

7/12/78- 02399



The Governor of Puerto Rico

July 12, 1978

Mr. Robert W. Knecht
Associate Administrator
Coastal Zone Management
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Knecht:

I am pleased to transmit the Puerto Rico Coastal Management Program including the documentation needed to **fulfill** the requirements of subsections 306 (c) (4), (5), and (7) of the **U.S.** Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

I have reviewed the Puerto Rico Coastal Management Program and have approved it as Government policy. The Department of Natural Resources is hereby designated as the lead agency for the implementation of the coastal management program. It is the single designated agency to receive and administer grants for implementing the coastal management program. Puerto Rico has the authorities and organization necessary to implement the management program.

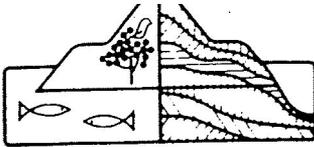
I expect the program not only to provide for the wise and balanced use of Puerto Rico's coastal zone but **also** to permit the zone to serve present and future generations and, at the same time, be protected for **its** ecological, cultural and historic values.

The assistance of the Federal Government in this program is gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carlos Romero Barcelo".

Carlos Romero Barcelo
Governor



**DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL
RESOURCES**

July 10, 1978

STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY

The Coastal Zone Management Project has been in progress in Puerto Rico for three years. In March 1977, the Culebra Segment of the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program was approved by the Federal Office of Coastal Zone Management and in April that office awarded Puerto Rico funds to begin implementing the Program in Culebra.

This final Review Draft, the fourth of a series of drafts of the Puerto Rico Coastal Management Program, is combined with a final environmental impact statement. This draft represents the current status of project work for all of Puerto Rico and is intended to present the recommended policies and responses of the Program for final review.

In early July 1977, a First Review Draft was distributed to Federal and Commonwealth agencies, mayors of coastal municipalities, and citizen groups. In December 1977, a Public Hearing Draft in English and Spanish was distributed to the organizations listed above. Public hearings were held in late January 1978. A Federal Review Draft, combined with a draft environmental impact statement was distributed in March 1978. A public hearing on that draft was held in April 1978. Responses to many of the comments received from Commonwealth and Federal agencies and to those presented at the public hearings have been incorporated in the PRCMP.

The final Puerto Rico Coastal Management Program is expected to be approved by September 1978.

I invite and encourage you to comment on the Final Review Draft. If you have any questions about the Program, or wish to obtain more information please contact:

Mr. Gabriel del Toro
Assistant Secretary for Planning
Department of Natural Resources
Box 5887
Puerta de Tierra Station
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00906

I look forward to a cooperative effort in the further development of Puerto Rico's Coastal Management Program.

Sincerely,

Fred V. Soltero Harrington
Secretary