



SITUATION REPORT #2
2009 WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY

Published April 17, 2009 at 1700 Hours

CURRENT SITUATION:

Residents and businesses of the District are limited to a two-day-per-week landscape irrigation schedule with the option of two "watering windows." Due to continued concerns about local water resource availability, one-day-a-week watering remains in place for the utilities of Dania Beach, Hallandale Beach, and Lake Worth. Residents of Orange and Osceola counties should adhere to any water restrictions set by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Residents of Polk, Charlotte and Highlands counties should adhere to the water restrictions set by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.; however, residents and other entities located within the Indian Prairie Region, portions of the Kissimmee River Valley Water Use basin, and portions of the Lakeshore Perimeter Water Use Basin remain subject to Water Shortage Order 2007-684-DAO-WS. Golf courses, nurseries and agricultural users District-wide should follow SFWMD water use restrictions.

OPERATIONAL STATUS:

The District's Emergency Operations Center remains at a level 2 (partial) activation. The Citizen Information Line is maintaining a voice mail system, returning calls during normal business hours (0800 hours to 1700 hours).

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The District received an average of 0.298 inches of rain over the past week and 1.581 inches over the last 30 days. Since November 1, 2008, District-wide rainfall totaled 4.18 inches, which remains one of the driest dry season on record.

Short Term Forecast:

Saturday: Partly cloudy and quite breezy with isolated showers southeast. Winds E 8->16. Highs 79-85; lows 60-70.

Sunday through Tuesday: Warm and dry Sunday (.00"). Increasing clouds Monday with scattered showers/storms developing north and west of the Lake (.10"). Widely scattered showers/storms south and east of the Lake Tuesday (.05"). Highs 86->79. Lows 69->59.

Long Term Forecast:

Continued below average rainfall associated with La Nina conditions.

WATER LEVELS:

Water levels in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes are all below their regulation schedules. Lake Istokpoga stage is below its regulation schedule. Upper East Coast canals (C-23, C-24 and C-25) are above the 14-foot water supply cutoff stage. Lake Okeechobee's water level is 0.36 feet above the water shortage band of the regulation schedule. The current water level in the lake is 11.66 feet above sea level, which is 1.24 feet higher than on this date last year but still 2.31 feet below the period-of-record average of 13.97 feet for this time of the year (1965–2007).



Water levels at key locations throughout the District as of April 17, 2009 are noted in the table below; all values are reported in feet above sea level relative to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum 1929.

LOCATION	CURRENT WATER LEVEL (ft)	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS 2 WEEKS (ft)	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS 4 WEEKS (ft)
LAKE OKEECHOBEE	11.66	-0.51	-0.75
LAKE ISTOKPOGA	38.48	0.6	-0.37
WCA-1	15.04	-0.31	-0.19
WCA-2A	10.0	-0.39	-0.5
WCA-3A (3-Gauge Average)	8.89	-0.29	-1.11
WCA 3A (S-333)	8.24	-0.55	-0.84
CANAL C-23	15.56	-1.82	-0.6
CANAL C-24	15.60	0.72	-0.02
CANAL C-25	16.77	-1.56	2.12

DISTRICT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:

Enforcement and Compliance - District

Surveillance continues and thirty (30) Warning Notices were issued in the last two (2) weeks.

Indian Prairie Basin

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The Indian Prairie Basin is currently under a Phase II water shortage order. Conditions are generally dry and staff is continuing to monitor the situation. Staff coordinated with Ops staff and permit holders along the C-41A to obtain pump intake elevations and with Tribal Affairs to establish process if water is not available to Tribal property along the L-61.

Modeling Support and Hydraulic Analysis

Estimates of April and May expected supplemental irrigation demands for the three major EAA basins (Miami, North New River/Hillsboro and West Palm Beach) provided to Operations. Historic urban demands on the regional system are currently under analysis.

