

APPENDIX F

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

APPENDIX F-1

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION LIST, NEWSLETTER, AND NEWS RELEASE OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

Newsletter Distribution List

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Louis Petersen	UVI Coop. Extension Service	#2 John Brewer's Bay	St. Thomas	VI	00802-9990
Toni Thomas	UVI Coop. Extension Service	#2 John Brewer's Bay	St. Thomas	VI	00802-9990
Carlos Robles	UVI Coop. Extension Service	#2 John Brewers Bay	St. Thomas	VI	00802
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The Honorable Charles Turnbull		1105 King Street Gov't House Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
Mr. Gregory Francis	Office of the Governor	1105 King Street Gov't House Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
The Honorable Vargrave Richards		1105 King Street Gov't House Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
Brinsley Burbidge	St. George Village Botanical Garden of St. Croix	127 Est St. George Frederiksted	St. Croix	VI	00840
The Honorable Gail Norton		1849 C Street, NW, MS 7229	Washington	DC	20240
Sinclair Williams	Housing, Parks & Recreation	3000 LBJ Gardens	Christiansted	VI	00820
Mr. Frank Fox	St. Croix Chamber of Commerce	3009 Orange Grove #12 Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
Mr. Freddy Morales	U.S. District Court	3013 Golden Rock Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
The Honorable George W. Cannon, Jr.	U.S. Magistrate Judge	3013 Golden Rock Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
The Honorable Ramond Finch	U.S. District Court	3013 Golden Rock Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
Richard Gideon	The Nature Conservancy	3052 Estate Princess, P.O. Box 1066 Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
Stefanie Wear	The Nature Conservancy	3052 Estate Princess, P.O. Box 1066 Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
Ferdinand Abraham	Ferdi's Forest	4008 Dolby Hill Rd Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820-5100
Major General Cleave A. McBean	Virgin Islands National Guard	4031 La Grande Princesse Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820-4353
Mr. Wendall Snyder	St. Croix Hotel Association	4131 La Grande Princesse Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
Peter Carbon	Anti Litter and Beautification Greenhouse Program	45 King Street Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820-4909

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Mr. Rudy O'Reilly	USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service	5030 Anchor Way, Suite 2 Gallows Bay, Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820-4692
Valimy Thomas	United Sporting Goods	6 AB West Lane Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
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Bruce Potter	Island Resources Foundation	6292 Estate Nazareth #100	St. Thomas	VI	00802
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Errol Chichester	VI Dept of Agriculture	Estate Lower Love	Kingshill	VI	00850
Stafford Crossman	VI Dept of Agriculture	Estate Lower Love	Kingshill	VI	00850
Mr. Don Ceiner	Christiansted Retail and Restaurant Association	P.O. 223013 Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820

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Marcia Taylor	University of the Virgin Islands Virgin Island Marine Advisory Service	P.O. Box 10,000	Kingshill	VI	00850
Mr. Robert Weery	Nature Conservancy, V.I. Program Eastern Caribbean Program Office	3052 Estate Little Princess Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00820
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Mrs. Marianne Hazelwood	Hotel on the Cay	P.O. Box 223329 Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00822
Mr. Sweeney Toussaint	St. Croix Safari Tours	P.O. Box 24058 Gallows Bay Station		VI	00824
Mr. Earl Powell	King Christian Hotel	P.O. Box 24467 Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00824-4067
Mr. Larry Angus	St. Croix Marine, Inc.	P.O. Box 24730, GBS Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00824
Ms. Elizabeth Armstrong	The Buccaneer Hotel	P.O. Box 25200, GBS Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00824
Mr. Carl Punzenberger	Dragon Fly	P.O. Box 25273, GBS Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00824
Mr. Heinz Punzenberger	Teroro Charter	P.O. Box 25273, GBS Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00824
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Ms. Mary Mingus	Women's Coalition of St. Croix	P.O. Box 2734 Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00822
Ms. Clema Lewis	Women's Coalition of St. Croix	P.O. Box 2734 Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00822
Mr. Lwellyn Westerman	Charis	P.O. Box 2908 Christiansted	St. Croix	VI	00821
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	Shady Lane Nursery	PO Box 24656	St. Croix	VI	00824
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Hon. Franz Christian	Department of Public Safety	Patrick Sweeney Headquarters, RR-02 Kingshill	St. Croix	VI	00850
Mr. Michael Clarke	Federal Bureau of Investigation	Al Cohen Plaza, #6 Rapune Hill, Bld. 1. Suite 104	St. Thomas	VI	00802
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Rev. Father Wilfred Daniels	St. John's Anglican Church	P.O. Box 486	Christiansted	VI	00821
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Mr. Novelle Francis Jr.	Department of Public Safety	Patrick Sweeney Headquarters, RR-02 Kingshill	St. Croix	VI	00850
Art Frederick	Virgin Islands National Park, Coral Reef National Monument	1300 Cruz Bay Creek	St. John	VI	00830
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Capt. & Mrs. Gordon MacDonald		Isla San Miguel 340 Harbour Dr. #73	Humacao	PR	00791
Christopher & Marie Arndt		P.O. Box 4325	San Clemente	CA	92674
Adele and John Burkhart		PMB 153, 4093 Diamond Ruby	Christiansted	VI	00820
Frances & David Hennessey		P.O. Box 1411	Gloucester	MA	01030
Paul & Nancy Silverberg		152 Linden Lane	Princeton	NJ	08540
	Guava Investments LLC	600 South Cherry St. Suite 920	Denver	CO	80246
Paul & Jean Lange		4588 Sunshine Canyon Dr.	Boulder	CO	80302
John & Anna Moore		11 St. Andrus Ct. Thornhill	Ontario	Canada	L3T2N3
Tom and Shirley Ziegler		250 Hops Hill Rd.	Glasgow	VA	24555
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Jacqueline Bunn		188 Cherry Valley Rd.	Princeton	NJ	08540
Janet & Roger Rothwell		3993 Courthouse Rd.	Palmyna	VA	22963
Cathy & Gary Mares		9585 Estate Cottage	Christiansted	VI	00820
Emy Thomas		9003 Salt River	Christiansted	VI	00820
Kerstin & Jeffrey Buckley		P.O. Box 32	Christiansted	VI	00821
Holly & Russel Herold		P.O. Box 24344	Christiansted	VI	00824
Christina Anderson		5018 Tipperary, Lot 45	Christiansted	VI	00820
Robert Armstrong	The Buccaneer Hotel	P.O. Box 25200, GBS	Christiansted	VI	00824
Julie Beberman	US District Courts	3010 Estate Golden Rock	St. Croix	VI	00822
Carl Beckstedt		5018 Cotton Valley Shores	Christiansted, St. Croix	VI	00820
Mr. Jerry Belson	National Park Service	Atlanta Federal Center, 1924 Bld., 100 Alabama St., SW	Atlanta	GA	30303
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John Ellis		Box 24492	Christiansted	VI	00824
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Carlos Farchette		24651 GBS	Christiansted	VI	00824
Luis Flores		P.O. Box 772 Kingshill Post Office	St. Croix	USVI	00851
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Nancy Graff		PO Box 5998	Christiansted, St. Croix	VI	00823
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Earl Haase		5024 Cotton Valley	Christiansted	VI	00820

