

# 2013 WATER WATCH

*Keeping an Eye on Water Resources*

## District-Wide Conditions for July 16, 2013

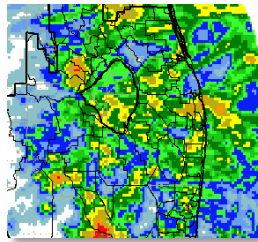
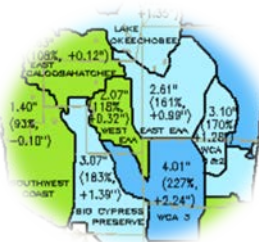
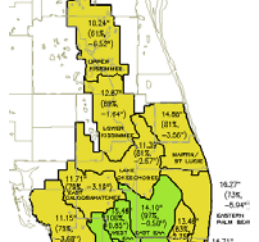
The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following briefing:

The wet season so far has brought above average rainfall throughout the 16-county region. Since June 1, the District has received 16.47 inches of rain, which is nearly 5 inches more than the historical average. Heavy rainfall has resulted in higher water levels in water conservation areas, groundwater and surface water throughout the area. The District is storing as much water as possible and maintaining canals at seasonally appropriate levels.

Water Levels in Key Locations (July 16)		
Location	Today's level	Target for this date
WCA-1	16.45 feet	15.94 feet
WCA-2	13.53 feet	11.33 feet
WCA-3	11.02 feet	9.80 feet
Lake Kissimmee	51.03 feet	51.00 feet
Lake Istokpoga	38.09 feet	38.25 feet

### Rainy Season Readiness

- Flood control is achieved through an interconnected drainage system. Neighborhood ditches, swales and conduits carry excess stormwater to secondary canals operated by local water control districts, cities or counties. These secondary canals connect and carry excess water to the SFWMD's primary regional canal system.
- Residents, property managers and homeowners associations are encouraged to:
  - Keep ditches, swales, drainage grates and retention lakes clear of debris
  - Know whether a nearby canal is an SFWMD primary regional canal or a secondary canal maintained by a local municipality or drainage district
  - Make sure trees or other vegetation do not encroach on canal right-of-way

Track the Wet Season with SFWMD Online Weather Resources		
<p><b>Near Real-Time Raindar</b></p> 	<p><b>Monthly Rainfall</b></p> 	<p><b>Seasonal Rainfall</b></p> 
Displays rain gauge-adjusted radar estimates	Tracks monthly basin rainfall, updating daily	Provides seasonal rainfall amounts by basin
<p><i>Click on the graphics above, or see more SFWMD weather data <a href="#">here</a>.</i></p>		

## Lake Okeechobee Operations

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages Lake Okeechobee water levels with the goal of balancing flood control, public safety, navigation, water supply and ecological health. The Corps bases operational decisions – whether to retain or release water in the massive lake – on its regulation schedule and the best available science and data provided by its staff and a variety of partners, including SFWMD.
  - Adaptive Protocols serve as a guiding document for SFWMD water managers to make recommendations that provide for distribution of water between permitted users and natural systems such as the St. Lucie Estuary and the Caloosahatchee Estuary.
  - SFWMD makes an operational recommendation each week based on conditions. The July 10 Operational Position Statement is available [here](#).
  - SFWMD is working with the Corps and other federal, state and local partners on a [variety of strategies](#) to improve the health of the St. Lucie Estuary. Visit [www.sfwmd.gov/stlucie](http://www.sfwmd.gov/stlucie).
  - SFWMD considers protection and improvement of the Caloosahatchee watershed an agency priority. Visit [www.sfwmd.gov/caloosahatchee](http://www.sfwmd.gov/caloosahatchee).

Lake Okeechobee Levels	
Today (July 16)	15.01 feet
Historical Average for Today	13.59 feet
This Date One Year Ago	11.98 feet

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**Media inquiries can be directed to:**

**Randy Smith**

South Florida Water Management District

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