

Mr. Jean Pierre Oriol
Acting Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Coastal Zone Management Program

Dear Mr. Oriol,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed Coral Bay marina. Thank you, in advance, for your time.

As a sail charter operator in Coral Bay, I have the opportunity to hear daily accolades about our fine little slice of paradise, as expressed by tourists from all over the country. Every comment about this side of the island is positive and complimentary. And, each one usually includes the desire of being on the quiet side, and away from the 'busyness' of Cruz Bay. These folks 'choose' Coral Bay for good reason. This place is so special and unique as is, and that's the draw for so many visitors. There's really no other place like it, as I'm sure you know. I've met people who have been coming back to St. John, and Coral Bay for 30 years! The reasons are obvious. But, these same people came looking for what CB has to offer. I fear that most of them simply won't return, given the choice of the 'new' Coral Bay, or another wonderful paradise, which remains natural, in some other part of the world.

There seems to be this opinion that a Marina is 'needed' in Coral Bay. While a marina may be 'wanted', it certainly wouldn't be in the scale of what's currently on the table. There simply isn't enough demand for what may come. And, there surely isn't enough confidence in the proposed project, or trustworthiness coming from SEG. There are too many unanswered questions, and the group has all but alienated the people they need the most in order to succeed the Coral Bay locals. I literally cannot name one person who has been asked their opinion or thoughts about how this project may be welcomed, or what we may want out of a marina.

We all fear the worst, and it's due to the lack of transparency. And, we feel as though we have been left out of the process, and strongarmed into a future for Coral Bay that just won't work, rather than joining forces, and joining the community to build something that everyone wants, would last a lifetime, protect our waters and species, and serve the greater good of this fine community.

Coral Bay has done just fine for many, many years, and people just love it here. Surely, we can improve certain things, but let's not jump on the first train! Let's find something that really works, build it together as a community, and make it last for many more generations to enjoy.

Thanks again

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