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Appendix A:
*Commonwealth and Federal agencies
affecting the coast*

COMMONWEALTH AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AFFECTING THE COAST

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, states in its policy the promotion, participation and cooperation of the public, local and state governments, and other interstate or regional agencies, as well as federal agencies with programs that may affect the coastal zone when executing their purpose under this Law (Section 303).

Therefore, federal and state agencies shall work in coordination to reach the objectives proposed in the CZMP. Likewise, Section 307 states that federal agencies' activities within the coastal zone featuring the potential to affect the area's natural resources will require proof that the action is consistent with the CZMP policies.

I. COMMONWEALTH AGENCIES

The Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB), the Regulations and Permit Administration (RPA), the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) are the four principal Commonwealth agencies affecting the coastal zone, as described in Chapter 4. In addition, other Commonwealth agencies and public corporations have programs and responsibilities that affect the coastal zone. Brief descriptions of these agencies are included here.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS (DTPW)

Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1971 instituted the DTPW and three affiliated public corporations: Metropolitan Bus Authority (MBA), Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (PRHTA), and Ports Authority (PRPA). This plan delegated on the agency the responsibility of planning, promoting, and coordinating the governmental transport effort and the formulation of public policies related to Puerto Rico's aerial, terrestrial, and maritime transportation.

PUERTO RICO HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PRHTA)

The PRHTA is responsible of building, operating, and maintaining roads, bridges, avenues, expressways, and other transport infrastructure on the Island.

METROPOLITAN BUS AUTHORITY (MBA)

The MBA is responsible for managing and maintaining a collective transportation system in the San Juan Metropolitan Area (SJMA) featuring buses. This action is carried out in coordination with the DTPW and the PRHTA.

INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE (ATI, BY ITS SPANISH ACRONYM)

ITA is one of PRHTA's Programs that incorporates all activities related to developing and operating a collective transportation integrated system. It groups together the services offered by the Urban Train, the MBA and the Minibuses.

PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE (DOP, BY ITS SPANISH ACRONYM)

This Office is responsible for works aimed at maintaining the roads system through conservation, adornment, cleanup, and asphaltting. It also has a tree-planting project in urban, rural, and coastal areas that need it.

DIRECTORATE OF URBANISM (DU, BY ITS SPANISH ACRONYM)

This Office has the purpose of revitalizing Puerto Rico's urban centers, through the participation of the central government, municipalities, private business sector, and residents. In addition to physical recuperation, the revitalization of urban centers pursues economic and social recuperation.

PORTS AUTHORITY (PRPA)

The PRPA is responsible of offering aerial and maritime transportation services in Puerto Rico. This agency is in charge of planning, constructing, and operating Puerto Rico's maritime and aerial ports for cargo as well as for passenger movement.

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (ATM, BY ITS SPANISH ACRONYM)

The ATM is a public corporation created through the "Law of the Puerto Rico Maritime Transportation Authority", Law No. 1 of 2000. It is ascribed to the DTPW. This agency is responsible of managing the ferry service between Fajardo- Vieques-Culebra, and San Juan-Cataño- Hato Rey, through the Acuaexpreso.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (PRDA)

The PRDA is responsible for facilitating and promoting the development of agricultural and farming companies, commercial fishing, and aquaculture in Puerto Rico. Under the PRDA are: the Agricultural and Farming Services and Development Administration (ASDA, by its Spanish acronym), the Puerto Rico Land Authority (PRLA), the Corporation for Rural Development (CDR, by its Spanish acronym), and the Corporation for Agricultural Insurance. Nevertheless, among the PRDA's agencies, PRLA is closely tied to the Puerto Rico coastal zone.

PUERTO RICO LANDS AUTHORITY (PRLA)

The ATPR is the agency responsible of obtaining, conserving, and preserving land of high agricultural value and making them available and accessible to the agricultural business people of Puerto Rico. The ATPR has the ownership of some lands that are part of Natural Reserves.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING (PRDH)

The PRDH is responsible for increasing the inventory of affordable housing in Puerto Rico. The following agencies fall under this department:

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS ADMINISTRATION (ADMV, BY ITS SPANISH ACRONYM)

This agency is responsible for developing and improving housing in extremely poor communities, promoting the optimal use of the available land.

