From: Marko Verdes
To: MVN Environmental;
cc: jbclarkson@cityofno.com; Fieklow, Arnie Council Member-At-Large; Midura, Shelley Councilmember Dist A; Head, Stacy Councilmember Dist B; Carter, James Councilmember Dist C; Hedge-Morrell, Cynthia Councilmember Dist D;
Subject: coconut beach & pump station
Date: Friday, May 22, 2009 7:27:29 AM

5/22/09

Mr. Owen and New Orleans City Council Members

I was informed last week of the plans of the Army Corps of Engineers of taking over the entire Coconout Beach complex or a big part of it to build a permanent pump station.

I go out there every week with my two children and they play in the "beach" (as they call it), while I'm playing volleyball. They can't wait to grow up to play volleyball like dad. Here in New Orleans we don't have that many places where you can do exercise or just simply have a good time and relax while doing sports. You probably have more fingers in one hand than recreational places in the city.

I know the solution might not be easy to find, but you don't solve a problem when you create another one. I work in the inspection business (refinery) and we don't make are commendation to repair a section of the equipment if this will create damage to other areas of the equipment. Good leaders will listen and will work with everybody involved to get the best possible outcome.

So my suggestion to you are:

1) Work with the community, set up meetings so you can hear first hand what people is thinking or recommending, you might not have thought about all the possible solutions and this type of meeting will possible bring a solution to our

problem.

2) 2) Find an alternative place to build the pump station.

3) 3) Let's co-exist. I believe you have plenty of space in that area to allow the 2 projects to co-exist. Let's seat and look at the area and come up with a good plan where we can have a first class recreational complex and a first class pump station for the city.

Regards.

Marko Verdes

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