SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition

Weekly Update

August 20 - 24, 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.

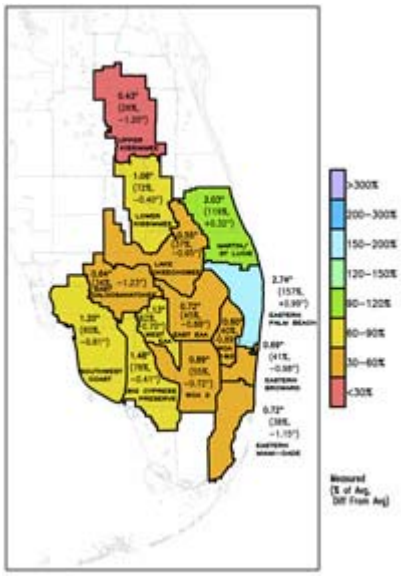
South Florida Water Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

District News and Happenings

- The District Governing Board authorized last week $400,000 in grants to support 17 local water conservation retrofit projects under the agency's Water Savings Incentive Program. Once installed, the projects will result in water savings of 311 million gallons per year. Known as WaterSIP, the program was established in 2002 to help fund technology-based conservation projects that help reduce water use. The District cost shares local community projects, such as rain sensor installations, water-saving automated fire hydrant flushing devices, irrigation system retrofits and low-flow showerhead exchanges.

- Despite the current water shortage, the District is planning ahead for wetter conditions by expanding partnerships that will allow water storage on private land north of Lake Okeechobee, helping to reduce inflows to the lake and the frequency of discharges to coastal estuaries. As part of the Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Program, four additional pilot projects were approved earlier this month by the District Governing Board. These agreements double the number of landowners ready to take on and store excess water on private land when lake levels are unusually high.

System-Wide Overview



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:
- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 1.08 inches.
- Widespread showers/storms may return to the District on Thursday with the passage of a tropical wave. The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for near average rainfall.

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 three areas of intensity, ranging from normal to moderate drought.

Lake Okeechobee:
Lake Okeechobee measured at 9.56 feet NGVD 29 (8.26 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.10 feet higher than it was on that day last week and 0.51 feet higher than it was a month ago.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:
The upper Kissimmee Basin received 0.45 inches of rain over the last seven days, and the lower basin received 1.06 inches. Stages in most of the upper basin lakes have been stable over the last seven days and are at schedule. The stage in Lake Kissimmee had risen to within 0.5 feet of the regulation schedule for this time of year but has started to decline. Snail kites continue to nest on Lake Tohopekaliga. The most recent survey found nests with eggs, nestlings and recent fledglings.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:
In the St. Lucie Estuary, no releases occurred at S-80 over the past week. Salinity conditions are fair. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, discharge occurred at S-79 last week. Salinity conditions in the upper estuary are poor, but they are good in the lower estuary and San Carlos Bay.

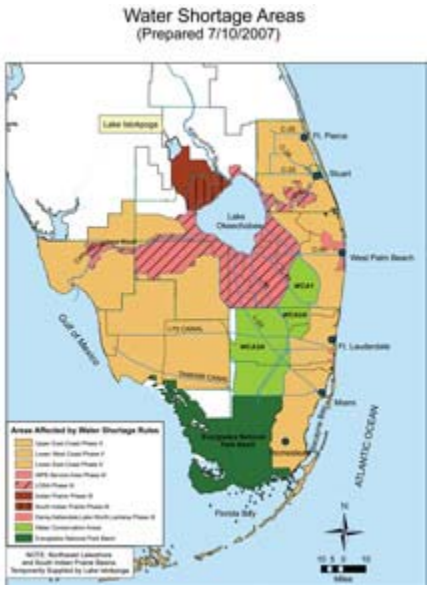
Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):
Changes in water depths for the WCAs varied. In terms of the regulations schedules, WCA-1 and WCA-3A are below regulation and WCA-2A is above regulation.

Everglades National Park:
Water level trends across the Park wetlands were mixed last week.

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

Florida Bay:
Salinity continued to remain seasonably low across Florida Bay last week.

Area Water Restrictions:



Click map for larger image

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.

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.

Residents served by **West Palm Beach Utilities** continue to be covered by City of West Palm Beach Restrictions, which limit *all outside uses* of water -- including washing cars or boats -- to 1 day per week.

Lake Okeechobee Service Area - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Phase III water use restrictions predominantly impact predominantly impact agricultural, industrial and commercial water users in parts of Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee, Lee, Martin, St. Lucie and western Palm Beach counties. They also apply to residential users whose water source is Lake Okeechobee – or any of the surface water canals recharged by the lake – and includes utility customers in South Bay, Belle Glade, Pahokee, Okeechobee and Clewiston. North Lee County Utility service area customers are also affected by this order because they rely on the Olga Treatment Plant which draws water from Lake Okeechobee via the Caloosahatchee River. Agricultural water users in these areas are required to reduce surface water consumption by 45 percent. Residential users must limit lawn watering, boat and car washing to one day per week: 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. Groundwater sources (wells) are not restricted by this oorder.

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.*