

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the
Parcelas Comunas Flood Reduction Project
Aguacate Ward, Municipality of Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Central Office of Recovery, Reconstruction and Resiliency (COR3; Recipient), and the Municipality of Yabucoa (Subrecipient), to reduce flood hazards in the Parcelas Comunas Sector, Aguacate Ward, Urbanización Villa de Buenaventura at the Municipality of Yabucoa.

The President of the United States issued a disaster declaration for Hurricane María on September 20, 2017, encompassing all of Puerto Rico. This declaration authorized FEMA to provide assistance to Puerto Rico under federal disaster FEMA-4339-DR-PR. The municipality of Yabucoa (Subrecipient) has applied to FEMA under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for financial assistance to reduce flooding in the Parcelas Comunas Sector, Aguacate, Urbanización Villa de Buenaventura. Specifically, the subrecipient has applied for funding through COR3 in accordance with section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. § 5172, as amended.

The purpose of the project is to reduce flood hazards in the neighborhood. The project is needed because the unnamed stream that flows through the neighborhood overflows during storm events. The project elements covered under this Environmental Assessment (EA) include removing vegetation, existing gabions, excess soil, and several unpermitted and non-compliant structures from the stream and constructing an open concrete-lined channel from the PR-906 bridge approximately 512 m (1,680 ft) downstream.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an EA has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the physical, biological, cultural, and human environments. FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 C.F.R. Part 9 is incorporated within the EA. The EA is available for agency and public review and comment for a period of 30 days. The public information process includes a public notice with information about the proposed action in the *Primera Hora* and *El Nuevo Día* newspapers.

The EA is available for download at the following websites:

- FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>
- Municipality of Yabucoa: <https://www.facebook.com/municipioyabucoa>
- COR3: <https://recovery.pr.gov/es/document-library#>

A hard copy of the EA will be available for review at the following location:

- Centro Gubernamental, Calle Catalina Morales #54, Municipality of Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

Interested parties may request an electronic copy of the EA by sending an email to FEMA at FEMA-EHP-DR4339@FEMA.DHS.GOV. This EA reflects the evaluation and assessment of the federal government, the decision-maker for the federal action; however, FEMA will consider 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 sending an email to FEMA-EHP-DR4339@FEMA.DHS.GOV or via mail to:

FEMA Region 2 – DR-4339-PR
Puerto Rico Joint Recovery Office
50 State Road 165, Suite 3
Guaynabo, PR 00968

Attn: Environmental Assessment Parcelas Comunas Flood Reduction Project

If FEMA receives no substantive comments from the public and/or agency reviewers, FEMA will adopt the EA as final and will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). If FEMA receives substantive comments, it will evaluate and address comments in the FONSI, revise and issue a Final EA for further comment, or issue a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.