



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Caribbean Ecological Services

Field Office

P.O. Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622

JUL 29 2013



In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R4/CESFO/PS 606

Senate of Puerto Rico  
Office of the Hon. Cirilo Tirado  
Lcda. Merangeli Valentín Santiago  
Director, Commission of Natural Resources and Energy  
El Capitolio  
PO Box 9023431  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-3431

Re: Senate of Puerto Rico P. del S. 606, Ley  
de la Reserva Natural del Estuario de  
Espinar y el Caño Madre Vieja

Dear Lcda. Valentín:

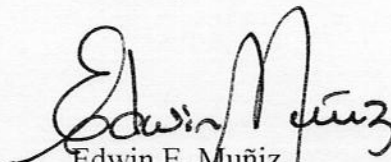
This is in reply to a request by Mr. Jorge R. Sepúlveda Torres to provide comments on the proposed legislation by the Senate of Puerto Rico to declare certain areas of the Espinar estuary and the Caño Madre Vieja as a Natural Reserve to be acquired and managed by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. Our comments are provided as technical assistance under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

This area is composed of mangrove and freshwater wetlands associated with the Caño Madre Vieja. The wetlands associated with this area have been designated a Coastal Barrier by the federal government (PR-75 and PR-75P) and as a result FEMA flood insurance or disaster relief may not apply (see enclosure). In addition, the area designated as PR-75, does not qualify for any type of federal funding, grants, or loans for infrastructure or development projects.

Because of its geography, the Aguada-Aguadilla area does not have large mangrove wetlands. The Espinar and Caño Madre Vieja mangroves provide habitat for native river fauna, serve as nesting habitat for resident and migratory birds and can serve as an important living laboratory to the Municipalities of Aguada and Aguadilla.

Because of the ecological value that these wetlands have, we support the efforts to designate this area as a Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Natural Reserve. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed Legislation, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 787 851 7297 x 204.

Sincerely,

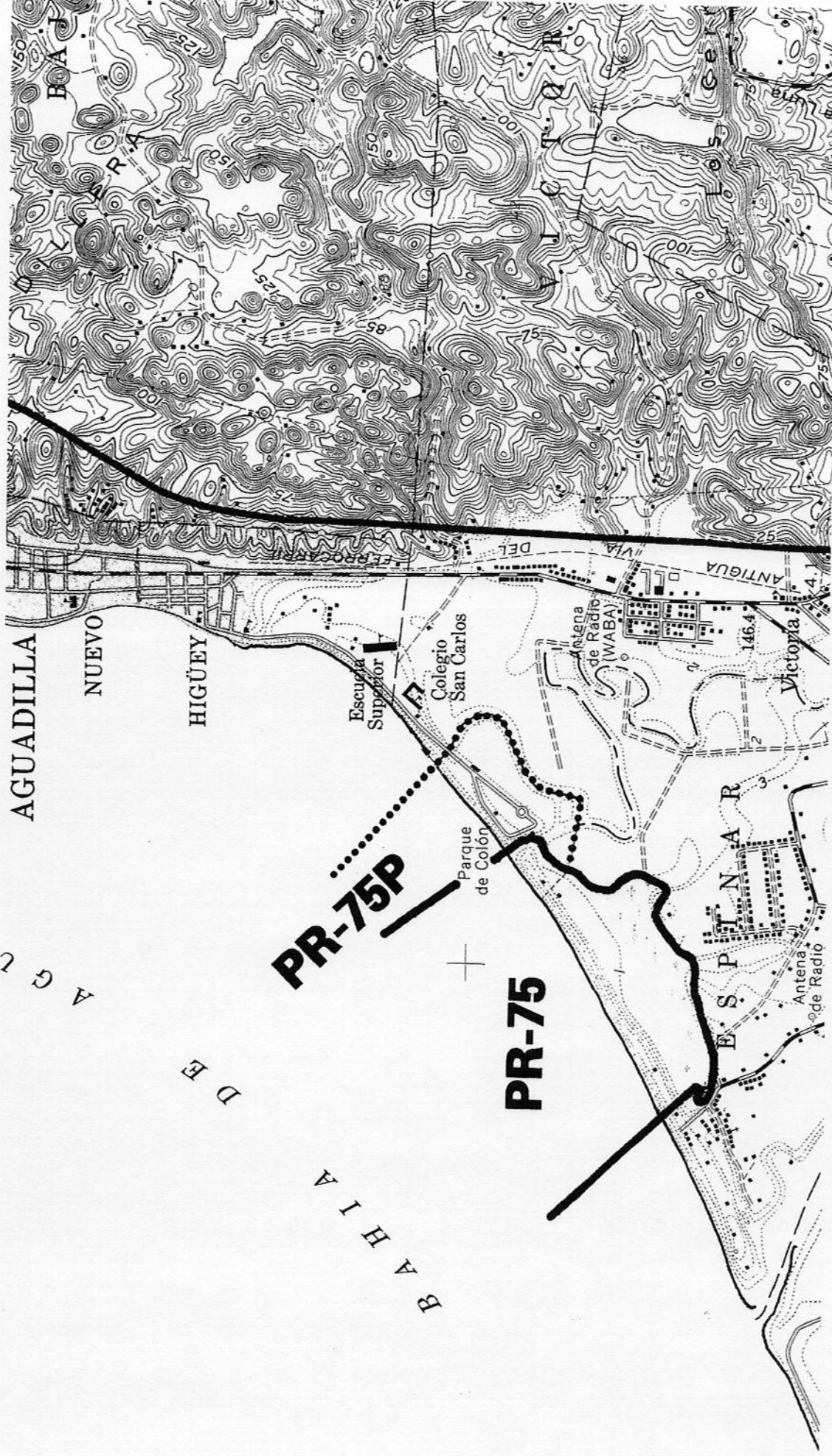


Edwin E. Muñiz  
Field Supervisor

fhl

cc:

Jorge R. Sepúlveda, Aguada



AGUADILLA

NUEVO

HIGÜEY

Escuela Superior

Colegio San Carlos

Parque de Colón

Antena de Radio (WABA)

VIA ANTIGUA

Victoria

E. S. P. J. N. A. R.

Antena de Radio

**PR-75P**

**PR-75**

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