



# NEWS RELEASE

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Gabe Margasak**

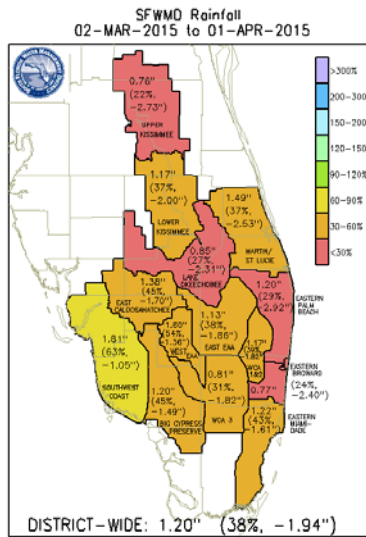
South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

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## South Florida Sees Dry March *Rainfall reprieve helps lower high water levels*



(Click on map for larger version.)

**West Palm Beach, FL** — A dry March assisted water managers with lowering areas of high water, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) reported today.

All 16 counties within the SFWMD experienced below-average rainfall in March, with 1.20 inches of rain district-wide, representing 38 percent of average, or 1.94 inches below average.

Drier conditions, coupled with evapotranspiration, helped lower high water levels in Lake Okeechobee. The Upper Kissimmee Basin was the driest area in South Florida, with 0.76 inches of rain, representing 22 percent of average, or 2.73 inches below average.

Lake Okeechobee also received below-average rainfall, with 0.85 inches of direct rainfall, representing 27 percent of average, or 2.31 inches below average. The lake stood at 13.99 feet NGVD today, which is 0.30 feet below its historic average for this time of year but still about a half-foot higher than this time last year.

The remainder of the District also saw below-average rainfall. Palm Beach and Broward counties were among the driest areas, with 29 percent and 24 percent of average rainfall, respectively.

The Southwest Coast saw 1.81 inches of rain, representing 63 percent of average, or 1.05 inches below average. The East Caloosahatchee basin saw 1.38 inches of rain, representing 45 percent of average, or 1.70 inches below average.

<b>South Florida's Dry Season</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.*