

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

February 18 - 22, 2008

**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.



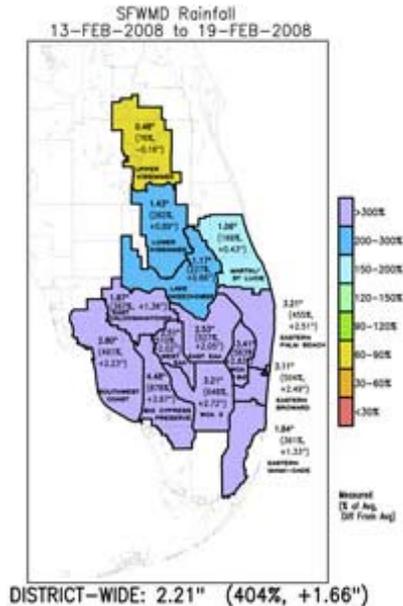
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South Florida Water
Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

District News and Happenings

- The District presented a \$49,975 Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP) grant to the City of Coral Springs for the installation of automatic flushers that will serve to flush water distribution lines. The District will also provide \$100,000 for stormwater improvements in the city. The improvements will provide storage for stormwater runoff by installing catch basins, drainage piping and swells in the Meadows and Dell neighborhoods. More than 1 billion gallons a year has been saved thanks to numerous programs funded by WaterSIP grants. The projects are selected for funding by a committee of Governing Board-appointed citizens and District staff.
- The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded its prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the District for the agency's Fiscal Year 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting, demonstrating the District's adherence to the highest legal and ethical standards in financial reporting. The District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was judged by an impartial panel against the GFOA's high reporting standards, which require a "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the agency's financial picture and to motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. This is the 16th consecutive time that the District has received this award.
- Closures: Due to construction and maintenance activities, a section of the Kissimmee River (*between the S-154 and the S-65E and S-84 structures*) is closed to boaters. This includes access points along this section, all of which will be clearly marked. The G-15 water control structure at the North New River Canal in central Broward County closed to navigation traffic on Tuesday. To maintain flood control protection for the surrounding area, the District is removing tons of earth and sediment that has accumulated at and near the structure over the years. This maintenance work is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete.

System-Wide Overview



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 2.21 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is near 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 10.13 feet NGVD 29 (8.83 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.15 feet higher than it was on that day last week and 0.04 feet lower than it was a month ago. The current water level is 1.18 feet lower than it was a year ago and 4.64 feet below its historical average for this time of year.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

During the last week, the upper Kissimmee Basin received 0.4-0.5 inches of rain, and the lower basin received 1-1.5 inches. Water levels in the upper basin lakes are at or below their regulation schedules. Lake Kissimmee continued discharging to the Kissimmee River. Releases also are being made from Lake Tohopekaliga.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

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

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Rainfall ranged from 3.7 - 4.3 inches. Water levels increased between 0.09 inches and 0.43 inches and are higher than a month ago. Levels in WCA-1 are now above regulation, WCA-2A remains above regulation, and WCA-3 are now only slightly below regulation.

Everglades National Park:

The Park received 1.7 inches of rain in the past week. Water levels rose between 0.4 inch and 1.0 inch, except at the Taylor Slough bridge where it increased by nearly 14 (fourteen) inches during the past 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 remained stable despite the rain.

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.*