

# 2013 WATER WATCH

*Keeping an Eye on Water Resources*

## District-Wide Conditions for September 25, 2013

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

Water levels across South Florida are once again rising after heavy rainfall during the past seven days left areas on the east and southwest coasts with local maximums of 4 to 8 inches of rain. Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 and Lake Okeechobee, as well as key groundwater and surface water levels, remain high following an above-average start to the wet season.

The District continues to operate the water management system to maximize flood control, especially as the region remains in the peak of hurricane season. The District also continues to store as much water as possible in an effort to reduce discharges to coastal estuaries.

Water Levels in Key Locations (September 25)		
Location	Today's level	Target for this date
East Lake Tohopekaliga	56.99 feet	56.88 feet
WCA-2	13.66 feet	12.87 feet
WCA-3	11.10 feet	10.27 feet

### Water Storage

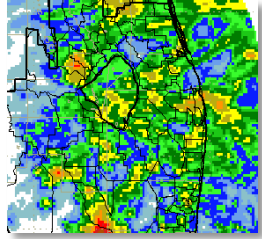
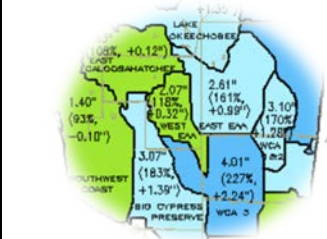
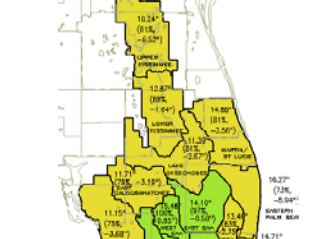
- The SFWMD has taken numerous steps to add temporary water storage across the regional flood control system. A web page with project descriptions, emergency storage actions, comprehensive map, fact sheet and links to related information provides details on these efforts. Visit [www.sfwmd.gov/storage](http://www.sfwmd.gov/storage).

### Coastal Estuaries

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

### Rainy Season Readiness

- Flood control in South Florida 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 then 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 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 at [www.sfwmd.gov/opsreports](http://www.sfwmd.gov/opsreports).

Lake Okeechobee Levels	
<b>Today (Sept. 25)</b>	<b>15.90 feet</b>
<b>Historical Average for Today</b>	<b>14.72 feet</b>
<b>This Date One Year Ago</b>	<b>15.38 feet</b>

**Navigation**

- The S-310 navigational lock is closed from 9 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. due to high 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](http://www.sfwmd.gov/recreation).

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