Updated Descriptive Memoir: Improvements to the Patillas-Arroyo Trunk Sewer

1 INTRODUCTION

The Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority, through its Capital Improvement Program initiative pursuant to a 2006 EPA-PRASA Consent Order, proposes the elimination of the Patillas Waste Water Treatment Plant (Patillas WWTP) and the deviation of the influent through a new trunk sewer line that will connect with the Arroyo Pump Station and to the Guayama Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant. The project area is located between the Patillas and Arroyo Ward, beginning at the Patillas WWTP and ending in the Arroyo Pump Station, following State Road PR-181, PR-3 and PR-53 (Ave. José Celso Barbosa).

In 2013, this project was the subject of a previous USACE permit application, SAJ-2013-Q1789(SP-CGR), which was not completed at the time.

2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The main objective of the proposed action is to eliminate the Patillas WWTP in agreement with the 2006 EPA-PRASA Consent Order. The project will help simplify the sewer operational system in the area and provide adequate sewer management capabilities as well as to eliminate discharges from septic tanks within the service area.

3 PROJECT COMPONENTS

An engineering solution was developed to significantly improve the transfer of the Patillas WWTP influent to the Guayama Regional WWTP and to increase the volumes that this sewer system can handle to ensure optimum performance and residual capacity that can withstand increases in wastewater flows brought about by population growth in the near future.

The project consists of construction of two new pump stations (La Providencia and Las Palmas), 1.9 Km of 12 and 15-inch gravity lines, and 2.52 Km of 16-inch force line and approx. 5 km of 30-inch gravity line to eliminate the Patillas Wastewater Treatment Plant. These are described in the following lines:

• A gravity line of 15 inches in diameter with a length of 1,862 lineal meters (LM) and the necessary manholes will be installed to divert the wastewater from the Patillas WWTP up to a proposed La Providencia Pump Station. The new pump station will be constructed with a capacity of 1,684 gpm and will be located at the State Road 181 in Pollos Ward. Once the new La Providencia Pump Station is constructed, the existing La Providencia Pump Station will be eliminated. The new pump station will receive influents from sector along state road PR-3 in Maunabo and the Patillas WWTP.

- A 16-inch force line with a length of 2,503 LM will be installed to convey wastewater from the proposed La Providencia Pump Station along an existing dirt road crossing state highway PR-53 to continue beyond the highway's ROW up to the proposed Palmas Pump Station. The new pump station will be constructed with a capacity of 2,662 gpm across PR-53. This pump station will allow the elimination of the existing Airport Pump Station and the existing Palmas Pump Station.
- A 20-inch force line with a length of 3,760 LM will be installed to convey wastewater from the new Palmas pump station to the Miramar Sector in Arroyo. A 30-inch gravity line with a length of 1,969 LM will be installed to improve the wastewater collection from sectors in the east side of the Municipality of Arroyo.

Impacts to jurisdictional waters, the reason of this application, consists of various segments of pipeline to be installed across portions of the Rio Chico (sheet 1 of 9), Quebrada Mamey (sheet 2 of 9), an unnamed seasonal channel located at Los Pollos sector (sheet 3 of 9), Rio Patillas (sheet 4 of 9), and Rio Nigua (sheet 8 of 9). An existing wetland will also be impacted for the construction of the proposed Las Palmas Pump Station (sheets 5, 6 and 7 of 9). Regarding the pump station relocation component, only the construction of the new Palmas pump station main building will result in impacts to existing wetlands. The elimination of the existing WWTP will not result in impacts to jurisdictional areas.

Wetland impacts in all cases will result from activities related to the removal of vegetation, trench excavation, placement of pipelines, concrete protection and earth fill, traffic of construction vehicles and personnel, as well as the operation of staging areas at various locations within the construction site. Pipe installation will be accomplished by conventional mechanical means: trench excavation, pipe installation followed by placement of fill and as detailed in the attached drawings. Concrete protection will be placed as well at selected locations within the total impact area (sheet 9 of 9).

Total impacts to jurisdictional areas are estimated in **2.50 acres of palustrine wetlands**, classified as PIO3A, PEM1A and PEM1C by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory database. From this total, **0.79 acres** correspond to temporary construction staging areas and **1.71 acres** to impacts related to the placement of underground pipes and the construction of the afore-mentioned pump station. Please refer to the attached drawings for details. Also, approximately **3,413 cubic meters** of fill mostly consisting of clean fill and alluvium will be deposited as part of the proposed construction activities. Surplus material will be disposed of at an authorized upland facility. A summary of potential impacts has been included along the revised drawing set attached to this document.

A preliminary consultation through the USFW Information for Planning and Consultation web site (IPaC) indicated the following species may be potentially affected by the proposed construction activity:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Notes
Puerto Rican Boa	Epicrates inornatus	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Guajon	Eleutherodactylus cooki	Threatened	There is final critical habitat for this species. Project location is outside the critical habitat.

