

**GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PLANNING BOARD**

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Application for Federal Consistency Certification with the
Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program
CZ-2024-0124-097**

To Whom It May Concern: Pursuant to Sections 306(d)(14) and 307(3)(A) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of October 27, 1972, as amended, we would like to inform you that the PR Planning Board is considering the following request for Certification of Federal Consistency with the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program (PRCZMP):

Applicant: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Introduction and Background: Following the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria and the devastation caused by those events, the U.S. Congress allocated a budget to USACE under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to carry out projects aimed at disaster recovery, addressing vulnerabilities, and increasing resilience in jurisdictions that were affected by these atmospheric events. As part of this mission, USACE, in coordination with the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER), the agency designated as the state sponsor for this project, has been conducting initial studies and assessments along approximately 30 miles of coastline around the island for the purpose of developing and implementing coastal hazard management alternatives to reduce the risk to structures, property, and infrastructure in critical areas. Finally, taking into consideration the benefit/cost analysis of the possible interventions, the USACE made the decision to select the Ocean Park beach area and the waterfront of the skateboard park in Punta las Marías sector in San Juan, and the coast of Rincón as the areas to intervene.

Geographical Location of the Areas to be Intervened:

- **Ocean Park Beach and the Skateboard Park:** It includes a stretch of beach located in front of Barbosa Park and General Patton Street (Park Boulevard) in the Ocean Park sector and another section of about 216 linear meters on the coast of the Skateboard Park, from Inga Street to Villa Internacional Street in Punta Las Marías. Both areas are in the Santurce neighborhood of San Juan.
- **Rincón:** It comprises a stretch of coastline of about 1.1 miles from the area of the mouth of the Quebrada los Ramos to the recreational area of Playa Córcega, in the Stella Community of the Pueblo de Rincón neighborhood.

Objectives:

The overall goal of this study is to provide resilience to affected communities within Puerto Rico with an emphasis on life security. This study developed the following objectives to address each of the identified issues and opportunities within all scopes of planning:

Ocean Park Reach

- **Primary Objective:** Manage the risk of damage to structures, property, and critical infrastructure because of coastal flooding, erosion, and storm surges, with an emphasis on maintaining the lives and safety of citizens within a 50-year lifespan (analysis period 2029-2078).
- **Secondary objectives:**
 - Maintain recreational use of coastal and non-coastal zones.
 - Maintain environmental quality.
 - Reduce disruptions to the economy after coastal storms.
 - Improve human safety during and after coastal flooding.

Rincon Reach

- **Main Objective:** To manage the risk of damage to structures, property, and critical infrastructure because of erosion and wave attack caused by coastal storms, with an emphasis on maintaining the safety of life, within the study area over a 50-year analysis period (analysis period 2029 – 2078).
- **Secondary objectives:**
 - Maintaining recreational use of coastal areas
 - Maintain environmental quality.
 - Maintain or increase tourism, local property tax revenues, and the number of jobs.
 - Reduce impacts to the economy following coastal storms.

Recommended Plan: USACE conducted an evaluation considering the implementation of structural, non-structural, and nature-based measures. The criteria used to assess the selected alternatives are based on the modeling of risk scenarios using the Beach-Fx modelling tools, G2CRM and the official USACE tool to calculate sea level rise due to climate change. Using these tools, an estimate of the cost of the expected damage without the project or intervention was made and possible measures or alternatives were considered. Using as a criterion the National Economic Development Plan (NED), other social aspects such as the prevention of loss of life (OSE), aspects related to economic development at the regional level (RED), and the ecological aspect (EQ), the Benefit/Cost ratio was estimated for each of the structural and non-structural measures considered in each intervention area.

Alternatives evaluated for the Ocean Park and Skateboard Park areas:

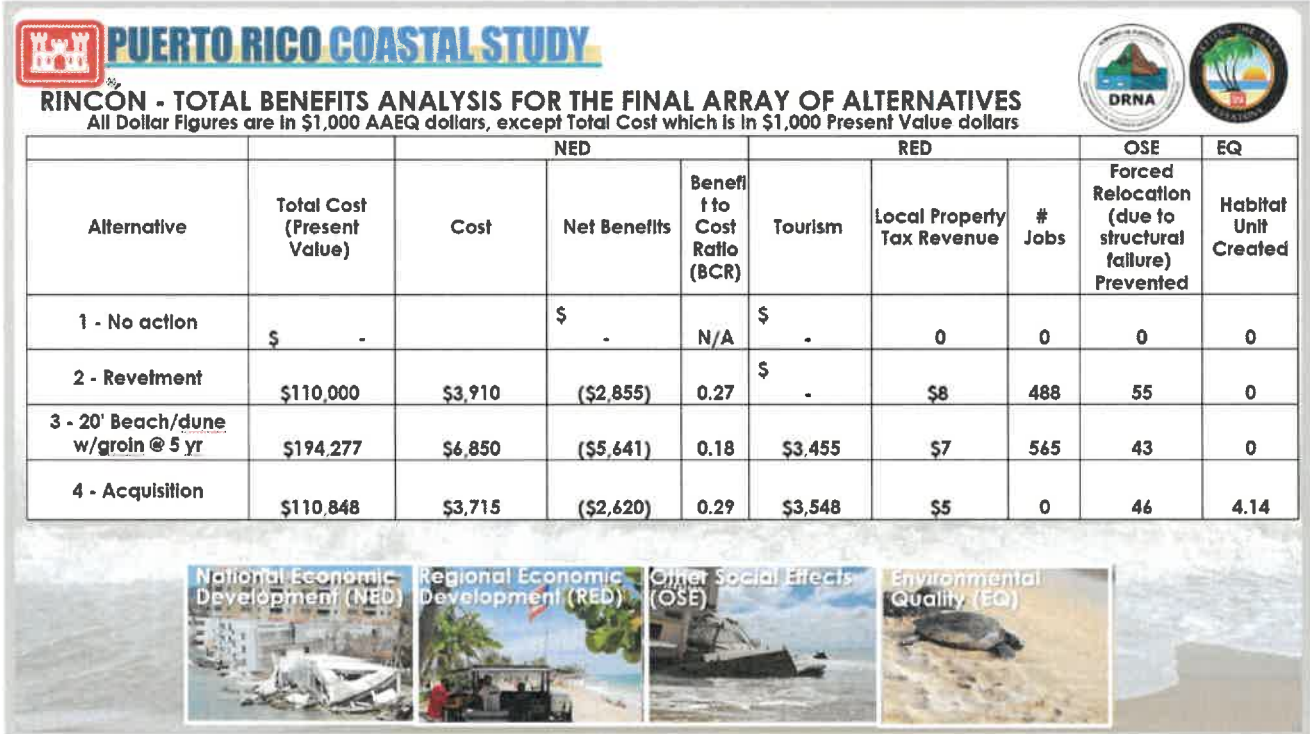
PUERTO RICO COASTAL STUDY							
OCEAN PARK- FINAL ARRAY OF ALTERNATIVES							
All Dollar Figures are in \$1,000 Average Annual Equivalent (AAEQ) dollars, except Total Cost which is in \$1,000 Present Value (PV) dollars							
All	Total Cost (PV)	NED			RED	OSE	EQ
		Costs	Net Benefits	NED BCR	Business Disruptions Reduced (# of days)	Life loss prevented (# of lives)	Habitat Unit created
1 - No action	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	0	0	0
2 - Floodwall (Barbosa and Skate Park)	\$64,700	\$2,169	\$700	1.3	6878	7	0
3- Floodwall (Barbosa and Skate Park) + beach/dune	\$185,400	\$6,537	(\$3,029)	0.5	6878	7	0
4 - Floodwall (Barbosa and Skate Park) with extended floodwall to the west and east	\$123,000	\$4,347	(\$828)	0.80	6878	7	0
5 -Floodwall (Barbosa and Skate Park) + acquisition	\$97,000	\$3,252	\$17	1.1	6878	7	.27
Tentatively Selected Plan							
<div><div>National Economic Development (NED)</div><div>Regional Economic Development (RED)</div><div>Other Social Effects (OSE)</div><div>Environmental Quality (EQ)</div></div>							

The alternative selected for Ocean Park and the skateboard park was number five (5) which consists of the construction of a sea wall for storm surge flood control. The proposed wali will have rock armor to protect its foundation on the beachfront side and a height of 1 to 3 feet above the ground in the beach area of Barbosa Park that will allow access to the beach above it. The wall top will be designed to be at an elevation of 7 feet PRVD and will vary in other locations depending on the elevation of the ground. It will be built inland south of the existing street and will allow access to the beach above it. The existing street and sidewalk will be demolished, a new sidewalk will be built, and the beach and dune will be restored by depositing sand. It is estimated that this project will require the acquisition of eight (8) properties that will be used for the construction and maintenance of the wall.