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Chris hanley		52 King Street	Christiansted	VI	00820
Elroy D. Harrison		102 Hermon Hill	St.Croix	VI	
Joe Hollins	Tip Top Construction	5064 Mount Welcome	Christiansted	VI	00820-4672
Mr. and Mrs. Troy Holloway		P.O. Box 1509	Christiansted	VI	00821
The Hon. G. Luz James		1105 King Street Gov't House	Christiansted	VI	00821
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Conrad Knowles		P.O. Box 1059 45 Mars Hill	Frederiksted	VI	00841
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Elleton Maynard		P.O. Box 7932	Sunny Isles, St. Croix	VI	00823
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Mary Mingus	Women's Coalition of St. Croix	P.O. Box 2734	Christiansted	VI	00822
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Jim Nealon		P.O. Box 2477	Christiansted	VI	00824
Michelle Pagh		PO Box 4254	Christiansted, St. Croix	USVI	00824
Mr. and Mrs. Leif Petersen		6077 Queste Verde	Christiansted	VI	00820
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Prosser		P.O. Box 1730	Christiansted	VI	00821
Hon. Jeffrey Resnick	U.S. District Court	3013 Golden Rock	Christiansted, St. Croix	VI	00820
Roger Richard		P.O. Box 25930	Christiansted	VI	00824
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Mrs. Anne S. Rymsha	Rotary of St. Croix	4018 Judith's Fancy	Christiansted	VI	00820
Chris Schreiber		9013 Estate hope	Christiansted	VI	00820
Margarita Hutchinson and Dan Odell	Birds of Paradise	4027 Hermon Hill	Christiansted	USVI	00820

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Richard Starr		P.O. Box 24907	St.Croix	VI	00824
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Sandra R. Tate	Island Resource Foundation	Estate Nazareth #100	St. Thomas	VI	802
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Dave Watterson		9301 Estate Blessing	Christiansted	VI	00820
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Kin Zehender		5072 Flamboyant Welcome	Christinasted, St. Croix	VI	00820
	Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation	LBJ Gardens	Christiansted	VI	00820
	Department of Planning & Natural Resources, CZMP	Cyril E. King Airport, 2nd Floor, Terminal	St. Thomas	VI	00802
	Hovensa	1 Estate Hope	Christiansted	VI	820
	National Park Conservation Association	1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 300	Washington	DC	20036
	Seaborne Seaplane Adventures	34 Strand St.	St. Croix	VI	820
	St. Croix Hotel and Tourism Association	24238 P.O. Box	Gallows Bay, St. Croix	VI	00824
	St. Croix Marina	Gallows Bay	St. Croix	VI	820
	St. Croix Yacht Club	5100 Teague Bay	St. Croix	VI	820
The Honorable Pedro Encarnacion	Legislature of the Virgin Islands	#1 Lagoon Street Complex	Frederiksted	St. Croix	00840
The Honorable Juan Figueroa-Serville	Legislature of the Virgin Islands	#1 Lagoon Street Complex	Frederiksted	St. Croix	00840
The Honorable Neville A. James	Legislature of the Virgin Islands	#1 Lagoon Street Complex	Frederiksted	St. Croix	00840
The Honorable Norman Jn Baptiste	Legislature of the Virgin Islands	#1 Lagoon Street Complex	Frederiksted	St. Croix	00840
The Honorable Terrence Nelson	Legislature of the Virgin Islands	#1 Lagoon Street Complex	Frederiksted	St. Croix	00840
The Honorable Usie R. Richards	Legislature of the Virgin Islands	#1 Lagoon Street Complex	Frederiksted	St. Croix	00840
The Honorable Ronald E. Russell	Legislature of the Virgin Islands	#1 Lagoon Street Complex	Frederiksted	St. Croix	00840



Environmental Assessment Scoping Newsletter

Proposed Marine Research and Education Center, and Abandoned Hotel Demolition, Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Joint Institute for Caribbean Marine Studies (JICMS) are developing plans for a proposed Marine Research and Education Center (MREC) at Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve (SARI), St. Croix, VI. The NPS is also planning to demolish and remove the abandoned hotel structure and return the hotel area to a more natural condition. Our plans are in the early stages of development. This newsletter is being distributed to our partners, neighbors, and stakeholders to inform them of the development of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for these projects.

Salt River Bay a Living Museum

Salt River Bay contains prehistoric and colonial-era archeological sites and ruins that are found in a dynamic, tropical ecosystem that supports threatened and endangered species. In 1992 Congress created Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve as part of the National Park System.

Salt River Bay contains one of the most important and complex archaeological sites in the U.S. Virgin Islands. This area has witnessed thousands of years of human endeavor. Every major period of human habitation in the Virgin Islands is represented including South American



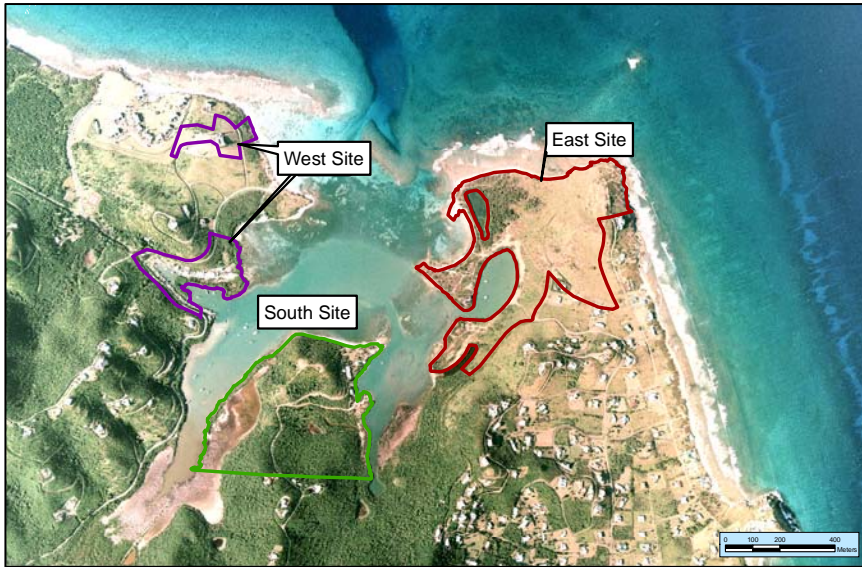
Indian cultures, an encounter with Columbus, Spanish extermination of the Caribs, attempts at colonization by a succession of European nations, and enslaved West Africans and their descendents.

Perhaps nowhere else in the Caribbean does a protected natural area exhibit so many of this region's important ecological relationships in so small an area. Here an upland watershed feeds into a bay fringed with mangroves and coral reefs. The mouth of the bay, with its undersea canyon and coral covered walls, opens to the sea, which falls away into the deep Virgin Islands Trough. The water acreage of the park was also designated as a National Natural Landmark (1980) that is home to 27 species that have

been listed as rare, threatened, or endangered.

