



WAA TA

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ANNUAL REPORT: YEAR 1

This issue completes the first year for publication of WAA TA'. We hope that our readers find the newsletter both instructive and helpful in understanding the subject of water resources in the Virgin Islands. You can help make WAA TA' a more effective publication by sending any comments and criticisms that you may have. Also, please encourage others to read WAA TA' regularly by joining our mailing list. We presently have nearly 300 names of organizations and individuals in the Virgin Islands, the Caribbean, and elsewhere, including Guam and Hawaii, that receive our newsletter.

In the first issue of WAA TA' (Jan-Feb 1978) we stated our purpose for this publication. We feel that we have made significant progress in fulfilling that purpose by disseminating information about the various water resources research projects and programs in the Virgin Islands as well as publishing information about work in other locations which could have positive applications locally. We intended to publish a summary of monthly water statistics including "rainfall totals at selected points, water production by the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA), water pumped from wells for public water supply on St. Croix and water

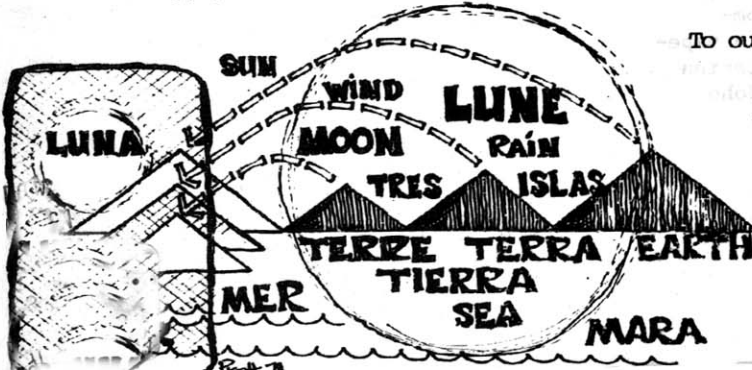
use figures such as those for the Virgin Islands Housing Authority (VIHA)". After repeatedly contacting many private businesses and governmental agencies requesting their assistance by reporting water production/purchases/use data, only Hess Oil Company (HOVOC) has responded by submitting monthly reports to the Water Center. WAA TA' will continue to urge that businesses and government cooperate in this program in order that the water statistics for the Virgin Islands can be compiled and published.

This year of publication has only been a success because of the efforts and dedication of several people. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the help of Ms. Sandra Testamark of the Caribbean Research Institute staff who patiently types and re-types the copy and Mr. Winston Charles of the College's Duplicating Services Unit who prints the newsletter. Also, I appreciate the efforts of the people who contributed articles for the newsletter including--Ms. Teri Vaughan, formerly of the Planning Office, Mr. Henry Smith of the Planning Office and Dr. Roger Peebles, Director of the V.I. Water Resources Research Center.

We look forward to Year II of WAA TA'.

Al Pratt

To our Readers who have expressed curiosity in the logo for this newsletter and for the Water Center, we offer a schematic interpretation:



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BLOCK GRANT FUNDS WATER PROJECTS

The Community Development Programming Unit of the Virgin Islands Planning Office is the lead agency in the Virgin Islands responsible for the Administration of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The primary objective of the Block Grant Program is the development of viable Urban Communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate housing. The "Block Grant" awarded the Virgin Islands, now in its fourth year, is a total of approximately eleven million dollars spread out over a period of five years.

Since July 1975, monies have been appropriated through CDBG for the funding of 41 project activities in the Virgin Islands. Among these were several water related projects. Some of the completed St. Croix projects are the Grove Place Potable Water, the L. Harrigan Potable Water and Sewer Line and the Herbert Grigg Sewer Line Projects. In St. Thomas completed water projects include the Pearson Gardens Potable Water Line and the Pearson Gardens Sewer Line Projects.

For the 1978 program year, the Virgin Islands entitlement grant for CDBG amounts to \$1,802,000. From this grant, \$150,000 will be used in St. Croix for construction of a potable water distribution system on Hannah's Rest and Stony Ground while in St. Thomas the drilling of wells will be started in the Bovini Housing. In addition to the 1978 Entitlement Grant, the Virgin Islands has also received \$624,000 from the Secretary's 1978 Discretionary Fund specifically to fund water projects.

CDBG monies have also funded the development of a water supply and distribution system in St. John. In Cruz Bay, a well field has been developed, water storage tanks are in the final stages of completion and work is in progress on a pipeline system. The total budget allocation for this threepart project in St. John is \$1,112,000.

WRRC TO STUDY CISTERNS

The Water Center will soon initiate a one-year study of the quality of cistern water in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The project is intended to characterize the biological, chemical, and particulate content of cistern water used for domestic supplies throughout the islands. The research results will indicate if steps should be taken locally to insure that this significant source of water supply has no adverse impacts on public health. It is also intended to provide additional information to that collected by the Caribbean Research Institute study of mercury and lead levels in cisterns in 1972. The research will be conducted by Dr. Frank P. Rhinehart of CVI's Science and Mathematics Division. Ms. Lesley Dewar, a CVI undergraduate, will assist Dr. Rhinehart. Anyone wishing to cooperate in the cistern study by providing periodic water samples totaling 1-2 gallons of water (strictly rain-water) over the next year is invited to contact Dr. Rhinehart (774-1252, Ext. 367) or the Water Center at (Ext. 250).

Funding for the project is provided through the 1977 Annual Allotment of the Water Center a program of the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Water Research and Technology (OWRT).