The wall proposed for the skate park's shoreline will run along the previously impacted shoreline, from Inga Street to Villa Internacional Street. It will be built parallel to the existing concrete shore

and wall with an elevation of 7 feet PRVD02. The estimated cost of the proposed project for Ocean Park Beach and Skateboard Park area is \$100,338,000.

Alternatives for the coast of Rincón:



Four (4) alternatives were evaluated for Rincon, of which the fourth was chosen. It is estimated that this alternative will include the acquisition of approximately 71 parcels located along 1.1 miles of coastline, which are affected and highly vulnerable to the effects of coastal erosion. Homeowners will receive compensation for their homes and would be provided with relocation assistance to move to new residences following the guidelines set forth in the Uniform Relocation and Acquisition of Real Property Assistance Act of 1970 (URA) (Public Law 91-646, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4630 and 4655)). After the acquisition and relocation process is complete, the structures will be demolished to restore the beach to its original state. Eventually, this project will result in the creation of 17 acres of nesting habitat for turtles, birds, and other species. This alternative has an estimated cost of \$139,718,000.

Operation and Maintenance: The Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER), which is the state agency sponsoring the project, will be responsible for operation and maintenance. The maintenance protocol recommended by the USACE is as follows:

Proposed Measure	General Action Required	Approximate Frequency
Managed Retreat (Acquisition of Properties in Rincon)	Routine Inspections	Annually
Proposed Wall for Ocean Park and Skateboard Park	Routine Inspections	Annually or as required
	Post-Storm Inspections	As needed
	Sheet pile maintenance	Every 5 to 10 years
	Concrete Cap Maintenance	Every 5 to 10 years
	Inspections or detailed studies on the condition of the Rock Armor.	Every ten (10) years.
	Repair of rock armor.	Once in the life of the project.

Environmental Impact: The proposed interventions will be carried out in previously impacted areas. Temporary impacts are expected during the construction phase of the project. In the long term, the proposed projects are expected to have a positive environmental impact by improving the beach and coastal habitat quality. USACE will complete the required process required to comply with the Federal Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will consult and coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and other concerned federal and state agencies to establish conservation measures to be implemented for protected species and coastal habitat in the proposed project areas.


Cultural and Historic Resources: The Recommended Plan will comply with Section 106 of the federal Historic Preservation Act through a Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) that is executed as part of the Feasibility Study. The USACE initiated a consultation process with SHPO and the agency agreed to work on the development of a PA to address issues related to the conservation of historic value resources during the planning, design, and construction stages of the proposed measures.

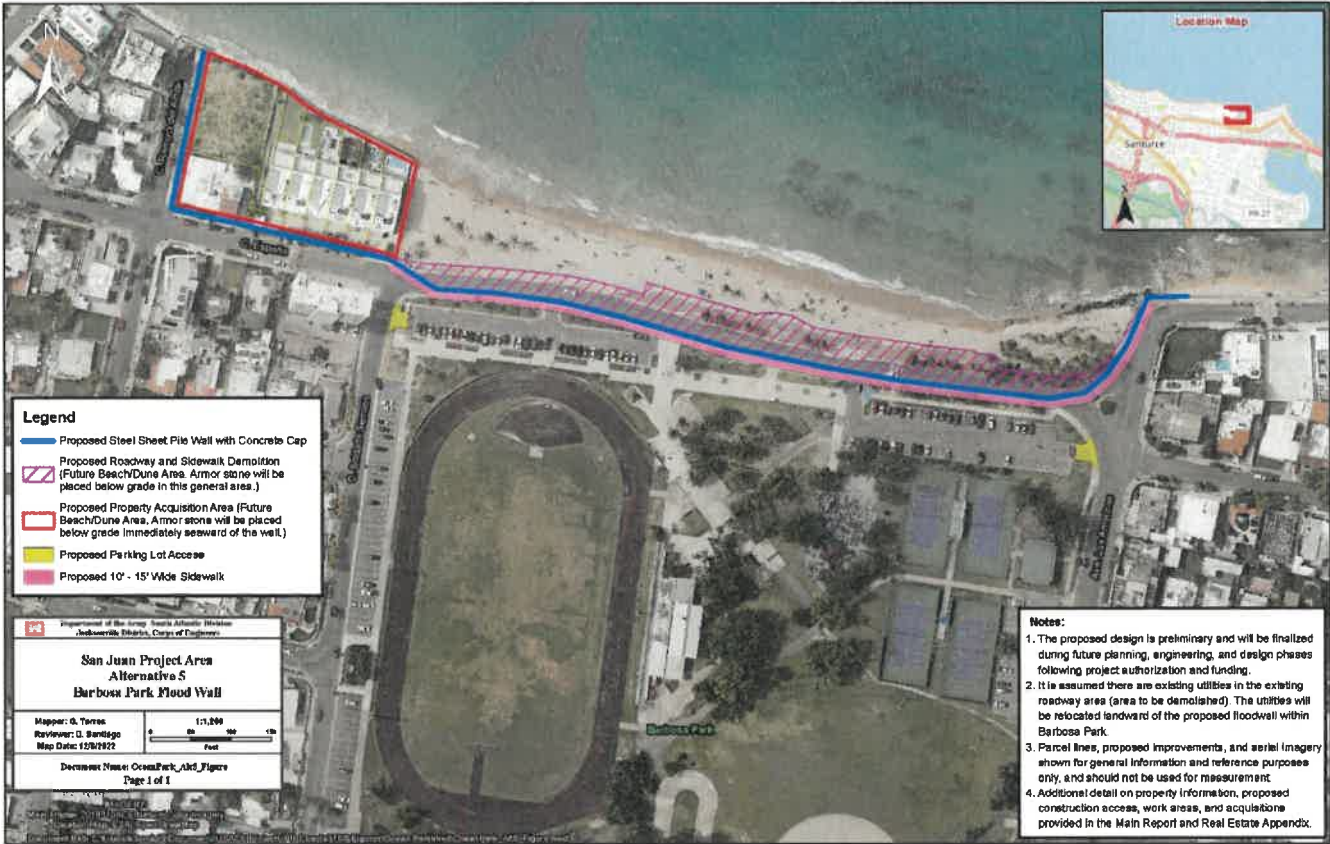
Information regarding this request will be available for public review and comment as of the date of notice of this notice through the Planning Board's portal at , under "Federal Consistency Certification with the PRCZMP". The reference information is contained in a work file that may change depending on the information received, the final public file will be available after the work is completed. You can access the documents corresponding to this application through the following link: <https://jp.pr.gov/compatibilidad-federal-con-pmzcpr/>

