

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS  
August 04, 2021**

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Saipan, MP 96950                      Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or after August 19, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Replacement of CUC Tinian Carolinas .50 million gallon welded steel water tank to a new .50 million gallon concrete water tank project	The new .50 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank will address the need for a durable robust, and sustainable tank that will withstand seismic and typhoon conditions and have a longer lifespan.	Carolinas Heights Village, Tinian	\$ 5,180,000.00

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) or [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com); or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). All comments received by **August 19, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

## RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

## OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at [Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov](mailto:Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov) ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/

**Ralph DLG Torres**  
**Governor, CNMI**



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
Development

451 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410  
www.hud.gov

espanol.hud.gov

## **Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects 24 CFR Part 58**

### **Project Information**

**Project Name:** CUC .50 MG TINIAN CAROLINAS WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**Responsible Entity:** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

**Grant Recipient** (if different than Responsible Entity):

**State/Local Identifier:** 854856277

**Preparer:** Wilfred Villagomez, Project Supervisor

**Certifying Officer Name and Title:** Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director

**Grant Recipient** (if different than Responsible Entity):

**Consultant** (if applicable): None

**Direct Comments to:** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp); Fax: (670)234-9021

**Project Location:** Tinian Village, Saipan, MP 96950

**Description of the Proposed Project** [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

The new .50MG pre-stressed concrete water tank will address the need for a durable, robust, and sustainable tank that will withstand seismic and typhoon conditions and have a longer lifespan. This new tank will be designed and constructed to be more suitable in high seismic, high wind, and high corrosive environments. This will ultimately result in a longer lifespan and lower annual maintenance cost than a glass-fused-to-steel bolted tank while reducing the hazards and risks to water tank's damages. Since all of CUC's water tanks are considered critical infrastructure, these lifeline utility systems must continue to provide necessary fire flow for emergencies and address the daily demand of water for personal hygiene, sanitation, and well-being of the residents in their respective tank service areas.

**Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal** [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

There are two .50MG water tank and one of them is the existing Tinian Carolinas .50MG Water Tank was constructed in 1982 as is a welded steel water tank consisting of 5 levels of steel plates with anchor bolts at tank foundation. It has been recommended to be replaced by multiple tank assessments performed by CUC’s engineering consultants due to its age and structural condition but the second water tank built in 2018 sustained major damages from Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu. CUC had no choice but to reactivate the existing welded steel water tank in October 2018.

**Existing Conditions and Trends** [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:

This proposed improvement project is to replace the existing .5MG welded steel water tank to a new .50 MG pre-stressed concrete water tank. It will be designed and constructed to have a longer lifespan and lower annual maintenance cost.

**Funding Information**

<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>HUD Program</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
B-19-DV—69-001/002		\$ 5,180,000.00

**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** \$ 5,180,000.00

**Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds)** [24 CFR 58.32(d)]:

\$ 5,180,000.00

**Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities**

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

<b>Compliance Factors:</b> Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	<b>Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?</b>	<b>Compliance determinations</b>

**STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.6**

<p><b>Airport Hazards</b></p> <p>24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Commonwealth Ports Authority has determined the project site is free from the runway clear zones.</p>
<p><b>Coastal Barrier Resources</b></p> <p>Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Coastal Resources Management has determined that the project potential effects to coastal resources are likely to be less than significant adverse effect to coastal resources, the project site is not partially or wholly situated in any of Department of Coastal Resource Management's designated Areas of Particular Concern (APCs) nor within close proximity to an environmentally sensitive area.</p>
<p><b>Flood Insurance</b></p> <p>Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Department of Public Works has determined that the project is not located in the special flood hazard area.</p>

**STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5**

<p><b>Clean Air</b></p> <p>Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) &amp; (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) has concurred with the determination of the NMHC that there will be no impact on air quality for the project.</p>
<p><b>Coastal Zone Management</b></p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) &amp; (d)</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Coastal Resources Management has determined that the project potential effects to coastal resources are likely to be less than significant.</p> <p>*Contractors shall obtain the necessary permits prior to any construction activities*</p>
<p><b>Contamination and Toxic Substances</b></p> <p>24 CFR Part 50.3(i) &amp; 58.5(i)(2)</p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) has concurred with the determination of the NMHC that there are no suspected sites contaminated with toxic chemicals or radioactive materials.</p>
<p><b>Endangered Species</b></p>	<p>Yes No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) has determined that there is no record of special status species at the project site.</p>

Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402		
<b>Explosive and Flammable Hazards</b>  24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) has concurred with the determination of the NMHC that there is no suspected sites contaminated with toxic chemicals or radioactive materials.
<b>Farmlands Protection</b>  Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) has determined that the project site is not located in protective Farmland area.
<b>Floodplain Management</b>  Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Department of Public Works has determined that the project is not located in the special flood hazard area.
<b>Historic Preservation</b>  National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Historic Preservation Office (HPO) concurs with NMHC's findings of effect of No Adverse Effect on Historic Properties for this undertaking.
<b>Noise Abatement and Control</b>  Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) has concurred with the determination of the NMHC that the project will not involve development of noise sensitive uses. The project is not within a major roadway or rail road.  *Contractors shall obtain the necessary permits prior to any construction activities*
<b>Sole Source Aquifers</b>  Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no sole source aquifers located at the project site.
<b>Wetlands Protection</b>  Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Coastal Resources Management (CRM) had determined that the project site is not partially or wholly situated in any of DCRM's designated Areas of Particular Concern (APCs) nor within close proximity to an environmentally sensitive area.
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>	Yes No	There are no wild or scenic rivers located at the project site.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE</b>		
<b>Environmental Justice</b> Executive Order 12898	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project will not cause any adverse impact to the environment. The project is to enhance and a safe livelihood.

**Environmental Assessment Factors** [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 & 1508.27] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.**

**Impact Codes:** Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact – May require mitigation
- (4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>LAND DEVELOPMENT</b>		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	Pursuant to the zoning regulations the project activity is acceptable.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	The soil suitability of the proposed project is suitable for the project. The minimal impact since it replaces the same foot print as the existing water tank for replacement.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	The proposed project would involve resurfacing and paving around the tank and installation of a drainage system to prevent flooding during rainy season.  Contractors obtaining permit must adhere to the permitting requirements such as construction safety and noise.

