

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Notice of Availability of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Post-Hurricanes Irma and Maria and Increased Seismic Activity for Puerto Rico's Public Facilities Infrastructure Recovery and Resiliency FEMA-DR-4336-PR, FEMA-DR-4339-PR & FEMA-DR-4473-PR**

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to Puerto Rico, Applicant, for the repair of damaged public facilities caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the increased seismic activity occurring in 2019 and 2020. A disaster declaration was issued for Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017, encompassing the entirety of Puerto Rico. Since the signing of the disaster declaration in response to the hurricanes, Puerto Rico has experienced increased seismic activity leading to an additional disaster declaration signed on January 16, 2020 and applied to designated Municipalities within Puerto Rico. The declaration authorized federal public assistance to affected communities and certain non-profit organizations per FEMA, and in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5121-5207), *as amended*; the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) of 2013; and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123). The Central Office of Recovery, Reconstruction and Resiliency (COR3) is the Applicant for FEMA grants and multiple agencies may be subrecipients for specific projects.

The need for this action is to repair public facilities to current codes and standards, equitably restore or increase resiliency measures, reopen facilities closed because of disaster events, support alignment to subrecipient needs of restoring facility services, align facilities with local laws, and provide hazard mitigation to increase resiliency in response to future disaster events. The elements of public facilities covered under this Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) are defined as emergency response facilities; publicly owned and non-profit hospitals, medical centers, and health care facilities; Non-profit houses of worship and churches; publicly owned and non-profit higher education facilities; State and municipal government offices; Public housing communities; Judiciary buildings and correction facilities; Public recreation facilities; Libraries, archives, and museums; and Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company facilities. The goal is to ensure resilient and upgraded public facilities will allow services to remain open during future disaster events, which will enable quicker emergency response times, increase public safety, reduce injury and death, and increase survivability.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this PEA has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the physical, biological, cultural, and human environments. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated within the PEA. This Public Facilities PEA is available for agency and public review and comment for a period of thirty (30) days. The public information process will include a public notice in both English and Spanish with information about the proposed action in the *Primera Hora* and *El Nuevo Día* newspapers. The publicly available materials will include both English and Spanish translated versions of the PEA, Executive Summary, and Public Notice. The Public Facilities PEA is available for download at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository> and COR3's website, <https://recovery.pr.gov/en/document-library>.

A hard copy of the PEA will be available for review at the following locations:

Municipality of Aibonito  
Planning and Permits Office  
Degetau Street, Annex #56  
Aibonito, Puerto Rico

Municipality of Arroyo, Mayor's Office  
Morse St. #64  
Arroyo, Puerto Rico

Municipality of Caguas  
William Miranda Marin City Hall  
Environmental Affairs Office, Second floor  
Padial St. Corner of Jose Mercado Ave.  
Caguas, Puerto Rico

Municipality of Carolina, Mayor's Office  
Planning Department, 2nd Floor  
Manuel Fernandez Juncos Ave.  
Carolina, Puerto Rico

Municipality of Culebra,  
State Road PR-250, Government Center  
Federal Programs Office, 2nd Floor  
Culebra, Puerto Rico

Municipality of Luquillo, Mayor's Office  
14 de Julio St. #154  
Luquillo, Puerto Rico

Municipality of Toa Baja  
Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development  
Llanero Sports Complex  
José de Diego St.  
Levittown, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico

Municipality of Vieques  
Mayor's Office  
Lebrum St. #449  
Vieques, Puerto Rico

Municipality of Yabucoa  
Reinaldo Alvarez Costa Municipal Library (Next to Fire Station)  
Catalina Morales St., PR-182 KM 1.1  
Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

Office of General Permits (OGPe) Central  
PRIDCO Building  
355 Ave. Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Office of General Permits (OGPe) at Ponce  
Isabel II Building, First Floor  
Trade and Export Office  
Calle Isabel #66 esq. Leon  
Ponce, Puerto Rico

Office of General Permits (OGPe) at Hatillo-Arecibo  
Galería del Norte II Building, Second Floor  
PR-2 KM 81.7  
Carrizales, Arecibo, Puerto Rico

Office of General Permits (OGPe) at Aguadilla  
Government Center 9th floor  
Luis Muñoz Rivera St.  
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

Office of General Permits (OGPe) at Humacao  
Boulevard Del Río Ave. (State Road PR-3), South Detour  
Humacao, Puerto Rico

Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP) (Headquarters)  
Former Asilo de Beneficencia, 1st Floor  
Beneficencia St. Corner of Dr. Francisco Rufino  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP) at Mayaguez  
Urrutia Residence, West #60 Ramos Antonini  
St. Corner of Pilar Defilló  
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP) at Ponce  
Puerto Rican Music Museum  
Serrallés Residence #42  
Isabel St. 50  
Ponce, Puerto Rico

This PEA reflects the evaluation and assessment of the federal government, the decision maker for the federal action; however, FEMA will take into consideration any substantive comments received during the public review period to inform the final decision regarding grant approval and project implementation. The public is invited to submit written comments by emailing [FEMA-EHP-DR4339@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-EHP-DR4339@fema.dhs.gov) or via mail to: U.S Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 2, Puerto Rico Caribbean Area Office – Joint Recovery Office, 50 State Road num. 165, Suite 3, Guaynabo, PR 00968 Attn: Puerto Rico Public Facilities

PEA Public Comments. If FEMA receives no substantive comments from the public and/or agency reviewers, FEMA will adopt the PEA as final and will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI); however, if substantive comments are received, FEMA will evaluate and address comments as part of the FONSI documentation or in a Final PEA.