From: Torres Jason S CONT SSGC
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Save Coconut Beach
Date: Friday, May 15, 2009 10:33:21 AM

Mr. Owen,

I understand the Corp of Engineer's responsibility to protect the New Orleans area from flood waters. We certainly appreciate the Corp's work, but if we have to give up everything that's great about New Orleans to save the city from flooding then what's the point? Coconut Beach is one of the few places in this city that offers safe, family entertainment. Thousands of people who live in the New Orleans metro area play volleyball at Coconut Beach and/or go there for entertainment with friends & family.

I'm pretty sure you understand the importance of Coconut Beach to the citizens of this community. Now I want to bring up the legal and moral reason I'm writing this letter. Rumor has it the Corp does not want to reimburse Coconut Beach for taking their property to build the new pumping station. Not only is this morally wrong, it's illegal. The Takings Clause, the last clause of the Fifth Amendment, limits the power of eminent domain by requiring that "just compensation" be paid if private property is taken for public use - 'nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation'.

The citizens of New Orleans certainly understand the importance of flood protection. If the Corp has no choice but to take Coconut Beach's property to build the new pumping station we would certainly understand, but PLEASE do what's LEGAL and ADMIRABLE and compensate Coconut Beach the fair value of
their property so they can relocate.

Thank you,

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