



NEWS RELEASE

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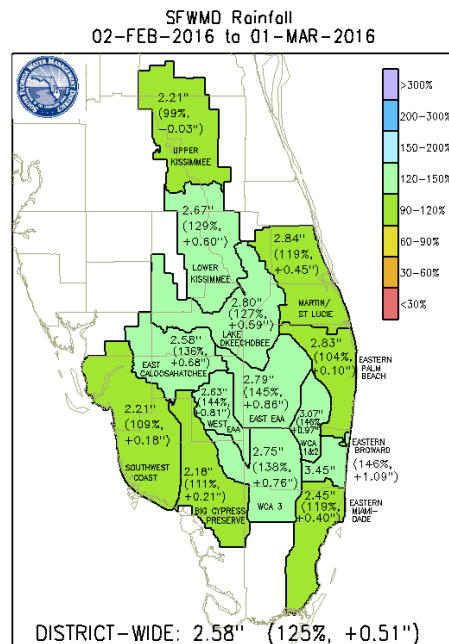
South Florida Water Management District

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Above-Average Rainfall Continued in February *Rainfall amounts were less than the records set in January*



(Click on map for larger version)

West Palm Beach, FL – Widespread, above-average rainfall continued in February but didn't rise to the record-setting levels of January, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today.

A total of 2.58 inches of rain fell District-wide in February, representing 125 percent of average, or 0.51 inches above average. Nearly every basin received above-average rainfall, including:

- Lower Kissimmee, which feeds Lake Okeechobee, received 2.67 inches of rain, representing 129 percent of average, or 0.60 inches above average.
- Lake Okeechobee received 2.80 inches of direct rainfall, representing 127 percent of average, or 0.59 inches above average.
- East Caloosahatchee received 2.58 inches of rain, representing 136 percent of average, or 0.68 inches above average.

- Water Conservation Area-3 (WCA-3), which is currently flooded, received 2.75 inches of direct rainfall, representing 138 percent of average, or 0.76 inches above average.

The SFWMD is continuing emergency operations to lower water levels throughout the regional system. This includes moving water from WCA-3 to Everglades National Park, utilizing the C-4 Emergency Detention Basin in southern Miami-Dade County and injecting up to 5 million gallons of water per day into the Hillsboro Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot well. SFWMD is also operating pump stations at the S-25B and S-26 structures on the Miami Canal near Miami International Airport to help maximize discharges to salt water.

February’s rainfall follows the wettest January and also the wettest November through January, which is the first half of the dry season, since recordkeeping began in 1932.

More information is available at:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [U.S. Drought Monitor Florida](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)

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

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts.

Our mission is to protect South Florida’s water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.