

# Preliminary Environmental Assessment Lot 421-R26, Talofoto, Guam



**Prepared by:**  
PCR Environmental, Inc.  
111 East Sunset Boulevard  
Barrigada, GU 96913

**Prepared for:**  
Andriano E. Balajadia  
P.O Box 642  
Hagatna, Guam 96932

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111 East Sunset Boulevard, Barrigada, Guam 96913  
Tel: 671.473.3560 • Fax: 671.473.3563 • Email:  
info@pcrguam.com Web: <http://www.pcrguam.com>

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## **Proposed Development of Lot No. 421-R26, Talofofo, Guam Project Description and Preliminary Environmental Analysis**

### **Project Description:**

The proposed project involves the development of a Guam Power Authority (GPA) energy storage (battery) facility on an approximately half-acre parcel of property located in the Municipality of Talofofo, in southern Guam.

This preliminary environmental analysis is a consideration of environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders as they apply to actions that can impact the natural environment. It incorporates the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal statutes and laws designed to protect the Nation's resources, as well as Guam-specific regulations.

The preparer of this environmental baseline has knowledge of the environmental features of the area and general potential impacts associated with the proposed development. Although some of the analyses may be from the preparer's own knowledge and observations, previous environmental documents and current agency correspondence is cited, when available.

The analysis and opinions offered in this preliminary environmental assessment are applicable to current conditions of the subject property at the dated completion of this report. Future changes or findings at the site may require further analysis.

## **ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CATEGORIES**

### ***SECTION 1. AIR QUALITY***

The proposed project will not have an adverse impact on air quality or violate local, State, or Federal air quality standards under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Construction of the energy storage facility is not expected to generate significant air pollution and short-term impacts during construction can be mitigated by using dust control measures if needed. The project is not located within, or adjacent, to a USEPA-defined Non-Attainment area

### ***SECTION 2. COASTAL RESOURCES***

The entire island of Guam is considered a "Coastal Zone" per the Coastal Zone Management Regulations. However, the property is not located near a seashore, river, or coastline. Therefore, no impacts are expected.

### **SECTION 3. COMPATIBLE LAND USE**

The proposed project is not expected to result in direct or indirect increases in noise levels at, or adjacent, to the site. The project is compatible with the surrounding development and uses. The surrounding uses include, residential housing, open space, cultivated land, a Fire Station, and the Talofofo electrical substation.

### **SECTION 4. CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS**

Because the proposed project is located near a paved road and the Talofofo substation, the minor construction noise expected will not adversely impact the human environment.

### **SECTION 5. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ACT, SECTION 4(f)**

The proposed project is located on private property, which is not designated as a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of national, State, or local significance. In addition, the property is not identified as a historic site of national, State, or local significance according to the Guam State Historic Preservation Office Register Listing .

### **SECTION 6. FARMLANDS**

The project site is currently used for farming. However, there does not appear to be a shortage of potential farmlands in the area.

### **SECTION 7. FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PLANTS**

PCR personnel conducted a site visit on August 8, 2016, at the subject property to observe if any listed endangered species were present on the property. Site reconnaissance revealed that the proposed site is currently used for farming banana trees, papaya, eggplant, breadfruit, and other cultivated plants, which were observed on the property. The areas between the cultivated plants were maintained. Tangantangan trees (*Leucaena leucocephala*), vines, and other vegetation were present on the northern border of the property.

According to the Guam Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (GCWCS 2006), several plant species are locally listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SOGCN): the fire tree (*Tabernaemontana rotensis*), tree fern (*Cyathea lunulata*; endangered), cycad (*Cycas marianensis*), *Heritiera longipetiolata* (endangered), and *Merrilliodendron megacarpum*. **These species were not identified on the proposed site during the site visit.**

The federally threatened and locally endangered Mariana fruit bat (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*) is typically associated with a number of forest types, including primary and secondary limestone forest, *Cocos nucifera* forest, *Casuarina equisetifolia* groves, and ravine forest (Wiles et al. 1989, Johnson 2001, Worthington et al. 2001, Wiles and Johnson 2004). Tree species known to be used for roosting include *Aglaiia mariannensis*, *Barringtonia asiatica*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Cestrum diurnum*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Cordia subcordata*, *Elaeocarpus joga*, *Erythrina variegata*, *Ficus prolixa*, *Intsia bijuga*, *Macaranga thompsonii*, *Mammea odorata*, *Neisosperma oppositifolia*, *Ochrosia mariannensis*, *Premna obtusifolia*, *Pisonia grandis*, and *Terminalia catappa* (Johnson

2001, Janeke 2006). Presently the Mariana fruit bat, also a locally endangered SOGCN, persists in small numbers on Guam, primarily in the northern region of the island.

Guam has seven (7) locally-listed endangered reptiles: the snake-eyed skink (*Cryptoblepharus poecilopleurus*), Pacific slender-toed gecko (*Nactus pelagicus*), tide-pool skink (*Emoia atrocostata*), Slevin's skink (*Emoia slevini* [also known as the Mariana skink]), azure-tailed skink (*Emoia cyanura*), moth skink (*Lipinia noctua*), and Micronesian gecko (*Perochirus ateles*) (GDAWR 2006a).

**No endangered snails, birds, bats, or lizards were identified during the preliminary environmental analysis (PEA).**

### **SECTION 8. FLOODPLAINS**

The proposed project is not located in a designated floodzone area based upon a review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Floodway Flood Boundary and Floodway Map for the Territory of Guam (FEMA 2007).

### **SECTION 9. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, POLLUTION PREVENTION, AND SOLID WASTE**

No hazardous waste is expected to be generated from the proposed energy storage facility. All solid wastes and construction debris will be properly handled and disposed of at Guam EPA-permitted solid waste management facilities.

### **SECTION 11. HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The proposed project would have a potential adverse effect on cultural resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, if there are known historic, pre-historic or archaeological resources on or near the project site. A State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) approved archaeologist should be consulted regarding the need for an archaeological baseline survey. The project does not involve any disturbance of previously undisturbed ground, or any "Historic" Structures over 50 years old.

### **SECTION 12. LIGHT EMISSIONS AND VISUAL IMPACTS**

Additional lighting in the area upon completion of the development is not expected to adversely impact the area.

### **SECTION 13. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY SUPPLY**

Minimal additional electricity, water and wastewater demands will be placed on local resources and will need to be evaluated as part of the planning documents for the development.

### **SECTION 14. NOISE**

The proposed project is not expected to generate significant noise during construction, and will have no noise impact upon completion.

**SECTION 15. SECONDARY (INDUCED) IMPACTS**

The proposed project is not expected to increase traffic to the area.

**SECTION 16. SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS**

The proposed project will not result in a disproportionately high and adverse socioeconomic impact or impact on people of color and children. No displacement of persons will result from the proposed project.

**SECTION 17. WATER QUALITY**

The proposed project will not impound, divert, drain, control, or otherwise modify the waters of any stream or other body of water. Best Management Practices will be implemented during construction periods to manage stormwater, and a stormwater management system will be designed as part of the site development.

**SECTION 18. WETLANDS**

This project does not involve new construction within or adjacent to wetlands. The site is not located in a Wetland area per the 2014 National Wetland Inventory - U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service.

**SECTION 19. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

The project will not have an effect on the natural, free flowing or scenic qualities of a river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System since there are no rivers nearby.

**CONCLUSION**

The project will most probably qualify for a "Categorical Exclusion" under environmental assessment guidelines.