

2013 WATER WATCH

Keeping an Eye on Water Resources

District-Wide Conditions for October 7, 2013

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

Water levels across South Florida are at or near their target levels for this time of year, although heavy rainfall during the past week caused localized flooding along both coasts. Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 and Lake Okeechobee 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 months of hurricane season. The District also continues to store as much water as possible and move water south in an effort to reduce discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

Moving Water South from Lake Okeechobee (October 7)		
Gravity releases divert water away from St. Lucie, Caloosahatchee		
Location	September	May to Date
West Palm Beach Canal	12,911 acre-feet	43,873 acre-feet
Hillsboro/North New River	0 acre-feet	12,473 acre-feet
Culvert 10 to L-8 Canal	18,677 acre-feet	64,263 acre-feet
Miami Canal	0 acre-feet	14,707 acre-feet

Water Storage

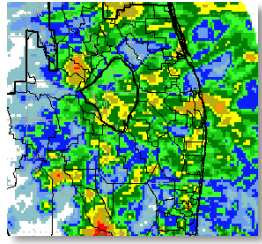
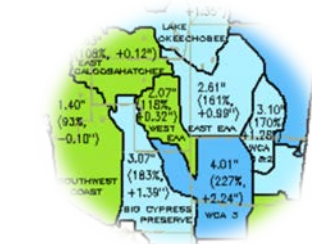
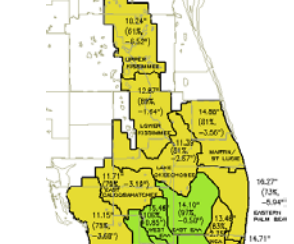
- The SFWMD has taken numerous steps to add temporary water storage across the regional flood control system. A web page with project descriptions, emergency storage actions, comprehensive map, fact sheet and links to related information provides details on these efforts. Visit www.sfwmd.gov/storage.

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.
- 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.

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>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 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.

Lake Okeechobee Levels	
Today (Oct. 7)	15.76 feet
Historical Average for Today	14.97 feet
This Date One Year Ago	15.80 feet

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.

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