



NEWS RELEASE

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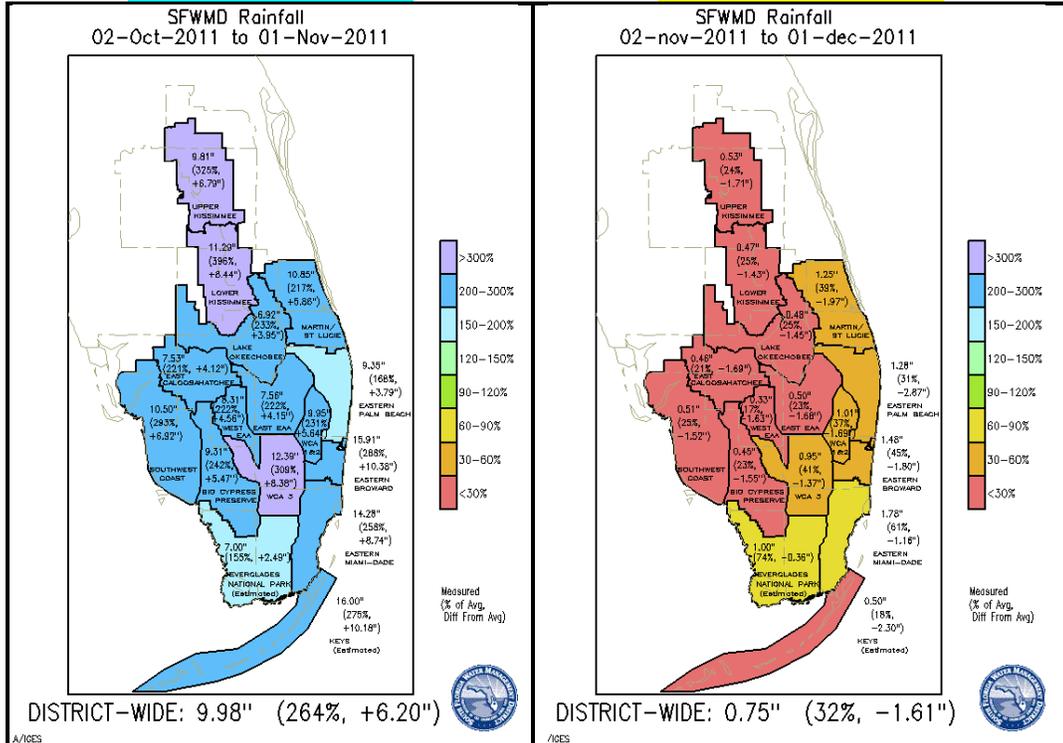
South Florida Dry Season Begins With a Dry November *Significant shift from a rainy October; Water conservation remains essential*

October 2011

Rainfall = 9.98 inches

November 2011

Rainfall = 0.75 inches



(Click on the graphics for larger versions.)

West Palm Beach, FL — Below-average rainfall marked the first month of South Florida’s dry season. November’s sparse rainfall had minimal impact on regional water supplies, however, because record October rains replenished resources from Orlando to the Florida Keys, including Lake Okeechobee.

“The short-term water supply outlook is favorable, and the next few months of typically cooler weather means we lose less water to evaporation,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “But we still have a forecast of below-

average rainfall for the rest of the dry season, so we must remain cautious. For water managers, this means continuing to store as much water as possible. For residents, this means continuing good water conservation practices.”

A total of 0.75 inches of rain fell across the 16-county District in November, representing 32 percent of the average for this time of year, or a deficit of 1.61 inches. All areas of the region were below average for the month, with the largest deficits along the east coast.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 13.77 feet NGVD today, about a foot below its historical average for this time of year. The 730-square-mile lake, which serves as a backup water supply for South Florida, also received a major boost from October rains, rising about 2.5 feet since September 30. This moved the lake above its water shortage management zone.

In response to these improved regional water resource conditions, the SFWMD Governing Board in October rescinded water shortage orders for South Florida, many of which had been in place since March of this year.

The board did declare a water shortage warning to encourage vigilance and voluntary cutbacks. Frequent swings in South Florida’s water conditions – and the drier-than-normal La Niña forecast – indicate that a return to water shortage is possible. Year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures remain in place.

Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule

Adopted by the SFWMD Governing Board in November 2009, the Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule established a permanent two-day-a-week landscape watering schedule throughout the region, with a three-day-a-week provision for some counties. Utilizing the rule’s flexibility, some city and county governments have adopted alternative landscape irrigation ordinances or emergency actions based on local water demands or system limitations. For many areas, landscape watering schedules remain the same under year-round conservation measures as they were under water shortage restrictions.

Customers of the West Palm Beach and Lake Worth utilities remain under local orders limiting landscape irrigation to one day per week.

Details on landscape irrigation limits are available by contacting your local government or by visiting www.sfwmd.gov/2days.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

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.