From: William Summerour
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Coconut Beach
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009 9:28:00 AM

To whom it may concern-

I am a life long New Orleanian and very much understand the need for improved Hurricane Protection having worked in the engineering and emergency management fields for several years. In fact, I worked on a number of Environmental Assessments and Impact Statements for levee protection system expansion projets. As such, I understand the complexities involved in selecting an alternative that most adequately serves the need of all the stakeholders involved. I also understand that sacrifices must be made by the citizens of this city in order to achieve the protection that we need.

It has recently come to my attention that some or all of Coconut Beach is situated in a permanent acquisition zone. While I understand that this may be a necessary sacrifice, I implore the USACE to take only that land which is necessary to provide the protection that we must have. If all must be taken and developed, so be it. However, if there is any way for Coconut Beach to remain in existence, that option should be explored to the utmost. Our Lakefront used to be a vibrant destination with a number of bars, restaurants, etc lining the waterfront. Coconut Beach is the only one to have returned.

This place means a great deal to literally thousands of residents of the area, and it would be a shame to lose the last operational and open to the public lakefront resource that we have at our disposal. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Sincerely,

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