



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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WAPA Announces Approval of Prudent Replacement Plan for St. Thomas/St. John District's Water Distribution System

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (September 30, 2024) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or the “Authority”) is pleased to announce the approval of the Prudent Replacement Plan for the St. Thomas/St. John district, marking a significant milestone in the renewal of the territory’s water distribution infrastructure. This major initiative, funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), follows the earlier approval of a similar plan for the St. Croix district. Together, these projects represent WAPA’s charge to improving water quality and service reliability for all residents across the territory.

The Prudent Replacement Plan focuses on a comprehensive overhaul of the entire water distribution system, including the replacement of aging pipes, upgrades to pump stations, and refurbishment of storage tanks. These improvements will ensure the long-term durability and reliability of the water system, reducing the risk of leaks, breaks, and other impacts to providing quality drinking water that have previously affected customers in both districts.

“The Prudent Replacement Plan is a crucial step toward modernizing our water infrastructure,” said Karl Knight, CEO and Executive Director at the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority. “With the support of FEMA and our diligent planning, we are working toward a future where water outages and quality issues are a thing of the past.”

Through other federal funding programs, WAPA has completed successful waterline rehabilitation projects in downtown Christiansted, Frederiksted, and Estate Clifton Hill, with Campo Rico and Hannah’s Rest nearing completion in St. Croix. The approval of this plan marks a step forward to upgrade our water distributing system to modern industry standards and ensuring all residents have access to high-quality water. In addition, FEMA has approved projects to tackle critical issues, including the previous impact of sargassum on St. Croix’s saltwater intake system.

The St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix districts will see lasting benefits from these infrastructure improvements as WAPA continues to strive for excellence in serving the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Communication’s department is committed to reaching, informing, and connecting with the youngest members of the community to the eldest, through meaningful, transparent and effective communication.

About WAPA: The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.