



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Governing Board Recognizes Water Conservation Month

Conservation is essential for stretching water supplies and protecting natural resources

West Palm Beach, FL – To emphasize the need for conserving water, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board today joined more than 100 South Florida communities and organizations in declaring April as Water Conservation Month.

“The current water shortage reminds us that our state’s water resources are finite. It is critical that we each do our part to reduce water use,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Joe Collins. “Water conservation activities in April emphasize the need to conserve water year-round to sustain supplies through future dry seasons.”

At this time of year, limited rainfall and peak water demands often stress regional water supplies across the District’s 16 counties. The immediate need to conserve is especially important this year after the driest October-to-February period in 80 years. Lake Okeechobee’s water level fell into the water shortage management zone on Friday, March 18. Water shortage orders currently in effect limit residential landscape irrigation to two days a week across the region to help safeguard South Florida’s water supply.

Throughout April, the District is organizing or supporting dozens of Water Conservation Month activities in an effort to educate South Florida residents about wise water use. The District is one of at least 107 organizations and municipalities to recognize Water Conservation Month.

Simple water conservation habits can include:

- Installing an aerator for the kitchen sink
- Watering the lawn by hand
- Installing low-flow appliances, such as a showerhead or energy-efficient washing machine.

Water Conservation is Now a Year-Round Ethic

Water conservation is essential year-round for addressing the impacts of weather extremes, such as the current water shortage, and growing demands on a limited water supply that South Florida's 7.7 million residents, economy and environment all depend on.

When water shortage orders are not in place, the District follows Year-Round Water Conservation Measures that target outdoor irrigation, which accounts for up to half of the estimated 179 gallons of water used per person per day. The Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule is just one initiative implemented under the District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program.

The Comprehensive Water Conservation Program was approved by the SFWMD Governing Board in September 2008 to encourage more responsible use of water resources throughout South Florida. Numerous stakeholders worked with the District to define specific regulatory, voluntary and incentive-based programs and in-depth education and marketing plans that will help foster a year-round conservation ethic.

For more information on ways to save water, visit www.savewaterfl.com. For more information on current water shortage orders to conserve South Florida's regional water supply, visit www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.