

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

December 3 - 7, 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.



[sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

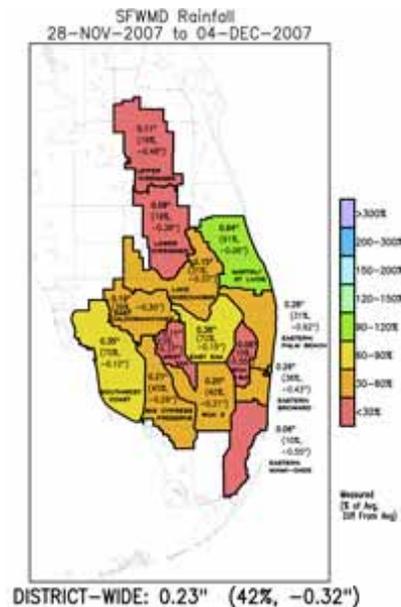
South Florida Water
Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

District News and Happenings

- The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season ended Friday, November 30, officially making Tropical Storm Noel the final major rain event of the South Florida wet season. The District continues to advise South Florida residents to prepare for a prolonged, severe water shortage with the likelihood of tighter water restrictions ahead. District meteorologists recorded a half-inch of rainfall District-wide for November 2007, just 19 percent of the historical average for the month. This marks the region's fifth driest November since 1932, just two-tenths of an inch more than the record low of 0.30 inches reached twice, in November 1940 and November 1944. District-wide rainfall through the first 11 months of 2007 also remains well below normal at 41.6 inches - an eight-inch deficit relative to the year-to-date average.

- Investing now in a greener future, the District is making environmentally focused changes to improve energy efficiency, reduce water use and take advantage of alternative fuels. These efforts are designed to meet - and exceed - the "green challenge" issued by Governor Charlie Crist earlier this year. The Governor's executive order directed state agencies to lead by example in reducing greenhouse gases, increasing energy efficiency and pursuing renewable and alternative energy sources. The District has invested more than \$1.3 million on recent facility upgrades, including switching to high-efficiency lighting, retrofitting air conditioner chillers to remove ozone-depleting refrigerants and installing more low-flow, waterless and dual flush bathroom fixtures. In addition, the District's vehicle fleet includes 162 vehicles equipped to run on alternative fuels such as ethanol, biodiesel and hybrid-electric. In fiscal year 2008, the number of alternative fueled vehicles will rise to 194, making up 44 percent of all District vehicles. More green changes at the District are expected in the future through a partnership established with the U.S. Green Building Council.

System-Wide Overview



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 0.13 inches.
- Forecast calls for scattered showers mainly east over the weekend.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is below average.

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 10.23 feet NGVD 29 (8.93 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.06 feet lower than it was on that day last week and 0.13 feet higher than it was a month ago. The current stage is 2.01 feet lower than it was a year ago and 4.68 feet below its historical average for this time of year. November water quality sampling results were similar to the previous month.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

The upper Kissimmee Basin received 0.11 inches of rain over the past seven days, and the lower basin received 0.19 inches. During the past week, water levels in most of the upper basin lakes decreased slightly due to evapotranspiration. The water level in Lakes Kissimmee, Hatchineha and Cypress are approximately 2 feet below regulation schedule.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

Salinity increased in the St. Lucie Estuary over the past week. Based on the salinity tolerance of oysters, salinity conditions in the estuary are good. Average salinity increased in the upper Caloosahatchee Estuary last week. Salinity conditions are good to the west of Cape Coral and poor in the upper estuary.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Nearly all areas received very little or no rain this week. Water depths decreased in most of the WCAs last week. Water depths are typically above 2 feet at this time of year; however, on average, all of the WCAs have water depths below 2 feet.

Everglades National Park:

Trends for wetland water levels were mixed for the week, remaining stable in some areas and declining in others.

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

Florida Bay:

Salinity either decreased slightly or remained stable last week.

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.*