June 25, 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 Midland 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 Midland Underground Electrical Project. VIWAPA is proposing the burial of utility lines from the Queen Mary Highway (Centerline Road) to the Melvin Evans Highway. The project will connect the Gregory E. Willocks Substation to the underground network. 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 construction line feeding Central High School, including the new campus, the Agape Medical Center and the Kings Hill Funeral Home. 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 all approvals are final and 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.
We look forward to your earliest decision on this manner.

Sincerely,

Vernon Alexander
Interim COO-Electric Division