



GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • AHENSIAN PRUTEKSIÓN LINA'LA' GUÅHAN
LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO • GOVERNOR OF GUAM | JOSHUA F. TENORJO • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF GUAM
MICHELLE C. R. LASTIMOZA • ADMINISTRATOR

**Guam Environmental Protection Agency
Board of Directors' Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 19, 2025**

MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** Director Steven Carbullido called the Board of Director's meeting to order from the Guam EPA conference room at 4:00pm. Roll call certified by Acting Board Secretary, Vilma Balajadia, as follows:
- II. **Board Members:**
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Vice Chairman Steven Carrara | - Present (attending virtually from Hagatna) |
| Director Steven Carbullido | - Present (attending virtually from Agana Heights) |
| Director Steven Hollister | - Present (attending virtually from Hagat) |
| Director Fran Castro | - Not present |
| Director Cathleen Moore-Linn | - Present (attending virtually from Ipan) |
| Director Heather Quitugua, PC. | - Present (attending virtually from Hagatna) |
- *Quorum has been established**
- Guam EPA Staff:** CAPT. Elizabeth DeGrange, Vilma Balajadia, Malia Tom, Connie Afilleje, Juliana Mendoza, Sierra Armstrong-Bettis, Nicole Diras, Margaret Aguilar, Ron Charfauros
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Director Moore-Linn made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Quitugua. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.
- IV. **Approval of March 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Director Moore-Linn made a motion to approve the March 20, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Director Hollister. Directors Carrara, Carbullido, Hollister, Castro and Moore-Linn voted in favor, Director Quitugua abstained, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.
- V. **Board Discussion / Action**
- a. **Election of Board Chairperson** – Director Carbullido advised that per AAG Kristan Finney the position for Chairman of the Board is vacant an election should take place. Director Carbullido opened the floor for nominations. Director Moore-Linn nominated Steven Carbullido as Board Chairman, seconded by Director Quitugua. Director Steven Carbullido thanked the board members and accepted the nomination as Board Chairman. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.



- b. **Reimbursement to GSA from RRF for FY 25 Q1 & Q2 Activities** – Chairman advised the law states the Guam EPA board is to review GSWA's cost proposal and noted the request for reimbursement in the amount of \$227,000 is for FY25 Q1 & Q2. After review of the cost proposal, Director Hollister made a motion to approve the proposal, seconded by Director Moore-Linn. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

VI. **Administrator's Report** - Provided by CAPT. Elizabeth DeGrange in the absence of Administrator Michelle C.R. Lastimoza. For the period of March 15 – May 23, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Personnel:

- As of 03/19/2025: **55 FTEs** (Full-Time Equivalent)

| DIVISION | PROGRAM | EMPLOYEES |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Administration | EXECUTIVE | 2 |
| Administrative Services | ADMINISTRATIVE | 7 |
| Administration | PERMITTING | 1 |
| Air and Land | SOLID WASTE | 4 |
| Air and Land | HAZWASTE | 3 |
| Air & Land | AIR POLLUTION | 2 |
| Air & Land | DSMOA | 2 |
| Air and Land | GREEN PARCEL | 3 |
| Air and Land | PESTICIDES | 3 |
| Water | WATER POLLUTION | 3 |
| Water | SAFE DRINKING WATER | 4 |
| Water | WATER RESOURCES | 2 |
| Water | INSPECTORS | 5 |
| EMAS | LABORATORY | 5 |
| EMAS | MONITORING AND ANALYTICAL | 6 |
| EMAS | SENIOR SCIENCE ADVISOR | 1 |
| EMAS | NON-POINT SOURCE | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 55 |

Recruitment:

| DIVISION / PROGRAM | POSITION | # | STATUS |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| ADMINISTRATION | PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER | 1 | Interview conducted. Selection made, however no further response from applicant. |
| WATER | CHIEF ENGINEER | 1 | Interview conducted. Awaiting DOA request for USR |



| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| WATER | ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN | 2 | Interview conducted for sole applicant. Selection made. Agency will re-announce for recruitment of other vacancy |
| WATER | ENGINEER SUPERVISOR | 1 | Pending announcement |
| WATER | ENGINEER I | 3 | Pending announcement |
| WATER - SAFE DRINKING WATER | ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST III | 1 | Interview conducted. Selection made |
| AIR & LAND | ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST III | 1 | Interview conducted. Selection made |
| AIR & LAND | ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST II | 2 | Pending announcement |
| EMAS | ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST I | 4 | Interview conducted. Selection made |

Agency Headquarters:

- UPDATE: Negotiations complete – Contract for A&E services signed on April 3, 2025.

