



# NEWS RELEASE

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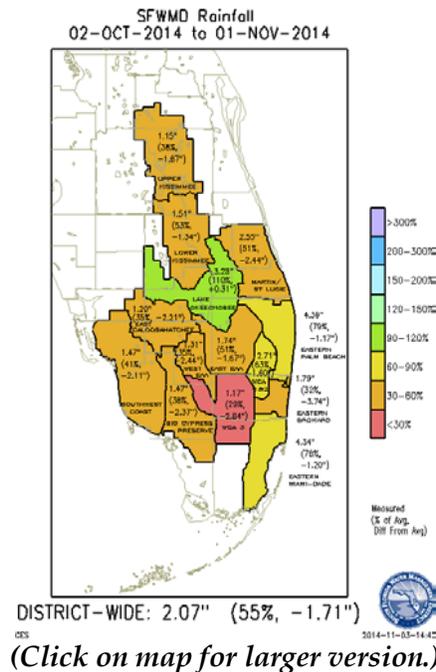
South Florida Water Management District

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## Rainfall Slows Considerably in October *Water levels continue to be monitored throughout the region*



**West Palm Beach, FL** — Nearly all areas of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) finished the month of October with below-average rainfall, meteorologists reported today.

“District-wide, October was the driest month since February,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief Scientist, Applied Hydraulics Section. “Water levels are adequate at this time, but we are mindful of the increased chance of El Niño conditions that could play a role in the amount of overall dry season rainfall.”

Above-average wet season rainfall across some key areas of South Florida positioned water levels well at the start of the dry season. October is historically an important transition month between the wet and dry seasons. This year, the daily sea-breeze cycle

rainfall ended on October 4. The bulk of that rainfall was associated with two fronts, focusing precipitation over Lake Okeechobee and coastal Miami-Dade County.

### October Rainfall

From the Upper Kissimmee Basin to Everglades National Park, nearly every basin within the District experienced below-average rainfall for the month. District-wide, a total of 2.07 inches of rain fell, representing 55 percent of average, or 1.71 inches below average. The driest areas included:

- Upper Kissimmee: 1.15 inches, representing 38 percent of average, or 1.87 inches below average
- East Caloosahatchee: 1.20 inches, representing 35 percent of average, or 2.21 inches below average
- Southwest Coast: 1.47 inches, representing 41 percent of average, or 2.11 inches below average
- Eastern Broward: 1.79 inches, representing 32 percent of average, or 3.74 inches below average

Lake Okeechobee was the only area to receive above-average rainfall, with 3.28 inches of direct rain, representing 110 percent of average, or 0.31 inches above average. The lake stood at 15.72 feet NGVD today, which is 0.70 feet above its historic average for this time of year.

### Dry Season Forecast

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Prediction Center forecast calls for normal to above-normal rainfall conditions.

Among the forecast highlights for the 2014-2015 South Florida dry season:

- A 60-65 percent chance of El Niño conditions developing in the fall and winter. An El Niño, a warming of waters in the equatorial Pacific, can increase the amount of rainfall in South Florida.
- Normal storminess/severe weather with 5-6 events
- Normal freeze of at least one per season

<b><i>South Florida’s Dry Season</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>November – May</i></li><li>• <i>About 18 inches of rain is the average</i></li><li>• <i>May and October are important transition months</i></li><li>• <i>March, April and May have the highest evaporation rates and lowest rainfall</i></li></ul>

### More information is available at:

- [SFWMD Weather/ Rainfall Data](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)

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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.*