

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update  
March 10 - 14, 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.

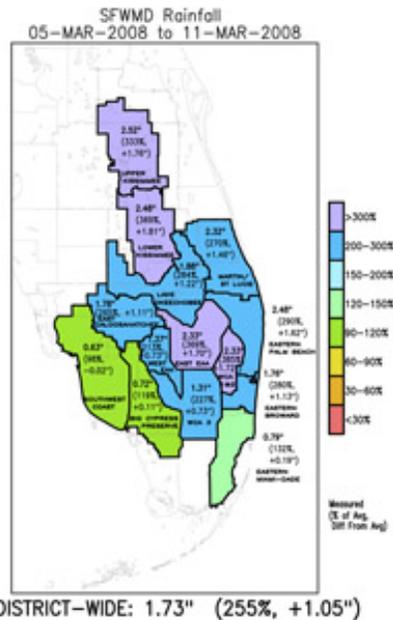
**District News and Happenings**

- [Water Shortage Lingers Despite February Rains](#)
- [Flatbed Truck Delivers 20,000 Hydrilla-Eating Fish to Keep Canals Clean](#)
- [Hollywood Awarded funding for Water Conservation](#)
- [Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan for Lower Charlotte Harbor](#)

**System-Wide Overview**



South Florida Water Management District  
[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)



Click map for larger image

**Rainfall overview:**

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 1.73 inches.
- Forecast is for some showers and thunderstorms over central Florida on Friday.
- 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. This week, areas of the District fall into four levels of intensity, ranging from normal to severe drought.

**Lake Okeechobee:**

Lake Okeechobee measured 10.13 feet NGVD 29 (8.83 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.06 feet higher than it was on that day last week and 0.12 feet higher than it was a month ago. The current stage is 0.89 feet lower than it was a year ago and 4.43 feet below its historical average for this time of year. Water clarity increased slightly from last month. Sediment samples were collected from locations in Fisheating Bay where the exotic water grass *Luziola subintegra* was found. These samples will be incubated in the laboratory under different hydrologic conditions to monitor seed germination and assess whether a viable seed bank of this invasive species has been established in the lake.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:**

During the last week, the upper Kissimmee Basin received 2.52 inches of rainfall, and the lower basin received 2.48 inches. Water levels in the upper basin lakes are at or below their regulation schedules. Discharge from Lake Kissimmee has been increased to avoid an increase in lake stage during the nesting season. Last week's rainfall caused water levels in Lakes Hart and Mary Jane and from Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel, to rise to their respective regulation schedules. Releases are being made from these lakes to keep water levels from exceeding the regulation schedules. No other releases are being made in the upper basin.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:**

Average salinity decreased throughout the St. Lucie Estuary due to local rainfall. Based on the salinity tolerance of oysters, salinity conditions are good. Average salinity increased in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Salinity conditions in the upper estuary east of Ft. Myers are poor. Based on the tolerance of oysters, salinity conditions downstream of Cape Coral are poor.

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):**

The WCAs received between 0.86 and 2.99 inches of rainfall. Water depths increased almost everywhere, remaining above one foot and also above optimum depths for wading bird foraging. Water levels in WCA-1 and the WCA-2A marsh are above regulation, and WCA-3 is slightly below regulation.

**Everglades National Park:**

The Park received 0.44 inches of rain during the past week. Water levels declined between 0.6 and 3 inches.

*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 or increased slightly in Florida Bay last week.

---

## 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.