From: Brett Napier
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Coconut Beach
Date: Monday, May 18, 2009 12:37:31 PM

Mr Owens:

I have recently heard about the ACE trying to acquire land now occupied by Coconut Beach. I am pleased to see that New Orleans will be making improvements to help during hurricane season and other times, but taking all the land from Coconut Beach would be a mistake. Coconut Beach is a great asset for the city of New Orleans. I have played there for almost 10 years. During my time, I have played in tournaments with other participants and heard stories about previous visits to New Orleans and Coconut Beach. I have also played in tournaments in other states,and when asked where I am from, the volleyball community associate Coconut Beach with New Orleans. It also houses the Slam-N-Jam high school volleyball tournament. This tournament collects registration fees and donations from students and participants to donate to local charities.

For the regular players, Coconut Beach is a place to interact with friends and exercise. People maintain long time friendships, meet new people, and really enjoy the times they have at "the Beach". Coconut Beach is a great place for fun and excitement. New Orleans natives need a place like Coconut Beach. After Katrina, Coconut Beach owners and regulars made sure to come together and rebuild. The opening of Coconut Beach was a symbolic event for its players. To them, it meant that New Orleans, as we know and love it, can come back.

Taking Coconut Beach from New Orleans would be a serious mistake. It provides a great atmosphere for the locals. Coconut Beach is, although small, a tourist attraction for the city. People come from other places to play at the largest sand volleyball complex in the country. It has helped raise money for local charities such as Childrens' Hospital. Coconut Beach is a symbol to the natives of New Orleans. Taking that away from the people would be a crime.

Sincerely,
Brett Napier