



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# STATEMENT

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[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

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**Re: Flood Control Operations Update**

“The South Florida Water Management District completed a rare "back pumping" flood control operation at 5:30 p.m. this evening. Pumps at the S-2 and S-3 structures along the southern rim of Lake Okeechobee are now shut down after four days of operation, and no water is being sent into the lake through these structures.

“Following the wettest January day in South Florida in 25 years, SFWMD water managers initiated temporary back pumping on the evening of Jan. 27 to protect thousands of families, businesses and property in the Glades communities, where 6 inches of rain fell in 24 hours.

“The SFWMD Governing Board's policy limits back pumping operations solely for flood control purposes under emergency conditions, clearly defined in a Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit. After the Board's policy was instituted, the practice has been used only eight other times since 2008 – four of which were following impacts from tropical storms.

“Faced with record-setting rainfall this winter, SFWMD water managers have maximized the amount of water that can be safely stored in the regional system to maintain flood protection for residents and businesses throughout South Florida.

“To increase water storage and operational flexibility, the District is making steady progress with projects that will provide these much-needed benefits. These include completion and operation of the A-1 Flow Equalization Basin, ongoing construction of the C-43 and C-44 reservoirs and rehabilitation of the Ten Mile Creek Reservoir.

“Together, these and other initiatives will reduce the need for back pumping into Lake Okeechobee, reduce harmful freshwater discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries and help to restore South Florida's treasured natural systems.”

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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 manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.*