

Mr. Jean Pierre Oriol, Acting Commissioner,  
Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources  
Coastal Zone Management Program  
Re: Summers End Marina Proposal  
Good Day Mr. Oriol,

I am a fulltime Coral Bay resident. I was first employed on St. John by the Maho Bay Eco Resort. Currently, I run a small sailing charter out of the Coral Bay Harbor. I offer day sails for up to 6 people. A day trip consists of a peaceful sail around the natural bays of the area, a snorkel stop at one of the area's many pristine reefs, a homemade lunch, and a nice quiet sail back to the harbor. My company is extremely eco conscious, as I am powered by the wind, I do not use disposable plastic cups and plates, nor do I serve water in disposable plastic bottles. Snorkelers are fully informed about the delicate reef system, encouraged to ditch their sunblock in favor of reefsafe sun shirts, and instructed to respect all sea life while in the water.

I am writing to express my concerns for the proposed application to build a multi-phase marina in Coral Bay by the Summers End Group. I do not believe the developers have in mind the best interest of our community. Many property owners in our community make their income with rental villas. The vacationers that stay in these villas come to Coral Bay for a slower pace, quietness, natural beauty, and local charm. The construction of a large marina will drive these vacationers away, and leave members of our community unable to rent their villas. The noise of construction truck traffic will be a nuisance to vacationers and fulltime residents alike.

The developers also do not have in mind the best interest of the island's fragile eco system. St. John consists of over 68% national park. This is something that all residents of St. John are extremely proud of. The national park is the main reason why we have tourism here in the first place. The addition of a large marina is an immense negative contrast to what St. John is all about. The Coral Reef National Monument was established in order to seek greater protection to the sensitive coral reef in this area. The Coral Reef National Monument supports an amazingly complex and diverse array of coral reef life, which also depends on adjacent noncoral marine environments such as mangroves, sea grass beds, sandy ocean bottoms, and shoreline environment. A development the size of which the Summers End Group is proposing would have tremendous negative consequences upon this unique and protected area. Think of the noise pollution from boat traffic and construction; the light pollution; the oil, gas, and diesel spills; the increased activity by tourists on and around protected areas that will stir up sediment and damage growing coral; the increased toxic runoff from the roads due to more traffic in the area; The dangers to sea life from more litter in the harbor (plastic bags in particular). What studies have been done to ensure that this development would in no way impact this delicate eco system? Research of that kind would take years, if not decades, to determine the harm that could come to this area. The proximity of the proposed marina is simply

too close to the protected areas of the national monument. It is simply impossible to think a development of this scale would NOT destroy St. John's fragile and protected areas. Without our national park and national monument, what would St. John be?

The lack of any sort of recycling on this island is also something to be considered. What will we do with all the trash that is created by the proposed marina? Add it to our transfer station? Hope that it will be carried away to St. Thomas? What will they do with it? We have a serious problem in the Virgin Islands with the way we handle trash. This development will only add to this existing problem. Without proposing a serious solution to the absence of recycling and problems with trash disposal in all of the Virgin Islands, the Summers End Group is clearly demonstrating their lack of concern for our environment.

I appreciate the time you have taken to read my concerns, and I hope they are given much consideration in your decisions over the proposed marina plans.

Sincerely,

Kim Sammartano  
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St. John, VI 00830