

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
No. ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
 Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____
 Object _____ Reporting Category _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

John D. [Signature] 1-30-08
 OFMB
 1-29-08

[Signature] 1-31-08
 Contract Dev. and Control
 2-11-08

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature] 2/1/08
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

REVISED 9/03

ADM FORM 01

(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

**Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
PROPOSED FEDERAL AGENDA FY2009**

PRIORITY/Palm Beach County APPROPRIATIONS Issues

1. Lake Region Water Treatment Plant	\$7,500,000
2. PalmTran: Belle Glade Bus Maintenance Facility	\$2,000,000
Bus Replacement	\$5,000,000
Park and Ride Lot	\$3,000,000
Bus Shelters	\$800,000
3. Congress Avenue Right of Way Acquisition	\$5,000,000
4. Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration	\$2,000,000
5. Loxahatchee River Land Acquisition/Restoration	\$5,000,000
6. Tri-Party Beach and Inlet Funding	\$7,593,000

PRIORITY/Palm Beach County LEGISLATIVE Issues

1. Medicare Funding Formula
2. Modifications to S-44 Water Control Structure on the C-17 Canal
3. Desalinization Water Supply
4. Federal Outstanding Natural Area – Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse
5. Loss of Federal Entitlement Benefits for Inmates in County Jails
6. Florida Inland Port

MONITOR/Appropriation Issues

1. Ryan White (HIV) Grant Application
2. Peanut Island - Section 1135 Authorization
3. Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail
4. Farm to School Programs

MONITOR/General Issues

1. Funding for Seniors Programs
2. Telecommunications
3. Funding for Purchase of Farmland (Ag Reserve)
4. Property Rights Legislation
5. Deep Injection Wells
6. FEMA Funding for Parks & Recreation/Pre-Disaster Mitigation Programs/Reimbursements
7. Health Issues
8. Brownfields
9. Interstate Moving Laws
10. FY2009 Appropriations for HUD Programs
11. Medicaid Funding
12. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
13. Film and Television Production Industry Act
14. Funding for Homeless Programs
15. Law Enforcement Funding
16. Chemical Security Legislation

**PRIORITY Palm Beach County
APPROPRIATIONS Issues**

1. Lake Region Water Treatment Plant: The Lake Region Water Treatment Plant is a proposed regional 10 million gallon per day reverse osmosis treatment plant that will be designed to replace the three aging surface water treatment plants that are owned by Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay. The existing plants in each of these cities are in poor condition, and each city has been issued numerous water quality violations and enforcement actions by the Palm Beach County Health Department. From a public policy perspective, it makes better sense to build one regional plant rather than to fund three separate plants. Given the estimated \$58,000,000 capital cost of the facility, and the demographics of the area around the Lake, it is imperative that considerable funding for this project come from State and Federal sources.

To date contributions to the LRWTP include \$12.5 million from Palm Beach County, \$11.2 million from SFWMD, \$6.7 million from the State, and \$800,000 from EPA. In 2008, \$7.5 million was authorized for this project in the WRDA Reauthorization bill. Approximately \$26.8 million is still needed to complete the funding for the project. The County is submitting a STAG grant (\$5,758,000) and requesting an earmark of \$7,500,000 in FY09. In addition, the County is submitting a USDA Rural Development Grant for the same amount to help cover any funds that are not appropriated through the appropriations process.

Dept.: Water Utilities (Bevin Beaudet)

2. Palm Tran Bus and Bus Facility Funding: The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners is requesting funding for Fiscal Year 2009 under Section 5309 for Bus and Bus Facilities.

BELLE GLADE (RURAL) MAINTENANCE BUS FACILITY

Palm Beach County requests \$2 million to complete our third bus operation maintenance facility. The County is projecting to complete in 2009 a maintenance facility located in the rural area of the County (Belle Glade). The new facility is estimated to cost \$5 million and the County is still in need of \$2 million to complete this project. Bus service in Palm Beach County is provided by Palm Tran, an entity of Palm Beach County, currently operating two maintenance facilities both located in the urban areas of the County. Three routes (10 buses) currently serve and operate through this area of the County. Buses that serve this area start service at 5AM and finish their service at 10PM. We currently park these buses at the Solid Waste Facility in Belle Glade with the nearest maintenance facility being 40 miles away in West Palm Beach. This presents all sorts of challenges for performing normal maintenance including fueling and especially for responding to breakdowns and other service interruptions.

