# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT For ASSETCO LEASING, INC.

No. 13 Crown Bay Fill St. Thomas, USVI (01-17-2022)

Applicant: ASSETCO LEASING, INC. P.O. Box 3770 St. Thomas, USVI 00802 340-642-2885

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- Section

#### 1.00 NAME and ADDRESS OF APPLICANT

Assetco Leasing, Inc. P.O. Box 3770 St. Thomas, USVI 00802

## 2.00 LOCATION OF PROJECT

The subject property, Parcel No. 13 Crown Bay Fill, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., is situated along the northern side of Veteran's Drive, adjacent to the western property line of the parcel where Gottlieb's Service Center is located. NAPA Auto Parts is located directly to the north, and Island Marine is located directly to the west. Access to the property is via Veterans Drive.

Plot No. 13, Crown Bay Fill is defined on & Survey Map No. D9-1280-T76

### 2.01 LOCATION MAP

(See appendix A)

#### 2.02 VICINITY MAP

(See appendix A)

#### 3.00 ABSTRACT

Parcels No. 13 Crown Bay Fill is a commercially zoned lot created on .18 acres of submerged land in the Crown Bay area. The property is owned by the Government of the Virgin Islands/ Coastal Zone Management and is leased to Assettco Leasing, Inc. Carib Supply, which operates an industrial and medical gas supply business, sub-leases the property from Assetco Leasing, Inc., and has occupied the site since 1993. In September of 2017, the 4,000 square foot metal frame structure on the property was significantly damaged as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Damages included loss of large sections of the metal roof and wall sheathing. Assetco Leasing, Inc. is proposing to repair the damaged structure.

### 4.00 STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES SOUGHT BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The objective of the proposed project is to repair an existing 4,000 sq.ft. steel frame structure which was damaged by Hurricanes Irma & Maria.

### 5.00 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

- Parcel #13, Crown Bay Fill is currently occupied by a 4,000 sq.ft. hurricane damaged building, from which Carib Supply operates a medical and industrial gas supply business. The purpose of the proposed project is to repair the damaged building.

- Building description:
  - The building is a 4,000 sq.ft. single story structure. Roof height is approximately 20'.
  - Steel columns and rafters provide the primary structural framework for the building.
  - > Roof is sheathed with galvanized metal panels atop metal purlins.
  - Exterior walls are 8"CMU block up to the 8' height, but are not load bearing.
  - Exterior walls, from top of CMU block to eave, are steel girts sheathed with galvanized metal panels.
  - > Interior walls are wood or metal stud, covered with sheet rock.
- As a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, much of the roof panels and purlins were damaged or destroyed. Likewise, a significant percentage of the metal wall sheathing was also lost. There was some minor damage to portions of the CMU walls, and the interior partition walls were also heavily damaged.
- The major goal of the project's proposed activities will be the repair of the roof, walls, and related framing components. Primary structural components such as columns and rafters, appear to be intact.
- Proposed activities do not include any earth change activities, modification of existing footprint, or change in use.

#### 5.01 <u>SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY</u>

a. Purpose of project:

Purpose of project is to repair hurricane damaged 4,000 sq.ft. steel frame structure. It is hoped that necessary permitting and lease negotiations can be accomplished within the (6) month period following application submittal. It is anticipated that work on proposed project would begin within six months of receipt of building permit approval. Construction projected to be finished within one year from onset of work.

- b. Critical areas: Not applicable. Parcel does not have any critical areas of note.
- c. Method of land clearing: Not applicable. No land clearing proposed.
- d. Provision to preserve topsoil: Not applicable. No earthwork proposed.
- e. Erosion and sediment control devices: Not applicable. No earthwork or any activities which would necessitate the need for erosion and sediment control devices are being proposed.
- f. Earth change activities: Not applicable. No earth change activity is being proposed.
- g. Maintenance of erosion and sediment control measures: Not applicable. As no earth change activities are being proposed, and, as existing conditions do not dictate the need for erosion and sediment control devices, no such devices are being proposed.
- h. Method of storm water management: Currently storm water generally flows slowly southward across property in a shallow sheet onto Veteran's Drive. Storm water accumulating on Veteran's Drive is serviced by storm drains located there.
  Proposed repair work will have no impact on the existing storm water flow. No additional storm water devices are being proposed for this project.
- i. Maintenance schedule for storm water facilities: No additional storm water devices are being proposed for this project.
- j. Method of sewage disposal Existing structure is connected to public sewer line.

