

Man, Land, & Sea

A publication by Guam Coastal Management Program

August 16, 2024



Guam Silver Jackets Convene to Address Guam's Flooding Challenges

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Protecting Guam from Ridge to Reef



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Bureau of Statistics and Plans' Guam Coastal Management Program Staff



JAMES PANGELINAN

James Pangelinan is one of our newest planners at the Guam Coastal Management Program! James does a few things in the office. He is hard at work developing the Assessment and Strategies for this upcoming 2026-2030 Enhancement Cycle. The guidance for this process comes from the Coastal Zone Management Act, which encourages states and territories to develop program changes in one or more of the following enhancement areas: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management plans, ocean resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture.

James is passionate about public access to the beach. During attendance of an informational meeting he and other stakeholders had lively discussion about the state of public access on Guam and the clarity of the relevant laws. In their discourse they asked questions such as which roads are in actuality territorial highways and the implications

this has for the public's access to the our shorelines.

In addition, James occasionally sits on the Application Review Committee, in which the committee—comprised of Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Guam Department of Land Management, Guam Waterworks Authority, Guam Power Authority, Guam Department of Agriculture, Guam Department of Public Works, Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Bureau of Statistics and Plans—provides their respective agency position statements for development applications on the island. Application requests include developmental conditional uses, zone changes/variances, tentative and final subdivisions, wetland permits, seashore clearances, tentative development plans, agricultural subdivisions and lot parceling, and other land use applications.

He definitely has his work cut out for him, but James is eager to see through positive change in the community!

FUN FACTS: While James is working, to help him focus, he enjoys listening to the score of a popular Japanese Role Playing Game.



CAMILLE QUICHOCHO Biologist II, Marine Conservation District

Camille is passionate para i tasi. She grew up in and around the ocean. As any islander knows inherently, Camille has a healthy fear and respect of the blue expanse that surrounds our shores. She strives to protect the ocean and safeguard its plants and animals, especially those who call the coral reef home. After learning to swim at 16, the ocean has become Camille's laboratory.

Camille joined the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program in January 2024, where she serves as the Lead Biologist for the Marine Conservation District. Her background is in

agriculture and natural resource science, and her work experiences range from marine ecology to natural resource management. Camille manages the Guam Seashore Reserve Plan and Recreational Water-Use Management Plan (RWUMP), and contributes to the Guam Aquaculture Task Force, Mariana Islands Area Contingency Plan Committee, Application Review Committee/Territorial Seashore Protection Committee, and USACE Regulatory.

FUN FACTS: Camille loves to cook and her specialty is pasta. Her friends and family request her best dish, penne a la vodka. "I like it because I can make it in big batches for my friends and family to enjoy," laughs Camille. Whether it's cooking for friends or serving up science on the shore, Camille is a star addition to the Guam Coastal team.



CARLY CHAMPACO-MUNOZ

Imagine a Guam with bike paths where our people can cycle without worrying about vehicle traffic. Imagine our island with sidewalks where our children, our manâmkô, and individuals with disabilities could go for a stroll out of the way of cars and trucks.

Carly Champaco-Munoz is our new Special Projects Coordinator and she is working to make that dream a reality for Guåhan. She is working to build capacity for our local agencies to access resources to fund improvements like parks and playgrounds to walking paths and street lights.

She holds an associate's degree in marketing and a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in human resources from the University of Guam. While still new to her role as SPC, she's most excited to develop habitat restoration and conservation project proposals that will support our marine and terrestrial efforts on the island.

FUN FACTS: Carly has varying experience in journalism, project management, marketing, social media, community outreach, etc. When she's not at the office, Carly enjoys quality time with the family, jet skiing, and planting around the house.

It is Carly's hope that she can equip local agencies to learn the ins and outs of grant writing and with that new knowledge our local partners will be able to build a playground in Merizo for her two boys to enjoy.



Building a Safer Future: Guam Silver Jackets Convene to Address Guam's Flooding Challenges



By: Yvonne Manglona-Juaneza



Edwin Reyes, Administrator,
Guam Coastal Management Program

In a significant gathering at the Governor's Conference Room in Adelup on February 8, 2024, Guam's Silver Jackets team, comprising of local and federal agencies, convened to tackle the persistent environmental challenges exacerbated by climate change and natural disasters. The meeting, focused on collaborative strategies

and innovative solutions, highlighted the critical need for cohesive action in the face of escalating environmental impacts.

Matthew Santos, Deputy Director of the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP), alongside Edwin Reyes, Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) Administrator, and Mike Terlaje, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works Program Manager, kicked off the meeting with welcoming remarks, setting a collaborative tone. The necessity to reassess priorities post-COVID-19 and Typhoon Mawar disruptions was underscored, with a call to evaluate the relevance of ongoing initiatives and to strategize on enhancing the vital work of the Silver Jackets team.

