

**ATTACHMENT 17**

**COPY OF THE USACE NATIONWIDE PERMIT FOR  
SECTION II OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT  
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

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: [aalicea@dtop.pr.gov](mailto:aalicea@dtop.pr.gov)

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 **March 14, 2026**. 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:
  - a. 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

not resume without written authorization from the Choose an item and from the Corps.

**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](mailto:fuentesprecisadas@jca.pr.gov) and [SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil](mailto: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 above-referenced documents, please contact me by telephone at 904-232-2017.

Sincerely,



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, [h.alamo@bha-llc.com](mailto:h.alamo@bha-llc.com)

César Collazo Ramírez, [cesar.collazo@bha-llc.com](mailto:cesar.collazo@bha-llc.com)

bcc:

CESAJ-RD-PE



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Sincerely,



Ashley Gonzalez  
Project Manager

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Copy/ies Furnished:

Herminio Alamo-Morales, [h.alamo@bha-llc.com](mailto:h.alamo@bha-llc.com)

César Collazo Ramírez, [cesar.collazo@bha-llc.com](mailto:cesar.collazo@bha-llc.com)

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 or 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 [saj-rd-enforcement@usace.army.mil](mailto:saj-rd-enforcement@usace.army.mil) (preferred, not to exceed 15 MB) **or** 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)

2. **Permittee Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Construction Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Contact to Schedule Inspection:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





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	Type Amount in Cubic Yards
Concrete: 383.4778 CY	Poured Rip-Rap: 1,517.6573 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 COMPLETED WORK

25. Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, Etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Waterbody (if more than can be entered here, please attach a supplemental list).

a. Address- PR HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION AUTH., P.O.Box 42007,

City - SAN JUAN State - PR Zip - 00940

b. Address- PR AQUEDUCT AND SEWER AUTHORITY (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 Certificates or Approvals/Denials received from other Federal, State, or Local Agencies for Work Described in This Application.

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 not restricted to zoning, building, and flood plain permits

27. Application is hereby made for permit or permits to authorize the work described in this application. I certify that this information in this application is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

  
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

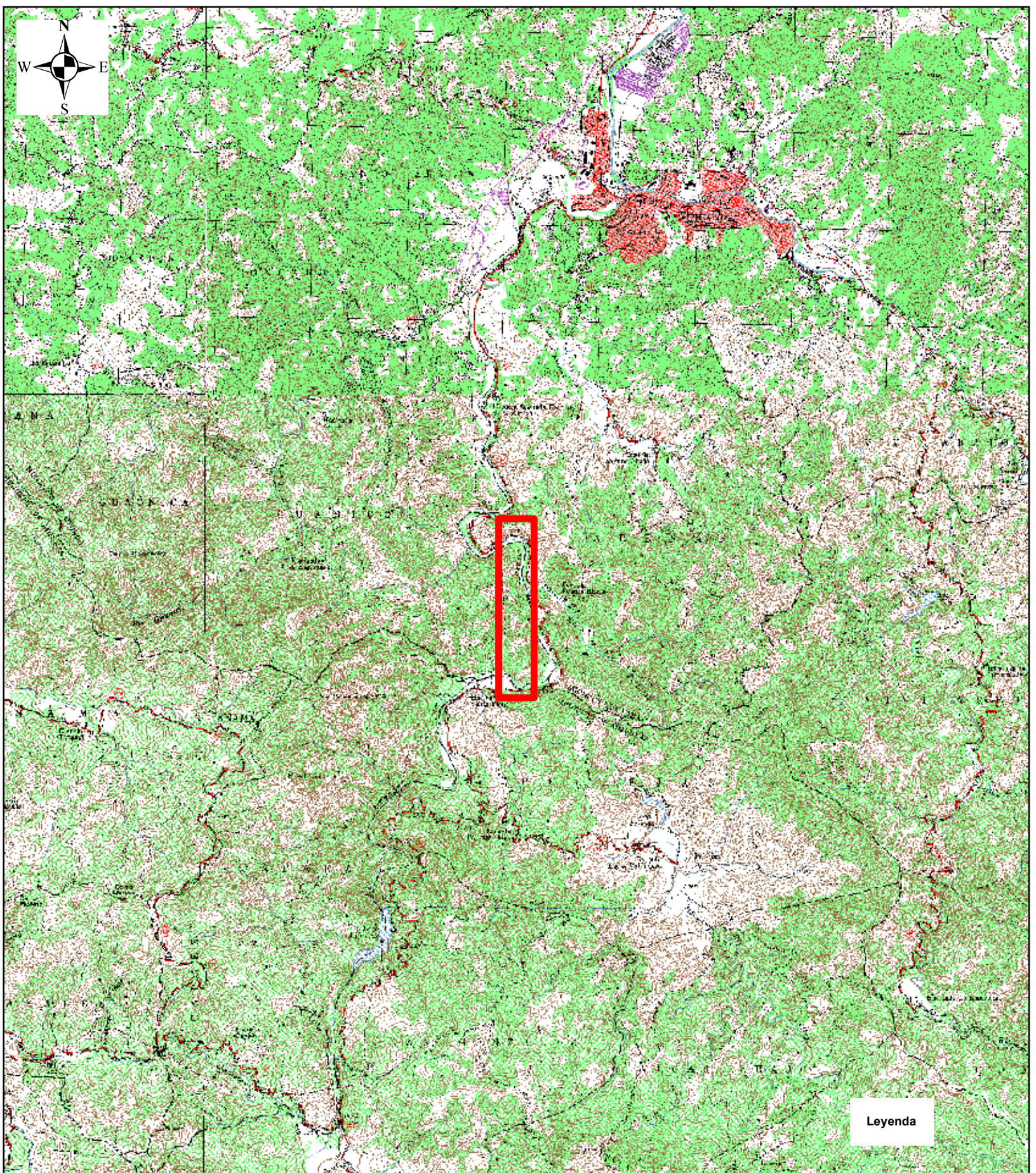
APR 29 2021  
DATE

Plan.  
Laredo  
Gonzalez  
Digitally signed by Plan.  
Laredo Gonzalez  
DN: cn=Plan, Laredo Gonzalez,  
ou=GSA, ou,  
email=falcompr2010@gmail.co  
m, c=US,  
Date: 2021.05.07 11:04:07  
SIGNATURE OF AGENT  
DATE

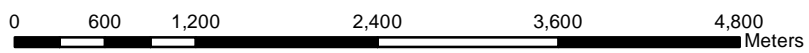
The Application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) or it may be signed by a duly authorized agent if the statement in block 11 has been filled out and signed.

