From: AJ Robinson
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; white323@cox.net;
Subject: Save Coconut Beach
Date: Friday, May 22, 2009 3:41:18 PM

Mr. Owen:

I am writing you today as a concerned citizen regarding the current plans to claim some or all of the land currently in use by the Coconut Beach volleyball complex. I have been an active participant at the complex for over 15 years. I have watched this complex grow for a few nets and a small group of players to the thriving complex it is today. I have also witnessed firsthand the positive impact that this complex has had on the surrounding area and the people who play there. I have seen young kids who made the trip to the complex years ago with their parents as toddlers who now enjoy the complex as teenagers and young adults. This is one of the few truly family friendly facilities available to the Greater New Orleans population.

As a resident of St.Bernard parish during Hurricane Katrina, I know the catastrophic results of uncontrolled flood waters and the impact to the affected areas. I lost my house in Katrina and was forced to relocate my family. Katrina also took a toll on the West End area and resulted in many of the vibrant businesses located in the area never returning after the storm. Today, Coconut Beach is one business that has put forth the effort to return and rebuild in order to service the needs of its many customers.

As an engineer by profession, I know how easy it can be to settle on the pre-determined, obvious plan of action and forego the additional energy and resources required to pursue the alternatives. I also know that it is often our job to seek the obscure. That is, to find the solution that meets everyone's needs, not just the immediate and apparent needs of the project. As such, I challenge you and your colleagues to go the extra mile and develop a plan that would allow the new pumping station and the volleyball complex that services so many to co-exist.

I lost my home and a great deal more as a result of Hurricane Katrina. I urge you not to put me and many others through additional suffering by taking away something that me and my family have cherished so dearly for so long. I now have two boys who make the weekly trip to Coconut Beach with me. Right now, they are young and merely enjoy playing in the sand, but I know one day, they too would like the opportunity to enjoy the same complex that has been a part of my life for these past 15 years.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. Thanks.

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