



ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO  
MUNICIPIO DE GUANICA  
OFICINA DEL ALCALDE

*Hon. Martín Vargas Morales*  
*Alcalde*

U.S. ENV. PROT. AGENCY  
2010 JAN 13 AM 10:55  
CEPD-DIRECTOR OFFICE

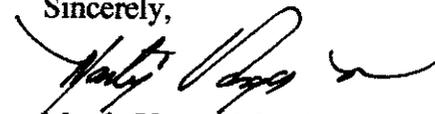
December 29, 2009

Mr. Sergio Bosques  
Regional Storm Water Coordinator  
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region II  
Centro Europa Building, Ste 417  
1492 Ponce de León Avenue  
San Juan, PR 00907-4127

NOTICE OF INTENT-NOI- MUNICIPALITY OF GUÁNICA,  
FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES FROM SMALL MS4s IN URBANIZED AREAS

As part of the provisions of the Clean Water Act, Section 402 (p), requires that storm water discharges, associated with municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4s) in urbanized areas, to waters of the US must be authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In order to comply with this requirement, we are submitting our Notice of Intent for the NPDES Permit no. PRR040000. The document includes a plan to manage storm waters, pursuant to Title 40, Part 122.34 Subpart B, or Permit Application and Special NPDES Program Requirements. The Municipality of Guánica has the intention of comply with the Permit's provisions and EPA requirements. In you need additional information, do not hesitate to contact us at the Mayor's Office at (787) 821 - 2109 or via e-mail at [planificacionguanica@gmail.com](mailto:planificacionguanica@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

  
Martín Vargas Morales  
Mayor

Enclosure

P.O. Box 785 Guánica, P.R. 000653-0785; Telephone (787) 821 - 2109; Fax (787) 821 - 0092  
Email address: [planificacionguanica@gmail.com](mailto:planificacionguanica@gmail.com)

*Guánica...Hacia una Ciudad Resplandeciente*

## NOTICE OF INTENT

### MUNICIPALITY OF GUANICA, PUERTO RICO NPDES PERMIT NO. PR040000 OR STORM WATER DISCHARGES FROM SMALL MS4s IN URBANIZED AREAS

1. The Municipality of Guánica operates a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System and was listed as a regulated MS4 in Puerto Rico.

2. Responsible Official- Mr. Martín Vargas Morales  
Title: Mayor of the Municipality of Guánica  
Address: P.O. Box 785 Guánica, P.R. 000653-0785  
Telephone: 787-821 - 2109  
E-mail address: [planificacionguanica@gmail.com](mailto:planificacionguanica@gmail.com)

3. Designated Storm Management Program Contact: Jessica González Carbonell

Title: Director of Planning and Economic Development  
Address: P.O. Box 785 Guánica, P.R. 000653-0785  
Telephone: 787-821 - 2777 ext 291  
E-mail address: [planificacionguanica@gmail.com](mailto:planificacionguanica@gmail.com)

4. SIC Number: 9199

5. List of Environmental Permits (including state)

AGENCY PERMIT	NUMBER	TYPE	FACILITY
PRPB	JPUR200810	Planning	Urban Center
PRPB	1996591207JPUISV	Housing Development	Apartments
PRPB	2009590165JPU	Land Parcels	Housing

- A list of permits issued for all underground tanks located at gas stations and any other facilities within the Pueblo Ward will be separately furnished with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

6. Topographic Map- Appendix 1

7. Description of MS4

The Municipality of Guánica is located in the southern coastal plains of Puerto Rico at Latitude 17° 58' 20.50" N and Longitude 66°28.30" W. It has a territorial extension of 37 square miles. Guánica is bounded by north with the Sabana Grande and Yauco municipalities; south with the Caribbean Sea; west with the municipality of Lajas, and by the East with the municipality of Yauco. Guánica is divided into 8 wards: Pueblo, Arenas, Caño, Carenero, Ciénaga, Ensenada, Montalva y Susúa Baja.

