From: darin_acosta@urscorp.com
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Orleans East Bank
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 1:18:12 PM

Reference IER-5

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment with the possible eradication of the Coconut Beach Volleyball Complex due to the 17th Street Canal Pumping Station. As a native of New Orleans, I fully understand the need to protect the city I love with levees and pumping stations. However, I don't believe the Corps of Engineers, the N.O. City Council or the Mayors office fully understand what this recreational complex means to the community.

Coconut Beach is a place where family, friends, business associates, etc., go to for exercise, relaxation and social interaction. It is one the finest facilities of its kind in the country. It is the largest volleyball complex in the country with outdoor night lighting. Parents drop off their children at Coconuts, because it has become known as safe haven for teenagers. There is no reason to be concerned about drugs or gangs. This is all because of Bruce White (Complex Director) and the core individuals that have supported this complex for over twenty years now. Coconut Beach is probably the most outstanding sports recreational facility in south Louisiana.

If it is decided that the proposed location of the new pumping station will eliminate Coconut Beach from this location, then at the very least some consideration must be given to fund any relocation required. I believe that is the least that needs to be done to minimize the impact to the enormous volleyball community in the Greater New Orleans area. Hopefully, more consideration will be given to this subject by all parties who have decision making responsibilities for the C.O.E. and the city.