Energy Consumption	2	The construction activity may require little to no use of energy besides equipment that requires the use of fossil fuels and electric generator.
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Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC</b>		
Employment and Income Patterns	2	No Adverse impact are anticipated from the project on employment and income within the project area.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	There are no character changes or displacement for this project. The project will mitigate the flooding issue at the project site.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	There is no adverse impact on educational and cultural facilities.
Commercial Facilities	2	There is no adverse impact on commercial facilities.
Health Care and Social Services	2	There is no adverse impact on Health Care and Soil Services facilities.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	There is no adverse impact on Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling facilities.
Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	2	There is no adverse impact on Waste Water sand Sanitary Sewer facilities.
Water Supply	2	There is no adverse impact on Water Supply facilities.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	There is no adverse impact on Public Safety Services.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	There is no adverse impact on Parks, Open Space and Recreation facilities.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	There is no adverse impact on Transportation and Accessibility services.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>NATURAL FEATURES</b>		



Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	There is no adverse impact on the Unique Natural Features and Water Resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	There is no adverse impact on Vegetation and Wildlife.
Other Factors	2	State laws and regulations requires all construction activities to go through a permit process.

**Additional Studies Performed:**

**Field Inspection (Date and completed by):**

June 25, 2021 by Wilfred Villagomez

**List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:**

1. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)
2. Coastal Resource Management (CRM)
3. Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ)
4. Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW)
5. Department of Public Works (DPW)
6. Historic and Preservation Office (HPO)
7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS)

**List of Permits Obtained:**

Selected contractor will be responsible to obtain the permits needed to commence the construction activities of the proposed project.

**Public Outreach [24 CFR 50.23 & 58.43]:**

The NMHC shall provide publish notice to the local newspaper outlets, NMHC website and social media outlet to review the completed environmental review and allow the public to make comments.

**Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]:**

Per consultation with all environmental permitting agencies there will be no adverse impact in the environment as the construction activities are minimal. The state laws and regulations require all construction contractors to obtain the necessary permits in order to commence any construction activities.

**Alternatives [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]**

None.

**No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:**

The NMHC considers a no action alternative because the proposed project is a critical lifeline infrastructure and the only one of two water tank that serves the entire island of Tinian with a population of 3,540. The second tank sustain major damages from Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu make it prone to more damages in future storms.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusions:**

There are no environmental impacts for this project and therefore it shall proceed.

**Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]**

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

None.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure

**Determination:**

- Finding of No Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]  
The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.
- Finding of Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]  
The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature:  Date: 7/6/2021

Name/Title/Organization: Wilfred Villagomez, CDBG-DR Project Supervisor NMHC

Reviewer Signature:  Date: 7/15/21

Reviewed by: Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, NMHC

Certifying Officer Signature:  Date: 7/15/21

Name/Title: Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).



# COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com  
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp



December 30, 2020

Mr. Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
PO Box 500514  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Palacios:

Subject: Request for Determination of Effect  
Lot No. 142 T 02  
Carolinas Village, Tinian

This is in reference to your letter dated December 29, 2020 requesting for a determination of effect for the above-referenced lot number. The project is for the replacement of the Carolinas Village Five Hundred Thousand Gallon Water Tank.

After review of the lot and its location, we determined that it is free from the Airport Clear Zones. As such, the determination of effect is hereby given as the project does not affect the airport.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

cc: Tinian Ports Manager  
file



Eli D. Cabrera  
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
[www.dcr.gov.net](http://www.dcr.gov.net)



Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

April 9, 2021

Ref No: PRM21-075

Mr. Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
P.O. Box 500514  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Email: [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net)

**Re: Request for Determination of Effect**

Dear Mr. Palacios,

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is in receipt of your letter dated February 12, 2021 requesting for a Determination of Effect for the following projects – (1) Replacement of As Matuis 1.0 MG Water Tank; (2) Replacement of Dandan 1.0 MG Water Tank; (3) Replacement of Kagman 1.0 MG Water Tank; (4) Replacement of Tinian Carolinas Village 0.5 MG Water Tank; (5) Power Plant I Hardening Project; and (6) Power Plant Building Facility Repair and Mitigation. As stated in your letter, the proposed projects will be funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR).

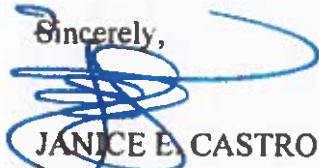
Based on our records, the aforementioned projects under items (2) and (3) were evaluated and issued a determination on December 23, 2020 (*Ref. No: PRM21-021, DCRM Letter*), and item (4) on February 9, 2021 (*Ref. No. PRM21-048, DCRM Letter*). However, items (1), (5) and (6) have not been assessed. This letter shall serve as DCRM's initial assessment for Determination of Effect on the three remaining projects. Using the CRM online permitting map and its multiple data source layers, DCRM's assessments of the following projects are as follows:

- a) Item #1: The proposed replacement of the As Matuis 1.0 MG water tank includes demolishing the existing 1.0 MG tank, and then installing a new 1.0 MG pre-stressed concrete water tank. Other improvements include a telemetry system, new inlet and outlet piping configuration, new calcium hypochlorite disinfection system and sampling ports, and new inlet and outlet flow meters. DCRM's findings on the proposed project include - (1) the project is situated adjacent to a high valued habitat; (2) it is within close proximity (< 200') to two nearby streambeds; and, (3) is located near the As Matuis residential homestead area. As a result, DCRM will require a CRM minor permit for this project to ensure that the effects on natural drainage patterns of the project site are minimized, the potential destruction of important habitat are avoided, and potential discharge of toxic substances associated with construction activities are avoided, minimized, or mitigated.

