



Water Conservation

Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Measures

WRAC Update – May 8, 2008

Proposed Amendments to Chapter 40E-24, F.A.C.

Terrie Bates, Assistant Deputy Executive Director



Advantages/Effects

- Increased landscape water use efficiency
- Immediate 5-10% reduction in wasteful water demand projected
- Rule is in place when water shortage orders are rescinded
- Curtail/Prevent wasteful practices; creates/promotes a conservation mindset
- Key strategy in the Comprehensive Water Conservation Program



Advantages/Effects

- **Landscape Conditioning**
- **Drought Impact Avoidance – reduces likelihood of future restrictions through water shortage orders**
- **May help postpone capital expenditures for new infrastructure by utilities**
- **Long term sustainability of our water resources**



Proposed Amendments to Chapter 40E-24 General Issues

- Expands rule to cover entire District
- Applies to landscape irrigation only
 - Does not apply to agriculture, nurseries or athletic play areas (i.e. golf courses & sports fields)
- Low volume & micro-irrigation exempt
- Consistency with other water management districts



Proposed Amendments to Chapter 40E-24

- **Odd addresses: Wednesday & Saturday**
- **Even addresses: Thursday & Sunday**
 - **Irrigation prohibited between 10am & 4pm**
 - **Days are consistent with SJRWMD & SWFWMD year-round rules**
- **Applies to all sources**
 - **Groundwater**
 - **Surface water**
 - **Potable**
- **Provisions for grow-in of new landscaping**



Proposed Amendments to Chapter 40E-24 Existing Landscaping

- Irrigation using 100% reclaimed water, supplemented reclaimed water or 100% alternative water source to be consistent with other WMDs:
 - Two days per week subject to even/odd irrigation schedule and 10am-4pm prohibition
 - Through the permitting process, provide additional days to allow the complete utilization of reclaimed water
- Local Government Ordinance Option



Issues Raised in Public Comments West Palm Beach Workshop

- Reclaimed water to be unrestricted. Revenue, marketing strategies, & storage limitations cited.
- More irrigation opportunities for AWS.
- Consistency goal does not recognize geographic differences among WMDs.
- Call for 3-day watering schedule.
- Large properties may not be able to cycle through all irrigation zones.
- 60-day grow-in period for new landscaping may not be sufficient for some species.



Issues Raised in Public Comments Fort Myers Workshop

- Few concerned with 2-day schedule.
- Reduce hours allotted for irrigation given the more stringent restrictions some utilities have adopted.
- Why not simply expand the current version of Rule 40E-24 District-wide?
- Incentivize the use of soil moisture sensors and more advanced irrigation technology.
- Satisfied with option to obtain a variance to address infrastructure issues. Objected to re-examining consumptive use permits.
- Focus on educating the public.



Issues Raised in Public Comments Miami-Dade Workshop

- Reclaimed water needs to be promoted by not placing any restrictions on its usage.
- Two (or fewer) days for irrigation may lead to increased line flushing.
- Willing to support a three-day irrigation schedule with fewer hours per day.
- Satisfied with variance provision to address infrastructure issues.
- Do not want consumptive use permits reopened.



Changes to Proposed Amendments Based on Public Input

- **Irrigation Using 100% reclaimed:**
 - Any day but Friday
 - Remains subject to 10-4 restriction
- **Irrigation Using Other Alternative Water Sources, including supplemented reclaimed**
 - **3 days/week**
 - Odd addresses: Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday
 - Even addresses: Tuesday, Thursday, & Sunday
 - ***No irrigation Fridays (from any source)***
 - ***Facilitates District and local government compliance efforts***



Summary of Proposed Irrigation Rule

Traditional source irrigation – up to 2 days / week

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Odd			●		X	●	
Even				●	X		●

Other Alternative Water Sources – up to 3 days per week

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Odd	●		●		X	●	
Even		●		●	X		●

100% Reclaimed water irrigation – no Fridays

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Odd	●	●	●	●	X	●	●
Even	●	●	●	●	X	●	●



Issues Raised in Public Comments Osceola Workshop

- **Support 2-day schedule for reclaimed water.**
 - **Only one utility wanted usage of reclaimed water to be unrestricted.**
- **New irrigation technologies, i.e. ET-based and computer controlled systems, not supported by irrigation windows but can result in substantial water savings.**
- **Provide additional clarification regarding variances.**
- **Provide clearer language regarding pesticide & fertilizer applications.**



Timeline for Implementation

- May 15 – SFWMD Governing Board update & direction to staff
- May 19 – Workshop: Fort Myers/Naples: SFWMD Ft. Myers Service Center
- May 22 – Workshop: Palm Beach/Treasure Coast/Web-cast: SFWMD HQ
- May 30 – Public comment period ends
 - www.sfwmd.gov/watersupplyruledevelopment
- June 12 – SFWMD Governing Board request rulemaking authority
- Fall 2008 – Rule becomes effective





Questions & Comments

Thank You