Mangrove Forests - Salt River Bay is fringed by mangrove forests, creating a habitat that plays a critical role where land and sea meet. Mangroves in Triton and Sugar bays are still recovering from Hurricane Hugo (1989). Restoration is underway for red mangroves in Salt River Bay, which held (before Hugo) the last major natural mangrove stand set in an estuary in the Virgin Islands.

Terrestrial Uplands to Estuarine Bay - Salt River Bay includes an estuary, where fresh and salt waters mix. The diverse terrestrial environment is dominated by shrub land and much of the flora is adapted to dry conditions. This dynamic relationship between land and bay is ecologically important.



Proposed alternative locations for the Marine Research and Education Center.

The survival of the local fishery, for example, may depend on preserving healthy natural conditions both inside and outside Salt River Bay. Endangered hawksbill turtles feed and sleep along the coral canyon walls. Snappers and grunts hide among coral reefs by day and feed at night in seagrass beds. Threatened green sea turtles and queen conch thrive on turtle grasses.

Coral Reef - Coral Reefs have built up in the Caribbean over the past 13,000 years. Coral reefs are in decline in most parts of the world, so their well-being is of paramount concern not only locally but regionally and globally.

More than 400 species of reef fish are known in near-shore waters. Coral reefs, may support one-third of all fish species globally and possibly a total of a half-million animal species.

Park Activities

Currently there are limited commercial visitor services authorized by the NPS at SARI. The park is still in the developmental stage. The Visitor Contact Station opened

for operation in January 2006 and is currently open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 to 4 pm. It offers a bookstore and interpretative talks. Food, lodging, and other services are available in Christiansted, Frederiksted, and at other island locations. The park is five miles from Christiansted National Historic Site and can be reached by car via Rt. 75 from Christiansted, connecting to Rt. 80.

Project Description

This project consists of two components: a proposed Marine Research and Education Center (MREC) and the demolition of an abandoned hotel structure. Three alternative locations for the MREC have been proposed:

- East Site, located west of Estate Judith's Fancy;
- South Site, location of the former NOAA Undersea Research Center; and
- West Site, includes the NPS Visitor Contact Station and the Salt River Marina.

The MREC would include several structures: main building (i.e., offices, classrooms, teaching labs, conference rooms, and library) education center

(main hall, theater, lecture hall), dormitories, cafeteria, staff housing, maintenance building, wet laboratory, and marine operations facilities. The MREC facilities would affect less than 4 acres of land at the park, excluding roads.

This project also proposes the demolition of the abandoned hotel structure located on the east side of Salt River Bay. The hotel structure was part of a development project started in the late 1960s that was never completed. Currently the structure is deteriorating and presents a safety and environmental concern for the park. The park proposes to remove the entire structure, reuse and recycle as much of the material as possible, and return the site to a more natural condition.



Abandoned hotel structure

Purpose of the Project

At one time the park's reef and hard bottom habitats in the canyon were among the most extensively studied and characterized coral structures in the world. However, since the closing of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Undersea Research Center in Salt River Bay, this is no longer the case. Reefs that fall within the boundaries of the park but are outside of the canyon itself are currently monitored by the University of Virgin Islands (UVI) Seagrass Program and the V.I. Department of Planning and



Natural Resources (DPNR); however, with limited funds and resources. The seagrass and algae communities which were also studied by the NOAA facility researchers receive limited monitoring by DPNR Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and Division of Environmental Protection (DEP). These communities are of increasing concern due to water quality issues in the bay.

There are concerns for the future of coral reef ecosystems in the Caribbean region. Although there are over 4.2 million acres of coral reef submerged lands under U. S. jurisdiction, few have been properly studied to assess their overall health, and evidence is overwhelming that coral reefs and associated ecosystems are deteriorating at a rapid rate throughout the world.

Additionally, the island has a rich coral reef research history. Extensive research was conducted from 1970-1989 at the former West Indies Laboratory on the eastern end of the island and at the NOAA Undersea Research Center based at Salt River Bay. Presently, NOAA-CREWS meteorological and oceanographic monitoring



platform has been moored at Salt River Bay since 2002 and is collecting physical and biological data as part of NOAA's International Coral Health and Monitoring Program.

SARI is considered the ideal location for the MREC. The 1,015-acre park is jointly managed by the NPS and the Government of the Virgin Islands whose goal is to preserve the area and promote the study of the unique resources associated with the park. SARI provides a diverse ecosystem for study by representing the "Ridge to Reef" concept. Its location facilitates the MREC operation logistics providing easy access to the nearby resources.

NEPA Process

The NPS must follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 to assure consideration of important environmental issues. The proposed MREC and hotel demolition that are being considered at SARI will be analyzed through the NEPA process.

As part of the NEPA process, the proposed MREC and hotel demolition will be evaluated in an Environmental Assessment, which will analyze the potential environmental effects of the

proposed MREC and hotel demolition. This analysis will consider impacts to topics such as mangroves; floodplains; wetlands; seagrasses; rare, threatened, and endangered species; air and water quality; and cultural resources.

Public Meeting and Comments

There will be a public meeting held on Tuesday, August 22, 2006 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Christiansted National Historic Site located at the Guinea Company Warehouse (old post office building) 2100 Church St., #100, Christiansted, VI. The public meeting is open to everyone and will provide opportunities to learn more about the project.

Please tell us what you think. Use the enclosed response card to provide us with your comments. Simply fold and staple or tape the completed card and drop it in the mailbox. We would appreciate your comments by September 20, 2006 to be considered in this phase of the planning process. You will have additional opportunities to comment on the alternatives as we continue the planning process. The EA will be made available to the public for review.

Photo Source: NPS



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve News Release

Release Date 08/01/06

For Immediate Release

Joel A. Tutein, Superintendent

340-773-1460

Public Meeting Environmental Assessment

The National Park Service will conduct a Public Meeting associated with the upcoming Environmental Assessment for a proposed Marine Research and Education Center, and for the demolition of an abandoned hotel at Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, St. Croix, VI. The purpose of the project is to develop a Marine Research and Education Center within the park boundaries, and to demolish and remove an abandoned hotel structure that poses a safety and environmental concern to the park. The two proposed actions, development of a Marine Research and Education Center and restoration of the abandoned hotel site will benefit the island community for years to come by providing additional educational and job opportunities, and by providing a better understanding of our natural and cultural resources.

Concerns about the state of coral reef ecosystems in the Caribbean and elsewhere in the world has led to the formation of a partnership between the U.S. Department of Interior, through the National Park Service and the Office of Insular Affairs, and the Joint Institute for Caribbean Marine Studies (JICMS). JICMS is a university-based organization consisting of four initial university members. The goal of this team is to re-establish a Marine Research and Educational Center on the island of St. Croix. We encourage all interested citizens to come to the meeting and share their views with the team. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2006 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Christiansted National Historic Site located at the Guinea Company Warehouse (old post office building) 2100 Church Street, #100, Christiansted, VI. The public meeting is open to everyone and will provide opportunities to learn more about the project, ask questions, and interact with the project team.

