

Urban Waters Partnership Meeting

Caño Martín Peña, San Juan, PR

May 30, 2019

Meeting Notes

I. Participants

Refer to Attachment 1 for list of participants.

II. Welcoming remarks

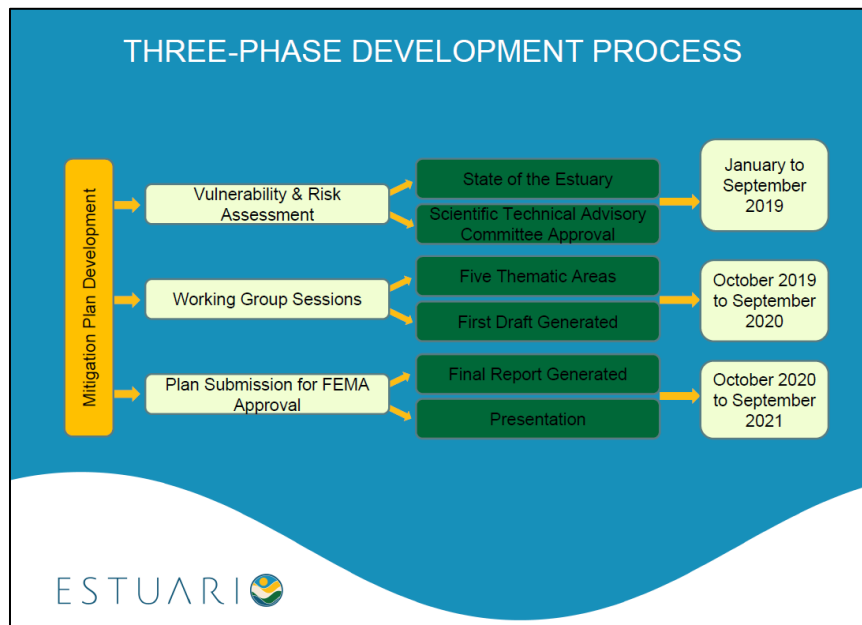
Carmen Guerrero, Director of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Caribbean Office, offered welcoming remarks to meeting participants highlighting EPA's continued commitment to the Caño Martín Peña (CMP) project. She encouraged participants on continuing to work towards improving conditions in these communities and collaborating to further CMP dredging efforts.

Ingrid Vila, Urban Waters Ambassador (UW Ambassador) also offered introductory remarks highlighting work progress attained particularly with regards to infrastructure projects through work coordinated with PRASA and use of State Revolving Funds to develop significant project through Enlace.

III. San Juan Bay Estuary Program Update

Brenda Torres, Executive Director of the San Juan Bay Estuary Program (SJBEP) presented an overview of work performed by the SJBE team after Hurricane María to focus on relief efforts. She recognized and thanked the support from EPA and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership to develop and deploy an effective relief effort that was able to target 3 communities within the San Juan Bay Estuary: Caimito in San Juan, Juana Matos/Puente Blanco in Cataño and Loíza. Work included: Rapid Needs Assessments following CASPER protocols (Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response), providing safe drinking water, installing solar power systems, creating plant nurseries, cleared waterways and installing green infrastructure. Work has also included developing community resiliency hubs to reduce future community vulnerability.

The SJBE also announced it will begin developing a watershed comprehensive mitigation plan to break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction and repeated damage. This will allow for a wider scope than the usual municipal level mitigation plan. Brenda Torres shared the SJBE's workplan for this endeavor which should be completed by September 2021.



To questions raised as to how meeting participants can engage in the preparation of the mitigation plan, Mrs. Torres explained that both the Scientific Technical Committee and the Working Group sessions will be designed to ensure ample participation and input.

IV. Caño Martín Peña Update

Lyvia Rodríguez, Executive Director for the Enlace Corporation (Enlace), provided an update on the Ecosystem Restoration Project. Revised costs are estimated at \$256 million. Planning Engineering and Design work has continued for Phase I of Contract #1. On June 20, 2019 Enlace will conduct the Technical Committee Meeting for the project.

Lyvia Rodríguez provided an update on infrastructure projects that are needed for the dredging indicating that the most expensive and complex projects are still pending.

Lyvia Rodríguez also offered an update on the dredging of the Caño Martín Peña and related infrastructure projects, including housing acquisitions. Mrs. Rodríguez also informed that 221 structure demolitions will have been completed by June 2019. She provided an update on “Mi casa resistente” (My resistant house) which is a project

being developed with the Puerto Rico College of Professional Engineers to build resilient and sustainable housing units. Three units are currently under construction.

Lyvia Rodríguez also informed that \$1 million was provided to the USACE to be able to continue PED related work as federal funds were not assigned, and halting work would further delay a possible construction start.

She also brought an issue related to the CDBG-DR Action Plan adopted by the Puerto Rico Housing Department that prohibits construction on the floodplain. This will cause unnecessary displacement in areas that can be mitigated and thus an amendment to the Action Plan is urgently needed. She requested support from partners to convey the message to the PR Housing Department.

V. Puerto Rico Planning Board – Mitigation Plans

Ivelisse Gorbea and Erika Rivera from the Planning Board presented the status of mitigation plan updates coordinated by the Puerto Rico Planning Board. The process which is developed by Municipalities consists of: 1) Radiography 2) Risk identification 3) Delineate mitigation strategies 4) Monitor and Update.

To questions with regards to source of information used and types of data included the Planning Board indicated there is some flexibility but that some of the information identified by partners was not currently considered. A recommendation was made that the report identify the limitations and the need to address them in the future.

VI. Closing

As the meeting came to an end, Ingrid Vila, encouraged participants to identify possible programs or funding opportunities that could help advance the various initiatives and projects that were discussed.

A follow up UW Partnership meeting will be coordinated for September 2019.

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Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheet

**URBAN WATER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
 CAÑO MARTÍN PEÑA**

May 30th, 2019
 9:30am-11:30am
 USEPA Offices, City View Plaza 2
 Suite 7000
 Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

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