



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680 • www.sfwmd.gov

May 3, 2007

Dear Government Official:

Severe drought conditions across all of central and southern Florida have resulted in extremely low water levels throughout the region. Currently, several wellfields are potentially at risk due to their proximity to the coastal saltwater front. If drought conditions intensify, other wellfields could face increased risk.

The South Florida Water Management District (District) has taken the necessary action to safeguard our public water supply wellfields. The water restrictions currently in place represent an extraordinary measure to stretch and protect our water supplies. To achieve this primary objective, the District has asked local municipalities to help enforce the water restrictions and to report the number of citations issued and complaints received on a weekly basis to their regional District service center.

The District relies on you, our local government partners, to enforce restrictions in the community. We also rely on the information you provide to accurately assess the effectiveness of the current restrictions and determine the need for future cutbacks.

To date, many municipalities have engaged with the District in this enforcement effort, and we applaud the cities and counties who have embraced this responsibility to protect dwindling supplies within their own communities. Many municipalities have even redirected staff and set up hotlines to handle calls and complaints.

The South Florida Water Management District requests that your governmental entity:

- actively enforce the restrictions through regular patrols and citations,
- report citations issued on a weekly basis every Friday, and
- report complaints received from local residents every Friday.

Most importantly, if your municipality has not already done so, immediately adjust your entity's operations to comply with the restrictions. Government must lead by example and adhere to the rules in place to protect water supplies. Please ensure that your staff is checking your community parks, road medians, government buildings and other irrigation systems for compliance.

Furthermore, given the substantial community outreach, comprehensive distribution of printed materials, hands-on workshops with various user groups, and thorough and responsible media coverage, the time for warnings is over. Municipalities are now expected to issue citations. Any fines for citations written under local ordinance are collected by the municipalities themselves.

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Sir or Madam
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As extreme drought conditions and the prospect of a long-term drought continue, water conservation will be critical over the coming months, and even tighter restrictions are likely to be imposed. Area residents and municipalities must take this effort seriously and should expect fines if they fail to comply.

Should you have any questions about enforcement, please contact Bruce Adams, water conservation officer at the South Florida Water Management District, at 561.682.6785 or badams@sfwmd.gov.

Remember strict enforcement of water restrictions will help protect your water supply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chip Merriam', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chip Merriam
Deputy Executive Director
Water Resources
South Florida Water Management District

CM/le

c: Bruce Adams