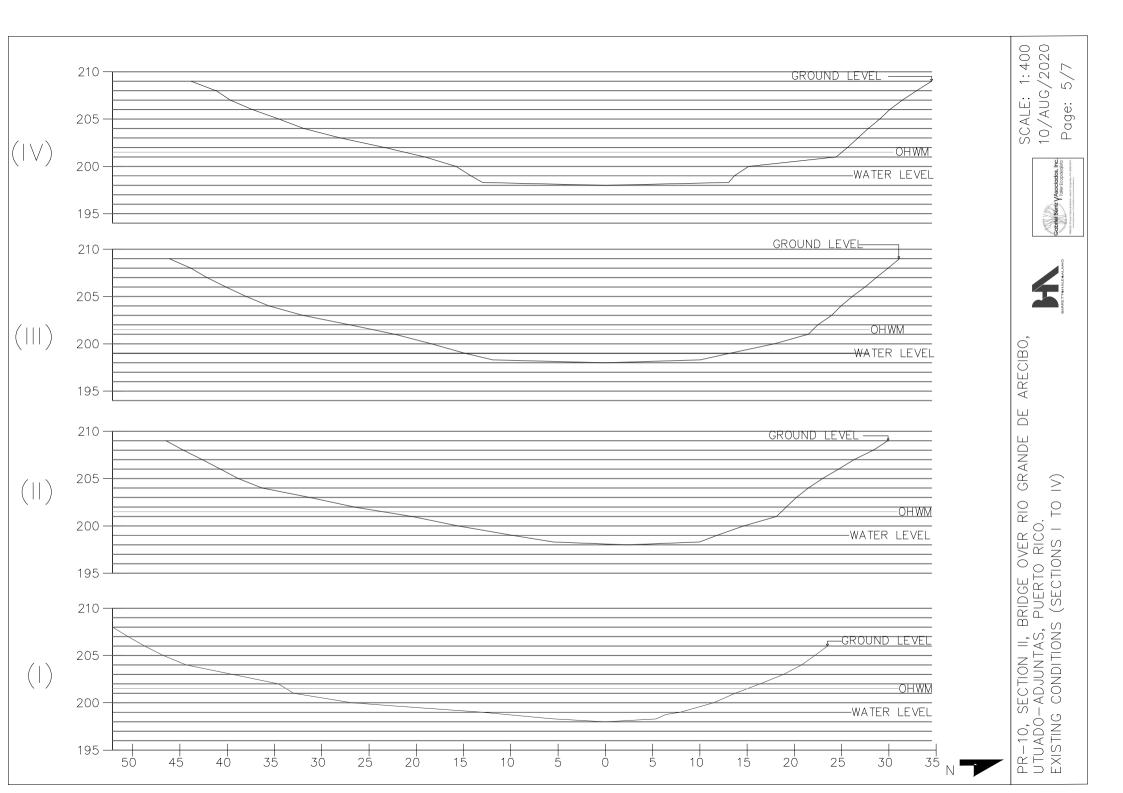
PR-10, SECTION II, BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO, UTUADO-ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO. EXISTING CONDITIONS

