

# PPP companies must adopt anti-corruption measures

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Effective immediately, all private companies interested in participating in Public Private Partnerships with the government will be advised to adopt the anti-corruption principles espoused by the World Economic Forum to ensure everything is done with the transparency dictated under the PPP Law.

PPP Authority Executive Director David Alvarez said companies who decline to adopt the anti-corruption principles will be required to show proof that they have established adequate controls and run the risk of getting rejected as candidates for participation in PPP bidding processes.

Alvarez spoke at a news conference convened by Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce President Jorge Galiano, President Elect Raúl Gayá, Executive Vice President Edgardo Bigas and World Economic Forum Coordinator for Puerto Rico, Francisco Montalvo.

The inclusion of the anti-corruption principles in the PPP bidding rules was suggested by the chamber, which established an alliance with the forum's Partnership Against Corruption Initiative, known as PACI. The announcement comes a day after it was revealed that Acodese, the Puerto Rico Insurance Companies Association, agreed to pay former New Progressive Party Sen. Jorge de Castro Font some \$50,000 to be on his good side and obtain his help with insurance legislation.

Galiano said the passage of the PPP Law and the corresponding bidding rules are an important step in the process of transforming the island's social and economic development. "That is why we welcome the inclusion of asking bidders to adopt the anti-corruption principles recommended by the WIF so that everything is done with transparency," he said.

PACI calls for corporations to establish a zero tolerance on bribery and the development of an anti-corruption program.

"Where there is money, there is temptation. For that reason, the Chamber and Puerto Rico 2000 have become allies to disseminate information related to PACI and



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**Public Private Partnerships Authority Executive Director David Alvarez.**

hold workshops for PPP bidders can certify themselves as experts in this important set of principles," Bigas said. Puerto Rico 2000 is a nonprofit, private sector trade group.

Montalvo noted that despite news stories about illegal acts involving private companies, Puerto Rico enjoys a good reputation worldwide as a place to do business. He said Puerto Rico ranks in the top 30 or so in the list of 130 countries in terms of institutional transparency. However, he acknowledged there are still "problems about favoritism" in bidding processes. "Corporate and government transparency is a requirement to achieve high levels of competitiveness. Transparency and having to answer for what is done are mechanisms that deter corruption and are factors that contribute to competitiveness," Montalvo said.

Galiano, on the other hand, came out against the actions of Acodese and said such acts must be rejected. He noted that the organizations affiliated with the chamber have high ethical standards. "Any person doing this (act of corruption), has our absolute rejection," he said.

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patrolwoman Milneli Díaz, Arecibo Homicide agent Alejandro Montalvo and Assistant District Attorney Rafael Freites.

Meanwhile, Luis Álvarez Ponce and his brother Axel, 31 and 29, respectively and residents of San Sebastián,

were arrested on Thursday morning for the murder of José "Joey" Hernández Capella, 25, a resident of the San Antonio village in Aguadilla, on September 18, 2008.

The murder occurred in the San Andrés public housing project in San Sebastián, where José M. Santiago Cuevas, 24, also was implicated in the death of Hernán-

dez Capella.

All three suspects are facing charges for murder in the first degree.

In other news, San Juan Drug Division agents seized without arrests 49 marijuana plants in the Morcelo way of the Caimito sector of Río Piedras at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday.

The plants varied in size from one foot to five feet high.



Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados  
Gobierno de Puerto Rico

