

WATER WATCH

Keeping an Eye on Water Resources

District-Wide Conditions for August 18, 2015

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following briefing:

South Florida experienced above-average rainfall during the past week. Estimates show 2.24 inches fell District-wide from August 11 to August 18, including heavy rainfall in areas along the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

This rainfall was beneficial for short-term water supply, however, much of the east coast remains in drought conditions ranging from abnormally dry to extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Water conservation remains critical to help protect the regional water supply as levels continue to decline in some areas.

Water Levels in Key Locations (Aug. 18)		
Location	Today's level (NGVD29)	Water Supply Floor
WCA-1	15.69 feet	14.00 feet
WCA-2A	12.08 feet	10.50 feet
WCA-3A	8.87 feet	7.50 feet

Water Conservation is Essential

- South Florida is under the District's Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule, which limits residential and business landscape irrigation to two or three days per week.
 - To determine watering days and times in your area, contact your local government or visit www.sfwmd.gov/2days.
- Permitted water users such as nurseries, agriculture, golf courses and utilities can find water use conditions in their permits online at www.sfwmd.gov/ePermitting.
- For tips and information about water conservation, visit www.sfwmd.gov/conserve.

Lake Okeechobee Operations

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages Lake Okeechobee water levels based on its regulation schedule and the best available science and data provided by its staff and a variety of partners, including SFWMD.
- Corps water managers prefer to maintain water levels between 12.5 feet and 15.5 feet to help balance competing demands such as public safety, water supply and environmental health.
 - SFWMD makes an operational recommendation each week based on conditions. The most recent Operational Position Statement is available at www.sfwmd.gov/opsreports.

Lake Okeechobee Levels	
Today (Aug. 18)	12.49 feet
This Date One Year Ago	14.49 feet

###

Media inquiries can be directed to:

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cell: (561) 670-1245