



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

February 24, 2020

Kathryn Sims
City Manager
City of Cooper City
PO Box 290910
Cooper City, FL 33329-0910

Subject: Protecting South Florida's Water Resources - Water Conserving Landscape Irrigation Ordinances

Dear Ms. Sims:

With South Florida's growing demands for water, it's especially important that we work closely together to properly manage and conserve our precious water resources. Implementing water conservation measures promotes efficient water use and decreases water waste.

Lawn irrigation can account for more than half of residential water use. Most South Florida lawns only need to be watered a few days a week (or less) to remain healthy. To encourage more responsible use of water resources throughout South Florida, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board adopted the Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures (Year-Round Irrigation Rule), Chapter 40E-24, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), in 2010. The rule restricts the times and number of days landscape irrigation is allowed within the District's jurisdiction and follows scientifically-sound recommendations for lawn irrigation. Many local governments have since enacted/updated their irrigation ordinances to promote water conservation in their respective counties and municipalities and follow the District's Year-Round Irrigation Rule.

The District is now reviewing local irrigation ordinances by all of the counties and municipalities within the District's 16-county region and is reaching out to every local government that appears to have not enacted or updated their own irrigation ordinances. We would like to offer our assistance to you and your staff to ensure your local government's irrigation ordinance is in compliance with the District's Year-Round Irrigation Rule. Please note that local ordinances can be *more* restrictive than the Year-Round Irrigation Rule but cannot be less restrictive. We look forward to working with you and your staff to help put consistent rules and ordinances in place across South Florida so that residents understand and comply with all irrigation requirements.

Our partnership supports a safe and reliable water supply for South Florida's future, and we kindly request, **within four weeks from the date of this letter**, an update of your local government's plan to update its ordinance. The District's water conservation team, including myself, are always available to provide any assistance. The District also has templates and other information available that can be used to guide this update.



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If you have any questions or would like to discuss how we can assist, please contact me at melsner@sfwmd.gov or (561) 682-6156; or Jim Harmon, the District Water Conservation Supervisor, at jharmon@sfwmd.gov or (561) 682-6777.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Mark E. Elsner".

Mark E. Elsner, P.E.
Water Supply Bureau Chief

ME/lhc

Enclosure: Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures Rule Fact Sheet