



GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • *AHENSIAN PRUTEKSIÓN LINA'LA' GUÁHAN*

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO • GOVERNOR OF GUAM | JOSHUA F. TENORIO • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF GUAM  
WALTER S. LEON GUERRERO • ADMINISTRATOR | MICHELLE C. R. LASTIMOZA • DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Governor Leon Guerrero signs Executive Order 2020-42, Abandoned Derelict Vessel Removal Group established

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**December 9, 2020 (Tiyan, Guam)** – Governor Lou Leon Guerrero signs Executive Order 2020-42 relative to establishing the Guam Abandoned Derelict Vessels (ADV) Removal Group as part of the Administration’s larger environmental initiative, which includes the Zero Waste Working Group and the Guam Green Growth (G3) Framework.

Based on a 2003 study conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), there are approximately thirty-one (31) vessels identified and surveyed on Guam that require removal. Fourteen (14) of these vessels are considered critical and have been identified as first priority for removal.

ADV’s are a major problem for Guam because they can become navigational hazards and pose significant threats to commercial and natural resources. Their physical presence can destroy sensitive marine and coastal habitats, sink or move during storms, disperse oil and toxic chemicals still on board, and become a source of marine debris.

According to the 2003 study, the ADV’s posed some risk to public health due to potential slips and falls as well as exposure to rusted, jagged steel by the public climbing on the vessels. Submerged vessels are also potential entrapment hazards for swimmers.

“As we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot forget our responsibility as stewards of our environment to ensure we do not leave our future generations with an island that is beyond fixing. The creation of the ADV Working Group is part of this Administration’s commitment to addressing the growing environmental challenges,” said Governor Lou Leon Guerrero.

“Out of sight does not mean out of mind. For years, our local agencies have been working on solving this dangerous and damaging problem with federal partners. Executive Order 2020-42 formalizes their work and ensures this issue is solved sooner rather than later,” said Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio.

The members of the Guam ADV Removal Group include officials from the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA), the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP), and the Guam Department of Agriculture (DOAg).

GEPA, Joint Region Marianas (JRM), and Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific Task Force 73 (CTF73) Salvage Team have been working alongside a host of local and federal partners over the past several years to identify and remove Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV’s) in and around the island of Guam. The first removal attempt resulted in three (3) ADV’s being successfully removed and properly disposed of on Guam in 2017.

The Guam ADV Removal Group will be required to meet quarterly to report on the status of Guam’s ADV Removal. In 90 days, the ADV Removal Group shall negotiate with federal partners, to include the United States Navy, the Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Coast Guard, the NOAA, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service toward the goal of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding to identify, remove and dispose of ADV in outer Apra Harbor, Guam.

“Guam EPA remains committed to protecting our marine environment. We are pleased with the Leon Guerrero Tenorio administration’s support for this group, and we look forward to working with our local and federal partners to rid our waters of these ADV’s,” said GEPA administrator Walter S. Leon Guerrero.

| END OF RELEASE |

For more information about this release, please contact Guam EPA Public Information Officer Nic Rupley Lee at 300-4753 or [nic.rupley@epa.guam.gov](mailto:nic.rupley@epa.guam.gov)

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ALL LIVING THINGS OF THE EARTH ARE ONE • *MANUNU TODU I MANLÁLA'Á*

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UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
MAGA'HÅGA • GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
SIGUNDO MAGA'LÅHI • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**Via Hand Delivery**  
**and E-mail: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)**

December 9, 2020

**HONORABLE TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

Speaker

*I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Re: Executive Order No. 2020-42**

*Hafa Adai* Madame Speaker:

Pursuant to Public Law 34-16, transmitted herewith is the following Executive Order:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-42:**  
**RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM ABANDONED**  
**DERELICT VESSELS REMOVAL GROUP**

If you have any questions, please contact my office at # (671) 473-1118.

*Senseramente,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sophia Santos Diaz".

**SOPHIA SANTOS DIAZ**

*Legal Counsel*

Enclosure(s): Executive Order No. 2020-42

cc via email: *Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
*Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*  
Hon. F. Philip Carbullido, Chief Justice of Guam  
Compiler of Law  
Central Files  
Cabinet Members



**ISLAND OF GUAM  
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**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-42**

**RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM ABANDONED  
DERELICT VESSELS REMOVAL GROUP**

**WHEREAS**, Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (“ADV’s”) are a major problem for Guam as well as for many other islands and jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, these sunken, stranded, and decrepit vessels, can become navigational hazards and pose significant threats to commercial and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, their physical presence can destroy sensitive marine and coastal habitats, sink or move during storms, disperse oil and toxic chemicals still on board, and become a source of marine debris; and

**WHEREAS**, as stated within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) report, “Surveys of Abandoned Vessels: Guam and CNMI,” issued in October 2003, there are approximately thirty-one (31) vessels identified and surveyed on Guam that require removal; and

**WHEREAS**, an informal working group over the past several years came together to assist each other in addressing this problem by identifying, removing and properly disposing of three ADVs in and around the island of Guam in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (“Guam EPA”) seeks to continue its partnership with the Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific Task Force 73 (“CTF73”) Salvage Team as the Agency’s partner in the ADV removal; and

**WHEREAS**, Guam EPA must apply for the Innovative Readiness Training (“IRT”) Civil-Military Partnership to continue its partnership with CTF73 for ADV removal.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO, *I Maga’hågan Guåhan***, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act and laws of Guam, do hereby order the establishment of the Guam Abandoned Derelict Vessel Removal Group, and direct as follows:

- I. The members of the Guam ADV Removal Group shall consist of: Guam Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, or official designee(s), the Bureau of Statistics and Plans Director or official designee(s), and the Guam Department of Agriculture Director or official designee(s).
- II. The Guam ADV Removal Group shall:
  - a. Meet quarterly to report on the status of Guam’s ADV Removal; and



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- b. Post all ADV Removal meeting minutes on the Guam EPA website and transmit minutes of all meetings to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*; and
  - c. Within 90 days of the issuance of this order, the ADV Removal Group shall negotiate with federal partners, to include the United States Navy, the Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Coast Guard, the NOAA, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service toward the goal of entering into an Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) to identify, remove and dispose of ADV in outer Apra Harbor, Guam.
- III. As the lead member, the Guam EPA shall:
- a. Coordinate meetings and activities of the ADV Removal team.
  - b. Prescribe guidance and technical assistance to the group.
  - c. Maintain a database documenting all activities of the group.
  - d. Provide technical input on Standard Operating Procedures for identification and removal of ADVs.
  - e. Provide limited materials, supplies and marine transport services for ADV Removal team.
  - f. Participate in public outreach for this project.
- IV. As members, the Bureau of Statistics and Plans Director (“BSP”) and the Department of Agriculture (“DoAg”) shall:
- a. Provide at least one (1) representative to ADV Removal team who will attend all meetings.
  - b. Provide technical assistance for all necessary permits.
  - c. Be responsible for issuing Guam Federal Consistency Review.
  - d. Participate in public outreach for this project.

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- V. Guam EPA *may* enter into a MOU with the Guam Power Authority GPA and the Port Authority of Guam PAG to carry out the activities associated with the ADV Removal Team.

**SIGNED AND PROMULGATED** at Hagåtña, Guam, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of **December, 2020**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero".

**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
*Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
Governor of Guam

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua F. Tenorio".

**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
*Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*  
Lt. Governor of Guam

