From: Fred Rittler Bassil"s Ace Hardware
To: MVN Environmental;
Date: Monday, May 18, 2009 4:44:03 PM

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dear gib,

please take into consideration that Coconut beach is one of the eight best volleyball complexes in the nation when making your decision about the land for the pumping station. The Corona Wide open tour has just come through town, and was a success despite the terrible weather. This volleyball complex brought a positive attitude and hope for those people from Lakeview when others thought it would never come back. Bruce brought hope to a desaster ravaged community, and gave us all a reason to believe Lakeview was worth investing in. The pumping station to protect our area is completely necessary, and as a community we must work together to preserve the livelyhood of a community that will forever be a staple is New Orleans and Louisiana history alike. To me, Coconut Beach is a flag waving along the battered front line of the coast of Lake Ponchatrain - screaming that the people of this area will never really leave. This complex has remained one of the best in the nation, despite having buildings literally wash away less than a block from the complex. I was there when Bruce poured a lot of money - a LOT of sand - and a lot of sweat into re-opening Coconut beach, while other establishments of the area STILL lay uninhabited. Taking this land away from Bruce would mean to me that the Corps of Engineers discourages buisness-owners from re-building in disaster prone areas. Bruce should be commended for his courageous actions, not punished for giving people hope. Thank you for your time, and God-Bless.

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