



Weekly Update

July 16 - 20, 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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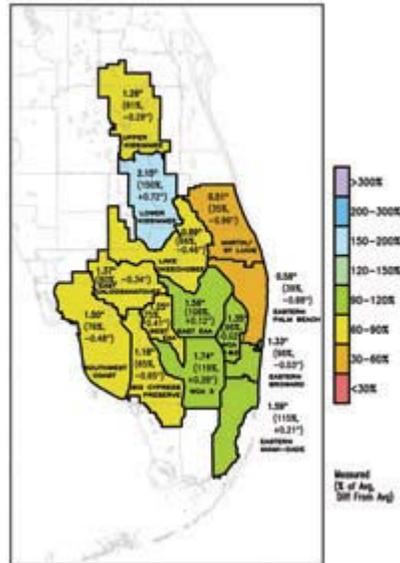
South Florida Water  
Management District  
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**District News and Happenings**

- The Water Resources Advisory Commission Lake Okeechobee Committee is hosting a Water Summit on Monday, July 30, at District headquarters in West Palm Beach. The agenda includes a facilitated roundtable of regional stakeholders who will explore the state of the system and immediate water management challenges and decision making in light of meteorological uncertainties.
- It was announced this week that the District reached its goals of certifying 1,000 small business enterprises, and creating an on-line directory of these businesses to make it easier for large contractors to find sub-contractors qualified to work on District projects.
- The Florida Section of the American Water Resources Association awarded the South Florida Water Management District its "Corporate Participation" award for dedication and commitment to improving water resource efforts in Florida.
- District staff is working to schedule a special Governing Board public workshop to discuss back pumping and Lake Okeechobee. Environmental and scientific experts, including representatives from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are likely to participate.
- In Lake Trafford, a commissioned archeological investigation has resulted in the discovery of four ancient canoes along the expanded shoreline area revealed by the drought. Work to handle the canoes will be expedited to ensure on-going dredging work will resume when the lake stages rise.
- Construction on the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir continues with blasting beginning this week on property near the edge of U.S. 27. Work is expected to cause travel delays along a seven mile stretch of the highway in Palm Beach County. Drivers are encouraged to use alternate routes including I-595, I-95, the Florida Turnpike, SR 80 and I-75 while the construction continues.

**System-Wide Overview**

Click map for larger image



**Rainfall overview:**

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 1.22 inches.
- Daily rains are expected to remain below average into the weekend before likely increasing next week.

**System-wide overview:**

Lake Okeechobee is likely to remain in the water shortage management zone for the next two months. Patchy rainfall continues along the Upper and Lower East Coast and in the Everglades National Park. The 10-day outlook is for near average rainfall. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports four new snail kite nests found at Lake Tohopekaliga.

**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 areas of intensity, ranging from normal to severe drought.

**Lake Okeechobee:**

Lake Okeechobee measured at 9.10 feet NGVD 29 on Wednesday, which is the same as it was a week ago and 0.18' higher than it was a month ago. The monthly bloom sampling is complete and no blooms were reported at any of the 6 sites visited.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:**

the upper Kissimmee Basin received 1.26 inches of rainfall over the last 7 days, and the lower basin received 1.88 inches. In the upper basin, lake stages have remained fairly stable over the last seven days. Small releases continue to be made from Lake Tohopekaliga to keep the lake at regulation schedule. The Kissimmee River has lacked flow from the upper basin for 251 days.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:**

In the St. Lucie Estuary, no releases occurred at S-80 over the past week. Salinity levels in the estuary continue to decline due to local runoff. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, discharge occurred at S-79 last week. Salinity in the upper estuary remains high. In the lower estuary and San Carlos Bay, the high salinity levels are good for seagrass and fair for oysters.

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):**

All stations in the WCAs are now reporting surface water levels ranging from 0.55 inches to 1.48 inches. WCA-1 is at regulation, WCA-2 is above, and WCA-3 is below regulation.

### Everglades National Park:

Rainfall was patchy across the park, with the rainfall heavier in the northwestern area. Water levels were stationary or retrograde across the ENP wetlands.

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

### Florida Bay:

Salinity concentrations continue to drop or remain low across the 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.

**This does not apply to users within the geographic service areas of the West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Lantana, Hallandale and Dania Beach Water Utilities, which are under Modified Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions.**

### West Palm Beach 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.

**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.

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**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.