

## **Legislative Report to Commission February 2009**

Since the 2008 election and the Florida Legislature's Organizational Session in November, the Legislature has been focusing primarily on budget issues. Specifically, the Legislature met in a Special Session in January to cut the State's current year budget.

During the January committee meetings, however, the House and Senate natural resources committees each held one meeting. Executive Director Ken Haddad made a presentation to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Committee about the responsibilities and programs of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Department of Citrus also made similar presentations. Legislative priorities will be discussed at a future meeting.

Executive Director Haddad also made a presentation to the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee on FWC's legislative proposals for the 2009 Session. The Department of Environmental Protection and the five water management districts also made presentations. The purpose was just to introduce the issues to the members of the committee. A more in-depth discussion will occur at a subsequent meeting.