POLICY:

Bill No. 28-38 (COR) - Sabina Flores Perez, V. Anthony Ada – AN ACT TO AMEND § 28112(c) OF CHAPTER 28, TITLE 11 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO INCREASING GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE

- Agency provided testimony in support of this bill, with these comments:
 - In §45200 (a), to expand the use of the fund beyond “to clean up hazardous materials and restore and repair damage done to Guam's environment, as well as to collect, transport, process and dispose of household waste in accordance with the provisions of the Ordot Dump Consent Decree Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)”. We recommend that the use of the fund be used for activities to include: water quality improvement, waste management, air quality, hazardous waste, recycling, environmental monitoring and analysis, environmental planning, emergency response, technical assistance and training, and compliance and enforcement
 - In §45201, remove the cap of twenty-five percent (25%) of the funds in the ETF that may be utilized by the Administrator of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency for programs relative to the prevention of environmental problems, and the promotion of keeping a safe and healthy environment. We recommend that funds be



used to support a range of environmental efforts as recommended for §45200 (a) above

- In §45202. Authorized Expenditure and Emergency Declaration. Remove the cap of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) the Administrator is authorized to spend for the purposes of assessment, cleaning up hazardous materials and restoring and repairing damages done to the Guam environment per emergency declaration, without legislative appropriation; provided, that an Emergency Declaration has been declared by the Governor. We also recommend that the authorize expenditure include any emergency response activity that could occur without necessarily an emergency declaration by the Governor, and to include provisions for staff pay, equipment, and supplies to support the emergency response activity

PLASTIC BAG BAN (P.L. 36-98)

- Effective July 1, 2025 paper carry out bag will be phased out
- Senator Lujan has introduced Bill 121-38, which proposes to amend the "Choose to Reuse: *Mungga Ma Ayek I Plastek* Act of 2018" to exempt branded paper bags from the ban on single-use plastic bags
- The aims to allow retailers to use branded paper bags while still adhering to the overall goal of reducing plastic waste

Bill No. 83-38 (COR) – V. Anthony Ada - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 1203.1 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AND A NEW § 45112 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 45, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALLOWING THE BUREAU OF STATISTICS AND PLANS GUAM COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND THE GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO EMPLOY ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ATTORNEYS FOR THEIR EXCLUSIVE USE

- Agency provided testimony in support of this bill, with this comment:
 - With regard to the current language of § 45112. Environmental Law Attorney for the Guam Environmental Protection Agency which reads;
Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to use its federal funds to hire an attorney for its exclusive use. The attorney shall be hired as a classified employee pursuant to the provisions of § 4103(g) and § 4103 (h) of Chapter 4, Title 4 Guam Code Annotated or to procure the services of an attorney pursuant to and in accordance with the Guam Procurement process for professional services."
- We recommend the following language to the new § 45112:
 - The attorney shall be hired as a classified employee pursuant to the Government of Guam's Department of Administration's Personnel Rules and Regulations, or the attorney shall be hired using the classified positions pursuant to the provisions of § 4103(g) and § 4103(h) of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, or hired through the Limited-Term Appointment or Temporary Appointment, or to procure the services of an attorney pursuant to and in accordance with the Guam procurement process for professional services.

