PROJECT SHEET

Río de la Plata flood control: environmental compliance since 2019

Environmental regulatory management for a flood-control project built in and beside a river — the permits before work starts, and monthly inspections while it lasts.

CLIENT
Construcciones José Carro, S.E. (contractor)

PROGRAM
Flood-control works

PERIOD
July 2019 to present

OUR ROLE
Permits, erosion-control and stormwater plans, monthly compliance inspections



PROJECT

60+ monthly inspections

The Río La Plata at the project bridge, during our inspection of October 2020.

60+
monthly compliance inspections documented since July 2019

2,700+
inspection photographs on file

2019
the year our work at the river began

The challenge

A flood-control project reshapes a river: channel excavation, a levee, scour protection and the relocation of utilities, all next to the water it is meant to control. Every one of those activities needs a permit before it starts and has to keep sediment out of the river while it lasts — under the eyes of Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

What we did

- **Permits before the work.** We prepared the environmental protection plan and obtained the permits for channel excavation, the levee, scour protection and utility relocation, including the consolidated general permit and its renewals as the project moved from one phase to the next.
- **Erosion and sediment control.** We prepared the erosion and sedimentation control plan and the stormwater pollution prevention plan the contractor works under.
- **Monthly inspections.** Since July 2019 we have inspected the works month after month to check the controls — silt fences, turbidity curtains, stabilized entrances, dewatering — and to record what we found with dated photographs.
- **One point of contact.** We keep the compliance record and the agency reports, and act as the liaison between the contractor, PRHTA and the agencies.

Results

The works have advanced with their environmental record kept up to date: more than sixty monthly inspections documented and more than 2,700 inspection photographs on file, each visit reported to the contractor.

From the field



A turbidity curtain keeps sediment from travelling downstream (October 2020).



Silt fence along the works (June 2020).



Channel earthworks under the bridge (June 2020).

PROJECT FACTS

OWNER

Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

LOCATION

Río de la Plata, Dorado and Toa Baja

STATUS

In progress

PERFORMED BY

AVA Environmental Consultants, Inc.

DELIVERABLES

Consolidated general permit with its renewal and amendments · erosion-control plan · SWPPP · monthly inspection reports

SERVICES

Permits & Compliance Plans · Biology & Natural Resources · Environmental Reviews (Part 58 & NEPA)

REFERENCE

Client reference on request

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