

August 15, 2014  
Mr. Jean Pierre Oriol  
Acting Commissioner  
Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources  
Coastal Zone Management program

Dear Mr. Oriol,

I am a resident of the Coral Bay Community, land owner, taxpayer, owner of a legally registered and moored boat, and parent. I am writing you to express my concerns of the proposed Summers End Group Marina Project in Coral Bay Harbor, St. John. I feel this project is a poor idea as the impact to the environment, economy and community of Coral Bay would be very unfavorable.

Coral Bay Harbor is a confined bay with little tidal flow and is open to the prevailing wind and seas. The harbor easily becomes rough with the slightest presence of high winds, let alone in a hurricane. Marinas, especially unprotected marinas as this one will be, will sustain a heavy beating from the wind and waves, and will not be a safe place for boats to stay in those conditions. The harbor has also been an area of environmental concern for many years now.

Putting 1000 plus pilings into the seabed and 149 slips will not help the already fragile seabed and surrounding area. Coral Bay is also surrounded by the protected areas of the Virgins Islands National Monument , the Virgin Islands National Park, and the endangered Mangroves which are at the outer edges of this proposed huge marina. These protected and beautiful areas are at risk in a development of this size and nature.

Construction of this huge project would not benefit the Coral Bay community. Many tourists come to Coral Bay because it is a quaint and quiet place with oceanside restaurants, boat charters, snorkeling, and shopping. Many residents, rental homeowners, and businesses rely on the current local tourism industry and small scale growth. The numerous years of construction needed to build this marina and develop the surrounding area will likely change the desire to come to Coral Bay.

Many local fishermen and local residents have boats in the bay and work in the surrounding area. The scope and scale of this marina may make it difficult for the local community to continue to keep their boats close to home. Will they still be able to afford to keep a boat in the bay and live in the community comfortably?

Currently, there is only one road leading into Coral Bay. This sole road is still trying to recover from landslides and erosion, a result from tropical storms and heavy rains years ago. Where will all the water come from to build and maintain this project? What will the additional traffic and construction vehicles do to our roads across the island? What will we do with all the waste from additional people and

business? We already are stretching our limits at the landfill and the need to find ways to sustainably deal with waste is perhaps a priority to any future development, especially of this scale.

Please take some time and think about the scale of this project. Many projects like this have not been successful on St. John. The possibility of an unfinished project or hurricane damaged marina may negatively impact the future of Coral Bay. Development is inevitable, but large developments like Summers End Group Marina Project are not constructed with educated designs, nor with the consideration of the sensitive ecological environment and community. In the best interest of the future of this special island in paradise, please do not approve SEG marina.

Sincerely,

Martha Hollander