Guam Environmental Protection Agency Piti-Cabras SO 2 State Implementation Plan Emission Inventory Technical Support Document completed



- Public hearing to be scheduled

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/PARTNERSHIPS:

Earth Day 2025 Proclamation Signing

- SITE MAINTENANCE EVENT - Guam EPA Earth Day Activity APRIL 22, 2025 As Gadao, Malesso

RRF AUDIT

- OPA auditing the Recycling Revolving Fund (5591001-619-00 / 361962201)
- Ongoing

Apra Harbor Waterfront Repairs

Acting Deputy Administrator attended stakeholder meeting on March 19-20, 2025

- Establish effective communication
- Identify potential issues within the project
- Develop action plans
- Create a good working relationship among all project stakeholders
- Develop mutual goals
- Jointly create a problem-solving procedure to eliminate unnecessary delays, costs, or inconveniences

GHURA Technical Assistance Workshop for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)

- A total of \$500,825,000 was appropriated by the U.S. Congress to support recovery efforts from Typhoon Mawar. These funds will be administered by the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA)
- Guam EPA was invited to offer a project proposal for consideration. Ongoing

Working Group for Construction on New Hospital (Bi-weekly)

- Guam EPA continues to provide technical support

Zero Waste Working Group

Acting Deputy Administrator and Recycling Coordinator attended virtual meeting on March 25, 2025

- Provided update of our activities
 - Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Act: Guam EPA amended Chapter 51, Article 2 of the Guam Litter Control Act to enhance enforcement with new fee schedules and waste volume parameters
 - Mandatory Residential Island-Wide Collection: Guam EPA supported the second amendment to Bill 30-38, which places more responsibility on the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Previous attempts to pass this legislation failed due to unresolved lifeline funding issues for low/no-income families
 - Food Waste and Organics Composting: Permitted composting facilities exist on the island. DoD properties keep all green waste within federal land and process it on site
 - Environmentally Preferred Purchasing: A law exists under the purview of the Department of Administration Guam Services Agency (GSA). Guam EPA is designated as the enforcement agency to ensure greener product purchasing.



- Landfill Waste Diversion: Guam EPA policy exists to divert construction and demolition debris and green waste from clearing and grading activities from the landfill
- Guahan Sustainable Culture Partnership: USEPA Solid Waste Infrastructure Recycling (SWIFR) grant-funded initiative awarded to Guam EPA in partnership with Guahan Sustainable Culture (<https://www.gusustainable.org/villagecompost>). The 2-year grant funds home composting and gardening training in all villages with two rounds of participants and 200 households each year
- Senator Sabina Perez is working on a bill to expand the definition of composting to include on-site management by farmers and businesses

Marianas Island Conservation Strategy

- Continued engagement with Stephanie Hertz, who serves as the Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (RASP) Coordinator for the Department of Defense (DoD) Natural Resources Program within the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environmental Management and Restoration) Ronald Tickle
- The RASP is a partnership between the DoD and Department of the Interior focused on developing and promoting conservation and recovery initiatives for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species while promoting increased flexibility for military mission activities
- Discussed proactive, innovative and collaborative approaches that enhance implementation of the Endangered Species Act, sustain and enhance the military mission, and achieve greater conservation outcomes for species
- Administrator and CAPT Degrange travelled to Honolulu, HI for meeting April 29 – May 2, 2025

Re-appointment of Steven P. Carbullido as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency

- Agency provide testimony in support of the Chairman's re-appointment

Appointment of Heather Martinez Quitugua as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency

- Agency provide testimony in support of Ms. Quitugua's appointment

Annual NASTTPO Conference April 21-25, 2025

- Green Parcel staff presented "Successful Interactions with Other Agencies during Disasters." Guam typhoons created a need for multi-agency coordination.

Meeting with Guam Contractors Association (GCA)

- Discuss possible MOA re: Clearing, Grading, Grubbing, Stockpiling (CGGS) permits

Meeting with Smithbridge

- Discuss Polaris Pint Project and encapsulating on-site debris in concrete to create platforms. GEPA against the encapsulation.

Meeting with USEPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC)

- Update on clean-up at the Dededo Site



Inspection Activity: Week of March 31 – April 11

| DIVISION | PROGRAM | TYPE OF INSPECTION | # OF INSPECTIONS |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| AIR & LAND | DSMOA | | 2 |
| AIR & LAND | HAZWASTE | Storage Tanks | 18 |
| AIR & LAND | PESTICIDES | Inspection & Investigation | 42 |
| AIR & LAND | SOLID WASTE | Occupancy inspections | 14 |
| AIR & LAND | SOLID WASTE | Complaints | 15 |
| AIR & LAND | SOLID WASTE | Disposal Plan | 12 |
| AIR & LAND | SOLID WASTE | Paper Bag Outreach | 19 |
| WATER | INSPECTORS | | 68 |
| WATER | SAFE DRINKING WATER | Sanitary Inspection | 8 |
| | | TOTAL | 198 |

