



Weekly Update

July 9 - 13, 2007

**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.



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South Florida Water
Management District
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District News and Happenings

● In response to recent rains and subsequent improved water supply conditions over much of South Florida, the District Governing Board voted in favor of a recommendation from District staff providing substantial relief from the water restrictions currently in place along Florida's East Coast from St. Lucie to Monroe counties.

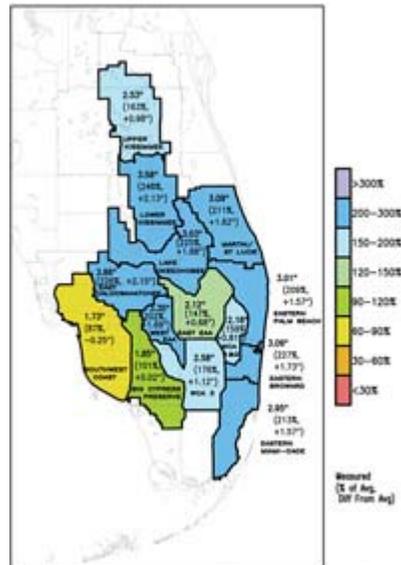
As part of a series of orders approved today by the Governing Board, the following will be effective immediately:

- A *Modified Phase II* water shortage declaration for the Upper and Lower East Coast Service Areas, which comprise the residential areas of St. Lucie, Martin, eastern Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. The new, modified Phase II restrictions in these areas limit all landscape irrigation to two days per week and four hours per day; restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted.
- A *Modified Phase III* water shortage declaration for all users within the geographic service areas of the Lake Worth, Lantana, Hallandale and Dania Beach Water Utilities, which have been identified as at risk for saltwater intrusion based on elevated chloride levels in monitoring wells. Users in the City of West Palm Beach will be included as part of this declaration, in concurrence with a SFWMD emergency order that allows the City, under specific conditions, to deliver water supplied from the L-8 Reservoir or from the City's emergency well field to Clear Lake to replenish the City's drinking water supply. The modified Phase III restrictions limit all landscape irrigation to one day per week and four hours per day; restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted.
- Temporary limits on new water use permits in the Upper and Lower East Coast will be lifted, allowing these permit holders to use water in accordance with their respective allocations and subject to the new modified restrictions in their areas. Per Governing Board action in April, these permit holders had been prohibited from using water until restrictions were lifted; the vote supersedes the earlier action.
- Water use restrictions in all other service areas remain in place until further notice. Although overall conditions are improving, the Lower West Coast Service Area, which comprises Lee, Collier, Hendry, Glades and a portion of Charlotte counties, has received below normal rainfall for the month of June, and water levels here remain below normal for this time of year. As a result, existing Phase II restrictions continue for the Lower West Coast.
- Lake Okeechobee and areas directly to the north of the lake remain critically dry, with most lake stages well below normal and no flow conditions that have persisted along the Kissimmee River for more than eight months. Thus, Phase III restrictions remain in place for the Lake Okeechobee Service Area, whose users draw their water from the lake or surface water bodies recharged by the lake. Phase III restrictions also remain in place for agricultural users in the Indian Prairie

Basin, located just southeast of Lake Istokpoga.

For more information see [Area Restrictions](#)

System-Wide Overview



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 2.73 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for below average rainfall. Afternoon showers and storms will increase each day into the weekend.

System-wide overview:

With the onset of the rainy season, water managers have successfully stored more than 2.2 billion gallons of water in the regional system in less than two months. Based on current water elevations and recovered storage in the Water Conservation Areas, water managers have determined there is no danger of water stages dropping to unsuitable levels for the duration of the wet season – even with below average wet season rainfall – if the new modified water restrictions are observed. Heavy localized rainfall and lack of storage options in these areas also have necessitated a transition to flood control operations along the coast.

