



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

OPERATIONS UPDATE

July 8, 2016

SFWMD Continues Emergency Action to Address Blue-Green Algae

Since Gov. Rick Scott declared a state of emergency because of blue-green algal blooms in the lakes, rivers and canals of South Florida, the South Florida Water Management District has been pursuing several actions to address the impact of the blooms. This includes storing additional water in the Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes north of Lake Okeechobee and in Florida Power and Light Co.'s cooling pond at the Martin Clean Energy Center near Indiantown.

Engineers at SFWMD today began an unprecedented operation to help lessen the potential of blue-green algae flowing into the Lake Worth Lagoon. The procedure involves intermittently suspending stormwater releases from the West Palm Beach (C-51) Canal along Southern Boulevard to give the lagoon time to naturally dissipate any algae that may be contained in the stormwater runoff.

The District will implement the Governor's executive order by accelerating the use of private properties to store additional water. The Florida Legislature and Gov. Scott appropriated approximately \$47.8 million for that purpose last session.

The District will continue to explore practical operational steps that can be taken to address the algal blooms. In addition, the District is continuing to sample waterways as it has been doing and is coordinating with other state agencies that are responsible for algae response.

- For more information on the District's responses to blue-green algae and facts about algae please visit the District's website at <http://sfwmd.link/AlgaeResponse>.
- For information on the Department of Environmental Protections response to blue-green algae visit the DEP's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/bgalgae/index.htm>.
- For more information about blue-green algae visit the Florida Department of Health's website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/aquatic-toxins/documents/cyano-faqs-pio.pdf>.

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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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