



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

July 18, 2022

Ms. Rose Ortiz  
Coastal Zone Management Consistency Office  
Puerto Rico Planning Board  
P.O. Box 41119, Minillas Station  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00940

**\*\*Submitted electronically\*\***

Dear Ms. Ortiz:

Please find attached our application for Certification of Consistency with the Puerto Rico Coastal Management Program for the Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) for the Arecibo Harbor, Mayaguez Harbor, Ponce Harbor, San Juan Harbor, and Yabucoa Harbor, PR Dredged Material Disposal Sites (Attachment 1). The plan provides guidance for implementation of best management practices for disposing dredged material at the offshore sites and lays out a schedule for monitoring activities.

Navigational and flood control project dredged material has been managed at the five sites since the late 1980s and SMMPs have been prepared for each of the sites. The SMMP for the San Juan Harbor site was last revised in February 2011, the Arecibo Harbor SMMP was last revised in February 2012, and the Ponce Harbor and Yabucoa Harbor SMMPs were last revised in 2003. The SMMP for Mayaguez was last revised in 2019 and is still valid. The Regulations require that SMMPs be updated no less frequently than every 10 years. The document provided in Attachment 1 combines the SMMPs and provides the required update for the five SMMPs to allow for their continued use to manage sediments dredged from Puerto Rico Harbors over the next ten years. As discussed in the SMMP, there is no limitation to the volume of sediment that may be managed at the sites, however it is anticipated that most of the sites will be used to dispose of dredged material approximately once every five to ten years.

The proposed revision does not alter the designations of any of the sites in any way nor does the SMMP revision specifically authorize any dredging project or ocean disposal of any material that is generated from those projects. Individual projects would require specific coordination with your office and with the interested Commonwealth and Federal resource agencies, as appropriate. Consultations have been conducted with NOAA and FWS to ensure that implementation of the SMMP is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (including corals) or essential fish habitat (including shelf edge and coral habitats).

We have included the following documents to assist in your review:

*Attachment 1:* Copy of the proposed 2022 update to the SMMP

*Attachment 2:* Copy of a memorandum discussing mitigation of potential for impacts to ESA-listed species and essential fish habitat

*Attachment 3:* Letter of concurrence that SMMP is unlikely to adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat

*Attachment 4:* Letter of FWS concurrence that SMMP is unlikely to adversely affect ESA-listed species

EPA requests your office's review of the submitted application and supporting documentation at your earliest convenience. If you require additional information to assist in your review or if you have any questions, please contact me at 212-637-3799 ([reiss.mark@epa.gov](mailto:reiss.mark@epa.gov)).

Sincerely,

Mark Reiss, Chief  
Dredging Sediments and Oceans Section