Petition
to protect South Florida coral reefs
from dredging burial and destruction

WHEREAS, beach renourishment projects proposed for MIDTOWN Beach in Palm Beach County (FDEP file no. 0164713-001-JC), BROWARD COUNTY (FDEP file no. 0163435-001-JC), INDIAN RIVER COUNTY (FDEP file no. 0166929-001-JC), and PHIPPS OCEAN PARK in Palm Beach County (FDEP file no. 0165332-001-JC) **WILL BURY THE IRREPLACEABLE BREAKERS REEF, BURY OVER 100 ACRES OF CORAL REEF AND HARDBOTTOM, dredge precariously close to sewer lines, dredge fragile *Oculina* corals, and inhibit sea turtle nesting at John U. Lloyd State Park by building a groin structure**;

WHEREAS, these projects, which involve dredging near offshore coral reefs and dumping the sand on nearshore reefs, will excavate over 10 million cubic yards of sand to extend 21 miles of beaches hundreds of feet into the ocean;

WHEREAS, HISTORICALLY OTHER SIMILAR DREDGING PROJECTS have resulted in damage from dredges straying off course, cutting enormous swaths into nearby coral habitat, and the smothering of over 55 acres of coral reefs and hardbottoms by silt; and

WHEREAS, ADDITIONAL BEACH DREDGE AND FILL PROJECTS are being proposed all along the southeastern coast of Florida which will result in more buried coral and hardbottom habitat that are essential for over 500 species of fishes, invertebrates, and plants.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the undersigned, declare to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and elected officials in cities and counties throughout SE Florida that:

1) an Environmental Impact Statement must be completed for each of these beach dredge and fill projects, and;

2) that damage to coral reefs and hardbottoms caused by beach dredge and fill projects MUST NOT BE PERMITTED.

Signature	Name	Address	City/State/Zip

please return to:
ReefKeeper International
2809 Bird Avenue, PMB 162 / Miami, FL 33133