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St John, VI 00830
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Mr. Jean Pierre Oriol
Acting Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Coastal Zone Management Program

Dear Mr. Oriol,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Summers End Group proposal for a marina to be built in Coral Bay. I have lived on a legally registered, legally moored boat for the entire twelve years I have been in coral bay. I have worn many hats through out my time on St John. I moved here to teach at Pine Peace School, which I did for two years. I then moved on to waitress at Skinny Legs. For several years after I worked on a 70 foot private yacht. I hold a USCG 100T Masters. I am currently employed in villa maintenance. Most importantly I raised a child on my boat, and he considers Coral Bay his home, and its residents his family. I have also been very active in the community on a volunteer basis. I taught Kids And The Sea for many years; I have been the Vice Commodore of the Coral Bay Yacht Club, whose primary reason for being is raising funds for the Guy Benjamin School and KATS, for the past nine years. Although this may seem to be a lengthy biography for a letter of protest, I believe that my history in Coral Bay provides me with fodder to speak against this marina proposal from many angles.

As a liveaboard and recreational boater in Coral Bay I must speak to the negative environmental and social impact this marina would have on the community. On a daily basis I am surrounded by wildlife. I see turtles, sharks, fry, boobies, seagulls, heron, cranes and even the occasional ray or dolphin. Coral bay is their sanctuary and SEG wishes to deny them this habitat. Our wildlife will not survive the construction phase of this marina, let alone its use. Coral Bay is one of the most supportive and caring places I have ever lived. As a community we stick together, take care of each other and support each other in times of need. The SEG marina would change this environment drastically. Displacing the boaters would remove a very integral part of the community-and they would leave! None of us can afford slip fees, we live on boats because it is economically viable.

Given my experience in the hospitality industry with both tourists, property managers and villa owners, I believe that I can speak to the economic impact this marina will have on Coral Bay. Almost every tourist I have had the pleasure to converse with, thousands of conversations, has expounded on their reasons for loving Coral Bay, all of which focused on the natural beauty, funky laid back pace, and community-all of which would be destroyed by SEG's marina. For property managers and villa owners this project is seen primarily as a huge problem. Renters will not come to Coral Bay if the valley is consumed with construction noise,

concrete trucks, etc. Villa owners relish their current view and do not want to look down on a monstrosity which takes up two thirds of the bay. Although the proposal may provide some economic stimulus though the construction phase, it will take away far more from the existing economy throughout the entire process.

I have spent most of my life sailing, and a quarter of my life living aboard a boat. As a licensed captain I can see many reasons why this proposal is not viable. First, it is located on the seaward side of the bay, which makes it susceptible to even the tamest storm and storm surge. Please note pictures submitted by other sources of the roadside after hurricanes Marilyn and Hugo. Having spent many years in marinas working on boats, I can attest to the fact that no matter how good peoples intentions are, marinas are inherently bad for the marine environment. Fuel fills invariably overflow, exhaust is unavoidable, wash downs put detergent into the water, etc. Another VERY important point to mention is that none of the existing surrounding marinas are thriving-none are at capacity and many original businesses have already pulled out- see Yacht Haven Grand and Scrub Island. Has no market research been done?

Lastly, as a mother who raised a child here I am appalled that any group would come into a community and ruin what generations have enjoyed for the sake of a few million dollars profit.

I hope that CZM recognizes the value of Coral Bay's natural beauty as it is and votes against this proposal. If not the fight is not over. We will not allow a few to line their pockets at the expense of an entire functioning community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathrine S. O'Neill, M.Ed.