- b) Item #5: The proposed action of hardening Power Plant 1 is to include two new typhoon-resistant windows with shutters, a roll up door for the transformer station, improvements to the ventilation system, and replacing asbestos and cement exterior panels with galvanized aluminum panels along the new girts to provide more structural support for the panels. The improvements to the ventilation system will include replacing the current louvers with storm-resistant ones. DCRM's findings for the Power Plant 1 Hardening Project are – (1) the project is wholly within DCRM's designated Ports & Industrial Area of Particular Concern (APC); and, (2) construction activities of any type are known to cause some adverse effects to coastal resources. Therefore, this project is subject to a CRM permit.
- c) Item #6: The proposed repairs of Power Plant 4 building in Puerto Rico are to mitigate the vulnerability of the facility from typhoons and the effects of other natural disasters, the proposal intends to repair or replace panels, girts, roll-up doors, louvers, intake/exhaust fans, and fencing. DCRM's findings of these activities are – (1) the project is wholly situated in DCRM designated Ports & Industrial APC; and (2) although the project is to improve the facility's resiliency to severe storms, construction activities of any type are likely to cause some adverse effects to coastal resources. A CRM permit is required for this project.
- d) As proposed, the projects will be primarily conducted within the boundaries of the properties. The area was previously disturbed with pre-existing structures. As a result, DCRM anticipates that the project is not likely to have significant adverse effects on the pattern and type of land use or growth and distribution of population including the character of existing government properties and residential areas;
- e) DCRM does not anticipate that this project will cause significant public controversy. We believe that the public and other agencies will be supportive of this proposal;
- f) Based on the information provided, NMC will be required to apply for a "One Start" permit as the project is or will be federally funded. The application will enable DCRM, the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) to review your project proposal in its entirety; and
- g) As this project will be duly permitted by relevant CNMI agencies, DCRM anticipates that this project will not conflict with any CNMI environmental, natural resources protection, or land use laws and regulations.

We look forward to further coordinating with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) or the applicant, as you navigate through local and federal requirements. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact our Permitting Section at 664-8300.

Sincerely,



JANICE E. CASTRO  
Director

Division of Coastal Resources Management





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

Division of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8500; Fax: (670) 664-8540  
[www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp)



**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**Eli D. Cabrera**  
Administrator

**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Lt. Governor

**Jonathan I. Arriola**  
Director, DEQ

January 6, 2021

Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
P.O. Box 500514  
Saipan, MP 96950

**RE: Rehabilitation and Replacement for the Commonwealth Utility Corporation's .5 Million Gallon Water Tank, Carolinas, Tinian.**

Dear Mr. Palacios,

Thank you for your letter requesting the Division of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) certification for the proposed Rehabilitation and Replacement for the Commonwealth Utility Corporation's (CUC) .5 Million Gallon Water Tank project, located on lot 142 T 02, in Carolinas Village, Tinian. Based on the submitted scope of work, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) does not anticipate any significant environmental impacts from the proposed project. However, please note that prior to the bid process, the design plans must be reviewed and approved by our Safe Drinking Water Program to ensure that the project meets all requirements and is compliant with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The proposed project is required to obtain a One Start Earthmoving & Erosion Control Permit prior to any commencement of clearing and construction. Please submit a One Start Earthmoving & Erosion Control Permit Application with the detailed construction plans and other pertinent documents. If a Private Contractor is awarded the proposed project, please have the Contractor submit a One Start Commercial Earthmoving & Erosion Control Permit Application.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

**Jonathan I. Arriola**  
Director, DEQ



# Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## Division of Fish & Wildlife

### Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Lower Base, P.O. Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950



Telephone: 670-664-6000  
Fax: 670-664-6060

December 31, 2020

Jesse Palacios  
Corporate Director, NMHC  
PO Box 500514  
Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Subject: Information Request (#IR-21-06), NMHC Request for a Determination of Effects for Wetlands and Endangered Species

Dear Mr. Jesse Palacios:

You requested information from the Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding potential environmental impacts from an infrastructure project to rehabilitate the **Tinian Carolinas Village 0.50 MG Water Tank on lot 142 T 02 in Carolinas Village, Tinian**. We reviewed your information request, including supporting information and maps. We do not expect the proposed project activities to affect threatened or endangered species as there are no such species associated with the habitat in the project area. We did not conduct on-the-ground inspections of the sites. Our response is based solely on the information you provided, our current knowledge, and professional experience.

Please note that DFW does not have jurisdiction over wetlands or rivers and offering guidance on such matters is outside of our scope. Please contact the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for further guidance pertaining to wetlands or rivers.

*This letter is not a permit or approval of the proposed projects.* Instead, the information that we provide may assist you in project planning, including information required to comply with the preparation of an Environmental Assessment Statutory Checklist.

If you have any questions, or I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at 664-6032.

Sincerely,

Emilie Kohler  
Wildlife Biologist, DFW

CC: Anthony T. Benavente, Secretary, DLNR  
Manny M. Pangelinan, Director, DFW





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
 Office of the Secretary of Public Works  
 2<sup>nd</sup> floor - Gleai Joeten Commercial Center  
 Saipan, MP 96950



January 07, 2021  
 Serial No. PW21-0016

Mr. Jesse S. Palacios  
 Corporate Director  
 Northern Marianas Housing Division  
 Saipan, MP 96950

Subject: Determination of Special Flood Hazard Areas


Dear Director Palacios:

This letter is in response to your request received by our office on December 31, 2020 for the determination of Special Flood Hazard Area regarding the proposed CUC's Replacement of the Carolinas Village 0.5 Million Gallon Water Tank Project located in the Carolinas Heights, Tinian. The project site is on Lot No. 142 T 02.

After a thorough review of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM Panel No. 6900000180C) and other source materials, this office has determined that the aforementioned lot is **NOT in the Special Flood Hazard Area**. See attached FIRMette.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Edwin Tmarsel, Flood Administrator of our Building Safety Code Division at the telephone number 234-2726.

Sincerely,

  
 JAMES A. ADA  
 Secretary of Public Works

cc: Building Safety Code Division



NMHC- SAIPAN OFFICE

RECEIVED

By: 

Date: 1/6/2021-3:50pm

# National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMets



145°38'45"E 14°58'13"N



145°39'23"E 14°57'38"N



## Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

### SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)  
Zone A, V, A99
- With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
- Regulatory Floodway

### OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD

- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
- Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee, See Notes, Zone X
- Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D

### OTHER AREAS

- NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
- Effective LOMRs
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D

### GENERAL STRUCTURES

- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
- Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

### OTHER FEATURES

- Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
- Coastal Transect
- Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transect Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

### MAP PANELS

- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards.

