

ST PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
Meeting of April 2, 2009

TO: The Honorable Jeff Danner, Chair, and Members of City Council

SUBJECT: Water Restrictions and Water Conservation Report

Background

The Tampa Bay Area is currently under a SWFWMD modified Phase III Extreme Water Shortage condition due to persistent drier than normal hydrologic conditions. Tampa Bay Water's regional surface water supplies have greatly diminished due to lower than normal river flows and the need to lower (and not fill) the Regional Reservoir to perform repairs. As such, Tampa Bay Water will be forced to rely on their well fields to make-up for the surface water supply shortfall. This greater reliance on ground water supplies will force TBW to exceed a regulatory 12 month running average limit from their well fields of 90 million gallons per day through the remainder of the dry spring season. The goal of the Phase III condition is to reduce potable demand by 10% and minimize the additional pumping of ground water. In general, water restrictions of the Phase III condition by the District are as follows:

- Outdoor Watering – one day per week, Saturday (even addresses) and Sunday (odd addresses) only between the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and/or 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Hand watering is only allowed during designated watering times.
- Fountains and/or decorative water features are limited to 4 hours per day. City owned and operated fountains have been turned off.
- Watering violations are given without warning.

SWFWMD will be considering Phase IV conditions on March 31, 2009. Additional water restrictions could include:

- Reduced plant watering establishment schedule
- Watering limited to either once per week morning or night period, not both.
- No fountain or waterfall operation
- No pressure washing, except to meet safety standards
- No residential or fund raising car washing; commercial is excluded
- Defer lawn and landscape requirements as condition of C.O.
- Drought rate surcharge to be considered.