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION ADMINISTRATION (ARCO, BY ITS SPANISH ACRONYM)

It is in charge of communal, economic, and social development service area in public housing and communities.

HOUSING FINANCING AUTHORITY (AFV)

This agency is responsible for providing mortgage financing to moderate- and low-income families towards the purchase or improvement of a home.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND SPORTS (DRS)

Through Law No. 126 of 1980 the DRS inherited the responsibilities of the former Parks and Public Recreational Administration. Later, the “Recreational and Sport Communal Facilities Municipalization Act”, Law No. 120 of 2001, transferred to the municipalities control over communal recreation facilities located within their territorial demarcation. Nevertheless, the DRS retained responsibility for managing parks with complex maintenance needs. It is also responsible for planning recreational and sports activities. This Department has the NPC as an operational component.

NATIONAL PARKS COMPANY (NPC)

The NPC is in charge of planning, designing, and building recreational and sports facilities in Puerto Rico. It is also responsible for developing, operating, and preserving a system of national parks and other areas of ecological, historic, or recreational value. Under this agency is the Division of Public Beaches, Vacation Centers, and Recreational Areas, in charge of managing 12 public beaches in Puerto Rico.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE (DDEC, BY ITS SPANISH ACRONYM)

The DDEC is responsible for establishing and supervising public policy about Puerto Rico’s industrial and economic development in the areas of tourism, manufacture, and commerce, among others.

The DDEC is working on several strategic projects located in the Puerto Rico coastal zone, including the Puerto de las Américas (Port of the Americas) between Ponce, Guayanilla, and Peñuelas and consists of the expansion of the harbor facilities. Also, The San Juan Waterfront Project, an urban revitalization project with a tourism-commercial focus that comprises the area of San Juan Bay, Caño San Antonio and all the Isla Grande area. In addition, the DDEC is in charge of the Special Communities project. The DDEC coordinates the following agencies:

TOURISM COMPANY (PRTC)

The PRTC is responsible for promoting tourism in and out of Puerto Rico. It is also responsible of the utilization of natural resources and those of the Island's different regions through a proportional distribution of hotel facilities and tourist services. One of PRTC's strategic projects is the Natural Reserve Parks, whose objective is to transform some of the natural reserves managed by the DRNA into ecotourism parks that offer cultural, recreational, and sports activities.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (AFC, BY ITS SPANISH ACRONYM)

This agency is responsible for promoting the development of small and midsize businesses through different incentives and programs in coordination with the Economic Development Bank and the Small Business Administration. This agency's projects include cooperation in the Revitalization of Urban Centers. It strives to convert traditional urban centers into a focus of economic and social activity within each municipality.

LAND ADMINISTRATION (LA)

The LA is responsible for acquiring, preserving, and developing land in an efficient and planned manner so as to channel projects for urban, economic, social, and preservation development. The LA participates in the development of the Old San Juan Harbor and in the revitalization of urban centers.

PUERTO RICO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (PRIDCO)

This agency's mission is to stimulate Puerto Rico's industrial and economic development through job creation and retention.

ENERGY AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION (EAA)

The "Economic Incentives for the Development of Puerto Rico Act" (*Ley de Incentivos Económicos para el Desarrollo de Puerto Rico*), Law No. 73 of 2008, created the EAA and transferred all the responsibilities and faculties of this agency from the DNER to the DDEC. It is responsible for developing alternate and renewable sources of energy and programs related to the management, use, protection, and conservation of the energetic resources.

ELECTRICAL POWER AUTHORITY (PREPA)

The PREPA is a public corporation. It is responsible for providing electrical power service in Puerto Rico. The power produced by the PREPA is generated in five main power stations located in the coastal zone: Costa Sur, Complejo Aguirre, Palo Seco, San Juan, and Arecibo.

AQUEDUCTS AND SEWER AUTHORITY (PRASA)

The PRASA is responsible for providing potable water and sanitary sewer services in Puerto Rico. It is also responsible for building and maintaining infrastructure to improve, in

compliance with current regulations, the collection, treatment, and disposal of used waters and residual sludge, in compliance with the requisites of the EQB, PRPB, and EPA.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (PRDPH)

The PRDPH manages the “Act to Protect the Purity of Drinking Water of Puerto Rico”, Law No. 5 of 1977. This law establishes the necessary rules to protect Puerto Rico’s potable waters. The PRDPH is responsible for taking the necessary measures if it is aware of any present or possible pollutant in a water system, as long as it represents an imminent or substantial risk for human health.