The same source indicated that no critical habitats of flora and fauna were identified in the impacted area. Attached please a copy of the documentation resulting from the USFWS IPaC preliminary consultation. The Applicant understands that the USACE permitting process will include an official consultation with USFWS and is willing to implement all recommendations resulting from said process.

4 AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND MITIGATION

The Applicant understands that in order for a project to be permitted by the USACE, it must be demonstrated that, to the extent practicable: steps have been taken to avoid impacts to wetlands and other aquatic resources, potential impacts have been minimized, and compensation will be provided for any remaining unavoidable impacts. A process commonly referred to as the mitigation-sequencing requirement of the Clean Water Act § 404 regulatory program.

Towards this goal the following <u>avoidance</u>, <u>minimization</u> and <u>compensation</u> actions have taken place when planning this project:

- The project has been conceptualized so as to avoid impacts to waters of the US to the
 extent possible. Delineation of the pipe route preserved to the extent possible highdensity value wetland areas in favor of less dense tracts that were used to demarcate the
 final route of the pipeline. Unavoidable impacts employed the smallest footprint
 technically possible while
- Likewise, the extent of unavoidable impacts has been minimized as much as possible. Pipeline route crossing at all water bodies (Quebrada Mamey, Río Chico, Río Patillas and Rio Nigua) took into account impacts to jurisdictional resources to the extent that the segment between the new Providencia PS and the west bank of the Quebrada Mamey and from Manhole #11 to Manhole #12 toward the east bank of Rio Chico were accomplished by means of conventional and/or directional drilling, avoiding altogether impact to the bed of these water bodies and associated jurisdictional wetlands. Finally,

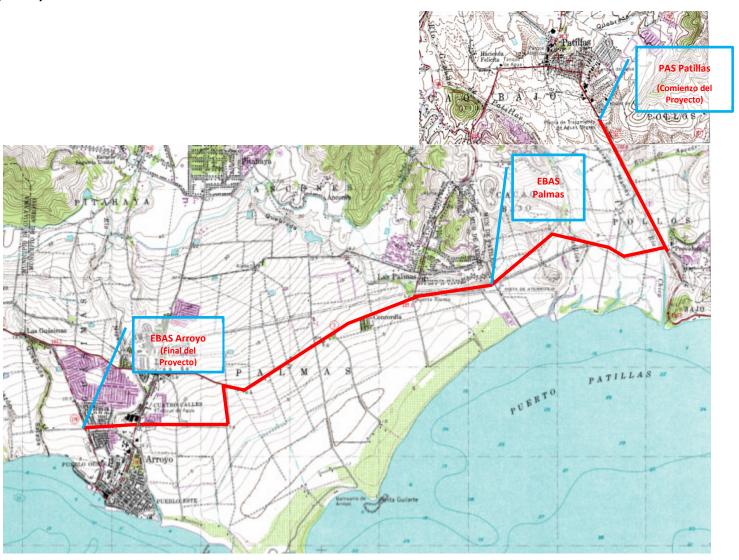
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the design of the new Palmas pump station was intended to utilize the least amount of space possible while conveying the design flows.

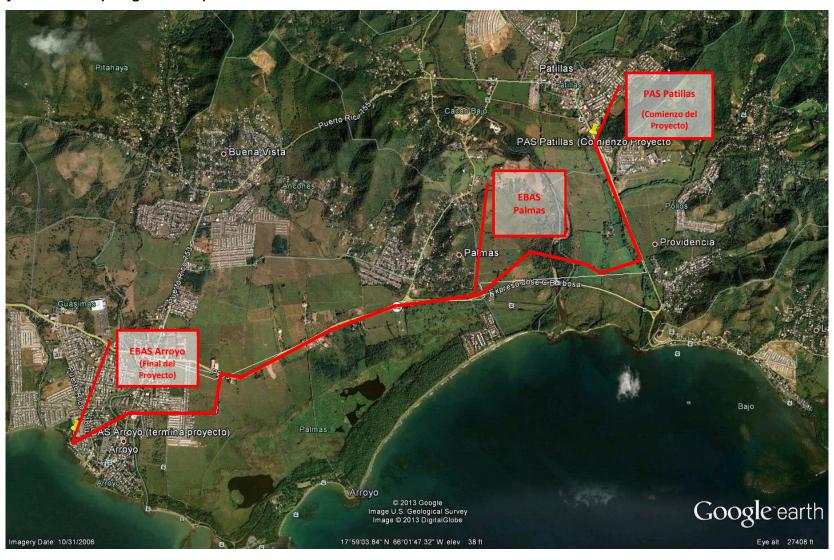
- The applicant is willing to provide compensation for all impacts to jurisdictional waters
 caused by the proposed action. The mitigation program to be implemented may include
 both in-kind and out-of-kind components to achieve a goal of "no net loss" of wetlands as
 directed by the COE. These actions may include stewardship actions by the Applicant
 towards the improvement of existing wetlands in the project areas, among other
 initiatives.
- Nevertheless, it is expected that most of the impacts caused by the proposed action will be of temporary nature and most of the areas along the pipeline corridor will return to their original state shortly. Only a reduced area, including that of the new Palmas pump station will cause permanent impacts and those have been reduced to the extent possible while attaining the project goals of providing an effective means to convey wastewater to an adequate treatment facility.

