

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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Lower East Coast Water Shortage Warning

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 inches 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 is the water supply source for the Lake Okeechobee Service Area, and an indirect water supply source to both agricultural and urban areas of the Lower East Coast (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties).
- To provide notice of the potential for mandatory water restrictions and to forestall more severe restrictions, the District has issued a **Water Shortage Warning** in the Lower East Coast today.
- A **Water Shortage Warning** encourages aggressive voluntary water conservation measures. Without significant rainfall replenishing Lake Okeechobee's level and if conditions continue to deteriorate, the District may initiate mandatory water restrictions in the Lower East Coast.

LEC Water Shortage Warning Affected Areas

- Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties
(see map on back)

LEC Water Shortage Warning – Encourages aggressive voluntary water conservation measures to forestall mandatory restrictions

- South Florida residents, businesses and agriculture – all users – are asked to voluntarily limit the frequency of landscape irrigation and reduce wasteful water habits as allowing leaky fixtures to remain in disrepair. “50 Ways to Be Water Smart” and other water conservation information are available at www.sfwmd.gov/consERVE or call the Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876 to request more information.
- The South Florida Water Management District continues to monitor water levels throughout the District daily and is working diligently to avoid additional water shortage orders.

Lower East Coast Water Shortage Warning Area