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 1/5/2021 at 9:39 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



# Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



September 15, 2020

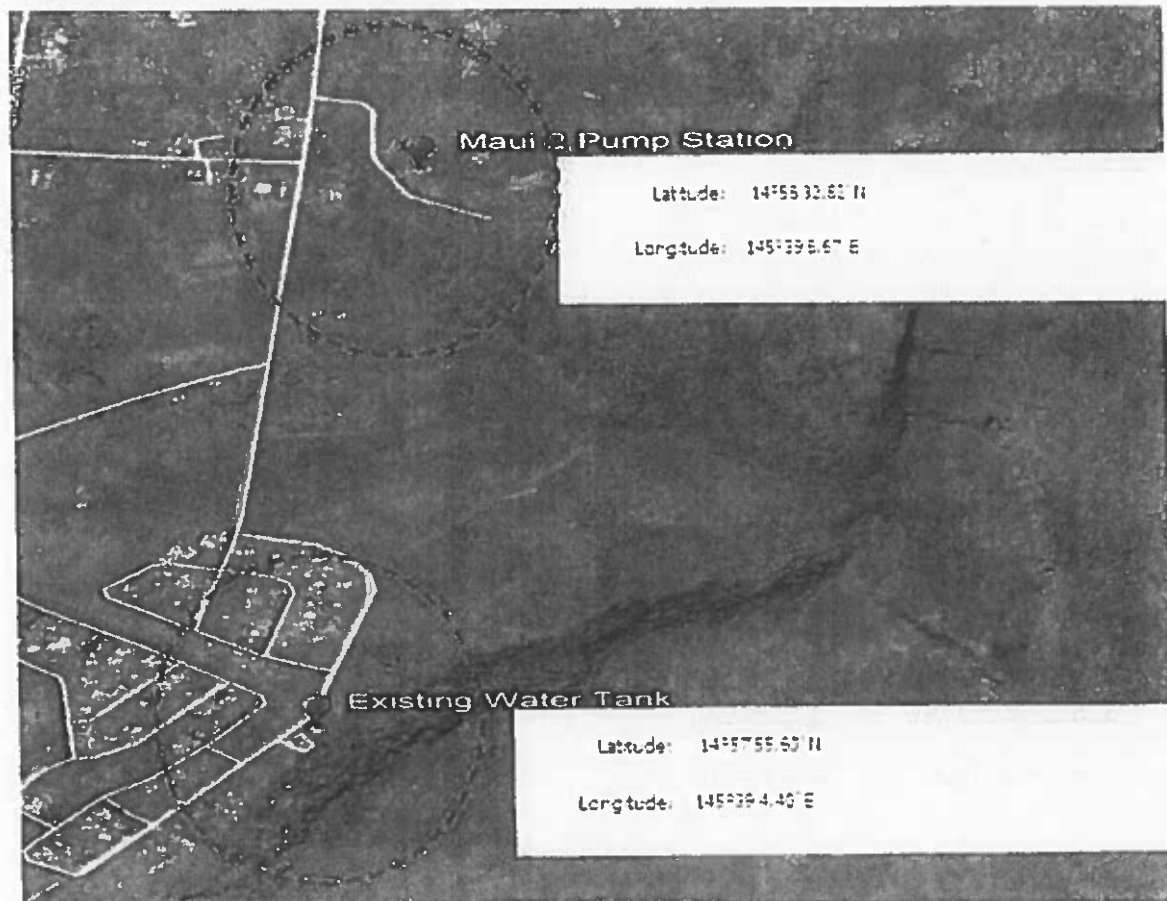
## SUMMARY INFORMATION

Project Title: Replacement of the Tinian Carolinas Village 0.50 MG Water Tank

Total Project Cost: \$5,180,000.00

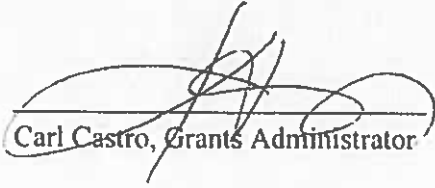
Applicant organization/agency: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)

The objective of this project is to replace the existing welded steel water tank with a new 0.5 MG pre-stressed concrete water tank. This tank is intended to provide water service in series with the existing glass-fused steel bolted water tank. Due to the vulnerability of the glass-fused steel bolted tank, the project will mitigate the potential of water outages throughout the island of Tinian.



P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

The Replacement of the Tinian Carolinas Village 0.50 MG Water Tank Project is located in Carolinas Village on the island of Tinian, CNMI. A location map with coordinates is inserted above.



Carl Castro, Grants Administrator

U.S. Department of Agriculture

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING**

<b>PART I</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request <b>12/29/2020</b>				
Name of Project <b>Tinian Carolinas Heights .5 M WaterTank</b>		Federal Agency Involved <b>NMHC</b>				
Proposed Land Use <b>Replacement</b>		County and State <b>Carolinas Village, Tinian</b>				
<b>PART II</b> (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS <b>30 Dec. 2020</b>		Person Completing Form: <b>Pam Sablan</b>		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size	
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres:            %	Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres:            %				
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS				
<b>PART III</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		<b>Alternative Site Rating</b>				
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		N/A				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		N/A				
C. Total Acres In Site		N/A				
<b>PART IV</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information		N/A				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		N/A				
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland		N/A				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		N/A				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		N/A				
<b>PART V</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		N/A				
<b>PART VI</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)	N/A			
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)	N/A			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)	N/A			
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)	N/A			
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)	N/A			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)	N/A			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)	N/A			
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)	N/A			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)	N/A			
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)	N/A			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)	N/A			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)	N/A			
<b>TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>		160	0	0	0	0
<b>PART VII</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		260	0	0	0	0
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>				
Reason For Selection:						
<b>PAMELA SABLAN</b> Digitally signed by PAMELA SABLAN Date: 2020.12.30 14:55:29 +10'00'						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: <b>Pamela M. Sablan-District Conservationist</b>					Date: <b>30 Dec. 2020</b>	

(See instructions on reverse side)

Form AD-1006 (03-02)

## STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

- Step 1 - Federal agencies (or Federally funded projects) involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form. For Corridor type projects, the Federal agency shall use form NRCS-CPA-106 in place of form AD-1006. The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) process may also be accessed by visiting the FPPA website, <http://fppa.nrcs.usda.gov/lesa/>.
- Step 2 - Originator (Federal Agency) will send one original copy of the form together with appropriate scaled maps indicating location(s) of project site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local Field Office or USDA Service Center and retain a copy for their files. (NRCS has offices in most counties in the U.S. The USDA Office Information Locator may be found at [http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip\\_public/USA\\_map](http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip_public/USA_map), or the offices can usually be found in the Phone Book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. A list of field offices is available from the NRCS State Conservationist and State Office in each State.)
- Step 3 - NRCS will, within 10 working days after receipt of the completed form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland. (When a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, NRCS will respond within 30 working days.
- Step 4 - For sites where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.
- Step 5 - NRCS will return the original copy of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project, and retain a file copy for NRCS records.
- Step 6 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form and return the form with the final selected site to the servicing NRCS office.
- Step 7 - The Federal agency providing financial or technical assistance to the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

*(For Federal Agency)*

**Part I:** When completing the "County and State" questions, list all the local governments that are responsible for local land use controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

**Part III:** When completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them or other major change in the ability to use the land for agriculture.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities planned build out capacity) that will cause a direct conversion.

**Part VI:** Do not complete Part VI using the standard format if a State or Local site assessment is used. With local and NRCS assistance, use the local Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA).

1. Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5(b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type project such as transportation, power line and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will, be weighted zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.
2. Federal agencies may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown on the FPPA rule after submitting individual agency FPPA policy for review and comment to NRCS. In all cases where other weights are assigned, relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total points at 160. For project sites where the total points equal or exceed 160, consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could reduce adverse impacts (e.g. Alternative Sites, Modifications or Mitigation).

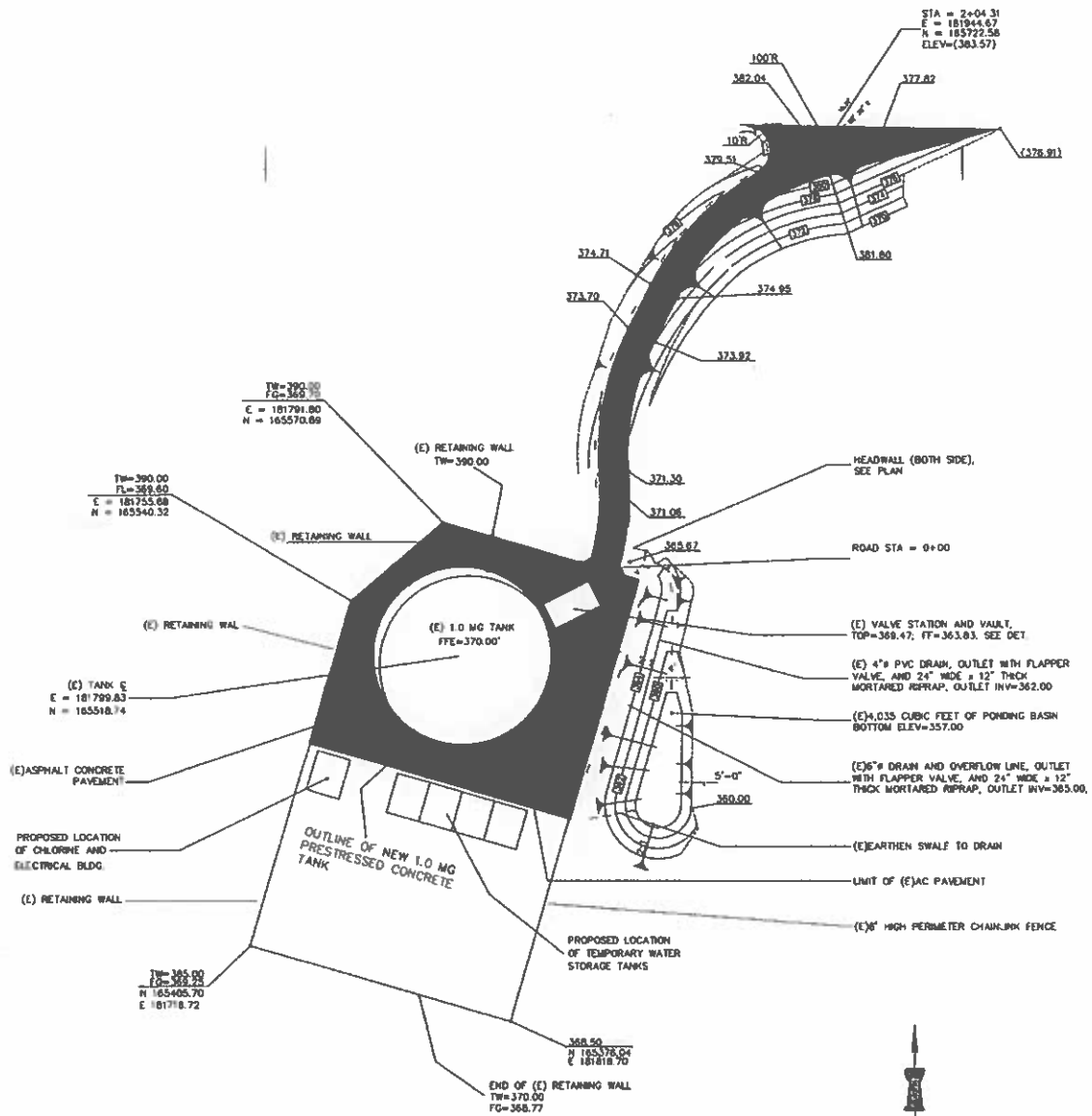
**Part VII:** In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, convert the site assessment points to a base of 160.

Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and the alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Site A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Site A}$
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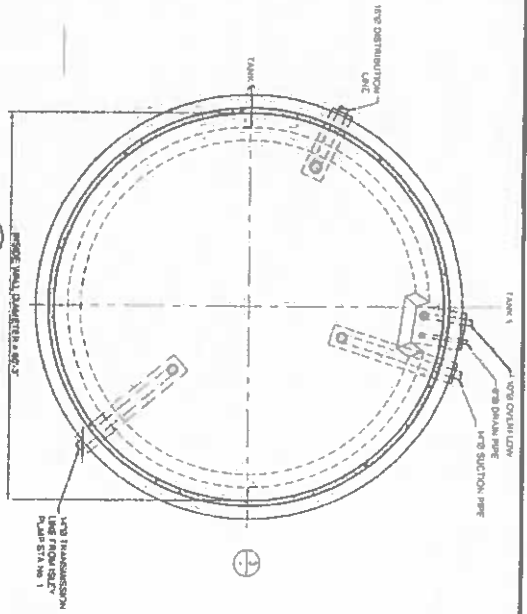
For assistance in completing this form or FPPA process, contact the local NRCS Field Office or USDA Service Center.

