



Clean Water Act Section 404: Site Visit/Case Development

For inspections authorized pursuant to Clean Water Act sections 308 and 404 (33 U.S.C. §§ 1318 and 1344)

This report includes only factual information gained by documentation, onsite observations, and/or onsite interviews.

Inspector Name(s)	Sofia Olivero Lora	Time In	9:15AM	Start Date	September 18, 2024
		Time Out	11:07AM	End Date	September 18, 2024
Inspector's Organization	US EPA Region 2, Water Division, Water Management Branch, Wetlands Protection Section				
Organization Requesting Inspection (if different)					
Inspection Type	Follow-Up	Inspection Status	Original		
Site Name	Finca Mucarabones - Toa Alta (hereinafter as "the Site")				
Site Address*	Mucarabones ward, tax parcel number 084-000-002-08 in the Municipality of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico.				
City*	Toa Alta	County*	Mucarabones	State*	PR
				Zip Code*	00953
Mailing Address*	(b) (6)				
City*	(b) (6)				
Latitude*	18.387093	Longitude*	-66.230154		
Estimated Size of Site (acres)	429.06	Is there a home on the site?	☒ Yes ☐ No		
Inspector Signature	SOFIA OLIVERO LORA			Digitally signed by SOFIA OLIVERO LORA Date: 2024.11.06 10:56:49 -04'00'	
				Date	11/6/24
Supervisor Signature				Digitally signed by MARCO FINOCCHIARO Date: 2024.11.07 10:44:41 -05'00'	
				Date	11/6/24

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Site Name	Finca Mucarabones - Toa Alta (hereinafter as "the Site")	Start Date	September 18, 2024
		End Date	September 18, 2024
Inspection Purpose	Follow-up site visit		
Opening Conference			
☒ Presentation of Inspector Credentials			
Name and Title (Use N/A if owner/operator not available to join the inspection)			
Jose D. Flores, Rolando Sepúlveda, and Ángel M. Rodríguez, from the Puerto Rico Land Authority (Owner)			
☒ Opening Conference			
Name of person authorizing access if applicable			
Ángel M. Rodríguez (PRLA) authorized access via email on September 9, 2024 and was present during the inspection.			
Notes from Opening Conference			
Opening conference was conducted with three PRLA staff when we arrived at fill location site at Quebrada Quilés at 10:00AM. Both parties introduced themselves. A description of the information to be collected was provided and a sign-in sheet passed. EPA explained the inspection's purpose and objective.			
☒ Access Issues if Any			
Describe			
Vehicular access to site is not readily available (dirt/mud roads). Entrance was provided through the farm (Hacienda Mama Crucita, 18.389447, -66.219409) located at the northeastern part of the Site (tax parcel number 084-000-002-08). Government Official Vehicle was left on property and inspectors walked to filled stream location.			
Inspection Observations and Sample Collection			
Site Owner/Site Operator/Responsible Party (Name, title and contact information)			
Site Owner: Puerto Rico Land Authority, Agro. Jorge A. Campos Merced, Executive Director, (b) (6)			
Site Operator: Municipality of Toa Alta, Clemente Agosto Lugardo, Mayor, (b) (6)			
Additional Persons Present at Inspection			
Arturo J. Arzón Pereira, CWA NPDES Inspector, EPA Region 2			
General Site Characteristics (layout of property, etc.)			
The Site consists of one of five parcels of different sizes that combined extend to approx. 1,168 acres. The area is known as Bucarabones Valley Agricultural Reserve (Reserva Agrícola Del Valle Bucarabones, in Spanish), although the Reserve is not an official designation. The properties are subleased by PRLA to various tenants mainly for agricultural purposes and most of the soils in the properties have been designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. The valley is comprised of some flood prone areas mainly associated to a network of perennial and non-perennial streams connected to Río Bucarabones, a tributary of the Río de La Plata which is considered a navigable water under the CWA. Site was accessed through the Northeastern part of the property using entry coordinates provided by PRLA Hacienda Mama Crucita, 18.389447, -66.219409), accessed via No. 13 street, Bo. Mucarabones, Toa Alta, Puerto Rico, 00953. EPA had to explore the Site by foot. No active work or construction machinery was observed on the site at the time of the inspection.			