On a final note, it is expected that long-term effects of the proposed measures will have a beneficial effect on human health in the sanitary sewer system service areas affected by the proposed action. At the same time, it is anticipated that negligible temporary impacts will be caused on submerged habitats in the Quebrada Mamey, Rio Chico, Río Nigua and Rio Patillas.

Project Location (USGS, 1982)

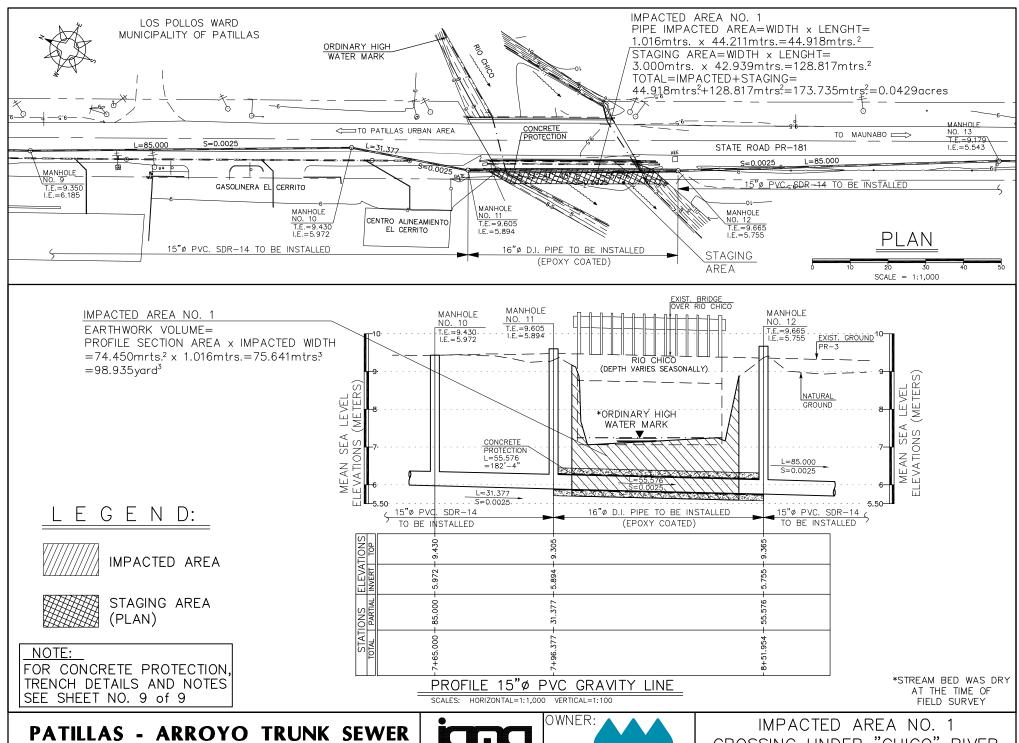


Project Location (Google Earth™)



IMPACTED	IMPACT AREA (Pipe)				IMPACT AREA (Staging)				TOTALS		
AREA	DIMENSIONS (mtrs)		AREA (AREA (W x L)		DIMENSIONS (mtrs)		AREA (W x L)		(Pipe and Staging)	
IDENTIFICATION NO.	WIDTH	LENGTH	Mtrs. ²	Acres	WIDTH	LENGTH	Mtrs. ²	Acres	Mtrs. ²	Acres	
1	1.016	44.211	44.918	0.0111	3.000	42.939	128.817	0.0318	173.735	0.0429	
2	1.016	28.630	29.088	0.0072	3.000	29.504	88.512	0.0219	117.600	0.0291	
3	1.016	26.613	27.039	0.0067	3.000	30.442	91.326	0.0226	118.365	0.0292	
4	1.016	330.000	335.280	0.0828	3.000	329.282	987.846	0.2441	1323.126	0.3270	
5	5.231	194.360	1016.643	0.2512	3.179	194.360	617.861	0.1527	1634.503	0.4039	
6	-	-	4272.894	1.0559	-	-	21.719	0.0054	4294.613	1.0612	
7	3.000	378.518	1135.554	0.2806	6.026	378.518	2280.857	0.5636	3416.410	0.8442	
8	1.372	42.770	58.680	0.0145	3.000	43.291	129.873	0.0321	188.553	0.0466	
TOTALS			6920.096	1.7100			4346.810	1.0741	11266.906	2.7841	

