

# WET SEASON, DRY SEASON MANAGING EVERY DROP

Our central and south Florida weather can be one of extremes from droughts to hurricanes – sometimes in the same year! Our region has two seasons: the wet season, from June through October, when 70 percent of the year's rain falls, and most hurricanes occur; and the dry season, from November through May. We typically get an abundance of rain, about 52 inches a year, falling mostly in the wet season. But, Mother Nature isn't always typical and she does not always follow the wet/dry calendar as we've seen this year with the lingering drought. Knowing that we can expect two seasons, we can all be prepared to handle too little or too much rain.

## Our Connected System

The South Florida Water Management District operates the regional water management system of canals, levees and water control structures and has, for nearly 60 years, helped to lessen the impact of flood and drought. With 1,800 miles of canals and levees and hundreds of spillways, pump stations, weirs, culverts and other structures, it is one of the largest water control systems in the world. The system connects to community drainage districts and hundreds of smaller neighborhood systems to effectively manage floodwaters during heavy rain and to move water to manage water supplies for cities, farms and the environment during drought.

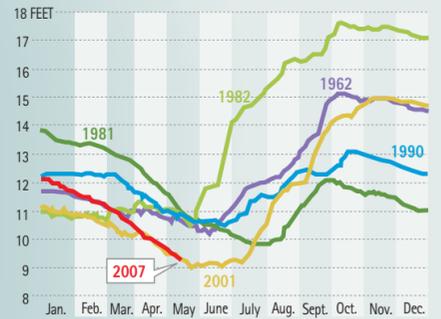
South Florida Water Management District Boundary

### SFWMD WATER MANAGERS

Engineers, meteorologists and water managers monitor weather conditions and water levels 24 hours a day from the District's "Control Room" at its headquarters in West Palm Beach. They use this data to determine optimal operation of the hundreds of water control structures throughout the system in times of heavy rain or drought – and all year long.



### Lake Okeechobee Extreme Highs & Lows . . .



. . . in the same year!

## Extreme Drought



During drought, the District constantly monitors our water supply sources and storage areas such as ground (aquifers) and surface (lakes, wetlands, canals, ponds, etc.) water levels, including Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades Water Conservation Areas. These levels can fall fast because they are recharged by rainfall. When levels fall too low, the District declares a water shortage emergency imposing mandatory water use restrictions to stretch our limited water supplies and protect our natural systems. Depending on levels, the District also can move water from storage areas through the system to recharge public water supply well fields and prevent saltwater intrusion from tainting our drinking water.

## KNOW THE FLOW: A THREE-TIERED SYSTEM