The new facility which will be equipped to handle all preventive maintenance and minor repairs will improve service performance and reduce the cost of operations for these routes. The project is essential to ensure the continued integrity of transit service to the rural and agricultural communities of Palm Beach County.

BUS REPLACEMENTS

Palm Beach County requests \$5 million for bus replacements. Generally a Public Transit bus has a lifetime of 12 years (or 500,000 miles); due to the long distances covered by the routes offered to the public, on average, Palm Tran buses reach their maximum mileage in nine years. Bus service is provided in an area of approximately 1,974 square miles. In FY09 23 buses are scheduled to be replaced at an approximate cost of \$9,200,000 and 21 buses are due to be replaced in FY10. For FY09, this cost represents more than 75% of estimated formula funds, without additional grant sources, critical maintenance equipment purchases may be delayed for the next 2 years.

PARK AND RIDE LOT(S)

Palm Beach County requests \$3 million to build or lease space for Park and Ride Facilities. According to the Census Bureau, the 2006 population estimate for the County's employed population over 16 years of age is 1,035,006. The Bureau estimates that 559,407 of this workforce commutes to work. Traffic congestion continues to increase and it is necessary to offer centralized parking facilities for those who can choose to connect to public transportation. Currently Palm Beach County has no official park and ride facilities that are designed to accommodate bus service.

BUS SHELTERS

Palm Beach County requests \$800,000 for Bus Shelters. The County has completed installation of 303 shelters as of December 2007. In order to maximize this effort of providing County residents with shelter from the sun and rain, it is necessary to provide an incentive to Municipalities that want to offer shelters that do not display advertising.

In FY 08, \$735,000 was provided for the Automated Vehicle Locator system. In FY 06, \$2,926,000 was allocated for the Belle Glade Combined Passenger facility, \$209,000 was allocated for smart card fareboxes, \$1,254,000 for new buses, and \$1,000,000 for replacement buses.

Dept.: Palm Tran (Chuck Cohen)

3. **Congress Avenue 9SR 807) from Lantana Road to Malaleuca Lane:** Palm Beach County previously agreed in principle to assume the responsibility of constructing this state road in an effort to expedite the schedule. The County also agreed to assume responsibility for the road after the construction was completed. The project was initially thought to cost between \$6-\$8 million, and the FDOT and MPO several years ago showed this money as part of the 2008 work program. It was estimated that no right of way or mitigation would be required. Subsequently, with the County doing the design, it was determined that right of way would need to be acquired, and mitigation would also be needed. With the associated construction cost increases because of the current environment, it is estimated that the entire project will now cost \$18-\$20 million. This link is currently overcapacity and includes the frontage of one of our major hospitals – JFK.

Dept: Engineering (George Webb); MPO (Randy Whitfield)

4. **Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration: Corps of Engineers Project:** Track legislation and line item appropriations or authorizations for ecosystem management projects. The County is seeking a \$2 million appropriation to supplement County and State funding of the Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration Project, an ecosystem management project which includes the Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Grant Program initiated in 1998. In the event of a Supplemental Reauthorization Bill, the County requests inclusion in that legislation for the Lake Worth Lagoon.

Dept.: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

5. **Loxahatchee River Land Acquisition/Restoration:** The Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is the first federally designated Wild and Scenic River in Florida. Despite this designation, the federal government has not contributed to current efforts to restore the River. Critical to River restoration is increased flow of freshwater. A surface water reservoir established along the west leg of the C-18 canal would provide the needed water supply to maintain the necessary base-flow to the River. Seek \$5 million in federal funds to support the County and Water Management District's efforts to acquire and/or restore certain lands in the River corridor. The C-18 Reservoir is a component of the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan and is incorporated into the larger Northern Everglades Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Dept.: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

6. **Tri-Party Beach and Inlet Funding:** In the FY 2008 budget, \$107,000 was provided for the Lake Worth Inlet Feasibility Study, \$1,813,000 for the Lake Worth Inlet Sand Transfer Plant, and \$2.8 million for Operations and Maintenance. The Tri-Party requests additional funding to ensure the completion of the feasibility study, Phase II funding for the sand transfer plant, and authorization language for continuing authority projects. In addition, there was no language in the FY08 budget that authorized advanced maintenance for the settling basin. We request \$4.5 million in FY09 for Operations and Maintenance (\$3.5 million) and advanced maintenance/settling basin expansion (\$1 million).

