

Beach project foes give in

By Wayne Tompkins
Staff Writer

A group of environmentalists that has opposed Boca Raton's beach renourishment project has said it will not appeal a federal judge's ruling allowing the controversial project to proceed.

The decision by Washington D.C. attorney Howard Fox, one the attorney's representing a coalition of environmental groups, effectively ends a three

year battle with city officials.

In a June 10 decision, U.S. District Judge Norman C. Roettger denied a request for an injunction to stop a plan that would replace 1.45 miles of beach between Red Reef Park and Spanish River Park.

"We felt that given the thoroughness of Judge Roettger's decision, the chance of overturning the decision was small," said Ken Lipman, another attorney for the

environmental groups.

The city has argued that the plan is needed to prevent continued beach erosion, while environmental groups claimed the dredging of sand would endanger reefs and outcroppings.

The transfer of several thousand tons of sand from the ocean floor to the beach will begin within two weeks, city officials say.