2011 Water Shortage A Preliminary Retrospective

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Challenges of Water Shortage Management

- You don't know it's coming
- You don't know when it's going to be over
- You can't make it rain
- Impacts go on and on and on.....
- Options are limited
- Every decision is subject to Monday-morning quarterbacking

SFWMD Water Shortage Plan (Chapter 40E-21, F.A.C.)

- Water Shortage -- Insufficient water to meet estimated present and future demands or to protect water resources from serious harm
- Equitably distribute available supplies to all users
- Balance resource protection with economic impacts
- Provide advance knowledge of plan to promote certainty to users



Phased Restrictions

- Phase I Moderate -- 15% cutback
- Phase II Severe -- 30% cutback
- Phase III Extreme 45% cutback
- Phase IV Critical 60% cutback

Note: These are goals

Precursors

- 2010 Wet Season Below-Average Rainfall
- USACE makes Lake O releases to tide late in wet season
- La Nina drier-than-normal dry season predicted for 2011



Concerns

- Caloosahatchee Estuary -- salinity
- Lake Okeechobee apple snails/snail kites, MFL
- Agriculture/Nurseries -- economic harm
- Everglades dry out, muck fires
- Stormwater Treatment Areas hydrated
- Wellfields saltwater intrusion
- City of West Palm Beach public water supply
- Health & Safety firefighting flows



Driest wet season since 1984 Driest October on record (through 1932) Sixth driest wet season on record.

Lake Okeechobee Stage Forecast

- Position Analysis
 - Each year starts with current hydrologic conditions
 - 41, 1-yr simulations of system response to historical rainfall conditions
 - Use SFWMM (2X2 Model)
 - Statistical summaries used to display projections



Lake Okeechobee SFWMM November 2010 Position Analysis

(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)

On November 10, 2010, the District Governing Board issued a "Water Shortage Warning" for the Lake Okeechobee, Lake Istokpoga and the Indian Prairie Water Use Basins. The Water Shortage Warning calls for voluntary water conservation among all users and will provide for increased communication and outreach to water users, local governments and elected officials on the potential for water shortage conditions to intensify during the upcoming dry season.

Lake Okeechobee SFWMM December 2010 Position Analysis



(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)

On December 9, 2010, SFWMD delegated authority to the Executive Director to issue a Water Shortage Order implementing water restrictions in the Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA) when the Lake stage recedes into the Water Shortage Management (WSM) Band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee **Regulation Schedule.**

January 2011



SFWMD 2010 Dry Season Rainfall Oct 02 – Jan 1

DISTRICT-WIDE: 2.97" (35% of Avg, or -5.46")

- Lowest rainfall for Oct and Oct -Dec (3 months) since recordkeeping began in 1932
- Martin/St Lucie, Eastern Palm Beach and interior basins (Lake O., EAA) received less then 30% of average rainfall
- Upper Kissimmee Basin received about 30% of average rainfall

2010 SFWMD Rainfall Distribution



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)							
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4		
Current	0.18	99.82	86.04	50.84	20.21	0.00		
Last Week (12/21/2010 map)	0.18	99.82	83.75	47.25	20.12	0.00		
3 Months Ago (09/28/2010 map)	54.97	45.03	18.02	4.22	0.00	0.00		
Start of Calendar Year (12/29/2009 map)	96.88	3.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)				(1				
One Year Ago (12/22/2009 map)	91.76	8.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		





The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm



December 28, 2010 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Released Thursday, December 30, 2010 National Drought Mitigation Center

U. S. Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

National Climate Prediction Center (CPC)

Jan-March

January



La Nina conditions are expected to continue into 2010-2011 dry season

The current precipitation outlook for central and southern Florida is:

- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for January.
- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for Jan-March
- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for the entire 2010-11 dry season

Preparation Activities Emergency Operations Center

- Water Conditions Team
- Navigation
- Agriculture
- Nurseries
- Documentation
- STAs
- Ecological
- Environmental Enhancement
- Diversion & Impoundments
- Enforcement & Compliance
- Golf Course Compliance

- Regulatory & Permitting
- Variances
- Infrastructure (Temporary Forward Pumps
- Modeling Support & Analysis
- Water Supply Utilities
- Purchasing
- Finance
- Liaison Local Governments
- Legal
- Citizen's Information Line
- Media



Lake Okeechobee Stage Hydrograph Comparison



Water levels at selected sites in South Florida, Based on PROVISIONAL DATA, as of November 30, 2010. Water levels at selected sites in South Florida, Based on PROVISIONAL DATA, as of January 5, 2011.