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Site Name	Finca Mucarabones - Toa Alta (hereinafter as "the Site")	Start Date	September 18, 2024
		End Date	September 18, 2024
Purpose and Need for Discharge of Dredged and/or Fill Material According to the Municipality of Toa Alta's response letter dated May 11, 2023, to EPA's Information Request Pursuant to Section 308 of the CWA, the purpose of the fill material was for access in order to perform soil studies in order to commence a viability analysis for a future road construction project.			
Site Overview (Past inspections, site description, permits, etc.) There are no known Corps permits for any activity or jurisdictional determination that have been issued for the Site. EPA performed an inspection on June 21, 2023.			
Scope of Inspection (Areas inspected or not inspected) EPA walked the site and conducted an inspection around the fill boundaries on the one location at Quebrada Quilés. See Attachment B for details of the inspection findings.			

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Site Name	Finca Mucarabones - Toa Alta (hereinafter as "the Site")	Start Date	September 18, 2024
		End Date	September 18, 2024
Environmental Conditions (e.g., wind, rain, smoke, dust, temperature, snow)			
September 18, 2024: Temperatures were in the 90s (degrees in F), partially cloudy. National Weather Service issued Heat Advisory (Heat Index expected to reach or exceed 108 degrees) from 9AM to 4PM.			
Field Work Conducted			
During the follow-up inspection, EPA collected GPS data, photographs (see Attachment A) and handwritten notes. Observations were recorded during wet season with field muddy conditions indicating recent raining events. No soil pits were dug during this inspection. EPA walked to property from east to west examining 1 location subject to fill restoration by the property owner PRLA and evaluated stream channel where potential issues of concern were previously identified (see Attachment A for map with location and Attachment B for photolog of field observations). EPA did not see any additional disturbances from those previously identified. Natural colonization of native species could be observed on previously disturbed stream banks.			
Closing Conference			
Documents Received and/or Requested During the Inspection			
N/A			
Compliance Assistance Provided (If any)			
N/A			
Observations Relayed to Site Owner/Operator			
EPA relayed to the Site owner that the fill material observed during the June 21, 2023 inspection appeared to have spread over the stream bed but was still present.			
Actions Taken by Owner/Operator During the Inspection (If any)			
PRLA indicated to EPA that fill removal activities would be taking place in less than two weeks.			
Potential Issues of Concern Including Regulatory Citations			
Potential areas of jurisdictional streams may be present on the site that were potentially filled with approx. a foot of fill material. Material had dispersed after the first site inspection.			
Attachments*			
☒ Maps and Sketches ☒ Photographs (including location) and Photo Log ☐ Other (SSIP, Wetlands Delineation Forms, etc.)			
Attachment A: Map; Attachment B: Photolog			
Additional Notes			

Attachment A: Map





Finca Mucarabones - Toa Alta

Tax parcel number 084-000-002-08

in the Municipality of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico


2024

Content Item: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Mission Support; Data Steward:
 U.S. Geological Survey, The National Map, Maxar, Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri,
 TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, NPS, US
 Census Bureau, USFWS






Attachment B: Photolog

CWA 404 Inspection

Finca Mucarabones

Tax parcel number 084-000-002-08 in the Municipality
of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico

September 18, 2024



Date: 9/18/2024

Time: 10:04 AM

Photographer: Arturo J. Arzón Pereira

Photo ID: P9181116

Description: Upstream view of fill material on Quebrada Quilés.

Tax parcel number 084-000-002-08 in the Municipality of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico



Date: 9/18/2024

Time: 10:04 AM

Photographer: Arturo J. Arzón Pereira

Photo ID: P9181120

Description: Dirt road crossing and observed disturbance of perennial stream banks, Quebrada Quilés.

Tax parcel number 084-000-002-08 in the Municipality of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico



Date: 9/18/2024

Time: 10:04 AM

Photographer: Arturo J. Arzón Pereira

Photo ID: P9181122

Description: Fill material can be observed spreading downstream of Quebrada Quilés.

Tax parcel number 084-000-002-08 in the Municipality of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico



Date: 8/18/2024

Time: 10:05 AM

Photographer: Arturo J. Arzón Pereira

Photo ID: P9181128

Description: North to south view of dispersed fill material in stream bed of Quebrada Quilés.

Tax parcel number 084-000-002-08 in the Municipality of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico



Date: 9/18/2024

Time: 10:13 AM

Photographer: Arturo J. Arzón Pereira

Photo ID: P9181140

Description: South to north view of fill material in stream bed of Quebrada Quilés.

Tax parcel number 084-000-002-08 in the Municipality of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico