

# WATER SHORTAGE WATCH BRIEFING

*Keeping an Eye on Water Supply*

## Report for March 28, 2011

To keep the public informed about dry conditions impacting much of Central and South Florida, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following briefing.

### District-wide Conditions

The District's 16-county region experienced the driest October-to-February period since recordkeeping began nearly 80 years ago, and rainfall for March remains below average. Long-term forecasts call for extreme dry conditions to continue through the rest of the annual dry season, placing additional strain on already limited regional water supplies.

<b>DRY SEASON RAINFALL</b> Oct. 2, 2010 – March 28, 2011	<b>6.86</b> inches
<b>DRY SEASON RAINFALL DEFICIT</b> Oct. 2, 2010 – March 28, 2011	<b>8.10</b> inches below average
<b>LAKE OKEECHOBEE LEVEL</b> March 28, 2011	<b>11.49</b> feet NGVD <b>2.85</b> feet below average
<b>U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR</b>	<a href="#">LATEST REPORT</a> (map)
<b>USGS GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS</b>	<a href="#">LATEST REPORT</a> (map)

### Dry Season Rainfall by Basin (Oct. 2, 2010 – March 28, 2011)

BASIN	RAINFALL	DIFFERENCE
Upper Kissimmee	<b>9.63</b> inches	<b>5.81</b> inches below average
Lower Kissimmee	<b>7.38</b> inches	<b>5.86</b> inches below average
Lake Okeechobee	<b>6.20</b> inches	<b>6.87</b> inches below average
EAA East	<b>5.29</b> inches	<b>8.32</b> inches below average
EAA West	<b>5.20</b> inches	<b>8.49</b> inches below average
Water Conservation Areas 1 & 2	<b>5.92</b> inches	<b>9.84</b> inches below average
Water Conservation Area 3	<b>4.97</b> inches	<b>9.13</b> inches below average
Martin and St. Lucie Counties	<b>6.63</b> inches	<b>11.88</b> inches below average
Eastern Palm Beach County	<b>6.77</b> inches	<b>15.29</b> inches below average
Eastern Broward County	<b>6.88</b> inches	<b>11.65</b> inches below average
Eastern Miami-Dade County	<b>9.25</b> inches	<b>7.52</b> inches below average
East Caloosahatchee	<b>6.69</b> inches	<b>7.23</b> inches below average
Big Cypress Preserve	<b>5.36</b> inches	<b>8.43</b> inches below average
Southwest Coast	<b>7.63</b> inches	<b>6.51</b> inches below average

Click [here](#) for a map of basin locations.

## Water Levels at Key Locations (as of March 25, 2011)

LOCATION	WATER LEVEL	KEY LEVELS OF CONCERN	
Lake Istokpoga	38.66 feet	38.04 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
WCA-1	14.20 feet	14.00 feet	Regulation Schedule
WCA-2A	10.63 feet	11.00 feet	Regulation Schedule
WCA-3A	7.77 feet	9.95 feet	Regulation Schedule
C-23 Canal	17.09 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
C-24 Canal	17.43 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off
C-25 Canal	14.86 feet	14.00 feet	Water Supply Cut-off

## Emergency Orders and Conservation Measures

### Water Shortage Order – Landscape Irrigation

- [Modified Phase II restrictions](#), effective March 26, limit landscape irrigation to two days per week throughout the District.
- Landscape irrigation using reclaimed water is not restricted under the order.
- Irrigation times vary by area:
  - Broward, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties and the Reedy Creek Improvement District – [Just the Facts](#)
  - Charlotte, Highlands and Polk counties – [Just the Facts](#)
  - The City of Cape Coral – [Just the Facts](#)
  - Collier County, including the City of Naples – [Just the Facts](#)
  - Unincorporated areas of Lee County – [Just the Facts](#)
  - Orange and Osceola counties, excluding Reedy Creek – [Just the Facts](#)

### Water Shortage Order – Golf Courses

- [Modified Phase I restrictions](#), effective March 26, require a 15-percent cutback for golf course irrigation in Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties.

### Water Shortage Order – Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA)

- A [water shortage order](#), effective March 26, requires a 15-percent reduction in surface water withdrawals for all agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment users within LOSA.
  - LOSA includes portions of Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties, and the Everglades Agricultural Area and portions of the Southern Indian Prairie Water Use Basin.

### Water Shortage Order – Southern Indian Prairie Water Use Basin

- An [operational order](#), effective March 26, allows for District operation of certain bypass structures in the southern Indian Prairie Water Use Basin to implement the LOSA order.

### **Water Shortage Order – Agricultural and Nursery Water Users in South Miami-Dade County**

- A [water shortage order](#), effective March 26, places Phase I restrictions on agricultural and nursery water users within the South Dade Water Use Basin. Users will limit the times and hours of irrigation operations.

### **Water Shortage Order – Permitted Water Users in Broward and Palm Beach Counties**

- A [water shortage order](#), effective March 26, places Phase I restrictions on agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment permittees that use or divert surface and ground water in these counties.
  - Withdrawals from surface waters by specified users will be reduced 15 percent.
  - Agricultural and nursery operations will limit the hours of irrigation.

### **Other Actions**

The District continues to closely monitor water levels. Links to more information about water shortage orders and warnings, current weather and water conditions and water-saving tips can be found at [www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch](http://www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch).

### **Emergency Operations**

- The SFWMD's Emergency Operations Center is currently at a Level 2 activation to monitor and plan activities associated with the 2011 Water Shortage.

### **Environment-Related Activities**

- Low water levels provided an opportunity to plant cypress and pond apple trees at the Lemkin Creek Isolated Wetland Restoration Project, Ritta Island and along the Lake Okeechobee Rim Canal.
- Bulrush was planted in Stormwater Treatment Areas to enhance their performance in water quality improvements.

### **Navigation**

- The District is coordinating with the U.S. Coast Guard to address potential navigation difficulties in the Kissimmee River due to low water levels.

### **Indian Prairie Basin**

- The L-59, L-60 and L-61 canals were inspected to confirm water conveyance capabilities.

# # #

**Media inquiries can be directed to:**

**Randy Smith**

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386