"The last time the Silver Jackets met, we used an approach of developing subcommittees and framed them around certain topics to work on actionable items. We will discuss if the structure is still relevant and create strategies and priorities to enhance the important work everyone is doing," said Reyes.

In a comprehensive review of old business, participants discussed updates on FEMA's Risk Map and Floor Insurance Rate Map. The discussion led by Ron Obispo, Guam Homeland Security State Hazard Mitigation Officer, and Loren Willes, FEMA Integration Team Lead, pointed out updates to ongoing assessments for the map and the minimal changes in firm maps except for an expanded flood zone. The vital role of geographic information system satellite (GIS), used by Matt Santos of BSP to create a Guam flood map, was acknowledged for its effectiveness in identifying flood-prone areas. GIS was noted as an invaluable tool for the varying GovGuam agencies in disaster preparedness effort.



The meeting also shed light on UOG's resource tool, Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN), and asset mapping projects. EDEN leverages the expertise of over 300 delegates and more than 70 institutions to address local community issues, particularly flooding and food waste post-disaster events. The commitment to public outreach and education was emphasized, with the aim of developing a robust program addressing these flood emergency response issues.

Furthermore, the meeting delved into three new USACE Nonstructural Projects: 1) the Guam High Water Mark Campaign, 2) Flood Evaluation Framework Workshops, and 3) Emergency Action Planning Support. These projects provide flood zone signs at ten priority flood zone areas around Guam for motorists, workshops that train users with the 2010 Guam Transportation Stormwater Manual, and tabletop exercises that simulate and support emergency action planning.

During discussions, the member agencies reviewed their completed projects and set targets for 2024, highlighting continuous efforts in disaster preparedness, environmental conservation, and community safety. A recurring theme was the need for a unified approach to tackling post-development flood issues and establishing clear policies.

The Silver Jackets' action-oriented meeting concluded with a firm resolve to continue their collaborative efforts and take a structured approach to addressing the island's flood policy and management issues. For example, clearly defining each agency's role in the event of a flood and leveraging partnerships and resources to prepare for future floods.

The shared commitment to leveraging technology, data, and community outreach to mitigate environmental challenges was evident, marking a forward step in Guam's resilience and sustainable development.



Federal Consistency Compliance Training

By Esther Taitague

The Federal Consistency Compliance Training held on April 29, 2024 and April 30, 2024 was successfully completed with 43 participants in attendance on the first day and 30 participants on the second day. The event aimed to enhance the knowledge of federal and local personnel and private sector professionals responsible for managing activities associated with federal actions that include: 1) Federal Activities; 2) Federal Permits/Licenses; and 3) Federal Financial Assistance.

The objective of the training provided a foundational understanding of the Coastal Zone Management Act's (CZMA) Federal Consistency requirements and discussed issues that agencies may encounter in the CZMA review process; and strengthened cooperation and coordination between the Government of Guam and federal agencies.

Day 2 of this training focused on intergovernmental review of real-world case studies. Government of Guam agency representatives had the opportunity to interact with Federal Consistency Specialist, Kerry Kehoe from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management.

Participants were presented with real-world case studies in which they shared their thought process of determining coastal effects based on the Guam Coastal Management Program's approved enforceable policies.

What is "Federal Consistency"? The Coastal Zone Management Act requires that all federal actions that may have reasonably foreseeable effects on the uses or resources of a state's coastal zone be consistent with the enforceable policies of the state's coastal management program. See CZMA §307 (16 U.S. Code §1456).

The 2-day training provided valuable information to increase knowledge about the Coastal Zone Management Act's Federal Consistency requirements; how agencies interpret policy; and fostered networking opportunities among participants.

Our gathering was more than an event; it was a collective endeavor by both local and federal governments and the private sector community.



GCMP Participates in Career Day at P.C. Lujan Elementary School

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management (GCMP) staff participated in the P.C. Lujan Elementary School Career Day Event earlier this year. Steven Dierking, Outreach Coordinator organized the event along with Christian Paul Benitez, a Planner with GCMP and Camille Quichocho, a Biologist with the program.

Over 100 students from several classes at the elementary school learned about GCMP's responsibilities and programs including outreach activities, the Guam International Coastal Cleanup event, the duties and tasks of a planner, as well as understanding marine planning, protecting coral reefs, and the effects of wildfires on the marine environment. Dierking said: "The students were very engaged in the discussions and presentations by GCMP. We hope they were inspired by learning about natural resource issues on Guam and understanding what the role of a planner position in the Government of Guam entails."

