From: Laura LeBon
To: MVN Environmental;
cc: white323@cox.net;
Subject: Coconut Beach
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 11:49:44 PM

May 14, 2009

Mr. Gib Owen,

I am writing to you tonight in support of saving Coconut Beach and Mickey Retif Playground, which is located adjacent to the 17th Street Canal and the Jefferson / Orleans Parish Line in Louisiana. As a resident of Lakeview, New Orleans, I can appreciate the importance of preventing another flood. My family and I lost our home, our vehicles, and (some may argue) our sanity when the levee burst two blocks from our home and sent nine feet of water reeling through my neighborhood, drowning and displacing many of my neighbors forever. Nothing can replace what we once had. PLEASE do not take my recreation too.

For decades Coconut Beach has provided clean, family friendly relaxation and sport for anyone who wished to participate. As a mother of two, I sincerely treasure the opportunity to regularly bring my children to an event that we will all truly enjoy without emptying my wallet, as real opportunities for fun that the entire family can actually enjoy are rare. As an eight-hours-a-day-behind-the-computer worker, I truly treasure the opportunity for low impact, aerobic exercise and the chance to kick back, socialize, and network with other New Orleanians. Coconut Beach should be preserved and protected.

Before the Corps takes more land than necessary, please review the plans for the pumping station and determine what land is actually necessary for adequate hurricane protection. I find it hard to believe that with the technology that exists today that a good, solid solution to the problem of storm surge protection cannot be found without taking the bulk of the waterfront property at the canal inlet. Please ask the powers that be at the USACE to reconsider the termination of a valuable community tradition.

Yours truly,

Laura LeBon
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