



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 23, 2024

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner
Department of Planning and Natural Resources
4611 Tutu Park Mall
Suite 300, 2nd Floor
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Dear Mr. Jean-Pierre L. Oriol:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation of the U.S. Virgin Islands' capacity to manage and use Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IIJA, funds for clean water and drinking water infrastructure improvements. This evaluation is part of the OIG's *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [Oversight Plan](#)*. This evaluation also addresses the following fiscal year 2024 [top management challenges](#) for the Agency: managing grants, contracts, and data systems; maximizing compliance with environmental laws and regulations; and overseeing, protecting, and investing in water and wastewater systems. The project number for this evaluation is Project No. OSRE-FY24-0118.

Our objective is to determine the U.S. Virgin Islands' capacity to manage and use IIJA funds for clean water and drinking water infrastructure improvements. We plan to conduct work at the U.S. Virgin Islands' Department of Planning and Natural Resources and at EPA Region 2. We will conduct the evaluation using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The anticipated benefits of this evaluation include the identification of possible risks facing the U.S. Virgin Islands' capacity to manage and use IIJA funds, as well as additional technical or administrative support that the EPA could provide to enhance the U.S. Virgin Islands' water infrastructure program's performance.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective. At that time, we can discuss any concerns that you may have and answer any questions about the evaluation process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the evaluation. Throughout the evaluation, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

We respectfully note that the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 404(a)(1), authorizes the OIG "to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations" of the EPA. In addition, the U.S. Virgin Islands' Department of Planning and Natural Resources is the recipient of federal award funds pursuant to the IIJA, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.337(a) provides that "Inspectors General ... must have the right of access to any documents, papers, or other records of the non-Federal entity which are pertinent to the Federal Award, in order to make audits, examinations,

excerpts, and transcripts.” This right “also includes timely and reasonable access to the non-Federal entity’s personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents.”

We have sent a similar notification to Lisa F. Garcia, regional administrator for EPA Region 2. We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epaoig.gov. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this evaluation should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsay K. Clarke Brubaker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lindsay" being the most prominent.

Lindsay Clarke Brubaker, Director
Environmental Infrastructure Oversight Directorate
Office of Special Review and Evaluation

cc: Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Nicole N. Murley, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency