From: Bert Vasbinder
To: MVN Environmental;
cc: Bert Vasbinder;
Subject: Coconut Beach
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009 8:21:05 AM

Mr. Owen,

We recently found out that Coconut Beach is once again in the Hot Zone for the pumping station. Not to undermine the importance of the pumping station, I just don't understand why the Corp and the city of New Orleans would want to take the only place out at West End that has any life associated with it since the hurricane. I know that you are familiar with the number of people that go to Coconut Beach not only for volleyball but for exercise as well as socialization. Without Coconut Beach, there would be little to no life in the West End area. Most progressive cities in the U.S. go out of their way to build facilities such as parks, recreation areas, etc to promote outdoor activities for the people that live there. New Orleans has not done anything but yet has this type of facility.

Why take Coconut beach when there is land where the restaurants use to be located that nothing has happened since Katrina? From an engineering standpoint why couldn't this area be used.

I sincerely hope that you and the city highly consider the impact that Coconut Beach has on many people. Not only on the volleyball complex itself but also on West End area. For instance, the new restaurant Wasabi's that just opened, I know of at least 20 people including myself that frequently visit it because it is near Coconut beach and gets overflow from the beach.

Thank you very much

Bert Vasbinder
Project Manager
Sigma Engineers & Constructors, Inc.
4323 Division St., Ste 203
504-272-0830

bert.vasbinder@sigmaec.com