## Aviso de la Disponibilidad de Evaluación Ambiental

### Construcción Sistema Sanitario para la Comunidad Boquerón (Villa Taína)

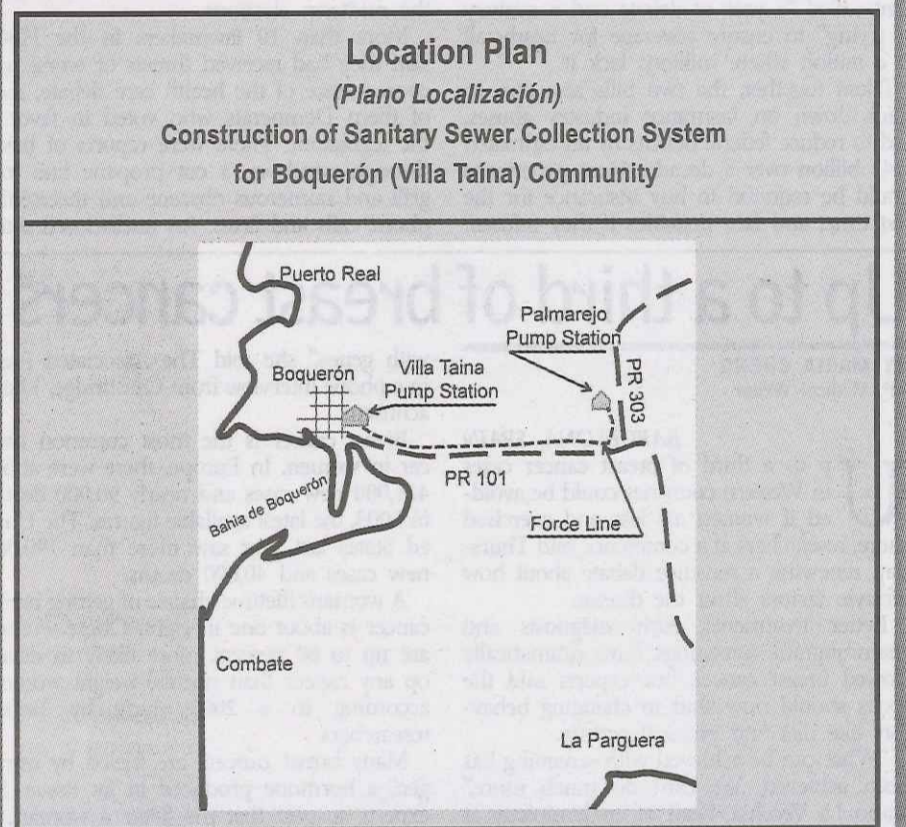
El Departamento de Agricultura Federal ("USDA Rural Development") ha recibido una solicitud para asistencia financiera por parte de la Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados de Puerto Rico. Conforme a la Ley Federal de Política Ambiental ("National Environmental Policy Act"), la división de "Rural Utility Service" ha preparado una Evaluación Ambiental que pondera los efectos ambientales potenciales y consecuencias del proyecto propuesto. Este aviso indica la disponibilidad de la Evaluación Ambiental para revisión y comentarios del público.

El proyecto propuesto consiste en la construcción de una estación de bombeo, localizada en la misma parcela donde ubica la actual Planta de Tratamiento de Boquerón (a eliminarse) y una línea de fuerza a conectarse con la estación existente de bombeo de Palmarejo en Lajas. La estación de bomba tendrá una capacidad 1.25 millones de galones por día (MGD). Se instalará a lo largo de carreteras estatales, PR 307 y 101 una tubería de 14" de diámetro con un largo de 12,980 metros lineales. Parte de la tubería será instalada en una finca privada llamada "Finca Los Ortiz".

Copia de la Evaluación Ambiental está disponible para revisión en nuestra oficina de área, localizada en el edificio "San Germán Cinema Court", carretera #2 y #122, Km. 174, San Germán, PR 00683. Para información adicional favor de comunicarse con el Sr. Héctor Núñez, a los teléfonos (787) 892-1480/2725, fax: 787-892-4411.

Cualquier persona interesada en comentar sobre esta propuesta favor de enviar sus comentarios a la dirección arriba indicada dentro de los primeros 30 días a partir de la primera publicación.

Refiérase al plano de localización incluido.



## Notice of the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

### Construction of Sanitary Sewer Collection Systems for Boquerón (Villa Taína) Community

The USDA Rural Development has received an application for financial assistance from the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the USDA Rural Utility Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment that evaluates the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposed project. This notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment for public review and comments.

The proposed project consists of the construction of a pumping station at site next to the existing Boquerón Waste Water Treatment Plant (to be eliminated) and a force line to the existing Palmarejo Pump Station in Lajas. The scope of work includes the following: Construction of 1.25 million gallon per day (MGD) sanitary pump station. The installation of 14" diameter forces line, along State Roads PR 307 and 101, for a total length of 12,980 meters. Portion of the line will be installed along private property called "Finca Ortiz".

Copy of the Environmental Assessment is available for review at our local office USDA-Rural Development, located at San German Cinema Court Building, SR #2 - Road 122, Km. 174, San German, and PR 00683. For further information contact Mr. Hector Nuñez, at the followings phones (787) 892-1480/2725, Fax: 787-892-4411.

Any person interested in commenting on this proposed project should submit comments to the above address within 30 days from the first publication.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below.