



# FY 2024 CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



*"Building a sustainable CNMI for current and future generations."*



## About OPD:

Established in 2017 through Public Law 20-20, the CNMI Office of Planning and Development's (OPD) mission is to increase the effectiveness of government and private actions, to improve coordination among different agencies and levels of government, and to provide for the wise use of resources and future development of the CNMI.

Since its inception, OPD has been a leader in forging partnerships and driving future development in the CNMI.

- **2017:** CNMI OPD created through P.L. 20-20
- **2018:** OPD and planning partners create and publish the Smart, Safe Growth (SSG) Guidance Manual
- **2018-19:** OPD leads work on the 2019 update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs); CEDs Update is submitted to and approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- **2019:** OPD launches its website and the CNMI Data Library
- **2020:** OPD awarded ~\$1.68 million to through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support wetland and coral reef restoration
- **2020:** OPD awarded first round of funding of ~\$56 million total of Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act (ASADRA) funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **2020-2021:** OPD and planning partners develop the CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP); CSDP is adopted by the CNMI government
- **2021:** CNMI through OPD receives ~\$32 million in total funding from the EDA for the Oleai Sports Complex and Cultural Events Center Facilities Development Projects
- **2022-2023:** OPD oversees the development of the CNMI Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grant application prior to the creation of and handover to the Broadband Policy & Development Office
- **2023:** OPD awarded ~\$612,000 through the EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program
- **2024:** OPD, Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech) ink agreement to run Solid Waste Management Training Program through NMTech

## Some Premier Projects Under OPD:



**Oleai Sports Complex and Cultural Events Center Facilities Development Projects**



**Solid Waste Infrastructure Investments:**  
Five-Year Plan, Tinian and Rota Landfills, Heavy Equipment Procurement/ Repairs, Hiring Solid Waste Management Staff



**Garapan Revitalization Project**

OPD works with the **Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC)** to fulfill the planning, project prioritization, and data centralization mandates of Public Law 20-20.



# PERFORMANCE



## CNMI COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CSDP) UPDATES

- Resource Report Updates are underway to support the next CSDP update in 2025.



## COORDINATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In November 2023 Governor Arnold I. Palacios signed into law Public Law 23-12, which authorized a \$15 million line of credit between the CNMI government and the Marianas Public Land Trust. OPD has availed of this line of credit and has since been making payments to vendors and processing reimbursements through the EDA throughout FY24, resulting in substantial progress on its EDA-funded projects.

- **Oleai Sports Complex and Events Center Development Project:** EDA awarded the CNMI \$21.2 million for this project in June 2021. Notices to Proceed on the architecture and engineering design for both the Sports Complex and the Cultural Events Center were issued in March 2023. Initial 30% design drawings for the Cultural Center were received by OPD in July 2023. Throughout FY24, OPD has received and have been reviewing the 60% drawings of the Oleai Sports Complex and the 90% drawings of the Oleai Events Center. Furthermore, on August 14, 2024 OPD in partnership with the CNMI Indigenous Affairs Office held a town hall meeting to discuss both projects with the community and begin soliciting feedback on a name for the Oleai Events Center.
- **Garapan Revitalization Project:** This \$11 million EDA-funded project broke ground in November 2022 and remains on track for its expected completion date of November 2024. As of September 27, 2024 the project is 80% complete.



## CNMI SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

GREEN WASTE

- **CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (CISWMP):** OPD and the Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Taskforce (ISWMT) are currently developing the draft of the CNMI's five-year CISWMP to support sustainable waste management systems. Submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is anticipated in December 2024.
- **Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Funding:** The ISWMT secured \$612,441 in grant funding from EPA to support critical equipment purchase and repairs and staffing to jumpstart recycling initiatives in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota starting in FY24. Information sharing between OPD and EPA for all National Environmental Policy Act-related processes is ongoing.
- **Multi-Purpose Shredder Procurement + Shredder Operations and Maintenance:** In FY24, OPD procured a 30-ton multi-purpose shredder which will be used to process the ~30,000 cubic yards of disaster debris from Super Typhoon Yutu. As of preparing this CCR, OPD has published its Request for Proposals for the operation and maintenance of this shredder.
- **Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification:** On August 7, 2024 OPD, DPW, and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to run a Solid Waste Operator Training Program at NMTech. The course is expected to launch in early 2025 and will cover landfill and transfer station operations, best management practices, and relevant safety protocols.
- **Marpi Backup Power Project:** Final report on Backup Power Feasibility Study was submitted in May 2023. Phase II of this project to support necessary operations and assess pollution reduction opportunities started in October 2023, with Phase II of the project being completed in November 2024.