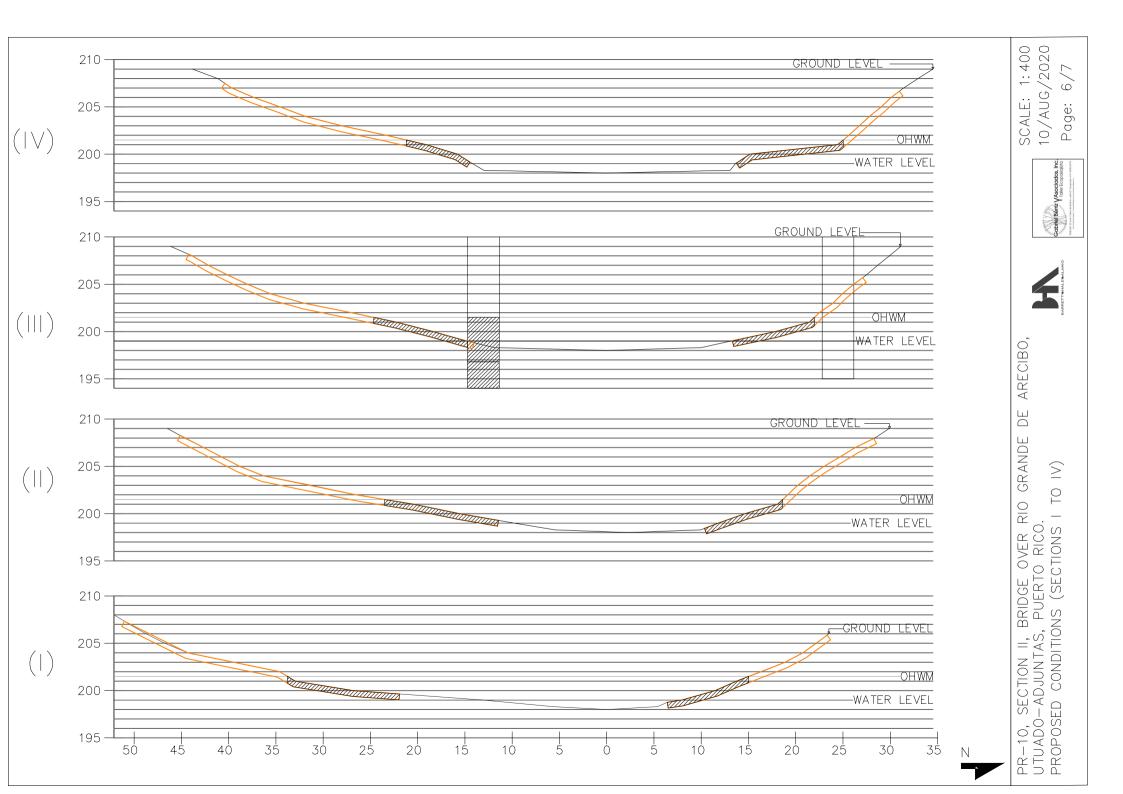


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PR-10, SECTION II, BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO, UTUADO-ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO. Drawn by: L.Gonzalez PROPOSED CONDITIONS

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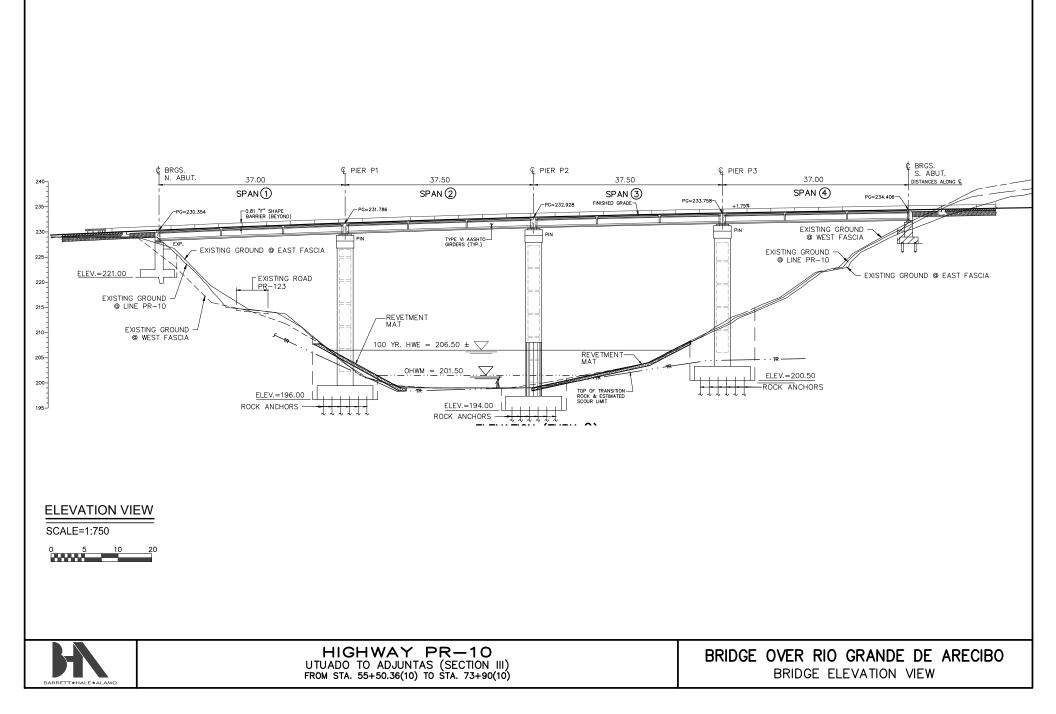


