



April 13th, 2015

Mrs. Joelle Gore
Acting Chief, Stewardship Division
Office for Coastal Management
1305 East-West Highway
SSMC 4, Room 10622
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mrs. Gore:

**RE: REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO
THE PUERTO RICO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

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The Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) was designated in 1978 as the lead Commonwealth agency for the implementation of the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program. Pursuant to 15 CFR Section 923 Subpart H (§ 923.81), the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico proposes an amendment to the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program. The proposed amendment is the result of an extensive analysis conducted by DNER's Coastal Management Division staff pursuant to 15 CFR §923, Subpart H and PRCZMP Approval (1978). This Program amendment will incorporate relevant statutory changes enacted by the Puerto Rico Legislature during 2009 and subsequently amended in the 2013 legislative session.

The changes associated to the adoption of a new Puerto Rico Permits Law (2009, as amended in 2013) will not result in substantial changes to the enforceable policies or authorities of the PRCZMP related to uses subject to management, special management areas, boundaries, authorities, public involvement or national interest. The changes, however, will modify organization and coordination processes since the Permits Law repeals the former Regulation and Permits Administration and its framework act creating the new Permits Management Office. These changes are analyzed and discussed in detail in the enclosed Analysis memorandum, addenda, supporting documentation, and flowcharts.

To that effect, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico requests the Office for Coastal Management to approve the proposed amendment to the PRCZMP per analyzed and presented in the enclosed analysis memorandum as well as the incorporation of the changes approved by the Puerto Rico Legislature, into the approved Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program.



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Should you have any questions regarding the proposed PRCZMP amendment, please contact Mr. Ernesto L. Díaz, Director of the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program (Email: ediaz@drna.gobierno.pr / Phone: (787) 999-2200, extension 2729 or 2730).

Cordially,



Carmen R. Guerrero-Pérez
Secretary

ED/nav

Enclosures