From: Lowry, Bruce
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Coconut Beach Complex c/o Mr. Gib Owen
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009 9:42:30 AM

Mr. Gib Owen,

I writing this on behalf of myself, my family, my friends, and for everyone who's ever made a stand to save something they love.

It is my understanding that the Army Corps of Engineers are actively pursuing the seizure of 10% to 100% of the property in which the Coconut Beach Complex is currently located. To address the greater good, I understand that adding this new proposed pumping station is very important to Lakeview and New Orleans in preventing such disasters similar to the breach of the 17th street canal. However, I don't think closing down businesses in an area of Lakeview that is currently rebuilding more and more everyday is the way to go.

Coconut Beach is very much like a small community within Lakeview. Every week, nearly thousands of people, anywhere from small kids to older adults, convene and participate in an easy sport that everyone can play. Athletes and the not-quite-so-athletic can actually coexist and form friendships that otherwise would never have existed. Everyone is a friend of each other when they gather to play volleyball at Coconut Beach.

I personally drive from Laplace, LA 3 nights a week. That is nearly a 50 mile round way trip for me. I'm bringing my tax dollars to the city of New Orleans by driving out there not only to play, but also to dine and enjoy the area's fine restaurants. I believe that with the way the economy is struggling right now, tax dollars in New Orleans (and specifically Lakeview) are needed more than ever. In that same light, Coconut Beach attracts volleyball players all around the world as it is recognized nationally as one of the largest man-made volleyball complexes in the United States!! When Bruce White puts on a tournament, it brings in plenty of revenue in the form of tax dollars to New Orleans from all over the country. Lakeview has come so far since the Hurricane Katrina, and I think with the elimination of Coconut Beach, that's a huge step backwards. Losing Coconut Beach from New Orleans would have as big an impact as losing the New Orleans Saints from Louisiana. Yes, it is this important.

The location of the new pumping station obviously seems up in the air because of the ambiguity of the amount of Coconut Beach being acquired... 10% to 100%???? If this IS the case, I urge you to use your conscience and make the acquisition as minimal as possible. I can agree that the pumping station is necessary. It would be tragic if another disastrous flood occurred in Lakeview.

But there is always more than one solution to any problem, and I'm sure there can be a fair compromise. There is no reason that the well-being of the people in Lakeview and the Coconut Beach Complex couldn't coexist.

It's only been the past year and a half that I became involved with Coconut Beach and I wish I had much sooner. It's become such a part of my life, and I've met so many great people because of Coconut Beach. I look forward to continuing participation with Coconut Beach. After working long hours, and on top of that studying for far many more hours, it's nice to unwind and distress by being with good friends, and playing some volleyball.

I hope this email is read and considered. I will do my best to send this as often as I can for the next 30 days so that I can show you how serious I am. You may feel free to contact me if needed. I appreciate your time.

Regards,
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