



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

August 25, 2016

SFWMD Prepares for Heavy Rainfall

Water managers closely monitoring weather forecasts

West Palm Beach, FL - While potential impacts to South Florida are unclear, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is readying the regional flood control system for potential heavy rainfall associated with a tropical disturbance.

With the potential for several inches of rain forecast, water levels are being lowered from mid Broward County south through Miami-Dade County to maximize storage and discharges for stormwater runoff to reduce flooding where possible. Water control structures such as gates and spillways will continue to 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 anticipated rainfall, 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
- Readying 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 vigorous 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 emergency management Twitter feed ([@SFWMD_EM](https://twitter.com/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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