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VIPA Approves \$2.5M Dredging Contract and School Demolition; New Leases and Rent Adjustments Also Greenlit

VIPA's governing board has awarded a \$2.5 million contract to Custom Builders for harbor dredging and demolition of Adelita Cancryn Jr. High, while approving new lease terms and rent credits for major tenants at container port facilities on St. Croix.

Development / **Published On July 30, 2025 06:16 AM /**

Janeke Simon **July 30, 2025**

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Waterfront in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, USVI. By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM.

On Tuesday, the Governing Board of the Virgin Islands Port Authority approved the award of a contract to Custom Builders to perform work on the Charlotte Amalie Harbor and the Yacht

Haven Grande Marina.

The project also includes the demolition of the former Adelita Cancryn Jr. High School. The site will reportedly be used to store “beach quality” materials brought up from the dredging work.

Custom Builders did not submit the lowest bid, however they were determined to be “the lowest responsive and responsible bid” by VIPA's evaluation committee. As a result, staff recommended that their \$2.5 million bid be accepted. The board was advised that the lowest bidder, On Site Environmental, had completed previous work on the project, and thus was unable to be hired for this phase of the work due to federal regulations.

The board also approved several lease agreements, including granting additional leased land at the container port on St. Croix to Priority Rural Services Inc., for the storage of operational equipment. Their rent will increase from 95 cents to \$1 per square foot, bringing the total rental cost to \$73,500 per year. Crowley Caribbean was also approved for a new lease of VIPA-owned land at the container port at a rate of \$72,000 each year.

Meanwhile, board members agreed that Tropical Shipping will receive rent credits as reimbursement for repair work being done to their rented premises at the Wilfred Allick Transshipment facility. VIPA's contribution to the work will total just under \$220,000.