



NEWS RELEASE

December 3, 2012

CONTACTS:

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

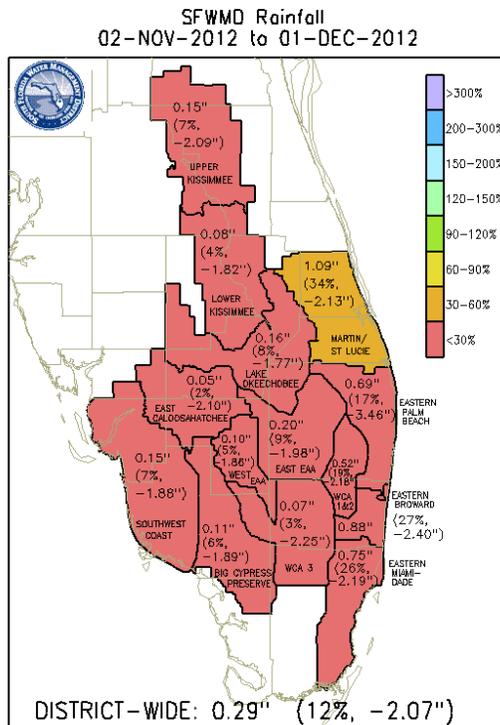
Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

www.sfwmd.gov/news

follow us on

November Edges All-Time Dry Record for the Month *Despite scant rainfall, regional water supplies remain adequate*



(Click on the map for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – The first month of South Florida’s dry season edged out the long-standing record rainfall low for November, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today.

The District-wide rainfall average of 0.29 inches in November was just 0.01 below the previous record low of 0.30 inches in both 1940 and 1944, based on District records since

1932. All 16 counties in the District were more than 1.5 inches below average for November, which is typically one of the driest months in South Florida.

“With the benefit of above-average wet season rainfall, regional groundwater and surface water levels fortunately were in a position to ‘weather’ a record dry month,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “It is too early to assess the impact this record dry period will have on conditions and water levels.”

Eastern Palm Beach County had the largest rainfall deficit in the District, with 0.69 inches of rain, representing a deficit of 3.46 inches, or 17 percent of average. The Upper Kissimmee Basin and Martin, St. Lucie and eastern Miami-Dade counties all recorded rainfall deficits of more than 2 inches for the month. The East Caloosahatchee Basin also recorded more than a 2-inch rainfall deficit while the Southwest Coast recorded a 1.88-inch deficit.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 15.10 feet NGVD today, which is 0.30 feet above the historic average for this time of year.

2012-2013 Dry Season Forecast

South Florida is forecast to experience one of the few dry seasons having near-average rainfall in the past 14 years. Only two dry seasons, 1998-1999 and 2003-2004, have actually been about the historical average in that timeframe, with two above average and 10 below average dry seasons. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Prediction Center forecast calls for equal chances of slightly above or slightly below average rainfall for the first three months of the upcoming dry season.

Among the official forecast highlights for the 2012-2013 South Florida dry season:

- Near normal precipitation is mostly likely during the first part of the dry season, from November to February
- A drier-than-normal trend may characterize March and April
- Average dry season precipitation: 12 to 15 inches in the interior and west to 15 to 21 inches in the east
- Long-term average winter temperature: 64 to 66 F in the interior and west to 67 to 69 F in the east

For more information:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [National Weather Service Dry Season Forecast](#)

Just the Facts: South Florida’s Dry Season

- *November – May*
- *About 18 inches of rain is the average*
- *May and October are important transition months*
- *March, April and May have the highest evaporation rates and lowest rainfall*

- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)

#

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.