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SOUTH FLORIDA
 WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Water Manager's Glossary

- A-B**
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A

1-in-10 Year Drought: A drought of such intensity that it is expected to have a return frequency of once in every 10 years. In other words, there is only a 10 percent chance (1 in 10) that less than this amount of rain will fall in any given year.

Acre-foot: The volume of water that covers one acre to a depth of one foot; 43,560 cubic feet; 1,233.5 cubic meters; 325,872 gallons. One foot of water on Lake Okeechobee is equivalent to about 450,000 acre-feet when the lake's water level is 15 feet NGVD.

Adaptive Management: The application of scientific information and explicit feedback mechanisms to refine and improve future management decisions.

Advanced Treatment Technologies: Biological and chemical treatment technologies to remove phosphorus from stormwater to achieve low concentrations once treatment is complete.

Alternative Water Supply: A supply of water that has been reclaimed after one or more uses, such as public supply, municipal, industrial, commercial or agricultural uses. The term can also apply to storm water, brackish water or salt water that has been treated in accordance with applicable rules and standards to serve the intended use.

Anoxic: The absence of oxygen.

Aquifer: An underground bed or layer of earth, gravel or porous stone that holds water.

Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO): A cyclic variation in the large-scale atmospheric flow and ocean currents in the North Atlantic Ocean. They combine to alternately increase and decrease Atlantic sea surface temperatures (SSTs). Cool and warm phases that may last for 20-40 years at a time have a difference of about 1°F between extremes. These changes have been occurring for at least the last 1,000 years.

B

Basin (Groundwater): A hydrologic unit containing one large aquifer or several connecting and interconnecting aquifers.

Basin (Surface Water): A tract of land drained by a surface water body or its tributaries.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Agricultural or other management activities designed to achieve an important goal, such as reducing nutrients or pollutants in runoff or optimizing water use.

Biscayne Aquifer: A portion of the Surficial Aquifer System that provides most of the fresh water for public water supply and agriculture within Miami-Dade, Broward and southeastern Palm Beach counties. It is highly susceptible to contamination due to its high permeability and proximity to land surface in many locations.

Boulder Zone: A highly transmissive, cavernous zone of limestone within the lower Floridan Aquifer.

Brackish: Water with a chloride (salt) level greater than 250 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and less than 19,000 mg/L.

In the News

- Dry Season Starts With Dry October (Nov 03)
- Updated CFWI Planning Documents Now Available Online (Oct 26)
- SFWMD Chief Engineer Earns Prestigious Award for Flood Control Work (Oct 23)
- September Sees Above-Average Rainfall (Oct 01)
- Water Resource Education Program Hits 10-Year Mark (Sep 30)

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Upcoming Events

- South Dade Investigation Workshop - Dec. 14, 2015
- DBHYDRO Environmental Database Training
- Governing Board Meetings Schedule [PDF]
- Governing Board Meetings, Agendas and more
- WRAC and Related Meetings [PDF]

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Related Highlights

- SFWMD Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016
- Just the Facts: FY2016 Budget
- Contacts for Water Control Districts Within SFWMD Boundaries
- Follow @SFWMD_EM on Twitter for emergency information
- SFWMD FY2016 Tentative Budget Submission (Aug. 1, 2015)




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R

Reclaimed Water: Water that has received at least secondary treatment and basic disinfection and is reused after flowing out of a domestic wastewater treatment facility.

Regional Water Supply Plan: Detailed water supply plan developed by the District under Section 373.0361, F.S., providing an evaluation of available water supply and projected demands at the regional scale. The planning process anticipates and identifies future demand for 20 years and develops strategies to meet identified needs.

Regulation Schedule: A federally authorized set of operating criteria used by water managers to manage the water levels in a lake or reservoir.

Reservoir: A constructed or natural water body used for water storage.

Retrofitting: The replacement of existing water fixtures, appliances and devices with more efficient fixtures, appliances and devices for the purpose of conservation.

Reuse: The deliberate application of reclaimed water for a beneficial purpose. Criteria used to classify reuse projects are contained in Rule 62-610.810, F.A.C.

Reverse Osmosis (RO): A membrane process for desalting water using applied pressure to drive the feedwater (source water) through a semipermeable membrane.

S

Saline Water or Saltwater Intrusion: This occurs when more dense saline water moves laterally inland from the seacoast, or moves vertically upward, to replace fresher water in an aquifer.

Seawater: Water which has a sodium chloride (salt) concentration equal to or greater than 19,000 milligrams per liter.

Stage: Water level, measured as the height of a water surface above an established reference point.

Stormwater Treatment Area (STA): A large, constructed wetland designed to remove pollutants, particularly nutrients such as phosphorus, from stormwater runoff using natural processes.

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD): A regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Florida Keys.

It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency's mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.

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