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

## FIGURES



Leyenda



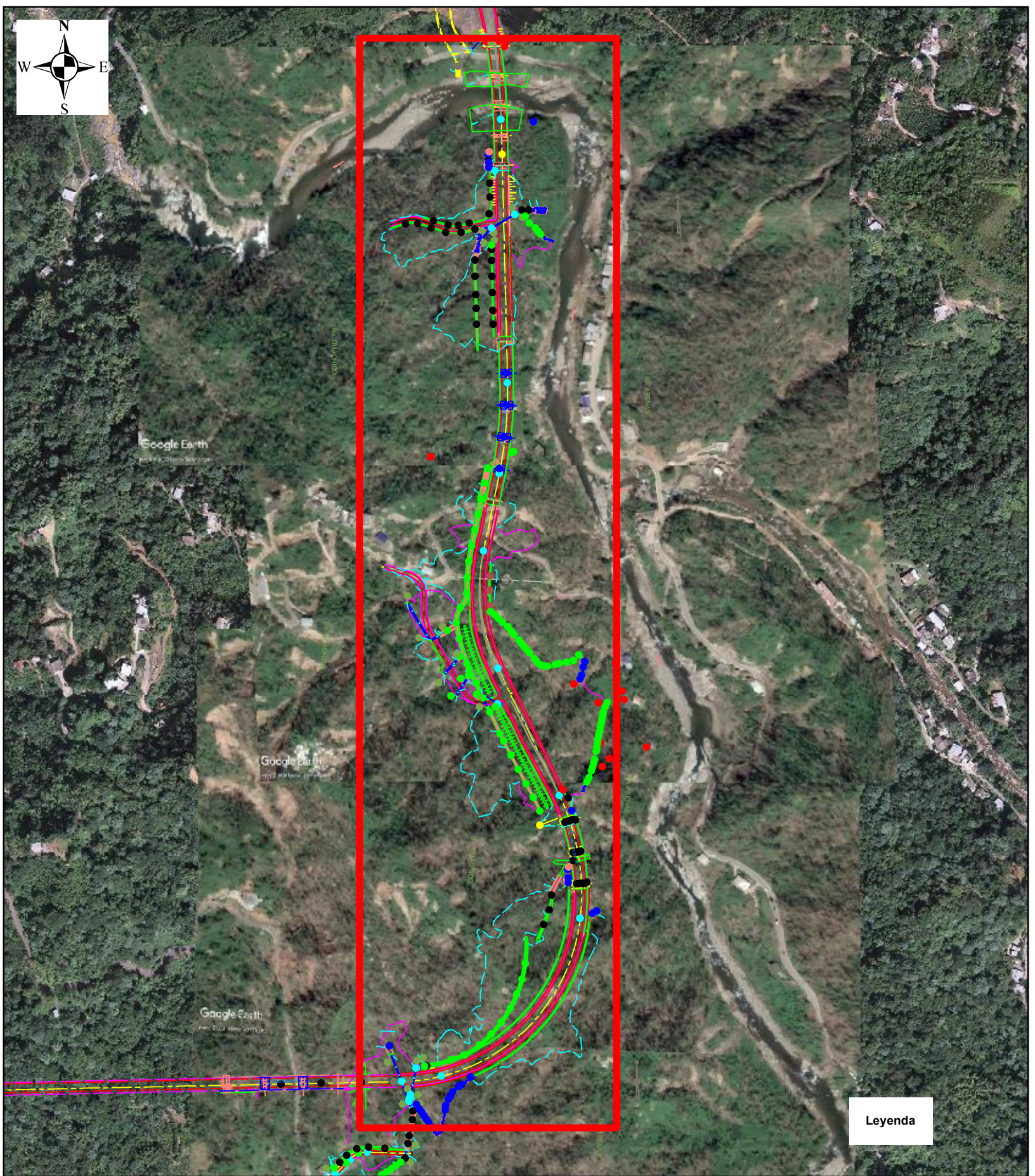
1:50,000

**LOCATION OF THE  
PROPOSED PR-10  
SECTION II  
UTUADO-ADJUNTAS**

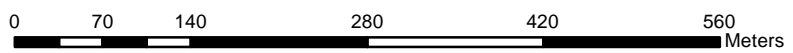
# **PR-10, SECTION II, UTUADO, PUERTO RICO**

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

DIC/2017 ORTHO MOSAIC  
GOOGLE EARTH



Leyenda



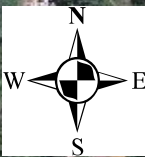
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VIEW OF THE  
PROPOSED PR-10  
SECTION II  
UTUADO-ADJUNTAS

# PR-10, SECTION II, UTUADO, PUERTO RICO

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Plan. Laredo González, MP,PPL  
SEPT, 2020

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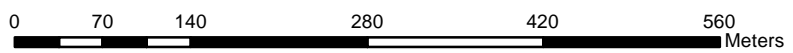


Google Earth  
High Resolution Imagery

Google Earth  
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Google Earth  
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Leyenda