NRCS employees, consult the FPPA Manual and/or policy for additional instructions to complete the AD-1006 form.

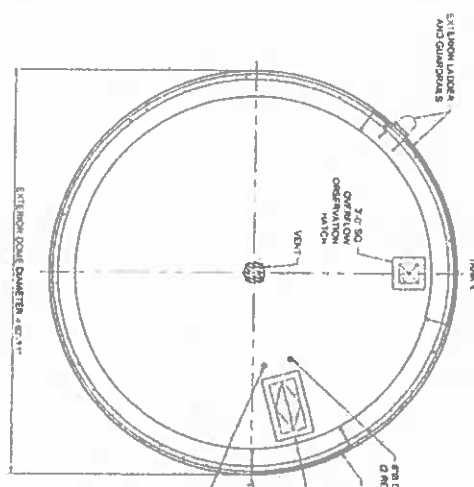


PROPOSED SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
 FOR KAGMAN 1.0 MG WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

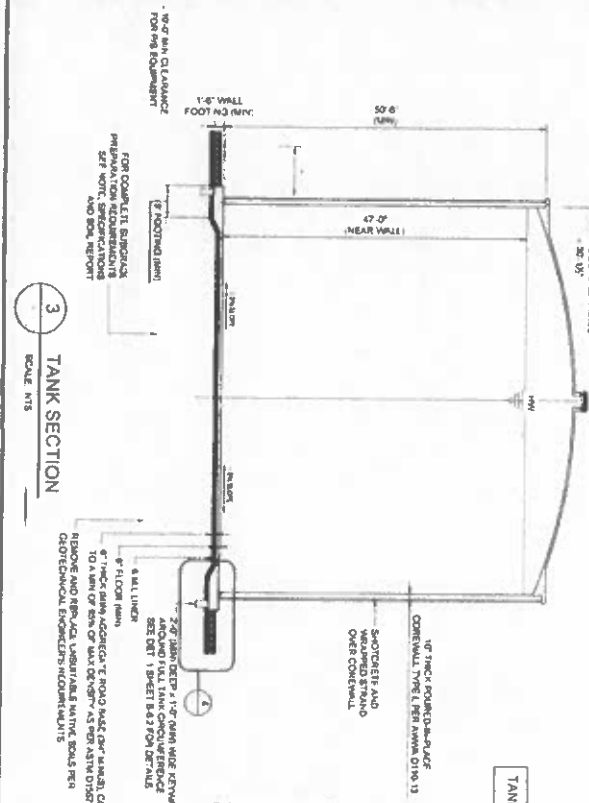




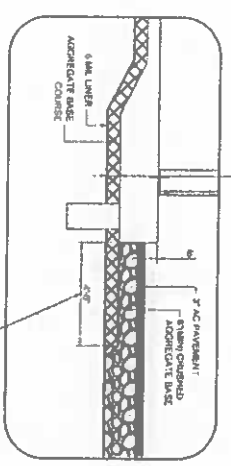
1 FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE NTS



