From:	Heather Pickney
To:	MVN Environmental;
cc:	appelc@legis.state.la.us; larep081@legis.state.la.us; quinnj@legis.state.la.us; white323@cox.net;
Subject:	Coconut Beach - New Orleans
Date:	Thursday, May 14, 2009 1:32:15 PM

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was informed today of the news that the Army Corps of Engineers is trying to acquire 10-100% of the land that is currently occupied by the Coconut Beach Volleyball Complex on the Lakefront to be used for the permanent flood pump installation. While I understand as well as anyone the necessity for installing these pumps, I am saddened by the fact that the only way to do this is to destroy a landmark and truly unique and wonderful part of the city. I was born and raised in New Orleans, and am very aware of the need (especially in this day and age) of having a safe and friendly place for people to congregate, get exercise, make friends, and just "hang out." A lot of what makes the city unique to visitors and tourists are the "party" areas - French Quarter, etc. As a New Orleans native, those aren't particularly the places the locals need or care to go. I currently live in the Washington, DC area, but make regular visits back home about once a month. Coconut Beach is one of those places on my list of places to go and things to do when I am in town. I used to play volleyball at the Complex several nights a week from 2003 through 2007 before I had to move for my job. I still play there when I am in town and couldn't imagine this landmark being gone.

So many things about the City of New Orleans have changed in the past few years, mostly due to Hurricane Katrina. The Lakefront area has taken the biggest hit in terms of businesses and recreational options since the storm, and I feel that taking away Coconut Beach is just another hit to this area and to the City. I am fully aware that the same reason the face of the Lakefront has changed is the exact same reason that the new pumping station is needed, but I can't see how taking away Coconut Beach is completely necessary. Space is needed for the pumps, we are all painfully aware of that fact. Since you are installing them to help preserve the City from future catastrophe, can't you find a way to preserve a landmark at the same time?

Coconut Beach is an integral part of many people's lives. It was a large part of mine while I lived there, and still is when I visit. My sister plays there 3-4 times a week and it is a huge part of her life. We have all made friends there and enjoy the fact that this location exists - it's a safe, reliable place to go to get exercise, socialize, have fun, and just enjoy being in New Orleans. It's a unique place and I have not seen one like it anywhere else. This place should be advertised rather

than destroyed.

I implore you to find another way to install the necessary equipment for the new pumping station without taking away Coconut Beach. It would truly be devastating to New Orleans, and all of the people who have come to love that place and call it a home.

Sincerely,
Heather Pickney