Reliance on Regional C&SF System

Water deliveries to maintain groundwater levels during the dry season & recharge wellfields

- Lake Okeechobee
- Water Conservation Areas
- SFWMD Canals
- local / secondary canals
- Regional recharge +/- 500 mgd









(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)

Water Shortage Communication



February 2011

Last 7 days Rainfall

January

Dry season Up to Feb 04



26

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida







D3 Drought - Extreme D4 Drought - Exceptional

February 1, 2011 Valid 7 a.m. EST

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm



Released Thursday, February 3, 2011 R. Heim/L. Love-Brotak, NCDC/NOAA

U. S. Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

National Climate Prediction Center (CPC)

Feb 2011

March-Apr-May 2011



La Niña conditions are expected to continue into the 2010-2011 dry season

The current precipitation outlook for central and southern Florida is:

- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for February.
- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for March-May 2011
- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for the entire 2010-11 dry season







(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)

March 2011

Last 7 days Rainfall

February

Dry season Up to March 04



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)							
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4		
Current	0.87	99.13	91.30	53.50	13.06	0.00		
Last Week (02/22/2011 map)	0.87	99.13	84.98	48.42	10.64	0.00		
3 Months Ago (11/30/2010 map)	4.08	95.92	69.13	30.22	7.91	0.00		
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	0.18	99.82	86.04	50.84	20.21	0.00		
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	54.97	45.03	18.02	4.22	0.00	0.00		
One Year Ago (02/23/2010 map)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		

Intensity:



D3 Drought - Extreme D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm



March 1, 2011 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Released Thursday, March 3, 2011 L. Edwards, Western Regional Climate Center

U. S. Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

National Climate Prediction Center (CPC)

March 2011

March-April-May 2011



La Niña conditions are expected to continue into the 2010-2011 dry season

The current precipitation outlook for central and southern Florida is:

- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for March.
- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for March-May 2011
- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for the entire 2010-11 dry season





Based on PROVISIONAL DATA, as of March 7, 2011.

Water levels at selected sites in South Florida Based on PROVISIONAL DATA, as of April 5, 2011.


On March 10, 2011, SFWMD approved a "Water Shortage Warning" for all the residents and businesses throughout the District's 16-county region to voluntarily reduce water use. Under a separate water shortage order, specific permitted water users in the L-8 Basin of Palm Beach County are required to reduce withdrawals by 15 percent.

On March 21, 2011, SFWMD issued water shortage orders and declared water use restrictions for the entire District.

Phase I – Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA)

15% cutback – surface water users (e.g., agriculture)



- March 18, 2011 Lake below trigger line
- March 21, 2011 Order executed
- March 26, 2011 Order effective



Phase I – Palm Beach & Broward Counties

- 15% cutback
 - Diversion & Impoundments
 - Agriculture
 - Nurseries





Phase I – South Miami-Dade Basin

- •Limits irrigation times for agriculture and nurseries
- •Designed to achieve 15 percent reduction in water use



District-Wide

- Phase I -- Golf Courses 15% cutback
- Phase II -- Residential Landscape Irrigation 2 days per week
 - Even Addresses Thursday & Sunday
 - Odd Addresses Wednesday & Saturday
 - No irrigation between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
 - Applies to all sources (wells, canals, utility)
 - Exempt
 - Reclaimed water



April 2011



SFWMD 2011 <u>March Rain</u> Mar 2 – Mar 31

DISTRICT-WIDE: 2.72" (90% of Avg, or -0.32")

• Basins north and west of LOK received normal or above normal rainfall

• LOK, East EAA and WCAs 1 an 2 also received normal rainfall

• Basins along the east coast, WCA3, West EAA, and Big Cypress Preserve receive less than average



SFWMD 2010-11 <u>Dry Season* Rainfall</u> Nov 2 – Apr 01

DISTRICT-WIDE: 8.25" (71% of Avg, or -3.34")

• Typical influence from La Nina during Nov-Mar is about a 4-inch deficit

Above-average rain in January

• The dry season started early with a record rainfall deficit in October

• October-Feb rainfall was less than half the average. A record low since recordkeeping began in 1932

* 2010-11 Dry season started in October



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.04	99.96	82.72	54.43	20.42	0.00
Last Week (03/22/2011 map)	0.73	99.27	91.34	56.12	21.13	0.00
3 Months Ago (12/28/2010 map)	0.18	99.82	86.04	50.84	20.21	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	0.18	<mark>99.8</mark> 2	86.04	50.84	20.21	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	54.97	45.03	18.02	4.22	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (03/23/2010 map)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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Released Thursday, March 31, 2011 Eric Luebehusen, United States Department of Agriculture

