



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Taylor Creek Navigation Lock Closed April 8 and 9**

*Concrete inspection will temporarily block boat traffic*

**Okeechobee, FL** — The S-193 navigation lock at Taylor Creek in Okeechobee will be closed April 8 and 9 while the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) conducts an inspection of the concrete near the gates of the lock facility.

The inspection is part of a planning process for the refurbishment of the S-193 navigation lock. Due to the location of the inspection, just outside of lock gates on both the Taylor Creek and Lake Okeechobee sides of the structure, it will not be possible to allow boat traffic to pass on these days.

Normal operation of the S-193 navigation lock at Taylor Creek will resume on Saturday, April 10, from 5:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. and will operate during these hours until April 30. Beginning on May 1, navigation lock hours will be from 5:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. daily.

Navigation locks on Lake Okeechobee allow boats to pass through the Herbert Hoover Dike into the lake while maintaining flood protection for homeowners living upstream of the lock. The navigation lock refurbishment work is part of an ongoing effort to maintain and upgrade the infrastructure of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project, which was initiated by U.S. Congressional action in 1948.

The District appreciates the public's patience during these activities. For more information about this project or for general information about the South Florida Water Management District, please call the Okeechobee Service Center at (863) 462-5260.

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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.*