

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for the University of Puerto Rico - Ponce. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9.12, final notice is hereby given of FEMA's intent to provide funding for this project under the Public Assistance (PA) Program.

An initial disaster-wide Public Notice was published Friday, September 29, 2022, for DR-4671 Hurricane Fiona. Comments and other information received were fully evaluated by FEMA along with evaluation of social, economic, environmental, and safety considerations. This notice serves as a project-specific final notice for FEMA's funding action located within a Special Flood Hazard Area. FEMA has determined that the only practicable alternative is to fund the repairs of the facilities in their original location within the Special Flood Hazard Area prior to the event.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, territorial, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements.

Responsible Entity: FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program

Applicant: University of Puerto Rico

Project Title(s): GM# 746676/PW 02508- University of Puerto Rico- FIONA/MARIA/EQ: UPR of Ponce

Location of Proposed Work: Site 1a (17.99076, -66.60844); Site 1b (17.994832, -66.605024); Site 2 (17.990927, -66.608227); and Site 4 (17.995847, -66.606616).

Floodplain Locations: Project Sites 1a, 1b, and 2 are in Zone AO and Site 4 is in Zone A per Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel Number 72000C2030J dated November 18, 2009

Proposed Work/Purpose: The project is to remove and replace chain link fencing at Sites 1a and 1b; remove and replace a concrete culvert headwall, wingwall, and apron at Site 2; and remove and replace an electric substation transformer at Site 4. Proposed Hazard Mitigation at Sites 1a and 1b consists of strengthening the fence assembly by reducing fence post spacing, increasing fence post grounding depth, and adding fiber additive concrete fence posts to increase tensile strength; and at Site 4, installing a facility power surge protection device.

Project Alternatives: The following alternatives were considered:

(1) Relocation of the facilities outside the floodplain – There are no practicable alternatives to locating the proposed actions outside the floodplain. The placement of the fences and culvert headwall, wingwalls, and apron are dependent on their location and the cost of relocating the electric substation transformer would likely outweigh the cost to repair the damages at its current location.

(2) No action alternative – This alternative is not feasible as the repairs are necessary to ensure the University can use the facilities as intended in their current location to perform their designed functions. The fencing delineates campus property, the culvert helps with drainage, and the electric substation transformer is in an area that is away from crowded areas and does not require the removal of existing landscape elements such as trees, bushes, and shrubs. With the no action alternative, continued negative impacts may be experienced.

Comments: This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA PA program. Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by emailing FEMA-EHP-DR4671@fema.dhs.gov. Please send comments with the subject line [DR-4671-PR-746676-University of Puerto Rico, EO11988 COMMENT] within 15 days of the date of this notice.

Important: THIS NOTICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC VIEW ON THE 15th DAY FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF POSTING

NOTICE WAS POSTED ON 7 DAY OF June 2024