

2013 WATER WATCH

Keeping an Eye on Water Resources

District-Wide Conditions for August 9, 2013

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

The 16-county South Florida region experienced the wettest April-to-July stretch since recordkeeping began in 1932. As a result, water levels are high in Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 and in Lake Okeechobee as well as in groundwater and surface water levels throughout the region.

The District is operating the water management system to maximize flood control, especially as the region is entering the peak of hurricane season. The District is storing as much water as possible in an effort to reduce discharges to coastal estuaries.

Water Levels in Key Locations (August 9)		
Location	Today's level	Target for this date
East Lake Tohopekaliga	57.14 feet	56.50 feet
S-65C on Kissimmee River	35.31 feet	34.37 feet
WCA-2	13.54 feet	11.85 feet
WCA-3	11.57 feet	9.96 feet

Water Storage

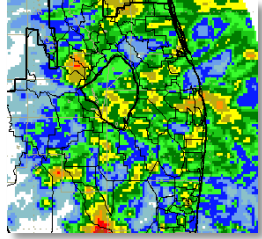
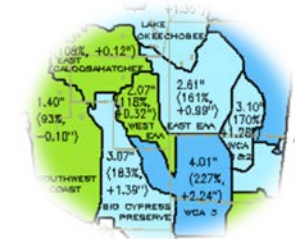
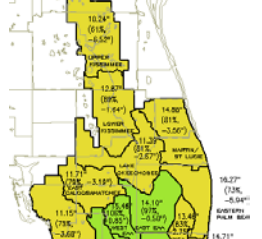
- The SFWMD has taken strategic steps to add temporary water storage across the regional flood control system. A new web page with project descriptions, emergency actions, a comprehensive map, a fact sheet and links to related information provides details on these efforts. Visit the [Water Storage Strategies web page](#).

Coastal Estuaries

- The SFWMD is working with federal, state and local partners on a [variety of strategies](#) to improve the health of the St. Lucie Estuary. Visit www.sfwmd.gov/stlucie.
- The SFWMD is working with federal, state and local partners on a [variety of strategies](#) to improve the health of the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Visit www.sfwmd.gov/caloosahatchee.

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. Secondary canals 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>Near Real-Time Raindar</p> 	<p>Monthly Rainfall</p> 	<p>Seasonal Rainfall</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 here.</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 and Caloosahatchee estuaries.
 - SFWMD makes an operational recommendation each week based on conditions. The most recent Operational Position Statement is available [here](#).

Lake Okeechobee Levels	
Today (August 9)	16.04 feet
Historical Average for Today	13.87 feet
This Date One Year Ago	12.15 feet

Navigation

- The S-310 navigational lock is closed from 9 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. due to higher water levels in Lake Okeechobee. Additionally, the lock is operated by a lock tender from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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