

\$17 million in **ARRA** funds for flood control

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Page : 46

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With an additional \$17 million from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (**ARRA**), the ongoing Puerto Nuevo, San Juan flood-control project will be completed, ending the constant flooding in the area that has been a nightmare for thousands of residents and hundreds of businesses, Gov. Luis Fortuño and other officials announced.

The project will impact some 5,600 residents and some 700 commercial establishments that have been hit with flooding almost every time it rains, causing health hazards and million-dollar losses in the zone.

The \$17 million was assigned to the Army Corps of Engineers to undertake dredging and other work in Margarita Canal, which runs along the De Diego Expressway, as well as a mitigation area that connects with other locations along Puerto Nuevo River. It is part of a total \$47 million the island will receive under **ARRA** for flood-control projects.

Before becoming governor, Fortuño as resident commissioner in Congress fought for funding for this project, which received \$46.5 million in 2007, followed by assignments of \$11.5 million and \$12 million.