#### 5.02 SITE PLAN

#### 5.02.01 Lot layout

- a. Lot area, dims, and metes & bounds Appendix B Proposed site plan
- b. Set back dims
- c. Lot density
- d. Lot occupancy
- e. Recreational areas
- f. North arrow
- g. Site Topo
- h. Square footage/ lot coverage
- i. Square footage/ open space
- j. Project staging/material storage
- k. Low water mark
- 1. Filled lands
- m. Existing vegetation

#### 5.02.02 **Road Lavout**

- a. Road profile drawings
- b. Parking layouts
- c. Parking space calculations
- d. Road curb detail
- e. Utility easement

#### 5.02.03 **Position of Structures**

f.

g.

- Existing/proposed structures a.
- Show building size b.
- Location of cistern c.
- Location of sewage disposal d.

Garbage receptacle area

Underground utilities

Site profile e.

- EAR 7.03d
- Not applicable
- Not applicable
- Appendix B As-built site plan
- Appendix B Proposed site plan
- Appendix B Proposed site plan
- Appendix B Proposed site plan
- Appendix B Not applicable
- Appendix B Not applicable
- Appendix B Proposed site plan

#### 5.02.04 Septic System/Wastewater Treatment

- Setbacks Not applicable a. Septic Capacity Not applicable b. Septic details Not applicable c. Not applicable d.
  - Disposal site/effluent

5.02.05	Stormwater Drainage
5.02.05	Stormwater Drainage

b.

- Appendix B Proposed site plan a. Natural/proposed drainage pattern
  - Cistern capacity/roof top collection Not applicable
  - c. Storm water control measures Not applicable
  - **TR-55** calculations Not applicable d.

Appendix B – Proposed site plan Appendix B – Proposed site plan Appendix B – Proposed site plan Not applicable Appendix A – Official zoning map

Appendix B – Proposed site plan

Not applicable

Not applicable

Not applicable

- Not applicable
- Appendix B Proposed site plan

5.02.06	5 St	Stormwater Facilities									
	a.	Capacity of structures	Not applicable								
	b.	Cross section of design detail	Not applicable								
	c.	Natural drainage off site	Appendix B – Proposed site plan								
5.02.07	E E	osion and sediment control plan	l								
	a.	Erosion control devices, etc.	Not applicable								
	b.	Construction entrance	Not applicable								
	с.	Final grading	Not applicable								
	d.	l. Post construction erosion control Not applicable									
5.02.08	S La	andscaping Plan									
	a.	8 8	Not applicable								
		Irrigation plan and detail	Not applicable								
	c.	1 8	Not applicable								
	d.	Location of endangered species	Not applicable								
5.02.09	0	Other required drawings									
	a.	1	Appendix F – Floor Plan								
	b.	Project elevation views	Appendix F – Elevations								
5.02.10	M	aps									
	a.	Recorded Parcel Map	Appendix A								
	b.	Easement Maps	Not applicable								
		Official Zoning Map	Appendix A								
		FEMA Flood Insurance Map	Appendix A								
		Water Resources Map	Appendix A								
	f.	Sediment Reduction Program ma	1 11								
	g.	Soil Survey Map	Appendix A								
5.03 <u>H</u>	PROJECT	<b>FWORK PLAN</b>									

a.	Subprojects and activities	Appendix E
b.	Phasing of subprojects and activities	Appendix E

#### 6.0 SETTING AND PROBABLE PROJECT IMPACT ON THE NATURAL **ENVIRONMENT**

#### 6.01 **Climate/Weather**

The Virgin Islands experience a sub-tropical climate tempered by easterly trade winds, relatively low humidity, little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season September to November. Weather patterns are strongly affected by the Bermuda High to the north and the Equatorial Trough to the south.

