From: Ken Bode
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Save the Beach!
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 3:37:59 PM

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was recently informed that the Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of acquiring 10%-100% of Coconut Beach in order to build a pumping station at the entrance of the 17th Street Canal. I was very upset to hear this news. Coconut Beach has served as a haven from the stress of daily life for many in the community and we would be distraught to see it overtaken for a pumping station. I understand the importance of the work the Corps is performing for the City and am truly grateful for their dedication to the project of protecting the citizens of New Orleans. I do not want the Corps to sacrifice the safety of the citizens of New Orleans just so we can have a place to play beach volleyball. I am asking that the Corps explore all possible avenues to find a way for the two to peacefully co-exist. I realize you may not be familiar with Coconut Beach, but it is a place for family and friends to get together for a few drinks and laugh, instead of cry, about the things going on around us.

It has also played an important role in the community by raising nearly $1 million dollars for Children's Hospital and other charities. It is a vital part of the community in which we are all apart of. It is a truly unique destination in the city of New Orleans where its constituents are able to find excitement that many are unable to enjoy on a nightly basis. If you have not had the opportunity to go to Coconut Beach, I invite you to come out and witness what it means to the people who frequent the establishment.

I hope this email finds you in good spirits and you are able to take the time to read this and understand what this place means to so many of us.

Respectfully,
Ken Bode