



June 17, 2022

via email to: jp.oriol@dpr.vi.gov

The Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner
Department of Planning and Natural Resources
St. Thomas, USVI 00801

RE: Request for a review for a Consistency Determination by the Coastal Zone Management Board under VI Code Section 1, VIR & Regs Title 12, Subchapter 904, section 904-8

Dear Commissioner Oriol:

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) hereby requests your permission to undertake the FEMA funded project – **Arthur A. Richards PreK-8th (AARPK8S) New Construction Project**. The New Arthur A. Richards PreK-8th School will be located at the Evelyn Williams Elementary School location which is 13A Estate Mount Pleasant, Frederiksted, St, Croix, USVI 00820.

The Arthur A. Richards Junior High School was damaged during the 2017 Hurricane Irma and Maria events and was deemed unsafe for students and faculty. The Arthur A. Richards PreK-8th School has been assessed and approved for replacement by FEMA. There is a demolition stage which is the precursor to the reconstruction of the New Arthur A. Richards PreK-8th School.

The VIDE kindly seeks your review and approval for the required Consistency Determination certification process in accordance with the Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) as required under the VI Code Section 1, VIR and Regs Title 12, Subchapter 904, section 904-8. This project may include the security fencing, traffic control, dust control, demolition, minimal ground disturbance, asbestos abatement, air monitoring, SHPO consulting services, archeological monitoring and site grading, on various sites of the AARPK8S Campus. The various projects were outlined in the PowerPoint presentation during a May 25, 2021, pre-application meeting.


The subject project will be executed in a manner that is consistent with the overarching goals and policies of the Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program (VICZMP); “To ensure environmental and economic sustainability for future generations.” Accordingly, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to mitigate potential environmental impacts, such as soil erosion and sedimentation, due to storm water run-off, by utilizing silt fabric filters in all project site manholes, silt fencing and/or grass seeding. Further, as it is the intent of VIDE to obtain all applicable permits from the Department of Planning & Natural Resources (DPNR), there will be strict compliance to all permit terms and requirements. The proposed activity is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such program.”

Attached please find a Project Summary demonstrating the project's compliance with the U. S. Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request. Your approval and support of this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chaneel Callwood, Architect New Schools at chaneel.callwood@vide.vi or 340.774.0100 ext. 8107.

Best Regards,


Racquel Berry-Benjamin
Commissioner of Education