

2011 WATER WATCH

Keeping an Eye on Water Resources

District-Wide Conditions for August 15, 2011

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following briefing:

Wet season rainfall has provided significant short-term relief from a dry period that started last October, but groundwater and lake levels in some areas remain below average for this time of year. The District is saving as much water as possible. However, not all rainfall can be retained due to limited storage space and the need for immediate flood protection.

RAINFALL (Oct. 2, 2010 – Today)	DEFICIT
29.69 inches	10.60 inches

Water Levels in Key Locations (as of August 15, 2011)

LOCATION	WATER LEVEL	HISTORICAL AVERAGE FOR TODAY
Lake Okeechobee	10.33 feet	13.96 feet
WCA-1	15.27 feet	15.61 feet
WCA-2	12.94 feet	12.61 feet
WCA-3	9.36 feet	10.02 feet
Lake Kissimmee	50.08 feet	50.42 feet
Lake Istokpoga	38.41 feet	38.42 feet

Rainfall by Basin (Oct. 2, 2010 – August 15, 2011)

BASIN	RAINFALL	DIFFERENCE
Water Conservation Areas 1 & 2	27.85 inches	12.06 inches below average
Water Conservation Area 3	29.49 inches	10.42 inches below average
Martin and St. Lucie Counties	25.28 inches	17.05 inches below average
Eastern Palm Beach County	27.36 inches	21.24 inches below average
Eastern Broward County	27.61 inches	17.75 inches below average
Eastern Miami-Dade County	29.54 inches	14.56 inches below average
East Caloosahatchee	33.17 inches	7.77 inches below average
Southwest Coast	33.59 inches	9.62 inches below average

Click [here](#) for a complete list of basins.

Water Shortage Orders and Conservation Measures

- [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 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.
 - Effective Aug. 7 through Oct. 31, a [temporary modification](#) allows golf courses to apply for a variance if needed for new plantings or other course rehabilitation.

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, which 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

Information about water shortage orders and warnings, current weather and water conditions and water-saving tips can be found at www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch.

Navigation

- The S-65E navigation lock between the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee is closed with no locktender on duty due to low 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

Hurricane Season

- In preparation for storms, residents are encouraged to check swales and drainage systems to ensure that there are no blockages that impede water flow. Land adjacent to canal embankments must be clear of shrubs and other encroaching objects.

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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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