

4-18-08 DRAFT
District-wide Year-Round Water Conservation
40E-24

40E-24.011 Policy and Purpose.

(1) This chapter comprises the ~~South Florida Water Management District's (District) Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Measures for the area within Lee, Collier and that portion of Charlotte County~~ within the boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District (~~District~~). These mandatory measures are intended to provide a framework for consistent implementation to ensure the long-term sustainability of the water resources of the region, increase water use efficiency and prevent and curtail wasteful water use practices through regulatory means for landscape irrigation by all users. Local governments are encouraged to implement these measures through the adoption of ordinances that would include these measures, variance, and enforcement provisions. These measures are in addition to Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C., provisions and non-regulatory measures, such as education and incentive programs, which are also utilized by the District to promote water conservation. These measures prohibit landscape irrigation during those periods of the day when irrigation efficiency significantly decreases, and limit landscape irrigation water use to a maximum number of ~~three~~ two days per week unless specified otherwise herein.

(2) through (3) No Change.

Specific Authority 373.016, 373.044, 373.0831, 373.113, 373.171, 373.227 FS. Law Implemented 373.042, 373.0421, 373.0831, 373.171, 373.223, 373.227 FS. History—New 6-12-03, Amended _____.

40E-24.101 Definitions.

When used in this chapter:

(1) "Address" means the "house number" (a numeric or alphanumeric designation) that, together with the street name, describes the physical location of a specific property. This includes "rural route" numbers but excludes post office box numbers. If a lot number in a mobile home park or similar community is used by the U.S. Postal Service to determine a delivery location, the lot number shall be the property's address. If a lot number in a mobile home park or similar residential community is not used by the U.S. Postal Service (e.g., the park manager sorts incoming mail delivered to the community's address), then the community's main address shall be the property's address. If a property has no address it shall be considered "even-numbered".

(2) "Athletic play area" means all golf course fairways, tees, and greens, and other athletic play surfaces; including, football, baseball, soccer, polo, tennis and lawn bowling fields, and rodeo, equestrian and livestock arenas.

(3) "Consumptive Use Permit (CUP)" means a permit issued pursuant to Chapter 40E-2 or 40E-20, F.A.C., authorizing the consumptive use of water.

(4) "Even Numbered Address" means an address, ending in the numbers 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, or rights-of-way or other locations with no address, or the letters A-M.

(5) "Existing landscaping" means any landscaping which has been which has been planted and established for more than sixty (60) days.

(6) "Landscaping" means shrubbery, trees, lawns, sod, grass, ground covers, plants, vines, ornamental gardens, and such other flora which are situated in such diverse

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1 locations as residential landscapes, recreation areas, cemeteries, public, commercial,
2 and industrial establishments, public medians, and rights-of-way except athletic play
3 areas as defined in subsection 40E-24.101(2), F.A.C.

4 (7) “Low Volume Hand Watering” means the watering of landscape by one person,
5 with one hose, fitted with a self-canceling or automatic shutoff nozzle.

6 (8) “Low Volume Irrigation” means the use of equipment and devices specifically
7 designed to allow the volume of water delivered to be limited to a level consistent with
8 the water requirement of the plant being irrigated and to allow that water to be placed
9 with a high degree of efficiency in the root zone of the plant. The term also includes
10 water used in mist houses and similar establishments for plant propagation. Overhead
11 irrigation and flood irrigation are not included.

12 (9) “Landscape Irrigation” means the delivery of water to shrubbery, trees, lawns,
13 sod, grass, ground covers, plants, vines, ornamental gardens, and such other flora
14 which are planted and established for more than sixty (60) days and are situated in such
15 diverse locations as residential landscapes, recreation areas, cemeteries, public,
16 commercial, and industrial establishments, public medians, and rights-of-way except
17 athletic play areas as defined in subsection 40E-24.101(2), F.A.C.

