

Mr. Jean Pierre Oriol
Acting Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Coastal Zone Management Program
(Delivered via email)

Dear Acting Commissioner Oriol,
August 16, 2014

Please add our names to the long list of St. John people that are very much against this proposed "Summers End" marina in Coral Bay.

The other letters address all of the problems with this project, from the inexperience of the developers, to the disastrous damage to the delicate ecosystem of Coral Bay, and much more.

We need to add our voices to these very real concerns.

We came to St. John more than 20 years ago because of the pristine, natural, beautiful environment. After visiting for years, we bought property on St. John.

We rent our home out to many people from all over the world, who come here for the exact same reason: the natural, beautiful environment, especially in Coral Bay.

These visitors come for the simple, low key, relaxed atmosphere of Coral Bay. When they call to rent our house, they specifically ask if it is quiet, serene, natural, and far away from Cruz Bay and other "developed" parts of the island.

They come to Coral Bay and spend money at the restaurants. They rent snorkel equipment there, and buy groceries, and go to the bars, and the delis, and the small shops.

When we started telling prospective renters that this marina was proposed, they were very concerned, and even said that they would no longer travel to St. John if this happened. St. John is known as "the jewel of the Caribbean" for a reason, if that is ruined, visitors will no longer come.

Large marinas all over the Caribbean, and the world have many vacancies, many people can no longer afford boating.

The infrastructure of Coral Bay CANNOT handle the traffic and water needs and sewage and garbage that this project would bring. The only road to Cruz Bay is already ruined, down to one lane, there is no way it can handle that sort of traffic. Right now the dumpsters overflow on a regular basis, the public works people cannot get to Coral Bay often enough. The presence of a development like this would stretch the already thin, minimal police presence in Coral Bay. Where will all the septic sewage go?

The mangroves where the project is proposed are crucial as a nursery for most of the marine life in Coral Bay, what will the environmental impact be there?

Coral Bay is not ready for a development of this scale. Just look at East End. Ten years ago, many dozens of upscale, serviced lots were carved out of the hills. To this day, only a handful of lots have been built on. This project will just become another Coral Bay "white elephant," along with the upscale Voyages restaurant, built almost 15 years ago, sitting derelict for years.

This project, in this huge scale, in Coral Bay, cannot happen. Try it in St. Thomas if they want, but not on St. John. Thank you,

Lois Wood and Doug Friesen
Estate Concordia
St. John, USVI