Navigation

Channel depths in Route 1 and Route 2 of the Okeechobee Waterway within Lake Okeechobee have decreased during the dry season. As of March 31, 2009, the water depth in Route 1 is 5.6 feet and 3.0 feet in Route 2 (Rim Canal). Conditions for navigation will continue to decline as the lake level falls. The Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District has posted a Notice to Navigation Interests about conditions in the Okeechobee Waterway on their web site.

The US Coast Guard has issued a Local Notice to Mariners and posted information on their web site about the restricted channel depths in Route 1 and Route 2 of the Okeechobee Waterway.

Navigation locks operated by the SFWMD on the north shore and west shore of Lake Okeechobee are closed to all boat traffic due to safety concerns resulting from low lake levels and to maintain water levels in canals north of the lake for navigation and water supply. The affected locks are:

- The S-193 navigation lock at Taylor Creek
- The G-36 navigation lock at Henry Creek
- The S-135 navigation lock at J&S Fish Camp
- The S-131 navigation lock at Lakeport
- The S-127 navigation lock at Buckhead Ridge

The locks will remain secured until the lake level has increased enough to resume safe normal lock operations while maintaining canal levels upstream of the lock structures. Access to Lake Okeechobee is available from public boat ramps. As water levels decline, continued access may become a problem.

Navigation locks operated by the Corps of Engineers South Florida Operations Office on the Okeechobee Waterway continue to operate daily between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:30 pm... On April 13, the USACE issued a Notice to Navigation Interest, lockage restrictions going into effective April 20 will change from 'on-demand' to every two hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at W.P. Franklin (S-79) and St. Lucie (S-80) Locks only.

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Letter from Carol Wehle addressed to Col. Grosskruger hand-delivered to USACE representatives on April 9, 2009 requesting lockage restrictions for S-79 structure. USACE responded favorably and lockage restrictions will begin on Monday, April 20, 2009.

Water Conditions Analysis

The water conditions analysis team met on April 8th to discuss the current conditions. Letters were mailed that day to utilities and selected golf courses for increased reporting of chlorides and water levels from some, and for all reporting to be posted to the web portal for ease of future analysis. The team will meet every two weeks to evaluate conditions across the District.

Public Water Supply Utilities

Met with the City of West Palm Beach to discuss current conditions and contingency plans to meet demands through the rest of the dry season. Notified selected utilities of increased reporting requirements and notified all utilities of concern/risk to post water level and chloride data on water shortage utility portal on a monthly basis. Provided support in development of emergency orders for the City of Lake Worth and City of West Palm Beach. Letter to Lee County Utilities on the need to implement drought management plan in that pulse releases from the lake may not be made in the future. Contacted FDEP about process for issuance of emergency order for drinking water treatment plants establishing alternate standards for some drinking water parameter similar to order authorized in 2007 if chlorides continue to increase at Olga facility.

Operations/Agriculture-Nurseries

Met with staff from Operations, HESM and Regulation to review a "South Dade water shortage triggers" document that was developed in December 2007. SFWMD staff discussed the applicability of these triggers to the current situation. Given that these triggers were applicable to the current situation, the current stages and the values from the April 2009 position analysis, imposing restrictions on agriculture now, in an attempt to stretch the small amount of WCA-3A supply for the remainder of the dry season is probably warranted.

Given the situation above, contacted the Miami-Dade Service Center Director to begin to get the word out to affected users that levels are low and increased restrictions are possible.

Operations Coordination

Worked with Office of Counsel, Diversion and Impoundments, Water Supply, and Ops staff regarding D&I's ability to take water when it would be otherwise discharged to tide and the West Palm Beach public water supply issues. Participated in the Okeechobee Cop Shop. Provided guidance to variance team.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

Stages monitored in all cells of the Stormwater Treatment Areas and cells prioritized for receiving inflow; supplemental water was provided to STA-5.

Public Information - Media Relations

Issued Water Conservation Month press release

Water conservation radio ads continue running throughout District.