- Lake Worth Inlet Feasibility Study - The Port of Palm Beach is turning away vessels due to channel depth limitations and the problem will grow as larger ships become more prevalent in the trade; this study will enable cost/benefit analysis of channel deepening and widening to accommodate more efficient trade and assure the port's role in international shipping. The Port requests an additional \$893,000 to fund the remaining balance of the study.
- Sand Transfer Plant Phase II – Last year \$1,813,000 was allocated for the Lake Worth Inlet Sand Transfer Plant. This year the Tri-Party is requesting \$2.2 million to begin Phase II of the Plant design and construction.
- Palm Beach Harbor/Lake Worth Inlet Maintenance Dredging - The Port of Palm Beach is the fourth largest container Port in Florida and the 18th busiest in the nation; regular maintenance dredging is necessary to ensure operation of the Port and place sand on nearby eroding beaches. There is a corresponding request for directive language to expand the existing sand settling basin as part of O&M to provide better inlet projection and reduce annual maintenance dredging costs and frequency. Total request: \$4.5 million.
- In addition to supporting the authorized allocation of Corp funds for the Palm Beach County Peanut Island project, the Tri-Party is also supporting the inclusion into legislation of directive language for continuing authority projects. The language which is supported by the local Corp of Engineers office should read:
THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO ALLOW PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, WHILE ACTING AS THE NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR, TO PERFORM ALL PHASES OF CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROJECTS AND SEEK REIMBURSEMENT UPON COMPLETION AND APPROVAL OF EACH PHASE.

Dept.: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

**PRIORITY Palm Beach County
LEGISLATIVE Issues**

1. **Medicare Funding Formula:** There has been a discrepancy between several of the counties in South Florida regarding federal Medicare reimbursements for health care costs such as doctor office visits, outpatient substance abuse care, emergency care, inpatient hospital care, and outpatient prescription drugs. In response, HMOs in Palm Beach County have raised premiums to compensate for inadequate Medicare reimbursements. Seek changes in the Medicare funding distribution formula which allow for more equitable disbursement of federal funds.

Dept: Risk Management (Nancy Bolton)

2. **Modifications to S-44 Water Control Structure on the C-17 Canal:** Support South Florida Water Management District's application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to modify the existing S-44 water control structure on the C-17 canal and install a third control gate. This would allow more water to move into the C-17 at a faster rate, possibly reducing the amount of flooding that occurs in Northern Palm Beach County areas. [BCC Resolution No. R-99-189.]

Dept: County Engineering (George Webb)

3. **Desalination Water Supply Shortage Prevention Act of 2005 – S.1016:** S 1016 directs the Secretary of Energy to make incentive payments to the owners or operators of qualified desalination facilities to partially offset the cost of electrical energy required to operate the facilities. If enacted, Palm Beach County and the Cities of Belle Glade, South Bay, and Pahokee would directly benefit through the operation of the Lake Region Water Treatment Plant, a "qualified desalination facility". As that plant will produce for sale to domestic customers' brackish groundwater (an alternative water supply), operation of this plant would potentially qualify under the provisions of the Bill to offset approximately \$0.5 Million in annual ratepayer costs. This estimated annual energy cost savings of more than 50% is based on an estimate of the projected kilowatt hours of electricity anticipated to be consumed during plant operation against the base payment provisions of the bill. Support similar legislation during the 110th Congress.

Dept: Palm Beach County Water Utilities (Bevin Beaudet)

4. **Federal Outstanding Natural Area – Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse:** The Jupiter Inlet Working Group, comprised of the Town of Jupiter, Village of Tequesta, Loxahatchee River Historical Society, the Federal Bureau of Land Management, Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management Department and the US Coast Guard has partnered for years to preserve and protect the government owned properties surrounding the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is a local and regional icon with surrounding properties that contain significant cultural and biological resources. The designation of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and the surrounding 126 acres as a

federally designated "Outstanding Natural Area" will protect this land that offers unique scenic, scientific, educational, and recreational value. With this designation, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse will be the sole East Coast representative of the National Landscape Conservation System.

