

ESTUARIO 
 San Juan Bay National Estuary Program
 P U E R T O R I C O

December 20, 2019

Dear Friend of the San Juan Bay Estuary,

Thanks to your support, the San Juan Bay Estuary Program (Estuario) has helped incrementally improve the beauty of Puerto Rico’s nationally recognized tropical estuarine watershed over the past 25 years. However, the beauty of the San Juan Bay, and its extensive system of rivers and streams within the metropolitan region, still mask the grave danger that threatens our most important and irreplaceable natural resource, water. After Maria, frequent power outages prevented wastewater treatment plants from managing the raw sewage, causing a flow of pollutants into our water systems. Exposure to these waters can cause outbreaks of diseases, posing severe health risks to our population and visitors. Puerto Rico has documented cases of increased gastrointestinal disease by almost 90% for people exposed to water pollution, and the detrimental impact pollution has on tourism has led to losses of millions of dollars. A collapse in an already weak water infrastructure can occur at any time, making pollutant discharge an ongoing threat to public health.

Not ones to remain idly by, the Estuario has implemented the only long-term water quality monitoring strategy on the Island set up for detecting and correcting illicit discharges. By 2019, we have helped to repair 87% of the most critical cases of pollutant discharges, and complement action with alternative education strategies, that help reduce future environmental impacts on our waters. Our many other accomplishments of 2019 are highlighted in the insert attached.

The Estuary, however, is still in danger, and the most critical cases wait for a correction once the resources become available. With increasingly limited access to funds dedicated to retrofits and water infrastructure improvements, I am reaching out to you for support. By donating to the Estuario, you will help (1) restore the waters of the Metro Region of Puerto Rico (2) improve public health for over 600,000 residents living in the watershed, (3) protect our economy, and (4) create a mitigation plan to protect our communities against future natural disasters.

You can choose to sponsor one of the following options or make a donation of your liking [\[*\]](#):

Three (3) Water Quality Monitoring Kits	\$60
Monitoring supplies to identify sanitary discharges - reagents for nitrate, phosphorus and ammonia sampling	\$400
Bi-annual fecal coliform and enterococci monitoring supplies to detect discharges in sewers	\$1,000
Reagents/supplies for 35 weekly enterococci monitoring events at Condado Lagoon	\$2,000
Lab analysis to identify sanitary discharges- Fecal Enterococcus, Total Phosphorus, Nitrate/Nitrite, and Oil and Grease:	\$5,000

Over the past two years, we have more than doubled our outreach and are on our way to have the first Mitigation Plan for Puerto Rico at the watershed scale. We believe it is crucial to involve people like you to achieve our mission. Your gift will go towards strengthening our work in building a healthier watershed and resilient communities.

We can turn our beloved Estuary into a place that can house healthy communities once again. Please consider donating to the San Juan Bay Estuary Program. Together, we can be part of turning the tide for good at this pivotal moment in Puerto Rico's history.

Thank you,

Brenda Torres Barreto
Executive Director

 Your donation may be deducted from the Puerto Rico and Federal Income Tax Return. No goods or services are or will be received by the Corporation for the Conservation of the San Juan Bay Estuary in exchange for your donation, as mentioned above. The Estuario is a nonprofit organization (EIN: 660657150) with tax exempt status under Federal Code 501 (C) (3), Section 1101.01 of the Puerto Rico Internal Revenue Code. For this reason, every donation you make is deductible from your corresponding tax period. Please ask your accountant about tax-deductible donations or talk to us for more information. Resident investors that have a tax exemption under Act 22 are required to make annual charitable contributions of at least \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations operating in Puerto Rico that are certified as tax exempt entities. Effective January 1, 2020, the expected contribution will increase to \$10,000, with 50% going towards a nonprofit from a government approved list and the other 50% to a nonprofit certified as tax exempt entities operating in Puerto Rico.