INSPECTION ACTIVITY – Week of April 12 – May 23, 2025

| DIVISION | PROGRAM | TYPE OF INSPECTION | # OF INSPECTIONS |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| AIR & LAND | DSMOA | Project Site | 5 |
| AIR & LAND | GREEN PARCELS | Project Site | 3 |
| AIR & LAND | HAZWASTE | Storage Tanks | 0 |
| AIR & LAND | PESTICIDES | Inspection & Investigation | 4 |
| AIR & LAND | SOLID WASTE | Occupancy inspections | 5* |
| AIR & LAND | SOLID WASTE | Complaints | 8* |
| AIR & LAND | SOLID WASTE | Disposal Plan | 11* |
| AIR & LAND | SOLID WASTE | Paper Bag Outreach | 19* |
| WATER | INSPECTORS | | 123 |
| WATER | SAFE DRINKING WATER | Sanitary Inspection | 41 |
| WATER | SAFE DRINKING WATER | Lead Free Inspection | 28 |

TOTAL: 247


PERMIT ACTIVITY: March 15 – April 11

| PERMIT TYPE | APPLICATIONS* | ISSUANCES** | HOLDS*** |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Building Permit Clearance | 31 | 23 | 1 |
| Clearing/Grading Clearance | 8 | 10 | 0 |
| Occupancy Clearance | 24 | 28 | 0 |
| Underground Injection Control Permit | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| H2B Clearance | 9 | 12 | 0 |
| Well Operating Permit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Well Abandonment Permit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Well Drilling Permit | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Test Boring Permit | 6 | 16 | 0 |
| Application Review Committee Review | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Underground Storage Tank (UST) Permit | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| Solid Waste Management Permit | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Wastewater Collection Permit | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| MILCON | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Highway Encroachment | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Fumigation | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 111* | 116** | 1*** |

PERMIT ACTIVITY: April 12 – May 23, 2025

| PERMIT TYPE | APPLICATIONS* | ISSUANCES** | HOLDS*** |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Building Permit Clearance | 48 | 28 | 7 |
| Clearing/Grading Clearance | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| Occupancy Clearance | 24 | 21 | 0 |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Underground Injection Control Permit | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| H2B Clearance | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| Well Operating Permit | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Well Abandonment Permit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Well Drilling Permit | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Test Boring Permit | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| Application Review Committee Review | 7 | 14 | 0 |
| Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) | 315 | 24 | 0 |
| Underground Storage Tank (UST) Permit | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Solid Waste Management Permit | Unavailable | 4 | 0 |
| Wastewater Collection Permit | Unavailable | 0 | 0 |
| MILCON | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| Highway Encroachment | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Fumigation | Unavailable | 1 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 428* | 124** | 9*** |

*Applications received between April 12 – May 23, 2025.

**Includes approved permits and clearances granted to applications submitted prior to March 15, 2025.

***Includes permit and clearance holds applied to applications submitted prior to March 15, 2024.

Chairman Carbullido opened the floor for questions. Director Moore-Linn inquired as to why the information in regards to the contract for A&E services for Guam EPA headquarters is being withheld. Ms. Connie Afleje, ASO, Guam EPA, advised the information wasn't being withheld but because there was an ongoing negotiation process and the agency wasn't not able to do anything until a contract is in place. Ms. Afleje updated that the contract is now in place and currently with the attorney general's office. Ms. Afleje advised the Notice of Intent to award is to Kunimoto Architect Design Group Guam, LLC.

Director Moore-Linn also inquired if there is information the board needs in regards to the audit of the Recycling Revolving Fund (RRF). Ms. Afleje advised not at this time as the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) is still working on gathering documents and Guam EPA is still working with them. Ms. Afleje added that the last audit was in 2015 and that Guam EPA is in compliance and providing the documents needed. Director Moore-Linn asked that the board be kept updated.



NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS:

Chairman Carbullido inquired if there were any new Notices of Violations (NOVs) issued. CAPT. DeGrange stated an NOV was issued to a property in Chalan Pago and another one was issued to the GMH Skilled Nursing Unit. CAPT. DeGrange noted that there was a request for a Hearing Officer for the GMH SNU NOV.

