

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Budget Status Report – Week 1

FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request

Charlotte Jerrett, January 17, 2020

This week, the first of the 2020 Legislative Session, budget subcommittees met to begin their work on a balanced budget for next fiscal year (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). This week the Senate held confirmation hearings for executive directors of the water management districts while the House considered member requests for environmental appropriations projects. The subcommittee staff have been reviewing agency base budgets and the Governor's budget recommendations while waiting for subcommittee allocations. Allocations are the budget limits within which each subcommittee must balance to its portion of the budget. Much of the decision-making associated with the budget will have to wait until the allocations are received.

Senate

In the Senate, the appropriations bill will be developed by the Senate Committee on Appropriations. This is a 21-member committee, chaired by Senator Rob Bradley, which includes the chairmen of the 5 budget subcommittees. The FWC budget will be developed in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government, chaired by Senator Debbie Mayfield. There are 10 members on that subcommittee who will be developing the budgets for the following agencies: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Department of Citrus; Department of Environmental Protection; the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Department of Business and Professional Regulation; Department of Financial Services; Department of Lottery, Department of Management Services; Public Service Commission; and Department of Revenue.

House

The House Appropriations Committee will develop the budget bill for the House of Representatives. This is a 30-member committee, chaired by Representative Travis Cummings, which includes the chairmen of the 7 budget subcommittees. FWC's portion will be decided in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Holly Raschein. There are 12 members on the subcommittee who will be developing the budgets for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Citrus, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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Next Steps

Senate and House budget subcommittees and full committees plan to work intensively toward the goal of passing their respective appropriations bills. If all goes well, they will hold their budget conference meetings sometime in early March to reconcile the differences between the respective House and Senate budgets, in time to pass the final budget before the end of Session on March 13th. After the Governor completes his line item veto list, the State will then have its beginning budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21.