



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

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### **SFWMD Moving Water from Water Conservation Area 3A to Big Cypress National Preserve to Ease Flooding**

In response to unprecedented dry-season rainfall that has filled Water Conservation Area 3A above its regulated levels, the South Florida Water Management District is pursuing a new strategy to move more water south and west out of the conservation area into the Big Cypress National Preserve.

- Two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits will allow the District to plug the L-28 tieback canal and to use the existing S-344 water control structure on the west side of the water conservation area to move up to 300 cubic feet of water per second into the Big Cypress National Preserve. The permits were expedited in response to Gov. Rick Scott's previous emergency request -- allowing the District to deviate from its previous water control schedules.
- Currently, the only outlets to move water out of the conservation area are S-12 C and D structures and S-333 along the Tamiami Trail. Two other structures, S-12 A and B, are currently blocked because of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service restrictions related to habitat. These limited available outlets, and record-setting rains have caused flooding in the conservation area. This has created a bottleneck preventing the District from moving water south and easing flooding and environmental concerns throughout South Florida.
- Moving more water out of the conservation area will not only create more capacity in the entire system to improve flood control, it will also improve wildlife habitat in the conservation area.
- Moving water into Big Cypress will help to regularly hydrate the eastern part of that preserve going forward.

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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.*