



## EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

**To:** All Interested Federal, State, Local Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA), under 24 CFR 58, is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the 100-year floodplain will have on the human and natural environment for the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority (VIWMA) - Red Hook Convenience Center project, funded under the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program, grant number P-17-VI-78-HIM1. The VIWMA - Red Hook Convenience Center project involves the new construction of a residential waste convenience center within the 100-year floodplain.

The proposed project site is located at Parcel C Estate Nazareth, No. 1 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The acreage of the property is approximately 2 acres, and the proposed project is expected to encompass the entire two acres. VIWMA is receiving \$1,470,086.35 of HUD funding through the VIHFA CDBG-DR Program for the development of the residential convenience center. The proposed project will allow for the disposal of solid waste and recycling. The proposed Red Hook Convenience Center is anticipated to prevent pollution, improve household waste disposal practices, provide and divert recycling and certain types of waste away from the Bovoni Landfill. As it relates to the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain identified at this project site, the site is currently developed, and only the fringe has secondary-growth vegetation. Thus, the site does not support habitat development.

One hundred percent of the proposed project property (2.0 acres) is within Flood Zone A, where 100-year coastal flooding is expected. VIWMA will identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain. Although 100-year coastal flooding is expected, flood elevations have not been determined as shown on [FIRM Map 29 of 94, April 16, 2007, FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer \(NFHL\) Viewer](#). The FEMA Panel Number for the proposed project site is 7800000029G. The USVI Advisory Flood Hazard Resource Map shows the area as being subject to 1% flooding to an elevation of 11.0 feet throughout most of the property and 12.7 feet at the western boundary. This will mean a 1% chance of one foot flooding each year. The Advisory Base Flood Elevation map generated for this proposed project and used to identify the 100-year floodplain is available to the public at <https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=a92ce1763cb5416dafa01b84757a5af9>.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who are interested in protecting the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by HUD or Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority at the following address on or before September 25, 2023: Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority 3202 Demerara Plaza, Suite 200, St. Thomas, VI 00802-6447 and (340) 777-4432 Attention: Ms. Dayna Clendinen, Interim Executive Director, and Chief Disaster Recovery Officer, during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Comments may also be submitted via email at [environmental@vihfa.gov](mailto:environmental@vihfa.gov) or online at <https://cdbgdr.vihfa.gov/library-old/citizen-participation/>.

Regards,

Dayna Clendinen,

Interim Executive Director and Chief Disaster Recovery Officer  
Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority