From: Lynn Pyke
To: MVN Environmental;
cc: Midura, Shelley Councilmember Dist A; Fieklow, Arnie Council Member-At-Large; white323@cox.net;
Subject: Coconut Beach New Orleans
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009 10:54:06 AM

Mr. Owen,
I am writing to object to the proposed taking of Coconut Beach Volleyball Complex at the West End area of New Orleans. Bruce White is a hero for creating and building the complex over the last 21 years. After Katrina, Bruce patiently and single-handedly restored the complex, step-by-step, in order to have a place for the citizens of New Orleans to relax from the arduous task of rebuilding.

The facility has been a welcome place to play for my family and friends. There is hardly any other place in New Orleans where a person can join in wholesome activity, play or socializing, without knowing anyone or requiring a membership. There is no foul language, abusive play or outside smoking. Patrons are required to keep the courts clean and free of trash and debris. In addition to regular league play, the complex regularly hosts local, regional and national tournaments. It has been said that Coconut Beach is one of the top tournament venues in the country.

Coconut Beach is a New Orleans' treasure. It should be treated the same way as an historic building - a place to be preserved and honored. I urge you and the the Corps of Engineers to reconsider, and to seek other ways to solve New Orleans flooding issues. It would be a shame to destroy both the place and the symbol of the rebuilding effort.

Lynn E. Pyke
2223 Octavia Street, New Orleans, LA 70115-6563
504/894-0277 cell: 504/460-0122