From: Chris Trentecosta
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Save Coconut Beach
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 10:08:05 AM

Dear Mr. Owen,

I understand that Coconut Beach may soon be expropriated by the Corps of Engineers for the construction of a new pumping station. I fully support the construction of a new pumping station after seeing firsthand the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina and the failure of the levee system within New Orleans. I think it is safe to say that everyone that lives in the Greater New Orleans area welcomes any attempt to make this a safer place to live and to mitigate any damages from hurricanes that are sure to hit this area again in the future.

The reason I feel the need to write you is to express what Coconut Beach means to the people that enjoy using the facility. I have been an avid volleyball player at Coconut Beach for the last 8 years. I'm a forty-year-old father of two young children who often works 40-60 hours a week. I look forward to my league volleyball night at Coconut Beach more than almost anything else. All of life's stress and worries just seem to melt away when I am playing volleyball with my friends at Coconut Beach.

Besides the tangible benefits that can be gained from playing volleyball at Coconut Beach (i.e., becoming a better volleyball player through the instruction and advice of CB's top-notch staff, health benefits from the physical activity, etc.) the intangibles are just as important to mention (i.e., teamwork, sportsmanship, etc.).
I can't even begin to imagine what a great loss the closing of Coconut Beach would be to the people that enjoy playing out there regularly. On any given night, you can see all types at Coconut Beach: young; old; male; female; athletic; not-so athletic; and everything in between. What I am trying to say is that what we have at Coconut Beach is a truly rare thing and I believe this city would be much worse without it. We are truly lucky to have a world-class volleyball facility here in New Orleans.

I am sure the Corps of Engineers must have some alternate site plans that can be used for the new pumping station or that the plans can be revised in such a way that does not result in the complete closure of Coconut Beach. I implore you to please consider an alternative course of action that will have the least impact on Coconut Beach. Surely a compromise can be reached that will give the people of New Orleans the added flood protection that we need while keeping this popular, family-friendly facility fully operational. I would truly hate to see our

quality of life diminish even more than it has over the last few years. On behalf of all of the people that use the facility regularly, please help us by doing whatever you can to keep Coconut Beach open at its present location.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Best,

Chris Trentecosta