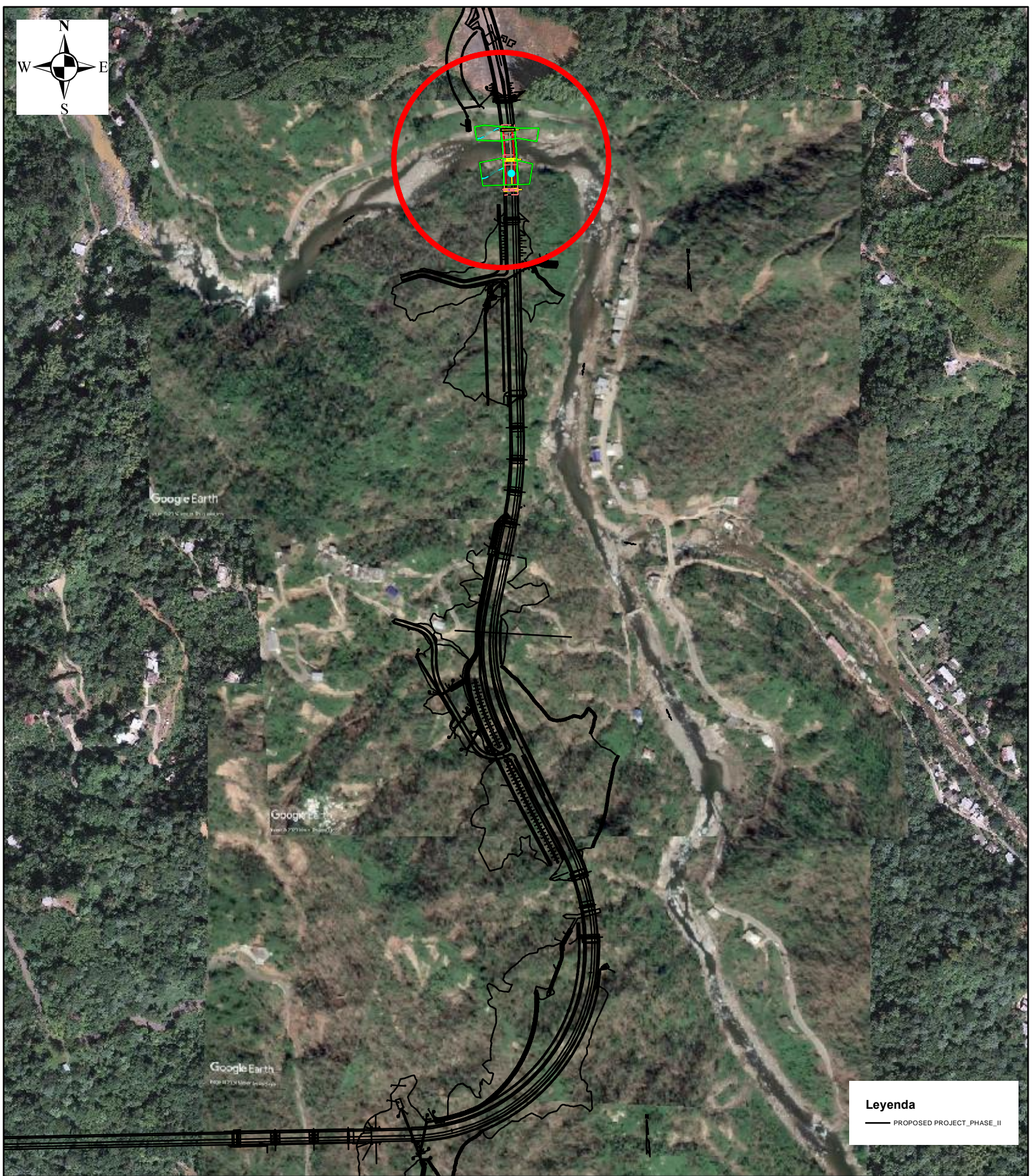
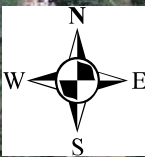
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**LOCATION OF THE  
PROPOSED BRIDGE  
"RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO"  
RIVER**

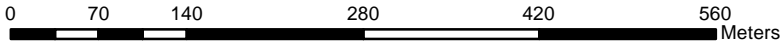
**PR-10, SECTION II,  
UTUADO, PUERTO RICO**

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

DIC/2017 ORTHO MOSAIC  
GOOGLE EARTH



**Leyenda**  
— PROPOSED PROJECT\_PHASE\_II



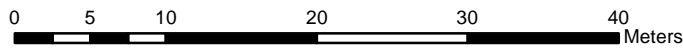
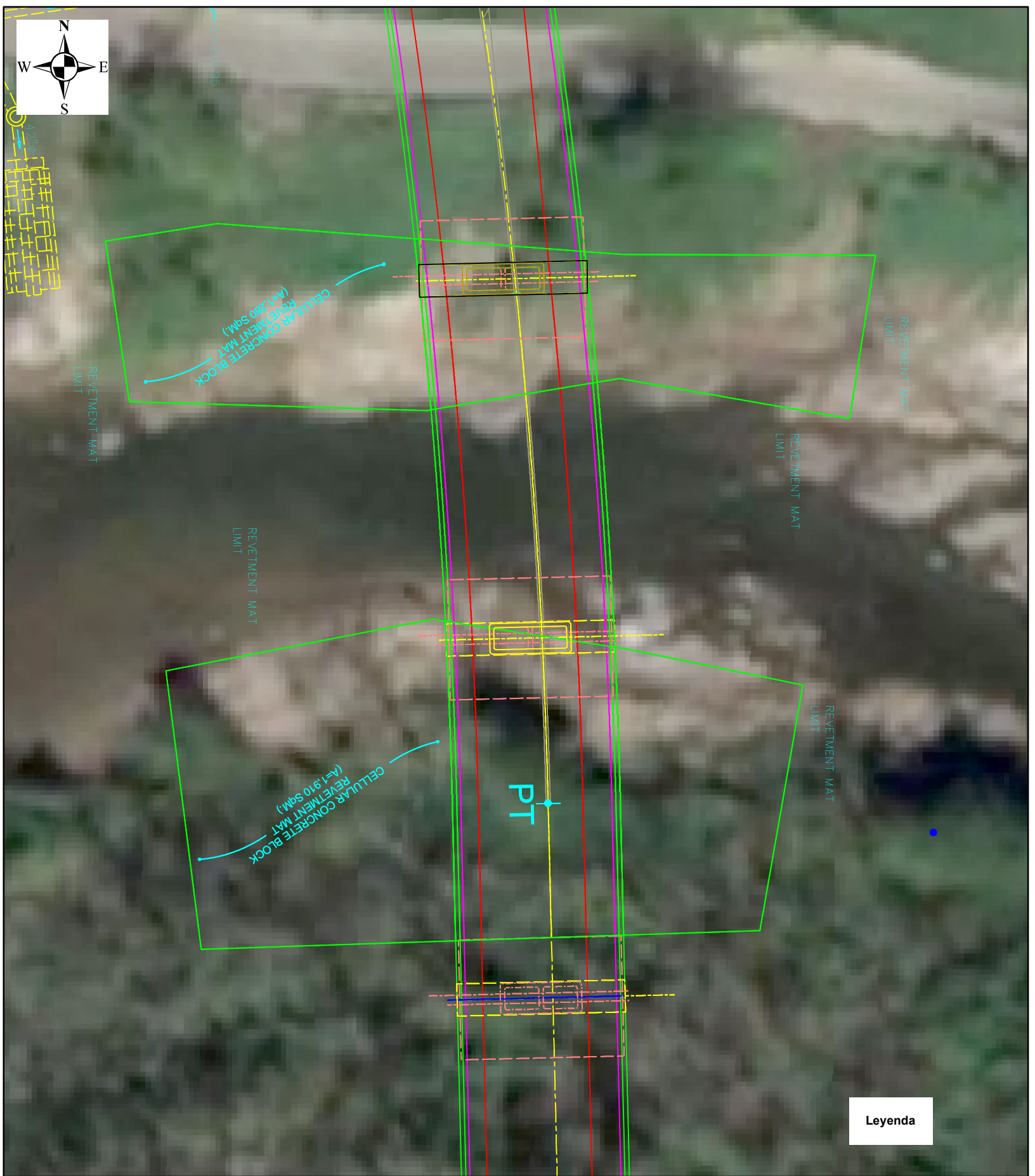
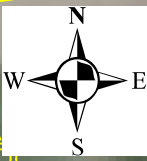
**PROPOSED BRIDGE  
OVER  
"RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO"  
RIVER**

