



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SFWMD E-Briefing: Drought Conditions Persist

2008-2009 dry season remains third driest on record through end of March



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

A water monitoring station has no surface water to monitor in Water Conservation Area 2 west of Coral Springs. Water levels in WCA-2 were 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.

Through the end of March, the 2008-2009 South Florida dry season remains the third driest on record dating back to 1932. The latest SFWMD reports show an average of 1.39 inches of rain fell across the 16-county region in March, which is 1.62 inches less than the historical average. The rainfall deficit for the dry season was 8.27 inches by the end of the month and has continued to increase since.

The [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) indicates much of South Florida is experiencing a severe drought. 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. The [Climate Prediction Center](#) at the National Weather Service expects drought conditions across the region to persist or intensify through May.

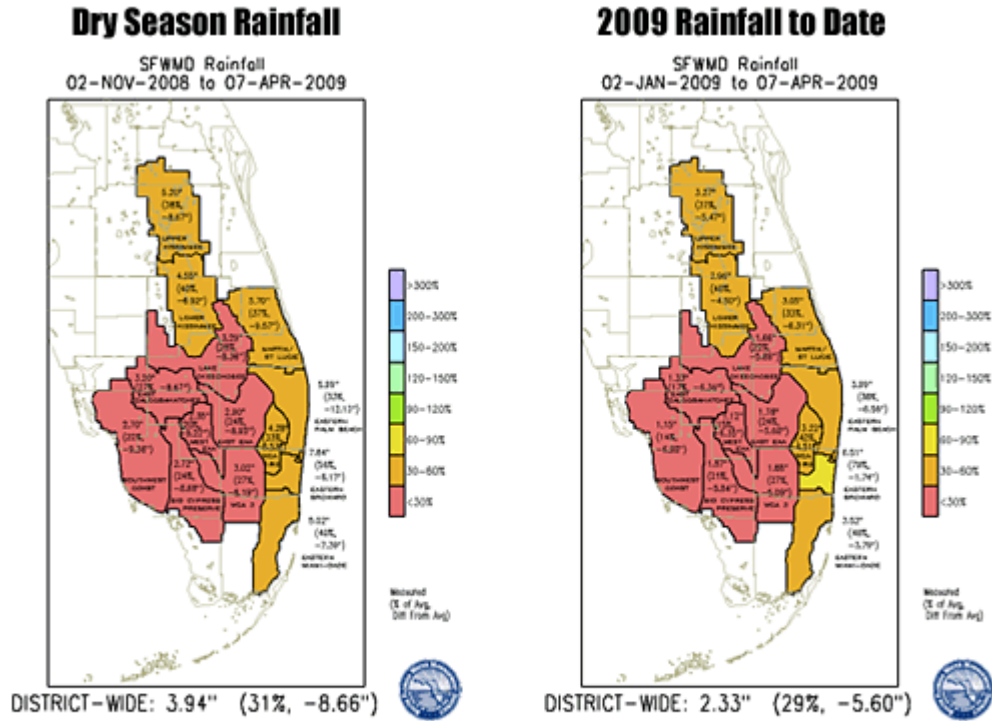
Until persistent rainfall arrives in the wet season, water conservation remains the best defense against drought conditions.

The SFWMD is closely monitoring water levels and is urging residents and businesses to conserve water and follow landscape irrigation restrictions to stretch available supplies. More information about irrigation 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 April 7, 2009

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| RAINFALL to Date, Jan. 2 - April 7: | 2.33 inches |
| DEFICIT to Date, Jan. 2 - April 7: | - 5.60 inches |
| DRY SEASON DEFICIT, Nov. 2, 2008 - April 7: | - 8.66 inches |
| LAKE OKEECHOBEE: | April 7, 2009: 12.04 feet NGVD April 7, 2008: 10.35 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.