



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
CITY VIEW PLAZA II, SUITE 7000
GUAYNABO, PUERTO RICO 00968-8069

OCT 09 2012

Damiris Perez, MPA
PEHSU Program Coordinator
Department of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
1 Gustave L. Levy Place
Box 1057
NY, NY 10029

Dear Ms. Perez,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enthusiastically supports Mount Sinai Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) and Proyecto ENLACE Caño Martín Peña's application for funding through the Health Impact Project: "Advancing Smarter Policies for Healthier Communities", a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

EPA recognizes the value of the partnership established by Mt. Sinai and ENLACE for this important and innovative project, that will support the continued promotion of prevention through safe and healthy environments.

Mount Sinai's PEHSU was founded in 1999, with the mission of providing clinical consultation and education to families, health care professionals, public health officials, policy-makers and community organizations with concerns regarding exposures on children's environmental health. Mt. Sinai sponsors educational electives, research, seminars, and career development at the Mount Sinai Medical Center and throughout Federal Region II, which includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

The Corporación del Proyecto ENLACE del Caño Martín Peña is a government corporation that builds partnerships with the organized communities represented by the G-8, Inc., the private sector and the central and municipal government authorities around an agenda for an inclusive city, in urban, social and economic terms. Building upon the capacities of the 26,000 residents in eight inner communities and strengthening social capital, ENLACE seeks to overcome poverty, and attain social and environmental justice. By addressing major environmental degradation issues, ENLACE is also an alternative for safer and healthier communities and a restored San Juan Bay Estuary System. ENLACE has been working in the implementation of the community developed Comprehensive Development Plan since 2004, building on the principle of community participatory planning to guarantee its implementation.

The partnership established between Mt. Sinai and ENLACE for the completion of the first Health Impact Assessment is the next logical step for the advancement of the most important participatory planning project ever undertaken in Puerto Rico. EPA is proud to be ENLACE's ally in the promotion of environmental health within the District communities. We support this new endeavor with Mt. Sinai,

which will bring additional information into the fold, and enable making the community-selected Comprehensive Development Plan a reality.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. José Soto, Senior Life Scientist at EPA's Multimedia Permits and Compliance Branch, at (787) 977-5829.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "José C. Font". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

for José C. Font
Acting Director

Caribbean Environmental Protection Division