

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

October 22 - 26, 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.



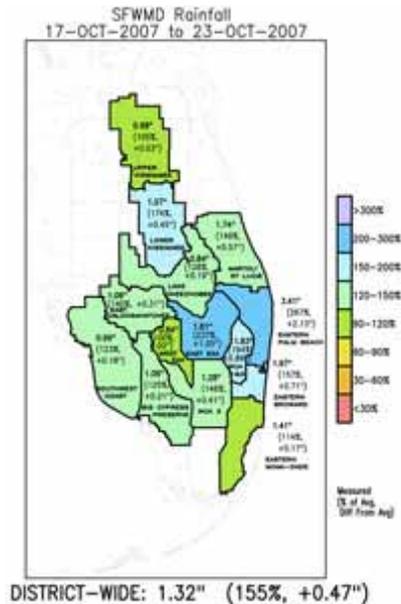
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South Florida Water
Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

District News and Happenings

- The State of Florida and the District will celebrate the recent completion of an additional 6,000 acres in Stormwater Treatments Areas (STA) 2, 5 and 6 on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Protecting Everglades Water Quality is a long-term commitment, and STAs will continue to play a vital role in this effort.
- Today at 9 a.m., the District is unveiling improvements on the North Fork of the New River. Part of \$3.1 million in ongoing improvements, the bank stabilization project further enhances efforts to improve water quality in the North Fork. District, federal, state and local partners are reviving the 3.5-mile tributary's native plant life and water quality because this scenic waterway remains part of the Southern Everglades. Prior to successful bank stabilization and other restoration efforts, the North Fork suffered significant erosion problems in addition to the residual effects of decades of high phosphorus and bacterial levels as well as low oxygen levels.
- On Tuesday, the District presented a \$170,000 check to the City of Sunrise for an Alternative Water Supply pilot project to evaluate the performance of several state-of-the-art wastewater treatment technologies. New innovations in wastewater treatment are capable of treating raw sewage to meet Broward County's stringent water quality standards for groundwater disposal. The information obtained from the study will be used by the City of Sunrise to implement reclaimed water projects that will replenish the city's groundwater resources.
- The District is celebrating the grand opening of the Hickory Hammock Equestrian Center. Members of the public can bring a horse to ride with the Florida Cracker Trail Association riders, hike the walking trails with the Florida Trail Association or take a swamp buggy ride along tree-covered trails this Saturday from 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

System-Wide Overview



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 1.32 inches.
- Water levels in the upper and lower Kissimmee Basin and Lower West Coast (LWC) showed no significant change this week, although there was some continued recovery in shallow wells in the LWC and Upper East Coast this week as a result of local rainfall.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is above average. A cold front is expected to produce moderate coverage of showers and thunderstorms each day, with the heaviest rain activity focused to the north.

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 10.22 feet NGVD 29 (8.92 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.14 feet higher than it was on that day last week and 0.54 feet higher than it was a month ago. The current stage is 2.68 feet lower than it was a year ago and remains almost 5 feet below its historical average for this time of year. An interagency workshop is being held today to plan in-lake restoration projects for implementation during the low lake stages anticipated for this coming dry season.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

The upper Kissimmee Basin received 0.68 inches of rain over the last seven days, and the lower basin received 1.07 inches. Water levels have been fairly stable in most of the upper basin lakes and are at or below their respective regulation schedules. The water level in Lake Tohopekaliga continues to rise with inflow from Shingle Creek, while the water level in Lake Kissimmee fell approximately 0.2 feet.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

Average salinity increased throughout the St. Lucie Estuary last week. Based on the salinity tolerance of oysters, salinity conditions in the estuary are poor to fair.

Average salinity increased throughout the Caloosahatchee Estuary last week. Salinity conditions are good to the west of Cape Coral and poor in the upper estuary.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Rainfall ranged from 0.7 to 1.3 inches in the WCAs. Water depths remain good for this time of year, because all locations have at least 1.0 foot of water.

Everglades National Park:

Patchy and generally low rainfall across Everglades National Park led to a decrease in wetland water levels.

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

Florida Bay:

Despite lower rainfall last week, salinity remained stable across Florida Bay.

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 Okeechobee Service Area - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase III water use restrictions 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.*