

Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D.
Commissioner

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
**DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**



St. Thomas: 1834 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6746

St. Croix: 2133 Hospital Street, Christiansted
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00820-4665

Tel: (340) 774-0100
dionne.wells@vide.vi
www.vide.vi

December 2, 2025

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

RE: Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) – Request for Determination of Federal Consistency for the Modernization of Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School

Dear Commissioner Oriol,

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) is renovating and modernizing the existing Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School. VIDE has secured funding for this project through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grants Management Program. Accordingly, VIDE respectfully requests a **Determination of Federal Consistency** from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Zone Management, for the FEMA-funded project – *Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School* – as required under the Virgin Islands Code, Title 12, Subchapter 904, Section 904-8.

VIDE is proposing the full replacement of the Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School. The project includes the demolition of the existing, abandoned school buildings and preparation of the site for the construction of a new facility. The new school will consist of two two-story buildings for administration and classrooms, a one-story dining building, and a one-story gymnasium that will also serve as a safety room.

The Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School redevelopment area encompasses approximately 6 acres, and the site has been previously graded and altered. The property is located on Rem 148-235, Estate Annas Retreat, New Quarter, St. Thomas.

The attached Environmental Assessment addresses the questions and recommendations raised during the August 27, 2025, Pre-Application Meeting.

Attached herewith are reports and drawings that describe the project in detail and demonstrate its compliance with the policies outlined in the U.S. Virgin Islands Code Title 12, Conservation Chapter 21, Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management [V.I. Code tit. 12, § 903(b)].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dionne Wells-Hedrington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D.

Commissioner, Department of Education

Attachments:

- USVI – Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School - Code 2 Report
- USVI – Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School - Federal Consistency Environmental
- USVI – Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School - SD Architectural Set
- USVI – Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School - FCD Civil Plans Submittal
- USVI – Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School - Stormwater Management Calculations
- USVI – Emanuel Benjamin Oliver PK-8 School - Logistics Plan

Cc:

Chaneel Callwood, AIA, Architect/SPMO Rep. & Liaison