Dept: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

5. **Loss of Federal Entitlement Benefits for Inmates in County Jails:** Currently a person incarcerated in a county jail or juvenile detention center is ineligible to retain Medicare and Medicaid benefits or Social Security Disability Insurance once they enter the facility. As a consequence, the cost of medical care for these inmates becomes a non-federal responsibility (typically born by county government at a significant expense) upon arrest or detention. In many cases where states can not afford to provide the non-federal cost of providing medical services to FFP eligible persons, their eligibility is sometimes suspended or terminated. If the individual has been terminated from these programs, it may take months for these federal benefits to be restored once they leave the institution. Support legislation that allows for the suspension, rather than termination, of Medicaid benefits for individuals, including juveniles, who are convicted of a crime and incarcerated for less than one year. Support legislation that amends federal law (U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 435.1009) to allow Federal Financial Participation for individuals, including juveniles, who are accused of committing a crime and are awaiting trial, even if incarcerated, until they are convicted of a crime.

Dept: Criminal Justice Commission (Mike Rodriguez)

6. **Florida Inland Port:** The development of an inland intermodal logistics complex in western Palm Beach County, including completion of rail connections serving ports of South Florida and Tampa Bay, bodes to facilitate a significant economic boost to an area that is fiscally depressed. At the same time, it will provide a critical link in Florida's ability to efficiently handle rapidly growing levels of international commerce.

Bringing this project to fruition will require:

- Economic stimulus funding for the Lake Okeechobee/Everglades region that has been designated as severely depressed, to bring sustained, good-paying jobs (reflecting the Florida average of \$49,000 a year for cargo transportation and logistics employment) and training for hundreds of skilled and semi-skilled positions;
- Funding necessary to complete freight rail connectivity between the ports of Palm Beach, Miami-Dade County, Everglades (Broward County), Tampa and Manatee County with approximately 40 miles of new trackage.

Such investments should provide great benefits. This inland facility, which has gained significant regional support, would be a hub for goods assembly, warehousing and manufacturing, as well as furnishing logistics providers with a central intermodal location between ports that lack sufficient waterfront acreages to accommodate trade volumes projected to double by 2020.

Dept: Legislative Affairs (Todd Bonlarron)

MONITOR
Appropriation Issues

1. **Ryan White (HIV) Grant Application:** Monitor appropriation requests to fund Palm Beach County's share of funding of Ryan White (HIV) Grant funding. In FY 04 the funding level was \$9,408,695 and FY 05 funding was at \$9.5 million. In FY 06 Palm Beach County's allocation was reduced by \$1.2 million to roughly \$8.5 million. The County has submitted a new application in 2007 for \$12,711,001.

Dept: Community Services (Ed Rich)

2. **Peanut Island Environmental Enhancement Project - Section 1135 Authorization:** The Peanut Island Environmental Enhancement Project is a joint Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Palm Beach County and Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) project that includes environmental restoration and enhancement and the addition of recreational amenities to Peanut Island. In the 2007, we were successful inserting language into the next Water Resources Development Act lifting the Section 1135 cap on the Army Corps of Engineers financial contribution to the project (currently \$5 million). Total project cost, previously estimated at approximately \$27 million is now expected to exceed \$30 million. Monitor Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) efforts to receive the funding now authorized by the WRDA legislation.

Dept: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

3. **Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail:** FDOT is in the process of finishing this trail (which is part of a federally-designated National Scenic Trail) to provide unique recreational activities around Lake Okeechobee. The County will monitor this project for the potential of grants and construction efforts, both of which could assist efforts to stimulate ecotourism in Palm Beach County associated with the trailhead connection for the Ocean to Lake Trail. In FY05 and in FY06, the State allocated \$1,000,000 for this project.