1:6,000

**PR-10, SECTION II,  
UTUADO, PUERTO RICO**

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

DIC/2017 ORTHO MOSAIC  
GOOGLE EARTH



1:500

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

**PR-10, SECTION II,  
UTUADO, PUERTO RICO**

**Leyenda**

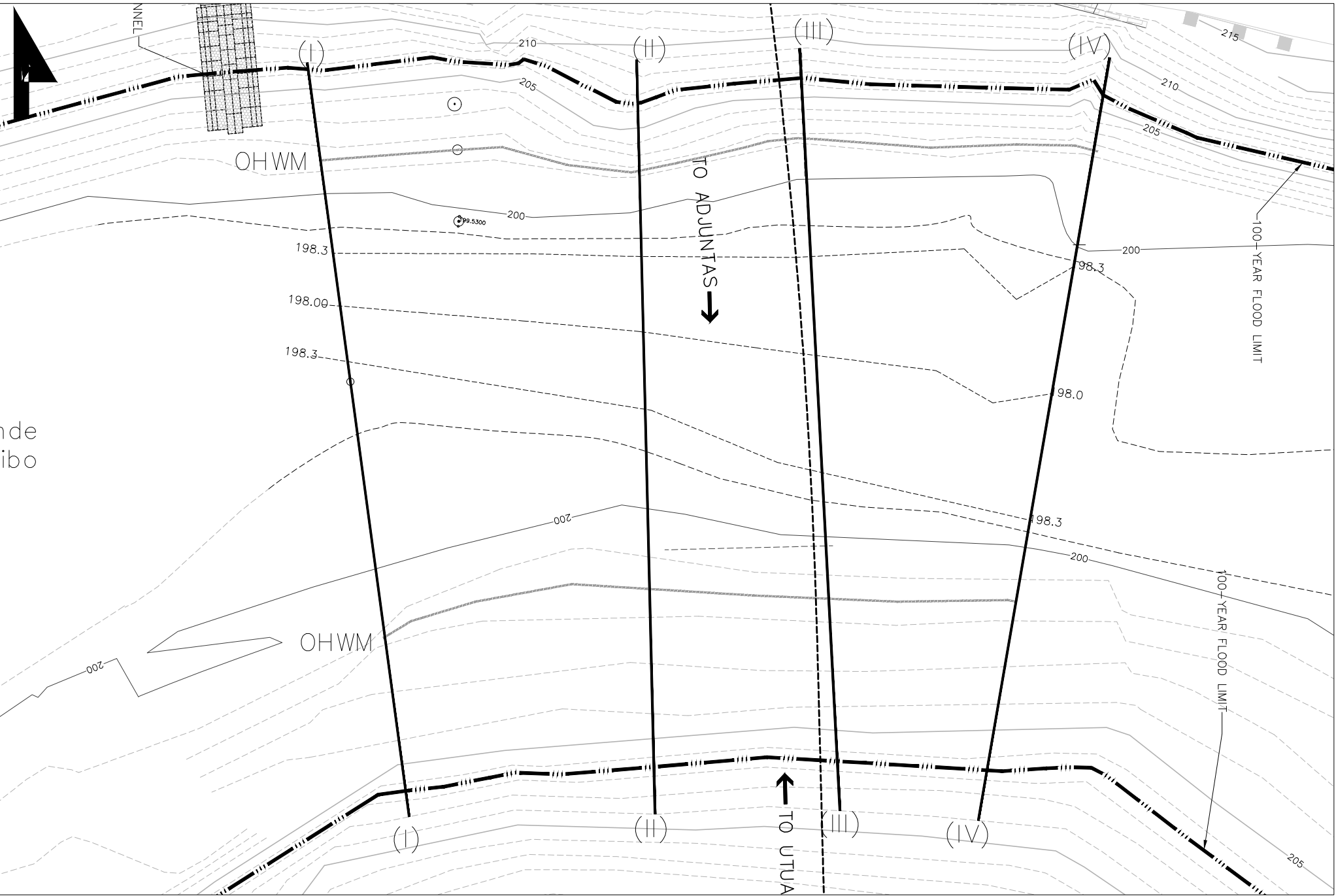
GABRIEL BERRIZ&ASSOCIATES  
Plan. Laredo González, MP,PPL  
SEPT, 2020

