



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office for Coastal Management
Silver Spring Metro Center, Building 4
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Marlon Hibbert
Government of the US Virgin Islands
Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Division of Coastal Zone Management
4611 Tutu Park Mall, STE 300
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Dear Mr. Hibbert:

The Office for Coastal Management (OCM) has completed its review of the United States Virgin Islands Coastal Management Program's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2025 Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 309 Final Assessment and Strategy. We initially received a draft to review on October 31, 2022, and received final revisions on December 29, 2022. OCM is pleased to inform you that we approve the USVI's 2021-2025 Assessment and Strategy and concur with the State's designated priority rankings for the nine enhancement areas. With an approved Assessment and Strategy, the USVI Coastal Management Program is eligible for FY 2021-2025 weighted formula (or base) funds under Section 309 of the CZMA to implement the work plan as presented in USVI's strategy.

States with approved strategies that address an enhancement area of national importance are also eligible to compete for Project of Special Merit funding to further their strategies. Coastal Hazards is designated as an enhancement area of national importance for the FY2021-FY2025 enhancement cycle. Therefore, you are currently eligible to apply for competitive Projects of Special Merit funding to further your strategy "Increase Community and Coastal Resource Resilience Through Improved Permitting." Some of these strategies address the coastal hazards enhancement area more directly than others. Based on past experience, proposals that directly address the enhancement area of national importance are more successful in the Projects of Special Merit competition. OCM may choose to designate additional enhancement areas of national importance during the FY2021-2025 cycle to address new or emerging issues that may arise.

We appreciate the time and effort you and your staff put into this process, as well as your continued support for and participation in the Enhancement Grants Program. OCM looks forward to working together to achieve the strategy goals you have set for the USVI over the next three years. Again we offer our congratulations.

Sincerely,

Kim Mikita Penn
Acting Manager, Communities Program