From: Leigh Anne Gilchrist
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Coconut Beach
Date: Monday, May 18, 2009 5:56:15 PM

Mr. Owen,

I understand that the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to use part or all of Coconut Beach in the new pumping station planned for the 17th St. Canal. Though the pumping station project is undoubtedly important to our city, Coconut Beach is too. More than just a sports complex, Mickey Retif/Coconut Beach is a venue that brings members of our community together, adds to our quality of life, promotes healthy activity and exercise, and is just plain fun.

Fun may not seem important in the planning of flood protection, but living in the Greater New Orleans area is stressful. Every year we deal with evacuations, power outages, hurricane anxiety, and all the related issues and concerns. Being able to connect with friends, compete, socialize (in a way not centered around drinking and eating) and PLAY goes a long way in fortifying our resilience and resolve.

It isn't always easy to live here, but we do it because we love it, because we share good times with our fellow citizens and because we have fun. Please do your part to protect Coconut Beach. It's more important than you may think.

Sincerely,

Leigh Anne Gilchrist