

WATER SHORTAGE WATCH BRIEFING

Keeping an Eye on Water Supply

Report for June 21, 2011

To keep the public informed about dry conditions impacting much of Central and South Florida, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following briefing.

District-wide Conditions

The wet season so far has not produced the significant rainfall that is needed to replenish severely depleted groundwater, canal and lake levels throughout South Florida. The region is experiencing its driest October to mid-June period since recordkeeping began 80 years ago. The region requires a substantial system-wide soaking to alleviate drought conditions.

DRY SEASON RAINFALL Oct. 2, 2010 – June 21, 2011	14.81 inches
DRY SEASON RAINFALL DEFICIT Oct. 2, 2010 – June 21, 2011	12.44 inches below average
LAKE OKEECHOBEE LEVEL June 21, 2011	9.60 feet NGVD 3.62 feet below average
U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR	LATEST REPORT (map)
USGS GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS	LATEST REPORT (map)

Rainfall by Basin (Oct. 2, 2010 – June 21, 2011)

BASIN	RAINFALL	DIFFERENCE
Upper Kissimmee	19.02 inches	7.73 inches below average
Lower Kissimmee	15.19 inches	9.02 inches below average
Lake Okeechobee	12.86 inches	10.71 inches below average
EAA East	13.63 inches	11.62 inches below average
EAA West	13.40 inches	13.30 inches below average
Water Conservation Areas 1 & 2	14.68 inches	13.38 inches below average
Water Conservation Area 3	13.19 inches	13.88 inches below average
Martin and St. Lucie Counties	12.82 inches	17.29 inches below average
Eastern Palm Beach County	13.08 inches	22.87 inches below average
Eastern Broward County	14.29 inches	18.53 inches below average
Eastern Miami-Dade County	16.61 inches	14.40 inches below average
East Caloosahatchee	15.56 inches	10.91 inches below average
Big Cypress Preserve	15.03 inches	12.11 inches below average
Southwest Coast	15.55 inches	11.60 inches below average

Click [here](#) for a map of basin locations.

Water Levels at Key Locations (as of June 21, 2011)

LOCATION	WATER LEVEL	KEY LEVELS OF CONCERN	
Lake Istokpoga	37.72 feet	37.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
WCA-1	13.16 feet	14.00 feet	Regulation Zone C
WCA-2A	9.28 feet	10.50 feet	Regulation Zone C
WCA-3A	6.99 feet	7.50 feet	Regulation Zone E
C-23 Canal	15.83 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
C-24 Canal	15.56 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
C-25 Canal	14.81 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off

Water Shortage Orders and Conservation Measures

Water Shortage Orders – Landscape Irrigation

- [Modified Phase II restrictions](#), effective March 26, limit landscape irrigation to two days per week throughout the District.
- [Modified Phase III](#) restrictions, effective June 10, limit landscape irrigation to one day per week in the City of West Palm Beach’s utility service area, including the City of West Palm Beach and the towns of South Palm Beach and Palm Beach.
- On June 13, the West Palm Beach City Commission implemented additional emergency restrictions for its utility service area. The resolution can be viewed [here](#).
- Landscape irrigation using reclaimed water is not restricted under the order.
- Irrigation times vary by area:
 - For Broward, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. Also for portions of Osceola County within the SFWMD boundaries, the Town of Windermere in Orange County, cities within Lee County except Cape Coral and Palm Beach County except those served by the West Palm Beach utility – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Charlotte, Highlands and Polk counties – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Toho Water Authority Service Area (Osceola County) – [Just the Facts](#)
 - The City of Cape Coral – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Collier County – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Orange County, except the Town of Windermere – [Just the Facts](#)
 - Unincorporated areas of Lee County – [Just the Facts](#)

Water Shortage Order – Golf Courses

- [Modified Phase I restrictions](#), effective March 26, require a 15-percent cutback for golf course irrigation in Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties.

Water Shortage Order – Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA)

- [Modified Phase III restrictions](#), effective May 19, require a 45-percent reduction in surface water withdrawals for all agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment users within LOSA.

- LOSA includes portions of Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties and the Everglades Agricultural Area.

Water Shortage Order – Agricultural and Nursery Water Users in South Miami-Dade County

- A [water shortage order](#), effective March 26, places Phase I restrictions on agricultural and nursery water users within the South Dade Water Use Basin. Users shall limit the times and hours of irrigation operations.

Water Shortage Order – Southern Portion of the Indian Prairie Water Use Basin

- An [operational order](#), effective March 26, allows for District operation of certain bypass structures in the southern portion of the Indian Prairie Water Use Basin.
- A [water shortage order](#) requires a 15-percent reduction in surface water withdrawals for all agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment users.

Water Shortage Order – Permitted Water Users in Broward and Palm Beach Counties

- A [water shortage order](#), effective March 26, places Phase I restrictions on agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment permittees that use or divert surface and ground water in these counties.
 - Withdrawals from surface waters by specified users are reduced 15 percent.
 - Agricultural and nursery operations shall limit the hours of irrigation.

Other Actions

The District continues to closely monitor water levels. Links to more information about water shortage orders and warnings, current weather and water conditions and water-saving tips can be found at www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch.

Emergency Operations

- The SFWMD's Emergency Operations Center is currently at a Level 2 activation to monitor and plan activities associated with the 2011 Water Shortage.

Navigation

- The S-65E navigation lock between the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee is closed with no locktender on duty due to declining water levels.
- These locks on the north shore of Lake Okeechobee remain closed:
 - S-135 at J&S Fish Camp in Martin County
 - S-193 at Taylor Creek in Okeechobee County
 - G-36 at Henry Creek in Okeechobee County
 - S-127 at Buckhead Ridge in Glades County
 - S-131 at Lakeport in Glades County

Recreation

- An emergency order on April 26 prohibits building fires on certain District lands open for recreation.
 - The order covers 13 of the District's 16 counties. Polk, Osceola, and Orange counties are exempt from the ban because of recent rainfall.
 - The ban, which only applies to land managed by the District, means no fires in grills, fireplaces or fire rings until further notice.

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**Water shortage questions from the public can be directed to:
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