

June 16, 2004

Mr. Henry Dean, Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Dear Mr. Dean:

The past several months of relatively dry weather have demonstrated continued problems with groundwater availability here in Lee County. As you know, a number of private wells have gone dry in various parts of the county and various surface water systems appear to be significantly impacted by the dry weather.

It's our understanding that the District has developed minimum water level criteria for the West Coast Aquifer System for the Tamiami, Mid Hawthorn and Sandstone Aquifers. We would like to determine if any of these minimum levels were "exceeded" this past dry season. Please provide this information to us so that the Council can help facilitate solutions to these perceived problems among our stakeholders.

Also, we requested notification of Minimum Aquifer Rule Development for the Surficial Aquifer (Water Table Aquifer) in the West Coast Aquifer System in June of 2002. We have not received notification of any such rule development. The surficial aquifer is a tremendously important groundwater resource for water supply and wetland integrity. In fact, the water table aquifer was the largest single source of water allocated for water supply in Lee County and the second largest supplier in Collier County in 2000 (Proposed Minimum Water Level Criteria for the Lower West Coast Aquifer System Within the South Florida Water Management District, SFWMD, September 5, 2000). Please notify us of the current status and rule development schedule for the Water Table Aquifer in the Lower West Coast Aquifer System.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Susan Brookman  
Chairman