



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

July 10, 2014

Mr. Jerome Hatfield
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region II
FEMA Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0002

RE: Virgin Islands Territorial Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2014)

Dear Administrator Hatfield:

It is with pleasure that the Government of the United States Virgin Islands submits the Virgin Islands Territorial Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for your review and approval. The Plan Update was prepared in response to the Standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (44 CFR 201.4). Upon the recommendations of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA), this letter represents my formal adoption of this plan as the blueprint for future actions to reduce the devastating impact of natural disasters on our residents, property owners and commercial enterprises.

The actions included in this Plan Update reflect strategies that we can undertake to reduce the adverse effects of major hazards that impact our Territory. These strategies address hazards such as hurricanes, coastal and inland flooding, earthquakes, drought, wildfire, tsunamis, and rain-induced landslides. The Plan Update follows our previous plan that was submitted in 2011 and outlines recommended actions ranging from programmatic measures that seek to incorporate enhanced mitigation practices within our governmental agencies; to specific actions that focus on implementing meaningful hazard mitigation projects for each island.

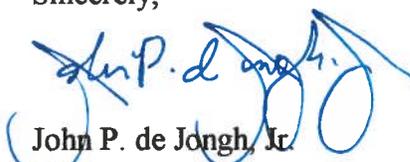
I certify that the Territory will comply with all applicable statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the periods for which it receives grant funding. We will also amend the plan, whenever necessary, to incorporate changes in state or federal laws and statutes as required in 44 CFR 1.11 (d).

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The efforts of your staff within the Caribbean Area Division (CAD) in working with VITEMA to develop this Plan Update are greatly appreciated. It is my desire to continue to work in a close relationship as partners with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as we continue to mitigate the losses associated with the hazards that affect our Territory.

I look forward to receiving approval of our Plan Update by your agency so we may continue to mitigate the potential impact of future losses due to all hazards. If you or your staff have any comments, questions or concerns please contact VITEMA Director Elton Lewis at Elton.lewis@vitema.vi.gov to (340) 773-2244 or Mr. Haldor Farquhar, Territorial Hazard Mitigation Officer, at haldor.farquhar@vitema.vi.gov or (340) 774-2244. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor

pc: Alejandro De La Campa, Director, Caribbean Area Division
Elton Lewis, VITEMA Director
Richard T. Evangelista, Esq., Alternate Governor's Authorized Representative