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Cc: [Maclay, Yolianne](#)
Subject: Tres Palmas Sunset View case in Rincón, Puerto Rico
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2025 4:01:13 PM

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Dear EPA Region 2 Enforcement Team,

I am submitting this comment in strong support of robust federal enforcement and a meaningful penalty in the Tres Palmas Sunset View case in Rincón, Puerto Rico.

This property has a clear record of unpermitted clearing, construction, and sediment runoff affecting a federally protected coastal ecosystem within and adjacent to the Tres Palmas Marine Reserve. Community members have repeatedly observed and documented runoff entering sensitive marine habitats during rainfall events. Time-stamped photos, videos, and logs showing inadequate erosion and stormwater controls and are plentiful among legitimate citizen advocacy organizations and will be provided on request.

Beyond the legal violations, this case highlights the broader consequences of unchecked coastal development in Rincón. The Tres Palmas Reserve protects critical habitat for endangered sea turtles, elkhorn coral, and other species that support our island's eco-tourism economy. When these habitats are damaged, we all lose — residents, visitors, and the small businesses that depend on clean water and healthy reefs. The devastation of this project in my experience the past decade as a resident of Rincón is the second worst environmental assault in the community at large and by far the greatest negative impact to Tres Palmas Marine reserve and roadways, gullies, fields, beaches, and residential neighborhoods that flank Tres Palmas.

The anticipated occupancy boom and building process itself relating to

the new construction is also straining local infrastructure, creating traffic congestion, noise, and wastewater challenges, while diminishing residents' quality of life and the visitor experience. These cumulative effects reinforce the need for strict enforcement and responsible growth that aligns with federal environmental standards.

I respectfully request that EPA:

1. Impose the maximum appropriate penalty to ensure accountability and deterrence;
2. Require corrective environmental restoration to repair site impacts; and
3. Ensure ongoing monitoring and compliance reporting to prevent recurrence.

This case sets important precedent: Puerto Rico's coasts are not disposable and cannot be left to inconsistent local oversight. Federal environmental laws apply here just as they do anywhere in the United States. Strong enforcement is essential to protect our public resources, community well-being, and the sustainable tourism that Rincón depends upon - now and for generations to come.

Many thanks to EPA for its attention and commitment to protecting Puerto Rico's coasts and waterways.

Very truly yours,

Megan O'Neil

Owner, Oeste Guest, Rincón, Puerto Rico

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For questions, contact Eng. Yolianne Maclay, EPA Caribbean Environmental Protection Division, at maclay.yolianne@epa.gov or (787) 977-5849.

<https://www.epa.gov/pr/cwa-02-2025-3451-tres-palmas-sunset-view-construction-project>

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