INSTITUTE OF PUERTO RICAN CULTURE (IPRC)

The IPRC is the government institution responsible for studying and preserving Puerto Rico’s historic and cultural patrimony, including monuments and historic zones. The IPRC work in coordination with the PRPB in the process of nominating and designating buildings, structures, or sites to the Puerto Rico Historic Sites and Zones Registry, in compliance with “Regulation for the Designation, Registry, and Preservation of Historic Sites and Zones”, Planning Regulation No. 5.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO)

The SHPO was created in 1985 to advise the Office of the Governor on cultural, planning, and urbanism issues. This agency also evaluates and issues opinions on infrastructure projects that require federal funds, permits, sureties, or licenses.

II. FEDERAL AGENCIES

Establishing the PRCZMP means the identification of the responsibilities of those federal agencies dealing with the coastal zone. The Executive Branch and the Federal Government agencies dealing with the coastal zone are described below.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)

This agency helps the U.S. President in the development and execution of his policies and programs. It deals, among others, with issues related to agencies’ budgets, policies, rules, and regulations.

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (CEQ)

The CEQ coordinates federal agencies’ and the White House offices’ efforts and works in developing environmental policies and initiatives. This organism was created by virtue of the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969. Other responsibilities include providing guides for the declaration of environmental impact evaluations required by this Act.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Seven of the eleven federal government departments have important responsibilities regarding the Puerto Rico's coastal zone management. Others have ownership of some of the Island's territory. The Federal government agencies that, in some way, have a responsibility over the coastal zone are:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Federal Department of Commerce accommodates several agencies relating directly to the Puerto Rico's coastal zone.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

This organism provides assistance to all low-income rural and urban areas with unemployment problems and other severe economic disadvantages. It also serves as a source for economic development needs' risk capital. Besides, the EDA collaborates on special circumstances such as relief assistance after a natural disaster or military facilities closings.

The PRPB is the Commonwealth agency receiving and evaluating proposals from municipalities as well as from other agencies for economic development projects that pursue job generation and retention, as well as the promotion of private investment. This is done through the Economic Development Evaluation Committee (EDEC).

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management is responsible for managing the "Coastal Zone Management Act", *supra*, and is in charge of attending issues regarding oceans, coasts, and estuaries.

National Marine Fisheries Service

It is responsible to promoting healthy ecosystems through preservation, protection, and management of marine and fishing resources by providing economic opportunities. In 1999 and through a collaboration agreement, the DNER and the NOAA made a commitment to strengthen federal laws aimed at protecting endangered marine species. As a result, the DNER, through its officers, gives support to NOAA officers in the enforcement of laws.

National Weather Service

This is the first source of data regarding the climate and projections for the U.S. and Puerto Rico. It is also responsible of providing official warnings and alerts before floods or hurricanes.

Census Bureau

This Bureau is responsible of collecting statistical data for states and Puerto Rico's population, housing and economy.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

The USDA has several agencies that are important for Puerto Rico, including:

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The NRCS, formerly the Land Preservation Service, works in coordination with agencies and local groups towards protecting and preserving natural resources. In Puerto Rico, the NRCS has close to 11 preservation programs dealing with basin protection, flooding prevention, control of sedimentation caused by inefficient agricultural practices, and wetlands, among others. This agency also features a Soil Investigation Division that keeps the Puerto Rico Land Registry.

Forest Service (USFS)

In Puerto Rico, the Forest Service, besides being the agency managing the El Yunque National Forest in the Luquillo Mountain Range, maintains and directs the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF). This institution is dedicated to scientific investigation. It also works in coordination with Commonwealth agencies, as well as with institutions or groups dedicated to conservation.

