

# Governing Board extends water restrictions through February

## *Summer rains not enough for water resources to fully recover*

The Southwest Florida Water Management District's Governing Board recently voted to extend the current Water Shortage Order, which restricts lawn watering throughout the District to one-day-per-week, through Feb. 27, 2009.

The Governing Board chose to extend the term of the water shortage order because the region is still impacted by the nearly three-year drought and portions of the District did not receive enough rain during the annual rainy season.

The Districtwide rainfall deficit for the 36-month period of November 2005 through October 2008 is more than 25 inches. All of the water resources have declined rapidly during the first month of this dry season. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows the region in abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions. While aquifer levels are at the bottom of normal ranges, all major rivers in the District are below normal and lakes continue to be one to four feet below normal. Forecasts are also calling for drier than normal conditions through next spring.

The water shortage order, which has been in effect since Jan. 16, 2007, was slated to expire Sept. 30.

The order includes restrictions that apply to the use of water from public and private water utilities as well as the use of all wells and surface water sources (ponds, rivers, etc.).

The following schedule is a summary of the restrictions unless your city or county has a different once-per-week schedule:

Addresses with "house numbers" ...	May only irrigate on...
Ending in 0 or 1	Monday
Ending in 2 or 3	Tuesday
Ending in 4 or 5	Wednesday
Ending in 6 or 7	Thursday
Ending in 8 or 9	Friday

For more information about water restrictions, the drought and how you can conserve water, visit the District's web site at [www.WaterMatters.org/drought](http://www.WaterMatters.org/drought). Questions concerning water restrictions can be answered during normal business hours by calling 1-800-848-0499 or 1-800-423-1476, extension 4498.