Written comments and other information relevant to the proposed project may be submitted at the meeting, or by mail to:

Joel A. Tutein, Superintendent
Christiansted National Historic Site
2100 Church Street, #100
Christiansted, VI 00820-4611

-NPS-

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

APPENDIX F-2

LIST OF ATTENDEES FROM THE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENTS



Marine Research and Education Center and Hotel Demolition – Environmental Assessment Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Name/Organization	Address	Phone	Email
BRUCE TILDEN SHAD	199 STRAND, FISTER	772-2021	brucetilden@yahoo.com
CONRAD E. KNOWLES	BOX 1059 KINGS HILL STX	773-1082 X2204	CONRAD.KNOWLES@VICZM.P.COM
Emily Thomas	9003 Salt River ^{LISTED 00820}	778-1952	emyl@viacross.net
Russ & HOLLY HEROLD	9025 SALT RIVER 2	773-8214	RUSSE@inspectorherold.com
J.H. ISHERWOOD	139 JUDITH'S FANC	773-3800	ISHERWOOD@ISHERWOODLAW.COM
Stephen K. Cohen	5092 TIDE VILLAGE	773-9334	stephenkcohen@hotmail.com
DAVID HAYES	P.O. BOX 2762 KINGS HILL	773-9597	DAVID_HAYES_STX@YAHOO.COM
ERNEST CHAPPELLE	4003 JUDITH'S FANC ^{LISTED 00820}	773-9607	echappelle@islands.vi
Kelly Culp	9017 Salt River	514-3620	kgreer@gx.net
KEVIN CULP	"	514-5418	KCULP@GX.NET
MRS EUGENE A. CAPEGATA	4031 Lagrande Princeps ^{LISTED}	712-7771	eugene.capegata@si-ngb.org

-NPS-



Marine Research and Education Center and Hotel Demolition – Environmental Assessment Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Name/Organization	Address	Phone	Email
ROBERT VAUGHAN	BOX 1122, C'ST	778-8465	ROBERTVAUGHANSTX@GMAIL.COM
Brenda Esherwood	1138 King St. #209	773-8570	isherwood@vititle.com
CHRISTIA	P.O. Box 2508 KH 00851	778-3270	N/A
Michelle Page	P.O. Box 4254 C'ST	773-3307	liveexp@uaccess.net
Laverne Lauster	UVE #2 John Brumby STT	643-1000	l-lauster@uvi.edu
Tracy Lynch Bhole	P.O. Box 3587 00851	773-2129	Salt River HAA
JOHN FARCHETTE	26574 Gallows Bay, St. John, VI 00821	713-1369	Jfarchetteiii@yahoo.com
Betsy Farchette	26574 C'Sted, VI 00851	713-1369	efarchette@yphoo.com
Mr + Mrs Donna Christensen	Delegate to Congress		

-NPS-

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands



Marine Research and Education Center and Hotel Demolition – Environmental Assessment Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Name/Organization	Address	Phone	Email
<i>Clifford E. Crooke</i> VI Guard		712-7722	<i>clifford.e.crooke@vi.ngb.army.mil</i>
<i>Marcelle E. Heywood</i>		712-7757	<i>marcelle.heywood@vi.ngb.army.mil</i>
<i>James Thomson</i>		773-0263	<i>thomsonj@persnsworld.net</i>
MICHAEL A. EVANS - USFWS	FED. BLDG. C'STD	773-4554	<i>michael.evans@fws.gov</i>

-NPS-

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Public Scoping Newsletter – July 2006



Name (Please Print): Bill Rohring

Title: Assistant Director

Company/Organization: DPNR-CZM

Address: CE King Airport Terminal Bldg, Fl. 2, St. Thomas, VI 00802

Telephone Number: 340.774.3320 X5107 Fax Number: 340.714.9524

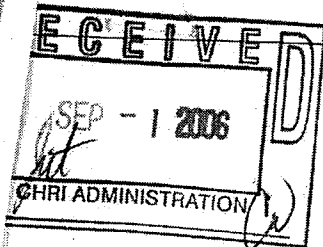
E-mail Address: bill.rohring@viczmp.com

Comments/Suggestions: Continued involvement, that was highlighted
by NPS personnel being on the St. Croix East End Marine Park
Advisory Committee, with local government actions and
activities. Especially concerning scientific research, water
quality monitoring and ~~the~~ cross-training opportunities
between the local government & NPS staff.

Please check box if you would like to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment



Please return comment cards by September 20, 2006



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM



Public Scoping Meeting for
Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
Environmental Assessment
Proposed Marine Research and Education Center
and Abandoned Hotel Demolition
August 22, 2006

Name (Please Print): J. H. Isherwood
Title: _____
Company/Organization: _____
Address: 1138 King Street, Christiansted, VI 00820
Telephone Number: 340-773-3900 E-mail Address: _____
Comments/Suggestions: _____

Clearly the best place to build the National Park Service facility is at Trident Bay which is the proposed southern location if this property becomes available.

This property has excellent road access and because it is located on a point it has naturally good security because of this location. It is also bordered on both sides by mangrove and ecologically significant wetlands.

The acquisition of this property and sensitive development by the Park service would be a keystone of the Salt River Park development.

Development of the service facility at the Judith's Fancy location creates a multitude of security issues and conflicts with the adjoining subdivision development.

An unsightly and environmentally insensitive security fence similar to the Berlin Wall will probably be required to divide what is naturally a single peninsula of land with a meandering boundary line into two parts.

The homeowners in this development already feel under assault from burglaries and occasionally physically abusive home invasions. These incidents increase dramatically with how close the houses are to access points outside the association's perimeter. For example, after land was cleared along a road which runs parallel to the association's boundary in Estate St. John virtually every house adjoining that perimeter was broken into and robbed.

Opening the new access road into Judith's Fancy through what is presently an undisturbed bird sanctuary and wildlife area will play havoc with the current balance and security.

The association would probably be happy to cooperate with the Park service to improve security and restrict vehicle access to the Parks property with low intensive security measures if this property is not developed by the Park service.

While the old hotel site should be cleaned up and the debris removed I am concerned that actual demolition of the buildings will create as many environmental problems as it solves.

What I would like to see is the majority of the existing buildings and pool fixed up and used for park and research purposes with primary access for any contemplated visitors being by water from the Salt River Marina. With a commitment to low intensity development and limited road access it might be possible to reach an agreement with the homeowners association to avoid the necessity building a new access road and all the ecological and security problems this road will create for the subdivision and the Park Service.