18 (10) “Micro-irrigation” means the application of small quantities of water on or
19 below the soil surface as drops or tiny streams of spray through emitter or applicators
20 placed along a water delivery line. Micro-irrigation includes a number of methods or
21 concepts such as bubbler, drip, trickle, mist or microspray, and subsurface irrigation.

22 (11) “New landscaping” means any landscaping which has been planted and
23 established for sixty (60) days or less.

24 (12) “Odd Numbered Address” means an address ending in the numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9
25 or the letters N-Z.

26 (13) “Reclaimed Water” means wastewater that has received at least secondary
27 treatment and basic disinfection and is reused after flowing out of a wastewater
28 treatment facility.

29 (14) “Supplemented reclaimed water” and “blended reclaimed water” means
30 reclaimed water which has been commingled with potable water, groundwater, surface
31 water, or some other traditional source, which does not exceed 10% of the volume of
32 water, by a public or private utility for the purpose of increasing supply.

33 (15) “User” means any person, individual, firm, association, organization,
34 partnership, business trust, corporation, company, agent, employee or other legal entity
35 whether natural or artificial, the United States of America, and the State and all political
36 subdivisions, regions, districts, municipalities, and public agencies thereof, which
37 directly or indirectly takes water from the water resource, including uses from private or
38 public utility systems, uses under water use permits issued pursuant to Chapter 40E-2
39 or 40E-20, F.A.C., or uses from individual wells or pumps.

40 (16) “Wasteful and unnecessary” means allowing water to be dispersed without any
41 practical purpose to the water use; for example, excessive landscape irrigation, leaving
42 an unattended hose on a driveway with water flowing, allowing water to be dispersed in
43 a grossly inefficient manner, regardless of the type of water use; for example, allowing
44 landscape irrigation water to unnecessarily fall onto pavement, sidewalks and other

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1 impervious surfaces; allowing water flow through a broken or malfunctioning water
2 delivery or landscape irrigation system.

3 *Specific Authority 373.016, 373.044, 373.0831, 373.113, 373.171, 373.227 FS. Law*
4 *Implemented 373.042, 373.0421, 373.0831, 373.171, 373.223, 373.250, 373.227 FS.*
5 *History—New 6-12-03, Amended _____.*

6 **40E-24.201 Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Measures.**

7 (1) The year-round landscape irrigation measures contained in this chapter are
8 applicable to all users as defined in subsection 40E-24.101(9), F.A.C., including
9 permitted and exempt users under Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C., unless indicated otherwise
10 herein. These measures apply to all water sources, including water obtained from a
11 public or private utility, an individual well, or withdrawals from surface water. ~~—except~~
12 ~~that landscape irrigation accomplished using reclaimed water is subject to only~~
13 ~~paragraphs 5(a) of this section.~~ In addition to the requirements of this section, all
14 permitted users under Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C., are required to maintain compliance with
15 all CUP conditions and terms, including those designed to require the implementation of
16 water conservation practices.

17 (2) Any restrictions or other measures declared pursuant to Chapter 40E-21, F.A.C.,
18 or related Board or Executive Director orders which are more restrictive than a measure
19 contained within this chapter, shall supersede this rule for the duration of the applicable
20 water shortage declaration.

21 (3) It shall be the duty of each water user to keep informed as to the landscape
22 irrigation measures presented within this chapter, which affect each particular water
23 use.

24 (4) In addition to the specific measures enumerated below, all wasteful and
25 unnecessary water use as defined in subsection 40E-24.101(10), F.A.C., is prohibited.

26 (5) The following requirements or exceptions shall apply to all users unless specified
27 otherwise herein:

28 (a) ~~Landscape irrigation shall be prohibited daily between the hours of 10:00 a.m.~~
29 ~~and 4:00 p.m., except as otherwise provided herein.~~ Except as otherwise provided
30 for in a CUP issued pursuant to Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C., irrigation of existing landscaping
31 shall comply with the following provisions:

32 1. Landscape irrigation shall be prohibited daily between the hours of
33 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., except as otherwise provided herein.

