

Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for
Reconstruction of the Culebra Cargo Ferry Terminal
Culebra, Puerto Rico
FEMA-4017-HMGP-PR-0030**

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Puerto Rico Ports Authority (PRPA), as subrecipient, for the reconstruction of the Culebra Cargo Ferry Terminal at Sardinias Bay, and the construction of an Auxiliary Cargo Ferry Terminal at San Ildefonso, Ensenada Honda Bay, Culebra, Puerto Rico. The proposed project would be funded through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for financial assistance pursuant to section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

The Proposed Alternative is a two phase project. The first phase consists of the construction of an Auxiliary Cargo Terminal at San Ildefonso in Ensenada Honda to provide cargo service to the municipal island of Culebra during the construction of the second phase which entails the reconstruction of the Cargo Ferry Terminal at Sardinias Bay. Once the construction of the Sardinias Bay is completed, the cargo operation will relocate back to Sardinias Bay Terminal, and the Auxiliary Terminal will remain as back-up terminal. The purpose and need of the proposed project is the reconstruction of the Culebra Cargo Ramp at Sardinias Bay in order to ensure the integrity and continuity of a safe maritime transportation infrastructure; including recovery after a disruptive event, such as a natural disaster, and through the construction and maintenance of an Auxiliary Cargo Ferry Terminal in San Ildefonso. This situation poses a threat to the safety of passengers and operators, to the equipment and vehicles that use the facility, and to the continued well-being of the resident and transient population that depend upon this infrastructure for a living.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 44 CFR Part 9, DHS-FEMA evaluated six alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, the Proposed Alternative, and four alternatives considered and dismissed (Reconstruction of Existing Cargo Ramp in Sardinias Bay plus an Auxiliary Cargo Terminal in Fulladosa, a Phased Reconstruction at Sardinias Bay, a Phased Reconstruction, the Restoration of Existing Pilings, and Replace Pilings Leaving Existing Pilings in Place). DHS-FEMA concluded that the Reconstruction of the Cargo Ferry Terminal at Sardinias Bay and Construction of Auxiliary Cargo Terminal in San Ildefonso was the Proposed Alternative.

In accordance with NEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the human environment. The EA summarizes the project's purpose and need, project alternatives, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for considered alternatives. FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated with the EA.

The EA is available for public comment and can be viewed and downloaded from the following website location: www.prpa.gov.pr

The EA can be viewed in hard copy at the following locations:

Puerto Rico Ports Authority
Lindbergh Street #64, Antigua Base Naval de Miramar
San Juan, PR

Municipality of Culebra City Hall
Road PR-250, Km. 5
Culebra, PR

Culebra Museum of History
Road PR-250, Km. 4.2
Culebra, PR

The comment period will end on 15 days from the date of this legal notice publication in El Nuevo Dia or the final posting of the EA, whichever comes later. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or emailed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. Contact: FEMA Region II, Attn: EHP-Reconstruction of the Culebra Cargo Ferry Terminal EA Comments, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II, 26 Federal Plaza, NY 10278 or via email at FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov.