From: Brett, Elliott
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Tonight"s meeting
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 9:01:45 PM

Mr. Owen,
I know I will not get the opportunity to comment tonight, so I'm emailing from the audience. I will keep it short.

Option 2A is the best. Everyone agrees. You say that we are currently safe. In a country that spends 1.2 trillion to bail out irresponsible banks, why can't they spare a couple billion to help people who do deserve it? In a country that spend 85 billion a year (minimum) to fight around the world "for our protection", why can't they spend the couple billion to REALLY protect us at home.

We do not want the "it's better than nothing" solution. We only want the "best." option 2A.

Thank you,

Elliott Brett
EDG Consulting Engineers
(504) 296-8818 Mobile

-----Original Message-----
From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2009 6:57 AM
To: Brett, Elliott <egbrett@edg.net>
Subject: RE: So I hear...

Mr. Elliott
Just to clarify. The number of comments received is used to determine the level of public concern for a proposed action. In the case of Coconut Beach, we are aware of the public concerns if the site is impacted. We also are aware of the number of users, etc at the facility. Mr. White has been a great champion of the complex.
The Federal decision process is based upon an analysis of scientific and engineering data. Impacts to the human environment are considered as part of the scientific data that is analyzed. Comments that contain factual information providing sound reasoning as to why the proposed action is good or bad are very helpful during this phase of the analysis.
As discussed in the proposed action section of IER 5, the Corps plans are too minimize impacts to business and residents to the greatest extent practicable

during the design phase.

However, I want to clearly state that no decision has been made at this point in time on what the final Federal project will be. We encourage public input into this process and will take into account all comments received.

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/
HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader
New Orleans District
504 862-1337

-----Original Message-----
From: Brett, Elliott [mailto:egbrett@edg.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 1:32 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: So I hear...

Mr. Owen,

I hear that the decision to impact Coconut Beach by taking a portion or all of this recreational facility for pumping station staging area is based partly upon the lack of email in support of the playground, whereas II Tony's has received over 2300 emails supporting it.

That is a foolish basis.

I can guarantee that II Tony's has fewer clients per week than Coconut Beach. It's really easy for people to send an email, but true votes come with a presence. I helped rebuild Coconut Beach after Katrina with my own sweat and muscle, I play in two leagues per week, and I participate in the tournaments on Monday night and weekends. I support the pro-shop by purchasing clothes, and I support the bar and grill. In my 10 years as a Lakeview resident, I've been to II Tony's one time. It was nice enough. I don't wish any harm upon them. I didn't start going to Coconut Beach until 8 years ago, and I didn't actually know about II Tony's, or any of the other Bucktown area restaurants until I became a regular at Coconut Beach.

Why does any of this matter? Who am I? Well, I'm one of the young professionals, in an engineering firm for the offshore oil and gas industry, that has helped to rebuild the city. My wife is an engineer in the aerospace industry in New Orleans.

After Katrina, I bought a house in Lakeview, because of my love of Lakeview and Coconut Beach, to be closer to the people and activities that make this city worthwhile to me. I was and am excited about living in New Orleans because of my community at Coconut Beach. If Coconut Beach goes away, I will start listening to my wife and leave this city. She already says there isn't enough to do here besides drink and eat.

I hope you come out to see the community that will be destroyed by the action that is currently proposed.

I remember the meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church where the Corps of Engineers vowed not to get rid of Coconut Beach. Were you the tall guy who said all that?

Elliott G. Brett

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