

To the Coral Reef Task Force Steering Committee

Please consider this written submission from Broward County, Florida a written request for assistance which dovetails with Mr. William Nuckols' oral public comment during the February 24, 2010 CRTF meeting in Washington, DC.

On February 10, 2010 Associated Press reported that the joint Broward County/State of Florida/Federal Government project to recover the failed artificial tire reef that has destroyed countless corals and denuded our middle reef track was cancelled for 2010 and 2011, with FY 2012 being the earliest that the project might be restarted.

While we have requested, but heard no official communication from DoD, we are gravely concerned that the Associated Press article is an accurate representation of a DoD statement, and accordingly we are asking for your assistance getting this important coral restoration working again.

By the nature of the artificial tire reef salvage and coral habitat restoration project, the project has by necessity brought together a multidisciplinary team spanning all three levels of government and has utilized experts in marine salvage, transportation, coral reef restoration and protection, solid waste processing and waste to energy engineering. Since at the federal level these issues span the jurisdictions of NOAA, DoD, DHS and EPA, it is our hope that a multi-agency collaborative body like the Coral Reef Task Force would have both the breadth of expertise and authority to assist with getting the project back on track.

We would like to speak to you about this in further detail, and would ideally do so in person as soon as possible. The Mayor of Broward County and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs will be in Washington DC the latter half of the week of March 8, 2010, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with the CRTF co-chairs and any of the CRTF members who have appropriate jurisdiction to assist with this project.

Having received an award from President Obama in August 2010 for the collaborative spirit and effective leveraging of government resources we are puzzled as to why we are experiencing these difficulties, but we have every confidence that the combined expertise of the CRTF will be able to get the project functioning again.

Please contact Gretchen Harkins, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards for Broward County at 954-357-7575, or via email at [gharkins@broward.org](mailto:gharkins@broward.org) so we can schedule a meeting with you next week to discuss this with you in person.

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