



PROPOSED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PUERTO RICO COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY SAN JUAN & RINCÓN, PUERTO RICO

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) dated **DATE OF IFR/EA**, for the **Puerto Rico Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Study** addresses **Federal interest in a Federal plan to reduce damages to infrastructure as a result of erosion, wave attack, and flooding from coastal storms and hurricanes along specific areas of the Puerto Rico coastline in the San Juan and Rincón areas**. The final recommendation is contained in the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated **DATE OF CHIEF'S REPORT**.

The Draft IFR/EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would **reduce damages to infrastructure as a result of erosion, wave attack, and flooding from coastal storms and hurricanes** in the study area. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) is the **National Economic Development (NED) Plan** and includes:

- **Barbosa Park, Ocean Park, San Juan: Sea Wall and Toe-Stone (1,600 LF); Would be covered with beach quality sand to maintain beach aesthetics and habitat.**
- **the Skate Park, Ocean Park, San Juan: Sea Wall and Toe-Stone (1,200 LF); Landward would be covered with beach quality sand to maintain grade, aesthetics, and habitat.**
- **Stella, Rincón: Acquiring compromised parcels/structures. Overtime would create about 17-acres of shoreline habitat and recreation space.**
- **Best Management Practices would be employed at each site**
- **Conservation measures for nesting sea turtles and Antillean Manatee for Barbosa and Skate Parks**

Including the “no action” plan, **five (5)** alternatives were evaluated for Ocean Park, San Juan and **four (4)** for Stella, Rincón. The alternatives included **revetment placement, beach nourishment and dunes, floodwalls, and combinations of these**.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the TSP plan are listed in Table 1:



Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) and conservation measures as detailed in the IFR/EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts. ¹

Compensatory mitigation is not required. A net of 17-acres of new beach habitat would be created.

Public review of the draft IFR/EA and FONSI was completed on **11 July 2023**. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final IFR/EA and FONSI. The revised draft IFR/EA was noticed for public review for 30 days on 11 June 2023. A 30-day state and agency review of the Final IFR/EA was completed on **11 July 2023**. Comments from state and federal agency review did not result in any changes to the final IFR/EA.

¹ 40 CFR 1505.2(C) all practicable means to avoid and minimize environmental harm are adopted.



Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan will have no effect on the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: **Scalloped Hammerhead Shark, Nassau Grouper, Giant Manta Ray, Elkhorn Coral, Staghorn Coral, Pillar Coral, Rough Cactus Coral, Lobed Star Coral, Mountainous Star Coral, Boulder Star Coral, Acropora and non-Acropora DCH, and Antillean Manatee.**

In addition, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect (MANLAA) the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: **Loggerhead Turtle, Hawksbill Turtle, Leatherback Turtle, Green Sea Turtle, and Queen Conch.** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurred with the Corps' determination on X and **DATE OF CONCURRENCE LETTER, respectively.**

The Corps has initiated consultation, consulted on a tentative Area of Potential Effect (APE) prior to determination of a TSP, and received concurrence on the development of a programmatic agreement. Pursuant to 54 U.S.C. 306108, 36 CFR 800.4(b)(2), and 36 CFR 800.14(b)(1)(ii), the Corps will defer final identification and evaluation of historic properties until after project approval, additional funding becomes available, and prior to construction by executing the programmatic agreement. The Corps and the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Officer have coordinated a programmatic agreement and it has been routed for final signature. All of the terms and conditions resulting from the agreement shall be implemented in order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts to historic properties.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been found to be compliant with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in **Appendix G, Attachment 2** of the IFR/EA.

A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained from the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources prior to construction. In a letter dated X, the TERRITORY stated that the recommended plan appears to meet the requirements of the water quality certification, pending confirmation based on information to be developed during the pre-construction engineering and design phase. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

Concurrence with the consistency determination with the **Puerto Rico** Coastal Zone Management program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 was obtained from the **Puerto Rico Planning Board**. In a letter dated Click here to enter a date., the **Puerto Rico Planning Board concurred** that the recommended plan is consistent with Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management plan. All recommendations of the concurrence shall be implemented, as practicable, in order to minimize adverse impacts to the coastal zone.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.



Technical, environmental, and economic criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives.² Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.³

Date

James L. Booth
COL, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

² 40 CFR 1505.2(B) requires identification of relevant factors including any essential to national policy which were balanced in the agency decision.

³ 40 CFR 1508.13 stated the FONSI shall include an EA or a summary of it and shall note any other environmental documents related to it. If an assessment is included, the FONSI need not repeat any of the discussion in the assessment but may incorporate by reference.