DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
ANTILLES OFFICE
FUND. ANGEL RAMOS ANNEX BLDG., SUITE 202
383 F. D. ROOSEVELT AVE.
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00918

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

August 23, 2021

Regulatory Division
South Branch
Antilles Permits Section
SAJ-2021-01761(LOP-CGR)

Ms. Karilyn Bonilla Colón
Mayor
Municipality of Salinas
P.O. Box 1149
Salinas, Puerto Rico 00751
Sent via email: alcaldesasalinas@gmail.com

Dear Mayor Bonilla-Colón:

A Department of the Army joint permit application (JPA # 1795) has been submitted by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources - Jobos Bay National Estuarine Reserve for the mangrove rehabilitation and restoration project at four sites (Site A, Site B, Site C and Site D) located in navigable waters of the United States, including wetlands associated to Jobos Bay The proposed project includes the following works:

Site A:

a. Removal of debris, vegetation overgrowth and sediments in a section where water flow is obstructed in two culverts and one ditch (700 meters long) along south side of State Road PR-7710.
b. Removal of debris, vegetation overgrowth and sediments, and maintenance dredging of a man-made drainage creek/channel to allow tidal overflow to return to the southern section. Maintenance dredging dimensions are: 100 meters long by 2 meters wide by 1 meter deep. Approximately, 200 cubic meters of material will be removed within 0.049 acres of waters of the United States.
c. Removal of dead vegetation from North creek, approximately 100 meters long by 2 meters wide to allow flow to the northern side of the system. Works will be conducted by hand tools. No machinery will be used.
d. Transplant approximately 500 mangrove plants in an area of approximately 100.8 hectares of mangrove-wetlands.

Site B:

a. Extend three existing channels through dredging wetlands to promote water flow and enhance tidal exchange and water flow, as follows:

* Channel 1: 70 meters long by 2 meter wide by 1 meter deep, and a volume of material to be dredged of approximately 140 cubic meters. Area of impacts: 0.035 acres. Approximately, 140 cubic meters of excavated material.
*Channel 2: 70 meters long by 2 meter wide by 1 meter deep, and a volume of material to be dredged of approximately 140 cubic meters. Area of impacts 0.035 acres. Approximately, 140 cubic meters of excavated material.
* Channel 3: 90 meters long by 2 meter wide by 1 meter deep, and a volume of material to be dredged of approximately: 180 cubic meters. Area of impacts 0.044 acres. Approximately, 140 cubic meters of excavated material.

b. Transplant approximately 1,000 mangrove plants in an area of approximately 59.3 hectares of mangrove-wetlands.

Site C:

a. Removal of debris, vegetation overgrowth and sediments in one culvert located at the southern area and at one ditch (700 meters long) along south side of PR-7710.
b. Removal of sediments deposits, and mangrove trees overgrowth in the middle of channels.
c. Removal of debris and maintenance dredging of two channels ("release channel") to re-establish water flow/exchange with Melania Creek. Dimensions of proposed work are: 50 meters long by 2 meters wide and up to 1 meter deep for each channel. Approximately, 100 cubic meters of excavated material for each channel. The area of impact is approximately 0.025 acres per channel.
d. Transplant approximately 1,500 mangrove plants in an area of approximately 103.6 hectares of mangrove-wetlands.

Site D:

a. Remove debris, and cut all seedling (weeds) under the two existing culverts (2.5 meters for 3 meters each), and 2 meters by 2 meters of each side of the culverts that impede water flow from these culverts at the most northern section. Works will be done with hand tools.

No temporary or permanent discharge of fill or dredged material is proposed in waters of the United States, including wetlands for all of these proposed sites. Therefore, a Water Quality Certificate for this project is not required for the Corps issues a permit.

The excavation/dredging/removal works will be performed mainly by hand utilizing hand shovels, when needed a small backhoe excavator will be used. A small barge would be used to collect and transport excavated material to trucks for final disposal. Excavated/removed material will be transported to by road on small trucks (Pickup truck) to an upland disposal site, specifically at the 21,000 square feet storage facility at the old Central Aguirre within the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (JBNERR) (17°57'20.43" N, - 66°13'17.96" W).

The proposed project is located at Jobos Bay, Municipality of Guayama, Puerto Rico. The Corps has assigned permit application number SAJ-2021-01761(LOP-CGR). Please reference this number in future correspondence.

Attached supporting materials submitted by the applicant for your reference. As neighbor of the proposed project, we hereby notifying you that the Corps is reviewing the proposed project through a Letter of Permission (LOP) pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Comments regarding the potential authorization of the work proposed should be submitted in writing to our office within 15 days from the date of this communication at the following electronic mailing address: carmen.g.roman@usace.army.mil. If no response is submitted within the granted period, we will assume you have no objections to the proposed project.

If you have any questions, please contact Miss Carmen G. Román in writing at carmen.g.roman@usace.army.mil or at 787-370-3482.

Sincerely,

ROMAN.CARMEN.G.12
46904878
2020.009.20065

Carmen G. Román
Project Manager

Enclosures