

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR EXTENDS TIME TO ACCEPT FEEDBACK ON COMPREHENSIVE LAND & WATER USE PLAN

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning & Natural Resources (DPNR) thanks the community for making the Territory-wide second series of Town Hall meetings for the Comprehensive Land & Water Use Plan (Comp Plan) successful.

A second round of Town Hall meetings were held on St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John. "We had a great turnout, with over 300 in attendance across the three islands," said Commissioner Oriol. He added, "I was glad to see people from our first series of Town Halls in March return to see our progress and some new faces as well."

During the Town Hall, attendees had an opportunity to review proposed policy directions and working strategies. "We are moving into the next stage of developing the Comp Plan with policies and some possible strategies for implementation," explained Commissioner Oriol. He continued, "Policies give us guidance to make land and water use decisions that address important environmental, economic, and social needs of the Virgin Islands. We are seeking feedback from the public to let us know if we are heading in the right direction."

For those who could not attend one of the Town Halls or could not review all the information presented, all the materials are available at <u>www.PlanUSVI.com</u>. We ask that the public provide feedback and comments through August 18, 2023. Note that this is an extension from the original closing date of August 6.

Visit <u>www.PlanUSVI.com</u> to read all documents and materials developed to date and register to receive email updates. Videos and summaries of prior Town Halls are available on the project website and Facebook, <u>www.facebook.com/planusvi</u>.