

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

Dear Mr. Oriol,

I am a former 7year resident of the beautiful island of St. John, USVI. For those years, my husband and I both enjoyed serving the St. John community as health care workers as well as service workers. We feel forever a part of the St. John "family" and we frequently return for vacation and to see friends and family still on island. One of my favorite spots is Coral Bay, as it is a welcomed getaway from the "bustle" and development of Cruz Bay. I respect the livelihoods and futures of all St. Johnians and believe thoughtful and responsible development and progress would be very beneficial for St. John and its inhabitants. I value the vital and sensitive coral reefs, fishes and animals that also call this wonderful Bay their home. I want to see the island's majesty preserved for future generations of residents as well as visitors to the USVI.

I am writing to you today because I am deeply concerned about the preposterous, multi stage development project being proposed by Summer's End Group (SEG). I am concerned whether due diligence has been done on the backgrounds and qualifications of these individuals to undertake a task of this enormity as well as the undeniable negative effects this construction will have on the delicate environment of Coral Bay flora and fauna. NOAA has released several recent, pertinent reports on the effects of development on these sensitive reef environments, and specifically in Coral Bay. Has the CZM reviewed and given credence to these scientific reports when considering approval of this project?

How will the SEG project actually benefit the economy of St. John and the livelihood of its residents vs. enriching the coffers of few? How do you ensure it will no go the way of other failed endeavours of smaller scale that have failed miserably on St. John (Sirenusa, Pond Bay), resulting in huge losses of promised revenues, environmental devastation and St. Johnians left "holding the bag" shall we say. People come to St. John for the preserved beauty and natural integrity of the island, which is unlike most other destinations in the area, not to see a landscape peppered and ruined with abandoned skeletons of projects gone horribly wrong. What will the price be of losing that appeal? How much will it cost to mitigate the damage that is done to the environment just in the course of constructing this behemoth? And who's going to pay for that? Once the damage is done it will be mostly irreversible.

I am not against a reasonable marina and possibly small customs presence in Coral Bay (I have wanted this for years) that will serve island residents, the local boating community, as well as visitors while protecting and preserving the delicate ecosystems. However, the scope and breadth of this Summer's End project does not fit or resonate at all with the rhythm of the island, especially quaint Coral Bay, nor

does it fill a need in a sensible, restrained and respectful manner. Does Coral Bay need an economic shot in the arm? Sure! Does it need to be overrun by mega yachts, gated communities and high end luxury stores (don't we have those in Cruz Bay already) by a group of individuals who have little no proven success in this arena? Arguably, not.

Also, Coral Bay is also not a well sheltered bay, thus not an ideal location for a marina of this sizethe proposed amount of boardwalk could very possibly be overwhelmed, if not devastated, by even a smaller strength hurricane in that location. How do the developers propose to mitigate this potential? Has the CZM really considered all the angles and questions as well as thoroughly vetted those they are dealing with on this endeavour? To whom they are entrusting the very life and soul of such a vital and precious resource in the Caribbean? I sincerely hope so. In essence, I am not requesting that no development be done. I simply request that common sense and restraint will prevail—the life of this Bay and the livelihoods of all it serves depends on it.

I thank you for your attention to those of us who respectfully and passionately are opposed to the Summer's End Group's planned over development of Coral Bay.

Sincerely,

Kelly Straub, RN, BSN, MBA