EARTHWORK CALCULATION					
AREA	AREA IMPACTED SECTION AREA WIDTH CUT VOLUME				
ID	FROM PROFILE (Mtrs. 2)	Mtrs.	Mtrs.3	Yards ³	
1	74.450	1.016	75.641	98.935	
2	63.709	1.016	64.728	84.662	
3	100.353	1.016	101.959	133.337	
4	742.117	1.016	753.991	986.183	
5	536.635	1.016	545.221	713.123	
6	993.158	1.016	1009.049	1319.786	
7	657.441	1.016	667.960	873.659	
8	141.201	1.372	193.728	253.38€	
TOTAL			3412.277	4463.09°	

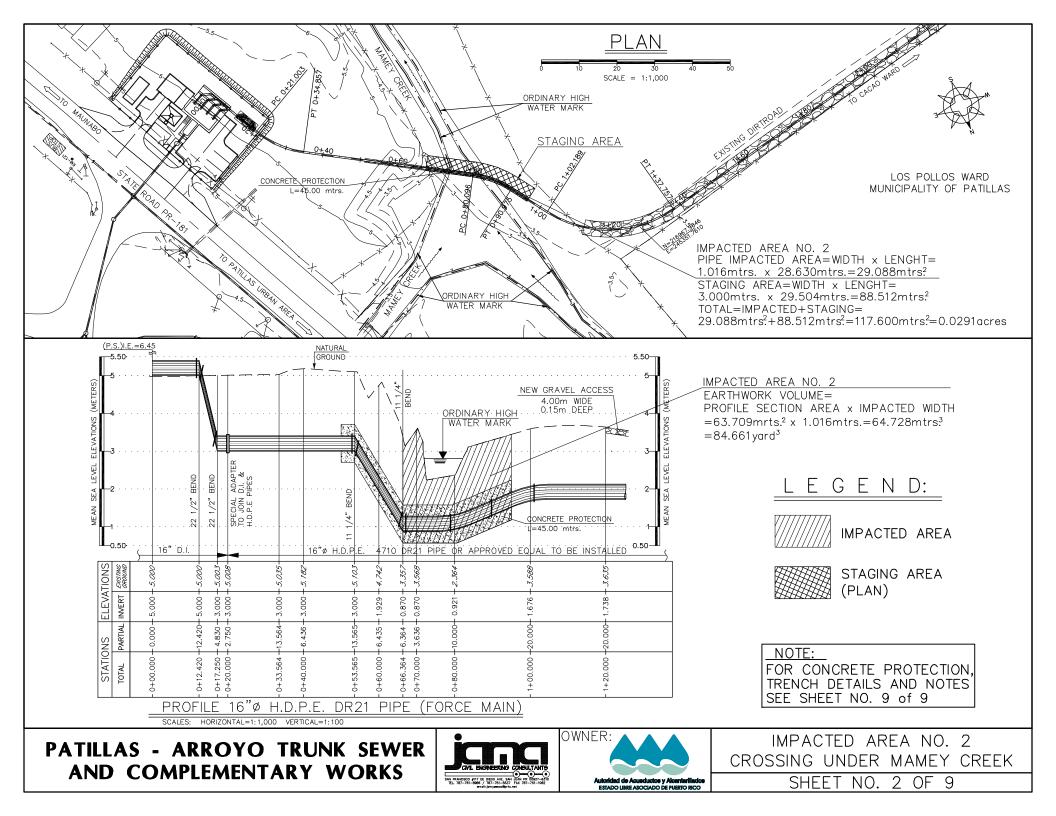


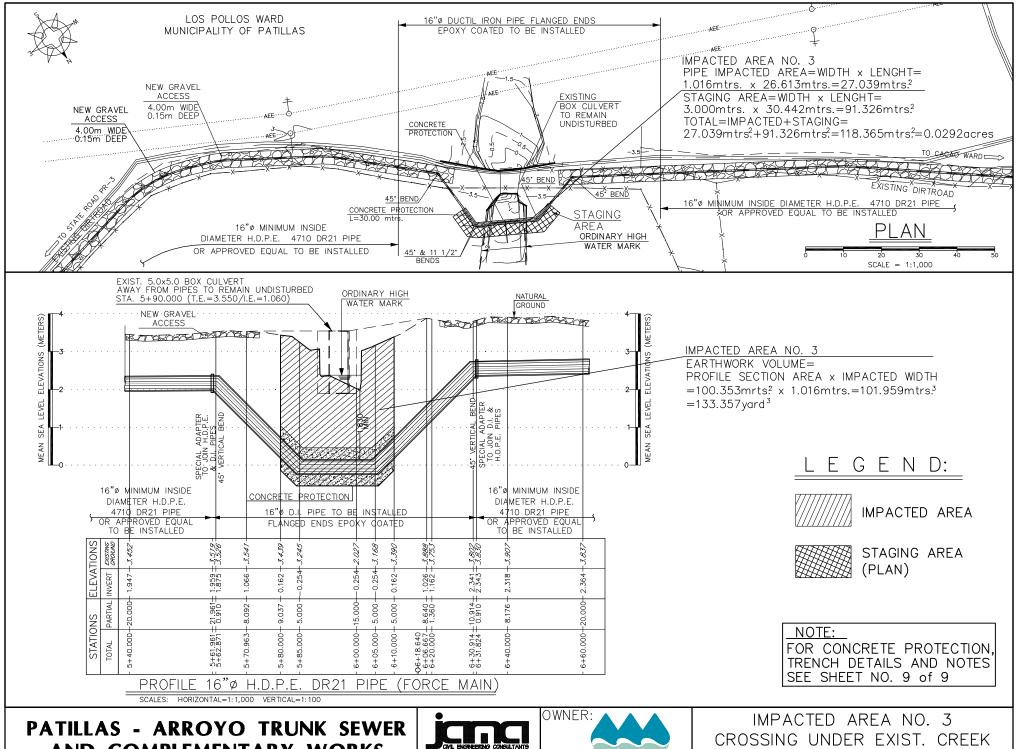




CROSSING UNDER "CHICO" RIVER

SHEET NO. OF 9

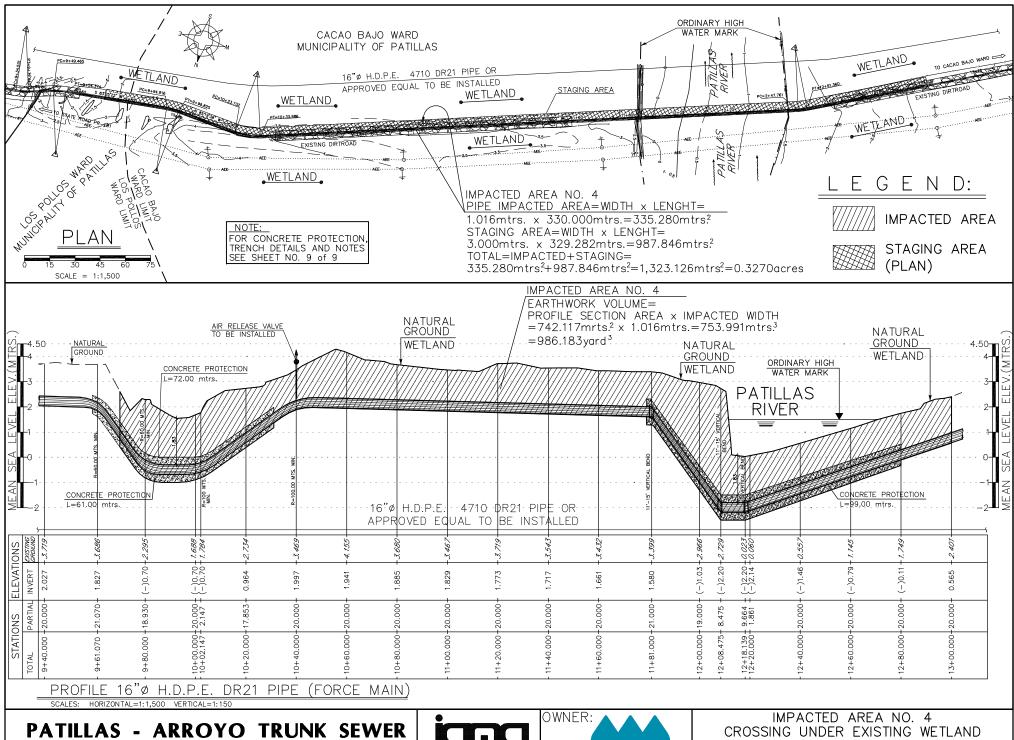








SHEET NO. 3 OF 9

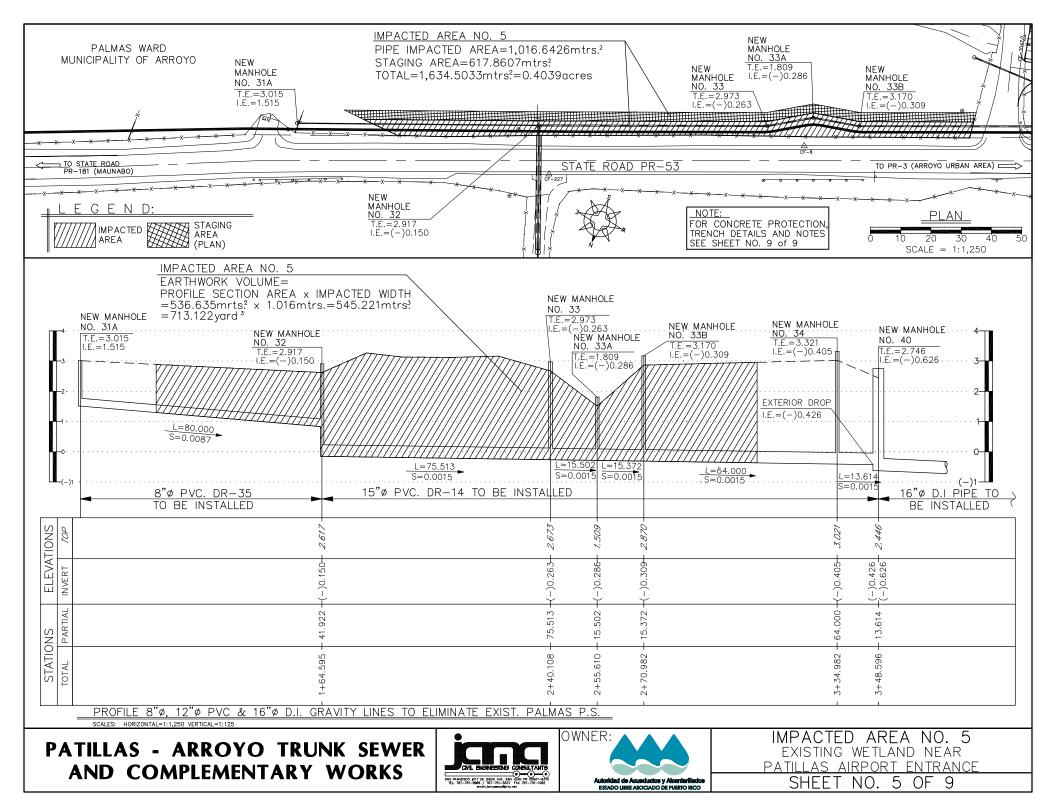


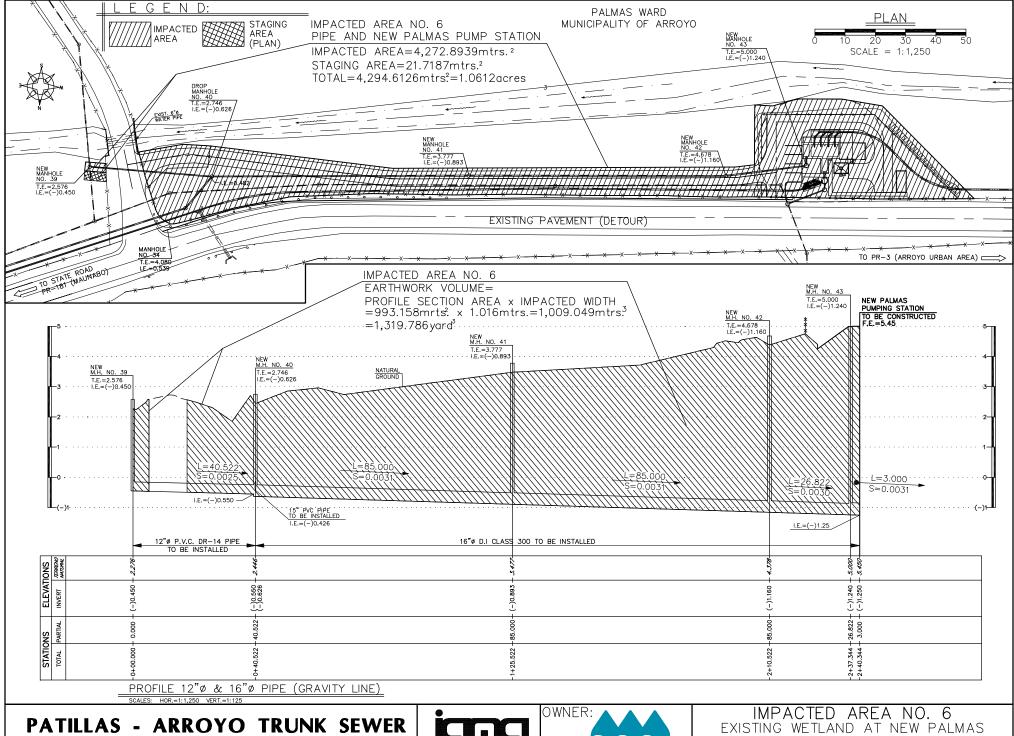




AND PATILLAS RIVER

NO. 4 OF 9

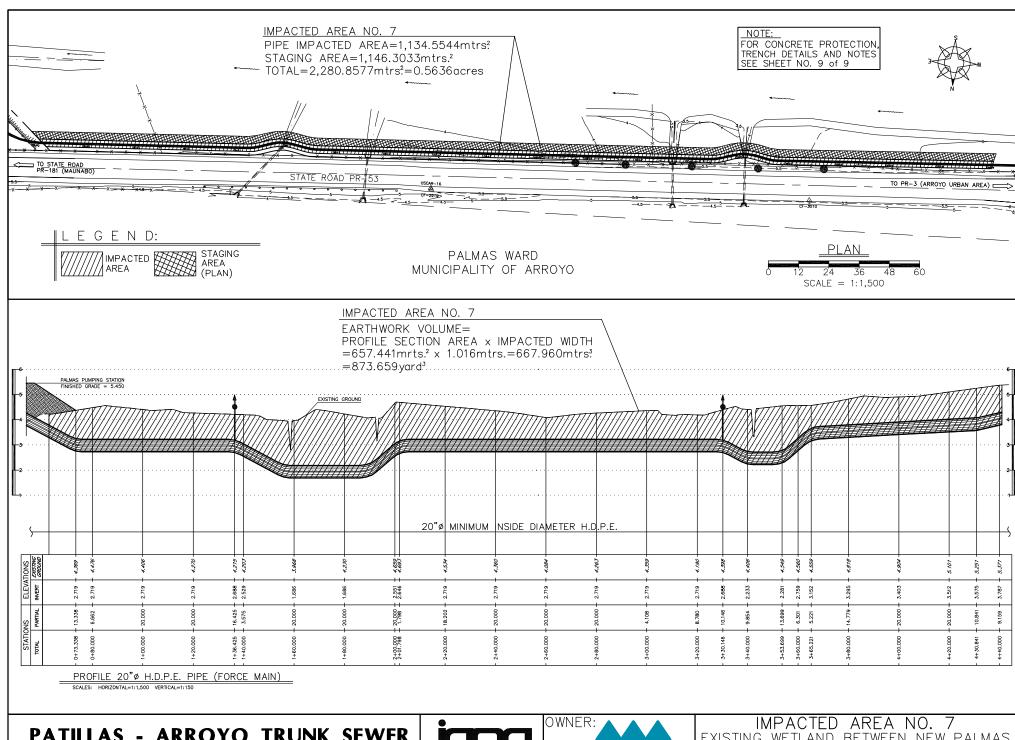