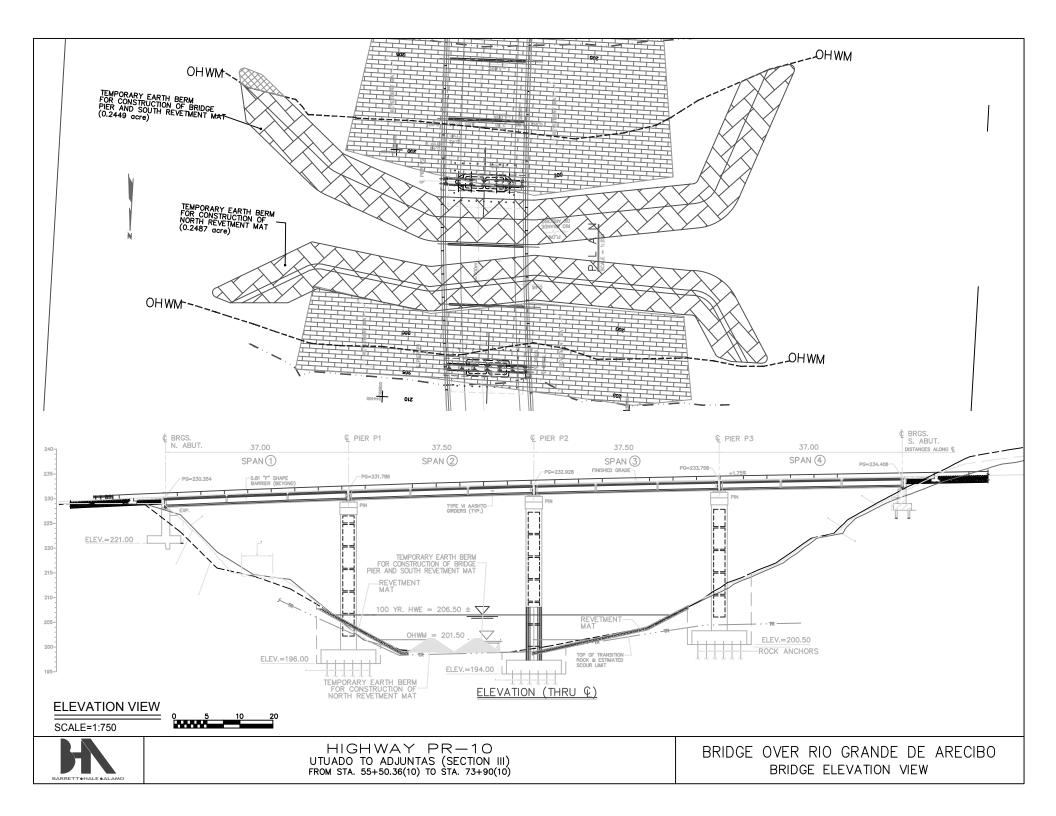


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PR-10, SECTION II, BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO, UTUADO-ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO. ESTIMATED IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT 10/AUG/2020 SCALE: 1:500 Drawn by: L.Gonzalez

