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## 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](http://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 - Update

- The South Florida Water Management District has recorded District-wide rainfall of 40.75 inches for 2006, marking the sixth-driest year on record in South Florida dating back to 1932.
- For January 2007, many areas to the north and northeast of the District continue to experience 1-in-25-year dry spells, as District-wide rainfall for January 2007 averaged only 0.65 inches – 30 percent of the historical average for that month. February rainfall to date is below average in most areas of the District.
- Water levels across the District remain low.
- Long-range forecasts predict dry to slightly wetter than normal dry season conditions (El Niño) for the coming months – perhaps resulting in an extra 2-7 inches of rain over the remaining dry season (now through 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 is considered sufficient to meet dry season demands.
- At present, the water level in Lake Okeechobee (11.33 feet on Feb. 20) is more than **4 feet lower** than normal for this time of year.
  - Lake Okeechobee's water level remains in the Water Shortage Management Zone, with mandatory water restrictions in place under the Water Shortage Order issued by the District Governing Board in November. These restrictions apply to users who draw their water directly from Lake Okeechobee or another surface water source that is recharged by the lake.
  - Lake Okeechobee is the principal water supply source for the Lake Okeechobee Service Area, and an indirect water supply source for 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

- **Agricultural water users** in these areas are required to reduce their consumption of surface water by 15 percent. These users have been notified directly of specific restrictions pertaining to this order and are encouraged to voluntarily exercise additional water conservation measures as practicable.
- **Residential water users** must limit vehicle washing and outdoor irrigation 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 is 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

