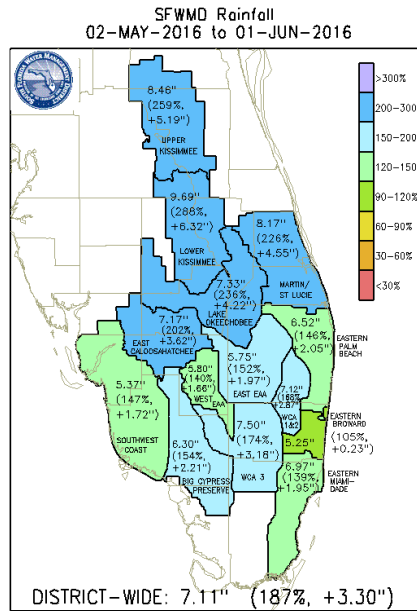




NEWS RELEASE

June 1, 2016

Wet Season Starts With Above-Average Rainfall in May *South Florida dry season was the wettest in nearly six decades*



(Click on the map to enlarge and view SFWMD rainfall totals.)

West Palm Beach, FL - South Florida saw above-average rainfall in May, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today. A total of 7.11 inches of rain fell District-wide, representing 187 percent of average, or 3.30 inches above average.

All 16 counties in SFWMD saw above-average rainfall for the month, with the Kissimmee and Caloosahatchee river and Martin and St. Lucie county basins recording the wettest conditions. Lake Okeechobee was also among the wettest locations, receiving 7.33 inches of direct rainfall, representing 236 percent of average, or 4.22 inches above average.

Water levels across SFWMD's system are adequately positioned for the rainy season, when most canals, conservation areas and other storage areas are held lower than in the dry season to accommodate wet season rainfall.

Other rainfall totals included:

- Palm Beach County recorded 6.52 inches of rain, representing 146 percent of average, or 2.05 inches above average.
- Eastern Broward County was the only area near average in South Florida, with 5.25 inches of rain, representing 105 percent of average, or 0.23 inches above average.
- Eastern Miami-Dade County recorded 6.97 inches of rain, representing 139 percent of average, or 1.95 inches above average.
- The Southwest Coast recorded 5.37 inches of rain, representing 147 percent of average, or 1.72 inches above average.

Dry Season Stats

The 2015/2016 South Florida dry season was the wettest November through May since 1957/1958 and the second wettest since recordkeeping began in 1932. District-wide, 29.49 inches of rain fell, representing 168 percent of average, or 11.98 inches above average.

All basins in SFWMD saw above-average rainfall for the dry season. Palm Beach County was the only basin to receive less than 150 percent of average rainfall, with 33.31 inches representing 144 percent of average, or 10.16 inches above average. Other basins ranged from 151 percent of average to 190 percent of average.

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages the 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.

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