DIC/2017 ORTHO MOSAIC  
GOOGLE EARTH





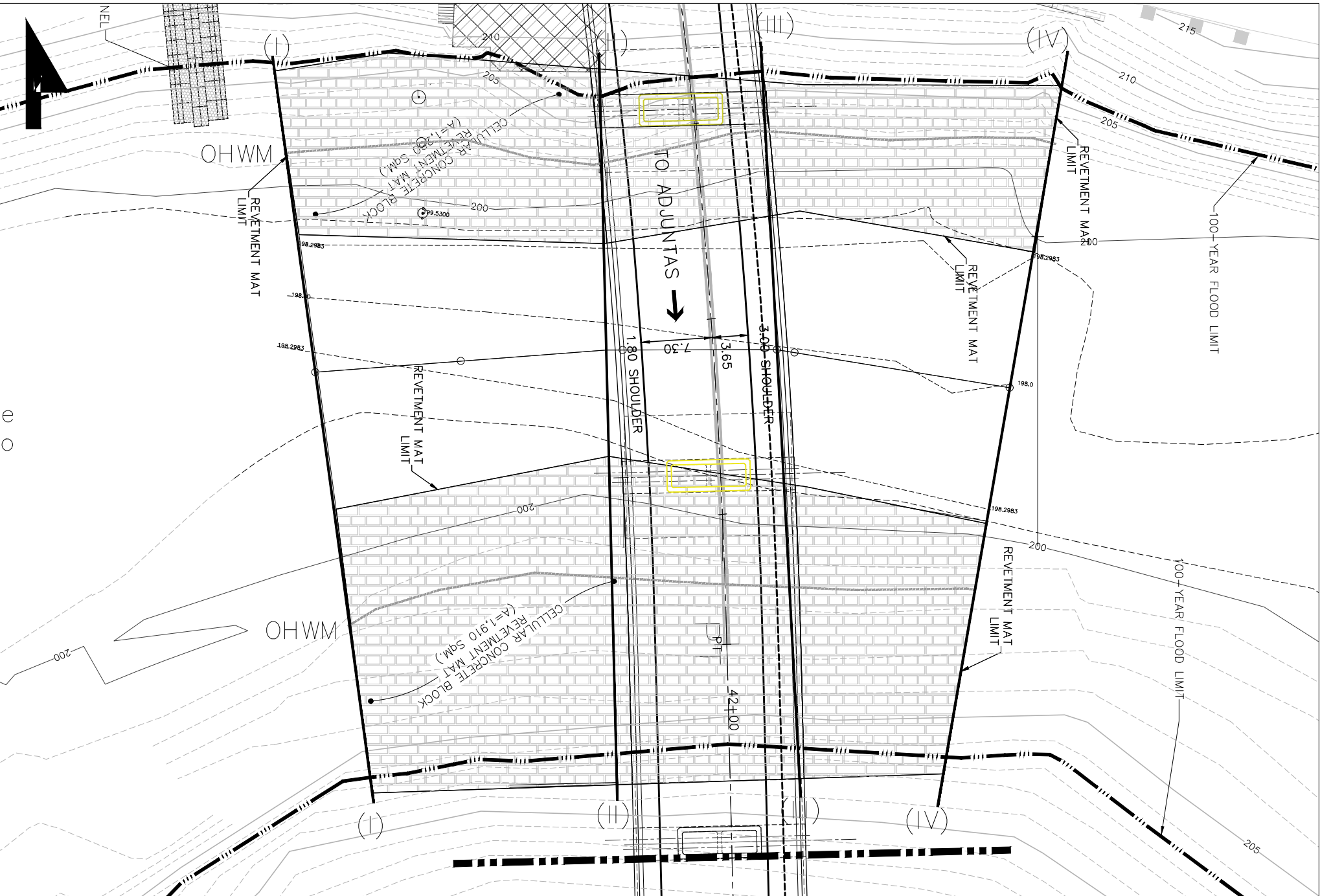




PR-10, SECTION II, BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO, UTUADO-ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO.  
EXISTING CONDITIONS

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



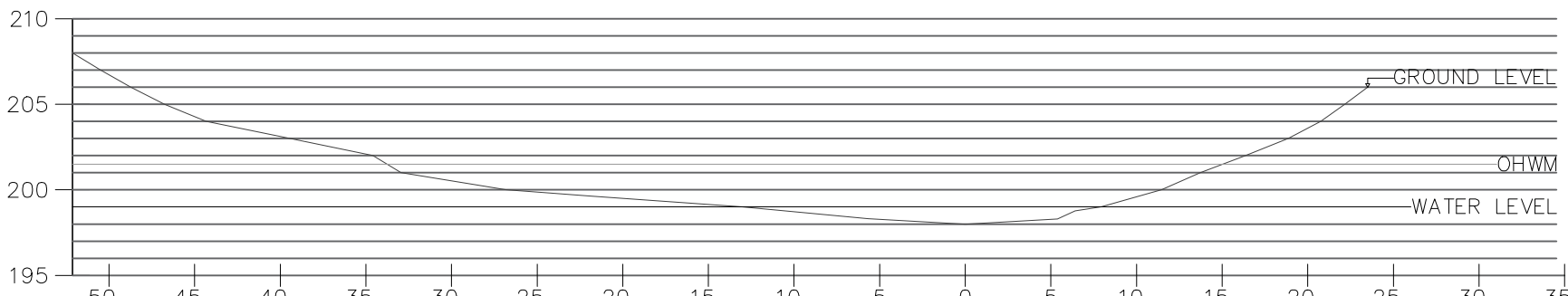
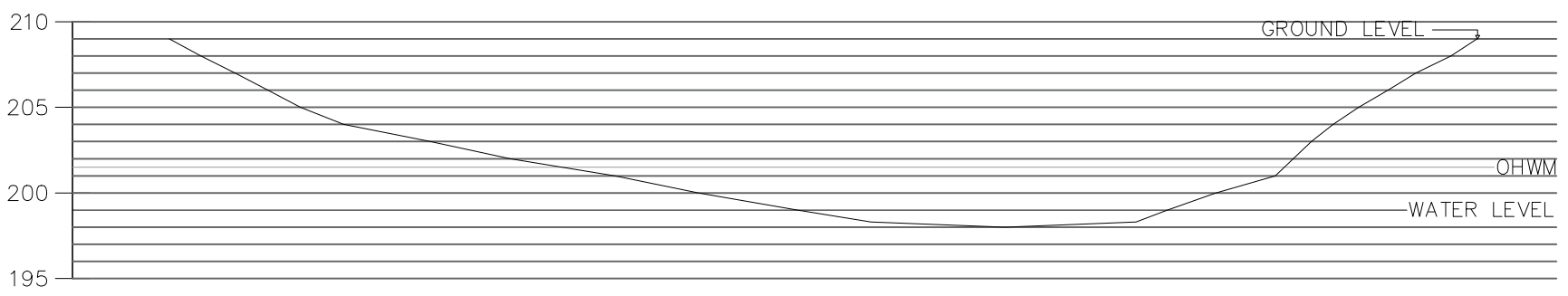
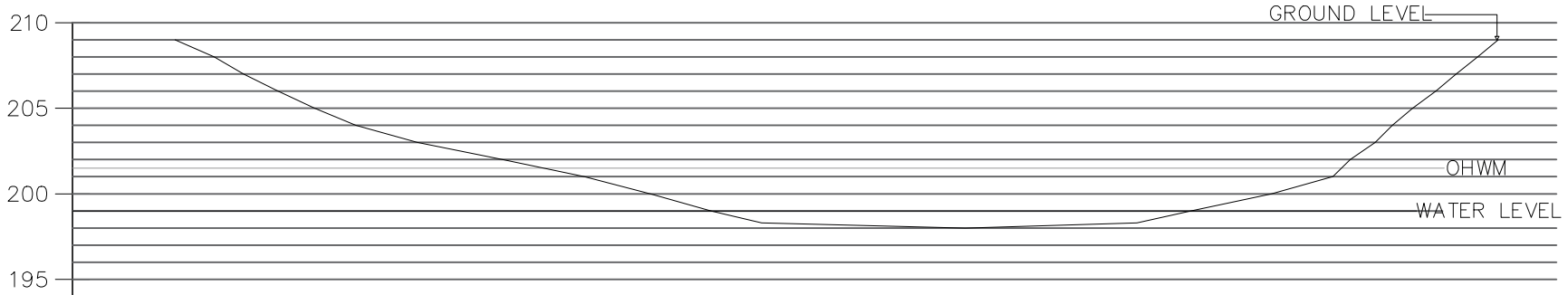
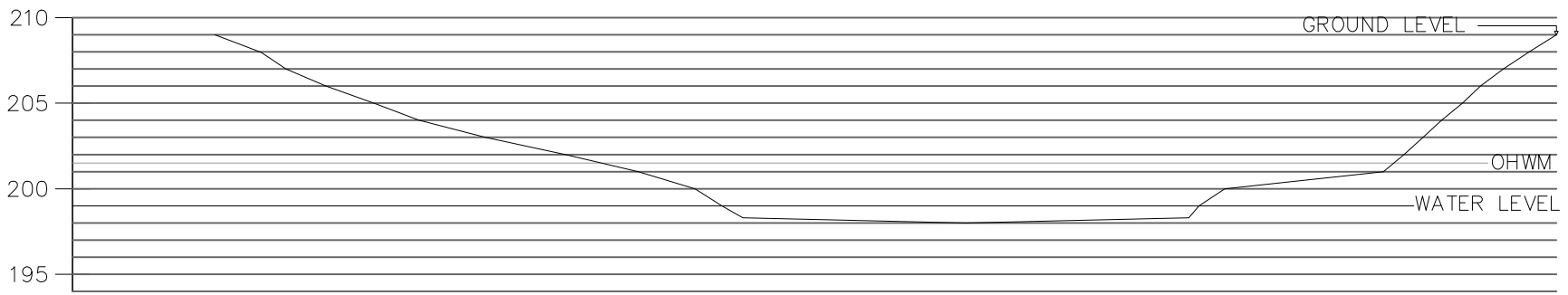