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

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March 29, 2011

U. S. Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

National Climate Prediction Center (CPC)

April 2011

April-May-June 2011



La Niña conditions are expected to continue into the 2010-2011 dry season

The current precipitation outlook for central and southern Florida is:

- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for April.
- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for April-June 2011
- increased chance of below-normal (B) rainfall for the entire 2010-11 dry season



Lake Okeechobee SFWMM April 2011 Position Analysis

(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)

May 2011



SFWMD 2011 <u>April Rain</u> Apr 2 – May 01

DISTRICT-WIDE: 1.41" (56% of Avg, or -1.11")

 All basins received less than normal rainfall

 Most basins received less than 60% normal

• Few exceptions include: Lower Kissimmee (66%); Big Cypress Preserve (92%); Eastern Broward (84%) and Eastern Miami Dade (75%)



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida





D0 Abnormally Dry D1 Drought - Moderate D2 Drought - Severe D3 Drought - Extreme

D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm



May 3, 2011 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Released Thursday, May 5, 2011 Rich Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

U. S. Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

National Climate Prediction Center (CPC)

May 2011

May-June-July 2011



The current precipitation outlook for central and southern Florida is:

- Equal chance of above-normal (A), below-normal (B) and normal (N) rainfall for May.
- Equal chance of above-normal (A), below-normal (B) and normal (N) rainfall for May-June-July 2001
- A transition to ENSO-neutral conditions is expected by June 2011





Low Canal/Lake Levels

- Complaints from local governments, HOAs
- Water levels below WCA floor elevations no releases to urban areas except if from another source
- SFWMD Response
 - Fact sheets transmitted to 2,299 HOAs
 - Meetings with City managers in Northwest Broward, especially C-14 Basin
 - Emphasis on warnings to reinforce conservation ethic



Lake Okeechobee Water Level Comparison





Lake Okeechobee SFWMM May 2011 Position Analysis

(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)

Temporary Forward Pumps





- Designed to deliver water from Lake Okeechobee south when level goes below 10.5 ft NGVD
- 1,400 cfs total capacity
- Coordinate installation with growers
- Installation once pumped capacity exceeds gravity flow
- Installed at S-352 and S-351 in 2011



Lake Okeechobee Water Shortage Plan (Chapter 40E-22, F.A.C.)

- Phase III or IV cutbacks may be imposed when water levels fall below or can be expected to fall below 10.5 ft NGVD by June 1st
- Additional Factors to consider (Ch. 40E-21, F.A.C.)
 - Inflows from Kissimmee River (800 cfs and declining)
 - Start of Wet Season ??
 - Position Analysis

On May 12, 2011 the District Governing Board declared a Modified Phase III Extreme Water Shortage in the Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA) and imposes 45 percent cutbacks on surface water users.

June 2011

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry D1 Drought - Moderate D2 Drought - Severe

D3 Drought - Extreme D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm



June 7, 2011 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Released Thursday, June 9, 2011 Matthew Rosencrans, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



Water levels at selected sites in South Florida, Based on PROVISIONAL DATA, as of May 8, 2011. Water levels at selected sites in South Florida, Based on PROVISIONAL DATA, as of May 31, 2011.



Lake Okeechobee Water Level Comparison





Fig. 1 Baseline Chloride Concentrations Prior to Pumping from L-8 Reservoir (6/22/11)

Provisional Data Northlake Blvd. M-Canal Elevation = 16.78 ft. NGVD upstream of Control 4 **Grassy Waters** Preserve **WPB** Control 2 **Pump Station M**-Canal 360 Dry **GW** 4 GV 90 255 Dry GW9 Control 6 Lake Mangoni 360 rvoir 127 375 369 Clear ake 100 Southern Blvd 191 55A

Fig. 2 Chloride Concentrations After 6 Days of Pumping (6/29/11)



Capturing Stormwater for Recharge

- Even in drought, heavy rainfall can exceed regional canal capacity
- Moved water into local storage to minimize discharges to tide





July 2011
Situation

- Lake O -- Minimum Flow and Level exceeded (<11 ft NGVD for > 80 days)
- Caloosahatchee Estuary MFL exceeded (10 psu salinity) improving now
- STAs stayed hydrated (except STA 3 and 4)
- No saltwater intrusion impacts to wellfields
- Impacts to agriculture minimized through use of Lake O temporary forward pumps but crop loss significant due to freezes and drought
- Water deliveries to City of WPB from L8 Reservoir
- Economic impacts to golf courses, nurseries minimized





Lake Okeechobee SFWMM July 2011 Position Analysis

(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)



Lake Okeechobee Water Level History and Projected Stages

Questions

