



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

OPERATIONS UPDATE

October 7, 2016

Regional Flood Control System Responding Well to Hurricane Matthew

Recovery efforts from the storm are underway in South Florida

West Palm Beach, FL - With recovery efforts from Hurricane Matthew underway, water managers at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) report the regional flood control system is responding as designed to move stormwater runoff as efficiently as possible.

"Although we were fortunate with this storm, the flood control system built over decades worked magnificently," said SFWMD Governing Board Chair Dan O'Keefe. "The Governing Board's commitment to the flood control system continues to pay dividends for the 8.1 million residents who live in South Florida."

SFWMD meteorologists reported District-wide average rainfall around an inch through Friday morning. The heaviest rains fell in St. Lucie, Martin and northern Palm Beach counties, with an average of 2-3 inches and local maximums of 4 inches.

Water managers continue to operate the regional system at full capacity to enhance the ability of local drainage districts, counties and municipalities to discharge any excess stormwater runoff out of secondary canals. The District is also continuing to move water out of Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 to reduce high water levels that may affect Everglades wildlife.

"The flood control system was well prepared in advance to accommodate forecasted rainfall from Hurricane Matthew," said SFWMD Chief Engineer John Mitnik. "Water managers and pump station crews worked around the clock to ensure the system performed at optimal levels."

Recovery teams have been deployed on the east coast to assess any potential damage to water management structures and canals. An assessment of infrastructure in the Kissimmee River Basin will begin later today after the storm has cleared the District's northern boundary.

In advance of Hurricane Matthew, pre-storm preparations by the District included:

- Lowering regional canal levels to create capacity for expected heavy rainfall
- Inspecting key parts of the flood control system
- Ensuring adequate fuel supplies for pump stations and other equipment
- Ready staff and equipment for storm assignments

For updates on recovery efforts from Hurricane Matthew, residents and visitors can follow the District's emergency management Twitter feed ([@SFWMD_EM](https://twitter.com/SFWMD_EM)) or visit www.sfwmd.gov.

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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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