PUMPING STATION & GRAVITY LINES NO. 6 OF 9

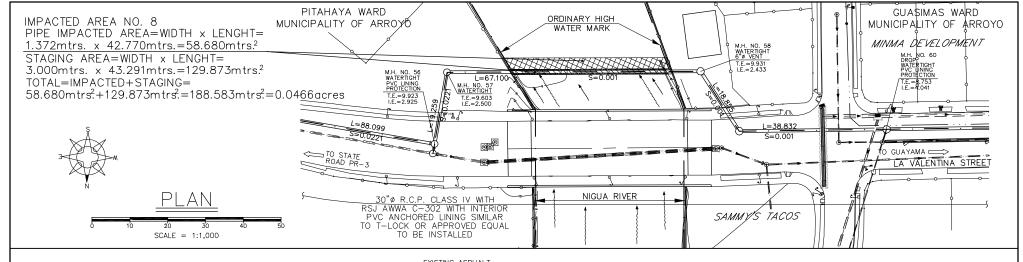


PATILLAS - ARROYO TRUNK SEWER AND COMPLEMENTARY WORKS





IMPACTED AREA NO. 7
EXISTING WETLAND BETWEEN NEW PALMAS
PUMP STATION AND STATE ROAD PR-3
SHEET NO. 7 OF 9



IMPACTED AREA NO. 8

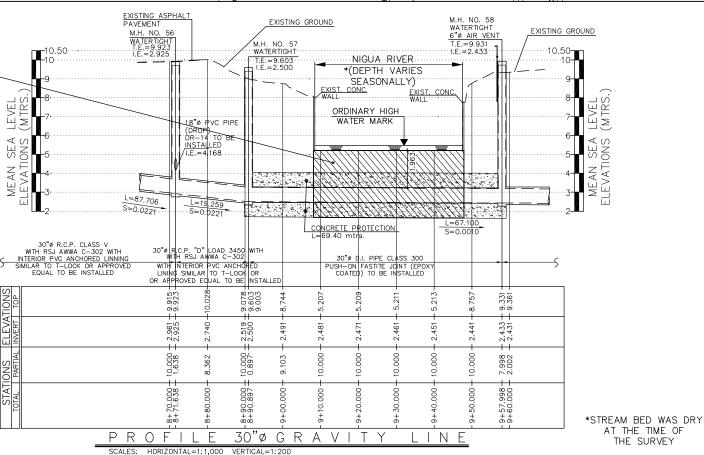
EARTHWORK VOLUME=
PROFILE SECTION AREA x IMPACTED WIDTH =141.201mrts? x 1.372mtrs.=193.728mtrs.³
=253.387yard³

LEGEND:

IMPACTED AREA

STAGING AREA (PLAN)

NOTE:
FOR CONCRETE PROTECTION,
TRENCH DETAILS AND NOTES
SEE SHEET NO. 9 of 9

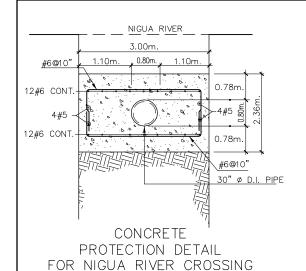


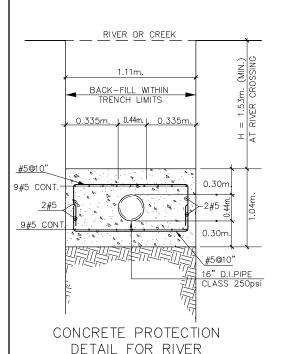
PATILLAS - ARROYO TRUNK SEWER AND COMPLEMENTARY WORKS



Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcontarillados
ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUBERO SICO