Guánica is about a two (2) hour drive southwest of San Juan. According to the Census 2000, the municipality has a population of 21,888 inhabitants. The town is surrounded by agricultural lands and xerophytes forests. In 1981 the United Nations designated the Guánica State Forest as part of the Biosphere Program. Highway Route 116, the nearest principal road, heads west toward San Germán and east toward Ponce, passing through the island of Puerto Rico's driest area. The town is located on a deeply indented harbor of the same name, bordered by rugged hills, barely a quarter-mile wide, but about two miles (3 km) from mouth to the town. For more than 80 years, the local economy was based on manufacture, agriculture, and sugar production. Once considered the largest sugar refinery in the Caribbean, Central Guánica left thousands of workers and farmers without jobs when it closed in the 1980s. The 54 acres property is now being considered for a major redevelopment project that include hotels, housing, shopping mall, marina and businesses.

The Municipality of Guánica's Storm Sewer System (MS4s) in the urban area in general consists of a series of open channel culverts and match basins, typically located within the right-of-way of municipal and state roads, interconnected in some areas by underground concrete or PVC or corrugated steel pipes which normally discharge into the Guánica Harbor, the Río Loco River, creeks, streams, and the Southern Irrigation Canal. The Urban Area of the Guánica is part of one watershed basically divided into the north, east and west part of the urban zone. This watershed covers the north and west sides of the urban area, it is located south of the PR-Road 2 and west of PR-Road 116. During rain events, runoff from this area discharges into the Río Loco and later into the Caribbean Sea. Also, some runoff discharge into intermittent creeks that cross downtown and into the Guánica Harbor. Some areas within downtown Guánica contain illegal discharges that drain into the storm sewer system. Those illegal discharges are located within low income communities around the Guánica Plaza.

#### 8. Estimated square miles served by the MS4

The Guánica's urban zone is located southwest of PR-Road 116. It includes its traditional urban center (Pueblo Ward). The municipal urban area has a population of 4,699 approximately and a territorial extension of approximately .8 square miles. The municipality has a territorial extension of 37 square miles of which 0.8 square miles are classified as urban area (for purposes of the Guánica's MS4 Management Plan, only the delineated urban area is considered the services area of the municipality by storm sewer system).

#### 9. Description of the Best Management Practices to be implemented by the Municipality

As required by the 40 CFR 122.34, Subpart B, the Municipality of Guánica will develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), to comply with the Clean Water Act provisions. The SWPPP will be based on the minimum control measures included in the paragraph (b) of the referred section. There are six minimum control measures that include: 1) Public education and outreach on storm water impacts, 2) Public Involvement and Participation, 3) Illicit discharge detection and elimination, 4) Construction, 5) Post - Construction, 6) Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping. The Municipality of Guánica will develop, implement and enforce actions in each of the minimum controls measures to protect our water quality, and reduce the discharge of pollutants in our Municipality. The Best Management Practices for the SWPPP of the Municipality of Guánica will be based on the USEPA's National Menu of Stormwater Best Management Practices.

The following are the Six Minimum Control Measures and its BMP to be implemented by the Municipality of Guánica in their MS4s.

## **1) PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM**

This item describes the actions to be adopted by local residents to improve local surface water quality at Río Loco and the Guánica Harbor. Thru a coordinator the municipality will provide local residents and tourists with simple tools to help improve the surface water quality in the municipality of Guánica. The goal is to develop awareness and behavior change among residents on the activities they carry on daily and are considered pollution-potential for the storm water system.

### **1.1 Distribution of Storm Water related materials: Brochures, newsletter, and leaflets**

As recommended by the EPA's National Menu of Stormwater BMPs, the Municipality of Guánica will develop a comprehensive public outreach strategy as a first step for public education. In partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State Agencies, the municipality will develop storm water related brochures and leaflets targeting specific groups within the community as a mean to make the public aware of their behavior towards storm water pollution. Brochures and leaflets racks will be set up at libraries, schools and municipal offices. The educational materials will include information on avoiding excessive use of fertilizers, detergents, illegal dumping activities and how to report illegal discharges.

### **1.2 Local News and Media Campaign**

The Municipality of Guánica will develop a campaign using nationwide newspapers to reach thousands of local residents. The ads will be focused on the issues related to stormwater pollution and the strategies developed in the SWPPP to address them. This effort will increase the exposure of citizens to information relating how to prevent stormwater pollution.

