From: Becky Neeb
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: PLEASE HELP US TO SAVE SOME OF COCONUT BEACH.. please, please, please.
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009 2:56:23 PM

Hi Mr. Owen ~

My name is Becky and I am a life-long resident of New Orleans. I moved to Lakeview right after I finished high school and resided there until Katrina destroyed my lovely home (I lived on 18th street b/w Bellaire & Fleur De Lis). Therefore I completely understand the need for keeping New Orleans, especially Lakeview, safe from flooding during hurricanes and such, so I am very glad to support any such plans. However, I am also a huge fan of Coconut Beach. It is much more than a sand volleyball facility to me. It is a gathering place for families and friends and has evolved into its own community. For decades now people have been able to come together there to eat, drink, play, & relax with their fellow New Orleanians. Even more than that, it is technically a free venue. When I was in college & broke, it was one of the only places I could get in some exercise & spend hours with my friends for free! I couldn't afford a gym membership either so it served as my workout location also. Coconut Beach means a lot to me & even more to families who have raised their kids there and whose kids are starting to bring their kids. It serves the younger generations in New Orleans also by giving them a productive & healthy outlet of their energy. Kids that have something to do will not be so bored that they pick up other bad habits that plague youth...such as drinking, drugs, or other criminal behavior that bored kids can conjure up. And in a city like New Orleans, which is known for its drinking culture & unhealthy food, I believe that Coconut Beach is breath of fresh air for people looking to live a healthier lifestyle.

Now I understand that the Corps' main job is to protect the city & you strive to do your best, especially with the heat ACE has dealt with after Katrina. But I believe that there is a way to compromise so that both of our needs can be met. I think that with all the technology available to us these days, the pumping station can be designed using small parts of the beach facility without taking over all of it. Besides, now is the Corps' chance to reconnect with the citizens of New Orleans, especially Lakeview people, and show them that you can be a hero to us...here's your chance to win us over!

I hope that you are open to trying to help us out & will do your best with the design to make a fair & safe compromise.

Please, please, please, please consider helping.

Thank you for your time.

Becky Neeb

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