Climate data for US Virgin Islands

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °F (°C)	86	86	86	88	88	90	90	91	90	90	88	86
	(30)	(30)	(30)	(31.1)	(31.1)	(32.2)	(32.2)	(32.8)	(32.2)	(32.2)	(31.1)	(30)
	72	72	72	74	76	77	78	78	77	76	75	73
Average low °F (°C)	(22.2)	(22.2)	(22.2)	(23.3)	(24.4)	(25)	(25.6)	(25.6)	(25)	(24.4)	(23.9)	(22.8)
	1.89	1.51	1.52	2.39	3.36	2.35	2.42	3.50	5.34	5.57	5.28	2.74
Precipitation inches (mm)	(48)	(38.4)	(38.6)	(60.7)	(85.3)	(59.7)	(61.5)	(88.9)	(135.6)	(141.5)	(134.1)	(69.6)

Source: [6] May 2009

Monthly Averages for Saint Thomas, VI (00801)". The Weather Channel.

Probable maximum 24-hour rainfall for 10, 25, and 100 year storm events (2002 Virgin Islands Environmental Protection Handbook)

FREQUENCY (years)	RAINFALL (inches per 24 hour period)
10	7
25	8.5
100	11.2

#### 6.02 Landform Geology, Soils, and Historic Land use

As delineated on the Official USVI District Zoning Map Plot (See appendix A), prior to being filled, the subject property and the entire "Crown Bay Landfill" area extended beyond the original shoreline. According to the United States Department of Agriculture/NRCS Soil Survey (See appendix A), soil type for the subject area is UbD or "Urban Land". Urban land consists of areas where the land surface has been covered with houses, garages, roads, driveways, sidewalks, buildings, parking lots, and other forms of impervious surface. It is on nearly level to sloping flood plains. The property has been used by Carib Supply since 1993 for sale of medical and industrial gases. Prior to Carib Supply, VI Industrial Gases used the property in the same manner. No change is being proposed from the manner in which the property has historically been utilized.

#### 6.03 Drainage, Flooding, and Erosion Control

Currently storm water generally flows slowly southward across property in a shallow sheet. Any storm water exiting the subject property, is serviced by storm drains located beneath the sidewalk along route 30.

As indicated in FEMA 2007 FIRM map (panel 26), the site is in the flood plain located at adjacent to the northern coast line of Crown Bay. NFIP Flood Zone Designation is "AO". "AO" areas typically are those subject to inundation by 1-percent-annual-chance shallow flooding (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain) where average depths are between one and three feet.

As property is currently being suitably serviced by existing drainage system, no additional storm water devices are being proposed. As no actions are being proposed which would affect existing drainage patterns, there are no plans for additional erosion and sediment control devices

#### 6.04 Freshwater Resources

There are no fresh water resources on the property.

#### 6.05 Oceanography

There are no oceanography issues to be impacted by the project.

#### 6.06 Marine Resources

There are no marine resources at the site that are likely to be impacted by the project. The proposed project will result in minimal changes to existing drainage patterns that might cause concerns given sites' proximity to marine environment.

#### 6.07 Terrestrial Resources

There are no terrestrial resources at the site that are likely to be impacted by the project.

#### 6.08 Wetlands Not applicable to proposed project.

- 6.09 Rare and Endangered Species There is no knowledge or evidence of rare or endangered species present at this site.
- 6.10 Air Quality Not applicable to proposed project.

#### 7.00 <u>SETTING AND PROBABLE PROJECT IMPACT ON THE HUMAN</u> <u>ENVIRONMENT</u>

#### 7.01 Land Use Plans

As evidenced on the Official USVI District Zoning Map (See appendix A), #13 Crown Bay Fill is located within a Commercial (C) zoning district. Use of the site for the sale of medical and industrial gases, as well as welding supplies, is consistent with relevant zoning restrictions for this district. All adjacent properties are also zoned commercial. Gottlieb's Service is located to the east of the subject property and operates as a gas station and convenience market. NAPA Auto Parts is located at the parcel's northern property line, and Tropical Marine, a maritime supplies operation, leases the property to the west. Veterans Drive abuts the parcel's southern property line.

