

## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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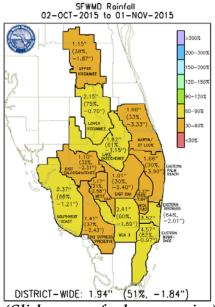
South Florida Water Management District

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www.sfwmd.gov/news

### **Dry Season Starts With Dry October**

Long-term forecast continues to call for above-average rainfall



(Click on map for larger version)

**West Palm Beach, FL** — Most of South Florida saw well below-average rainfall in October for the start of the dry season, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today.

An average of 1.94 inches of rain fell across 16 counties in October, representing only 51 percent of average, or 1.84 inches below average. October typically has the highest variability of rainfall because of the transition from the wet season to the dry season.

Among the driest areas in October were:

- Palm Beach County 1.66 inches of rain, representing 30 percent of average, or 3.90 inches below average
- Martin/St. Lucie 1.66 inches of rain, representing 33 percent of average, or 3.33 inches below average

• Southwest Coast – 2.37 inches of rain, representing 66 percent of average, or 1.21 inches below average

Miami-Dade County was the only area to experience near average rainfall for the month, with 4.57 inches of rain, representing 82 percent of average, or 0.97 inches below average.

Despite below-average rainfall in October, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center forecasts a significant El Niño weather pattern this winter to bring above-average rainfall later in the dry season.

#### **Dry Season Forecast**

Among the forecast highlights for the 2015-2016 South Florida dry season:

- Above-normal rainfall associated with El Niño
- Above-normal storminess/severe weather
- Below-normal temperatures and belownormal freeze of at least one this dry season
- Average of 5-10 more days with measurable precipitation

#### More information is available at:

- SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data
- <u>U.S. Drought Monitor Florida</u>
- 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 flood control, water quality, 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