

PROCEEDINGS
SIXTH CARIBBEAN ISLANDS WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS

Edited by

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FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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FOREWORD

Water resources and environmental problems in the tropics have a significant impact on the ecosystems and human activities. The great variety of climatic conditions found produces different responses in a small piece of land. Therefore, research in the Caribbean Islands is being done in areas such as: use and protection of limited freshwater resources, including surface and groundwater; droughts in dry areas with restrictions in water availability, water use and distribution; and extreme hydrologic events such as flash floods and hurricane phenomena. As a consequence, a group of active researchers is required to develop comprehensive watershed management strategies, propose solutions to stringent water availability, and propose new technologies and methodologies for the efficient use of the resources and the preservation of the ecosystems. Joint efforts among all the participants is necessary for finding comprehensive solutions.

The group of papers contained in this *PROCEEDINGS* were selected among those who answered a call for abstracts for this Congress. A draft of a full paper was requested after the abstract acceptance. After a peer-review process, the final manuscripts were included in this CD for the benefit of researchers, practitioners and students.

The wide range of topics included in the Congress is a representative sample of the research and development efforts done by Universities, Federal and Local Government Agencies and private companies. Watershed management, water quality treatment, surface and groundwater quantity and quality studies and extreme hydrologic events are a representative example of the extent of scientific and engineering areas found in the tropics. Emerging methodologies and techniques, as well as, the fulfillment of new regulations, require that the environmental and water resources community be updated. The "*PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH CARIBBEAN ISLANDS WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS*" is a modest but important contribution to this goal.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The organization of the Sixth Caribbean Islands Water Resources Congress was possible due to contributions from many persons who collaborated in the different aspects of this activity. Thanks to all the reviewers who spend their time reading and improving the papers for the benefit of all. Special thanks to the support staff from the Puerto Rico Water Resources and Environmental Research Institute, Sarita Feliciano, Adalberto Ríos and Sofia Cruz. Thanks to Mirian Romero who cooperated in the logistics and preparation of the Congress, and the art and webpage designers, Victor Ramirez, Raúl Lugo and Francisco Silva. Finally, the Organizers are thankful to the authors for sharing with us their knowledge and discovers.

