



**SUWANNEE
RIVER
WATER
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT**

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ORDER NO. 2008-0001

ORDER DECLARING WATER SHORTAGE

The Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District (District), during a public hearing held on January 8, 2008, at District Headquarters in Live Oak, Florida, received testimony, including data and recommendations from District staff regarding hydrologic conditions and the declaration of a water shortage within the District. Based on the testimony, data, and staff recommendations, the Governing Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At its November 16, 2006 meeting, the District's Governing Board authorized declaration of a Water Shortage Advisory, pursuant to the provisions of 40B-21, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), to remain in effect until the Governing Board deems no longer necessary.
2. Drought indicators are summarized as follows:
 - a. Rainfall
 - i. As of December 20, 2007, for the fifteen counties within the District, there is an average rainfall deficit of approximately 11.8 inches, measured as a twelve-month moving sum.
 - b. Groundwater conditions
 - i. As of November 30, 2007, all or part of fifteen counties within the District were experiencing varying levels of below-normal groundwater conditions.
 - ii. As of December 11, 2007, emergency permits for dry wells were six percent of the total number of water well permits issued since April 1, 2007.
 - c. Surfacewater conditions
 - i. As of December 20, 2007, flow data were below normal for monitored rivers. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) categorizes the Coastal Rivers and Waccasassa River flows as Moderate Hydrological Drought, and the middle-to-lower Suwannee River flows as Severe Hydrological Drought.
 - d. Drought indices

- i. As of December 18, 2007, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that all or part of fifteen counties within the District are abnormally dry.
 - ii. As of December 15, 2007, the Long-Term Palmer Drought Severity Index indicates that all or part of fifteen counties within the District are in a moderate drought.
 - iii. As of November 30, 2007, the 18-month Standardized Precipitation Index indicates that all or part of fifteen counties within the District are extremely dry.
- e. Weather forecasts
- i. As of December 20, 2007, the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates that further drought development is likely in the District through March 2008.
 - ii. The Climate Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicates a below-normal precipitation probability in the District through March 2008.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

3. The Governing Board of the District is duly authorized by Section 373.246(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 40B-21, F.A.C., to issue orders declaring the existence of a water shortage within all or part of the District and to impose such restrictions and require such measures as may be necessary to reduce demand on available water supplies.
4. County and city officials and all law enforcement authorities are required to enforce orders lawfully issued by the District pursuant to the Plan and Section 373.609, F.S.
5. The Governing Board held a public hearing on January 8, 2008, at the District's headquarters for the purpose of considering data, including quantitative and qualitative indicators and staff recommendations.
6. Upon careful consideration of the Drought Indicators, Drought Condition Levels, District data, qualitative factors and staff recommendations, the Executive Director has determined that a District-wide Phase II Water Shortage is necessary and should be so ordered.

ORDERED

THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ORDERED:

7. A Phase II Water Shortage, as defined in the Plan, is declared for all ground and surface waters within the District's fifteen-county area.
8. Water use restrictions are attached to this Order and are hereby incorporated.

9. Water use restrictions shall take effect on April 7, 2008.

10. County and city officials and all law enforcement authorities shall enforce this Order when requested, pursuant to the Plan and Section 373.609, F.S.

11. Water shortage declarations and restrictions enacted prior to this Order by county and city officials affecting their local jurisdictions ("Local Action") that are at least as restrictive as a Phase II Water Shortage under 40B-21, F.A.C., are hereby ratified and authorized to continue in effect according to their terms. In the event that a Local Action is less restrictive than this Order, this Order shall supersede the Local Action, unless the county or city officials obtain a variance or waiver from this Order from the District.

12. This order shall remain in effect from January 8, 2008, until the Governing Board deems this Order no longer necessary.

This Order entered by the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District this 8th day of January 2008.

By: *Louis Shiver*
Its Chair

Attest: *[Signature]*
Its Secretary

Filed with the SRWMD District Clerk
on this 8 day of January, 2008.

[Signature]
Jon Dinges
Deputy Clerk



ATTACHMENT PHASE II WATER SHORTAGE RESTRICTIONS

As required in 40B-21.631, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), in order to achieve the required reduction in overall demand, the following restrictions shall apply. Definitions for each use type are found in 40B-21.051, FAC.