34 2. Even addresses, installations with irrigation systems that irrigate
35 both even and odd addresses within the same zones, including multi-family units and
36 homeowners' associations, and rights-of-way or other locations with no address as
37 defined in subsection 40E-24.101(4), F.A.C., shall accomplish necessary landscape
38 irrigation only on may accomplish necessary landscape irrigation only on Tuesday,
39 and/or Thursday and/or Sunday.

40 3. Odd addresses as defined in subsection 40E-24.101(7), F.A.C.,
41 and rights-of-way or other locations without an address shall accomplish necessary
42 landscape irrigation only on Monday, and/or Wednesday and/or Saturday.

43 (b) Irrigation of new landscaping shall comply with the following provisions:

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1 1. Irrigation of new landscaping shall be prohibited daily between the
2 hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., except as otherwise provided herein.

3 2. On the day the new landscaping is installed, the new landscaping
4 may be irrigated once without regard to the normally allowable watering times. Irrigation
5 of the soil immediately prior to the installation of the new landscaping is also allowable
6 without regard to the normal allowable watering days and times.

7 3. The sixty day period begins the day the new landscaping is
8 installed. The new landscaping shall be installed within a reasonable time from the date
9 of purchase, which may be demonstrated with a dated receipt or invoice.

10 4. Irrigation of new landscaping which has been in place for thirty (30)
11 days or less shall be accomplished on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
12 Saturday, and/or Sunday.

13 5. Irrigation of new landscaping which has been in place for thirty-one
14 (31) to sixty (60) days shall be accomplished on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and/or
15 Saturday.

16 6. Irrigation of the new landscaping is limited to areas containing the
17 new landscaping only. An entire zone of an irrigation system shall only be utilized for
18 landscape irrigation under this paragraph if the zone in question is for an area that
19 contains at least 50% new landscaping. If a zone contains less than 50% new
20 landscaping, or if the new landscaping is in an area that will not typically be irrigated by
21 an irrigation system, only the individual new plantings are eligible for additional irrigation
22 under this paragraph. Targeted watering may be accomplished by hand watering, or
23 any appropriate method which isolates and waters only the new landscaping.

24 (c) ~~(d)~~ Landscape irrigation systems may be operated during restricted days
25 and/or times for cleaning and maintenance purposes with an attendant on site in the
26 area being tested. Landscape irrigation systems may routinely be operated for such
27 purposes no more than once per week, and the run time for any one test should not
28 exceed 10 minutes per zone.

29 (d) ~~(e)~~ Landscape irrigation for the purpose of watering-in fertilizers, insecticides,
30 fungicides and herbicides, where such watering-in is required by the manufacturer, or
31 by federal, state or local law, or best management practices, shall be allowed under the
32 following conditions:

33 1. Such watering-in shall be limited to one application in the absence of
34 specific alternative instructions from the manufacturer; and

35 2. Such watering-in shall be accomplished during normally allowable
36 watering days and times unless a professional licensed applicator has posted a
37 temporary ~~pesticide~~ sign containing the date of application and the date(s) of needed
38 watering-in activity.

39 (e) Any plant material may be watered using low volume irrigation, micro-
40 irrigation, and low-volume hand watering methods without regard to the watering days
41 or times allowed pursuant to this section.

42 *Specific Authority 373.016, 373.044, 373.0831, 373.113, 373.171, 373.227 FS. Law*
43 *Implemented 373.042, 373.0421, 373.0831, 373.171, 373.223, 373.250, 373.227 FS.*
44 *History—New 6-12-03, Amended _____.*

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1 **40E-24.301 Local Government Option.**

2 (1) Local governments that wish to enforce alternative landscape irrigation
3 measures, shall be considered to be in substantial compliance with this rule upon the
4 enactment of an ordinance establishing landscape irrigation measures which achieve
5 water conservation and which allow no more cumulative days and time for landscape
6 irrigation than subsection 40E-24.201(5), F.A.C. Such ordinance shall provide for
7 variance and enforcement procedures that do not diminish the intent and effectiveness
8 of the measures.

9 (2) Local governments with a jurisdiction divided between the South Florida Water
10 Management District and another water management district may propose an
11 alternative schedule of measures as necessary for the local government to achieve a
12 uniform schedule within its jurisdiction.

13 (3) At least thirty (30) days prior to the adoption of an ordinance for alternative
14 landscape irrigation measures, the local government shall submit the proposed
15 ordinance to the District.

16 (4) In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the approved alternative landscape
17 irrigation measures, such local governments shall provide an annual report to the
18 District which includes any variances granted or denied, enforcement actions taken and
19 any measures proposed to be amended in the next reporting period. The first report
20 shall be submitted no later than September 30, ~~2004~~ 2008. Each annual report
21 thereafter shall be submitted no later than September 30th of the following year.

22 (5) Users within the jurisdiction or customers of such local governments shall comply
23 with the alternative measures contained within the ordinance implementing that program
24 and are not subject to the measures contained in subsection 40E-24.201(5), F.A.C.

25 *Specific Authority* 373.016, 373.044, 373.0831, 373.113, 373.171, 373.227 FS. Law
26 *Implemented* 373.042, 373.0421, 373.0831, 373.171, 373.223, 373.227 FS. History–
27 *New 6-12-03, Amended* _____.

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29 **40E-24.401 Enforcement.**

30 (1) As required by Section 373.609, F.S., each county and city commission, state
31 and county attorney, sheriff, police officer and other appropriate local government
32 official in the region covered by this chapter which is not implementing alternative
33 measures pursuant to a local government ordinance, shall respond to address-specific
34 or location-specific violations of this chapter upon request from the District.

35 (2) A local government may enforce Rule 40E-24.201, F.A.C., within its jurisdiction
36 by adopting an ordinance incorporating the provisions specified therein. At least thirty
37 (30) days prior to the adoption of an ordinance to enforce Rule 40E-24.201, F.A.C., the
38 local government shall submit the proposed ordinance to the District for review.

39 (3) Irrigation of landscapes, as defined above, may be further restricted by local
40 governments only in response to concerns directly related to the local water supply
41 system or as provided in Rule 40E-24.301, F.A.C., above.

42 (34) In enforcing the provisions of this chapter the District will utilize any of the
43 enforcement remedies available pursuant to Chapter 120 or 373, F.S., or applicable

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1 District rule. The Executive Director may take appropriate action pursuant to Sections
2 373.119, 373.175(4), 373.246(7) and 120.69, F.S., to enforce the provisions of this
3 chapter.

4 *Specific Authority* 373.016, 373.044, 373.0831, 373.113, 373.171, 373.227 FS. Law
5 *Implemented* 373.0831, 373.119, 373.171, 373.175, 373.246, 373.603, 373.609,
6 373.227 FS. History–New 6-12-03, Amended _____.

7 **Section 40E-24.501 Variances and Waivers.**

8 (1) Users may request relief from the provisions of this Chapter by filing a
9 petition for variance or waiver pursuant to Section 120.542, Florida Statutes, and Rule
10 28-104, F.A.C. Examples of circumstances, which subject to the above-referenced
11 statute and rule and the provisions below, may be candidates for the issuance of a
12 variance, include but are not limited to:

13 (a) Two or more properties which share a common source of water;

14 (b) A public or private water system experiencing, or anticipating,
15 pressure problems associated with 40E-24.201(5), F.A.C.; or,

16 (2) A variance or waiver is invalid if it has expired or if the user or its agent
17 violates the terms of the variance or waiver.

18 (3) Users requiring relief from restrictions and/or measures set forth in a local
19 government's year-round water conservation ordinance must petition that local
20 government for relief.

21 *Specific Authority* 373.016, 373.044, 373.0831, 373.113, 373.171, 373.227 FS. Law
22 *Implemented* 373.0831, 373.119, 373.171, 373.175, 373.246, 373.603, 373.609,
23 373.227 FS. History–New _____.

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