From: pr1840@aol.com
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: 17th street canal pumping station
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 2:26:07 PM

Dear Mr. Owen,

I am writing to voice my concerns over plans by the Corps to expropriate the property currently being used as the Coconut Beach volleyball complex for a permanent pumping station at the 17th street canal.

As a long-time patron of Coconut Beach, going back to my high school years, I can say that the complex is truly unique in our city and offers one of the very few venues for adult recreation. I learned to play volleyball at coconut beach and I hope to one day teach my children how to play there.

I certainly understand and support the intiative to protect our city from the threat of flooding presented by Lake Pontchatrain and the many canals running throughout the city. However, I believe this goal can be accomplished without expropriation of the Coconut Beach complex. I look around and see many properties in the 17th Street Canal area still sitting vacant (including the large parking lot that formerly serviced Brunings, Fitzgerald's and The Dock) and can't help but think expropriation of Coconut Beach may be an example of the Corps taking the easiest path, rather than the best one.

It should be telling that all of these businesses did not return to the area, but through the hard work and dedication of its patrons and owners, Coconut Beach has. Please reconsider the initiative to expropriate this property.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jonathan Cerise

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