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Public Scoping Newsletter – July 2006



Name (Please Print):

JESSIE K THOMSON

Title:

Secretary, SARI Advisory Commission 1993-2002

Company/Organization:

Address:

P.O. Box 456 FREDERIKSTED, VI 00841-0456

Telephone Number:

340-772-0263

Fax Number:

E-mail Address:

thomsonj@pennswoods.net

Comments/Suggestions:

ATTACHED

Please check box if you would like to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment



Please return comment cards by September 20, 2006

September 19, 2006

Subject : COMMENTS re: "Newsletter" and August 22, 2006 Scoping Meeting—
"Proposed Plan and Environmental Assessment for a Marine Research and Educational Center and Demolition of Old Hotel Within the Boundaries of Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, St. Croix." (P.L.102-247—February 24, 1992)

STATUTES, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

The 2006 National Park Service Management Policy, Section 2.2, states that "Park managers and regional directors are responsible for ensuring that planning is properly conducted within the planning framework.....However many parks may lack one or more of these planning elements. In the interim, management will be guided by the park's foundation document, strategic plan, and other currently approved plans. No major new development, or other major commitment of park land or natural or cultural resources, will be authorized without an approved general management plan." It would therefore appear that P.L.102-247 is being circumvented. That law does not provide for a third party "co-manager" including NOAA, the Joint Institute for Caribbean Studies, or the University of the Virgin Islands. A Cooperative Agreement between NPS and the Government of the Virgin Islands defining management responsibilities has not been mutually agreed upon. There is also no draft, much less approved, General Management Plan. Although scientific study was listed in the "Management Objectives" approved on November 29, 1994, a complex as large as MREC was not contemplated. The MREC proposal represents piece meal development and damages the INTEGRITY of the park.

Some time ago the National Park Service endorsed the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's policy statement on balancing cultural and natural values on Federal lands. This policy encouraged Federal land managers to recognize that cultural and natural values should be considered in an integrated manner to ensure that cultural values are afforded equal consideration. It would seem that Section 106 and 110 compliance are required due to the cumulative adverse affects on the INTEGRITY of SARI's historic properties. The MREC complex will affect historic properties within the SARI boundaries including the Columbus Landing National Historic Landmark, Cape of the Arrows (which is eligible for listing on the National Register and inclusion in an expanded National Historic Landmark designation) and the National Natural Landmark. Diminished INTEGRITY of these resources could lead to the declassification of their status.

VISUAL INTRUSIONS

The NOAA monitoring station was the first interagency intrusion at SARI and constitutes a violation of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This station was rejected by resource managers at V.I. National Park as a "visual intrusion." It is insensitive and does not meld with the history of the internationally-significant Columbus Landing Site and Cape of the Arrows. It is visible from the observation deck of the Visitors Contact Station. Your Public Announcement dated August 13-14, 2006 in THE

AVIS indicates that DOI, through the National Park Service, Office of Insular Affairs and the Joint Institute for Caribbean Studies, is seeking to re-establish a Marine Research and Educational Center on the island of St. Croix. I hope that this does not indicate that SARI will become the "recipient" of other scientific projects rejected by V.I. National Park management.

Any proposed construction within line of sight of the Columbus Landing National Historic Landmark would impact the vistas and landscapes (Section 104(b), P.L.102-247). Inconsistent statutory enforcement degrades the INTEGRITY of the cultural and natural (including marine) resources. The Ceremonial Ball Court, village sites, and burial grounds are sensitive and sacred religious areas. Visitors cannot be inspired if they are disturbed by a background of cluttered vistas and landscapes. The size of the proposed complex will destroy the viewshed forever, and the visitors' experiences will be immeasurably diminished.

LIVING MUSEUM

The phrase "living museum" is taken from the approved November 1994 "Management Objectives." As mentioned previously, there seems to be no balance between the protection of the cultural resources and natural resources. MREC seems to indicate that natural resources are now given preference because of E.O. 13089.

In recent years, the 1493-1520 importance of SARI, which could qualify the park for UNESCO World Heritage consideration, has been forgotten or ignored, specifically the Columbian skirmish, the 1508 slaving raid by Diego de Nicuesa followed by the 1511 Real Cedula by Ferdinand of Spain calling for the extermination of the Caribs of Santa Cruz. The expansion of the National Historic Landmark boundaries at SARI to reflect a more comprehensive understanding of events, on land and in the water, has languished in Washington for many years. Degradation of the INTEGRITY of the Columbus Landing National Historic Landmark and the National Natural Landmark due to construction has been a National Park Service concern since 1986. This includes adverse impacts to vistas and landscapes.

DEMOLITION

Any demolition, dredging or construction within the boundaries of SARI must comply with the NEPA, CZMA, Clean Water Act, etc. I mention this because of the concerns expressed by the Corp of Engineers and CZMC when they attached stringent criteria to the 1986-90 Allen Williams construction permits. Stringent criteria should also apply to the Federal government and the V.I. Government. I am sure that the CZM permit and the letters from the Corp of Engineers will "surface" during deliberation concerning the MREC's location within SARI. In 1988, Archaeologist John Ehrenhard (NPS/SEAC) said, "In summary the Salt River Bay is at its final crossroads. Present urban development is the first serious threat to the ecosystem and its precious cultural cargo. It is also the last threat because if the juggernaut of development cannot be allowed there

will be no second chance—a bulldozer can destroy in 5 minutes what it takes mankind 500 years to produce.”.

While I am of the opinion that the East side of Salt River Bay is not suitable for MREC because of all of the factors which I have mentioned, I do recommend that the shoreline, which has been disturbed by commercial development, be restored to its pre-1960 state. This would enhance interpretation and the visitor's understanding of the complex human history of the area. The above represents basic sustainable tourism development that could be an economic boost for St. Croix. It is a world class site and should be treated as such. The Visitor Contact Station is the informational focus for visitors – “the heart of the park,” according to the park superintendent. Needless to say, any encroachment on the landscape and viewshed would harm the INTEGRITY of the Park and would not be acceptable.

ALTERNATIVE SITES

There are two possible alternative sites for MREC within the park boundaries. V.I. Government Plot 101-23 is large enough and has access to Triton “Bay. Roadway access would not be necessary and Cape of the Arrows would still have limited access. The donation of Plot 101-26 to NPS by The Nature Conservancy as a bird sanctuary precluded the use of any part of it for a road to facilitate commercial development. Allen-Williams was denied access across this property by The Nature Conservancy as early as 1987. Continuation of that agreement would not violate that intent and the endangered species in the area would remain undisturbed. The second site is the present marina at SARI, which could be used by both NPS and MREC, and disturbance to the natural resources could be minimized. An out of park alternative for MREC is University of the Virgin Islands' owned property at Estate Concordia Bay, Frederiksted. This has a good “drop-off” for boat access.

Jessie K. Thomson, Secretary, SARI Advisory Commission, 1993-2002
P. O. Box 456, Frederiksted, VI 00841-0456
E-Mail: thomsonj@pennswoods.net – Telephone (340) 772-0263

CC: V.I. Delegate to Congress, Director-NPS-SERO, Michael Bayer, Urban Planner,
HNTB

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Public Scoping Newsletter – July 2006



Name (Please Print): Harold & Laura Denwood

Title: Retired

Company/Organization: _____ mail

Address: Judith's Fancy #97 30 yrs 4080 Judith's

Telephone Number: 773 3382 Fax Number: _____ Fancy 00820

E-mail Address: briseis1@hotmail.com

Comments/Suggestions: _____

#1 Demolition of Abandoned
Hotel Structure 100%
approval from us

#2 Location of MREC Strongly
feel once hotel is demolished - site
should be returned to natural state
No major structures except as related
to archeologic & ecologic observations.

