

Public Policy and Watershed Management

Puerto Rico River Basin Symposium

March 10, 2022

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ESTUARIO 
PROGRAMA DEL ESTUARIO DE LA BAHÍA DE SAN JUAN



Enabling the influence of public policy in watershed management

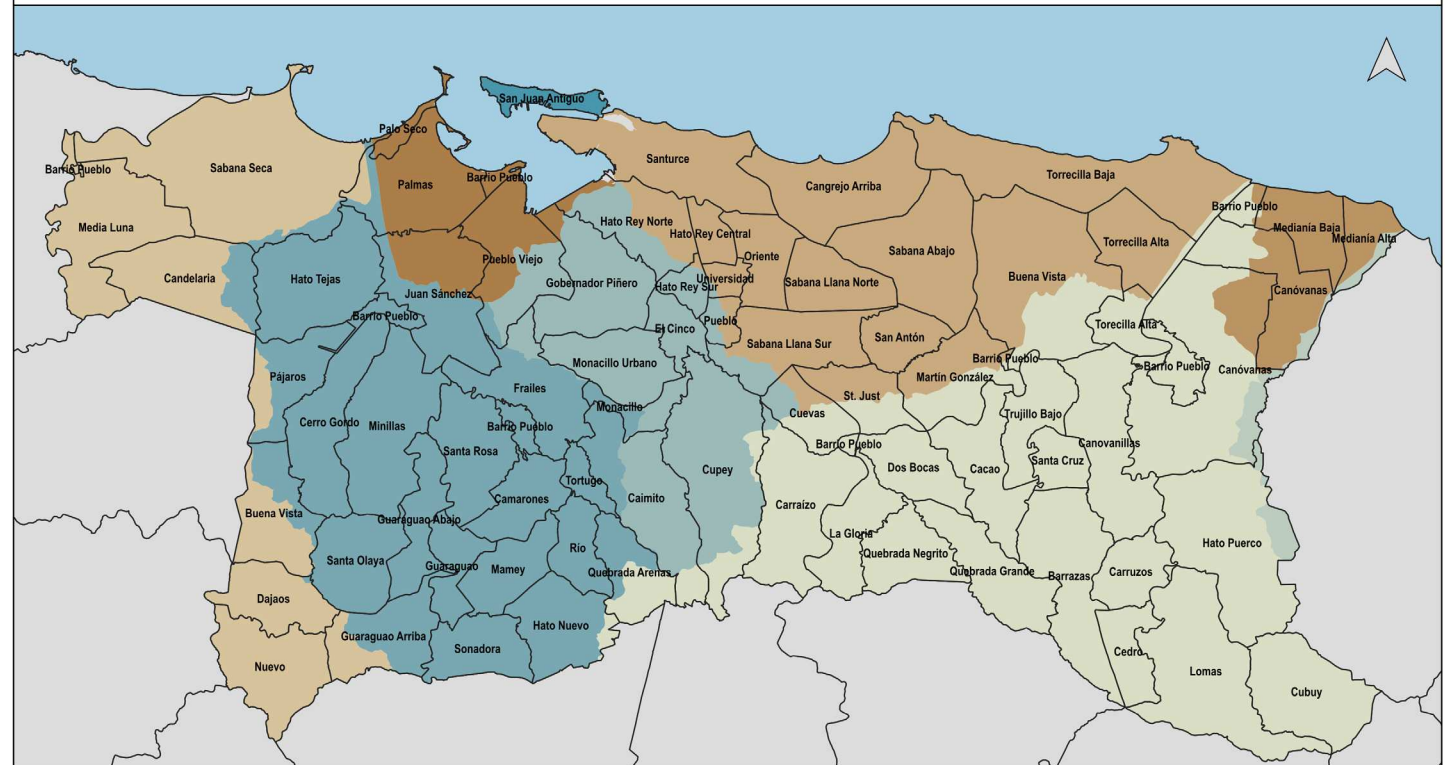




Understanding good watershed management



Cuencas hidrográficas en los barrios del PEBSJ



Cuencas hidrográficas

- Area Ciénaga de Las Cucharillas
- Area Costanera Punta Iglesia
- Area Estuario de la Bahía de San Juan
- Cuenca Río de La Plata
- Cuenca Río Espíritu Santo
- Cuenca Río Grande de Loíza
- Cuenca Río Herrera

- Cuenca Río Piedras
- Cuencas Río de Bayamón a Río Hondo
- Drenaje No Definido San Juan Antiguo

Fuente: FEMA, 2008. | Fecha: 3-12-2020.

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Desarrollado por Thinkamap!



