

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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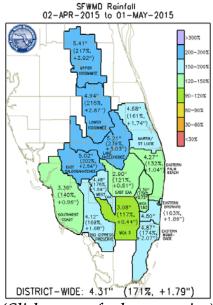
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April Showers Follow Dry March

South Florida sees above-average rainfall



(Click on map for larger version)

West Palm Beach, FL — Above-average April rainfall followed a dry March, and more rain is forecast in the next few days, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today.

All 16 counties within the SFWMD received above-average rainfall in April, with 4.31 inches of rain district-wide, representing 171 percent of average, or 1.79 inches above average.

Abundant rainfall in the Kissimmee basins, among the wettest portions of the District, contributed to increased flows into Lake Okeechobee, which also received above-average direct rainfall.

The lake saw 5.21 inches of rain, representing 239 percent of average, or 3.03 inches above average. The lake stood at 13.87 feet NGVD today.

The remainder of the District also saw above-average rainfall. The East Caloosahatchee basin, Martin, St. Lucie, Broward and Miami-Dade counties were among the wettest areas, ranging from 163 to 202 percent of average.

The Southwest Coast saw 3.36 inches of rain, representing 140 percent of average, or 0.96 inches above average.

More information is available at:

- SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data
- <u>Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast</u>
- Interactive "Moving Water South" map: 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.

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