PR-10, SECTION II, BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO, UTUADO-ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO.  
 PROPOSED CONDITIONS

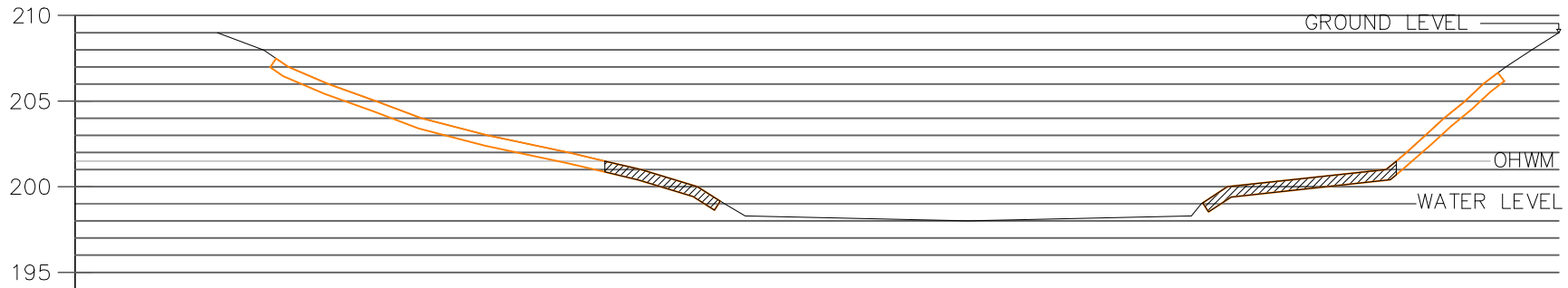
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 Page: 4/7



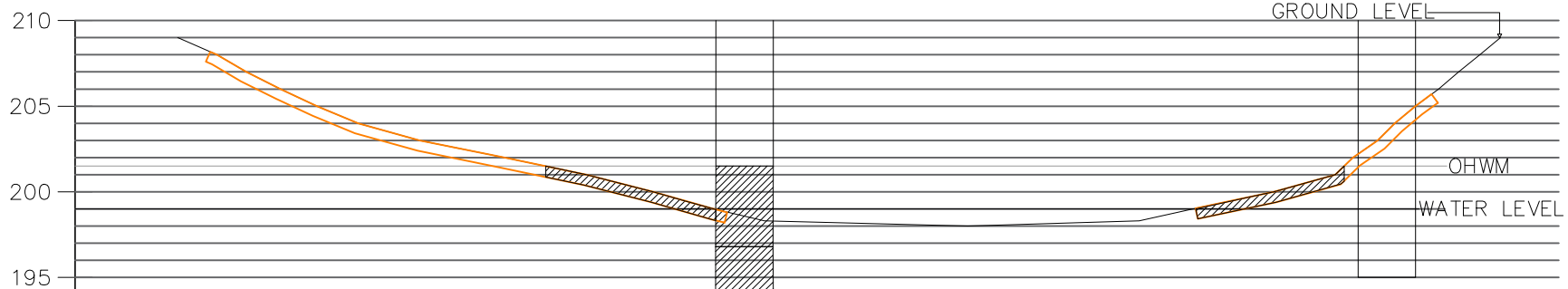
PR-10, SECTION II, BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO,  
 UTUADO-ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO.  
 EXISTING CONDITIONS (SECTIONS I TO IV)