MREC seems a natural
for South site - Good road -
existing buildings - history of
research center. Would also
allow water access to East site.

Please check box if you would like to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment



Please return comment cards by September 20, 2006

D A V I D K. H A Y E S

P.O. BOX 2762 KINGSHILL ST. CROIX U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00851-2762

Registered Professional Archaeologist

340-277-4072

David_Hayes_stx@yahoo.com

25 August 2006

Comments on National Park Service plans for Salt River presented at meeting on 22 August 2006.

I am fully in agreement with the removal of the remaining structures and other material from the failed hotel on the Judith's Fancy site of the Salt River estuary. These need to be removed for safety and reduction of a blight on the viewshed.

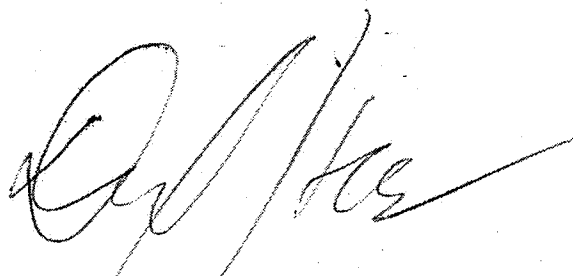
While any one of the proposed locations for the Marine Research and Education Center (MREC) would work I think the best choice would be the east site, in Judith's Fancy. The MERC must also contain a storage/archive area.

While acquiring the marina on the west side should remain the highest priority land acquisition for the Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve (SARI), placing the MREC on the west side would seriously compete for attention with the historical and archaeological resources on that side. In my view the western side of the estuary is an extraordinary treasure for historical and archaeological research and placing the MERC there would interfere with research into and interpretation of those resources. From the rendering I noted that some of the land needed for that site is outside the stated boundary of SARI. Would the NPS acquiring of this land require another Congressional action?

The south side, while it is the historic home of the NOAA base, is limited by the terrain and lack of sheltered anchorages. I think this site has too many physical limitations to serve well, especially when the future expansion of the MERC is needed. This area is near the mangroves and might serve well as a support for their rehabilitation, should the NPS be able to acquire the old Faile complex.

The east site, while requiring the reopening of an old road and limited by the presence of a pre-Columbian burial site and village, does not have the problems of the other two sites. Excellent, protected boat servicing areas are available. When clearing the channel into the dredged marina please note that I recall in the 1960s several cannon being underwater at the entrance. These had been moved here by local divers. J. Isherwood or Lee Morris might have further information on these cannon.

Here the new structures can be dispersed and landscaped so that they do not intrude into the viewshed. Up on the hill in the north east corner there is excellent space for the laboratories and storage/archival space. This area was disturbed many years ago so any new development will not impact cultural resources. This complex will be dedicated to the marine world and not have competition for other interpretative needs.



Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Public Scoping Newsletter – July 2006



Name (Please Print): Tracy Lynch Bhola & Emy Thomas

Title: President & Secretary

Company/Organization: Estate Salt River Homeowners' Association

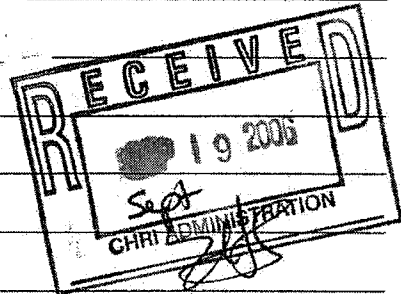
Address: 9003 Salt River, Christiansted, VI 00820

Telephone Number: 340-778-1952 Fax Number: 340-778-1952

E-mail Address: emy@viaccess.net

Comments/Suggestions: _____

Please see attached letter (four pages)



Please check box if you would like to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment



X

Please return comment cards by September 20, 2006

Estate Salt River Homeowners' Association
9003 Salt River
Christiansted, VI 00820-5598

September 19, 2006

National Park Service
Christiansted National Historic Site
2100 Church Street #100
Christiansted, VI 00820-4611

Att: Joel A. Tutein, Superintendent
Re: Public Comments on the SARI EA

Dear Mr. Tutein:

As officers of the Estate Salt River Homeowners' Association, we are appreciative of the opportunity to register our comments regarding the proposed Marine Research and Education Center site options. We support the intent of establishing a Marine Research and Education Center as well as the proposed demolition of the abandoned hotel site.

Our concerns and comments regarding the three sites are based on the following factors:

- Intensity of development
- Resulting traffic intensities and access
- Preservation of historic character
- Compromises of existing residential character
- Conformance to existing zoning requirements
- Conformance to existing deed restrictions, both explicit and of good faith

From our perspective, the South Site is the preferred site:

- The site provides no or minimal conflict with any existing residential areas.
- The site provides more than adequate contiguous acreage to accommodate all aspects of the MREC facility. This dovetails well with the R1 Zone Conditional Provisions for this type of proposed use.
- There is no compromise to the historic or ecological resources of the Columbus Landing site and its environs.
- The site is reasonably accessed at the end of an existing road that does not impact any residential area.
- In keeping with the LEED principles of Sustainable Design, the priorities of

recycling and reusing previously developed / underutilized sites and buildings is implemented with the assimilation of the former NOAA Undersea Research Center. (We would hope that the MREC development would fully embrace all sustainable initiatives including this one.)

Access to the water and shelter of Triton Bay for the center's research functions is easily accommodated.

Note: Based on the U.S. Geological Survey of 1982 (latest edition), all three sites encompass topographic features up to elevation 100' above mean sea level. The Storm Surge Group of the National Hurricane Center, NOAA, has determined in their Storm Surge Atlas for the American Virgin Islands that a Category 5 storm from the north (worst case) will result in a predicted storm surge of approximately 4.7 feet for the Salt River area. Therefore, all three sites would appear to have sufficient elevation within them to adequately avoid storm surge and accommodate the proposed facility. (The exception is the isolated Columbus Cove Marina parcel on the west site).

We rank the East Site as the next preferred site:

- The site is readily available from within the National Park Service's existing real estate portfolio.

- Like the South Site, this site provides more than adequate contiguous acreage to accommodate all aspects of the MREC facility. Again, this dovetails well with the R1 Zone Conditional Provisions for this type of proposed use.

- The area in question is not amidst or surrounded by residential development. It is at the end of a clearly defined boundary that is beyond the existing development within Judith's Fancy.

- By virtue of the proposed new access road extending from the historic access road, the residents of Judith's Fancy will not be adversely impacted by traffic coming to the MREC.

- There is minimal compromise to the historic character and environmentally-preserved ambience of the Columbus Landing site and its environs.

- Access to the water is via the well-protected shelter of the man-made lagoon behind the existing derelict hotel.

We rank the West Site as the least preferred / least desirable / least viable / and most conflicted site:

- The site imposes the maximum conflict with an existing residential area, as it sits surrounded on all sides by active residential use.