2 DOME PLAN  
SCALE NTS



3 TANK SECTION  
SCALE NTS



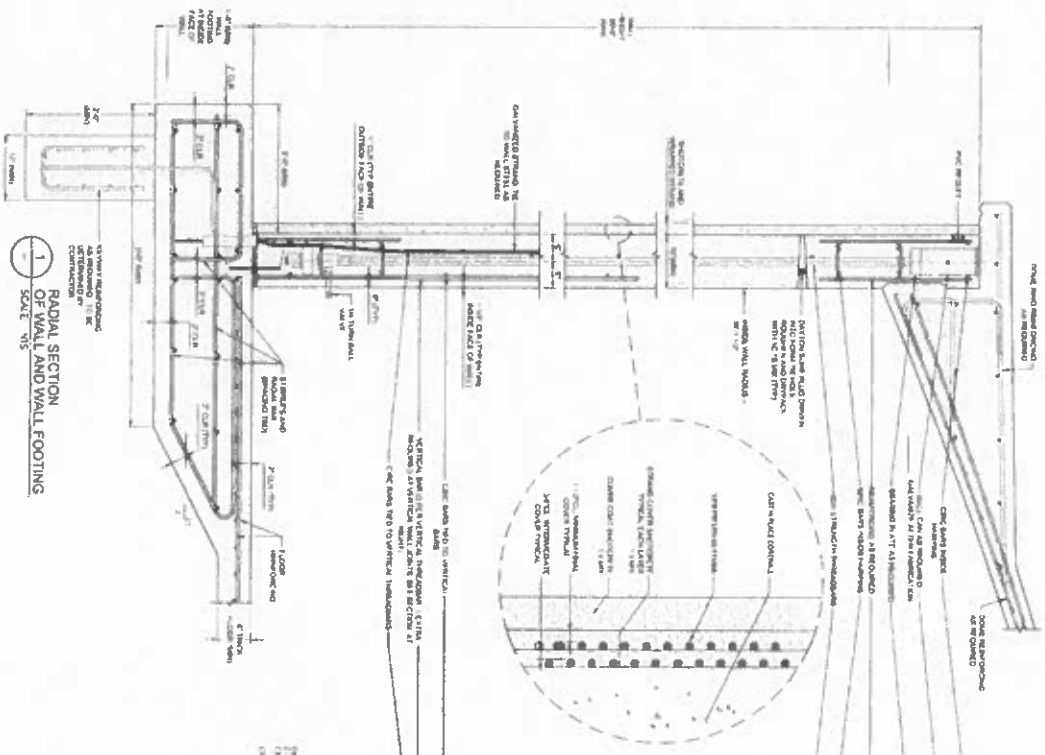
4 DETAIL  
SCALE NTS

TANK FOUNDATION DESIGN BY CONTRACTOR

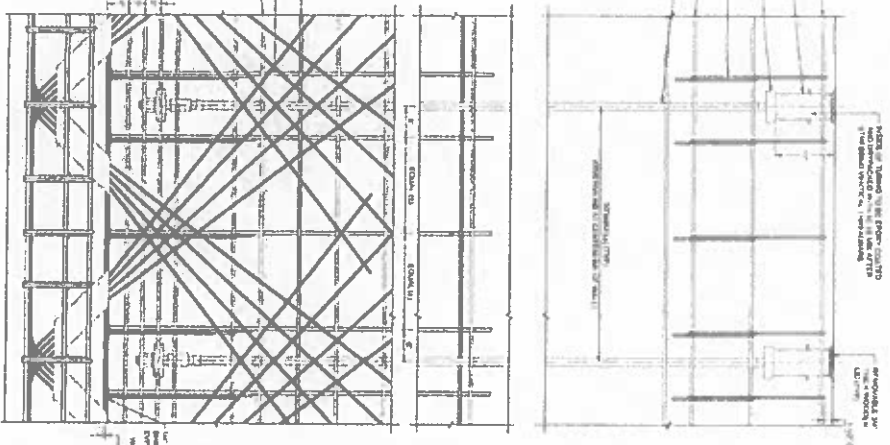
NOTE:  
A 1/2" TRUSS RODS AND 1/2" CONCRETE WALL SHALL BE PROVIDED AROUND THE TANK FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE A DRY GROUND SURFACE. THE TANK FOUNDATION SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED WITH A 1/2" TRUSS RODS AND 1/2" CONCRETE WALL. THE TANK FOUNDATION SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED WITH A 1/2" TRUSS RODS AND 1/2" CONCRETE WALL. THE TANK FOUNDATION SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED WITH A 1/2" TRUSS RODS AND 1/2" CONCRETE WALL.

GHD Inc. 18 MILLER GALLON WATER TANK REMEDIATION PROJECT		GHD Inc. 18 MILLER GALLON WATER TANK REMEDIATION PROJECT	
PROJECT NO. 18-0001		PROJECT NO. 18-0001	
DRAWING NO. S-6-1		DRAWING NO. S-6-1	
SHEET NO. 1 OF 1		SHEET NO. 1 OF 1	
DATE: 08/20/2018		DATE: 08/20/2018	
DRAWN BY: [Name]		DRAWN BY: [Name]	
CHECKED BY: [Name]		CHECKED BY: [Name]	
APPROVED BY: [Name]		APPROVED BY: [Name]	

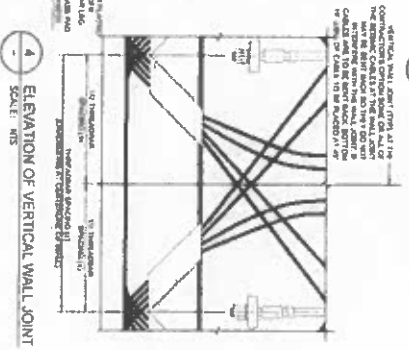




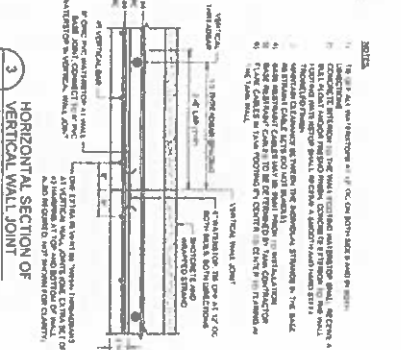
1  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
RADIAL SECTION OF WALL AND WALL FOOTING



2  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
ELEVATION OF WALL AND WALL FOOTING