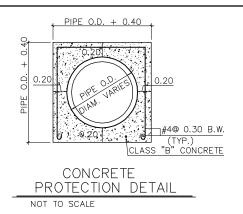
IMPACTED AREA NO. 8
CROSSING UNDER "NIGUA" RIVER
SHEET NO. 8 OF 9

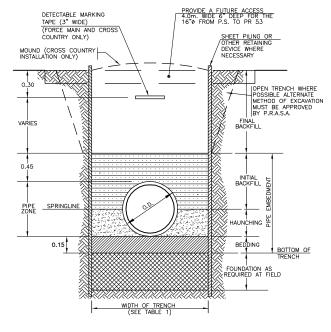




OR CREEK CROSSING

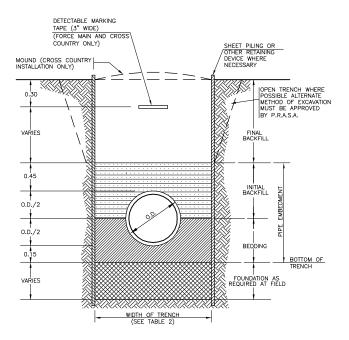
NOT TO SCALE





TRENCH DETAILS FOR P.V.C. & HDPE PIPES

	BLE 1 OF TRENCH	NOTE:
DIAMETER (INCHES)	*WIDTH OF TRENCH AT TOP OF PIPE (INCHES)	* WHENEVER MOVABLE SHEET PILING OR OTHER TRENCH PROTECTION IS USED BELOW THE TOP OF THE PIPE, THE CLEAR DISTANCE BETWEEN THE OUTSIDE FACE OF THE PIPE AND THE MOVABLE TRENCH SUPPORT SHALL
4"-27"	O.D. + 24"	BE NOT LESS THAN 2-1/2" X OUTSIDE PIPE DIAMETER.



TRENCH DETAILS FOR CONCRETE AND D.I. PIPES

TABLE	_	NOTE:
WIDTH OF	IRENCH	
DIAMETER (INCHES)	*WIDTH OF TRENCH AT TOP OF PIPE (INCHES)	* WHENEVER MOVABLE SHEET PILING OR OTHER TRENCH PROTECTION IS USED BELOW THE TOP OF THE PIPE, THE CLEAR DISTANCE BETWEEN THE OUTSIDE FACE OF THE PIPE AND THE MOVABLE TRENCH SUPPORT SHALL
18" - 84"	O.D. + 24"	BE NOT LESS THAN 2-1/2" X OUTSIDE PIPE DIAMETER

NOTE:

FOUNDATION AND BEDDING:

- MATERIALS AS CLASSIFIED BY USCS AS PER ASTM D-2487 SOILS CLASSES 1-2-3 WHERE CRUSHED GRAVEL OR CRUSHED STONE IS USED IT SHALL AS PER ASTM C-33 GRADATION NO. 67
- 2) FILL MATERIAL SHALL BE PLACED IN 0.15 mt. LAYERS.
- 3) COMPACT TO 95% OF MODIFIED PROCTOR TEST AS PER ASTM D-1557 FOR COHESIVE SOILS OR 70% OF MAX. RELATIVE DENSITY AS PER ASTM D-2049 FOR GRANULAR SOILS. TESTS SHALL BE PERFORMED AT 50 MTS. INTERVARLS. COMPACTING EFFORT NOT REQUIRED WHEN USING CRUSHED STONE OR CRUSHED GRAVEL GRADATION NO. 67.

INITIAL BACKFILL CROSS COUNTRY:

- 1) PREVIOUS EXCAVATED MATERIAL FREE FROM BOULDERS AND STONES LARGER THAN 2"
- 2) FILL MATERIAL SHALL BE PLACED IN 0.30 mt. LAYERS.
- COMPACTING EFFORT NOT REQUIRED OTHER THAN OBTAINED BY SPREADING AND LEVELING BACKFILL MATERIAL. ROLLING EQUIPMENT NOT ALLOWED FOR WORKING BACKFILL MATERIAL IN THIS SECTOR OF TRENCH.

FINAL BACKFILL-CROSS COUNTRY:

- 1) PREVIOUS EXCAVATED MATERIAL.
- 2) FILL MATERIAL SHALL BE LOOSELY PLACED IN 0.90 mt. LAYERS.
- 3) COMPACTING AS OBTAINED BY ROLLING WITH THE PLACEMENT EQUIPMENT.
- MOUND THE SURFACE AND FILL AND MAINTAIN ALL SUNKEN TRENCHES UNTIL FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT.

PATILLAS - ARROYO TRUNK SEWER AND COMPLEMENTARY WORKS





CONCRETE PROTECTION AND TRENCH DETAILS FOR PIPES ALONG PROJECT SHEET NO. 9 OF 9