

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

September 24 - 28, 2007



Mission Statement:

To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.

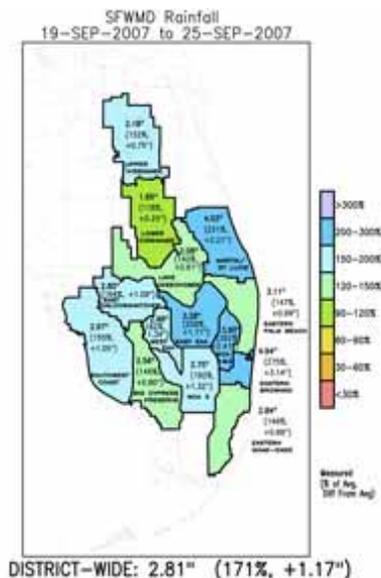
District News and Happenings

- At a public hearing this week, the District's Governing Board reduced its property tax millage rates and adopted a \$1.3 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2008 (Oct. 1, 2007 - Sept. 30, 2008). In compliance with Governor and Legislature tax reform directives, the approved budget reflects a 10-percent reduction in millage rates below current year levels for most taxpayers within the 16-county region.
- The District announced the creation of the Office of Ombuds and Open Government, merging the District's public records, Ombuds and citizen services functions into one centralized location. In accordance with Governor Crist's priorities, the agency is taking strides to further enhance customer service, promote public access to government and more efficiently respond to citizen concerns and inquiries. The office will be headed by Carolyn L. Williams, who has served as District Ombuds for the past three years.

System-Wide Overview



South Florida Water Management District
www.sfwmd.gov



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 2.81 inches.
- Daily shower activity should drop slightly on Friday before increasing again Saturday and Sunday as a cold front moves into north Florida and interacts with

tropical moisture. The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for near average rainfall.

U.S. Drought Monitor:

The [Drought Monitor](#) focuses on broad-scale conditions and identifies general drought areas, labeling droughts by intensity. This week, areas of the District fall into four levels of intensity, ranging from normal to severe drought.

Lake Okeechobee:

Lake Okeechobee measured 9.78 feet NGVD 29 (8.48 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.13 feet higher than it was on that day last week and only 0.25 feet higher than it was a month ago. The current stage is 3.65 feet lower than it was a year ago and remains approximately 5 feet below its historical average for this time of year.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

The upper Kissimmee Basin received 2.18 inches of rain over the last seven days, and the lower basin received 1.64 inches. Stages in most of the upper basin lakes have been stable over the last seven days. Snail kites continue to nest on Lake Tohopekaliga, but nesting activity has slowed.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

Salinity declined slightly throughout the St. Lucie Estuary, last week. Measurements were within the preferred ranges, making salinity conditions in the estuary good. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, average salinity decreased slightly over the past week due to local basin runoff. Salinity in the upper estuary remains high for this time of year, and salinity conditions are fair. Downstream of the Cape Coral Bridge, salinity conditions are good.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Substantial rainfall occurred in the WCAs, with WCA-2B receiving a high of 4 inches. Water levels increased by 0.10 to 0.44 feet. Depths in all regions have significantly improved, because all habitats have at least 1 foot of water.

Everglades National Park:

Rainfall was patchy across Everglades National Park. Despite the surplus rains north of the Park, most of the wetlands experienced declining water levels last week. Water levels dropped by more than 1 inch to 4.3 inches.

Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the Park. The map above captures District rain gauge data only.

Florida Bay:

Salinity levels showed mixed trends. Strong southerly winds from last week's low pressure system caused the flow of water to reverse, which increased salinity for much of the latter part of the week in areas of northern Florida Bay and its associated creeks.

Area Water Restrictions:



Click map for larger image

[Upper and Lower East Coast Service Areas, which comprise the residential areas of St. Lucie, Martin, eastern Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties - Modified Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase II water restrictions target outdoor water use, limiting lawn watering for five acres or less, to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest Just the [FACTs sheet](#). The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

[Lake Worth, Lantana, Hallandale and Dania Beach Water Utilities - Modified Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

These utilities have been identified as at risk for saltwater intrusion based on elevated chloride levels in monitoring wells. The modified Phase III restrictions limit all landscape irrigation or five acres or less to one day per week and four hours per day: Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. Restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted. Users in the City of West Palm Beach will be included as part of this declaration, in concurrence with a SFWMD emergency order that allows the City, under specific conditions, to deliver water supplied from the L-8 Reservoir or from the City's emergency well field to Clear Lake to replenish the City's drinking water supply. The modified Phase III restrictions limit all landscape irrigation to one day per week and four hours per day; restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted. Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest Just the [FACTs sheet](#).

Residents served by **West Palm Beach Utilities** continue to be covered by [City of West Palm Beach Restrictions](#), which limit *all outside uses* of water -- including washing cars or boats -- to 1 day per week.

[Lake Okechobee Service Area - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase III water use restrictions predominantly impact predominantly impact agricultural, industrial and commercial water users in parts of Hendry, Glades,

Okeechobee, Lee, Martin, St. Lucie and western Palm Beach counties. They also apply to residential users whose water source is Lake Okeechobee – or any of the surface water canals recharged by the lake – and includes utility customers in South Bay, Belle Glade, Pahokee, Okeechobee and Clewiston. North Lee County Utility service area customers are also affected by this order because they rely on the Olga Treatment Plant which draws water from Lake Okeechobee via the Caloosahatchee River. Agricultural water users in these areas are required to reduce surface water consumption by 45 percent. Residential users must limit lawn watering, boat and car washing to one day per week: Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. Groundwater sources (wells) are not restricted by this order.

[Lake Istokpoga Area/Upper Indian Prairie Basin \(portions of Highlands and Glades counties\) - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Effective May 11, permitted agricultural and other area users who withdraw water directly from surface water sources connected to Lake Istokpoga will transition to Phase III water restrictions in incremental stages as the water level of Lake Istokpoga continues to drop below specified thresholds. Users were notified of the specific tiers representing 35 and 45 percent cutbacks and are encouraged to voluntarily exercise additional water conservation measures as practicable.

[Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties; portion of Charlotte County - Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase II restrictions remain in place in Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties, along with a portion of Charlotte County, limiting lawn watering and car washing to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd-numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses.

These limitations and other actions are intended to produce a 30 percent water use reduction by agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, landscaping and residential water users. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

Phase II and Phase III restrictions allow low-volume, spot-watering using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the designated landscape watering days. Additional watering days and times also have been allowed for new landscaping over a 30-day establishment period.

The use of 100 percent reclaimed water, an alternative water source, is not subject to restrictions. The use of water for health, fire, safety and other essential purposes also is not restricted.

Did you know?

The South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Niki Spencer at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6004.

** SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.*