

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

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NEWS RELEASE

Port officials meet with FEMA on Mawar Resilience Project

Piti, Guam, August 10, 2023: Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio met with FEMA officials today to discuss recovery and resiliency projects related to Typhoon Mawar.

Respicio and other Port officials met with FEMA Janet Yocum, PMP, Operations Planner of the Response Division of FEMA's Region IX Pacific Area Office as well as officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Discussions involved FEMA's Typhoon Mawar Resilience Project and the needs of the Port Authority of Guam. Through the Mawar Resilience Project, FEMA is working with many subject matter experts to do very thorough site inspections of physical as well as non-physical components of Critical Infrastructure identified by the federal interagency and the Government of Guam. Under this project, FEMA inspection of Critical Infrastructure is not limited to only storm damaged areas. FEMA completed inspections will be elevated to the federal interagency to explore all avenues of funding that may be applied (not only FEMA or DHS Port money) to build a more resilient Guam.

"I truly appreciate FEMA's willingness to explore all areas to help us fund critical projects including via MilCon projects," said Guam Governor Lou Leon Guerrero. "FEMA has been a great partner to Guam and we look forward to more conversations and work on the important needs of our island as well as our island's only commercial seaport."

Discussions in today's meeting centered on leveraging military construction (MilCon) projects as a way to include work related to the Port Authority of Guam. Yocum said they were impressed with how the Port secured for the typhoon and how quickly the agency was able to become fully operational only three days after the storm passed. Discussion shifted to how FEMA can leverage their funding projects with the needs of the Port, including the updated 2023 Port Modernization Program.

"Shifting from a modernization mode to a now more pronounced resiliency and readiness mode of management, infrastructure hardening and operation, it is clear that FEMA understands how critical the Port is to our region, the Department of Defense and the rest of the world," said Guam Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio.

Respicio added that this meeting shows how the geopolitical climate in the Indo-pacific region has a very significant impact on the federal government's willingness to fund port projects to ensure the security of our region.

“Looking forward, the Port continues to develop its maintenance and capital improvement projects, however, the new Master Plan pivots to a focus on Geopolitical issues and how the Port will be able to reposition itself so that the Department of Defense becomes the Port's biggest consumer,” Respicio said.

The Port will be providing FEMA with relevant Port data that will allow FEMA engineers to review, validate and recommend funding solutions and opportunities for Port priority initiatives that will enhance infrastructure and equipment resiliency, improve operational capabilities and capacity, bolster supply chain sustainability, and protect the Port IT/TOS/FMS systems from cyber attacks. The Port also will be providing FEMA with a copy of the 2023 Port Master Plan update as well as condition assessments and reports supporting the Port's most pressing challenge which includes STS gantry crane acquisition, fuel piers and wharves upgrades, and container yard equipment needs.

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