

September 2013



just the **FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

Accreditation of Broward Portion of East Coast Protective Levee *Documenting effective flood protection for Federal Emergency Management Agency flood map modernization*

The East Coast Protective Levee stretches for more than 100 miles from the Homestead area north to the eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee near the St. Lucie Canal. It was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the early 1950s to provide flood protection and retain water in three Water Conservation Areas, sections of Everglades wetlands in western Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

After completion of the levee, ownership was transferred to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), which has actively managed its operation and maintenance for approximately 60 years. The Corps inspects the levee semiannually. It is recognized on current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps as an accredited levee that provides protection from a flood that has a 1 percent chance of happening in any given year.

Based on recommendations resulting from recent inspections by the Corps, the District has completed maintenance work on portions of the levee, including construction of gravel-filled ring dikes and removal of vegetation.

Comprehensive levee maintenance and repair by the SFWMD is ongoing, including:

- Increasing ground inspections of the levee by SFWMD staff
- Installing instrumentation along the levee to monitor water levels on a continuous basis
- Stockpiling rock in upland areas in case levee conditions change
- Installing ring dikes as seepage control measures and continuing maintenance by SFWMD field station personnel
- Removing vegetation for ease of inspection
- Increasing the levee's height at two localized settled areas
- Filling in erosion due to boat wakes on the Water Conservation Area side of the levee
- Designing a long-term solution to filter and control expected seepage while minimizing impacts to wetlands and animal habitats

FEMA Flood Map Modernization

- FEMA is updating existing National Flood Insurance Program maps for publication in digital format using criteria for accreditation that are currently being revised.
- The District, as owner of the levee, completed \$18 million of upgrades in July 2013 and is providing documentation showing that the 38.3-mile Broward portion meets FEMA's criteria for its new maps.



sfwmd.gov
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
561-686-8800 or 1-800-432-2045 in Florida
www.sfwmd.gov

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

(more)

More information about FEMA Flood Map Modernization in Broward County is available in [FAQs](http://www.broward.org) at www.broward.org. Additional information is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.FEMA.gov.

East Coast Protective Levee