#### 7.02 Visual Impacts

Appearance of existing building is an eyesore due to its damaged condition. Proposed repairs will be vastly improve the building's current appearance. Structure's appearance will be consistent with the architecture of adjacent structures and relevant zoning restrictions.

#### 7.03 Impacts on Public Services

- a. <u>Water:</u> Existing building is connected to public water service. Current average monthly water consumption is 450 gallons. No significant increase in water consumption is anticipated as the result of proposed activities.
- b. <u>Sewage Treatment and Disposal:</u> Existing building is connected to public sewer system. Current average monthly discharge to sewer is approximately 400 gallons. No significant increase in sewage discharge is anticipated as the result of proposed activities.
- c. <u>Solid Waste Disposal:</u> Current operations at site generate approximately 400 lbs. of solid waste per month. Private hauler to transports waste to public landfill. No significant increase in solid waste disposal is anticipated as the result of proposed activities.
- d. <u>Roads, Traffic, and Parking:</u> There is no expectation of any significant increase in traffic flow to or from the property as a result of proposed repair activities. Currently ingress to the property is from Veteran's Drive at the plot's southern property line.

Virgin Islands Code for off-street parking and loading requires (1) parking space per 500 sq.ft. of floor space for customers.

Sales area accessible to customers is 1,000 sq.ft.

Minimum number of customer parking spaces required is (2) two. Proposed number of customer parking spaces is (2) two.

Virgin Islands Code for off-street parking and loading requires (1) parking space for every (5) employees.

Operations currently employee (4) individuals.

Minimum number of employee parking spaces required is (1) one. Proposed number of employee parking spaces is (1) one.

e. <u>Electrical</u>: Building is connected to public electrical service (WAPA). Average monthly consumption is currently 1700 kw. No significant change in electrical consumption is anticipated as the result of proposed activities.

#### 7.04 Social Impacts

Carib Supply is one of the few providers of medical gases on St Thomas. Proposed project will allow Carib Supply to continue supporting the island's medical services. The proposed repairs will also have a positive social impact in that it will enhance the appearance of the area and will provide a commercial service and employment opportunities to Virgin Islanders.

#### 7.05 Economic Impacts

Repair of the damaged structure significantly increases the value of this Government owned property. In addition to the employment resulting from the proposed construction activities, the gas sales operations will continue to employ approximately (4) individuals. The existing business operations will continue to provide tax revenues (gross receipts, income tax, etc.) for the VI Government.

#### 7.06 Impacts on Historical and Archeological Resources

As the site is located in its entirety on filled property, there is no potential for any items of archeological significance. VISHPO has indicated no objection to the proposed development.

(See appendix C – VISHPO Clearance Letter)

#### 7.07 Recreational Use

Not applicable to proposed project.

#### 7.08 Waste Disposal

Existing building is connected to public sewer system. Current average monthly discharge to sewer is approximately 400 gallons.

Operations at the property currently generate approximately 400 lbs. of solid waste per month. Private hauler transports waste to public landfill. No significant increase in solid waste disposal or in sewage discharge is anticipated as the result of proposed activities.

### 7.09 Accidental Spills

Not applicable to proposed project.

### 7.10 Potential Adverse Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided

Proposed project does not present any adverse effects of note.

### 8.00 MITIGATION PLANS

Given the limited nature of the proposed project and the minimal negative impact it will have on the natural and human environment, mitigation plans are unnecessary.

### 9.00 <u>ALTERNATIVES TO PROPOSED ACTION</u>

No action. This would negatively affect Carib Supply's ability to maximize its competitive position and the efficiency of its operations. Building would continue to be an eyesore. Gain in property value resulting from proposed repairs would not be realized.
 No other proposed alternatives.

## 10.00 <u>RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT & LONG TERM USES OF MAN'S</u> <u>ENVIRONMENT</u>

All aspects of the proposed project are consistent with goals, regulations and policies of the Virgin Islands Government as presented in V.I.C.Z.M. Act of 1978. It is not anticipated that the proposed project will initiate any changes to the manner in which the use of Parcel No. 13 has historically impacted the long and short term uses of the surrounding environment.

