

**AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
May 9, 2017**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.
Executive Director

FROM: Michael A. Register, Director
Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment

SUBJECT: Amended Water Shortage Warning Order

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of the Amended Water Shortage Warning Order and authorization for the Executive Director to move to a Moderate or Severe Water Shortage should conditions warrant such action.

BACKGROUND

Based upon the recommendation of the District's Water Shortage Monitoring team, the Governing Board adopted a Water Shortage Warning Order for Baker, Clay, Flagler, Lake Marion, Nassau, and Putnam counties at the March 14, 2017 Governing Board meeting. This team has continued to monitor the hydrologic conditions and consumptive use pumping within the District to determine if further action is required regarding potential Water Shortage declarations within the District.

DISCUSSION

As of April 25, 2017, the U.S. Drought Monitor identifies a significant portion of the District as abnormally dry, moderate drought, or severe drought. Monitoring indicates that most stream flows in the District are very low or extremely low.

To date, 2017 rainfall for the District has been below average and the rainfall prediction from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center for both one month (May 2017) and three months (May-July 2017) call for equal chances of normal, above normal, or below normal rainfall.

Although hydrologic conditions have not yet reached the point where there is an insufficient volume of water to meet anticipated demands and protect the water resources in the District, current conditions do warrant heightened water conservation awareness in all areas within the jurisdiction of the District.

Because of the aforementioned factors, staff recommends that the Governing Board adopt the attached Amended Water Shortage Warning Order for all areas within the jurisdiction of the District and authorize the Executive Director to move to a Moderate or Severe Water Shortage should conditions warrant such action.

ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

In Re:

WATER SHORTAGE WARNING FOR
ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT _____

F.O.R No. 2017-08

AMENDMENT TO
WATER SHORTAGE WARNING

During its regularly scheduled meeting on May 9, 2017, the Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District (“District”) received data and recommendations from its staff regarding hydrologic conditions and other pertinent facts regarding the potential for a water shortage within portions of the District. The Governing Board being fully apprised of the matter, issues this order containing the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The District’s Water Shortage Plan (Plan), adopted as Chapter 40C-21 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), provides that the District will evaluate and monitor water conditions within the District and compare current data to historical data to determine whether estimated present and anticipated available water supplies are sufficient.
2. The purposes of the Plan are to protect the water resources of the District from serious harm; to assure equitable distribution of available water resources among all water users during times of shortage; to provide advanced knowledge; and promote greater security for water use permittees.
3. On March 14, 2017, the Governing Board issued a Water Shortage Warning for Baker, Clay, Flagler, Lake, Nassau, Marion, and Putnam counties located within the District, except for the unincorporated area lying within The Villages of Marion, FQD.
4. As of April 11, 2017, hydrologic conditions indicate that there is an increased likelihood that there will be insufficient water to meet the estimated user demands or to protect the water resource from serious harm within the District.
5. As of April 11, 2017, the U.S. Drought Monitor identified a significant portion of the District as “abnormally dry,” “moderate drought,” or “severe drought.” Monitoring indicates that most stream flows in the District are very low or extremely low.
6. To date, 2017 rainfall for the District has been below average and the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center both for the one month (May 2017) and the three month (May-July 2017) call for equal chances of above normal or below average rainfall. Rainfall levels

throughout the District have been significantly below normal since January of this year.

7. Although conditions have not yet reached the point where there is an insufficient amount of water to meet anticipated user demand and protect the water resources in the District, current conditions do warrant heightened water conservation awareness in all counties located within the District.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. Subsection 40C-21.231(1), F.A.C. authorizes the Governing Board “to issue a water shortage warning when it finds that there is an increased likelihood that there will be an insufficient amount of water to meet the estimated anticipated user demands within a source class or to protect the water resource from serious harm” within all or part of the District.

9. Subsection 40C-21.231(1), F.A.C, further provides that “[s]uch warning period will provide an opportunity for increased data and monitoring and analysis, increased communication with water users and units of local government regarding hydrologic conditions, *and may include a call for voluntary reductions in demand.*” (Emphasis added.)

10. The conditions described above warrant a call for voluntary reductions in demand by all water users in the District.

11. In accordance with section 373.609 of the Florida Statutes, it is the duty of local government officials to assist the District, upon request, in carrying out this Order.

12. Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

- a. A water shortage warning remains in effect for all surface and groundwater sources in Baker, Clay, Flagler, Lake, Nassau, Marion, and Putnam counties located within the District, except for the unincorporated area lying within The Villages of Marion, FQD.
- b. Additionally, a water shortage warning is issued for all surface and groundwater sources for all remaining portions of District, except for the unincorporated areas of Alachua County¹ and the unincorporated area lying within The Villages of Marion, FQD.
- c. All classes of water users are encouraged to reduce their water use and to conserve water to the maximum extent possible.
- d. All landscaping irrigation users are urged to voluntarily reduce their water use by

¹ Pursuant to the “Interagency Agreement Between the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Suwannee River Water Management District Regarding Water Shortages and Water Shortage Emergencies Within All Areas of Alachua County, Florida” dated July 13, 2012 SJRWMD and SRWMD have agreed that SRWMD is responsible for issuing water shortages within all unincorporated areas of Alachua County regardless of district boundary.

limiting irrigation to no more than two days each week, which is also required by Rule 40C-2.042, F.A.C., during daylight saving time.

- e. All golf course irrigation users are encouraged to use water in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 40C-21.631(3)(e), F.A.C. (See attached Exhibit "A").
- f. All water-based recreation users are encouraged to use water in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 40C-21.631(3)(f), F.A.C. (See attached Exhibit "A").
- g. These voluntary restrictions shall not be construed to limit any activities designed to prevent the spread of fire or to save property from being destroyed by fire.
- h. These voluntary restrictions do not exempt any water users from complying with applicable mandatory water use restrictions placed on utility customers due to capacity problems with water supply facilities. In such cases, water users are urged to reduce water use in a manner consistent with the specific, local restrictions and, to the extent practicable, with this Order. For example, landscape irrigation should be reduced to two days per week on the days allowed under local utility restrictions.
- i. This order in no way affects the District's permanent water conservation rule, Rule 40C-2.042, F.A.C., which, among other restrictions, prohibits in most instances lawn and landscape irrigation between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- j. The Governing Board requests that water supply utilities notify customers of this water shortage warning and the importance of water conservation, notify the District's Office of Communication prior to implementing any utility-specific water restriction, and provide input and comment through the District's Water Utility Advisory Board on proposed water use restrictions that may become necessary

DONE AND ORDERED on this _____ day of May, 2017, in Palatka, Florida.

ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

John Miklos
Governing Board Chair

Rendered on this _____ day of May, 2017.

Sandra Bertram
District Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

Golf Course Use:

1. Irrigation of greens and tees should be voluntarily reduced and accomplished during non-daylight hours.
2. Irrigation of fairways, roughs and nonplaying areas on the first nine holes of the course should be restricted to the hours of 12:01 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday and Saturday.
3. Irrigation of fairways, roughs and nonplaying areas on the last nine holes of the course should be restricted to the hours of 12:01 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on Thursday and Sunday.
4. Applications of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides should be coordinated with irrigation schedules.

Water Based Recreation Use:

1. Water based recreation water use should be voluntarily reduced.
2. Draining of facilities into sewers or onto impervious surfaces should not occur.
3. Existing facilities should not be refilled except for makeup water.