From: Gia Sciortino
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Save Coconut Beach!
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 4:53:31 PM

Dear Mr. Owen,

I understand that the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to use part or all of Coconut Beach in the new pumping station planned for the17th St. Canal. I am asking you to please do your part to protect Coconut Beach because it is important to me and many residents all over the Metro area.

I was first introduced to Coconut Beach shortly before Hurricane Katrina by my best friend who played on a league there. I was amazed by the unique facility. I can think of no other place like it in the city because Coconut Beach promotes fitness and fun. While it does have a bar and beer pong tables, the complex also encourages families to come out, bring their lawn chairs and four legged friends. I love watching kids at the beach playing in the sand while their parents play volleyball. New Orleans doesn't have enough safe places like this, if any.

I was excited when Coconut Beach reopened after Katrina. I finally joined a league last summer and have played ever since. This complex is very important to the community. I realize that flood protection is also important but I hope that you also consider protecting Coconut Beach in making your decision. I know that I am not alone when I say that I don't want Coconut Beach to fall victim to the saying "Ain't dere no more!"

Sincerely,

Gia Sciortino