

August 18, 2014

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

Re: Coral Bay Summers End Marina

Greetings, my name is Coral Breuning, a nineteen-year-old Coral Bay "boat kid" and resident since I was three. My parents chose Coral Bay to moor the boat because of its quiet and humble surroundings that offered simplistic resources to every boater. Coral Bay has grown since I got here, but in ways that have not significantly impacted the surrounding community. Development has been good and bad in the past, but in the end small shops and local businesses are what survive and thrive in Coral Bay.

Developments, especially one of such high monetary value, should be carefully designed. The current plan for the marina appears to be an uneducated one. Locating a marina in a place lacking protection from wind or waves will make docking unpleasurable and potentially unsafe for boaters. Coral Bay is at mercy of all weather and is especially vulnerable during tropical storms and hurricanes. This marina, lacking the protection it does, may easily become the victim of a hurricane.

The location of Summers End Marina is not the only flaw with this development. The sheer size and introduction of corporate stores will undoubtedly change the local economy and be harmful to established local businesses. The size of Summers End Marina will also greatly impact the wildlife and underwater habitat. Coral Bay is the home of a shark nursery as well as a resource for sea turtle nourishment and will be affected regardless of how far the docks extend. The presence of machinery and introduction of harmful chemicals will change the seafloor and wildlife resources forever.

The plan for the Summers End Marina breaks my heart. As a person who strongly considers moving home to raise a family, the exchange of an eye-sore for a beautiful site is discouraging. This marina will not only be a visual blemish, but a detriment to wildlife and ecological habitat. Please strongly consider the negative and lasting impact that Summers End Marina will have in our waters and our community.

Sincerely, Coral Breuning