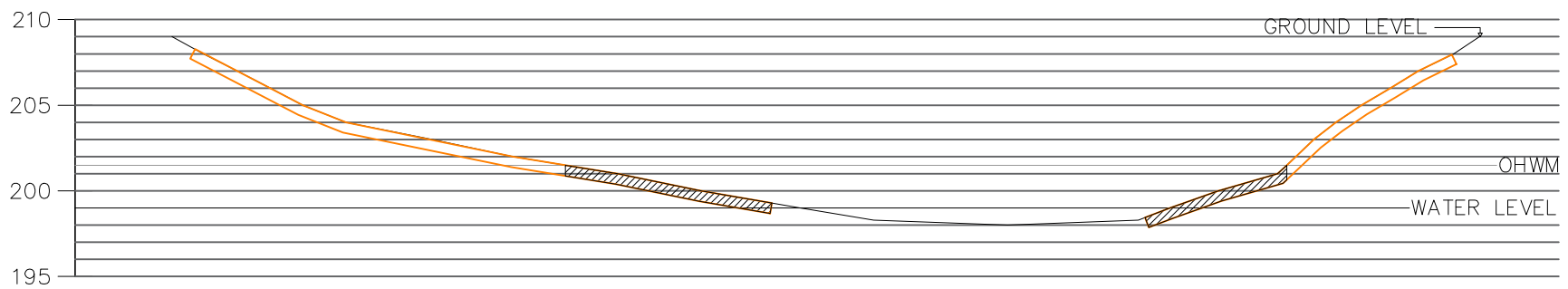
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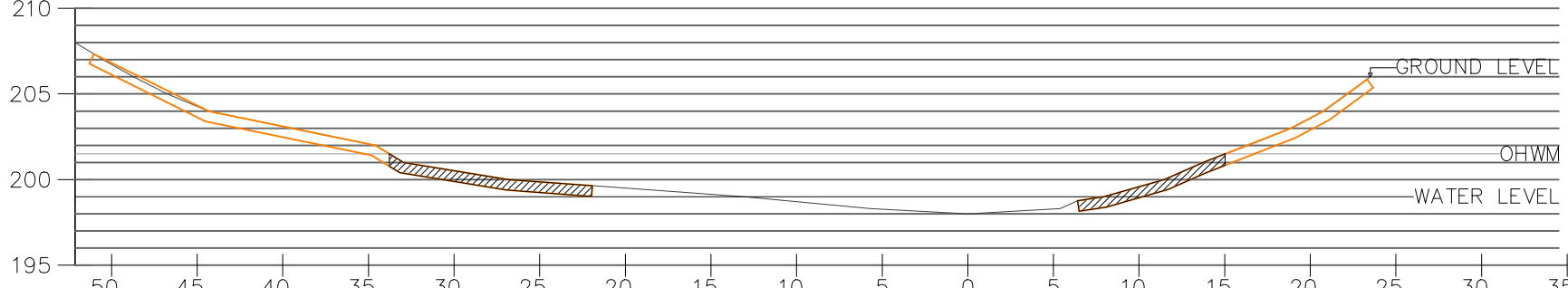
(III)



(II)



(I)



50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35



PR-10, SECTION II, BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO,  
 UTUADO-ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO.  
 PROPOSED CONDITIONS (SECTIONS I TO IV)

SCALE: 1:400  
 10/AUG/2020  
 Page: 6/7

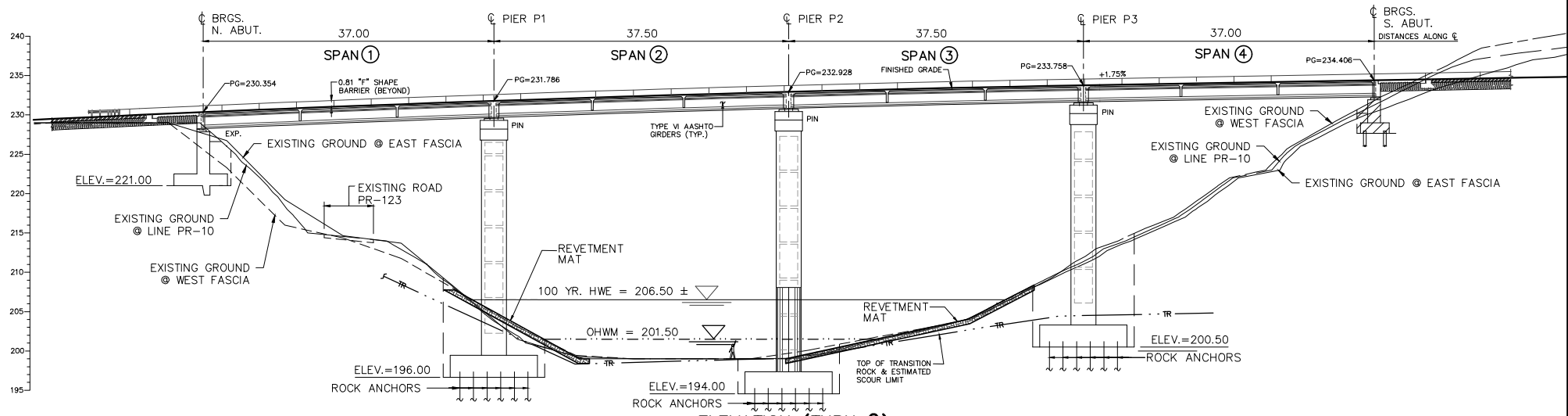




TOTAL	RIVER BRIDGE			
LENGTH	71.3150	m	233.9132	'
AREA	1,402.9858	SQM	0.3467	acre
VOL(RIP-RAP)	1,160.3328	CM	1,517.6573	CY
Vol(concr)	293.1900	CM	383.4778	CY

PR-10, SECTION II, BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO, UTUADO-ADJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO.  
 ESTIMATED IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT





