

2013 WATER WATCH

Keeping an Eye on Water Resources

District-Wide Conditions for August 21, 2013

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

The first few weeks of August have provided a respite from the above average rainfall of the previous four months. Water levels across the District are beginning to drop closer to preferred wet season targets. However, Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 and Lake Okeechobee as well as many groundwater and surface water levels remain high.

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 21)		
Location	Today's level	Target for this date
East Lake Tohopekaliga	56.75 feet	56.50 feet
S-65C on Kissimmee River	35.42 feet	34.55 feet
WCA-2	13.20 feet	12.09 feet
WCA-3	11.26 feet	10.03 feet

Water Storage

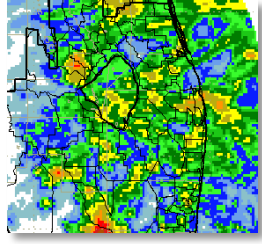
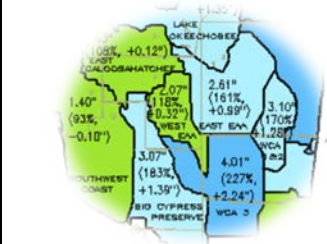
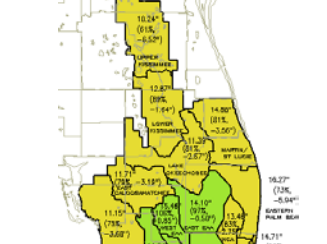
- The SFWMD has taken strategic steps to add temporary water storage across the regional flood control system. A new web page with project descriptions, emergency actions, a comprehensive map, a fact sheet and links to related information provides details on these efforts. Visit www.sfwmd.gov/storage.

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 storm water 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.
 - SFWMD makes an operational recommendation each week based on conditions. The most recent Operational Position Statement is available [here](#).

Lake Okeechobee Levels	
Today (August 21)	15.70 feet
Historical Average for Today	14.05 feet
This Date One Year Ago	12.20 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.
- Additional information on navigational locks in the region can be found at www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

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