Water conservation ads continue running in movie theatre screens throughout the District.

Weekly electronic water conditions briefings continue to be issued.

Public Information - Creative Services

Activities week of 4/17/09

1. Ripple Effect e-newsletter will be distributed today, 4/17
2. Citizen information line received 27 calls.
3. Materials distributed
 - Lower west coast SC: rain gauges and aerators for Lee County Parks and Recreation
 - Miami-Dade SC: coloring books, magnets, ways to save water and biodegradable bags

Activities for week of 4/10/09

1. Ripple Effect e-newsletter (40,000+ circulation) is in development. Water restrictions featured in upcoming issue.
2. A Dania Beach utility bill stuffer with water restriction/conservation info is in development.
3. Provided water restriction details in publications for several community Water Conservation Month/Earth Day events.
4. Three local government e-newsletters distributed with water shortage and related restriction details.
5. Additional materials distributed:
 - Martin-St. Lucie SC - water shortage warning door hangers, Sensible Sprinkling Splash sheets, WaterWise Landscaping booklets.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

- Okeechobee SC – WaterWise Landscaping booklets, rain gauges, faucet aerators, water shortage warning door hangers, water shortage citation forms.
- Palm Beach SC – WaterWise Landscaping booklets, rain gauges, Splash sheets on sensible sprinkling and managing water, faucet aerators.

Liaison / Intergovernmental Coordination

The 2009 Water Shortage Compliance matrix is now up and running to count the number of violations and warnings given throughout each municipality in the district.

A water shortage team has been established to conduct “Cop Shops” for Code Enforcement officers for District Service Centers who request them.

Each District Service Center is participating in the weekly water shortage meeting through either teleconferencing or videoconferencing to be briefed on the latest conditions.

Water Shortage and Water Restriction information has been distributed to the public by each Service Center.

Service Center staff from Palm Beach County and Broward County accompanied water supply staff to meet with representatives of Lake Worth, Dania Beach and Hallandale regarding their water supply issues.

On Thursday, April 16, SFWMD staff met with representatives of the statewide FNGLA (Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association) -- including several actual nursery owners in Broward, Palm Beach and Martin Counties; a UF/IFAS representative; and their consultant Bruce Adams -- to discuss a variety of water shortage-related issues of particular interest to this user group. This followed numerous informal communications dating back more than two weeks.

During the meeting, SFWMD staff presented the first situation report to illustrate the severity of the current water shortage, formally announced the partial activation of the EOC, and openly discussed the possibility of water restrictions for this sector in the coming weeks. The meeting included a discussion of what worked and didn't work for the industry during the last time restrictions were imposed on this sector, as well as the public messaging/outreach that need to happen immediately to hopefully avoid any additional restrictions before the start of the wet season. Possible language/provisions were developed to better serve the industry's needs should such restrictions be imposed. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for May 6, and SFWMD staff agreed to communicate regularly via email/phone as new issues come up over the coming weeks.

Legal

Drafted Emergency Order regarding wellfield operation of the City of Lake Worth's public water supply wellfield based on increasing chloride levels reported in monitoring wells.
Began drafting order providing water supply relief options for the City of West Palm Beach public water supply.

Began drafting order declaring phase 1 water shortage restrictions on specified use types for users of surface water withdrawn from Lake Okeechobee and surface waters hydraulically connected to Lake Okeechobee.

Began drafting order declaring phase 1 restrictions on various use classes using surface and/or groundwater within the geographic boundaries of the District.
Attended water shortage workshop for local government enforcement officials at the District's Okeechobee Service Center.

Attended meeting between District staff and representatives from FDEP, Palm Beach DOH, and the City of West Palm Beach concerning water supply relief options for the City.

Current SFWMD Water Restrictions are displayed in the attached map.

AUTHORIZATION:

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DISTRIBUTION:

Situation Report Mailing List

LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

