




**CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 1511 OF
THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT:**

Pursuant to Title XV, Subtitle A, section 1511 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Pub. L. 111-5 (Feb. 17, 2009) ("ARRA"), I, Rhonda M. Castillo Gammill, hereby certify that the infrastructure investment funded by ARRA has received the full review and vetting required by law and that I accept responsibility that such investment is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. I further certify that the specific information required by section 1511 concerning each such investment (a description of the investment, the estimated total cost, and the amount of ARRA funds to be used) is attached or is provided in the Port Authority of the Americas, a Puerto Rico public corporation, website, available to the public at <http://www.portoftheamericas.com> and linked to Recovery.gov.

I understand that my State or local agency may not receive ARRA infrastructure investment funding unless this certification is made and posted.


Rhonda M. Castillo Gammill

Signed this 15 day of September, 2009.

**INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 1511 OF
THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT ("ARRA")**

**PORT OF THE AMERICAS
PIER 8 OVERHAUL AND NEW PUERTO VIEJO ACCESS ROAD**

DESCRIPTION: Upgrade and expansion of Pier 8 at the Port of the Americas (Ponce, Puerto Rico) and construction of an alternate access road to Puerto Viejo. Both proposed projects are independently viable and will benefit at least four constituencies: the Port, its customers, value-added zone users, and the local community.

TYPE: Port Infrastructure (Pier 8 Overhaul and Puerto Viejo Access Road)

LOCATION: City: Ponce
Ponce is the second largest city in Puerto Rico, located on the southern coast of the Island (and denoted by the gold star in the adjacent map). Ponce's population is approximately 190,000. Ponce's unemployment rate is currently estimated at 20.3%.¹



State: Puerto Rico (Commonwealth of)

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States that occupies a privileged position along the Mona Passage (an important shipping route between the Atlantic Ocean and the Panama Canal), is located approximately 1,600 miles southeast of New York City. It is approximately 100 miles long and 35 miles wide. According to the United States Census Bureau, the population of Puerto Rico is approximately 3.95 million.

Puerto Rico's economy has been in a recession since the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2006. As evidence of persistent economic stagnation, the unemployment rate in Puerto Rico is currently 16.5%.²

ESTIMATED COST: \$70,066,258.52

**PROPOSED ARRA:
FUNDS TO BE USED:** \$70,066,258.52

¹ Source: Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources, July 2009. For the purpose of the calculation, Ponce Region includes Ponce and the adjacent municipalities of Juana Díaz and Villaalba.

² Source: Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources, July 2009.