



# NEWS RELEASE

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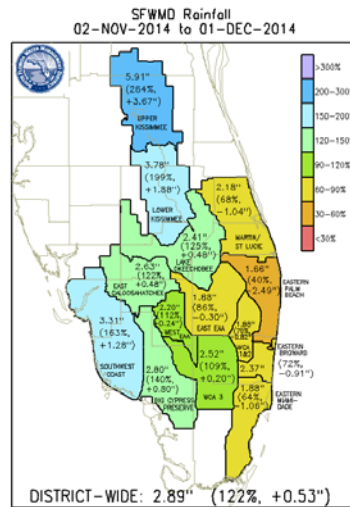
South Florida Water Management District

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## November Rains Soak Kissimmee, Southwest Coast *East coast sees drier weather for the month*



(Click on map for larger version.)

**West Palm Beach, FL** — November rainfall in the Kissimmee basins and Southwest Coast was above average, while the east coast experienced markedly drier conditions for the month, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today.

District-wide, 2.89 inches of rain fell, representing 122 percent of average, or 0.53 inches above average. Water levels remain at appropriate levels for this time of year across the region because of adequate rainfall during the recent wet season.

The Upper Kissimmee Basin, which flows south to Lake Okeechobee, received the most rainfall in all of South Florida for November, with 5.91 inches, representing 264 percent of average, or 3.67 inches above average. This is the wettest November in the basin since 1987 and the second wettest November there in 50 years.

The Southwest Coast saw 3.31 inches of rain, representing 163 percent of average, or 1.28 inches above average.

From St. Lucie and Martin counties south to Miami-Dade County, the story was decidedly drier. Palm Beach County, the driest area in South Florida, received only 1.66 inches of rain, representing 40 percent of average, or 2.49 inches below average. Rainfall was 72 percent or less of normal along the rest of the east coast.

Lake Okeechobee received 2.41 inches of direct rainfall, representing 125 percent of average, or 0.48 inches above average. The lake stood at 15.57 feet NGVD today, which is 0.74 feet above its historic average for this time of year. Water managers continue to move water south from the lake as part of water supply and flood control operations.

### **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](#)
- Interactive “Moving Water South” map: [www.sfwmd.gov/movingwatersouth](http://www.sfwmd.gov/movingwatersouth)

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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.*