Farmer Home Administration (FmHA)

Provides financing to farmers and other eligible borrowers who cannot get loans elsewhere.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD)

In Puerto Rico, the DoD has an impact in the coastal zone in terms of issues of permits, construction, and land ownership in coastal municipalities. One of the DOD's agencies with a major impact in the coastal zone is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

U.S. Military Corps of Engineers (USACE)

The USACE has the power to exercise regulatory functions. Among its faculties is the evaluation of permits for draining, filling, or constructing in navigable waters. This organism manages the "Clean Water Act" in issues related to draining or filling Puerto Rico's navigable waters.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

The HHS provides social and health services. This agency also carries out epidemiologic research and studies, as well as preparation activities for events that could constitute an emergency.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

This agency has the purpose of helping and supporting communal development. It features several programs aimed at assisting people in acquire affordable housing. It also provides economic development in disadvantaged communities and helps communities satisfy their development needs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI)

This agency has the purpose of assuring the protection of natural resources, recreation, development of resources and wildlife protection.

National Parks Service (NPS)

This agency provides assistance to states and territories in the preparation and update of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) under the “Water and Land Conservation Fund Act”. It is also in charge of handling the list of historic importance locations, known as the National Register of Historic Places.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

This agency has contributed to the knowledge of natural resources in Puerto Rico through the collection of data related to hydrological conditions, geology, the preparation of studies and the generation of maps.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The USFWS works in managing ecosystems in areas declared as fish and wildlife refuges. It also works in the preservation of migratory birds, endangered species, and wildlife species; in fishing restoration; the eradication of invasive species; and the promotion of wildlife preservation.

Likewise, this agency is responsible for establishing the “Endangered Species Act”. The Law Enforcement Office, located in Guaynabo, helps the USFWS in aspects of illegal trafficking and exploitation of species, habitat destruction and environmental pollution.

In Puerto Rico, this agency manages five refuges in Culebra, Vieques, Desecheo, Cartagena Lagoon, and Cabo Rojo.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT)

The USDOT houses all the Federal government agencies related to terrestrial, maritime, and aerial transportation.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

This agency is responsible for regulating civil aviation, promoting safety, operating and controlling aerial traffic, developing and executing programs for airplane noise control and other environmental effects due to this action, among other issues.

Maritime Administration (MARAD)

MARAD manages federal issues and laws related to maritime commerce and industry. This agency is responsible for collecting and maintaining data on domestic and international commerce, port facilities, construction and maintenance of vessels, as well as other activities related to maritime operations.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

This agency coordinates transportation programs along with the DTPW. Among this agency's programs, Puerto Rico participates in the Federal-Aid Highway Program, which provides financial help for the construction and improvement of the highway, bridge, rural, and urban road system.

This agency is also responsible for implementing the "Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century" (TEA-21). This law authorizes the creation of programs related to highway, mass transportation, and multimodal safety.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

This agency provides financial resources and technical assistance on issues related to mass transportation.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

This agency was created through "Homeland Security Act" of 2002. It houses the U.S. government agencies in charge of providing security upon threats or potential dangers.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

The USCG is responsible for overseeing maritime security: search and rescue, security in boats and ports. It also deals with issues related to maritime mobility and the protection of natural resources.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

This agency is responsible for managing programs, planning, repairing, preparing, responding to, and carrying out recovery activities under the Federal Response Plan. This division also features a link to the American Red Cross and serves as a command center in times of disaster. It also prepares Flood Insurance Studies.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

The DOE is responsible for promoting technological and scientific innovations aimed at the conservation and effective management of energy. This agency is responsible for formulating and implementing the national energetic public policy.

The EAA is associated to the DOE's Southeast regional office to carry out informative and educational programs and energetic applications. One of its programs is the State Energy Program (SEP), which provides help for the design and execution of programs for renewable energy and energy efficiency in local communities. In Puerto Rico, the municipalities of Culebra and Cabo Rojo and the island of Mona have participated in projects under this program.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

This agency owns or rents the buildings that house the federal agencies or departments in Puerto Rico. It owns facilities in San Juan and Guaynabo.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

The EPA has the mission of protecting the environment and human health by formulating and revising public policies and manages several programs. In Puerto Rico, this agency has jurisdiction over the quality of water, air, and land. It develops and deals with compliance with environmental laws, offers financial help to state and Commonwealth agencies, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations for developing programs and research.

The EPA works in the supervision and final jurisdiction of permits dealing with dredging and filling of navigable waters, managed by the USACE.

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