June 28, 2021

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner
Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library
4607 TuTu Park Mall
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Request for Coastal Consistency for the Golden Grove Underground Electrical Project, St. Croix

Dear Commissioner Oriol:

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (VIWAPA) respectfully request a Decision of Coastal Consistency for their Golden Grove Underground Electrical Project. VIWAPA is proposing the burial of utility lines from the Queen Mary Highway (Centerline Road) to the Patrick Sweeney Police Headquarters and the Golden Grove Adult Correctional Facility and Detention Center. The purpose of the project is to provide improved electrical power resilience to critical infrastructure on the island of St. Croix.

The Authority proposes the installation of an underground distribution lateral line with manholes, pad-mount transformers, and other underground devices to replace the existing overhead distribution line feeding the Police Station, the Adult Correctional Facility as well as the homes located on Industrial Road (Route 669). Funding for this project is provided in part by FEMA and the Department of Housing & Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Program under the auspices of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (“VIHFA”).

The proposed project would begin as soon as the Coastal Consistency approval is granted as all other permits and approvals are in place. The project will take a total of 6 months to complete.

Attached please find a Project Summary demonstrating the project’s compliance with the U.S. Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program, and drawings of the proposed project. The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) and the SHPO
Concurrence Of the Archeological Scope of Work (ASoW) is attached. The ASoW is being modified to include additional archeological monitoring at the southern end of the route near where prehistoric artifacts were found during another project. This is in process with SHPO and should be completed within the next few weeks.

We look forward to your earliest decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

Vernon Alexander
Interim COO-Electric Division