

November 9, 2006



just the FACTs

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

Florida's Water
It's Worth Saving

Find more water conservation tips, visit our web site at www.sfwmd.gov/conserve or call our **Water Conservation Hotline** at (800) 662-8876 to request more information.



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Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA) Water Shortage Order

Situation/Conditions

- The South Florida Water Management District has recorded near record-low rainfall through the first 10 months of 2006:
 - The first 10 months of 2006 have been the second driest on record, leaving many areas of the District in 1-in-25-year dry spells.
 - District-wide, we are about 10" below normal rainfall for 2006.
 - Water levels across the District are low.
 - Long-range forecasts predict dry to slightly wetter than normal dry season conditions for the coming months – perhaps resulting in an extra 2-7 inches of rain over the course of the dry season (November – May) – but there are, of course, no guarantees.
 - Rainfall on the higher end of this range may not be enough to raise water levels above what we would consider sufficient to meet dry season demands.
 - At present, the water level in Lake Okeechobee (12.65 feet on Nov. 8) is more than **3.5 feet lower** than what is considered normal for this time of year.
 - Lake Okeechobee has entered the Water Shortage Management Zone – a trigger for the District to impose a Water Shortage Order – or mandatory restrictions – for users who get their water directly from the lake or another surface water source that is recharged by Lake Okeechobee.
 - Lake Okeechobee is the water supply source for the Lake Okeechobee Service Area, and an indirect water supply source to the Lower East Coast (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties).

LOSA Water Shortage Order (water restrictions) Affected Areas

- Everglades Agricultural Area and parts of Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Lee and Martin Counties (map on back).

LOSA Restrictions – Phase I Restrictions (starting Nov. 17)

- **Agricultural water users** in these areas are required to reduce their consumption of surface water by 15 percent. These users will be notified personally of the specific nature of restrictions pertaining to this order and are encouraged to voluntarily exercise additional water conservation measures as practicable.
- **Residential water users** will be required to limit vehicle washing and outdoor irrigation times to a maximum of three days per week and four hours per day:
 - Residents with *odd* home addresses will be allowed to water between the hours of 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. EST on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
 - Residents with *even* home addresses will be allowed to water between the hours of 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. EST on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
 - No outdoor domestic water use for irrigation will be allowed on Fridays.
 - Residential users are also expected to observe normal water conservation practices within the home.

The District continues to monitor water levels throughout the region daily and is working diligently to avoid additional water shortage orders.

Lake Okeechobee Service Area Phase I Water Shortage Area Including Water Use Sub-basins