### 11.00 <u>REFERENCES</u>

Federal Emergency Management Agency <u>Flood Insurance Rate Map</u> <u>Map number: 7800000026G</u> Panel number: 26 Map revised: April 26, 2007

University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service Virgin Islands Environmental Protection Handbook 2002

United States Department of Agriculture USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) <u>National Cooperative Soil Survey</u> Government of the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources <u>St. Thomas V.I. Official Zoning Map</u> <u>Map No. STZ-4</u>

Government of the Virgin Islands Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs <u>Sediment Reduction Program</u> <u>St. Thomas- Map No. 16</u>

Government of the Virgin Islands Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs <u>Water Resources Edition</u> <u>St. Thomas- Map No. 16</u> Government of the Virgin Islands Virgin Islands Code <u>Title 29: Public Planning and Development</u>

Advanced Methods of Surveying <u>As-built Parcel No. 13 Crown Bay Fill</u> <u>St. Thomas, USVI</u>

Persons/firms involved or consulted in development of EAR

**Randy Hamlin** Hamlin & Associates Permitting Consultants.

**Bill Koenig** ABC Concepts General Contractor, Steel Erector Fabricator

**David McCoy** Advanced Methods of Engineering Surveyor

Wayne Callwood Certifying Engineer

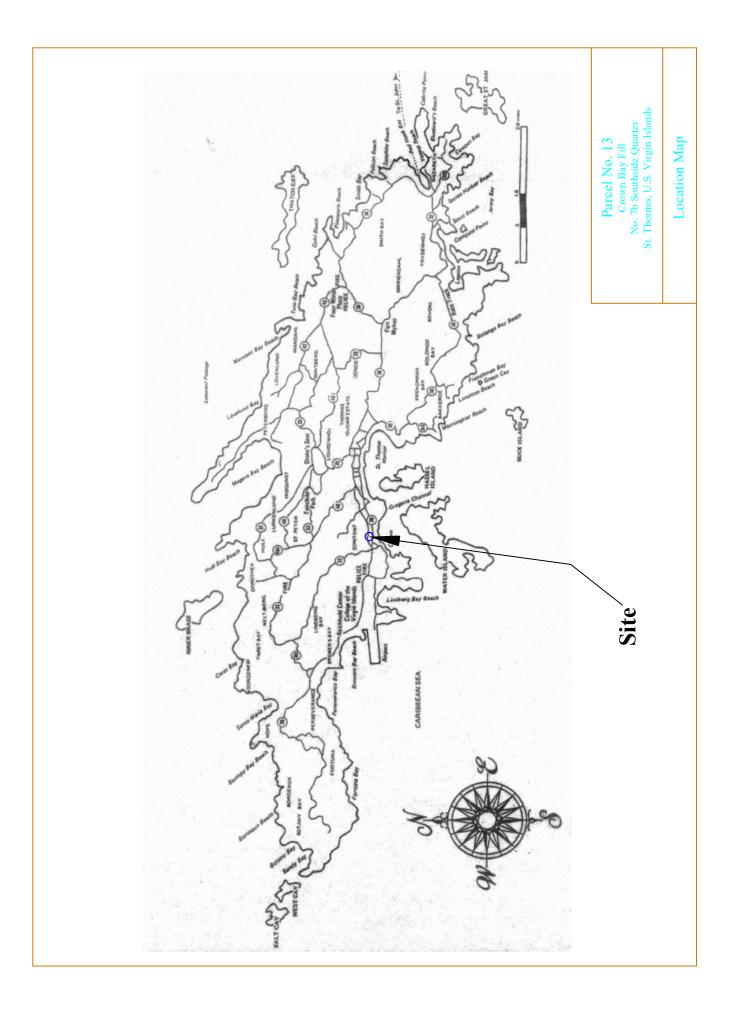
## Sean Krigger

Architectural Historian and Senior Planner – Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Office VISHPO No Objection Letter

