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Special Session A

Commissioners:

The State Legislature convened today for Special Session A, in order to consider legislation to address the current fiscal year shortfall of approximately two billion dollars. Special Session is expected to last until Friday, January 16th, and the schedule is expected to look like this:

- 1/7 Committee bills in each House created and distributed to members for review
- 1/8 Special appropriations and Implementing bill distributed to members for review
Amendments filed by 5:00pm
- 1/9 Floor consideration and passage of bills
- 1/10 & 1/11 Conference
- 1/12 Final bill printing
- 1/13 Final bill on members desks
- 1/16 Final passage of bill

The call of the Legislature explicitly excluded revenue raising provisions. Members are expected to consider a combination of tactics to reduce the budget, including rescissions, trust fund sweeps, borrowing from the Lawton Chiles Endowment, and utilizing approximately half of the Budget Stabilization Fund.

Committee meetings were held today and will continue for the next few days. State agencies are providing information on projected impacts of cuts; for example, today the House Natural Resources Committee considered a proposal to redirect \$19 million from trust funds and cut \$4.6 million in Grants and Aid to Water Management Districts. Both the Senate and House Human Services committees discussed options including a 4% reduction for projects including meals and community based services in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties. Also under consideration is an overall 2.3% reduction to DCF to acknowledging the need to maintain effort and draw down federal match and a reduction in mental health services which may result in a reduction of federal match dollars. Many agencies have recommended eliminating vacant positions.

We will keep you apprised daily as to actions taken during the Special Session, especially regarding impacts of proposed cuts and potential cost shifts.