1. Indoor uses shall reduce use by employing water conservation measures.
2. Essential uses may voluntarily reduce water use by limiting flushing and other system cleaning activities to a level required to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
3. Agricultural uses shall be restricted as follows:
 - a. Wastewater irrigation shall not be restricted;
 - b. Low pressure/low volume irrigation systems shall not be restricted, except in accordance with subsection 40B-21.601(1), FAC;
 - c. Overhead irrigation by high pressure/high volume systems shall be prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Systems that have been certified by an independent irrigation laboratory within the past five years prior to the effective date of the water shortage order to be as efficient as practicable shall not be restricted, except in accordance with subsection 40B-21.601(1), FAC. Water use permittees using high pressure/high volume systems lacking such certification of efficiency shall not be restricted until April 7, 2009, if the permittee signs a letter of intent prior to April 7, 2008, agreeing to upgrade irrigation efficiency to the maximum extent practicable and submit certification of efficiency to the District;
 - d. Flood/seepage irrigation systems shall be operated in a manner that will capture all runoff that is practicable for reuse;
 - e. Hand watering shall not be restricted;
 - f. Livestock water users should voluntarily reduce water usage;
 - g. Water use for freeze protection shall be restricted to situations in which official weather forecasting services predict temperatures likely to cause permanent damage to crops;
 - h. Soil flooding for pest control or soil preservation shall be prohibited. Soil flooding to permit harvesting of sod shall be prohibited;
 - i. Aquaculture water users should voluntarily reduce water usage;
 - j. All irrigation systems shall be operated in a manner that will efficiently use the water withdrawn;
 - k. All agricultural enterprises should reduce or suspend those activities which stimulate the need for increased irrigation, as feasible and appropriate;
 - l. No unnecessary off-site discharge from irrigation shall be allowed;
 - m. Users having access to more than one source class shall maximize the use of the lesser or least restricted source class;
 - n. For those agricultural enterprises that have best management practices approved by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, irrigation for purposes of watering-in of insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and fertilizers shall not be restricted. Such watering-in shall be limited to the minimum necessary and shall be accomplished during the hours allowed for normal irrigation.

4. Commercial and industrial uses.
 - a. Phosphate mining and beneficiation operations:
 - (1) Recycled water within the mine site shall be used as much as possible to reduce freshwater withdrawals.
 - (2) Water within noncontiguous mine cuts and other impoundments shall be used to the greatest extent practicable to augment the mine's circulation system.
 - (3) Off-site discharges of water shall be reduced or eliminated to the greatest extent possible.
 - (4) Cleaning requiring water use shall be reduced to the minimum required to protect the efficiency of the operation, prevent damage to equipment, or maintain the health and safety of workers.
 - (5) Reduce or suspend the washing of vehicles except for health and safety needs.
 - (6) Nonessential uses, plant cleaning, water-cooled air conditioning, and lawn irrigation shall be reduced or eliminated to the greatest extent possible.
 - b. Chemical products processing or manufacturing facilities:
 - (1) The use of fresh water shall be reduced to the greatest extent possible.
 - (2) Off-site discharge shall be reduced or eliminated to the greatest extent possible.
 - (3) Recycled water shall be used to replace fresh water to the greatest extent possible.
 - (4) Nonessential uses, plant cleaning, water-cooled air conditioning, and lawn irrigation shall be reduced or eliminated to the greatest extent possible.
 - c. Limestone, sand, gravel, or other minerals mining operations:
 - (1) On-site impounded surface waters shall be used to replace fresh water withdrawals to the greatest extent possible.
 - (2) Reduce spraying for dust control in quarry area except for health and safety standards.
 - (3) Reduce general housekeeping that requires the use of water to the greatest extent possible.
 - (4) Off-site discharge shall be reduced or eliminated wherever possible.
 - d. Cement, concrete, and concrete products manufacturing facilities:
 - (1) Reuse runoff to the greatest extent possible.
 - (2) Reduce spray drift to the greatest extent possible and increase the efficiency of spray application to the greatest extent possible.
 - (3) Reduce the unnecessary water content of products shipped to the greatest extent possible.
 - e. Perishable foods processing operations:
 - (1) Off-site discharge shall be reduced or eliminated wherever feasible.
 - (2) Water losses from released steam shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
 - (3) Effluent shall be recycled to the greatest extent possible.
 - f. Perishable foods packing operations:
 - (1) Restrict washing of fruit and plant area to minimum level necessary for health and safety standards.

- (2) Equipment washing apparatus with automatic shut-off devices should be used to the greatest extent possible.
- g. Bottled water and other beverage products operations:
 - (1) Restrict equipment washing operations to the minimum level necessary for health and safety standards.
 - (2) Implement routine process inspections to find and reduce water waste to the greatest extent possible.
- h. Power generation:
 - (1) Maximize production from generating facilities which are least dependent upon withdrawals from the source experiencing the shortage, and minimize production from generating facilities which are most dependent upon withdrawals from the source experiencing the shortage, to the greatest extent practicable.
 - (2) Non-essential uses of water, plant cleaning, water-cooled air conditioning, and lawn irrigation shall be reduced or eliminated to the greatest extent possible.
 - (3) Power companies should encourage customers to reduce power consumption to the greatest extent possible, so that they may reduce power generation and in turn, reduce water consumption.
- i. Other industrial and commercial uses:
 - (1) Reduce use by employing water conserving measures and by installing water conserving devices.
 - (2) Replace use of fresh water with reclaimed or recycled water to the maximum extent practicable.
 - (3) Users having access to more than one source class shall maximize the use of the lesser or least restricted source class.
- 5. Water utility uses.
 - a. To the greatest extent possible, utilities shall institute conservation measures such as improving and accelerating leak detection surveys and repair programs, installing and calibrating meters, and stabilizing and equalizing system pressures.
 - b. New water line flushing and disinfection shall be limited to minimum requirements.
- 6. Landscape irrigation uses.
 - a. Lawns and landscaping.
 - (1) Established lawns and landscaping.
 - (a) Treated wastewater irrigation shall not be restricted.
 - (b) The irrigation of established lawns and landscaping is prohibited, except between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
 - (c) The use of water as described in (b) above shall be further restricted as follows:
 - i. Established lawns and landscaping at locations with street addresses ending in an even number, or in the letters A-L, may water only on even numbered days.

