



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

April 17, 2012

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SFWMD Governing Board Recognizes Water Conservation Month

With a water shortage warning in effect, conservation is essential for stretching water supplies and protecting natural resources

West Palm Beach, FL – To highlight the need for conserving water, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board joined the State of Florida and 129 South Florida communities and organizations in declaring April as Water Conservation Month.

“With so many communities joining together to recognize Water Conservation Month, it reminds us that everyone has a stake in preserving South Florida’s water resources,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Joe Collins. “Droughts and water shortages in recent years have shown us that we all depend on water in our daily lives and have a responsibility to use it wisely.”

In the springtime, limited rainfall, an increase in temperature and higher evapotranspiration rates often stress regional water supplies across the District’s 16 counties. The District remains in a water shortage warning and year-round landscape irrigation restrictions are in place to save water. The District is closely monitoring regional water supplies during the remainder of what continues to be a below-average dry season. If water levels continue the seasonal decline, a return to water shortage conditions is possible in upcoming weeks.

Simple water conservation practices can include:

- Replacing aerators in kitchen and bathroom sinks with models rated for 1.5 gallons per minute or less
- Watering the lawn by hand
- Installing low-flow appliances, such as a dishwasher or energy-efficient washing machine
- Installing low-flow water fixtures, such as showerheads with the WaterSense logo

Throughout April, the District is organizing or supporting dozens of Water Conservation Month activities in an effort to educate South Florida residents about ways to conserve water.

Water Conservation is a Year-Round Ethic

Water conservation is essential year-round for addressing the impacts of weather extremes and growing demands on a limited water supply needed by South Florida's 7.7 million residents, economy and environment.

When water shortage orders are not in place, the District follows Year-Round Water Conservation Measures that target outdoor irrigation, which accounts for up to half of the estimated 179 gallons of water used per person per day in South Florida. The Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule is just one of many initiatives implemented under the District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program.

The Comprehensive Water Conservation Program was approved by the SFWMD Governing Board in September 2008 to encourage more responsible use of water resources throughout South Florida. Numerous stakeholders worked with the District to define specific regulatory, voluntary and incentive-based programs and in-depth education and marketing efforts that help to foster a year-round conservation ethic.

To determine watering days and times in your area, contact your local government or visit www.sfwmd.gov/2days. For more information on ways to save water, visit www.savewaterfl.com.

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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.