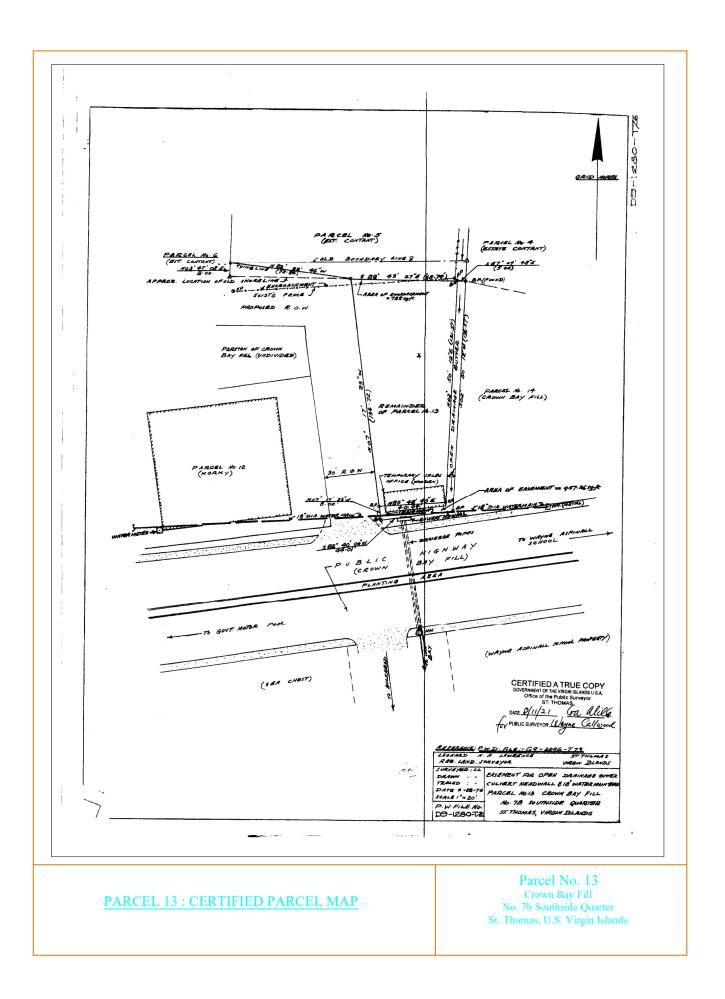
**Felix Finnley** Assetco Leasing, Inc Project Manager

