



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**

## **News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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### **MVA STARTS A&E DESIGN OF MARPI SITES IMPROVEMENTS**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is taking the first steps toward the redevelopment of several major historic sites in Saipan with commencement of architecture and engineering services for the project.

Under a \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, TRL Architecture will provide A&E design and construction oversight for the Marpi Tourist Site Improvement Project covering Bird Island Lookout, Last Command Post, and Suicide Cliff.

“After extensive meetings with EDA to ensure the CNMI is in compliance with all expectations of the grant, we’re pleased to announce the hiring of TRL Architecture to move us forward with design of the vision we have to enhance three of our most popular tourist sites in The Marianas,” said MVA Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “We are working toward designing the site improvements and then hiring a construction contractor to do the work, which will elevate each of these sites.”

Improvements to Bird Island Lookout will include a complete site redesign that will include viewing platforms; new ADA/code compliant stairs, walkways, viewing platforms, and guardrails; and an improved parking area. Improvements to Suicide Cliff Lookout will also include new ADA/code compliant stairs, walkways, viewing platforms, a ramp, and guardrails and an improved parking area. Improvements to Last Command Post will include construction of a new ADA-compliance restrooms and accompanying septic tank and leaching field.

The A&E design phase is expected to be completed in six months with the construction phase beginning shortly thereafter. This multi-phase project is anticipated to be constructed and completed by March 2027.

The Marianas is an archipelago of 14 islands - including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota - in the Western Pacific. The Marianas are home to indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people, as well as over 20 different ethnicities from around the world who live and work in this harmonious tropical paradise. Ancient latte stone limestone monoliths, traditional nature-based ocean navigation not reliant on modern technology, and a culture seasoned by East and West influences are just a few of the experiences found in The Marianas, where pristine sea, sand, and skies are only a 3–4-hour flight from major Asian gateway cities. From South Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights to Saipan from Seoul-Incheon. United Airlines flies three times a week from Tokyo-Narita, Japan, and daily from Guam. Hong Kong Airlines flies twice weekly from Hong Kong. Interisland travel between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is provided by Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), Facebook/VisitTheMarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

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