

WATER SHORTAGE WATCH BRIEFING

Keeping an Eye on Water Supply

Report for May 9, 2011

To keep the public informed about dry conditions impacting much of Central and South Florida, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following briefing.

District-wide Conditions

Extreme drought conditions in much of the District's 16-county region have visibly lowered canal and lake levels. Recent showers and thunderstorms have provided some relief, but dry conditions are expected to linger into the start of the wet season, which typically begins by the end of May.

DRY SEASON RAINFALL Oct. 2, 2010 – May 9, 2011	10.67 inches
DRY SEASON RAINFALL DEFICIT Oct. 2, 2010 – May 9, 2011	8.21 inches below average
LAKE OKEECHOBEE LEVEL May 9, 2011	10.75 feet NGVD 2.68 feet below average
U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR	LATEST REPORT (map)
USGS GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS	LATEST REPORT (map)

Dry Season Rainfall by Basin (Oct. 2, 2010 – May 9, 2011)

BASIN	RAINFALL	DIFFERENCE
Upper Kissimmee	15.21 inches	4.03 inches below average
Lower Kissimmee	11.30 inches	5.51 inches below average
Lake Okeechobee	9.25 inches	7.25 inches below average
EAA East	9.53 inches	7.86 inches below average
EAA West	9.21 inches	8.48 inches below average
Water Conservation Areas 1 & 2	10.19 inches	9.65 inches below average
Water Conservation Area 3	8.35 inches	9.82 inches below average
Martin and St. Lucie Counties	10.29 inches	12.54 inches below average
Eastern Palm Beach County	10.24 inches	16.78 inches below average
Eastern Broward County	11.62 inches	11.57 inches below average
Eastern Miami-Dade County	13.06 inches	8.16 inches below average
East Caloosahatchee	10.23 inches	7.50 inches below average
Big Cypress Preserve	9.07 inches	8.54 inches below average
Southwest Coast	10.75 inches	7.08 inches below average

Click [here](#) for a map of basin locations.

Water Levels at Key Locations (as of May 9, 2011)

LOCATION	WATER LEVEL	KEY LEVELS OF CONCERN	
Lake Istokpoga	38.35 feet	37.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
WCA-1	14.04 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
WCA-2A	10.28 feet	10.50 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
WCA-3A	7.62 feet	7.50 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
C-23 Canal	18.57 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
C-24 Canal	18.91 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
C-25 Canal	16.48 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off

Water Shortage Orders and Conservation Measures

Water Shortage Order – Landscape Irrigation

- [Modified Phase II restrictions](#), effective March 26, limit landscape irrigation to two days per week throughout the District.
- Landscape irrigation using reclaimed water is not restricted under the order.
- Irrigation times vary by area:
 - For Broward, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties. Also for portions of Osceola County within the SFWMD boundaries, the Town of Windermere in Orange County and cities within Lee County except Cape Coral – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Charlotte, Highlands and Polk counties – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Toho Water Authority Service Area (Osceola County) – [Just the Facts](#)
 - The City of Cape Coral – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Collier County, including the City of Naples – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Orange County, except the Town of Windermere – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Unincorporated areas of Lee County – [Just the Facts](#)

Water Shortage Order – Golf Courses

- [Modified Phase I restrictions](#), effective March 26, require a 15-percent cutback for golf course irrigation in Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties.

Water Shortage Order – Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA)

- A [water shortage order](#), effective March 26, requires a 15-percent reduction in surface water withdrawals for all agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment users within LOSA.
 - LOSA includes portions of Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties, and the Everglades Agricultural Area and portions of the Southern Indian Prairie Water Use Basin.

Water Shortage Order – Agricultural and Nursery Water Users in South Miami-Dade County

- A [water shortage order](#), effective March 26, places Phase I restrictions on agricultural and nursery water users within the South Dade Water Use Basin. Users will limit the times and hours of irrigation operations.

Water Shortage Order – Southern Indian Prairie Water Use Basin

- An [operational order](#), effective March 26, allows for District operation of certain bypass structures in the southern Indian Prairie Water Use Basin to implement the LOSA order.

Water Shortage Order – Permitted Water Users in Broward and Palm Beach Counties

- A [water shortage order](#), effective March 26, places Phase I restrictions on agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment permittees that use or divert surface and ground water in these counties.
 - Withdrawals from surface waters by specified users will be reduced 15 percent.
 - Agricultural and nursery operations will limit the hours of irrigation.

Other Actions

The District continues to closely monitor water levels. Links to more information about water shortage orders and warnings, current weather and water conditions and water-saving tips can be found at www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch.

Emergency Operations

- The SFWMD's Emergency Operations Center is currently at a Level 2 activation to monitor and plan activities associated with the 2011 Water Shortage.

Environment-Related Activities

- Scientists monitored apple snail egg production at the new hatchery at Lemkin Creek. Native apple snails are the primary food source for the endangered Everglades snail kite.
- Preparations were made for bulrush planting in Lake Okeechobee to protect areas of lake bottom that were previously improved.

Navigation

- The S-193 navigation lock at Taylor Creek in Okeechobee County was closed as of Monday, May 2.
- These locks on the north shore of Lake Okeechobee remain closed:
 - S-135 at J&S Fish Camp in Martin County
 - G-36 at Henry Creek in Okeechobee County
 - S-127 at Buckhead Ridge in Glades County
 - S-131 at Lakeport in Glades County

Liaison

- Workshops on compliance with water restrictions and presentations regarding the water shortage and water conservation continue to be provided to local governments.

Recreation

- An emergency order on April 26 prohibits building fires on certain District lands open for recreation. The order covers 13 of the District's 16 counties. Polk, Osceola, and Orange counties are exempt from the ban because of recent rainfall. The ban, which only applies to land managed by the District, means no fires in grills, fireplaces or fire rings until further notice.

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