



Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Commissioner

June 28, 2022

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 Department of Human Services Request for Federal Consistency for the Selective Demolition and Reconstruction of the Minetta Mitchell Administrative and Storage Building Facility in Crown Bay on St. Thomas Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Feb. 9, 2018)

Dear Commissioner Oriol:

The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (VIDHS) respectfully request a Decision of Federal Consistency for the Selective Demolition and Reconstruction of the Minetta Mitchell Administrative and Storage Building Facility in Crown Bay on St. Thomas. VIDHS is proposing the selective demolition of the building and reconstruction of the existing building. The existing building and support structures located at No. 100 & 101 Fill Tract E Crown Bay, St Thomas suffered considerable damage during Hurricane Irma in September, 2017 and will be selectively demolished and reconstructed through funding provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Feb. 9, 2018).

The existing building was originally constructed prior to sustaining some hurricane damage in the late 80's from Hurricane Hugo and more recently Hurricane Irma in 2017. Since the time of Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the Virgin Islands has adopted, first the Uniform Building Code for structures, and more recently, the International Building Code. Besides the existing poor condition of the building on site caused by damages from past hurricanes, it's old construction cannot meet the structural requirements of the 2018 International Building Code. Furthermore, the existing structure cannot accommodate the program requirements for a functional facility. This request for Federal Consistency is for the selective demolition and reconstruction of an existing facility.

The demolition phase will include the selective demolition of the existing 8" exterior concrete block walls and the removal all existing metal roof sheathing and insulation of the one-story building. The steel frame structure and concrete slab will remain. It is noted that the proposed demolition project will impact only previously disturbed areas associated with the removal of the existing building and pads and include some selective demolition related to some existing infrastructure systems. The proposed project is will increase support services required by the department's Head Start Program on the island of St. Thomas. The proposed project will begin as soon as all approvals have been finalized and a construction schedule will be furnished once a contractor is selected

Attached please find a Project Summary demonstrating the project's compliance with the U.S. Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program and drawings of the proposed demolition and construction project. Please contact Deputy Commissioner, Miguel Tricoche, at 340-474-2489, or Miguel.Tricoche@dhs.vi.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Kimberley Causey-Gomez, MSW
Commissioner

cc: Anita E. Nibbs, DPNR - Environmental Planner III