

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

December 17 - 21, 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.



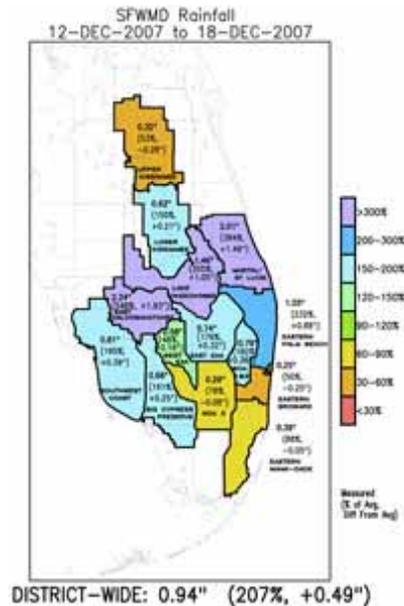
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South Florida Water
Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

District News and Happenings

- Recognized as the nation's most innovative municipal bond issuer, the District last week was awarded *The Bond Buyer's Deal of the Year Award* for its \$546.1-million issue of certificates of participation (COPs) to fund Everglades restoration projects. The District issued the AAA-rated insured bonds in November 2006 to help jump start construction of Acceler8, eight key Everglades restoration projects. The nearly 100 entries were evaluated by The Bond Buyer's editors and bureau chiefs, who looked for innovation, financial complexity, the ability for a deal to serve as a model for other financings, and the public purpose for which the transaction's proceeds were used. Notably, the District's COPs were the first ever to be issued for a natural resources project in the United States.
- An innovative project to divert and treat urban stormwater runoff before it enters the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is moving into its second phase thanks to an ongoing partnership between the District and the Village of Wellington. The District Governing Board recently approved a \$21.5 million contract with the Village for the second phase of the Acme Basin B Project. The project provides environmental restoration benefits by constructing a 368-acre stormwater impoundment area and pumping station. Together, they will create a means to store phosphorus-laden stormwater runoff that can be moved into canals and treatment areas rather than left to flow into the wildlife refuge. Land needed for the project was also transferred from District to the Village. Phase 2 of the Acme Basin B Project follows the successful completion of the S7 Pump Station, which will work in concert with the planned impoundment area. Once constructed, the impoundment will serve as a holding and settling area for stormwater runoff, providing immediate water quality improvements.
- Editor's note: The State of the System weekly report will resume the week of January 7, 2008.

System-Wide Overview



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 0.94 inches.
- Minor showers mainly east through Friday. A weak cold front is expected to push through on Friday and again Sunday with only minor rainfall.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is below average.

U.S. Drought Monitor:

The [Drought Monitor](#) focuses on broad-scale conditions and identifies general drought areas, labeling droughts by intensity. Last week, areas of the District fell into five levels of intensity, ranging from normal conditions to extreme drought.

Lake Okeechobee:

Lake Okeechobee measured 10.24 feet NGVD 29 (8.94 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.06 feet higher than it was on that day last week and 0.07 feet lower than it was a month ago. The current water stage is 1.86 feet lower than it was a year ago and 4.58 feet below its historical average for this time of year.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

During the last week, water levels in all of the upper basin lakes decreased slightly due to evapotranspiration. Water levels in Lakes Kissimmee, Hatchineha and Cypress are approximately 2 feet below regulation schedule. Recent wading bird surveys found foraging flocks, dominated by glossy and white ibis, along the receding water line in the upstream portion of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

Salinity decreased at all monitoring sites 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 at all monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee Estuary last week. Salinity conditions are good to the west of Cape Coral and poor in the upper estuary.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Substantial rainfall in WCA-1 caused the water levels to increase by 0.06 feet.

Water stages in WCA-1 are at regulation, WCA-3 stages are below regulation and WCA-2A remains about one foot above regulation.

Everglades National Park:

Mixed patterns for Park wetland water levels reflected the patchy distribution of rainfall during the week. The water level at Taylor Slough bridge increased by 0.5 inches after receiving nearly 1 inch of rain, but water levels were down in other areas.

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

Florida Bay:

Salinity remained generally stable, and sufficient freshwater in the southern Everglades and in the bay will likely prevent the system from becoming hypersaline during the dry season.

Upcoming Water Restrictions, starting January 15, 2008:



Click map for larger image

[Residents and businesses of Broward, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties](#) are limited to a one-day-per-week landscape irrigation schedule with two watering windows. Odd street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Mondays between 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Even street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Thursdays between 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Residents and businesses with more than five acres have expanded irrigation hours, between 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. on their designated irrigation day.

[For all locations of Collier and Lee counties, other than the City of Cape](#)

[Coral](#), the typical homeowner may choose one four-hour watering window on your designated irrigation day – either 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. or 4 p.m. to 8 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 forth by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Residents of **Polk, Highlands, and Charlotte counties** should adhere to the water restrictions set forth by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. However, golf courses, nurseries, and agricultural users District-wide should follow SFWMD water use restrictions.

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.*