### **1.3 Radio Campaign**

The municipality will produce 15 and/or 30-second public service announcements (PSAs) at the local AM/FM stations. The PSA's will provide simple ideas on best management practices to improve local surface water and highlight the impacts of storm water within the community water bodies and will provide information on how to report illegal discharges and garbage dumping.

### **1.4 School Educational Campaign**

With support from local coordinators and organizations, the municipality will develop a stormwater outreach program aimed to the general student's population at local and private schools. Thru a coordinator, the local government will produce and distribute information materials and brochures to all schools within Guánica. The educational outreach program will include videos, Power Point® presentations, and written materials.

### **1.5 Web Page**

The Municipal government of Guánica will develop a web page that would have a section for reporting illegal discharges and landfills, documents available on PDF and Word® format, associated with the SWPPP activities will be provided by the Municipality. The website will include a counter to monitor daily hits.

## **2) PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION PROGRAM**

The Municipality of Guánica recognizes the importance of the public involvement in the planning process and implementation of local initiative. In order to be successful, a comprehensive approach involving state, local agencies and Non Governmental Organizations will be used to get the support from our residents. The Administration is working on programs aimed provide residents with sustainable strategies for economic activities and environmental stewardship including: restoration of historic structures located in the Bosque Seco, reforestation, recycling, and urban forestry programs. Also, with funds from the American Recovery and Reconstruction Act, photovoltaic lightning infrastructure is being considered to be installed in many areas around downtown to minimize energy consumption and to lower local greenhouse emissions.

Best Management Practices that may be evaluated and included in the Stormwater Management Program of the Municipality includes:

### **2.1. Annual Cleanup and monitoring streams catch basins**

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The municipality shall promote and annual cleanups around the urban communities that will directly involve citizens in surface water pollution prevention and make them aware that most storms drains discharge untreated waters directly into the Río Loco, streams, creeks, and the Guánica Harbor. The local administration will request the support from the general public, local business and organizations to conduct cleanups of streams and Río Loco shores. The municipality will coordinate the disposal of the collected garbage, and recyclable materials. The recyclable materials will be separated from trash and taken to a recycling facility managed by a private contractor. Because of existing illegal discharges into the storm sewer system, a stenciling program will be developed targeting all urban storm drains in the urban area. This program will elicit volunteers from community and environmental groups as well as teachers to identify the storm drains.

### **2.2. Reforestation Programs**

Although Guánica has one of the driest climates in Puerto Rico, the municipality has identified a series of areas within the urban zone in need of reforestation. These areas will help improving surface water quality. In cooperation with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust, the municipality will identify the native species that would provide appropriate cover to help in minimizing urban runoff and improve habitat for local fauna.

## **3) ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION**

As recommended in the EPA's National Menu of Stormwater BMPs, the Municipality of Guánica will develop an Illicit Discharge Detention and Elimination Program. This program will be developed using the Illicit Discharge Detention and Elimination: A Guidance Manual for Program Development and Technical Assessments. This section of the plan has been developed to detect and eliminate illicit discharges, as defined in 40 CFR § 122.26(b) (2), into the MS4 of the urban area in the Municipality of Guánica. The plan includes procedures for locating priority areas likely to have illicit discharge, procedures for removing the source of the discharge, and procedures for program evaluation and assessment. In order to meet the permit requirements and

objectives established by the EPA, the following best management practices are to be implemented by the Municipality of Guánica:

### 3.1. Program to Detect Failing: Septic Systems

The Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has current regulations for the proper siting, sizing and maintenance of septic systems. The municipality will develop a program to detect failing septic systems and notify its findings to the EQB for proper enforcement. A Hotline will be provided by the Municipality to collect calls from local residents to conduct inspection on failing septic systems or illegal discharges. Inspections will be performed on an annual basis to those residential areas not served by the Puerto Rico Sewer and Aqueducts Authority. The Guánica's sanitary sewer system is limited to a portion of the urban area. Rural communities usually lack this service which forces the use of septic tanks.

