



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

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

April 22, 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: Evaporation Exceeds Rainfall**

*Water levels continue to drop in April with no meaningful rainfall expected in the near future*



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

*Airboat trails become visible as levels drop in Water Conservation Area 1 in Palm Beach County.*

**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.

Despite welcomed rainfall along the East Coast and other localized areas this week, groundwater levels across much of the 16-county District and the primary regional storage systems – the Water Conservation Areas and Lake Okeechobee – continue to decline.

April and May are traditionally the driest times of the year, with evaporation claiming about 6 inches of water a month. In contrast, as of this morning, only 0.64 inches of rain had fallen for the month. No meaningful rain is predicted to fall in the next nine to 10 days, according to District meteorologists.

The latest [U.S. Drought Monitor report](#) shows severe drought conditions, the middle of the monitor’s intensity scale, are impacting a large portion of the 16-county District. Parts of central South Florida are experiencing extreme drought conditions, just below the driest and highest level of the intensity scale. Already the third driest on record since 1932 as of the end of March, the 2008-2009 dry season has produced a rainfall deficit reaching more than 9 inches.

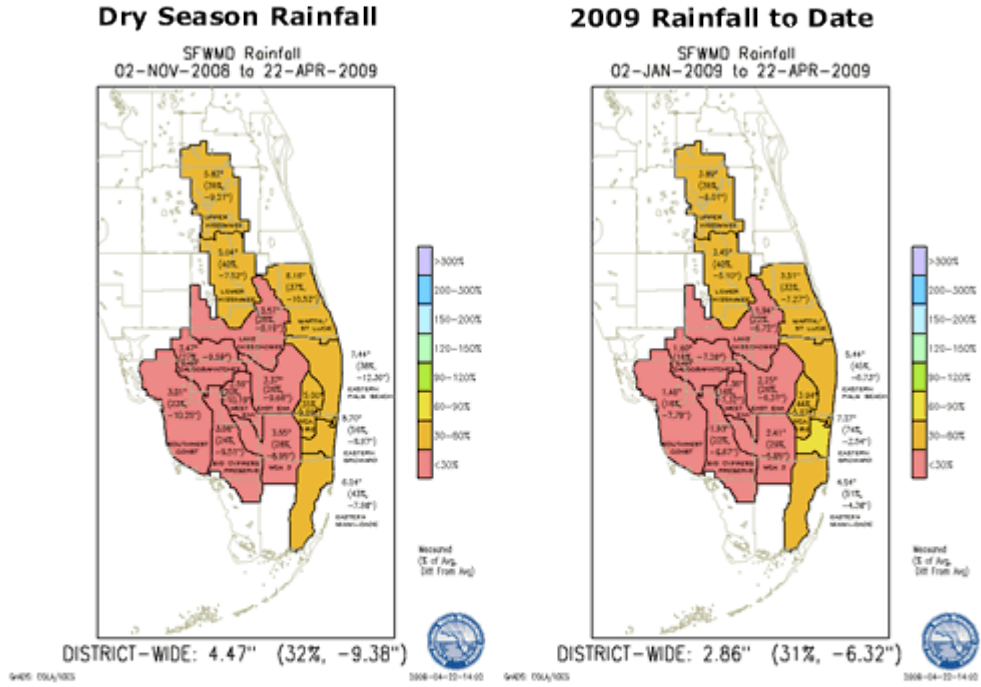
Drought conditions will not be alleviated until the arrival of the wet season, likely a month away. An exact start date to the wet season, the amount of rainfall and the focus of that rain are uncertain.

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 protect 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](http://www.savewaterfl.com).

### **District-Wide Averages as of April 22, 2009**

<b>RAINFALL to Date, Jan. 2 - April 22:</b>	2.86 inches
<b>DEFICIT to Date, Jan. 2 - April 22:</b>	- 6.32 inches
<b>DRY SEASON DEFICIT, Nov. 2, 2008 - April 22:</b>	- 9.38 inches
<b>LAKE OKEECHOBEE:</b>	April 22, 2009: 11.49 feet NGVD April 22, 2008: 10.41 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.*