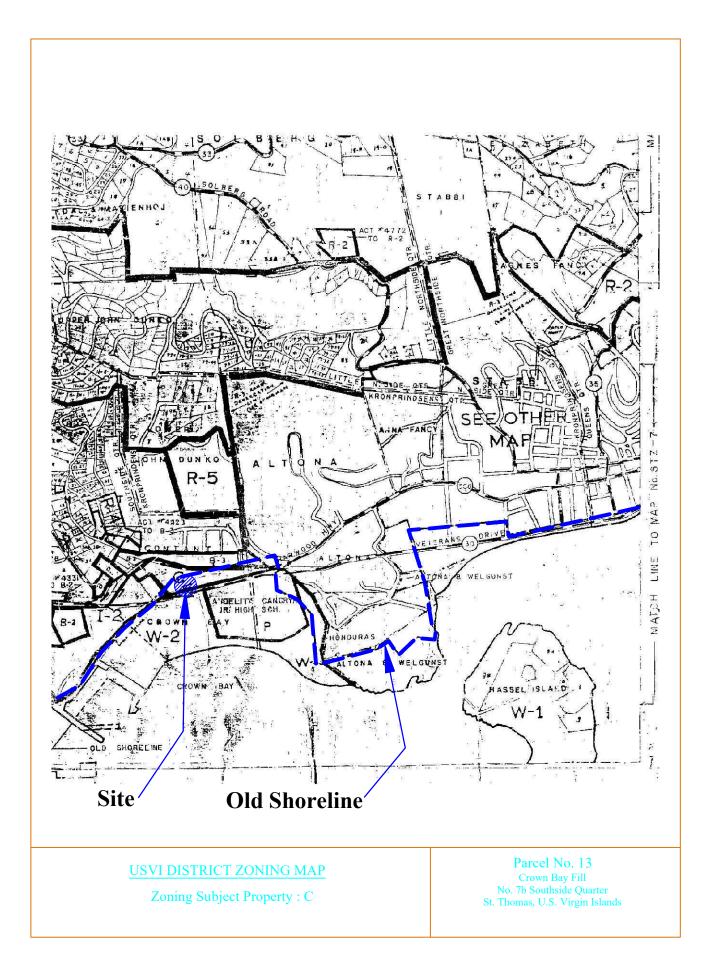
## APPENDIX A: MISC. MAPS

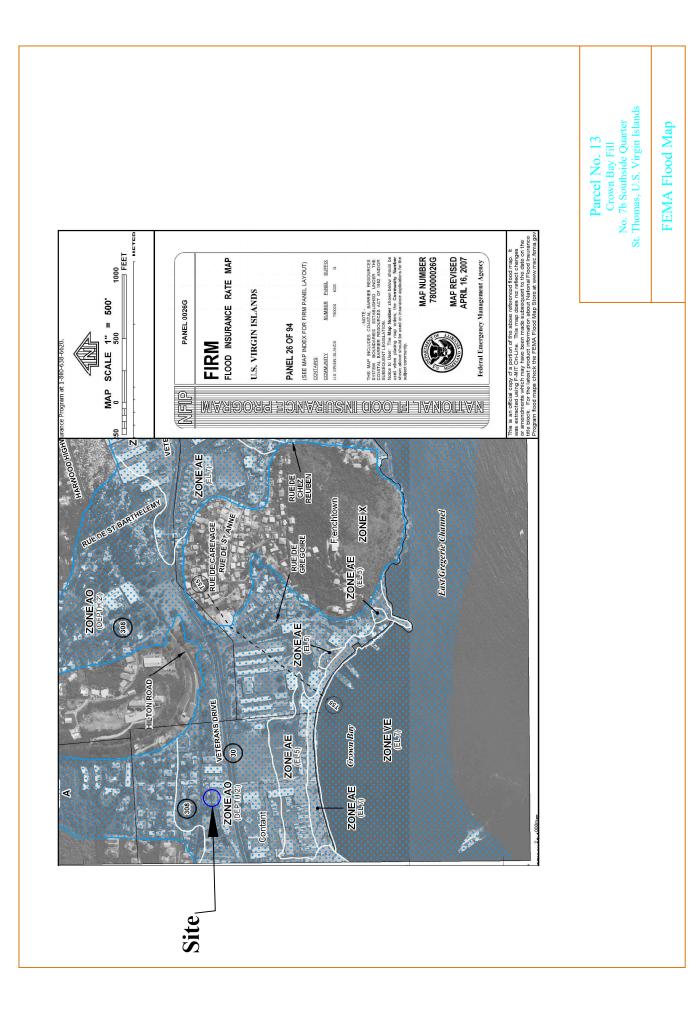
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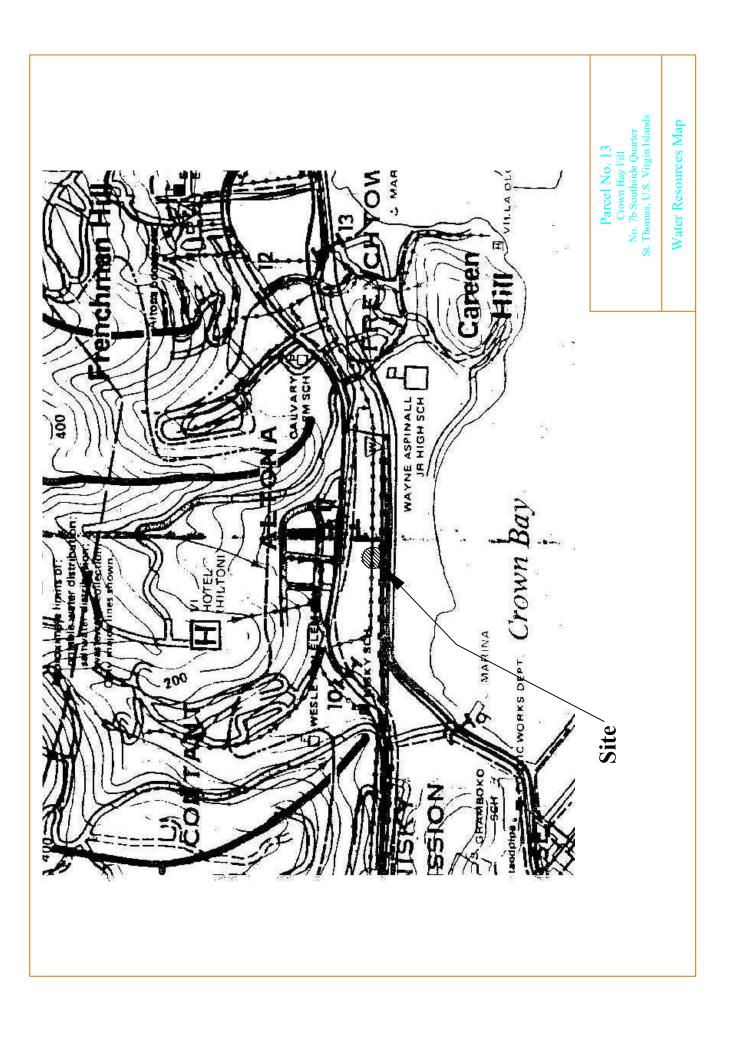