### 3.2. Program to Direct and Eliminate Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping is a major pollution problem faced by all municipalities in Puerto Rico and Guánica is no exception. Land based sources of debris is common problem in Guánica's coastal waters like the Guánica Harbor. The local Administration will address the lack of ordinances to prohibit illegal disposal of waste in an unpermitted area such as local beaches, creeks, channels, streams and rivers or into a storm drain system. With the support from the USEPA, the municipality will develop the appropriate ordinance and will implement all procedures, programs, and actions required to appropriately enforce these regulations.

### 3.3. Program to Detect and Eliminate Illicit Discharges

The municipal government of Guánica will develop a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges. This plan to detect and address illegal discharges to the system will included four steps: locate problem areas, find the source, remove or correct illicit connections, and document the ensuing course of action.

### 3.4. Program to Detect, Identify and Eliminate Wastewater Connections to the Storm Drain System

Current state laws prohibit unwarranted connection of a wastewater system to a storm drain system. The municipality will implement all actions required to appropriately enforce this law.

### 3.5. Storm Sewer System Map

The local Department of Public Works does not own storm sewer infrastructure maps for the urban area of Guánica. As part of the proposed activities in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, a storm drain system map will be developed during the first four years of the implementation. Several communities with more than 500 people per site were identified during the field inspections. The communities are El Fuig, Bélgica, Ensenada and Playa Santa and most of them were established 1.5 miles from the Pueblo Ward. All these settlements have storm sewers and may have an impact in the Guánica harbor or nearby water bodies during significant rain events (more than 3 inches/24 hours period). Due to the high costs associated with this task, the Municipal Government of Guánica is proposing a four year calendar to complete this action. Once completed, this map will aid the municipality in targeting outfalls with dry weather flows and other suspicious discharges for more in-depth inspection. Also this action will promote

monitoring will help coordinate management activities to remove illicit connections and track storm drain system maintenance.

#### **4) CONSTRUCTION SITE STORM WATER RUNOFF CONTROL**

The SWPPP activities implemented under this Minimum Control Measure (MCM) will focus on developing, implementing, and enforcing a program that will reduce or eliminate the impacts of storm water runoff from construction activities that result in a land disturbance of greater than or equal to one acre into the storm sewer system during the permit term throughout the municipality. In order to meet the permit requirements and objectives established by the USEPA, the following best management practices are to be implemented by the Municipality of Guánica:

- 4.1. Procedures for Reviewing Construction Site Plans
- 4.2. Inspection and Enforcement of Storm Water Requirements at Construction Sites
- 4.3. Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Connections
- 4.4. Require Electronic copies of Sanitary and Sewer Systems Layouts

#### **5) POST CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT**

In order to mitigate Stormwater impacts from new developments within our Municipal boundaries, the local administration will evaluate as BMPs those recommended in the USEPA's National Menu of Stormwater BMPs. As part of the post-construction plan review, the Municipality will revise the existing process assessing development projects and will integrate the EPA's recommendations into this process. Currently the Planning Division is working on new zoning plans thru local Land Use and Strategic Plan. This Plan is expected to be approved by the PR Planning Board, and the Governor of Puerto Rico, and it is the base document used by agencies during the permitting process for all projects proposed within our municipality. According to this planning tool, more than 70% of the territory would be protected. Additional zoning restrictions that the municipality may apply will be carefully analyzed as part of the development of our SWPPP.

#### **6) POLLUTION PREVENTION (GOOD HOUSEKEEPING FOR MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS)**

In order to protect our storm water system within our MS4, we will develop and implement a Municipal Employee Training and Education program, with the goal of educating our own employees on the best practices used to protect the quality of our surface waters. The program will also help in monitoring our daily operations and to identify those activities conducted by our employees that may have an impact in the local environment. This educational program will include written materials, conferences, workshops, and seminars.

