

From: [Glenn Tryon](#)
To: [Maples, Karen](#)
Cc: [Maclay, Yolianne](#)
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Hello, My wife ,who was born in Rio Piedras, and I have owned our home in Rincon for over 20 yrs. During this time we have seen many changes in this small town, some good ,some bad that accompany the explosive development taking place. Development brings jobs and money, but with it comes pollution and corruption. Without proper regulation and rigid enforcement of the law, the environment and the people that live in it ,will suffer. There have been numerous incidents where construction projects have not pulled the required permits, did not correctly follow the permit requirements or simply ignored them. The Tres Palmas Sunset View is just the latest example of this.

Landscape grading of the approximate 4+ acres began the summer of 2024. The hill that contains at least 3 quebradas was left totally exposed. Water that normally would have soaked into the soil was stripped of the plants and grasses that hold it in place. Instead of a normal flow of water the quebradas were overflowing with sediment laden water the color of coffee. Adding to the impact was a 30 foot high hill of dirt,100 feet long excavated to create an entrance road to the project. This hill was placed right next to a large quebrada that flows right through Tres Palmas into the Marine Reserve. It looked like a rushing muddy river. The controls the developer installed were totally insufficient and hundreds if not thousands of gallons of sediment laden water poured into TPMR. That was just one day. The project should have been stopped then until proper controls were installed to meet the situation. Instead the grading and destruction has continued on for 15 months.

I have no idea how this will affect the surrounding area, but this I know. The blatant disregard for the law, and the indifference toward the people the laws are meant to protect should carry a very heavy penalty. Many people make their living from the ocean here. Suffocate the coral with sediment, you kill the reef. When the reef goes , the fish go with it. So does the tourism, the coast can feel the impact as well. The proposed penalty of \$86k is less than 1% of what this project stands to make. How is that a detriment to future transgressions? Its at most the cost of doing business. A small inconvenience. Pay the fine and move on, leaving the rest of us to clean up the mess and deal with the inevitable consequences.

It's the people living here that will end up paying the real costs. The loss of a vital environment. The penalty should be increased and the project halted to prevent any further damage until the developer redoes all the existing water remediation apparatus to insure that no future harm will be done.