



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

OPERATIONS UPDATE

July 27, 2016

SFWMD Improves Routine Monthly Maintenance For Lake Okeechobee Ecological Health

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will implement an improved process for crucial testing of diesel-powered engines and pumps at the S-2 and S-3 Pump Stations, located along the southern rim of Lake Okeechobee in Palm Beach County. Factoring in the health of the lake, SFWMD engineers developed an innovative method to service equipment essential for flood control, public health and safety. Unlike previous practices used for these purposes, water needed for testing will no longer be back pumped into Lake Okeechobee, but rather returned into the canals headed south.

"Performing regular maintenance checks throughout the year ensures these structures, and the entire system, operate as designed and are dependable when needed during emergencies to protect public health and safety," said SFWMD Director of Operations, Engineering and Construction John Mitnik. "These new procedures eliminate back pumping at S-2 and S-3, even for maintenance purposes."

This coordinated month-by-month effort will involve exercising ten pump engines. The average duration of the tests will be less than two hours. Tests will be implemented and adjusted based on current weather conditions, allowing for maximum flexibility to perform required maintenance consistent with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regulatory permit.

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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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