Dept: P, Z & B (Barbara Alterman); Env. Resources Mgt. (Rich Walesky)

4. **Farm to School Programs:** Farm to School programs connect schools with local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and supporting local small farmers. Florida's pioneering and successful farm to school program was initiated by the New North Florida Cooperative Association Inc. (NNFC) in 1995. The NNFC began selling to Gadsden County schools during the 1996 school year and since that time has rapidly expanded, selling to a total of fifteen school districts in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Positive word-of-mouth publicity has lead to a high demand for their products among school districts. To adjust for changes associated with expansion, the NNFC has functioned as a council that helps connect farmers to local schools since 2002.

Other entities are involved in this farm to school program. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, through the USDA Child Feeding Program and the US Department of Defense (DoD), through its National School Lunch Program allows the cooperative to produce and market fresh fruits and vegetables to area school districts. The DoD provides payment flow as part of the DoD Fresh program. Support efforts to continue federal support of Farm to School programs.

Dept: Cooperative Extension Service (Audrey Norman)

MONITOR General Issues

1. **Funding for Seniors Programs:** Seek increased funding for Federal Programs for the Aging (e.g., Supportive Services, Nutrition Services, Older Americans Act) in FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations. The County is significantly overmatching grants (e.g., 60% for CCE [state]; 86% for OAA [federal]) already.

Dept: Community Services (Ed Rich)

2. **Telecommunications:** Monitor agency (FCC) rule-making relating to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Open Access regulation, and the relocation/transition of Multipoint Distribution Services/Instructional Fixed Television Services (MDS/ITFS), and also general Congressional (Commerce Committee) involvement in telecommunications issues, specifically relating to local control of rights-of-way and zoning, and local authority to assess and collect franchise fees.

Dept: County Attorney (Mike Jones); County Engineer (George Webb); Office of Financial Mgmt. & Budget (Liz Bloeser); Public Affairs (Lisa DeLaRionda)

3. **Funding for Purchase of Farmland:** Seek \$25 million from federal grants for state and local governments for land conservation and resources protection; and seek \$5 million from the Farmland Protection Program in the 2008 reauthorization of the Farm Bill. [\$100 million in local support authorized by Palm Beach County voter approval of 3/9/99 Bond Referendum.]

Dept: County Administration (Verdenia Baker); Planning, Zoning & Building (Barbara Alterman); Cooperative Extension (Brad Merriman)

4. **Property Rights Legislation:** Monitor bills being considered by Congress which would affect a local government's authority over land use planning, making it easier for property owners to challenge local land use decisions by taking land use disputes almost directly to Federal court, and bypassing local authorities.

Dept: County Engineer (George Webb); County Attorney (Bob Banks); Water Utilities (Bevin Beaudet)

5. **Deep Injection Wells:** Monitor attempts to ban the use of deep injection wells for the disposal of highly treated wastewater effluent. Failure to do so could require a 25% or more increase in wastewater rates.

Dept: Water Utilities (Bevin Beaudet)

6. **FEMA Funding for Parks & Recreation/Pre-Disaster Mitigation Programs:** Monitor any legislation concerning reauthorization of the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, particularly language which would have a significant negative impact on parks and recreation areas, denying funding, under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act, for disaster relief to parks, recreation departments, beaches and other similar entities. Also, monitor any proposals for FEMA to offer pre-disaster mitigation pilot grants in communities throughout the nation (a total of \$220 million was authorized over a 6-year period), as well as, reimbursements for services provided during the 2005 hurricane season.

Dept: Emergency Management (Vince Bonvento); Parks & Recreation (Eric Call); Risk Management (Nancy Bolton)

7. **Health Issues:** Monitor legislative proposals which would create significant new costs to counties, for example, eroding an employer's ability to establish preferred provider networks and allowing employees to sue employers in state court for personal injuries they received through their health care plans.

Dept: Risk Management (Nancy Bolton)

8. **Brownfields:** In FY 08, overall Brownfield funding in EPA remained fairly constant. Monitor proposed Federal funding for Brownfields by various agencies (EPA, HUD). Monitor changes in the Superfund (CERCLA) legislation that may impact brownfields (i.e., liability).