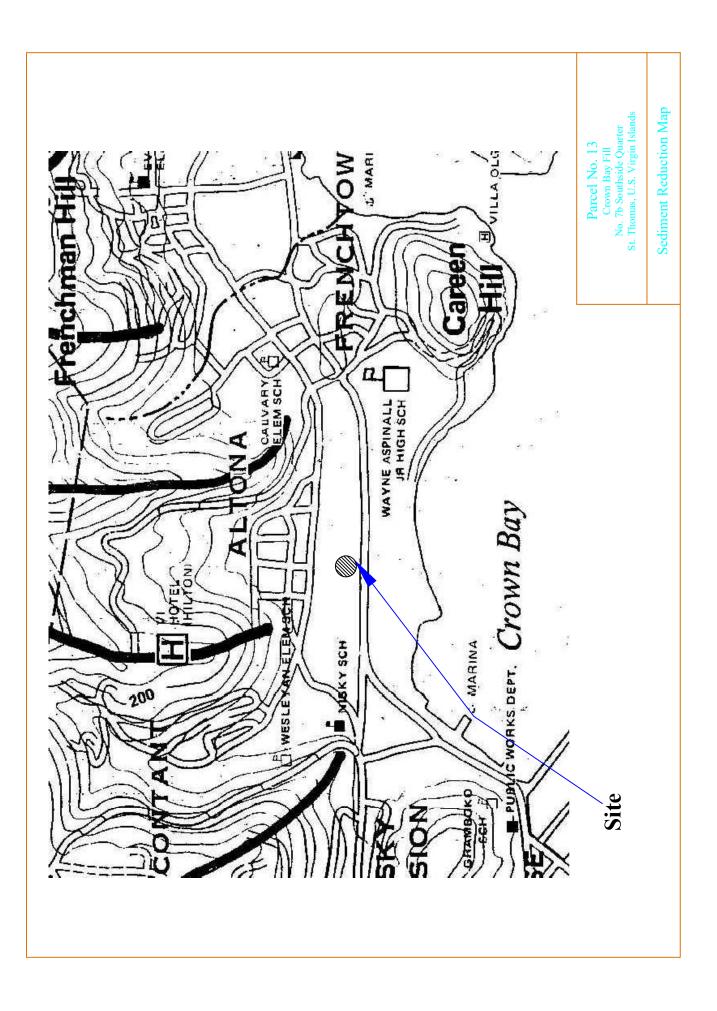














# APPENDIX B: SURVEYS AND SITE PLAN

- As-built Survey
- Site Plan