U.S. Drought Monitor:

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

Lake Okeechobee:

Lake Okeechobee measured at 9.10 feet NGVD 29 (7.8 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.28 feet higher than that day last week and 0.12 feet higher than it was a month ago. Monthly submerged aquatic vegetation surveys revealed more sites with plants than last month.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

The upper Kissimmee Basin received 2.66 inches of rain over the last seven days, and the lower basin received 4.01 inches. Recent rainfall has caused water levels in the upper basin to rise by variable amounts. With rainfall and increased inflow from Shingle Creek, the water levels in Lake Toho have risen to the regulation schedule. Small releases are being made from Lake Tohopekaliga to Lakes Cypress, Hatchineha, and Kissimmee. The Kissimmee River has lacked flow from the upper basin for 244 days.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

In the St. Lucie Estuary, no releases occurred at S-80 over the past week. Salinity levels in the estuary are within the preferred range. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, discharge occurred at S-79 last week. Salinity in the upper estuary has decreased, but it still remains high. In the lower estuary and San Carlos Bay, the high salinity levels are good for seagrass and fair for oysters.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Rainfall ranged from a low of 1.6 inches in WCA-1 to a high of 4.4 inches in WCA-2B. Stage increases ranged from 0.09 feet (WCA-3A) to 0.28 feet in WCA-2A. Sections of WCA-3A continue to experience declining water levels. The northeastern section of WCA-3A has been below ground for the last three weeks. WCA-1 and WCA-3 are approaching regulation, and WCA-2 is above regulation.

Everglades National Park:

The northwestern and southeastern areas of the Park received more rainfall than other areas. Water levels were generally up 0.5-1.3 inches. In general, and despite the drought, stages are higher in the Park than they were this time last year.

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

Florida Bay:

Salinity concentrations continue to drop or remain low across the bay.

Area Water Restrictions:



Upper and Lower East Coast Service Areas, which comprise the residential areas of St. Lucie, Martin, eastern Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties – Modified Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Phase II water restrictions target outdoor water use, limiting lawn watering for five acres or less, to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest [Just the FACTs](#) sheet. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

This does not apply to users within the geographic service areas of the West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Lantana, Hallandale and Dania Beach Water

Utilities, which are under Modified Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions.

[West Palm Beach Lake Worth, Lantana, Hallandale and Dania Beach Water Utilities - Modified Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

These utilities have been identified as at risk for saltwater intrusion based on elevated chloride levels in monitoring wells. The modified Phase III restrictions limit all landscape irrigation or five acres or less to one day per week and four hours per day: Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted. **Users in the City of West Palm Beach** will be included as part of this declaration, in concurrence with a SFWMD emergency order that allows the City, under specific conditions, to deliver water supplied from the L-8 Reservoir or from the City's emergency well field to Clear Lake to replenish the City's drinking water supply. The modified Phase III restrictions limit all landscape irrigation to one day per week and four hours per day; restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted. Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest [Just the FACTs](#) sheet.

[Lake Istokpoga Area/Upper Indian Prairie Basin \(portions of Highlands and Glades counties\) - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Effective May 11, permitted agricultural and other area users who withdraw water directly from surface water sources connected to Lake Istokpoga will transition to Phase III water restrictions in incremental stages as the water level of Lake Istokpoga continues to drop below specified thresholds. Users were notified of the specific tiers representing 35 and 45 percent cutbacks and are encouraged to voluntarily exercise additional water conservation measures as practicable.

[Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties; portion of Charlotte County - Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase II restrictions remain in place in Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties, along with a portion of Charlotte County, limiting lawn watering and car washing to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd-numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses.

These limitations and other actions and are intended to produce a 30 percent water use reduction by agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, landscaping and residential water users. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

Phase II and Phase III restrictions allow low-volume, spot-watering using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the designated landscape watering days. Additional watering days and times also have been allowed for new landscaping over a 30-day establishment period.

The use of 100 percent reclaimed water, an alternative water source, is not subject to restrictions. The use of water for health, fire, safety and other essential purposes also is not restricted.

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.*