Chairman Carbullido asked for the Air and Land Division to provide an update on the request for a Hearing Officer. CAPT. DeGrange said Glenn San Nicolas was out sick. Chairman Carbullido noted that he was informed that the NOV has been appealed but that GMH did not request for a Hearing Officer and for the Agency to confirm the status of the request for a Hearing Officer with Administrator Lastimoza.

ENFORCEMENT:

Chairman Carbullido inquired on an update on enforcement activity since the March 2025 board meeting. Mr. Ron Charfauros, Inspector Program Supv-Guam EPA provided an update on the Chalan Pago NOV, and advised the respondent was given a 45 day period to respond to the corrective actions on the NOV.

Mr. Charfauros advised inspections has been going good and noted the agency received a lot of complaints regarding runoffs and advised the agency implemented an inspection of the silt fence prior to issuance of a permit. This implementation has smoothed out the inspection process.

CAPT. DeGrange chimed in to update in regards to the water quality around the staircase in Tumon. CAPT. advised the agency's monitoring team performed an inspection due to the concerns of the quality of the sand surrounding the staircase. CAPT. advised the inspection results confirmed three fresh water seeps in that area and added that when you have fresh water seep it pushes the larger particles away so you get more fine particles and different type of algae growth, which is expected. CAPT. confirmed there is no disturbance to the water quality in the area. Mr. Charfauros added that there is fish life in the area as well.

Ms. Juliana Mendoza, advised the Safe Drinking Water Program (SDWP) did its fourth round of inspection at Anderson Air Force Base (AAFB) water system and have identified about one hundred deficiencies. Ms. Mendoza advised the report has been finalized and the significant deficiencies requires the public water system (PWS) to respond on the corrective measures within 30 days or to request for to request for an extension, one year to address the minor deficiencies and no response needed for recommendations. Ms. Mendoza added there were about 36 significant deficiencies.

OD Permit

Chairman inquired if there was any update on the OD Permit. Capt. DeGrange advised she has not been purveyed to that information. Chairman advised for the Agency to be prepared at the next meeting to provide what the current action item is for the agency.



Air Pollution Control's State Implementation Plan (SIP)

Capt. DeGrange advised the SIP has been completed and the agency conducted an extensive research and review when building the 2020 Sulfur Dioxide Emissions Inventory. Guam EPA (the agency) had a report from TRC that was contracted by GPA to conduct the initial inventory but there were quite a few gaps which the agency cleaned up. The SIP was successfully submitted electronically to US EPA for their review and approval on June 6, 2025. Once Guam EPA receives official approval, assuming the rule making that the agency submitted in March and the emissions inventory are approved by US EPA, US EPA would issue a clean data determination (CDD). With the CDD, the agency would not need to submit any other portions of the SIP to demonstrate we have achieved compliance with the 2010 maps.

Director Hollister requested information of the total number of running vehicles the agency has in its inventory to address the shortage of vehicles for inspections.

Director Hollister shared that in conversation with a mayor they discussed having Guam EPA intervene with residents who have an accumulation of trash or piling junk on their property. Director Hollister stated the mayor was told by a Guam EPA employee that it was not a Guam EPA issue. Director Hollister asked if Guam EPA can come up with a clearer guidance for the mayors so they know what responsibilities fall on the mayor's and when can they seek assistance from Guam EPA. Director Quitugua chimed in stating she doesn't know if Guam EPA has the information in place but it seems there is an issue in providing information to the community in an accessible way. Capt. DeGrange stated she will recommend some sort of outreach with the Mayors.

Directors Hollister and Quitugua asked the agency to provide information as to what processes go into having a septic tank. Capt. DeGrange thanked the directors for their inquiry and requested that the Regulations for the Type 4 system be placed in next month's agenda which would go hand in hand with the Directors' inquiry.

New Meeting Date/Adjournment: Next meeting was tentatively set for the third Thursday in July 2025 at 4pm. Director Quitugua made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Director Moore-Linn. All in favor, zero (0) opposed, and regular meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.


Vilma Balajadia
For Arlene Acfalle
Acting Board Secretary



