

Weekly Update: December 21, 2005



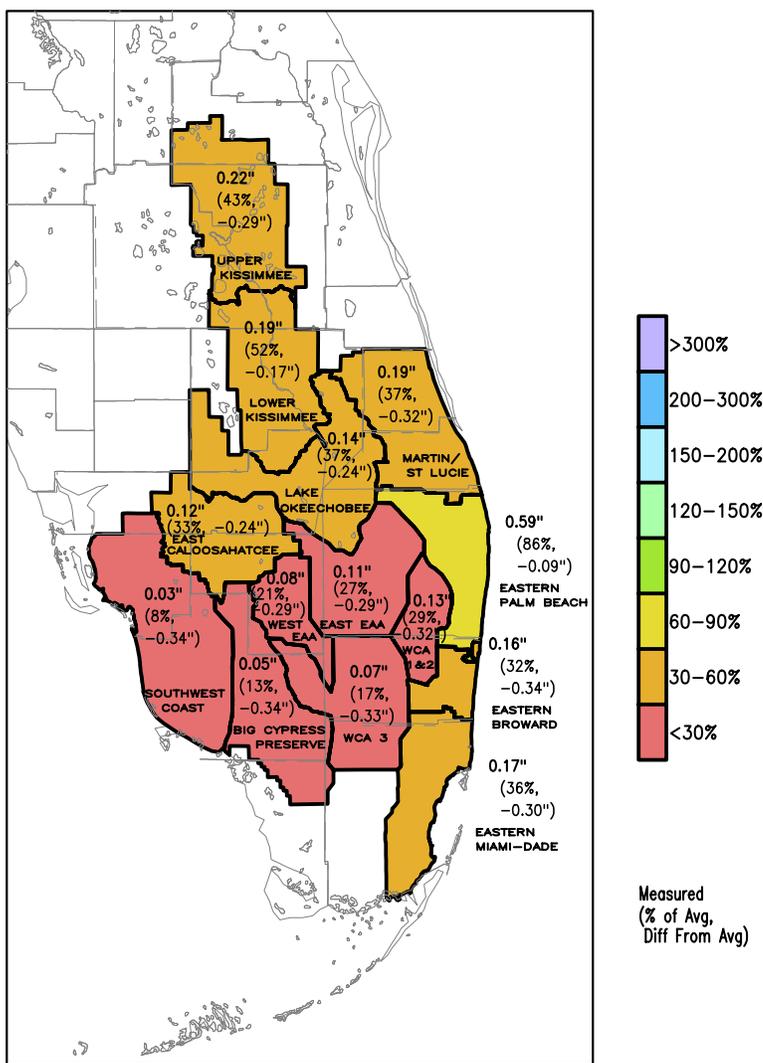
State of the Water Management System

To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.

just the FACTs

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

SFWM District Rainfall
14-DEC-2005 to 20-DEC-2005



DISTRICT-WIDE: 0.15" (35%, -0.28")

GRADS: COLA/IGES

2005-12-20-19:02

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was less than 1/4".
- The rainfall outlook for the next 7 days is for below average conditions north and west of Lake Okeechobee and average for south and east of Lake Okeechobee.



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System-wide overview:

Rainfall last week was estimated to be about 0.15" District-wide. Rainfall for the month is 0.63" or 50% of normal, and rainfall for the last 30 days was approximately 100% of normal. The rainfall outlook for the next 10 days is for below average conditions north and west of Lake Okeechobee and average for south and east of Lake Okeechobee.

Lake Okeechobee — Lake level is at 15.98 ft NGVD, down 0.29 ft since last week. The lake is 0.39 ft higher today than it was on this date last year. At the current lake stage there is no light reaching the lake bottom in the zone of potential submerged aquatic vegetation growth.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin — During the last 7 days, the upper basin received 0.21" of rainfall to bring the 30-day total to 2.69" or 118% of normal. The lower basin received 0.15", which brings the 30-day total to 1.86" or 105% of normal. Levels in the upper basin lakes approximate their respective regulation schedules. Much of the floodplain remains inundated but some areas are beginning to dry out.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries — Salinity increased in the St. Lucie Estuary last week. Salt water moved further up the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Conditions in the estuaries remain poor.

Water Conservation Areas — During the past week, the water conservation areas received up to 0.5" of rain. WCA-1 remains below regulation schedule. WCA-2A remains above regulation schedule, but water releases are planned to reduce levels. WCA-3A has declined by 0.08 ft in the north and by 0.15 ft in the south, but at an average of 10.63 ft, has almost met regulation levels. Continued maximum decreases have reduced water levels in southern WCA-3A to 2.97 ft, below the 3.0 ft level for the first time since last spring.

Everglades National Park — Everglades National Park received from 0.25" up to 2" locally. Water levels continue to decline slowly across the Park's wetlands. Water depths have not changed much in the southwest area of the Park. Since early December, water depths have declined by 0.16 ft at the Park's Taylor River station.

Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the park. The map on page one captures District rain gauge data only.

Florida Bay — Salinity remains fairly low across much of Florida Bay. Salinity in areas to the west, in the north central Bay, increased sharply over the last few days. This rapid increase may be a result of Bay water being pushed into these shallow basins, but with many Bay stations remaining offline, wider trends are difficult to discern.

* SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.

State of the Water Management System

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Other District News and Happenings — During the past week, the District:

- Awarded three Acceler8 construction contracts at the Dec. 14 Governing Board meeting for STA 2 Cell 4, STA 5 Flow-way 3 and for a C-43 reservoir test cell.
- Completed an important phase of the Ten-Mile Creek Restoration Project by setting in place the pre-cast for the Ten Mile Creek control building
- Presented the Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery plan to the Glades County Commission and the Jupiter, Tequesta, Juno Beach Chamber of Commerce Business Legislative Forum
- Completed the Fiscal Year 06 Budget-in-Brief