

Local Adoption of Year-Round Irrigation Ordinances

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Rosinés Colón Ortega
Water Conservation Analyst
South Florida Water Management District

Chapter 40E-24, F.A.C. – “Year-Round Rule”

- The Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule (YRR) was implemented to safeguard our regional water resources (drinking water & environmental)
- Targets the largest area of urban water use (upwards of 50% of all utility-supplied residential water is used for landscape irrigation)
- Limits irrigation (to supplement rainfall) to an amount that will sustain healthy lawns in normal rainfall years
- St. Johns River and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts have similar rules in place

"Year-Round Rule" History

- 2003 40E-24 Florida Administrative Code codified year-round irrigation restrictions for Lee, Collier, and Charlotte Counties
- 2010 Rule amended to apply District-Wide (16 Counties 2 or 3 days/week)
- 2014 Rule amended to reflect reference to amended District permitting rules; no substantive changes to rule itself

**Rules of the
South Florida Water Management District**

**Mandatory Year-Round Landscape
Irrigation Conservation Measures
CHAPTER 40E-24, F.A.C.**







Effective: July 14, 2014

"Year-Round Rule" 101

No watering from 10am to 4pm



	IF YOUR ADDRESS ENDS IN...	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
ODD	1, 3, 5, 7, 9							
EVEN	0, 2, 4, 6, 8							

Properties with no address number follow Even schedule

"Year-Round Rule" 101

- Local governments in some southern counties have a three-day option
 - Broward
 - Collier
 - Glades
 - Hendry
 - Lee
 - Martin
 - Miami-Dade
 - Monroe
 - Palm Beach
 - St. Lucie
- Contains exceptions for low-volume irrigation, watering in of lawn chemicals, and irrigation system maintenance
- Reclaimed water is exempt



Governing Board Initiative - 2020

- Rule 40E-24 encourages local governments to adopt an ordinance in support.
- By 2020 few local ordinances had been adopted.
- The District's Governing Board directed staff to engage with local governments to promote the adoption of the local government option.
- Effective implementation of this irrigation conservation measure cannot be done by District staff alone.



Governing Board initiative - 2020

District Staff created model ordinances to help local governments with the adoption of the rule.

A properly constructed year-round irrigation ordinance has three elements:

1. Days and times (hours) irrigation is allowed or not allowed based on address, **and** exceptions/exemptions
2. Compliance and enforcement provisions (may contain actual penalties)
3. A variance procedure for users who cannot meet the prescribed days and allowable times

Local Government Model Ordinances and Codes

To assist local governments educate their residents and businesses on their allowable irrigation times, the District has created the following items. Download these assets for free:

- [SFWMD Fact Sheet](#)
- [Template Door Hanger for Two Day A Week Watering](#)
- [Template Door Hanger for Three Day A Week Watering](#)
- [Template Local Government Fact Sheet for Two Day a Week Watering](#)
- [Template Local Government Fact Sheet for Three Day a Week Watering](#)



Model Ordinance and Model Code Language for the District's Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures

The Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule (YRR) is a component of the South Florida Water Management District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program, which was established to encourage more responsible use of water resources throughout South Florida. Local governments are encouraged to adopt an ordinance in accordance with [Rule 40E-24.301, F.A.C.](#)

Although the District sees utilities as having a role in supporting the YRR, the District strongly encourages local governments, not utilities, to take the *lead* role in adopting ordinances or codes supporting YRR measures. Any local ordinance or code applies to all users within the municipalities boundaries, not just those users served with potable water by a utility.

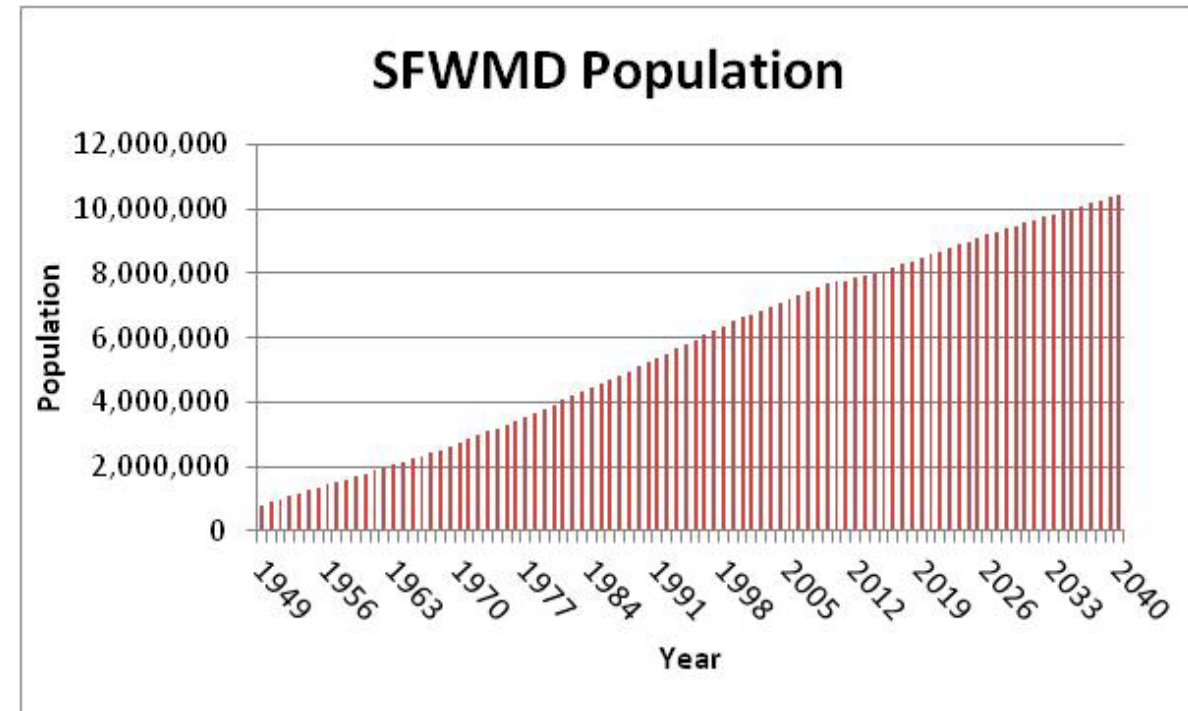
To assist local governments in adopting a year-round irrigation ordinance, the District has drafted 1) a model ordinance; and 2) a model for code language. Among other elements, local ordinances should include sections describing the locality's provisions for variances, enforcement, and penalties for infractions. The model ordinance and code language documents contain guidance for these provisions. In addition, the District reviewed and compiled penalty rates from 55 localities and present the findings in a separate document called *YRR Penalty Rate Review*.

These documents can be accessed via the links below.

- [YRR Model Ordinance 2-Day/Week](#)
- [YRR Model Code Language 2-Day/Week](#)
- [YRR Penalty Rate Review](#)

Why should local governments join this initiative?

- More than half of the Public Water Supply is used for landscape irrigation.
- Florida receives an average of 52 inches of rain per year. However, about 70% is lost due to runoff and limited storage.
- South Florida's population is expected to keep increasing and so are the water demands



Questions

Rosinés Colón Ortega
Senior Water Conservation Analyst
South Florida Water Management District
rcolon@sfwmd.gov
561-682-6715 (Office)

Kathryn LaMartina, PMP
Regional Representative
Martin and St. Lucie Counties
South Florida Water Management District
klamart@sfwmd.gov

