



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# OPERATIONS UPDATE

October 5, 2016

## Operations Update: SFWMD Ready for Heavy Rainfall

**West Palm Beach, FL** - Water managers at South Florida Water Management District reported today that the regional flood control system is in a good position to provide protection from potential impacts caused by heavy rainfall associated with Hurricane Matthew.

"We began preparing the system several days in advance of the storm by moving water to create more capacity for expected heavy rainfall," said SFWMD Chief Engineer John Mitnik. "Equipment has been checked, crews are stationed at major pump stations and we stand ready to respond to this event."

Depending on the storm's path and rainfall received, water managers will make adjustments to water control structures as necessary. Water levels and flows are monitored around the clock by field staff and the Operations Control Room in West Palm Beach.

Engineers have also been utilizing the newly operational A-1 Flow Equalization Basin, a storage reservoir in western Palm Beach County, to hold both rainfall and accept water from Lake Okeechobee.

Pre-storm preparations by the District also included:

- Inspecting key parts of the flood control system
- Ensuring adequate fuel supplies for pump stations and other equipment
- Ready staff and equipment for storm assignments

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers controls releases from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

For updates in case of an emergency, residents and visitors can follow the District's emergency management Twitter feed ([@SFWMD\\_EM](https://twitter.com/SFWMD_EM)) or [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov).

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*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.*

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