

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the**  
**Carolina Downtown Flood Mitigation Project**  
**HMGP Project 4339-0184**

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 the Puerto Rico Central Office of Recovery, Reconstruction and Resiliency (COR3; recipient) and the Municipality of Carolina, as subrecipient, to improve stormwater infrastructure to address flooding impacts in downtown Carolina, including the Doctors' Center Hospital San Fernando de la Carolina (DCHSFC), the government and commercial core, as well as high-density urban development. 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 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is authorized by Section 404 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5170c. FEMA, through its HMGP, proposes to fund the Carolina Downtown Flood Mitigation Project.

The need for this project is to protect the community from the effects of flooding as a result of hurricanes and severe storm events and the subsequent failure of the stormwater system. Specifically, the project is needed to maintain community services and utilities, safeguard public health, and improve the community's overall resiliency from the effects of flooding. The project elements covered under this Environmental Assessment (EA) include the construction of a new stormwater system interconnected with the existing one; repair of existing stormwater infrastructure; construction of a new detention pond, pump station, and dike; and improvements to the infrastructure and telecommunications system within the project limits (Proposed Action). Additionally, the Proposed Action would contribute to decreasing community risks related to direct and indirect health impacts, contamination of local potable and surface waters, impeded community accessibility, and impacts to the local and downtown economy.

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. DHS-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 in the *Primera Hora* and *El Nuevo Dia* newspapers. The publicly available materials will include a Spanish translation of the EA. The EA is available for download at the following websites:

FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>

Municipality of Carolina: <https://www.municipiocarolina.com>

COR3: <https://recovery.pr.gov/es/document-library#>

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

Municipality of Carolina City Hall  
Planning Department, 2nd Floor  
Manuel Fernandez Juncos Avenue  
Pueblo Ward, Carolina Puerto Rico.

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](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  
State Road num. 165, Suite 3  
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8024  
Attn: Carolina Downtown Flood Mitigation Project 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.