

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the
Carraízo Reservoir Dredging
FEMA-DR-4339-PR, PROJECT 169882

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal funding to Puerto Rico, recipient, and the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) as sub-recipient, to conduct a dredging event to partially restore the Carraízo Reservoir's water storage capacity. A disaster declaration was issued for Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017, encompassing the entire Commonwealth. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5172) as amended; authorizes FEMA to provide funding to eligible grant applicants for activities in order to reduce or eliminate risks to life and property from hazards and their effects. The 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act (Public Law 115-123) authorizes FEMA "to provide assistance to restore disaster damaged facilities or systems that provide the specifically identified critical services to an industry standard without regard to pre-disaster condition." Section 406 of the Stafford Act describes critical services as power, water, sewer, wastewater treatment, communications, education, and emergency medical care. The Carraízo Reservoir is part of the water collection system in Puerto Rico and is the only raw water source for the Sergio Cuevas Water Filtration Plant (SCWFP).

The need for the action is to support the long-term ability of PRASA to provide a steady, reliable source of potable water for the SCWFP service area which includes approximately 491,663 individuals within the municipalities of San Juan, Carolina, Canóvanas, Trujillo Alto, Gurabo, Loíza, and Juncos. The removal of accumulated sediments from the Carraízo Reservoir due to Hurricane María is crucial to maintaining the safe water levels and guaranteeing adequate water supply to SCWFP, which is the second-largest filtration plant in Puerto Rico. The project elements covered under this Environmental Assessment (EA) are defined as: hydraulic dredging of the Carraízo Reservoir, sediment transfer through a floating sediment pipeline in the reservoir and aboveground inshore pipelines to three existing disposal dikes. Water would be removed from the sediment through passive settling, and the decanted water would be released from disposal dikes back to the reservoir. The goal is to restore the water storage capacity of the Carraízo Reservoir which is the only water source for PRASA's SCWFP.

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 human environment. FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated within the EA. This EA is available for agency and public review and comment for a period of thirty (30) calendar days. The public information process will include a public notice via a local Puerto Rico newspaper. The publicly available materials will include a Spanish translation of the EA and Executive Summary. The EA is available for download at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>, <https://www.acueductospr.com/cumplimiento> and <https://recovery.pr.gov/es/document-library#>. A hard copy of the EA will be available for review at the following locations:

Canóvanas Municipality

Planning and Economic Development Office
Edificio Multiusos, Second Floor
Autonomía Street (PR-185 km 0.2)
Pueblo Ward, Canóvanas, Puerto Rico.

Carolina Municipality

Infrastructure Management Office at City Hall, Second Floor

Manuel Fernández Juncos Avenue
Pueblo Ward, Carolina, Puerto Rico.

Gurabo Municipality

Municipal Secretary's Office at Matías González García Street
Pueblo Ward (behind Sports Museum)
Gurabo, Puerto Rico

Juncos Municipality

Municipal Zoning and Planning Office-CRIM at City Hall, First Floor
Paseo Escuté Street
Pueblo Ward, Juncos, Puerto Rico.

Loíza Municipality

Planning Office at Carlos Escobar Street, Escobar #3
Pueblo Ward, Loíza, Puerto Rico.

San Juan Municipality

Compliance and Environmental Planning Office, Third Floor, Trilito Building
José De Diego Avenue #130, corner 54 street SE, Urb. La Riviera
San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Trujillo Alto Municipality

Planning and Municipal Zoning Office at Raymond H. Rivera Fusté
Government Center, Fifth Floor, Muñoz Rivera Avenue # 46,
Pueblo Ward, Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico

Caguas Municipality

Environmental Affairs Office at William Miranda Marín City Hall, Second Floor
Padial Street, corner José Mercado Avenue
Pueblo Ward, Caguas, Puerto Rico

PRASA Central Office

Sergio Cuevas Bustamante Building
604 Barbosa Avenue, Hato Rey

PRASA Metro Region – San Juan Office

Calle Robles, Río Piedras, San Juan
(adjacent to the Tren Urbano Station and the Ponce de León Avenue)

PRASA East Region – Caguas Office

Gautier Benítez Street
Plaza Gautier Benítez Building, 2nd level, Caguas

This EA 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 or via mail to: Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 2 – DR-4339-PR Puerto Rico Joint Recovery Office 50 State Road 165 Guaynabo, PR 00968 Attn: Carraízo Reservoir Dredging EA Public Comments. 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) document. If FEMA receives substantive comments, it will evaluate and address comments as part of the FONSI documentation or in a Final EA.