

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2026

The Honorable Luis R. González Delgado
Executive President
Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA)
604 Barbosa Ave
San Juan, PR 00916

Dear Mr. González Delgado:

This letter follows a May 22, 2026 letter regarding the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority's (PRASA) persistent failure to provide reliable water service to the people of Puerto Rico. I write today to raise a separate but equally urgent matter: the need for full transparency in PRASA's procurement process for the Smart Metering Initiative, which is entirely funded by federal disaster recovery dollars through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Programs, allocated under CIP 6009102, for the benefit of the people of Puerto Rico.¹

After the devastating impact of Hurricane María on the island's infrastructure for measuring potable water consumption, FEMA awarded PRASA over \$580 million to replace nearly 1.4 million mechanical water meters across Puerto Rico with smart ultrasonic technology equipped with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), a system designed to collect detailed information from the meters across all PRASA's service areas.²

On January 4, 2022, PRASA issued Request for Proposals (RFP) 22-RFP-003 for the acquisition of smart water meters, smart meter reading technology, and specialized services in connection with the smart meters to upgrade PRASA's water meter infrastructure across the Island.³ The Request for Proposals 22-RFP-003 does not appear to be readily accessible through PRASA's public website or other publicly available sources. On November 8, 2023, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico issued letters conditionally approving two pilot contracts between PRASA and Distribution Control Systems Caribe, Inc. and Utility Metering Solutions, LLC. The project was structured in two phases — a Pilot Phase followed by Full Deployment — with the second phase contingent on successful completion of the first. Following the completion of the Pilot Phase on June 30, 2024, PRASA awarded the final contract to Utility Metering Solutions, LLC, in October of that year, only to rescind it abruptly one week later without any public explanation. On December 6, 2024, PRASA once again awarded the \$407 million contract to Utility Metering Solutions, LLC.⁴ In a March 2025 letter to PRASA, the FOMB noted that no calculation was provided to justify the \$407,930,646 contract price.

¹ Jaime A. El Koury to Ms. Doriel Pagán Crespo Executive President Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority , “Letter from the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico to the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority Re: Utility Metering Solutions, LLC ” (San, Juan, Puerto Rico, March 3, 2025).

[https://docs.oversightboard.pr.gov/n/id6ek3qs8yrm/b/CR_PUBLIC/o/5994_CRPRASA-UMS\(AmendmentC\)\(Feb2025\).pdf](https://docs.oversightboard.pr.gov/n/id6ek3qs8yrm/b/CR_PUBLIC/o/5994_CRPRASA-UMS(AmendmentC)(Feb2025).pdf)

² Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and SWM Editorial Team. “1.4 Million Smart Water Meters Rolled Out Across Puerto Rico.” *Smart Water Magazine*, April 17, 2024. <https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/federal-emergency-management-agency-fema/14-million-smart-water-meters-rolled-out-across-puerto>.

³ Jaime A. El Koury to Ms. Doriel Pagán Crespo Executive President Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority , “Letter from the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico to the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority Re: Smart Metering Initiative” (San, Juan, Puerto Rico, November 14, 2024).

[https://docs.oversightboard.pr.gov/n/id6ek3qs8yrm/b/CR_PUBLIC/o/5654_CRPRASA-UMSDCSI\(AMIPProgram\)\(AmdA\).pdf](https://docs.oversightboard.pr.gov/n/id6ek3qs8yrm/b/CR_PUBLIC/o/5654_CRPRASA-UMSDCSI(AMIPProgram)(AmdA).pdf)

⁴ 1. Sharon Minelli Pérez, “Smart Meter Installations for Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority Customers Remains in Limbo,” *El Nuevo Día* , July 4, 2025, <https://www.elnuevodia.com/english/business/story/smart-meter-installations-for-puerto-rico-aqueduct-and-sewer-authority-customers-remains-in-limbo/>.

Distribution Control Systems Caribe, Inc. challenged the bidding process, and on May 14, 2025, the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals found that PRASA had failed to adequately justify its selection of Utility Metering Solutions, LLC for the second phase of the project, including the scores and reasoning from the pilot phase evaluation. That decision was subsequently the subject of additional litigation.⁵ Reports indicate that PRASA awarded the contract to Utility Metering Solutions, LLC for a third time in May 2025, though that award could not be verified due to the lack of publicly available procurement records.

The public record provides little insight into the competitive bidding process through which this \$407,930,646 contract was awarded. The people of Puerto Rico, whose federal disaster recovery dollars are funding this initiative, deserve a full and transparent accounting of how this award was made. PRASA must provide complete and detailed answers to each of the following:

1. What bids were received for the Smart Metering Initiative?
2. What were the total costs and key cost components of each proposal?
3. What is the total project scope, including which customers and regions are covered?
4. Are any regions or populations excluded, and if so, on what basis?
5. What are the plans and timelines for broader system-wide deployment?
6. What evaluation criteria and decision-making process were used to select the awarded contractor?
7. What were the specific circumstances that led PRASA to rescind the initial contract award in October 2024, and who made that decision?
8. What steps were taken to resolve those issues before re-awarding the contract to the same vendor in December 2024?
9. How were cost, technical capability, implementation risk, and long-term system performance assessed?
10. What is the current status of smart metering deployment, and what contingency plans are in place to address potential challenges or delays?
11. Did any person, registered lobbyist, or entity communicate with PRASA between October and December 2024 regarding the Full Deployment Phase of the Smart Metering Initiative master contract?

I request that your office provide a prompt and thorough response to the questions outlined above no later than Monday, June 15, 2026.

Sincerely,



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress

⁵ Distribution Control Systems Caribe, Inc. v. Junta Revisora de Subastas de la Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados de Puerto Rico, TA2025RA00323, Tribunal de Apelaciones de Puerto Rico, February 13, 2026, <https://dts.poderjudicial.pr/ta/2026/TA2025RA00323-13022026.PDF>.