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Press Release

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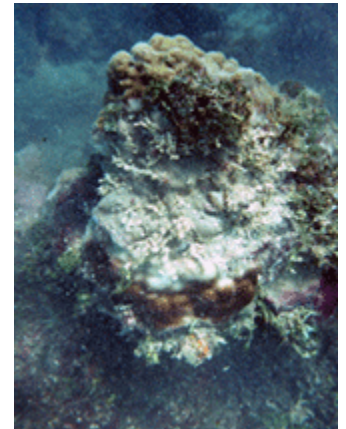
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VI. RC&D to Receive Outstanding Community Level Participation Award

St. Croix, USVI – October 30, 2009 – The Virgin Islands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. (V.I. RC&D) is pleased to announce that they will be receiving an Outstanding Community Level Participation award from the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) at the 22nd USCRTF Meeting to be held next week at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Awards will be given out Tuesday, November 3, 2009, at the USCRTF meeting reception from 6-10pm at the Parque de la Laguna del Condado, Jaime Benitez, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

“On behalf of V.I. RC&D, I am grateful and honored that the work of V.I. RC&D has been recognized by the USCRTF. We have been working to enhance the environment of the VI for

many years and it is energizing to have our efforts recognized,” said V.I. RC&D President, Marcia Taylor.



Sediment damage to corals in Fish Bay, St. John [photo courtesy of UVI-CMES).

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force award is intended to recognize outstanding contributions to the protection and conservation of coral reef ecosystems or to our understanding of coral reef ecosystems and the human dimension of their management. V.I. RC&D has a long history of collaboration to implement a number of projects and programs that further the protection of VI coral reef ecosystems including, but not limited to: development of a watershed management plan for Fish Bay, St. John; development of BMPs and an implementation plan to mitigate erosion from East End Bay into the St. Croix East End Marine Park; coordination of the bi-annual VI Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference; development and installation of signage for the St. Croix East End Marine Park; and facilitation of the St. Croix IYOR, Reef Jam, and Friends of the St. Croix East End Marine Park initiatives. Most

Making Things Happen!

All V.I. RC&D programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

recently, V.I. RC&D was awarded \$2.7M in federal funding for habitat restoration to implement watershed restoration activities in three priority VI watersheds in order to improve the health of coastal habitats including coral reefs.

Individuals, teams of individuals, organizations or countries are eligible for these awards. Selections are made based upon a group's 1) Impact on advancing management, research fields, public awareness, policy; 2) Sustained effort of work; and 3) Creating a foundation upon which others can build. Awardees are nominated by USCRTF Steering Committee members and/or representatives from Task Force member agencies.

The Virgin Islands Resource Conservation and Development (VI RC&D) Council, Inc. is an independent, locally-administered, non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for the people of the Virgin Islands through the conservation of natural and cultural resources, and the stimulation of growth and development. VI RC&D effectively develops partnerships with governmental, non-governmental and private organizations. These alliances provide the necessary tools and resources that allow VI RC&D to accomplish its goals and objectives of resource conservation and community development.

For additional information about V.I. RC&D and its projects and programs, please contact the V.I. RC&D office at (340) 692-6932 x5 or vircd@usvircd.org, or visit the Council's website at www.usvircd.org.

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