Environmental Considerations

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
NEPA is a federal law enacted in 1969. As required by NEPA, the Corps will evaluate potential environmental effects of the array of alternatives and recommended plan to the human environment.

Cultural Resources
The Corps will conduct archaeological analysis to assess any potential cultural resources within the reduced study scope.

Analysis to Identify Species of Concern & Sensitive Habitats
The Corps will conduct: 1) Coordination with applicable environmental regulatory agencies; 2) Avoid and minimize effects to the maximum extent practicable.

Planning & Engineering
Once problems, opportunities and objectives are refined within the study area, an array of alternatives will be assessed and iteratively modeled in the Corps certified model to determine the alternative which best addresses the primary study objective to reduce coastal storm damages. Alternatives could include, but are not limited to, combinations of the following types of measures.

Economics

COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT (CSRM) KEY FORMULAS
Plans recommending federal action should represent an alternative that reasonably maximizes net benefits consistent with protecting the environment.

BENEFITS
Primary: Storm damage reduction

COSTS
- Cost of alternative over a 50 year period of Federal participation
- Associated costs

CSRM BENEFITS = ESTIMATED $ DAMAGES WITHOUT PROJECT / ESTIMATED $ DAMAGES WITH PROJECT

BENEFITS > 1 COSTS
In addition, plans must have a positive benefit to cost ratio.

ESTIMATED STUDY SCHEDULE

ALTERNATIVES
December 2018

PLAN FORMULATION/ENGINEERING & ECONOMIC MODELING
December 2018 to March 2020

TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN MILESTONE
March 2020

DRAFT REPORT & NEPA - PUBLIC, TECHNICAL & POLICY REVIEW
May 2020

AGENCY DECISION MILESTONE
September 2020

FINAL REPORT - State and Agency Review
June 2021

CHIEF OF ENGINEERS REPORT
September 2021

PROJECT ENGINEERING & DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION
*2021 Through 2024

*Contingent on authorization and appropriations

The San Juan Metro Area Coastal Storm Risk Management Study is authorized under Section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, Public Law 91-611, and funding for the study was appropriated as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (PL 115-123). The purpose of the San Juan Metro (back bay) study is to determine if there is Federal interest in a recommended plan to reduce damages to infrastructure as a result of flooding from storm surge, tide and waves (rather than inland rainfall and stormwater runoff) during coastal storms and hurricanes along the back bay areas in the municipality of San Juan and adjacent communities. Corps feasibility studies under this authorization are completed in 3 years and with $3M or less.

San Juan Metro Area (Back Bay)
Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

PR Coastal Study Area
San Juan Metro (Back Bay) Area Study Area