- This site results in an unacceptably dense development by trying to combine the NPS Visitor Center functions with the MREC facility on an extremely

tight site footprint. This intensifies all the negative aspects of the development (i.e. traffic, noise, paving, visual impact, etc.) more than it would on either of the other sites. And again, all of this is proposed for placement directly amidst a residential context.

- Incoming traffic for both the MREC and the NPS Visitor Center would be imposed on the only road serving the bulk of the residential area. This would be exacerbated and intensified by back and forth traffic between the marina portion of the MREC and the main body of the site. This begs a fundamental question as to how well the ecological character of the area would be served while accommodating the increased traffic.

- The 8.5-acre parcel owned by the NPS does not meet the Conditional Requirements for this campus type of development (accommodating 50-100 students) within the R1 zone. A minimum of 10 contiguous acres is required. In this subdivision, a 50-foot setback is required from a road and a 20-foot setback is required from adjacent residential properties. That further shrinks the usable area. It is not clear how one would fit the buildings, parking, access roads, and other improvements and meet the 30% coverage requirements.

- The plan is contingent upon utilizing a portion of the marina site for the MREC facilities, yet we understand that the marina owner is in negotiations with another buyer.

- Regardless of the MREC, visitors will still be coming to the West Site for access to the Columbus Landing Beach and the Visitor's Center. The Estate Salt River Homeowners' Association understood that NPS stewardship of the site would rigorously and judiciously preserve the natural, ecological, and historic character of the area much as Christopher Columbus experienced it in 1493.

That would also be consistent with the mandate of the NPS 1994 Land Protection Plan for the site, to "allow park visitors and the general public a sensory and emotional understanding of the cultural continuum". The Homeowners' Association understood the original purpose in acquiring this property was to give visitors an overview of the entire SARI park and a bird's eye view of Columbus Landing-- the historical, archaeological, and cultural centerpiece of the park. The proposed development at this site compromises that. To compound matters, the proposed plan places the SARI visitors' center at the bottom of the hill where visitors can't see much of the surrounding area. Although this placement conveniently separates visitor traffic from continuing into the MREC facility, this location diminishes the importance of the park, demoting it to the status of a stepchild or an afterthought.

- Via both good faith and specific language within its covenants, the Salt River Homeowners' Association made special provisions to welcome SARI into our subdivision because we endorsed the Park's mission to preserve and enhance the historical, archaeological, cultural and ecological resources of the area. We amended our covenants to allow activity "consistent with the park's

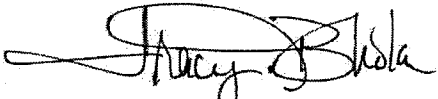
operation" and buildings consistent with the definitions outlined of "park uses". The MREC does not fit those descriptions and it far exceeds the original intention of the HOA and NPS to harmoniously blend a park into a single-family residential neighborhood.

In summary, we believe:

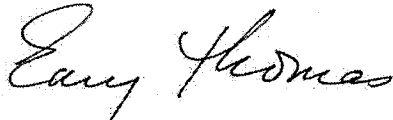
- The character of the existing West Site SARI Visitor's Center and surrounding area should be maintained as a low intensity, visually unencumbered and ecologically preserved area, devoid of the MREC development.
- That the South Site and East Site afford the best opportunities to meet the programmatic requirements of the MREC campus while still providing the basic elements for a technically viable, contextually balanced, and ecologically harmonious result.
- The MREC facilities should be physically separated from the main facility of the park so as to preserve the SARI visitor experience.

We hope the NPS and representatives of MREC will take this information under serious consideration. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective and remain available for further discussion with all interested parties.

Respectfully,



Tracy Lynch Bhola, President



Emy Thomas, Secretary

Board members who wish to be included but are not available to sign:

Jackie Bunn, Vice President

John Burkhart, Treasurer

Paul Silverberg



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meeting for
Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
Environmental Assessment
Proposed Marine Research and Education Center
and Abandoned Hotel Demolition
August 22, 2006

Name (Please Print): VIRDIN BROWN

Title: INDIVIDUAL

Company/Organization: N/A

Address: P.O. BOX 7809 CHRISTIANSTED, V.I. 00823

Telephone Number: (340) 773-2803 E-mail Address: _____

Comments/Suggestions: I have no objections to the establishment of a Marine Research and Education Center in the vicinity of the Salt River Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, based on the limited information that has been presented. However, I believe the MREC should be developed on the fringe boundary of SARI, because the park contains so many significant historical ^{archaeological} ~~ecological~~ significant and sites that it would be difficult to carry out a major development without disturbing or destroying important resources. This would mean the acquisition of suitable acreage outside SARI. The only site ^{among} ~~within~~ those suggested that is suitable is the former NOAA Undersea Research Center - The South Site - because of the existence of some infrastructure and access to the bay.

I am concerned that the present development plans are drifting away from the initial concept of using this Park as a mechanism for joint V.I. and Federal management while

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providing training to V.I. Government personnel to



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meeting for
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Environmental Assessment
Proposed Marine Research and Education Center
and Abandoned Hotel Demolition
August 22, 2006

Name (Please Print): VIRGIN BROWN

Title: INDIVIDUAL

Company/Organization: N/A

Address: _____

Telephone Number: (340) 773-2803 E-mail Address: _____

Comments/Suggestions: Staff and manage a Territorial park system. Research is important - but so is the true realization of a Territorial park system. New emphasis should also be placed on this aspect of Territorial/Federal comanagement of SARI. It should be forgotten - nor should it be emphasized - that the 600 acres of water within the bounds of the park are the property of the V.I. Government. The V.I. G. should be fully a part of the development and utilization of the SARI.

It should be understood development of a Visitors Center and SARI Interpretive Center are equally important to maintain public interest and contact with the Park.

Virgin Brown

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Public Scoping Newsletter – July 2006



Name (Please Print): Amy Hamilton

Title: home owner in Judith's Fancy

Company/Organization: _____

Address: Box 4060 Judith's Fancy #247 Judith's Fancy

Telephone Number: ^{H#} 773-5057 ^W Fax Number: 773-7888

E-mail Address: hotheadstx@hotmail.com

Comments/Suggestions: I just wanted to know
how the public was going to have
access to the MREC in Judith's
Fancy. Through the private Judith's
Fancy roads? That means
more traffic in the neighborhood,
which wouldn't be good for the
community. With more people
coming and going through the
neighborhood, that might increase.
I believe the MREC with the
dormitories, cafeteria etc. should
be built on the West Site, where
public access is already commonplace.
Thank you.

