

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update
April 14 - 18, 2008



District News and Happenings

- Revised Emergency Water Restrictions Start Friday
- April is Water Conservation Month
- SFWMD Co-Hosts "Families Going Green" in Indiantown

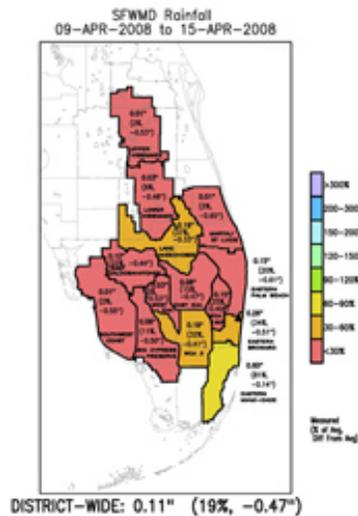
System-Wide Overview

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



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 0.11 inches.
- High pressure is expected to bring dry conditions on Thursday and Friday. The next cold front will have limited moisture as it moves into north-central Florida on Saturday evening, resulting in widely scattered light showers on Saturday night and Sunday.
- 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. Status for some areas of the District improved this week, falling into only three levels of intensity, ranging from normal to moderate drought.

Lake Okeechobee:

Lake Okeechobee water level measured 10.48 feet NGVD 29 (9.18 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is the same as it was on that day last week and 0.30 feet higher than it was a month ago. The current stage is 0.41 feet higher than it was a year ago and 3.61 feet below its historical average for this time of year. The monthly submerged aquatic vegetation survey found water clarity to be conducive to plant growth.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

The 30-day rainfall total has increased to 4.20 inches, which is 163 percent of average. In the upper basin, snail kites continue to nest on East Lake Tohopekaliga, Lake Tohopekaliga and Lake Kissimmee. A whooping crane continues to nest on Lake Kissimmee. The discharge from Lake Kissimmee continues to provide flow to the Kissimmee River and to allow a gradual water level recession on the floodplain. No other releases are being made in the upper basin.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

Average salinity decreased 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 decreased throughout the Caloosahatchee Estuary last week. Salinity conditions are poor in the upper estuary east of Ft. Myers and fair downstream of Cape Coral.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

The WCAs received between 0.03 and 0.25 inches of rain during the past week. Water levels in most of the WCAs remained unchanged or increased. WCA-1 is approaching the regulation schedule, WCA-2A marsh remains well above regulation and WCA-3A is slightly above the zone E1 of the regulation schedule, for protection of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow.

Everglades National Park:

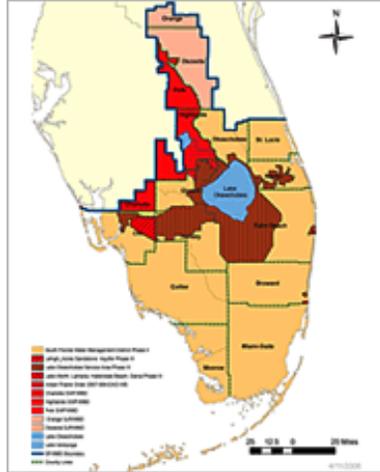
The Park received 0.22 inches of rain. Wetland water levels showed mixed trends, but were generally higher as a result of recent rainfall.

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

Florida Bay:

Salinity in Florida Bay decreased.

Water Restrictions starting April 18:



Click map for larger image

Residents and businesses of Broward, Collier, Miami-Dade, Monroe, St. Lucie and coastal areas of Lee, Martin and Palm Beach counties, including the City of West Palm Beach are

limited to a two-day-per-week landscape irrigation schedule with two "watering windows".

Odd street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Even street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Thursdays and Sundays from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m. to 11:59 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 by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Residents of ***Polk, Charlotte and Highlands counties*** should adhere to the water restrictions set by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Due to continued local concerns about water resource availability, one-day-a week watering remains in place for the cities of **Dania Beach, Hallandale Beach, Lake Worth and Lantana** and portions of **unincorporated Lee County, including the Lehigh Acres and Gateway areas**. One-day-a week landscape irrigation remains in place for residents and businesses in the **Lake Okeechobee Service Area**, which includes portions of Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee and western Martin and Palm Beach counties.

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.*