



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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MEDIA CONTACT:

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Lake Okeechobee Navigation Lock Returns to Service *Manatee detection system repairs completed*

WHAT: The S-135 Navigation Lock near J&S Park north of the St. Lucie Canal was returned to service this morning after South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff completed emergency repairs to the lock's manatee detection system. The detection system protects the endangered West Indian manatees from being injured or killed in the navigation lock.

WHEN: The navigation lock returned to service at 5:30 a.m. today. The lock operator will resume the normal schedule for this time of year: 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

WHO: For more information contact Bill Graf at the Orlando Service Center of the South Florida Water Management District at (407) 858-6100, ext. 3837, or at wgraf@sfwmd.gov.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.