

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

May 12 - 16, 2008



District News and Happenings

- [Treatment Marsh to Improve Water Quality in Estero Bay](#)
- [SFWMD Water Quality Testing Continues with \\$1.76M Contract](#)

System-Wide Overview

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 0.17 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is below average. Some limited shower activity is expected this weekend.

U.S. Drought Monitor:

The [Drought Monitor](#) focuses on broad-scale conditions and identifies general drought areas, labeling droughts by intensity. Status for the District remained the same this week, falling into four levels of intensity, ranging from normal to severe drought.

Lake Okeechobee:

Lake Okeechobee water level measured 9.98 feet NGVD 29 (8.68 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.13 feet lower than it was on that day last week and 0.53 feet lower than it was a month ago. The current stage is 0.66 feet higher than it was a year ago and 3.44 feet below its historical average for this time of year. The monthly survey of submerged aquatic vegetation showed that water clarity is generally conducive to plant growth. A wildfire continues to burn in the littoral zone in the southwest corner of the lake. Roughly 9,000-10,000 acres have burned. The fire is 50 percent contained, and its rate of spread has slowed; however, muck fires will continue to be a potential concern until the area experiences significant rainfall.

Mission Statement:

To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.



[sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

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Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

The upper Kissimmee Basin received no rain over the last seven days, and the lower Kissimmee Basin received 0.04 inches of rain. During the last week, releases from the upper basin lakes were adjusted to allow water levels to decline in accordance with regulation schedules. With the decreased inflow from the upper basin, water levels continue to decline across the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. In Lake Tohopekaliga, 4,000 acres of hydrilla (of the 12,000 acres currently estimated on the lake) were treated with a contact herbicide two weeks ago.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

Average salinity increased in the St. Lucie Estuary over the past week. Based on the salinity tolerance of oysters, salinity conditions in the estuary are good. Average salinity increased in most areas of the Caloosahatchee Estuary last week. Salinity conditions are poor in the upper estuary east of Ft. Myers and fair downstream of Cape Coral.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

The WCAs received between 0.02 and 0.43 inches of rain during the past week, and water levels continue to decline. However, water depths are generally still too high for wading bird foraging, especially in WCA-3A.

Everglades National Park:

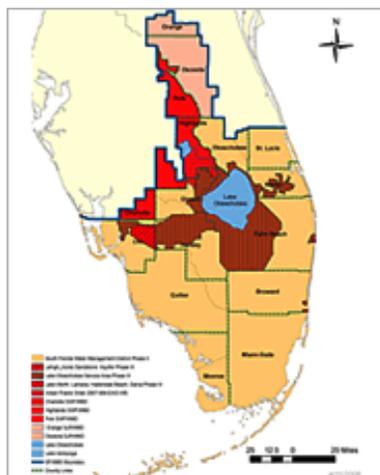
The Park received 0.01 inches of rain, which contributed to a decline in water levels last week.

Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the Park. The map on page one captures District rain gauge data only.

Florida Bay:

Salinity remained stable or increased last week.

Water Restrictions starting April 18:



Click map for larger image

Residents and businesses of Broward, Collier, Miami-Dade, Monroe, St. Lucie and coastal areas of Lee, Martin and Palm Beach counties, including the City of West Palm Beach are limited to a two-day-per-week landscape irrigation schedule with two "watering windows".

Odd street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Even street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Thursdays and Sundays from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Because jurisdiction in certain counties is shared with other water management districts, the SFWMD has coordinated with these agencies to simplify implementation and enforcement.

Residents of ***Orange and Osceola counties*** should adhere to any water restrictions set by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Residents of ***Polk, Charlotte and Highlands counties*** should adhere to the water restrictions set by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Due to continued local concerns about water resource availability, one-day-a week watering remains in place for the cities of **Dania Beach, Hallandale Beach, Lake Worth and Lantana and portions of unincorporated Lee County, including the Lehigh Acres and Gateway areas**. One-day-a week landscape irrigation remains in place for residents and businesses in the **Lake Okeechobee Service Area**, which includes portions of Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee and western Martin and Palm Beach counties.

Did you know?

The South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Niki Spencer at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6004.

** SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.*