# FINANCIALS

Under Public Law 23-26, the Office of Planning and Development (OPD) was appropriated **\$221,357** in FY 2024.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATION		
Total Personnel	Total All Others	TOTAL
\$218,645.00	\$2,712.00	\$221,357.00

OPD, in partnership with various local agencies, was awarded several multi-year grants for conservation, infrastructure improvement, and planning projects.

## NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF)

- **Coastal Resilience Project, \$1,679,216**— To build community resilience in Saipan's most populated priority management watershed through wetland and coral reef restoration.

## U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

- **Oleai Sports and Cultural Tourism Enhancement Project, \$21,160,000**— Construction of buildings and associated infrastructure for use as a sports complex and cultural events center.
- **Garapan Revitalization Project, \$11,177,918.00**— A&E design and construction of improvements to the street infrastructure of the Garapan Core.

## U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

- **Hazardous Waste Management Program, Disaster Relief Act, \$56,000,000 (total funding appropriated)**— The goal of this project is to increase solid waste management capacity to address post-storm solid waste issues including the cleanup of disaster debris from Typhoon Yutu, and develop long-term sustainable solid and zero waste programs and a comprehensive integrated waste management plan for CNMI.
- **Garapan Brownfields Assessment, ~\$300,000**— In coordination with DPL and Zoning, this project supports environmental assessments in Garapan Core that will inform revitalization planning.

## U.S. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

- **Flood Risk Mapping and Communications, \$210,000**— Working with DPW, BECQ, and others, OPD is supporting FEMA in data collection and forthcoming updates of flood insurance rate maps to identify and reduce risk of flooding to the built environment and our community.

OPD continues to pursue competitive grants to obtain additional financial support to build internal capacity to support planning, data management, and project coordination mandates of Public Law 20-20. Long-term sustainable development planning and implementation support continues to be facilitated through local and federal funding in FY24.

## BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC)

- **Micro Beach Project, \$145,000**— In March 2023, FEMA awarded OPD \$145,000 to conduct a scoping of Micro Beach's shoreline protection and stabilization. In addition, this grant allows for the planning and designing of risk reduction efforts in this high-value tourist site, which align with the priority mitigation goals identified in the approved 2018 CNMI Standard State Mitigation Plan (2018 SSMP).
- **Blighted Buildings Project, \$200,000**— In March 2023, FEMA awarded OPD \$200,000 to assist the Zoning Office in implementing the Nuisance Abatement and Blight Property Maintenance Act of 2018, by conducting an assessment of blighted buildings, including mapping of structures, blight classification, hazard identification, property ownership and recommended remediation measures & estimate remediation costs.
- **Gabgab Road Scoping Project, \$200,683**— This 36-month scoping project(6/28/24-6/27/27) is for gathering field-based data to comprehensively plan, design, and recommend flood and erosion mitigation activities along Gabgab Road. These mitigation activities will include construction of new pavement and drainage structures/ retrofitting existing structures.

## STATEWIDE PLANNING GRANT

- **CNMI Economic Recovery and Feasibility Carry Capacity Study, \$999,755**— In FY 2023, EDA awarded the CNMI \$999,755 to conduct the CNMI Economic Recovery and Feasibility Carry Capacity Study. This study is anticipated to be completed by December 2024.



# CURRENT CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

## Achieving Comprehensive Sustainable Development

OPD will continue to request local funding and seek other funding opportunities to support current operations and will request additional funds to fill capacity gaps as needed to implement and update the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan. Additional project-specific and planning capacity support funding and partnerships will be sought and leveraged as opportunities arise. Area- and resource-specific studies and technical assistance are being and will continue to be pursued to incorporate vulnerability assessments and disaster risk reduction guidance into key planning efforts such as the Garapan Revitalization Plan Update and creation of "Community Improvement Districts".

Ensuring sustained funding levels to support existing staffing and operations and to fill key positions including additional administrative staff, project managers, and planners will be a challenge, however, OPD is optimistic that support for this office will remain robust as we continue to support implementation and updates of CNMI's first Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan.

*Together, we can build a more sustainable CNMI.*

VISIT  [HTTPS://WWW.OPD.GOV.MP](https://www.opd.gov.mp) TO VIEW:



**OPD's past Annual Reports—**  
2024 Annual Report to be published  
-January 30, 2025



**CNMI plans and reports**  
compiled to date



**Coastal Resilience Evaluation and**  
**Siting Tool (CREST) and Data Library**



**...and announcements, calendar, a**  
**contact form, and more!**

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