10. Description of Measurable goals for each BMP

<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM</b>		<b>Control Measures/Goals</b>
<b>Permit Term</b>	<b>Activity</b>	
Year 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distribution of stormwater related material: brochures, leaflets and flyers.</li> <li>2. Newspaper Campaign.</li> <li>3. AM/FM Radio Campaign.</li> </ol>	
Year 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Newspaper Campaign.</li> <li>2. School Educational Campaign.</li> <li>3. Web Page Development.</li> </ol>	
Year 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distribution of stormwater related material: brochures, leaflets and flyers.</li> <li>2. Newspaper Campaign.</li> <li>3. AM/FM Radio Campaign.</li> </ol>	
Year 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Newspaper Campaign.</li> <li>2. School Educational Campaign.</li> <li>3. Web Page Maintenance.</li> </ol>	
Year 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distribution of stormwater related material: brochures, leaflets and flyers.</li> <li>2. Newspaper Campaign.</li> <li>3. AM/FM Radio Campaign.</li> </ol>	
<b>PUBLIC INVOLMENT AND PARTICIPATION PROGRAM</b>		
<b>Permit Term</b>	<b>Activity</b>	
Year 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Cleanup and monitoring (Streams and catch basins).</li> </ol>	
Year 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Cleanup and monitoring (streams and catch basins).</li> <li>2. Reforestation Programs.</li> </ol>	
Year 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Cleanup and Monitoring (streams and catch basins).</li> </ol>	
Year 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Cleanup and monitoring (Streams and catch basins).</li> <li>2. Reforestation Programs.</li> </ol>	
Year 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Cleanup and monitoring (Streams and catch basins).</li> </ol>	

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<b>ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION</b>	
<b>Permit Term</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Year 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visual inspection in communities served by septic tanks.</li> <li>2. Dry weather test on critical manholes.</li> <li>3. Urban area outfalls visual inspection.</li> <li>4. Collect Data for Storm Sewer System Map.</li> <li>5. Visual inspection to old sanitary pipelines.</li> </ol>
Year 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visual inspection to industries.</li> <li>2. Urban area outfalls visual inspection.</li> <li>3. Information booklets on septic system's proper maintenance.</li> <li>4. Visual inspections to old sanitary pipelines.</li> <li>5. Collect Data for Storm Sewer System Map.</li> </ol>
Year 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visual inspection in communities served by septic tanks.</li> <li>2. Dry weather test on critical manholes.</li> <li>3. Urban area outfalls visual inspection.</li> <li>4. Collect Data for Storm Sewer System Map.</li> <li>5. Visual inspection to old sanitary pipelines.</li> </ol>
Year 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Urban area outfalls visual inspection.</li> <li>2. Revise Storm Sewer System Map.</li> <li>3. Visual Inspection to old sanitary pipelines.</li> <li>4. Complete Storm Sewer System Map.</li> </ol>
Year 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dry Weather Test on critical manhole.</li> <li>2. Urban area outfalls visual inspection.</li> <li>3. Visual Inspection to old sanitary pipelines.</li> </ol>
<b>CONSTRUCTION SITE STORM WATER RUNOFF CONTROL</b>	
<b>Permit Term</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Yearly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review construction site plans.</li> <li>2. Construction site inspections.</li> <li>3. Assuring proper sanitary connections.</li> <li>4. Require electronic copies of sanitary and sewer lines.</li> </ol>

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<b>POST- CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>Permit Term</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Yearly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Coordinate with contractors, developers, and state regulatory agencies to assure the project is in compliance with state and federal laws and with any other regulatory agency requirements.</li><li>2. Construction site plan reviews.</li></ol>
<b>POLLUTION PREVENTION (GOOD HOUSEKEEPING FOR MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS)</b>	
<b>Permit Term</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Year 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Develop SPCC Plan for DTPW facility.</li><li>2. Install grease traps on mechanical shop drain system at DTPW facility.</li><li>3. Install secondary containment to both diesel and used oil tanks.</li></ol>
Year 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Municipal employee trainings (every two years).</li><li>2. Improve storm water management for the sanitary transfer station.</li></ol>

**11. Person Responsible for implementation**

Jessica González Carbonell, Director of Planning and Economic Development.

**12. Certification**

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations. "

Signature of Responsible Official



Hon. Martín Vargas Morales  
Mayor

## APPENDIX I

## APPENDIX II