



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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MEDIA ADVISORY

April 14, 2009

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SFWMD E-Briefing: Water Levels Dropping
April normally brings little rainfall, high evaporation rates



(SFWMD, 4-08-09, Click on picture for larger version.)

A deer runs across a still muddy part of Water Conservation Area 1 west of Boynton Beach. Although water levels in WCA-1 remain above ground, they are much lower than they were at the same time last year.

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.

With little precipitation in recent weeks, groundwater levels across most of the District are declining. Water levels in the primary regional storage systems – the Water Conservation Areas and Lake Okeechobee – are also continuing to drop.

April is historically one of the driest times of the year in South Florida. Rainfall is normally scarce during the month while evaporation rates increase with longer, hotter days.

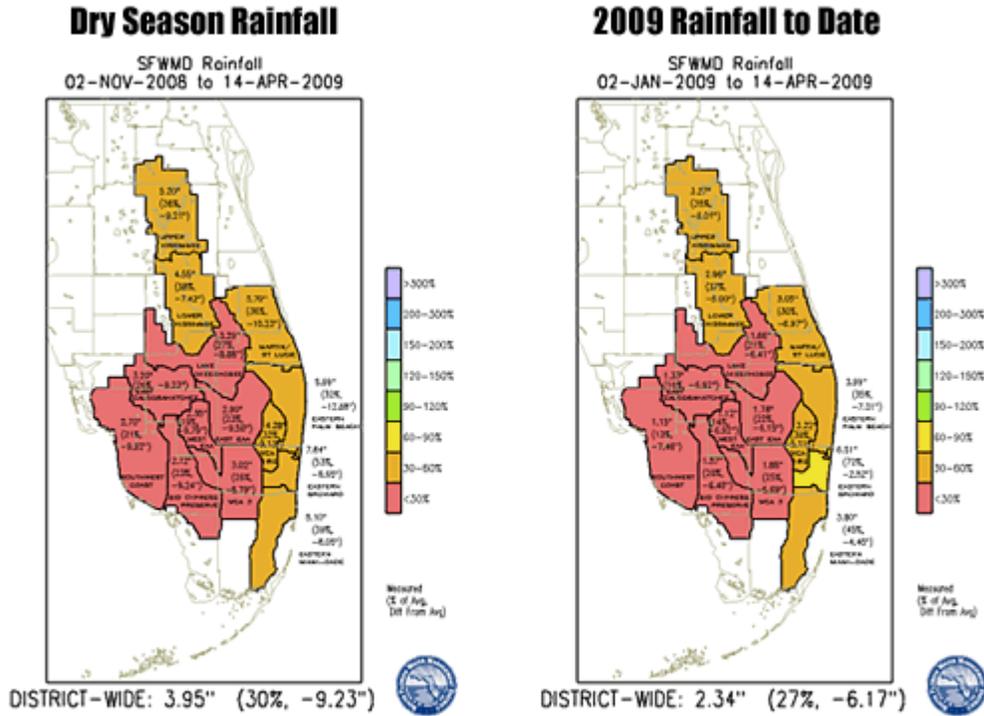
Periodic rainfall – such as today’s showers in the northern half of the District – is welcome. However, the drought is not expected to be alleviated until persistent rainfall arrives in the wet season. In the meantime, water conservation remains the best defense against drought conditions.

The SFWMD is closely monitoring water levels and is urging residents and businesses to conserve water and follow landscape irrigation restrictions to stretch 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 14, 2009

RAINFALL to Date, Jan. 2 - April 14:	2.34 inches
DEFICIT to Date, Jan. 2 - April 14:	- 6.17 inches
DRY SEASON DEFICIT, Nov. 2, 2008 - April 14:	- 9.23 inches
LAKE OKEECHOBEE:	April 14, 2009: 11.80 feet NGVD April 14, 2008: 10.50 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.