**ELEVATION VIEW**

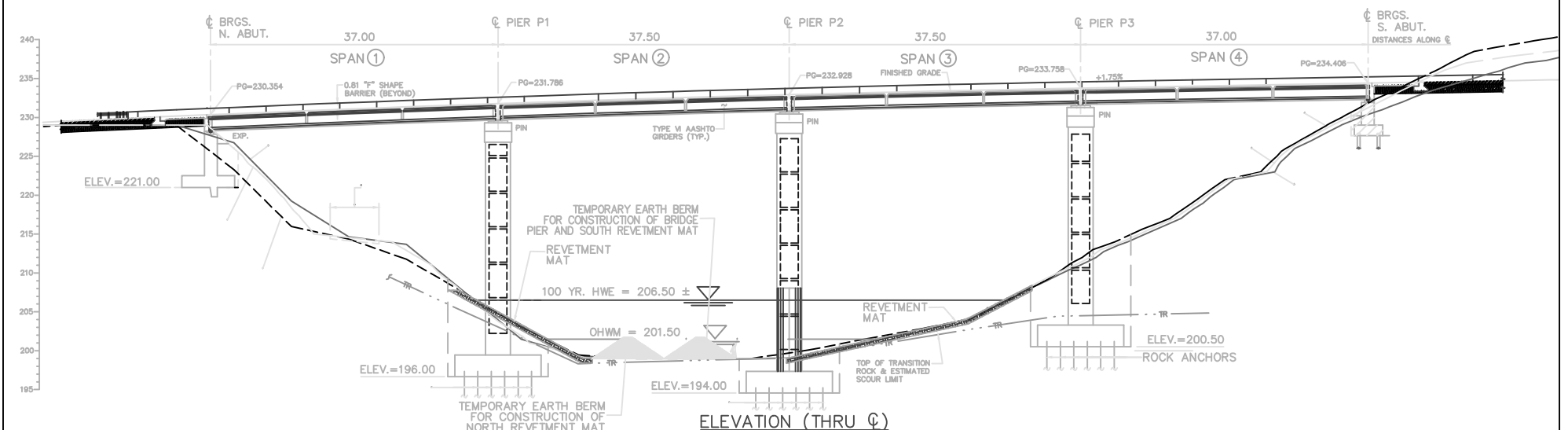
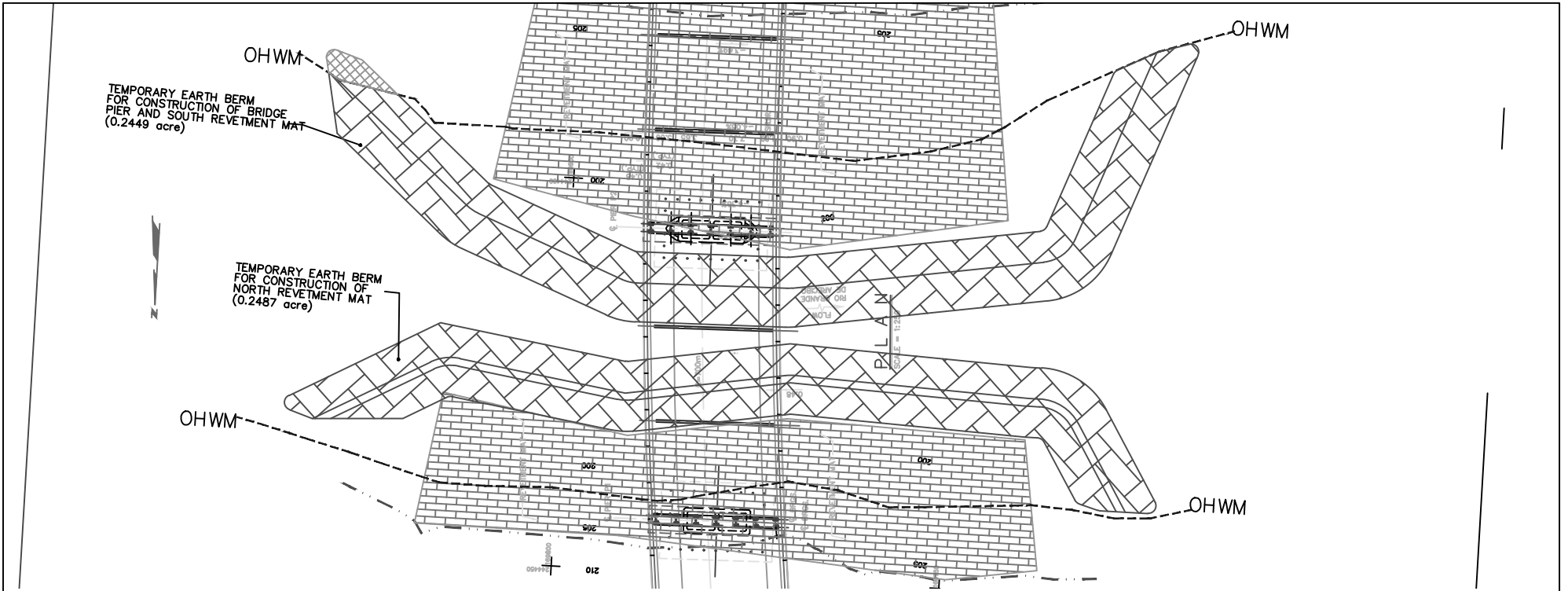
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**HIGHWAY PR-10**  
 UTUADO TO ADJUNTAS (SECTION III)  
 FROM STA. 55+50.36(10) TO STA. 73+90(10)

**BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO**  
 BRIDGE ELEVATION VIEW





ELEVATION VIEW

SCALE=1:750



HIGHWAY PR-10  
 UTUADO TO ADJUNTAS (SECTION III)  
 FROM STA. 55+50.36(10) TO STA. 73+90(10)

BRIDGE OVER RIO GRANDE DE ARECIBO  
 BRIDGE ELEVATION VIEW



## 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 #: 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: [marelisa\\_rivera@fws.gov](mailto:marelisa_rivera@fws.gov)
  - Office phone 787-851-7297 ext. 206 or mobile 787-510-5219
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
  - Email: [jose\\_cruz-burgos@fws.gov](mailto:jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov)
  - Office phone 787-851-7297 ext. 218 or mobile 787-510-5206



**VII. PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT**

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**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

--

Signature	Date Signed			
	MM	DD	YY	

## 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](mailto:saj-rd-enforcement@usace.army.mil) (preferred, not to exceed 15 MB) **or** 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 Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Contact to Schedule 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 CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_  
AT \_\_\_\_\_**

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. Although the construction period for works authorized by Department of the Army permits is finite, the permit itself, with its limitations, does not expire.

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: [SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil](mailto:SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil) (not to exceed 15 MB).

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(SUBDIVISION)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(DATE)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(LOT)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(BLOCK)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(NAME-PRINTED)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(STREET ADDRESS)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(MAILING ADDRESS)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)**