



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

# MEDIA ADVISORY

June 6, 2016

## SFWMD Prepares for Rain Related to Tropical Storm

*Water managers closely monitoring weather forecasts*

**West Palm Beach, FL** - While South Florida is not in the forecasted path of Tropical Storm Colin, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has readied the regional flood control system for potential heavy rainfall associated with the storm.

With up to several inches of rain forecast, water levels have already been lowered to maximize storage and discharges for stormwater runoff to reduce flooding where possible. Water control structures such as gates and spillways will open as needed to maintain canals at levels that will enhance the ability of local drainage facilities to route excess runoff into SFWMD's canal system.

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

Pre-storm preparations by the District also include:

- 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 District is in a condition of increased readiness and is coordinating information with the state Emergency Operations Center as well as local drainage districts that connect to SFWMD canals.

Throughout the year, the District carries out a robust program to ensure the regional flood control system operates at its full potential. The program includes inspection and maintenance of water control structures, clearing canals of debris and exotic vegetation, strengthening canal banks and other improvements.

For updates in case of an emergency, residents and visitors can follow the District's Twitter feed (@SFWMD) and its list of weather and emergency management tweets related to South Florida (@SFWMD\_EM).

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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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