- ii. Established lawns and landscaping at locations with street addresses ending in an odd number, or in the letters M-Z, or with no addresses, may water only on odd numbered days.
 - iii. Hand watering shall not be restricted.
 - iv. Irrigation for purposes of watering-in of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, where such watering-in is required by the manufacturer, or by federal, state or local law, shall not be restricted; such watering-in shall be limited to the minimum necessary and should be accomplished during the hours allowed for normal irrigation.
 - v. The operation of irrigation systems for cleaning and maintenance purposes shall not be restricted, except to be limited to the minimum necessary to maintain efficient operation of the system. Each irrigation zone may be tested a maximum of once per week.
- (2) New lawns and landscaping.
- (a) Treated wastewater irrigation shall not be restricted.
 - (b) Irrigation of new lawns and landscaping shall not be restricted; however, irrigation should be limited to non-daylight hours to the greatest extent possible and limited to the minimum amount required for the establishment of the lawn.
 - (c) Irrigation for purposes of watering-in of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, where such watering-in is required by the manufacturer, or by federal, state or local law, shall not be restricted; such watering-in shall be limited to the minimum necessary and should be accomplished during the hours allowed for normal irrigation.
 - (d) The operation of irrigation systems for cleaning and maintenance purposes shall not be restricted, except to be limited to the minimum necessary to maintain efficient operation of the system. Each irrigation zone may be tested a maximum of once per week.
- b. Golf courses.
- (1) Treated wastewater irrigation shall not be restricted.
 - (2) Irrigation of greens and tees shall be reduced to the greatest extent possible and shall be accomplished during non-daylight hours.
 - (3) Irrigation of fairways, roughs, and non-play areas on the front nine holes of the course shall be prohibited, except between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on even numbered days.
 - (4) Irrigation of fairways, roughs, and non-play areas on the back nine holes of the course shall be prohibited, except between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on odd numbered days.
 - (5) Reduce or suspend to the greatest extent possible those horticultural practices which stimulate the need for increased irrigation.
 - (6) Users having access to more than one source class shall maximize the use of the lesser or least restricted source class.
 - (7) The operation of irrigation systems for cleaning and maintenance purposes shall not be restricted, except to be limited to the minimum necessary to maintain efficient operation of the system. Each irrigation zone may be tested a maximum of once per week.

- (8) Irrigation for purposes of watering-in of insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and fertilizer where such watering-in is required by the manufacturer or by federal, state or local law, shall be limited to the minimum necessary and should be accomplished during the hours allowed for normal irrigation.
- c. Cemeteries.
 - (1) Irrigation of cemeteries shall be prohibited, except between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
 - (2) Irrigation of cemeteries shall be further restricted as follows:
 - (a) One half of the cemetery property may be irrigated on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
 - (b) The remaining one half of the cemetery property may be irrigated on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- 7. Miscellaneous uses.
 - a. Recreation area use of water shall be reduced to the greatest extent possible.
 - b. Washing or cleaning streets, driveways, sidewalks, or other impervious areas with water shall be prohibited except to meet federal, state, or local health or safety standards.
 - c. Mobile equipment washing shall be accomplished using only low-volume methods (excluding commercial car washes).
 - d. Outside pressure cleaning shall be restricted to only low-volume methods.
 - e. Augmentation shall be limited to the minimum necessary to maintain and preserve the long-term integrity of the surfacewater body and associated habitat for fish and wildlife. Where minimum levels have been established by the District, no augmentation shall occur when water levels are above the applicable minimum water level.
 - f. The use of water for cooling and air conditioning shall be restricted to that amount of water necessary to maintain a minimum temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit. Discharge of water from cooling and air conditioning systems shall be to pervious surfaces and shall not be accomplished through irrigation systems, where feasible and appropriate.
- 8. Aesthetic uses.
 - a. Outside aesthetic uses of water are prohibited.
 - b. Inside aesthetic uses of water are prohibited.