



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

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Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.
Executive Director

May 9, 2017

SUBJECT: Expansion of Phase I Water Shortage Order to All Counties

Dear Public Supply Permittee:

On February 28, 2017, the Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board issued Water Shortage Order No. SWF 2017-014 to declare "Phase I" for the portions of Lake, Marion and Sumter within the District's boundaries. This order became effective March 10, 2017. Due to the deepening drought, the Governing Board modified Water Shortage Order No. SWF 2017-014 during its April 25, 2017 meeting, expanding the order to include the rest of the 16 counties within the District's boundaries.

Accordingly, as of May 8, 2017, all portions of the 16 counties located within the Southwest Florida Water Management District will be under a modified "Phase I" Water Shortage Order except as follows: In Marion County, by agreement with the St. Johns River Water Management District, this order is limited to the city of Dunnellon and the area encompassed by The Villages. Similarly, by agreement with the Suwanee River Water Management District, this Water Shortage Order specifically excludes unincorporated Levy County. Both agreements are attached as exhibits to the Order. The Order will remain in effect until July 1, 2017.

This action does not change allowable lawn watering days, which remain at a twice-per-week schedule (unless further restricted by District-authorized local ordinances). It does, however, specify that "wasteful and unnecessary" water uses are prohibited. Also, since all water use permits include a standard condition which allows the District to modify permits during a declared water shortage, the Phase I order specifically requires applicable water utilities (including yours) to review and implement procedures for enforcing year-round water conservation measures and water shortage restrictions, report enforcement activity to the District, and take other appropriate actions in accordance with Rule 40D-21.621 (3)(b), Florida Administrative Code. Please refer to the reverse side of this letter for a complete list, noting that "Small Water Utilities" refers to public supply water systems required to have a water use permit but having an annual average daily water demand (withdrawals plus imports minus exports) of less than 100,000 gallons per day, and noting that monthly enforcement data may be e-mailed to water.restrictions@watermatters.org.

The District is required, by state law, to monitor and respond to droughts and other regional water shortage events. Conditions are already below normal in all portions of the District. If water resource conditions continue to decline, additional restrictions may be needed. For current conditions and more information about or a copy of the "Phase I" order, please visit WaterMatters.org.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.
Executive Director

40D-21.621(3)(b), F.A.C. reads as follows:

Water Utility Use. The following water use restrictions or other required actions shall apply to all Water Utility Uses, as indicated.

1. Each public supply water system with residential, commercial, industrial, or irrigation customers, working with local code enforcement and local law enforcement agencies as necessary, shall review and update or develop, then implement, local enforcement procedures for year-round water conservation measures and Water Shortage restrictions, including but not limited to mechanisms to provide the enforcement assistance required by subparagraph 40D-21.621(3)(b)2., F.A.C., in accordance with Section 373.609, F.S. These procedures shall also specifically include an ability to issue a citation without first needing to issue a warning, should the District declare a Phase III or Phase IV water shortage. If the water utility is a nongovernmental entity, or if a governmental agency other than the water utility has responsibility for enforcement of year-round water conservation measures and the District's Water Shortage orders, the procedures shall, at a minimum, include a mechanism for the public supply water system to coordinate with the applicable local enforcement agency to provide the required assistance.

2. Each public supply water system with residential, commercial, industrial or irrigation customers shall provide, directly or through the applicable local enforcement agency, the following enforcement assistance to the District:

a. Immediate information regarding possible violations involving a Permittee, so that District staff can take the lead on such investigations.

b. Response, as appropriate based on the quantity and quality of details provided to the water utility, to enforcement referrals made by the District regarding address-specific or location specific violation complaints. This shall involve, where necessary, a site investigation on the day of week and at the time of day indicated for each referral. This shall also include having the legal mechanisms necessary to issue warnings, citations, and post-citation proceedings to recover unpaid penalties and associated costs.

c. Excluding Small Water Utilities, monthly transmittal of enforcement activity data, including the number of warnings and citations issued, and as specified in the water shortage order in a reporting format provided by District.

d. Within 60 days of the Water Shortage declaration and if subsequently requested by the District, contact information for the District's use in providing enforcement referrals and soliciting required enforcement data.

3. Each public supply water system shall institute or accelerate other water conservation efforts which can help manage demand during the Water Shortage declaration. These efforts shall include:

a. Excluding Small Water Utilities, customer messaging for all customers, including wholesale users (other water utilities), informing those customers about the current Water Shortage declaration, describing how the water utility's primary and back-up water supplies are affected, and promoting any ongoing water conservation projects offered by the water utility (such as appliance rebates or irrigation inspections) that will assist customers in their efforts to immediately reduce water consumption. If a water supply authority or other public supply water system serves only wholesale users (other water utilities), then communication with all wholesale users satisfies this requirement. The messaging method(s) shall be determined by the public supply water system.

b. Water utility operational practices. At a minimum, these practices shall address line flushing and disinfection. Potable water sanitary sewer and reclaimed water line flushing and disinfection shall not be restricted. However, each water utility shall develop and implement procedures through which it can address inquiries from the District and citizens about specific flushing and disinfection activity. At a minimum, these procedures shall include the use of either an on-site sign containing the name and telephone number of the agency conducting the flushing activity or establishment and promotion of a telephone hotline that customers and other concerned citizens can call to question activity at a specific location. A marked vehicle remaining on-site during the activity may be used in lieu of a sign. If the water utility is also responsible for fire hydrant testing, these processes will also satisfy the requirement in paragraph 40D-21.621(3)(a), F.A.C.