

Matrix New World Engineering Brings Disaster Recovery Expertise to Puerto Rico

*Full-service engineering and environmental services firm no stranger to helping
restore and rebuild after natural disasters*

Florham Park, NJ – Matrix New World Engineering, Land Surveying and Landscape Architecture, P.C. (Matrix) recently completed detailed damage assessments, ecological evaluations, and repair recommendations associated with the devastation left by Hurricane Maria, the most intense tropical hurricane of 2017 and worst natural disaster to ever affect Puerto Rico. Engaged by the US Maritime Administration (MARAD) to assess the island’s immediate and long-term structural and environmental needs, Matrix has extensive experience in assessments and restorations, including the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico and Superstorm Sandy in New Jersey.

The Hurricane, which destroyed lives, incapacitated infrastructure and severely damaged Puerto Rico’s economy, greatly affected the island’s transportation and logistics lifeline, affecting the distribution of goods due to the extensive damage to its ports, warehousing, roads, and power systems. This damage continues to hamper the island’s economic recovery.

“Hurricane Maria devastated both the physical and fiscal face of Puerto Rico. Now, the island is facing a monumental structural, environmental, and economic clean up. By assessing the damages and proposing solutions, we can help to revitalize the island and its economy,” said Paul Calabrese, vice president at Matrix New World Engineering, and a marine engineer with 20+ years of experience in waterfront development and maritime projects.

Matrix deployed more than 40 personnel to Puerto Rico to conduct its evaluations, including engineers, surveyors, ecologists, divers, hazardous materials specialist, cost estimators and construction specialists. Matrix assessed the scope of necessary repairs, completing preliminary design of proposed improvements and their corresponding cost estimates. Matrix assessed maritime structures, navigation channels, utilities, and supporting upland buildings, to provide regulatory analysis and federal NEPA documentation, execute environmental and biological assessments, and conduct historical/archaeological and threatened/endangered species surveys in coordination with federal and state funding agencies.

To meet the necessary deadlines, Matrix’s deployment occurred immediately, and more than 40 professionals were on the ground in Puerto Rico within two weeks of authorization. Matrix completed the project deliverables in an extremely expedited timeframe, beginning in March 2018, and delivering all final reports by mid-May 2018. These assessments will serve as the basis for federal funding decisions related to the evaluated ports, and include an estimated \$1B+ of recommended expenditures.

For more information on Matrix New Work Engineering, or to speak with a Matrix representative, contact Amy Delman, Amy Delman Public Relations, LLC, 201.563.4614 or amydelmanpr@verizon.net

Formed in 1990, Matrix is a leading woman-owned full-service engineering and environmental services firm. Working on a wide range of infrastructure, building and environmental projects for both public and private-sector clients throughout the United States, the Florham Park, NJ-based company has offices in the Northeast as well as Arizona, Louisiana, and Texas. For more information on the firm, contact Dennis Petrocelli at 800.747.MATRIX, dpetrocelli@matrixnewworld.com.

Photo Captions

- 1)** Matrix brings disaster recovery to Puerto Rico. A Matrix diver assessing underwater maritime structures for damage resulting from Hurricane Maria.
- 2)** Matrix recently completed detailed damage assessments, ecological evaluations, and repair recommendations associated with the devastation left by Hurricane Maria, the most intense tropical cyclone of 2017 and worst natural disaster to ever affect Puerto Rico.
- 3)** “By assessing the damages and proposing solutions, we can help to revitalize the island and its economy,” said Paul Calabrese, vice president at Matrix New World Engineering.