

Mr. Jean Pierre Oriol

Acting Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Costal Zone Management Program

August 17, 2014

In regards to the Summers End Marina project proposal for Coral Bay St. John USVI: I have lived in the Virgin Islands 25 years, as a resident and property owner in Coral Bay for 14 of those years. It is my hope that this proposed marina development will not be allowed to proceed. The marine and land based detriments are overwhelming, with very few positive attributes.

I can greatly appreciate a need for a marine facility in the region. We have one of the larger live aboard sailing communities through the majority of the USVI and BVI. Building a safe and easily accessible docking area for loading and unloading supplies and people would be a boon for our harbor. With access to water, a pump out for holding tanks, easier trash disposal, and fuel in our small town of Coral Bay. Maybe a laundry mat, while I'm wishing.

Having been employed on day sail and term charter yachts for over 7 years, I have used many of the marinas in the territory. The plans proposed for Summers End Marina are nonrealistic. The economic benefits, as in new and plentiful jobs and business opportunities would be a wonderful addition to our community. For my particular field there would be little to no change. Charters boats are largely self-sufficient and the bigger they get the less they need. Other than some fuel and ice, and the majority of fuel is purchased at a larger and cheaper location. Their guests spend little, dining and drinking on board. Most often they are shopping for small and local types of crafts and clothing, business for high end shops would not be booming. You would only need to walk through Yacht Haven Grande in St. Thomas to realize that truth. As beautiful as that marina is, it is mostly empty for the majority of the year.

The 6 pax law for Charter Boats is also a drawback to attracting any new yachting business. That is why the majority of the large sail and power boats stay in the BVI, they can carry more that 6 guests. Keeping yachts "charter ready" requires a lot of cleaning. Meaning lots of fresh water and very harsh and toxic chemicals being washed into the bay on a daily basis. As well as accidental fuel and oil spills, exhaust fumes and continual grey water overflow, from air condition units and generators.

The majority of charter yachts only pull into dock when cleaning the boat and provisioning. All of my former guests want quiet secluded harbors with little to no light or noise pollution. Which is exactly what Summers End will bring to Coral Bay. From a nautical stand point the marina is unsafe, directly open to the trade winds and waves. The directional layout of the slips are counter to the waves. That would cause any boat secured in the slip to jerk and buck causing damage to boat and dock alike. Any minor storm would blow through the marina in a perilous way, with

choppy waves. I would not want to tie my livelihood, and cherished vessel to a potential "rock and a hard place".

From a land based outlook, the layout is egregious. Overly large, taking up the entirety of an open harbor, and creating an eyesore that the whole of the valley from Bordeaux Mountain to Sea Grape Hill and Eden can see. The construction will require years of constant overwhelming noise from pile drivers echoing around the bay. And should it unfortunately be built, light pollution that will ruin our night skies and clear views of rising moons and stars. The noise alone will disrupt sea life and nesting birds in the area. Coral Bay is the only location I have seen kingfishers in all of the USVI and BVI.

Over all our community is small, this marina proposal is huge. Why would bringing in fuel guzzling power yachts be better than our current environmental friendlier and self sufficient sailing society. Most of our population came to Coral Bay to escape the rat race. We commute to Cruz Bay for our Fuel and Laundry services, and some of those grocery necessities our small but helpful shopowners cannot provide.

Our local infrastructure is already at maximum capacity. Our roads are over taxed during high season from water deliveries running until 9 o'clock at night to concrete trucks zooming back and forth to the barge all week. During high season our garbage receptacles are full as well as our shops and restaurants. Our electric stays on more often than it goes out, compared to many years ago. But the cost of it is overwhelming the majority of businesses. Yes, we can use some improvements. This marina is not one of them.

Thank you for your time and consideration, may a Love of our Beautiful Virgins guide us all to an out come that is best for us all.

Sincerely,

Erin Scott