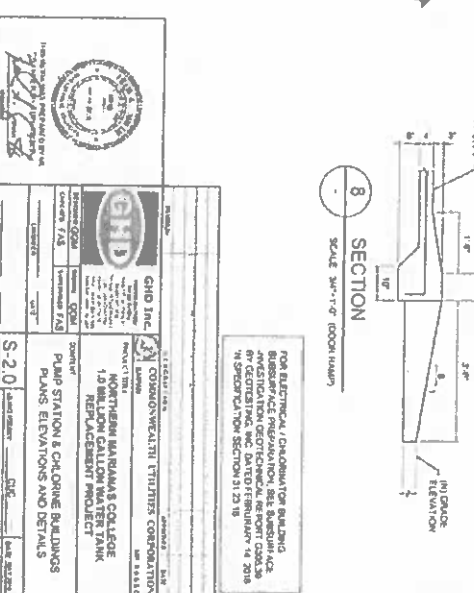
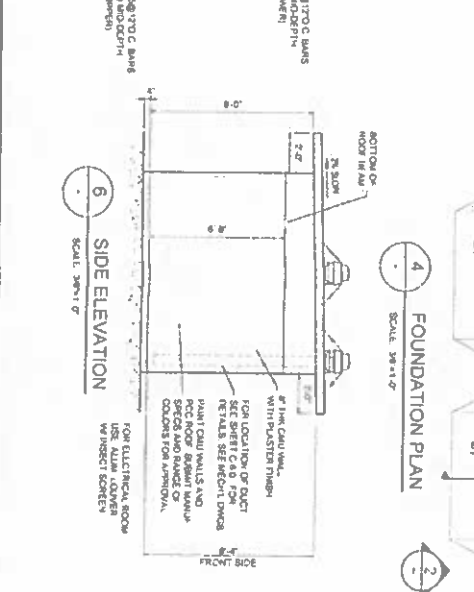
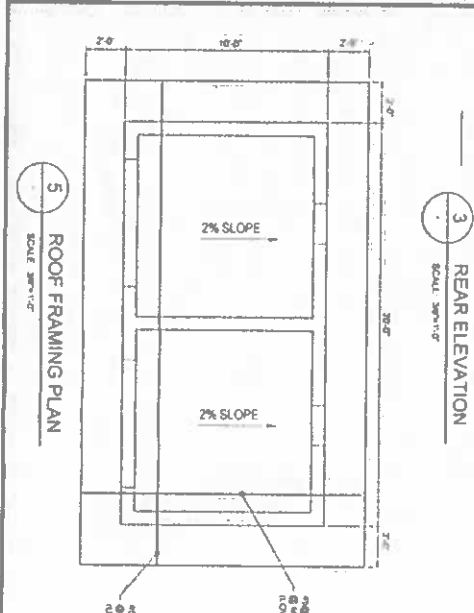
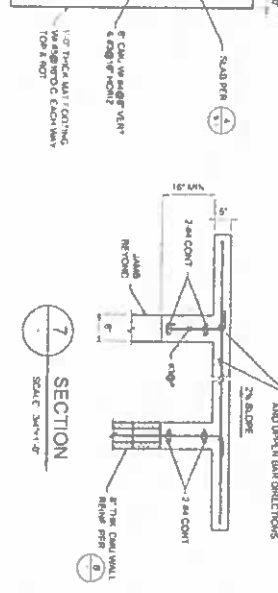
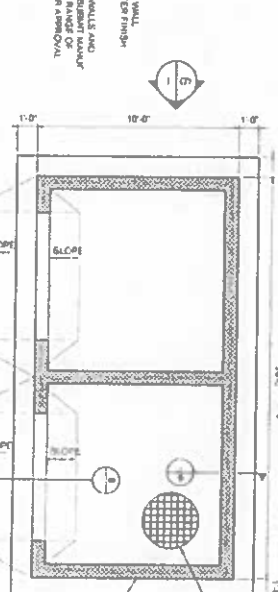
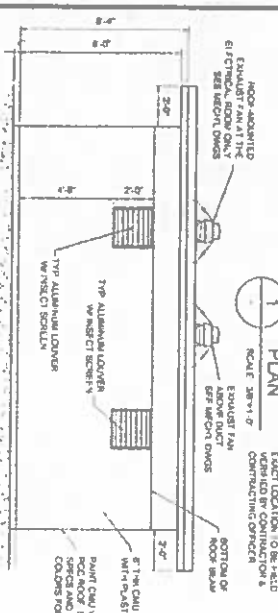
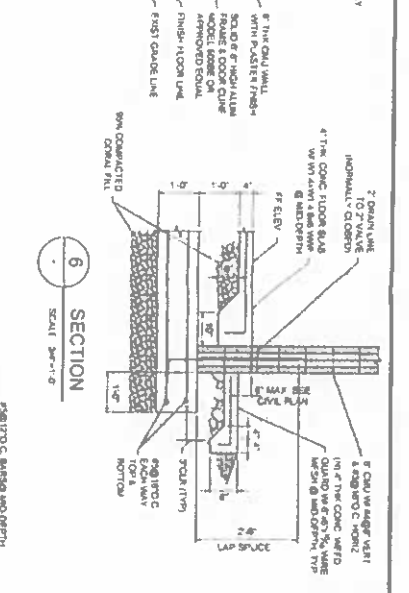
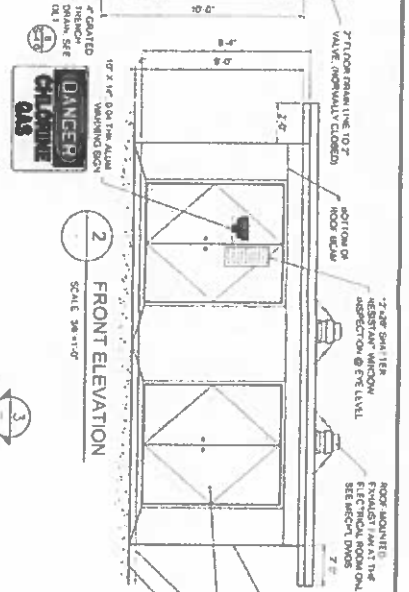
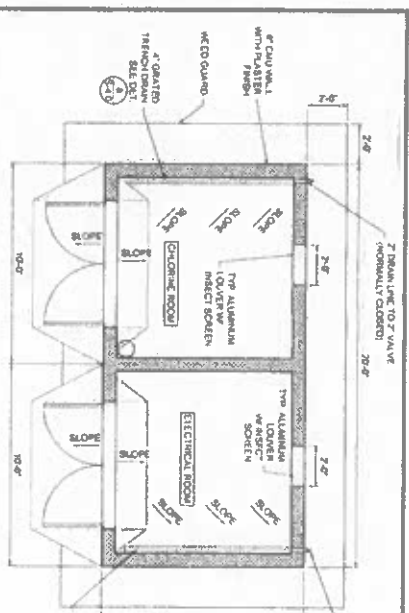
4  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
ELEVATION OF VERTICAL WALL JOINT



3  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
HORIZONTAL SECTION OF VERTICAL WALL JOINT

- NOTES:**
1. SEE ALL WALL SECTIONS FOR REINFORCEMENT DETAILS AND IN GENERAL.
  2. CONCRETE FLOOR SLAB SHALL BE REINFORCED WITH #4 BARS AT 18" ON CENTER.
  3. WALL SHALL BE REINFORCED WITH #4 BARS AT 18" ON CENTER.
  4. WALL SHALL BE REINFORCED WITH #4 BARS AT 18" ON CENTER.
  5. WALL SHALL BE REINFORCED WITH #4 BARS AT 18" ON CENTER.
  6. WALL SHALL BE REINFORCED WITH #4 BARS AT 18" ON CENTER.
  7. WALL SHALL BE REINFORCED WITH #4 BARS AT 18" ON CENTER.
  8. WALL SHALL BE REINFORCED WITH #4 BARS AT 18" ON CENTER.
  9. WALL SHALL BE REINFORCED WITH #4 BARS AT 18" ON CENTER.
  10. WALL SHALL BE REINFORCED WITH #4 BARS AT 18" ON CENTER.

<p><b>GHD Inc.</b> Geotechnical Engineering 1000 North 17th Street Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103 Phone: (918) 438-8800 Fax: (918) 438-8801 www.ghdinc.com</p>		<p>315 S. WEST ST. TULSA, OK 74103 CONCEPT WATER TANK WALL AND WALL FOOTING DETAILS</p>	
<p>PROJECT NO. S6-2</p>	<p>DATE: 08/11/2011</p>	<p>SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"</p>	<p>DATE: 08/11/2011</p>
<p>CLIENT: NORTHERN SARAHAWA COLLEGE 10 MILLION GALLON WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT</p>			



<b>GHD Inc.</b> 12000 W. STATE ST. CLEVELAND, OH 44115 (216) 421-1100 www.ghdinc.com	
<b>PROJECT:</b> PUMP STATION & CHLORINE BUILDINGS PLANS, ELEVATIONS AND DETAILS	<b>DATE:</b> 08/20/2018
<b>SCALE:</b> S-2-0	<b>DATE:</b> 08/20/2018

FOR BUILDING CODES AND/OR FOR BUILDING  
 DEPARTMENT REGULATION, THE ENGINEER  
 HAS CONDUCTED VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE  
 PROJECT AND HAS DATED THEREUNTO 14 2018  
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 121.1219