



**Government of the United States Virgin Islands
Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority**

**COMBINED NOTICE
Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment
Notice of Intent to Request the Release of Funds**

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

The Government of the Virgin Islands has received Federal funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, (PL93-383) which it proposes to allocate to the following CDBG projects:

1. Rehabilitation of #4B-5-6A Norre Gade, St. Thomas, known as the Old Unity Lodge, in order to convert the facility into administrative offices and a 15-bed transitional housing for persons suffering from alcoholism and drug dependency.
2. Acquisition of land at #29Q, 29R & 29S Estate Mon Bijou, St. Croix to build a new community center that would benefit the Mon Bijou community.
3. Rehabilitation of Parcel 11A Estate Fredensberg, St. Croix, in order to restore an existing soccer playing field and make improvements to the existing field clubhouse.
4. Renovate and repair an emergency shelter facility (Sojourner House) located at Frederiksted, St. Croix. The facility serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

In accordance with Federal Regulations, environmental assessments have been completed on the above-mentioned projects and it has been determined that it is not necessary to prepare Environmental Impact Statements for these projects, as required by the Act, because these projects have no potentially significant impact on the physical and human environment under the National Environmental Policy Act 1969 (PL 91-90-190). Environmental Review Records (ERR), which explain why such statements are not required, are available for public review at the V. I. Housing Finance Authority's offices, located at 3202 Demarara No. 3, Frenchtown Plaza, Suite 200 (St. Thomas) and at Frits Lawaetz Complex Suite #210, Frederiksted, (St. Croix), during normal government business hours.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FONSI

Parties disagreeing with the decision made with respect to any of the Findings of No Significant Impact are invited to submit written comments to: Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, Attention: Director of Federal Programs, 3202 Demarara No. 3, Frenchtown Plaza, Suite 200, St. Thomas, VI 00802 within 15 days after the date of this publication. All such comments so received will be considered and the VIHFA will not request the release of funds or take any administrative actions on the proposed projects prior to the date specified.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST THE RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOI/RROF)

At least one day after the termination of the public comment period as stated above, but not before comments on the FONSI have been considered and resolved, the Government of the

Virgin Islands will submit a Request for Release of Funds (RROF) and Certification to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). By so doing, the Government of the Virgin Islands will ask HUD to allow it to commit funds to these projects, certifying that (a) it has performed the environmental review procedures outlined at 24 CFR Part 58 and (b) the Governor of the Virgin Islands, in his capacity as Chief Executive Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental reviews or resulting decision-making and actions.

The legal effect of the certification is that, by approving it, HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environment Act, thus allowing the Government of the Virgin Islands to commit CDBG funds to these projects.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and the certification only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the certifying officer or (b) the applicant's Environmental Review Records for these projects indicated omission of the required decision or steps applicable for the projects in the environmental review process. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Caribbean Area Office, 235 Federico Costa Street, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918. Objections to the Release of Funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD.

Adrienne L. Williams, Executive Director
Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority