



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**MVA APPROVES \$1M FOR DESTINATION ENHANCEMENT**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) board of directors unanimously approved \$1-million yesterday (Dec. 10) for destination enhancement projects in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

During today's board meeting, the board agreed to quadruple its initially proposed budget for the year from \$250,000 to \$1-million, based on anticipated revenue.

“While most of our budget remains committed for marketing in our source markets, now that revenue has increased, the board wants to invest more funding toward developing our product,” said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. “Based on projected revenue collections this fiscal year, the board feels \$1-million is a reasonable and necessary commitment, and we are excited for the opportunities this funding will open up.”

Following the increase in hotel occupancy tax in April this year, the MVA had reactivated its Destination Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee, which has already completed several projects: the restoration of the Sugar King train, railing and monument repairs and construction of a pavilion at Banzai Cliff, railing repairs at Bird Island Lookout, restoration of the canons and tanks at Last Command Post, Aguigan Point/Tinian Goat Island, and the ongoing Christmas in

the Marianas celebration.

The following initial projects have been identified for Saipan: restoration of the World War II tank at Quarter Master Rd. intersection, signage at Banzai Cliff; repairs to railings, the lookout point, signs and restrooms at Grotto; repairs to railings and signs at Suicide Cliff and clearing of the Banaderu Trail, repairs to railings and construction of a new guard rail at Ladder Beach, construction of a stage and lamp post repairs at Paseo de Marianas, and pressure washing and painting of pavilions and benches at Last Command Post.

On Tinian, the initial projects will include: installation of railings and rail posts at Taga Beach, installation of railings at Carolinas Heights Lookout, road and parking lot repairs at Yumiyoshi Shrine, installation of new railings at Suicide Cliff, and repair of the MVA plant nursery. On Rota, the initial projects will include new directional signs, interpretative signs at two historic train sites, and rehabilitation of the Japanese-era Sugar Train.

The MVA Board made an inspection tour of major tourist sites last month. Members of the Destination Enhancement Committee will also make assessments visit to Tinian and Rota to work with the community to identify additional needs.

“We have to deliver. Money spent here, not only stays here, it brings a better product to all of our visitors across all markets,” said Destination Enhancement Committee Chairman Chris Nelson. “We look forward to responsibly using these funds to make the islands cleaner, safer, and more beautiful for our visitors and local residents alike.”

The \$1-million funding was approved as \$500,000 for the first half of the fiscal year, with an additional \$500,000 approved for the second half of the year dependent upon available funding.

The board also approved additional funding for the Flower Island Project, “a long term space design project to rejuvenate and refresh the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota brand image in Japan to that of a beautiful beach resort destination full of green and trees and colorful flowers.” The project has also received the commitment of members of the Japan Marianas Tourism Club to promote and sell packages to the Northern Marianas based on this new branding.



Construction of a pavilion at Banzai Cliff was completed last week as part of ongoing destination enhancement projects by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA). The MVA has committed \$1M for destination enhancement in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota this fiscal year.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. China is served from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Russia is served via Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan via Guam. United States mainland connections can be made by United Airlines to Saipan via Guam, and Delta Airlines from the west coast to Saipan via Narita. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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