From: a wolf
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Lakefront Pumping Station
Date: Monday, May 18, 2009 11:36:24 PM

Mr. Owen:

I am writing to inform you that it would not only be a mistake to confiscate Coconut Beach but also a detriment to the community.

I have been playing volleyball at the Mickey Retif Sports Complex (Coconut Beach) for almost ten years and I couldn't imagine not having such an establishment. Even in the wake of Katrina when the Corps had taken over most of the property and there were only a few nets left people, lots of people, were out there every week dedicated to the game, to the place.

The city of New Orleans is famous for it's bars and nightlife but Coconut Beach offers an even more exciting alternative. There's the game, competition, sportsmanship, friendship, and familiar faces. The same people that played at the beach before Katrina can still be found there today. More locals have returned to the beach then even have the surrounding neighborhoods.
There is nothing in this city that is more organized, attracts more local people, and brings more people together than Coconut Beach.

The Corps would be wrong to try to take this away from us. We understand that the need to protect our city is crucial, but we're also not willing to sacrifice the things that are important to us, the things that make this place home. Some of us don't even have our homes back, four years later mind you, but we have the beach. We have the same familiar faces each week, we have a sense of normalcy. So many places and memories are gone from that area, but the beach it came back. Now the Corps wants to take the last piece we have left away and it is an injustice.

Mr. Owen I implore you to take my words, and the many others that will follow from the many others who feel the same way that I do, to heart and to head. I want you to think about what you would be taking away and I want you to think about why we'd rather have a place to play volleyball than a new pumping station. Coconut Beach has always been there for us and it has never let us down. That is certainly more than I can say for the pumping stations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. SAVE COCONUT BEACH!

Sincerely,
A. Wolf