From: Samantha Euraque
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Coconut Beach-Gib Owen
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 9:13:19 AM

Gib Owen,

I am a player at Coconut Beach and was told yesterday that we will be losing our beach volleyball court. I wanted to write in to say that although I understand the constraints and difficulty of this decision, Coconut Beach holds a special place in the hearts of many New Orleanians.

My older brother taught me how to play volleyball there 20 years ago. I have fond memories of not only learning to play a game I love, but also bonding with my older brother. Learning to play volleyball has taught me so many things. It provided me with discipline and self-worth that has helped me throughout my life. I recently moved back to New Orleans after being away for ten years. I never found a place like Coconut Beach in any of the cities that I lived. One of the first things that I wanted to do when I returned home was join a league at Coconut Beach and I did. Only to find out that this might be my first and last time playing in the Coconut Beach League.

I realize that many things have to change to maintain the safety of the city, but I would hope that the Army Corps could work with the citizens to keep the places that so many of us hold dear. Everyone has already suffered so much from the devastation of Katrina and this would be one more place that would be lost to memory in my city.

Thank you for your time,

Samantha Euraque