Measures that could support integrated watershed management





Existing public policy

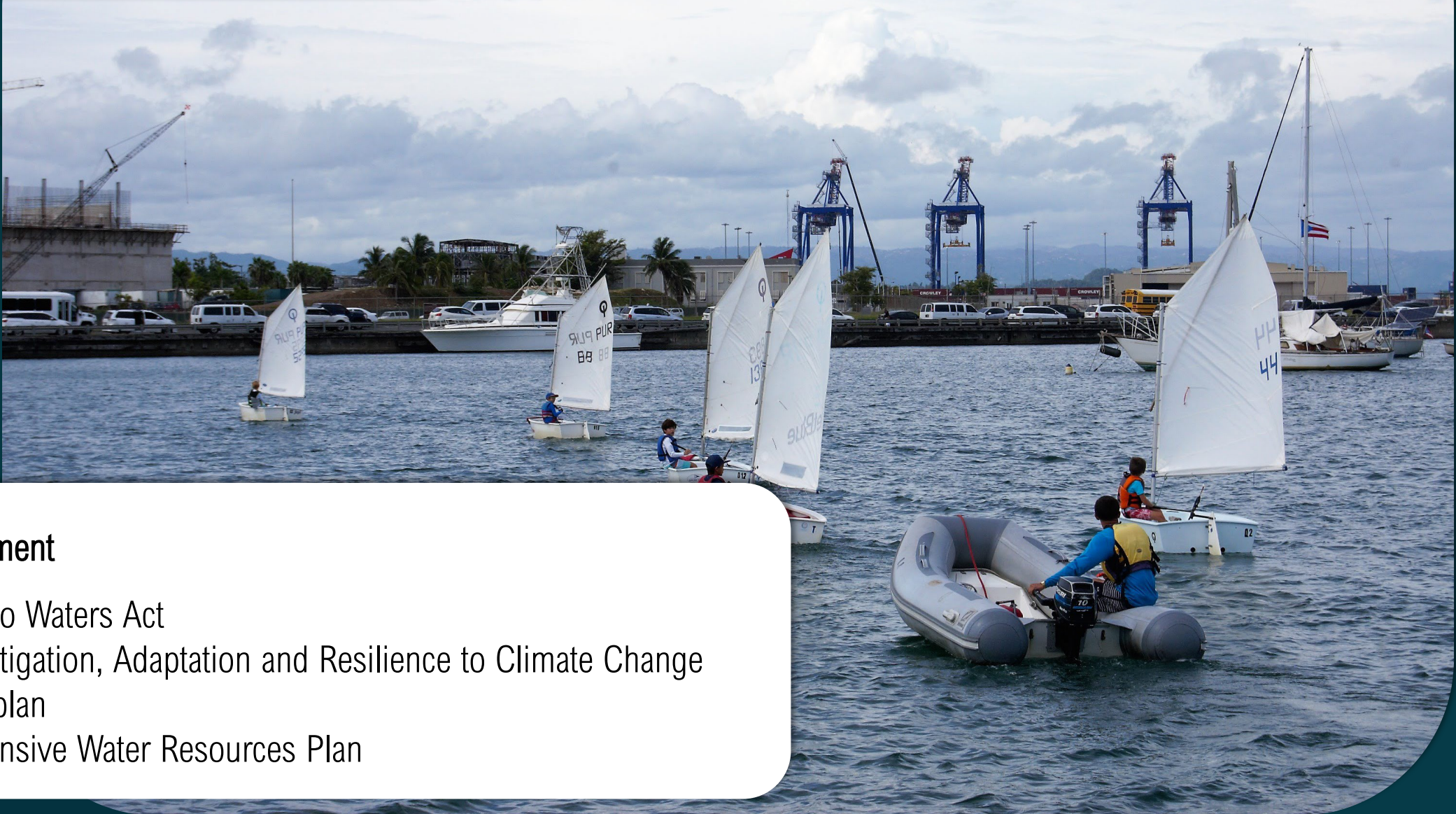
Federal Government

- Clean Water Act
- Law for the Management of the Coastal Zones
- Bipartisan Infrastructure law
- Other Federal programs:
 - Forest Legacy Program
 - Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program





Existing public policy



State Government

- Puerto Rico Waters Act
- Law on Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change
- Land use plan
- Comprehensive Water Resources Plan



What we need



- Economic support for the Execution of Plans and Compliance with Laws and Regulations
- Local Empowerment for Execution
- Economic Incentives to Leverage Government Funds
- Public Policy in harmony with the Integral Management of Basins
- Municipal ordinances



Implementing adequate governance structures

Watershed Districts: Santa Clara County
Valley Water District

Minnesota Watershed Districts





How Estuario does it



- Co-management of the Condado Lagoon
- Multi-jurisdictional Risk Management Plan
- Green Infrastructure Master Plan





How Estuario does it

Co-management of the Condado Lagoon

- Through Act 112 of 2013, this Estuarine Reserve is created.
- Citizen activity has been key to its management.
- The Management Plan lacks government representation and economic resources.
- There is no public policy consistent with the management of protected natural areas that integrate the co-management mechanism.





How Estuario does it

Multi-jurisdictional Risk Management Plan

Purpose: To identify apparent and projected risks and detail mitigation strategies throughout the Estuary watershed.

- Addresses problems that transcend territorial limits.
- It requires a governance structure that allows regional risk management.





How Estuario does it

Green Infrastructure Master Plan

Will be showcased tomorrow, Friday, at the **Green Infrastructure Workshop** at 9:30AM.

- Offers Best Management Practices through natural infrastructure.
- Manages stormwater runoff regionally.
- Offers tools to municipalities for compliance with MS4 and other plans.
- Complements capital improvement designs.



Thank you!



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