



2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

January 21, 2016

Palm Beach County
Water Resources Task Force

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SB 552/HB 7005 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The Bill...

- ❖ **Omnibus Water Policy**
- ❖ **Numerous Sections addressing Springs, CFWI, Northern Everglades, Technical and Regulatory Support for “self suppliers”**
- ❖ **Requires Office of Economic and Demographic Research to undertake an annual assessment of water resources and conservation lands. The assessment is required to include expenditures on water projects.**
- ❖ **Authorizes the South Florida, Southwest Florida and St. Johns River WMDs to designate and undertake a regional pilot alternative water resource project**
- ❖ **authorizes DEP to adopt by rule a specific surface water classification to protect surface water used for treated potable water supply**
- ❖ **Passed both chambers and sent to Gov. Scott for signature**

HB1069/SB1204

Relating to Water Resources

The Bills (AWWAUC Bill)...

- Direct the Department of Transportation to establish a Water and Wastewater Utilities Relocation Study Committee to review, study and make recommendations concerning the need for improved coordination and funding of water and sewer facilities and public utility facilities; specifying committee membership
- Transfer review of water management district orders and rules from the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission to the Department of Environmental Protection and revises hearing requirements
- Repeals Section 373.245, F.S., which allows abutting CUP holders a cause of action for damages against a CUP holder who violates conditions of permits, Florida Statutes, with retroactive application to any civil action in which trial has not commenced as of the effective date

SB 598 / HB 181

Relating to Public Works

The Bills...

- Except as required by federal or state law, the state or political subdivisions that contract for the construction, maintenance, repair, or improvement of public works (i.e. projects that are paid for in whole or part with state funds) may not require on contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers:
 - Pay employees a predetermined amount of wages or prescribe any wage rate
 - Provide specified type, amount or rate of employee benefits
 - Control, limit, or expand staffing
 - Recruit, train or hire employees from a designated, restricted, or single source
- Prohibit the state and political subdivisions from restricting qualified bidders from submitting bids on any public works project

Relating to Implementation of the
Water and Land Conservation
Constitutional Amendment

The Bills...

- Dedicate a minimum of the lesser of 25% or \$200 million from the funds in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (Amendment 1 funds) to the implementation of CERP, the Long Term Plan, and the Northern Everglades Plan
- Require the SFWMD to give preference to those projects that prevent or minimize discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries “in a timely manner”

Relating to Capital Formation for Infrastructure Projects

The Bills...

- Amend Florida Capital Formation Act to include proposed Florida Infrastructure Fund Partnership. One of the primary purposes of the Partnership is to raise and invest capital in infrastructure projects, including water or wastewater systems, in the state which promote economic development.
- Require the Florida Development Finance Corporation to issue contingent state bonds to investment partners in the partnership and provides that contingent state bonds become an obligation to the state by the partnership under certain circumstances

SB318/HB191 RELATING TO REGULATION OF OIL AND GAS RESOURCES

The Bills...

- ❖ Provide the State with the exclusive authority to regulate oil and gas exploration activities, including fracking
- ❖ Delete provisions that prohibit Division of Water Resource Management from granting permits to drill gas or oil wells within the limits of a municipality without approval of the governing authority of the municipality
- ❖ Establish regulatory regime and chemical registry regarding fracking with accompanying public records exemption
- ❖ Note: Palm Beach County BCC passed a resolution opposing bills to expand fracking and endorsing a statewide ban of the practice

A dramatic sunset over a body of water. The sky is a deep orange and red, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a strong golden glow. The water is dark blue, and several waves are breaking, creating white foam and mist that is illuminated by the low sun. The overall mood is serene and powerful.

Thank You

Questions?