



The Río Puerto Nuevo project is happening in the Río Piedras watershed

Did you know that the Río Puerto Nuevo Flood Risk Management Project is named after a historic segment of the river that no longer flows the way it once did? The project's name reflects decades of engineering changes and federal planning and is not a mistake or mislabeling.

The lower Río Piedras was historically known as Río Puerto Nuevo

- Early maps from the 1600-1700s show the lower reaches of the river labeled as **Río Puerto Nuevo**.
- This section flowed north through what is now the Bechara Industrial Zone and the Port of San Juan.
- Until the 1950s, the river emptied directly into the San Juan Bay near today's Puerto Nuevo docks.

Mid-20th Century engineering created a new, distinct channel

- In the late 1950s, the lower ¾ mile of the river was diverted eastward by local and territorial agencies to support development.
- Local engineers built the **U-shaped channel** that now connects the river with the Margarita Channel and the Caño Martín Peña.
- This engineered segment continued to be known locally and officially as **Río Puerto Nuevo**.

Federal flood control planning focused on this urbanized segment

- The worst flooding occurred in the **lower, urbanized reach**, the area historically called Río Puerto Nuevo.
- When Congress authorized the project in 1986, it adopted the established name of "**Río Puerto Nuevo**" which was used in federal studies.

The project is still located in the Río Piedras watershed

- USACE documentation clearly states that the Río Puerto Nuevo Project lies within the Río Piedras watershed.
- The dual-name situation reflects **history, engineering changes, and federal planning practices**.
- **Río Puerto Nuevo** and **Río Piedras** are two separate rivers. Both names are correct; they refer to different parts of the same river system.

BOTTOM LINE: *The project is called **Río Puerto Nuevo** because that's the official name adopted by Congress when authorizing the Federal project for budgeting, reporting, and interagency coordination.*