If you need additional information, you should request it at the Planning Board Secretary's Office. You will have thirty **(30) days** from the date of notice of this notice to submit comments regarding this request. Any comments should be made in writing via e-mail to: comentariosjp@jp.pr.gov

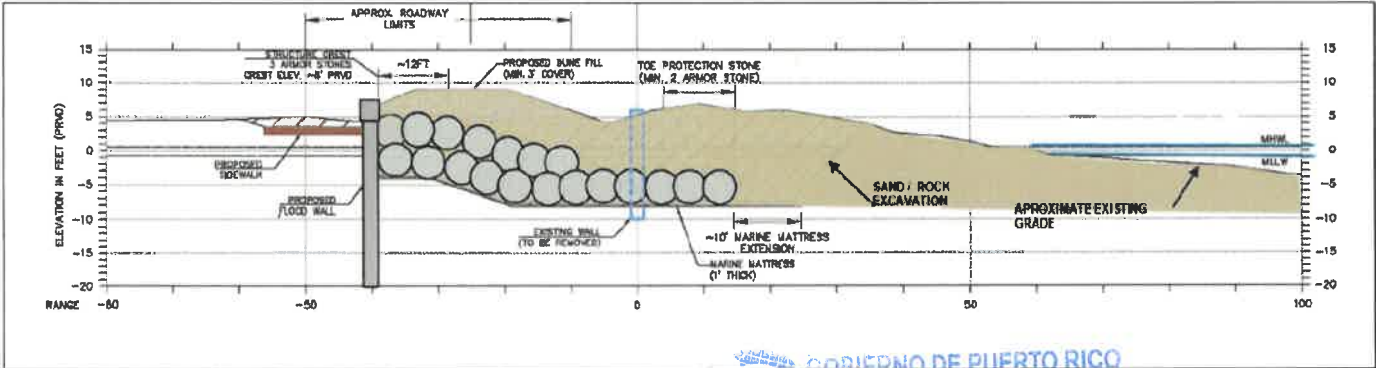
Please refer to the application number in your correspondence. If you have any questions regarding this matter, you can contact the Coastal Zone Unit by email at: ortiz_r@jp.pr.gov

I Certify and Notify Today: FEB - 2 2024


Edgardo Vázquez Rivera
Secretary



- Diagram of the conceptual design for the proposed wall in the Ocean Park beach area, in front of Barbosa Park:



- Diagram of the conceptual design for the proposed wall on the shoreline of the Skate Park in Punta Las Marias:

