

Hello,

I have been visiting St. John since 2002. I am writing to oppose the Coral Bay Marina. The reason that I visit St. John is the total opposite of what you are proposing! I visit St. John for the national park, the beautiful beaches, and the overall laid back atmosphere AND the LACK OF fast food restaurants, shopping malls, and influx of people. If I am looking for those things, I can visit St. Thomas or other islands in the Caribbean, or stay in the states and visit these beaches.

St. John is serene and free of the commercialism that accompanies these other locations, and is the reason that I choose St. John as my vacation destination. Why are there no McDonalds, Walmarts, etc. on St. John? Because they are not wanted OR needed on this island. And, an upscale, high-end shopping plaza is most definitely not needed either!! How will this be helping the local businesses? It won't! It will destroy them! The lack of outlet shopping and chain stores is what makes this place so special. St. John is a place to get a way from everyday life. It's a place to come and relax!

When on island and shopping is desired, I visit Mongoose Junction and the Wharfside in Cruz Bay, and the area near Skinny Legs. What we are looking for when we shop are things that are made on St. John or t-shirts from the island. We are NOT looking for high-end items that can be purchased in the States or in St. Thomas. We want to support LOCAL businesses and residents!

Each time that I travel to St. John, we visit Coral Bay. We love the quiet nature of this side of the island. By developing a Marina such as that that is proposed, it would change the entire scope of the island. The draw of visitors to Coral Bay is the quiet and undisturbed landscape.

You will be doing a disservice to the residents and visitors of St. John by adding such an elaborate, upscale marina, shops and restaurants to this island. This is not what St. John visitors and residents are looking for - if they were, they would not live and vacation here!

If a marina is needed for boats, a small scale marina should suffice, and may even be a good idea. However, this proposed marina is NOT what is needed on this island. I have heard from many individuals, both residents and visitors, and not one of them is supporting this marina.

Isn't there a mega-yacht marina on St. Thomas that is underused? In addition, this size of this proposed project will most definitely cause irreparable damage to the ecosystem. This is a sensitive environmental area with sea grasses, mangroves and marine nurseries, etc. and should not be disturbed by such a large marina!!!! I hope that you will hear the voices of the many residents and visitors to St. John.

Please keep St. John free of commercialism, and let the beauty of this island prevail!

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

Laurie S.
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