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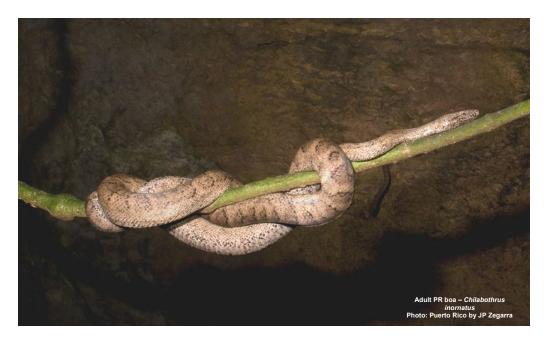


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican boa (Chilabothrus inornatus)

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

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



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

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

Conservation Measures:

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

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

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

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
 - Email: <u>marelisa_rivera@fws.gov</u>
 - Office phone 787-851-7297 ext. 206 or mobile 787-510-5219
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
 - Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - o Office phone 787-851-7297 ext. 218 or mobile 787-510-5206

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VII. PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT
VIII. ENCLOSED CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLE 4 (B)(3) OF
LAW NO. 416 OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2004
Yes or No
IX. ENCLOSED LETTER FROM THE COE INDICATING THE TYPE OF NWP
APPLICABLE TO THE PROJECT AND STATING THAT THE APPLICATION FOR
A COE PERMIT IS COMPLETE.
Yes or No
X. CERTIFICATION
I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the
information submitted in this application and all attachments included as part of this application
and that, based on my inquiry of those persons immediately responsible for obtaining the
contained in the application, I believe that the information is true, accurate and complete. I am
aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the
possibility of fine and imprisonment.
Name (type or print)
Official Title
Date Signed
Signature MM DD YY
EQB Form GWQC-01 (April, 2005) Page 2 of 2

COMMENCEMENT NOTIFICATION

Within ten (10) days of initiating the authorized work, submit this form to via electronic mail to saj-rd-enforcement@usace.army.mil (preferred, not to exceed 15 MB) <u>or</u> by standard mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Section, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

- 1. Department of the Army Permit Number: SAJ-2021-01874 (NWP-AMG)
- 2. Permittee Information:

	Name:	
	Email:	
	Address:	
	Phone:	
3.	Construction St	art Date:
4.	Contact to Sche	dule Inspection:
	Name:	
	Email:	
	Phone:	

Signature of Permittee

Printed Name of Permittee

Date

SELF-CERTIFICATION STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Permit Number: SAJ-2021-01874

Permittee's Name & Address (please print or type):
Telephone Number:
Location of the Work:
Date Work Started: Date Work Completed:
PROPERTY IS INACCESSIBLE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION: YES NO
TO SCHEDULE AN INSPECTION PLEASE CONTACTAT
Description of the Work (e.g. bank stabilization, residential or commercial filling, docks, dredging, etc.):
Acreage or Square Feet of Impacts to Waters of the United States:
Describe Mitigation completed (if applicable):
Describe any Deviations from Permit (attach drawing(s) depicting the deviations):

I certify that all work, and mitigation (if applicable) was done in accordance with the limitations and conditions as described in the permit. Any deviations as described above are depicted on the attached drawing(s).

Signature of Permittee

Date

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT TRANSFER REQUEST

PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2021-01874 (NW-AMG)

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. <u>Although the construction period for works authorized by Department of the Army permits is finite, the permit itself, with its limitations, does not expire.</u>

To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated responsibilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below and mail to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Section, Post Office Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019 or submit via electronic mail to: <u>SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil</u> (not to exceed 15 MB).

(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE)	(SUBDIVISION)					
(DATE)	(LOT)	(BLOCK)				
(NAME-PRINTED)	(STREET	ADDRESS)				
(MAILING ADDRESS)						

(CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)