

The South Florida Water Management District REGIONAL NEWS



April 2011



Charles Dauray
Big Cypress Basin Board
Chairman and
Governing Board
Vice-Chair



Joe Collins
Governing Board
Chairman



Clarence S. Tears, Jr.
Big Cypress Basin
Service Center Director



sfwmd.gov
South Florida Water
Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

Big Cypress Basin
Service Center
2660 N. Horseshoe Dr.
Naples, FL 34104
Phone: (239)263-7615
Fax: (239)263-8166

In Your Region

SFWMD Declares Phase II Water Restrictions as Regional Water Levels Continue to Fall

With regional surface and groundwater levels low and no significant rainfall forecast in the coming weeks, the South Florida Water Management District Executive Director signed orders declaring a water shortage in South Florida, effective March 26.

The region experienced the driest October-to-February period in 80 years and had a dry season deficit that reached 7.65 inches through April 21. The water shortage orders include modified Phase II restrictions that establish a two-day-a-week schedule for residential landscape irrigation throughout the District. Helping to relieve impacts on surface and groundwater sources, the order provides consistency for the District's 7.7 million residents. It is also consistent with Florida's neighboring water management districts and municipalities that are currently following a two-day watering schedule. Landscape irrigation accounts for half of all potable (drinking) water use in South Florida.

Landscape irrigation restrictions for properties within the City of Naples and unincorporated Collier County include:

- Properties with an **odd-numbered street address** may water lawns and landscapes on **Wednesdays and/or Saturdays between midnight and 8 a.m.**
- Properties with an **even-numbered street address, no street address or those that irrigate both even and odd addresses within the same zones**, which may include multi-family units and homeowners associations, may water lawns and landscapes on **Thursdays and/or Sundays between midnight and 8 a.m.**

Landscape irrigation using reclaimed water is not restricted. Low-volume irrigation, micro-irrigation and low-volume hand watering can be used at any time. Landscaping that has been in place for 60 days or less may be watered Monday through Friday.

The City of Marco Island has received a variance that permits irrigation three days a week. For more information on allowable days for landscape irrigation on Marco Island, contact Marco Island Public Utilities at (239) 394-3880 or visit its website at www.cityofmarcoisland.com.

If you have questions about the new water shortage restrictions, contact Lisa Koehler at (239) 263-7615.

ePermitting Workshops Scheduled

Continuing its commitment to customer-friendly practices, the District offers Florida businesses an online ePermitting database as a cost-effective tool to apply for water permits and research permit-related information. ePermitting reduces applicant paperwork, eliminates printing and postage costs and reduces permit processing time.



With the SFWMD ePermitting system, customers have convenient, 24-hour online access to conduct a variety of business, including:

- Submitting a permit application and/or permit compliance data
- Searching for application and permit information
- Submitting payment for permit fees
- Applying to transfer an existing permit
- Subscribing to receive electronic noticing of permit-related information
- Obtaining help and instructional guides to use the system efficiently

To assist customers with the ePermitting system, the SFWMD is hosting free training workshops. Sessions will focus on Environmental Resource and Consumptive Water Use Permits. Permitting staff will be hosting a workshop at the Big Cypress Basin office, Wednesday, May 25, from 1-4 p.m. To sign up for ePermitting training, please email epermits@sfwmd.gov or contact Cathy Widness at (561) 682-6317.

Canal Maintenance Activities - Getting Ready for the Wet Season



Vegetation management is critical to preparing for the wet season. This important effort ensures reliability of the canal system by reducing the amount of potential obstructions to water flow throughout the system.

As part of our routine maintenance cycle, Basin Field Station staff uses specialized boats called Aquamogs to control tall, growing grasses, shrubs and other small incompatible vegetation along canal side slopes.

Aquamogs provide excellent maneuverability in the water and can easily reach side slopes that are often difficult or

impossible to access from land. We attach a mowing head to the boom of the boat to clear dense vegetation and use the boat to remove debris from the water. Staff has recently been working in the Cocohatchee Canal adjacent to Immokalee Road and in the Orange Tree Canal near Randall Boulevard. Two Aquamogs are deployed in the Golden Gate Canal through May.

We also are performing preventative maintenance to ensure the maximum life of our water control facilities such as overhauling the water control gates at the Cocohatchee 1 control structure. This work involves drying out the area around the gates by installing stop logs, removing the gates and refurbishing or replacing the major mechanical, structural and electrical components.

Get Involved

There is currently one vacancy and two positions open for reappointment to the Big Cypress Basin Board. The Governor appoints each member of the Basin Board for a three-year term. The Florida Senate must approve the appointments.

This Board sets the Basin's regional water management policy, budget and millage rate. The Basin Board meets approximately every two months, and meetings are open to the public. Big Cypress Basin staff work in administration, planning, right-of-way permitting, local government assistance, public outreach and operations and maintenance. They also conduct tasks related to local Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects.

The Big Cypress Basin and its field station operate and maintain a network of 162 miles of primary canals, 46 water control structures and 4 pumps providing flood control during the wet season and protecting regional water supplies and environmental resources from over-drainage during the dry season. The basin includes Collier County and part of Monroe County.

For further information about serving on the Big Cypress Basin Board or to apply, visit www.flgov.com/appointments.



*BCB Board members left to right:
Charles Dauray, Chairman; John Sorey, Vice Chairman; Noah Standridge; Fred Thomas; and John Vaughn*

Waiting for Your Invitation

Big Cypress Basin Service Center staff are available to meet with groups about water resource topics in our area.

Technical experts, scientists and other specialists can tailor a presentation to meet specific needs or answer questions regarding many water-related topics.

This service is free and available by contacting Lisa Koehler at (239) 263-7615, x7603, or by email at lkoehler@sfwmd.gov.

Out and About

SFWMD Governing Board Workshops and Meetings

Governing Board meetings are typically webcast. To watch the meetings online, go to www.sfwmd.gov and click on one of the webcast links.

May 11 and 12 in West Palm Beach

June 8 and 9 in West Palm Beach

July 13 and 14 in West Palm Beach

Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting

June 17 at 9 a.m. at Naples City Hall

Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) Meetings

June 2 in West Palm Beach

June 20 in West Palm Beach (Recreation Issues Workshop)

July 7 in West Palm Beach

July 28 in West Palm Beach (20-Year Water Use Permits/10-Year Compliance Issues Workshop)

Public Meetings to Discuss Regulatory Matters

10 a.m.

May 18

June 15

July 20