



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

www.sfwmd.gov/news

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Re: Water Levels in Water Conservation Area 3

“In coordination with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, under the leadership of Commissioner Ron Bergeron, the South Florida Water Management District, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida are working on an emergency plan to provide prompt relief for Water Conservation Areas 3A and 3B.

“These areas have been inundated with record rainfall and high stormwater inflows, resulting in extremely high water levels and causing ecological harm to wildlife in those areas. Especially impacted are deer, small mammals and wading birds that have lost food sources and safe habitats because of the high-water conditions.

“To avert widespread decimation of wildlife populations, the agencies are now formulating a plan to ease regulatory restrictions on operations, thereby improving flexibility for water managers to lower the levels in these conservation areas as soon as possible while continuing to achieve flood protection for urban and agricultural communities and providing water to benefit Everglades National Park.”

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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.