Dept: Planning, Zoning & Building (Barbara Alterman/Meg Smith)

9. **Interstate Moving Law:** The County should be supportive of any federal legislation that would permit local or state governments to enforce federal interstate moving laws related to household goods. Since we have had our own local laws, the number of consumer complaints has decreased. Most of our complaints now relate to interstate

household moving. This proposal or one similar to it would be very beneficial to the residents of Palm Beach County and the state of Florida. Currently, there is no federal agency who will respond to individual complaints against a household moving company doing interstate moves.

Dept: Consumer Affairs (Dennis Moore)

10. **FY2009 Appropriations for HUD Programs:** Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs have faced deep cuts in the budget process in previous years. These cuts would have caused significant reduction in CDBG and HOME funds brought to Palm Beach County, jeopardizing important neighborhood programs. In FY08 both CDBG and HOME grants were reduced by \$120 million and \$53 million respectively. Encourage Congressional support of CDBG and HOME programs, rather than such drastic cuts.

Dept: Housing & Community Development (Ed Lowery)

11. **Medicaid funding:** Medicaid spending has been one of the most rapidly increasing segments of the State's budget. One of the priorities of the current Administration in Washington, D.C. is to propose changes to the current Medicaid system that would limit future program spending and allow states more flexibility in setting and limiting benefits for optional beneficiaries. Monitor proposals that may limit the state's ability to effectively meet the needs of Medicaid patients.

Dept: Community Services (Ed Rich)

12. **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project:** The federal Share of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is expected to average about \$200 million per year over the lifetime of the project. Congressional appropriations should be sufficient to fully implement all plan components at the agreed upon cost share in accordance with adopted project schedules. In 2007, over \$130 million was allocated for Everglades restoration and Billions more authorized in the WRDA bill. Continue to monitor the federal funding support for CERP.

Dept: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

13. **Film and Television Production Industry Act:** In 2007, House Resolution 3389 and HR 3951 and Senate Bill 2375 would have created a Federal Income tax credit designed to address the issue of "runaway film and television production." It would encourage film and television/cable production in the United States and employment of U.S. small business workers on such productions. Continue to support efforts that would encourage film and television production in Palm Beach County.

14. **Funding for Homeless Programs:** Seek increased funding in FY 2009 Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations (e.g., Stewart B. McKinney Act) and in FY 2009 Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations (e.g., SAMHSA) for federal programs for the homeless in the effort to end chronic homelessness. In FY 08, HUD homeless assistance funding was increased by over \$140 million. The County is now serving as the Lead Entity for coordination of funding for homeless services in Palm Beach County. The Federal government's involvement in aiding local homelessness initiatives is crucial to the success and advancement of these programs.

Dept: Community Services (Ed Rich)

15. **Law Enforcement Funding:** The Criminal Justice Commission administers the federal block grant allocations from the Dept. of Justice for Palm Beach County. They include the Edward Byrne Memorial Law Enforcement Fund and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Fund. Over the past 4 years, the administration has unsuccessfully tried to consolidate these funds under a single program, the Justice Assistance Block Grant. In addition, the funding levels obtained by cities and counties under these programs have steadily decreased. Monitor the Byrne Law Enforcement Funds and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant to keep these allocations separate and to restore earlier funding cuts. In addition, opportunities to identify funding sources for local gang violence programs in Palm Beach County should be pursued.

Dept: Criminal Justice Commission (Mike Rodriguez)

16. **Chemical Security Legislation:** The Water Security Act of 2007 was approved last year, including significant changes requested by Palm Beach County Water Utilities and other water utility advocates. WUD was ultimately opposed to the legislation because it treated drinking water and waste water systems as "chemical facilities", it created redundant oversight, and did not provide security from access to sensitive information or funding. The House is expected to act on legislation this year that will revise the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Anti-terrorism Standards and eliminate the water and wastewater exemption from the regulators.

Water Utilities requests continued support from the Federal Delegation to eliminate all duplication of regulations between the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Environmental Regulation related to water and wastewater systems. Presently, the EPA regulates water and wastewater system vulnerability and should continue to do so, sharing information with DHS as appropriate. However, should DHS see any need for utility security improvements, then EPA should be directed to make those changes as appropriate under the authority already granted by Congress.

Dept: Water Utilities (Bevin Beaudet)