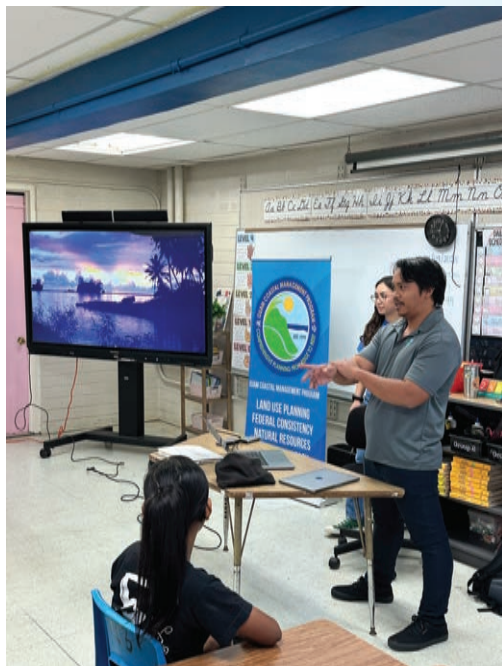
GCMP would like to thank the management, staff, and teachers of P.C. Lujan Elementary School for hosting Career Day. Special thanks to Beth Perez, Acting Principal of the school for hosting our department and for her gracious hospitality throughout the day.



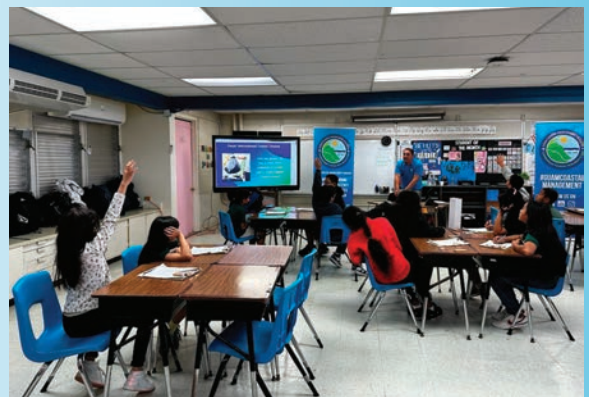
Steven Dierking, Outreach Coordinator with GCMP takes questions from students during Career Day at P.C. Lujan Elementary.



Camille Quichocho, a Biologist with GCMP presents slides on Marine Planning



Christian Benitez discusses the role of a Planner at the P.C. Lujan Career Day.



Students were engaged in discussions about Marine Debris during Career Day at P.C. Lujan.



REGISTER NOW



6:00AM - 9:00AM
ISLANDWIDE



10:00AM - 4:00PM
YPAO BEACH

TWO EVENTS / ONE DAY

09 | 21 | 2024 SATURDAY

www.sandfestguam.com



For more information, please contact:

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SMART GROWTH

Development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse.



The Guam Coastal Management Program encourages our community to use creative strategies to develop in ways that preserve natural lands and critical environmental areas, protect water and air quality, and reuse already-developed land.



10 basic principles to guide smart growth strategies:

- Mix land uses.
- Take advantage of compact building design
- Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
- Create walkable neighborhoods.
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
- Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
- Provide a variety of transportation choices.
- Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective.
- Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.

Source: epa.gov/smartgrowth/



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT THE GUAM COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
671-475-9647 • BSP.GUAM.GOV

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<https://bsp.guam.gov/guam-coastal-management-program/>

**Organizing
a Beach
Cleanup?
We can help!**

Contact the Guam Coastal Management Program and get connected with other volunteers and supplies.
Call 671-475-9647
or email
gcmp@bsp.guam.gov
for more information.
*limited supplies available per cleanup event.



DESIGNING OPEN SPACE

Community open, green space is socially valuable. Walkable neighborhoods, parks, and open green spaces draw people outside and foster social interactions, integrate nature into the urban environment, and provide a revitalizing contrast to the harsh shape, color, and texture of buildings.

Open, green spaces in communities are attractive to prospective buyers and generate multiple economic benefits for local governments, homeowners, and businesses and play an important role in policy-making decisions about zoning, restrictions on land use, government purchase of lands for parks, and similar initiatives.

Open spaces are great places for members of the community to meet, interact and enjoy their community and provide socio-economic benefits including an increase in local shopping and dining; ultimately investing in the local economy increases community engagement and instills greater pride in the community as a whole.

Some opportunities for community open space can include:

- Schoolyards
- Playgrounds
- Public seating areas
- Public plazas
- Vacant lots
- Green space (land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation)
- Parks
- Community gardens
- Cemeteries

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/G3/>



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