From: Craig Geraci
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Coconut Beach
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 10:03:43 AM

Dear Mr. Owen:

It is my understanding that you are the project manager for the 17th Street Canal Pumping Station project and that the Corps is in the process of acquiring all of Coconut Beach to meet its needs. While everyone in New Orleans truly appreciates the almost impossible work that the men and women of the Corps do, I would hate to see the Coconut Beach complex destroyed without considering any possible alternatives. With today's modern engineering practices and technology, there has to be a way to protect the city while keeping the complex open. The pumping station and complex should be able to coexist. The complex, for many years, has been a place for friends and family to meet and enjoy times together. It is a place where we all go to forget about what is going on in the world if only for a few hours before returning to reality. This place has special meaning to the thousands of people that frequent it. Furthermore, Coconut Beach has raised around a million dollars for Children's Hospital and other local charities. I am certain that you understand the importance of the complex to the community, and I hope that you will do everything in your power to help save it without compromising the safety of our city.

Cordially,

Craig J. Geraci, Jr.
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