

Watershed Operations

April 2009

Introduction

This project will provide protection from flooding, improve the habitat of three endangered species, and preserve prime farm land with local cooperators.



The Kagman Watershed is located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Kagman Watershed Project, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

Project Description

- **Location:** Kagman, Saipan, CNMI
- **Federal Funding:** \$4,150,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$1,250,000

The Kagman project consists of four waterways, two sediment basins, a 70-million gallon reservoir, a 100,000-gallon storage tank, and an irrigation water delivery system.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
- Saipan and Northern Islands Soil & Water Conservation District
- Department of Land and Natural Resources

Benefits

Flood protection to several critical roads and agricultural land is a primary benefit from the surface water management features included in the project. The project will also improve the irrigation systems by relieving stress on the one current water aquifer, prevent sediment from washing into the ocean, and provide the island inhabitants self-sufficiency for vegetable crops.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



Previous construction phase.

Reinvesting in the Kagman Watershed, Northern Marianas

Economic Opportunities

There have been several structures completed since 1994. The remaining activities include the construction of a 70 million gallon reservoir, an erosion prevention structure immediately upstream of the reservoir, a pumping plant at the reservoir, and a transfer line from the reservoir to a previously built 100,000 gallon tank.

Local Perspective

The project includes a 3,750-acre peninsula on the eastern shore of Saipan. The largest and most critical crop farming takes place on Kagman, with an average farm size of 2.5 acres, some as large as 10 acres. The project saves rainy season fresh water runoff for use as irrigation during the dry season, relieving demand for municipal water and enhancing self sufficiency for food supply on the island.

For More Information

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Previous construction phase.

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