

# WATER SHORTAGE WATCH BRIEFING

*Keeping an Eye on Water Supply*

## Report for July 5, 2011

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

### District-wide Conditions

Rainfall levels over the last few weeks are consistent with the start of an average wet season. The rain has provided short-term relief to the drier-than-normal period that started in October. The wet season so far has not supplied enough rainfall to replenish severely depleted groundwater, canal and lake levels throughout South Florida.

<b>RAINFALL</b> Oct. 2, 2010 – July 5, 2011	<b>19.77</b> inches
<b>RAINFALL DEFICIT</b> Oct. 2, 2010 – July 5, 2011	<b>11.14</b> inches below average
<b>LAKE OKEECHOBEE LEVEL</b> July 5, 2011	<b>9.83</b> feet NGVD <b>3.64</b> feet below average
<b>U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR</b>	<a href="#">LATEST REPORT</a> (map)
<b>USGS GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS</b>	<a href="#">LATEST REPORT</a> (map)

### Rainfall by Basin (Oct. 2, 2010 – July 5, 2011)

BASIN	RAINFALL	DIFFERENCE
Upper Kissimmee	<b>24.58</b> inches	<b>5.57</b> inches below average
Lower Kissimmee	<b>20.77</b> inches	<b>6.74</b> inches below average
Lake Okeechobee	<b>17.16</b> inches	<b>9.52</b> inches below average
EAA East	<b>19.16</b> inches	<b>9.42</b> inches below average
EAA West	<b>18.51</b> inches	<b>12.13</b> inches below average
Water Conservation Areas 1 & 2	<b>19.30</b> inches	<b>12.09</b> inches below average
Water Conservation Area 3	<b>16.99</b> inches	<b>13.85</b> inches below average
Martin and St. Lucie Counties	<b>17.01</b> inches	<b>16.20</b> inches below average
Eastern Palm Beach County	<b>18.31</b> inches	<b>21.21</b> inches below average
Eastern Broward County	<b>17.61</b> inches	<b>18.98</b> inches below average
Eastern Miami-Dade County	<b>19.66</b> inches	<b>15.25</b> inches below average
East Caloosahatchee	<b>22.07</b> inches	<b>8.43</b> inches below average
Big Cypress Preserve	<b>19.38</b> inches	<b>12.08</b> inches below average
Southwest Coast	<b>21.74</b> inches	<b>9.89</b> inches below average

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

## Water Levels at Key Locations (as of July 5, 2011)

LOCATION	WATER LEVEL	KEY LEVELS OF CONCERN	
Lake Istokpoga	37.98 feet	37.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
WCA-1	14.22 feet	14.00 feet	Regulation Zone C
WCA-2A	11.37 feet	10.50 feet	Regulation Zone C
WCA-3A	7.84 feet	7.50 feet	Regulation Zone E
C-23 Canal	21.77 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
C-24 Canal	19.83 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
C-25 Canal	19.33 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. The District also approved an [emergency order](#) allowing the city to capture water from the C-51 Canal through the Boyd Street structure from June 24 until July 13.
- 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 orders. Additional watering is permitted for new plantings.
- 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 areas 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](http://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**

- Due to the increased risk of wildfire, an [emergency order](#) added Orange, Osceola and Polk counties to the ban on building fires already in place for all other District lands.
  - The ban, which applies specifically to land managed by the District in all 16 counties, means no fires in grills, fireplaces or fire rings until further notice. Cautious use of portable grills for cooking purposes is allowed.

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

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