From: Catherine Batte
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: SAVE COCONUT BEACH!!
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 12:08:27 PM

Hi Gib,

This is Catey Batte. I am contacting you regarding Coconut Beach, my home away from home. I want to tell you my life story so you will understand just how important it is to me that we save Coconut Beach.

Growing up in New Orleans as the child of a single parent, there was a lot of potential for me to get in trouble. Luckily, for both myself and my mom, I was more interested in playing sports than anything else. I always played sports from the time I was three, and I could finally swim a lap in the pool; I joined a local swim team. At four, I began playing softball at the local playground. When I was nine, my neighbor convinced me to play bounce-ball (a version of volleyball) at the playground. I really enjoyed bounce-ball. Volleyball became one of my favorite sports. I played on school teams starting in sixth grade (age 11), and I became very serious about volleyball in seventh grade and began playing year-round. In eighth grade, I was introduced to the game of beach volleyball. This sport became my life, my obsession, and my passion. Everyday during the summer my mom would drive me out to Coconut Beach to practice and play. Most nights we got there around 4pm and didn't leave until midnight. Bruce White and Topo Frilot became my mentors (and really like second fathers). They pushed me to my physical and mental limits. For the next five years, they pushed me and helped groom me into the person I am today. Bruce gave me my first job at 16 refereeing during the summer. Bruce, Topo, and Coconut Beach kept me out of trouble, helped me get a scholarship to college, and became my family and support system (everyone out there still refuses to call my mother by her name, but instead call her Catey's Mom or just Mom). Without Coconut Beach I still would've been a "good kid" and a great person because I had a wonderful mom. But I don't think I would've pushed myself to become the woman I am today. I am in my last year of graduate school for Medical Physics, and after I obtain my master's in medical and health physics I plan to apply to medical school. To this day, even though I live in Baton Rouge, I travel to New Orleans regularly to play at Coconut Beach (my home away from home). Coconut Beach is where I grew up, and I can't imagine my life or anyone else's without it. Please help us Save Coconut Beach!

Sincerely,

Catey Batte