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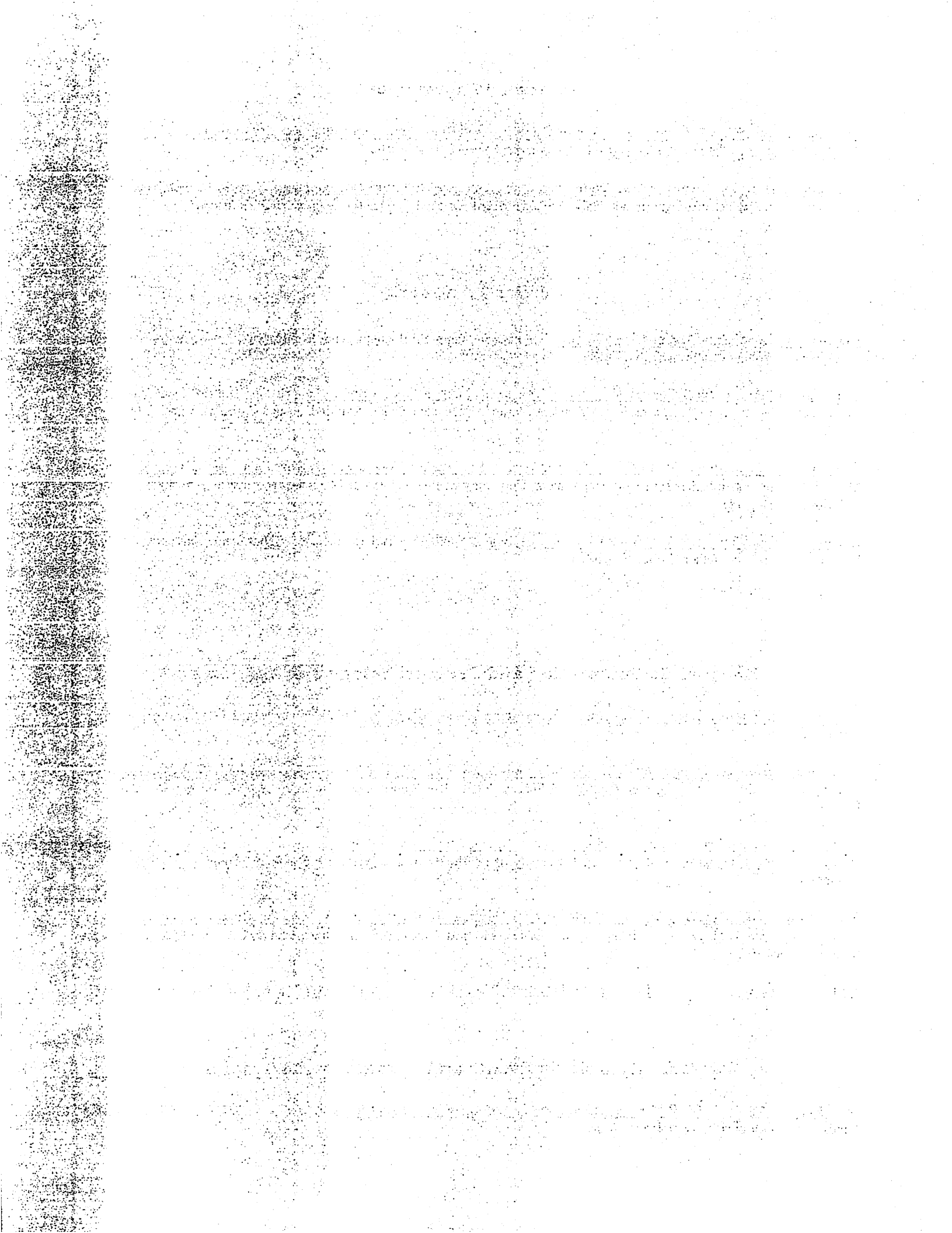
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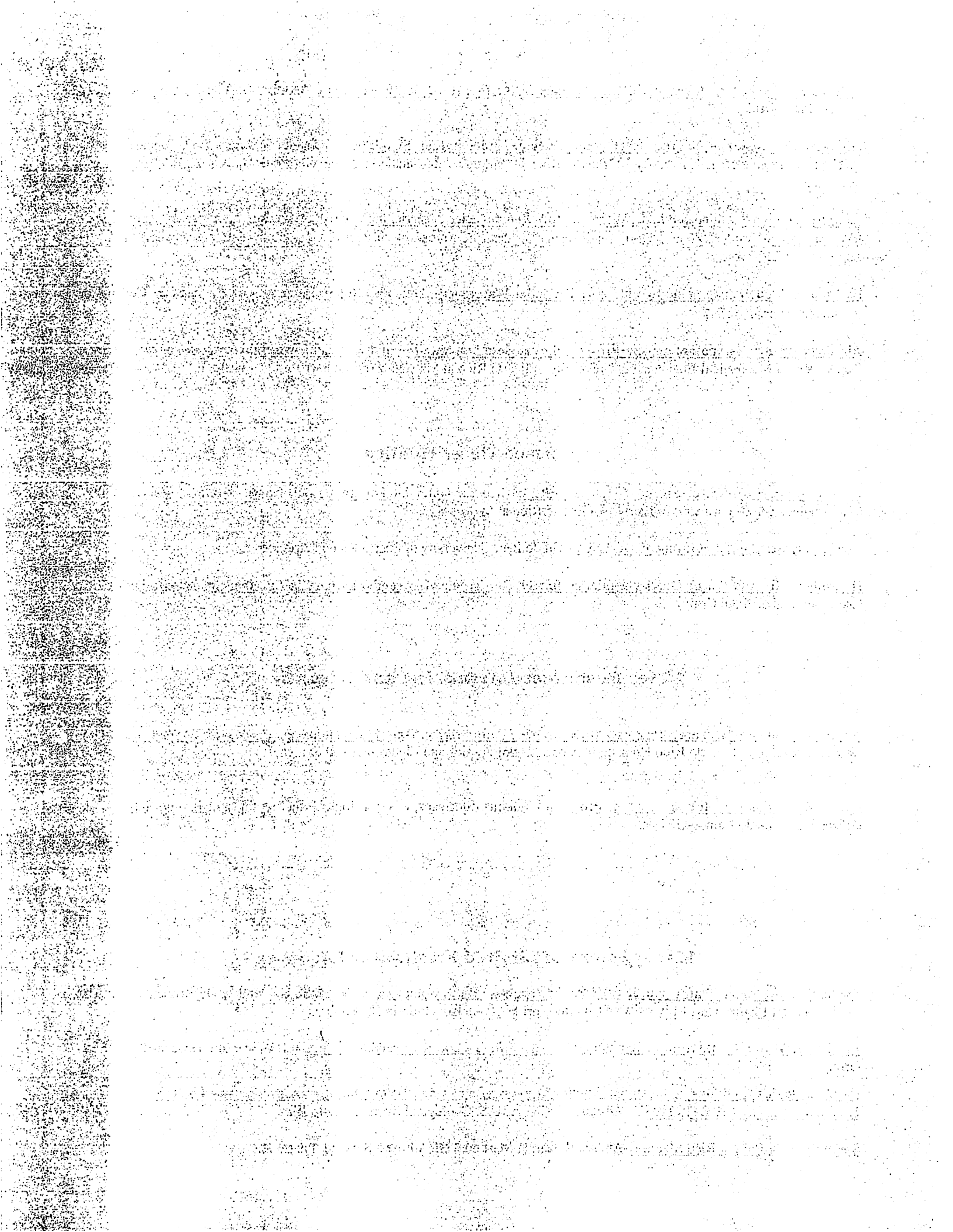
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