From: Susan Blackburn
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: SAVE Coconut Beach!!!
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2009 9:41:59 AM

Dear Mr. Owen & the Army Corp of Engineers,

We are pleading with you to save as much of Coconut Beach as you can! I first moved to New Orleans just three years ago, after Hurricane Katrina. One of first things my boyfriend wanted to show me was the great place he loved called Coconut Beach. I was forwarded the before and after Katrina pictures which emphasized how much the venue was completely destroyed. As we drove out to West End in May 2006 in complete darkness, with no streetlights or homes rebuilt in Lakeview, I wondered where we were going. As we turned the corner, I saw the first lights of the beach and just 3 courts. We had a blast that night just seeing how the rebuilding was just beginning and enjoying the Oasis in an area that was ravaged. Now, 3 years later, the people are back and the courts are re-built. We have played 2 nights a week since and really don't know what we would do if it was gone! We struggle with the crime and corruption in New Orleans and try to focus on all the things we love here. Coconut Beach is at the top of that list. Where else in the city (or south Louisiana) can thousands of people be outside AT NIGHT, enjoying the breeze off the lake, and play beach volleyball? Nowhere, of course!!

Take 10%, Take 20%, but PLEASE don't take 100%!! There has to be some sort of compromise...we are willing, are you??

We love our Coconut Beach and we love the money and revenue and tournaments it brings to the city. The owners are honest business men & women who bring a GOOD thing to this city. Why would we get rid of it??

Please do what you can use as little of the complex as possible. We understand we need flood protection...no one is arguing that. We also need our Coconut Beach!!

Thank you,
Sue Black