

- review of water control districts,
- regulation of air, water, and noise pollution,
- solid and hazardous waste management,
- public drinking water supplies,
- the prevention or cleanup of pollutant spills or discharges into inland waters or lands of the state,
- administration of such federal acts as the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act in Florida.

## **Who does the DER share powers with?**

The Department of Environmental Regulation has specifically delegated to the water management districts (WMDs) power to administer and enforce the provisions of Chapter 373 of the Florida Statutes. (See WMD subsection). The DER has made two other delegations to the DNR and the DACS.

1. Department of Natural Resources is authorized to administer permits for discharges of chemicals, biological agents, and other substances for the purpose of aquatic weed and algae control.
2. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services regulates certain open burning activities through the Division of Forestry.

## **How is the DER structured?**

The DER is divided into five divisions and the office of the General Counsel. Of these, the four most important are:

- Administrative and Technical Services,
- Air Resources,
- Water Facilities, and
- Waste Management.

District offices of DER contain their own structure which is usually similar to the Tallahassee headquarters. Collectively, the Districts are responsible for policy, planning and rule making activities. Each district is headed by a Director of District Management. Responsibilities for permitting, compliance monitoring, and enforcement activities are split between headquarters and district offices, although the districts do most of the work in these areas.

## **Water Management Districts, (WMD), F.A.C. Title 40.**

### **Overview**

Except for the South Florida and the Southwest Florida Water Management Districts, which were created statutorily to address flooding and water shortage problems, the WMDs were created as public agencies pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, known as the Florida Water Resources Act of 1972. The WMD's play a very significant role in the regulation of the farmer's water control and use.

The WMDs' responsibilities include:

- Management of water and related land resources via promotion of conservation.
- Proper utilization of surface and groundwater resources.
- Regulation of dams, impoundments, reservoirs, and other structures to alter surface water movement.
- Combatting damage from floods, soil erosion, and excessive drainage.
- Assisting local governments in developing comprehensive water management plans, particularly by providing data on water resources. To accomplish this, WMD's are authorized to perform various field investigations and to provide works for the beneficial storage of water.