



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 Demolition and Construction of a new Head Start Program Facility in Bolongo 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 Demolition and Construction of a new Head Start Program Facility in estate Bolongo on St. Thomas. VIDHS is proposing the complete demolition/removal of the building and support structures in preparation for the construction of a new facility. The project is located at No. 9 Bolongo, St Thomas. The existing building and support structures suffered major damage during Hurricane Irma in September, 2017 and will be demolished/removed and a new building constructed through funding provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Feb. 9, 2018).

The existing building was originally constructed prior to sustaining major 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 buildings on site caused by damages from past hurricanes, their old construction cannot meet the structural requirements of the 2018 International Building Code. Furthermore, the existing structures cannot accommodate the program requirements for a functional facility.

This request for Federal Consistency is for the demolition and construction of a new facility.

The demolition of the subject building will remove the existing one-story CMU structure that sustained additional major damage by Hurricane Irma. The proposed demolition project will impact only previously disturbed areas associated with the removal of the existing buildings and pads including the existing foundations and infrastructure systems. The proposed project is an additional step towards increasing services provided 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.Tricocha@dhs.vi.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Kimberley Causey-Gomez
Commissioner

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