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Environmental Assessment
Proposed Marine Research and Education Center
and Abandoned Hotel Demolition
August 22, 2006

Name (Please Print): ERNEST CHAPPELLE

Title: MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & HEALTH

Company/Organization: BECHTEL ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

Address: 4003 JUDITH'S FANCY PLOT #191, C'STED 00820

Telephone Number: 773-9607 E-mail Address: echappe@islands.vi

Comments/Suggestions:

PLEASE ALLOW ACCESS FOR SURFERS
TO PARK THEIR CARS AT THE
SALT RIVER SURF SPOT ON THE
EAST SIDE OF THE AND DIRECTLY IN
FRONT OF THE OLD BOAT WRECK (IRON
BARGE)

THE MARINE SCHOOL CAN ONLY BENEFIT
ST. CROIX IMMENSELY. IT WILL BRING
INVESTMENT, AUXILIARY EMPLOYMENT
FOR VIRGIN ISLANDER AND RESEARCH
TO HELP MAINTAIN AND SAVE
THE REEFS FROM DETEIORATION

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Public Scoping Newsletter - July 2006



Name (Please Print): Michelle Pugh

Title: PRESIDENT DIVE EXPERIENCE + DIVERSE VIRGIN

Company/Organization: _____

Address: PO Box 4254 CISTEL ST CROIX USVI 00822

Telephone Number: 773-3207 Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: DIVERXP2VIACCESS.NET

Comments/Suggestions: _____

Please make Salt River a NO TAKE
area !!

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PUBLIC COMMENT FORM



Public Scoping Meeting for
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Environmental Assessment
Proposed Marine Research and Education Center
and Abandoned Hotel Demolition
August 22, 2006

Name (Please Print): ROBERT V. VAUGHN, E.D.
Title: TRUSTEE
Company/Organization: ST CROIX LANDMARKS SOCIETY
Address: P.O. BOX 1122, CHRISTIANSTED, VI 00821
Telephone Number: 340-778-8465 E-mail Address: ^{lowercase}ROBERTVAUGHNSTX@GMAIL.COM

Comments/Suggestions:

Excellent presentation and Graphics
Comments I heard from public were
all positive. Personally, I hope the
project materializes and pronto!
There is no reason for our losing the
world's precious resources and not
learning and documenting (and
preserving) them for the whole
world.

Buena Suerte y mil Gracias

Robert V. Vaughn, E.D.

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Aug 22, 2006



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Environmental Assessment
Proposed Marine Research and Education Center
and Abandoned Hotel Demolition
August 22, 2006

Name (Please Print): Stephen K. Cohen
Title: Science Teacher at St. Croix Central High School
Company/Organization: _____
Address: 5092 TIDE VILLAGE, P.O. Box 1, VI 00820
Telephone Number: 773-9334 E-mail Address: stephenkechen@hotmail.com

Comments/Suggestions: The sooner, the better. It has been too
long that St. Croix has not been a center for
Marine Research & Education.

Hopefully this will all come to completion
quickly and we can educate our youth before
it is too late to do something to save &
preserve the reef.

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Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

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Name (Please Print): GORDON + MARIE MACDONALD

Title: CAPT. USN (Ret)

Company/Organization: _____

Address: 340 HARBOR DRIVE, #73, HUMAHO, PR 00791

Telephone Number: 787 850-6728 Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: mandm@libertypr.net

Comments/Suggestions: _____

We are extremely happy to have the
Park in this very important and historic
area.

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Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Public Scoping Newsletter - July 2006



Name (Please Print): William Tobias

Title: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: Box 3025, Kingshill, St. Croix, USVI 00851

Telephone Number: 773-4512 Fax Number: 772-5859

E-mail Address: _____

Comments/Suggestions: _____

1. If the old hotel structure is structurally sound, it should be used as the site for the Marine Research and Education Center (MREC). If it is not structurally sound, as determined by an engineering structural survey, I would concur with the east site location for MREC. The government (DPNR) should be provided with a copy of the engineering structural survey.
2. The government (DPNR) should be provided with a map identifying all plots of ~~reclaimed~~ reclaimed land.
3. The government (DPNR) should be an equal partner in the MREC and provided with sufficient space to base its marine-related programs.
4. NPS needs to work with DPNR-DEE to enforce Salt River Marine Reserve + Wildlife Sanctuary regulations.

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Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Public Scoping Newsletter - July 2006



Name (Please Print): Marilyn Chakroff

Title: FOREST STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Company/Organization: VI Department of Agriculture

Address: RR #1, Estate Lower Love, Kingshill, VI 00850 (P.O. Box 10345)

Telephone Number: 340-778-0997x256 Fax Number: 340-778-7977

E-mail Address: Marilynchakroff@hotmail.com

Comments/Suggestions: The most likely site for the MREC is the south site, location of the former NOAA Undersea Research Center. If the buildings are in good repair, this site already has infrastructure in place - a road, parking area, housing, may be even a laboratory and conference room. Without more information on the condition of these structures, it is hard to say whether the best solution for MREC should be to build all new structures elsewhere or not. But the hotel needs to go! Plus all wrecked sailboats stuck in the mangroves.

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al Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
roix, U.S. Virgin Islands



Frank Sluss
President

oping Newsletter - July 2006

Cell: 340-690-0992
email: fsluss@businessworldvi.com

Name (Please Print):

Title:

Company/Organization:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail Address:

Comments/Suggestions:

I Live 2, 250 Jeths fancy right next to
the proposed site.

How will development affect our property?
How will you enter & leave area?

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Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

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Name (Please Print): THOMAS NICOLosi

Title: EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF SALVATORE NICOLosi

Company/Organization: _____

Address: 526 YETMAN AVE

Phone Number: 917-577-9501

Fax Number: 718-317-5816

E-mail Address: molosi@aol.com

Comments/Suggestions: IM THE OWNER OF PROPERTY IN
SALT RIVER. I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON
WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING TO THE SURROUNDING
PROPERTY.

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Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

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Name (Please Print): Margarita Hutchinson and Dan Delella

Title: Co-owners

Company/Organization: Birds of Paradise St. Croix

Address: 4027 Hermon Hall Csted 00820

Telephone Number: 773-1364 Fax Number:

E-mail Address: Margarita@surf.vi.com

Comments/Suggestions:

Hi Joel,

This is great to see! (the Env. Scoping Newsletter). The pre-analysis makes sense, but how much will it cost? Who will perform the study? How long will it take? Are there historical artifacts under water there? Who will pay for the work.

Keep up the good work! -Will try to see you on the 20th.

Many thanks,

Margarita and Dan

P.S. Please add us to your mailing list

P.S. Please remove Megan Shoenfelt from your mailing list - she's gone from SEA, but we got her copy

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Suggest that - provide postage for people!

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Public Scoping Newsletter - July 2006



Name (Please Print): Olasee Davis

Title: ecologist

Company/Organization: University of the Virgin Islands

Address: RR#2, Box 10,000, St. Croix, USVI 00850

Telephone Number: 692-4053

Fax Number: 692-4045

E-mail Address: odavis@uvi.edu

Comments/Suggestions: I would suggest the new Marine Research & Education Center be placed in the former NOAA Undersea Research Center. The facilities of the former undersea research center are basically still intact. Also, a baseline research is already established in that site from NOAA. I also agree to demolish the abandoned hotel building and return the area to ^anatural conditions as much as possible. Creating green space is important to make the park more attractive naturally. Also, I would suggest to create trails particular on the south side of the park to learn more about the terrestrial environment of the park.

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