

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE
JULY 22, 2024**

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

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 07, 2024**, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Project Funding Grant (CPF) pursuant to the authority of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103); and the Explanatory Statement of Division of that Act, which was printed in the House Section of the Congressional Record on March 09, 2022 (Explanatory Statement); and superseding provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328).

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
New Construction: Generator house and ongoing maintenance of a generator.	To provide ongoing services to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking during weather events and long-term power outages in Saipan.	Recipient Location: Dandan, Saipan Original Location for the project: Confidential	\$50,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will not significantly impact 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) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. It may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity 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 projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **August 07, 2024, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands before authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters 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 Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios 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 Honolulu Field Office 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 Honolulu Field Office 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 the **U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, Honolulu Field Office, 1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813** and CPDHonolulu@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.


/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
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
AMENDED

Project Information

Project Name: Construction of a generator house for installation of and ongoing maintenance of a generator for Guma' Esperansa

Responsible Entity: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)
P.O. Box 500514
Saipan, MP 96950

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): Karidat
P.O. Box 501058
Saipan, MP 96950

State/Local Identifier: DUNS No. 845856277

Preparer: Brandy Camacho, Planning Administrative Assistant
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Arnold I. Palacios, Governor, Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): Karidat
P.O. Box 501058
Saipan, MP 96950

Consultant (if applicable): N/A

Direct Comments to: Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

Project Location: Confidential location, Saipan, CNMI

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

Karidat through the FY2022 Community Project Funding (CPF) grant funding applied for the installation and ongoing maintenance of the generator and its structure at Guma' Esperansa.

Guma' Esperansa is the only shelter for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

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

The purpose of the project is the construction of a generator house for installation of and ongoing maintenance of a generator for Guma' Esperansa, so their important services to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking during weather events and long term power outages will not be hampered.

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

The Guma' Esperansa is the only domestic violence shelter in the CNMI and requires a generator house to improve and protect the quality of the existing generator.

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-22-CP-MP-0519	FY22 Community Project Funding (CPF) Grant	\$50,000.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$50,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$50,000.00

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.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.6		
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) has determined that the project is free from the Runway Protection Zone. -Appendix A

<p>Coastal Barrier Resources</p> <p>Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) has determined that the proposed construction project is not partially or wholly situated on or near DCRM's designated "Area of Particular Concern" (APCs).</p> <p>-Appendix B</p>
<p>Flood Insurance</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 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) has determined that the proposed project is NOT in the Special Flood Zone Area.</p> <p>-Appendix C</p>
<p>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5</p>		
<p>Clean Air</p> <p>Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality does not believe that the project will have a significant impact on the environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act.</p> <p>-Appendix D</p>
<p>Coastal Zone Management</p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) determined that the proposed improvement project is not partially or wholly situated on or near DCRM's designated "Areas of Particular Concern" (ACPs).</p> <p>-Appendix B</p>
<p>Contamination, Radon, and Toxic Substances</p> <p>24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Division of Environmental Quality does not believe that the project will have a significant impact on the Environmental Policy Act.</p> <p>-Appendix D</p>
<p>Endangered Species</p> <p>Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife has determined that they do not anticipate impacts on T&E species.</p> <p>-Appendix E</p>

<p>Explosive and Flammable Hazards</p> <p>24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality does not believe that the project will have a significant impact on the environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act.</p> <p>-Appendix D</p>
<p>Farmlands Protection</p> <p>Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) determined that NO protected animals will be impacted.</p> <p>-Appendix F</p>
<p>Floodplain Management</p> <p>Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) has determined that the proposed project is NOT in the Special Flood Zone Area.</p> <p>-Appendix C</p>
<p>Historic Preservation</p> <p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Division of Historic Preservation has determined there are NO Historic Properties to be affected.</p> <p>-Appendix G</p>
<p>Noise Abatement and Control</p> <p>Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Division of Environmental Quality does not believe that the project will have a significant impact on the environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act.</p> <p>-Appendix D</p>
<p>Sole Source Aquifers</p> <p>Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The CNMI has no Sole Source Aquifers</p> <p>-Appendix H</p>
<p>Wetlands Protection</p> <p>Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) has determined that the proposed improvement project is not partially or wholly situated on or near DCRM's designated "Areas of Particular Concern" (ACPs).</p> <p>-Appendix B</p>

Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The CNMI has no Wild Scenic Rivers -Appendix I
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There will be no environmental impact on the construction of the generator room on top of the rear parking lot of Guma' Esperansa.

Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 & 1508.27] Recorded below are 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 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
LAND DEVELOPMENT		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The Saipan Zoning Office has determined that the project is permitted within the Village Residential zoning district. -Appendix J
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	The soiled description as per the USDA Soil Conservation Service for the Navy Hill area is Kagman-Saipan and Laolao Akina land. Detailed description as follows: very deep, moderately deep, well-drained, strongly sloping soils on limestone plateaus; volcanic uplands. The soil survey indicated that the area can be used for renovation and development.
Hazards and Nuisances	2	The contractor will be required to apply for permits through the Department of Public Works (DPW) for construction to

including Site Safety and Noise		commence. The permitting agencies will guide them to prevent hazards, noise reduction, and site safety.
Energy Consumption	2	The project will consist of the construction of a generator room.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONOMIC		
Employment and Income Patterns	2	The goal of the project is to construct a generator room.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The project site is in an area consisting of residential homes and small businesses. The construction of the generator house will not affect the community or the demographics of the site.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project will not affect any cultural or educational facilities.
Commercial Facilities	2	The project will not affect any commercial facilities.
Health Care and Social Services	2	The project will not affect any health care and social services.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The project will not affect any solid waste disposal or recycling facility.
Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	2	The project will not affect any wastewater or sanitary sewers.
Water Supply	2	The project will not affect any water supply.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The project will not affect any public safety facilities.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The project will not affect any parks, open spaces, or recreation. The project location does not have a park facility.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The project will not affect any transportation facility. The project will conform to the standards of the CNMI Zoning law.
Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation

NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The project site has been developed, therefore, there will be no effect on any natural features or water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	There will be no effect on any vegetation or wildlife. The project site has been developed; a temporary generator house.
Other Factors	2	The project has been determined to be free from any environmental impacts. The contractors will conform to the guidance of the permitting agencies for the construction to commence.

Additional Studies Performed: N/A – There is no significant impact on the environment for this project. All regulatory agencies were consulted in the preparation of this Environmental Assessment.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by): February 20, 2024 – By Tricia B. Tenorio, Planner (NMHC) and Brandy Camacho, Planning Administrative Assistant (NMHC)

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

- Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)
- Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM)
- Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ/BECQ)
- Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW/DLNR)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Zoning Board
- CNMI Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
- Soil Survey Documentation from USDA Soil Conservation Service
- Region 9 Documentation on Designated Sole Source Aquifers from EPA
- Documentation from the Natural Park Service for Scenic Rivers in the CNMI
- FEMA flood plain maps

List of Permits Obtained:

There will be no permits to be obtained at this time, however, prior to the construction of the project, the contractor will be responsible to apply for a “One Start Permit” that will be issued by the Department of Public Works (DPW) or the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ). The permits will be included in the project file as soon as the selected contractor has been identified.

Public Outreach [24 CFR 50.23 & 58.43]:

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation will publish the “Finding of No Significant Impact -FONSI” and “Request for the Release of Funds- RROF” as soon as this Environmental

Assessment is signed by the Certifying Officer. The publication will be printed in the newspaper, website, and on the NMHC Facebook page for 15 days.

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]:

There will be no significant impact on the environment on the construction of the generator house. This project will be closely monitored by the Karidat and permitting agencies to ensure that permit requirements are met, to ensure that building code requirements are met.

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

There is no significant impact on the environment for this project. The construction project is a short-term project, not a long term.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]: N/A

Summary of Findings and Conclusions:

This project will not impact the environment as the project is for the benefit of the Guma' Esperansa. This is a short-term project and the contractor will abide by the conditions provided in the permits.

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 identified in the mitigation plan.

-Before the construction, the contractor will be required to apply for all the necessary permits to begin construction work.

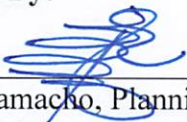
Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
N/A	

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.

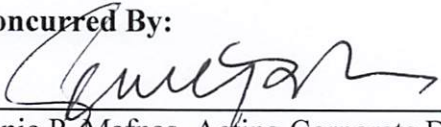
Prepared By:



Brandy Camacho, Planning Administrative Assistant
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Date: 07/15/2024

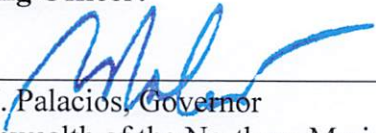
Concurred By:



Zenie P. Mafnas, Acting Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Date: 7/15/24

Certifying Officer:



Arnold I. Palacios, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Date: 7/19/24

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 per recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).