



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

March 31, 2009

CONTACT:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

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SFWMD E-Briefing: Rainfall Deficits Increasing Again
After a brief respite, little rain was seen over the last week



(SFWMD, 3-06-09, Click on picture for larger version.)

As drought conditions persist, water has disappeared from the surface in large parts of Water Conservation Area 2 west of Coral Springs. Water levels in WCA-2 are at their lowest point for the last two weeks of March since recordkeeping began in 1991.

West Palm Beach, FL — In an effort to keep the public informed about the dry conditions gripping much of the state, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following latest conditions report.

After a few days of locally heavy precipitation concentrated on the Lower East Coast, little rain was seen across South Florida over the last week. Water levels in the primary regional storage systems – the Water Conservation Areas and Lake Okeechobee – are continuing to drop as the days get longer and evaporation rates increase.

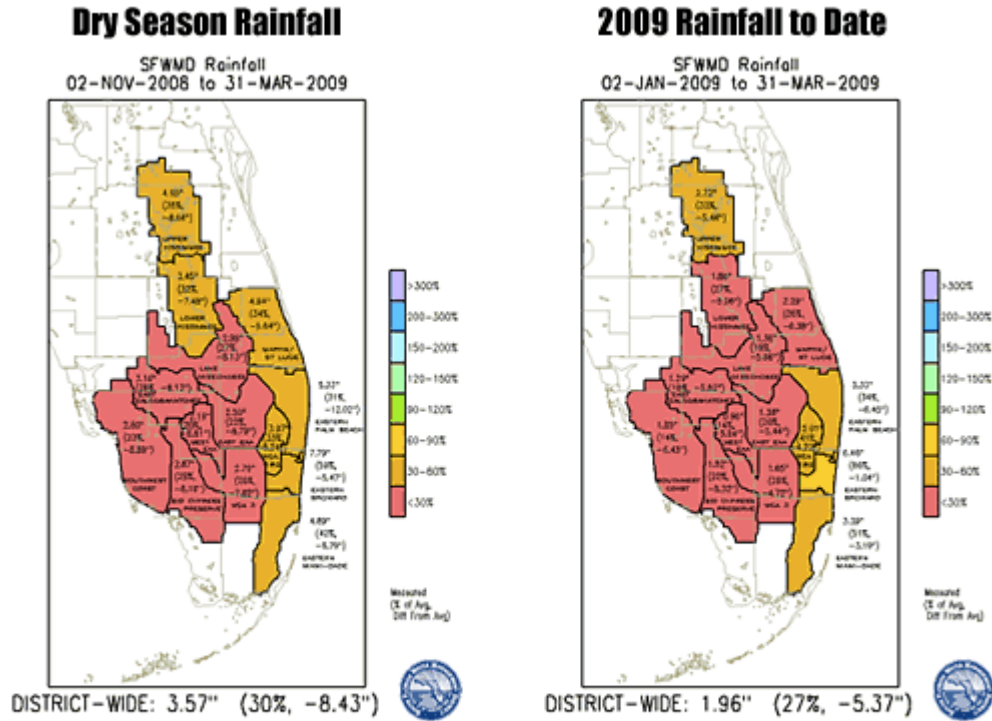
While periodic rain is welcome, the drought is not expected to be alleviated until persistent rainfall arrives in the wet season, which typically starts in June. In the meantime, water conservation remains the best defense against drought conditions.

The SFWMD is closely monitoring water levels and is urging residents and businesses to conserve water and follow landscape irrigation restrictions to stretch the public supply. More information about limits by area is available on the District's [water restrictions](#) Web site. For water saving tips, visit www.savewaterfl.com.

District-Wide Averages as of March 31, 2009

RAINFALL to Date, Jan. 2 - March 31:	1.96 inches
DEFICIT to Date, Jan. 2 - March 31:	- 5.37 inches
DRY SEASON DEFICIT, Nov. 2, 2008 - March 31:	- 8.43 inches
LAKE OKEECHOBEE:	March 31, 2009: 12.18 feet NGVD March 31, 2008: 10.25 feet NGVD

Rainfall Maps



Click on images above for higher resolution versions.

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)

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.