

NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

IN RE:

ISSUANCE OF A WATER SHORTAGE WARNING WITHIN THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

ORDER NO. 07-001

The Executive Director of the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District), with the concurrence of the Governing Board and after considering recommendations of District staff, and being otherwise fully apprised of the matter, issues this Order pursuant to Sections 373.083, 373.175 and 373.246, Florida Statutes and Chapter 40A-21, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Surface water flows continue to decline throughout the District with a number of monitored sites at or near record daily low flows.
2. Ground water levels continue to decline throughout the District.
3. Moderate to extreme drought conditions exist throughout the 16 county region.
4. Rainfall levels throughout the District have been below normal for the last 15 months.
5. Meteorological forecasts predict below normal rainfall for the next several months.
6. In the event the District continues to experience below normal rainfall, there is an increased likelihood that localized upconing of saltwater may occur in some wells, and sufficient water resources may not be available to meet water use demands.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

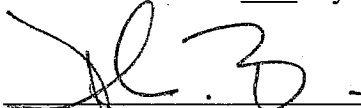
1. Subsection 40A-21.231(2), F.A.C., authorizes the Governing Board to issue a water shortage warning calling for voluntary reductions in use.
2. Subsection 40A-21.231(2), F.A.C., further provides for the Governing Board to direct staff to coordinate a water shortage warning declaration with local interest groups, affected user classes and governmental agencies.
3. Subsection 40A-21.231(2), F.A.C., also provides for increased monitoring and analysis of water shortage information.
4. Section 373.609, Florida Statutes, requires local government officials to assist the District, upon request, in carrying out this Order.

ORDER

- Based on the identified findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Governing Board orders that:
- A. A Water Shortage Warning is issued for all surface and ground water sources throughout the District.
 - B. All users in all classes of use are encouraged to reduce water use and to conserve water to the maximum extent possible.
 - C. "Landscaping Irrigation users" are urged to reduce water use by limiting irrigation to no more than two days per week. Irrigation users are also requested to irrigate during the low evaporation period of the evening and early morning hours.
 - D. "Golf Courses" are encouraged to limit irrigation hours and adjust irrigation operations to minimize withdrawals.
 - E. "Water Based Recreation Use" should be reduced. Draining of facilities into sewers or onto impervious surfaces should not occur. Filling, refilling and makeup water for these facilities should be minimized.
 - F. "Aesthetic Uses" of water should be voluntarily discontinued.
 - G. These voluntary restrictions shall not be construed to limit any activities designated to prevent the spread of fire or to save property from being destroyed by fire.
 - H. These voluntary restrictions do not exempt any water user from complying with applicable mandatory water use restrictions placed on public supply 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.
 - I. The Governing Board requests that water utilities notify customers of this water shortage warning and of the importance of water conservation.
 - J. The District's staff is directed to expedite the issuance of well construction and repair permits to alleviate hardship caused by drought conditions where the associated water use is determined not to harm the resource or other existing legal users.

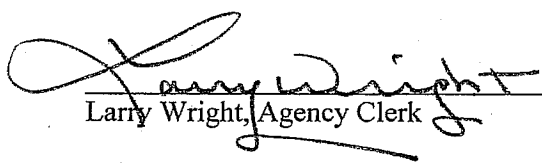
- K. The Executive Director shall issue further water shortage advisories and warnings as deemed necessary to protect the water resources of the District or the health, safety and welfare of the public. The Executive Director must obtain the concurrence of the Governing Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting regarding any further actions.
- L. This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED this 1st day of June 2007.



Douglas E. Barr, Executive Director
Northwest Florida Water Management District
81 Water Management Drive
Havana, Florida 32333

RENDERED this 5th day of June 2007.



Larry Wright, Agency Clerk