



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

BROWARD GROUP

Executive Committee Chair

Philip Busey
954-579-3932
philip@busey.org

Treasurer

Max Goldstein
954-296-3411
maxgold@yahoo.com

Conservation Chair

Matthew Schwartz
954-634-7173
matthew3222@yahoo.com

Education/Recycling Chair

Ina Topper
954-722-9944
irtopper2000@cs.com

Outings Chair

Judy Kuchta
954-924-5001
judykuchta@yahoo.com

Program Chair

Barbara Curtis
954-946-7359
legalbarb2@yahoo.com

ExCom Member

Barbara Ruge
954-328-2165
b-realtor@att.net

Legal Chair

Mara Schlackman
954-523-1131
marashl@hotmail.com

Political Chair

Brion Blackwelder
954-262-6135
blackwederb@nsu.law.nova.edu

Resolution

WHEREAS Sierra Club Broward Group has been involved for decades with the protection of Florida coastal habitats, including at Port Everglades; and

WHEREAS the protection of the Florida coastline is essential to the South Florida economy and jobs in the marine industry including sports fishing, charter boats, dive shops, tour operations, beach going, and tourism generally; and

WHEREAS a proposed deepening of Port Everglades channel would involve underwater dredging, blasting, and dumping of six million cubic yards of dredged debris over a large area a short distance offshore; and

WHEREAS underwater dredging, blasting, and dumping are likely to degrade the quality of marine waters and harm or kill corals, snook, sea turtles, and reef fish, as well the marine flora and fauna necessary for a sustainable marine industry and tourist economy; and

WHEREAS the federally-protected West Indian Manatee is an endangered species that regularly utilizes the waters and sea grass beds directly in the vicinity of the project and congregates in winter near the warm-water discharge of the FPL power plant surrounded on all four sides by Port Everglades, where underwater blasting is planned to occur, and underwater blasting causes a noise that can travel long distances underwater, disorienting and harming marine animals; and

WHEREAS blasting and dredging may increase taxes to pay for beach nourishment, to repair the effects of sand migration from channel deepening, and, in addition, cause higher insurance costs for protection against storm damage; and

WHEREAS in addition to channel deepening there is a plan to destroy approximately 12 acres of high-quality tidal mangroves in the construction of the turning notch, something that Sierra Club has consistently opposed; and

WHEREAS in the 1980s after strong opposition by the Sierra Club against wetland destruction at Port Everglades, Broward County agreed to make that 12 acres of mangroves a conservation easement in perpetuity (forever); and

WHEREAS there is no fully documented economic benefit to such actions, nor is there a fully documented need for the increase in port capacity, compared with the economic and environmental harm that would be caused;

NOW THEREFORE, we as the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Broward Group met on November 1, 2011, relating to the proposed deepening of the Port Everglades entrance channel, and by unanimous vote the Sierra Club Broward Group hereby resolves to oppose the plan to deepen the entrance channel to Port Everglades and opposes any modification of the turning notch that would involve the destruction of mangroves.

Philip Busey, Sierra Club Broward Group Chair, November 8, 2011

PO Box 550561, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33355
<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward/>

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