

Weekly Update: January 3, 2007



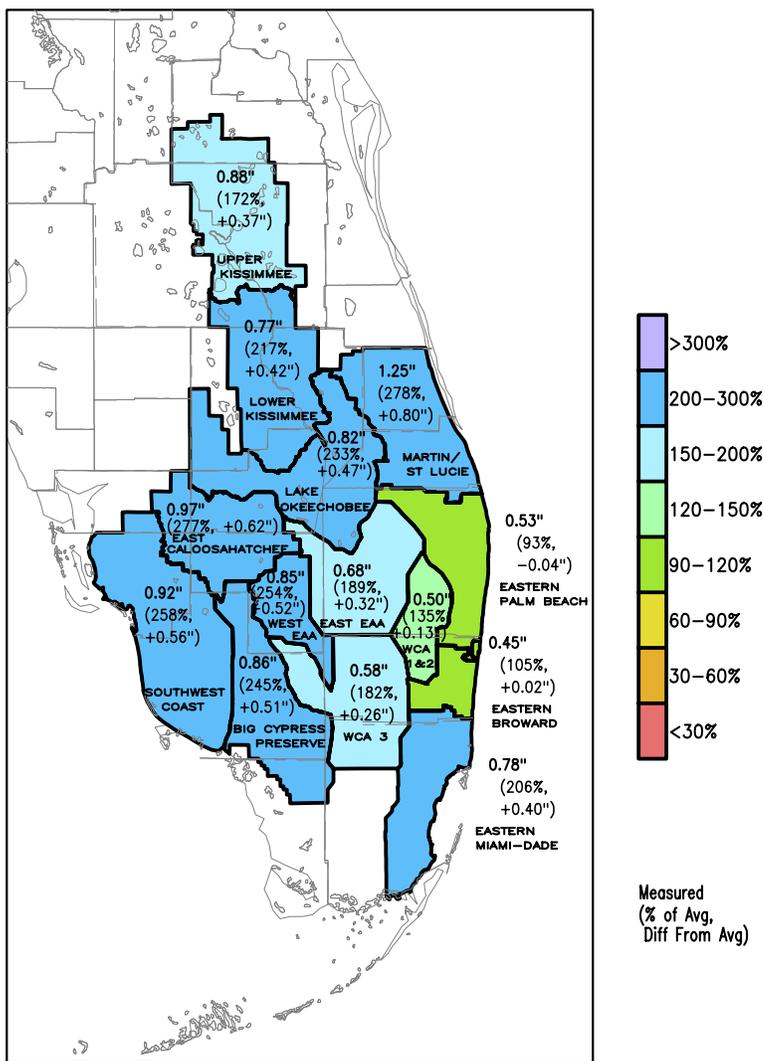
*just the*  
**FACTs**

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

**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.*

SFWM District Rainfall  
26-DEC-2006 to 01-JAN-2007



**DISTRICT-WIDE: 0.83" (213%, +0.44")**

GrADS: COLA/IGES

2007-01-02-15:02



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**Rainfall overview:**

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was less than 1 inch.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for below average rainfall.

## State of the Water Management System

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### System-wide overview:

As a result of the holiday week rain events, water level conditions generally improved throughout the District. Groundwater conditions within most of the District are now near historical averages – although the Upper East Coast area is still below historic averages. The forecast is for average rainfall north of Lake Okeechobee and below average rainfall south of Lake Okeechobee.

**Lake Okeechobee** — The lake stage is approximately 12.12 feet NGVD 29 (10.82 feet NAVD 88), with no change since this date last week. Surface inflows are 328 cubic feet per second (cfs). Surface outflows are 34 cfs. Rains received during the past few days may impact lake levels as the majority of the rainfall was north and west of the lake.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin** — The 30-day rainfall total for the upper basin is 2.91 inches of rain, which is 126 percent of the long-term average. The 30-day rainfall total for the lower basin is 1.68 inches, which is 105 percent of the long-term average. All of the lakes remain below regulation schedule.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries** — In the St. Lucie Estuary, no discharges occurred at S-80 during the past week. All salinity readings are within the preferred range, and salinity conditions in the estuary are good. The environmental releases to the Caloosahatchee Estuary that began on Dec. 16 continue with a goal of maintaining a discharge of 250 cfs at S-79 from a combination of releases from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-43 Basin. These discharges should produce a surface salinity of 10 parts per thousand (ppt) at the I-75 Bridge. During the past week, discharge at S-79 has averaged 406 cfs with 85 percent supplied by runoff from the C-43 Basin. Although salinity remains high in much of the upper estuary, the target of 10 ppt at the I-75 Bridge was achieved for the week. Salinity conditions in the lower estuary and San Carlos Bay are good.

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)** — Rainfall accumulations for the last seven days were very low, averaging between 0.03 and 0.04 inches across the entire Everglades. WCA-1 decreased by only .05 feet/week and currently has an average marsh depth of 1.5 feet. WCA-2A remained stable at a water depth of 1.1 feet. WCA-3A and WCA-3B decreased by only .07 feet during the last two weeks. Depths still range from only 0.47 feet in the northwest of WCA-3A to 2.48 feet in the southern region of WCA-3A. WCA-1 and WCA-3 continue to be below the regulation schedule. WCA-2A remains above regulation.

**Everglades National Park** — Water levels displayed mixed trends across the Park wetlands for the week, due in part to the patchy distribution of the rainfall. In the panhandle, water levels were up by nearly 0.5 inches. To the west at Craighead Pond where precipitation was lighter for the week, the water level was down by nearly 0.4 inches. For the past two weeks, though, the trend has been fairly stable, compared to the more pronounced recessions we usually see this time of year.

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

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\* 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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**Florida Bay** — The cumulative weekly discharge from Trout into Florida Bay was just above the seasonal weekly average. These conditions yielded decreasing salinity concentrations in this area for most of the week. Last week's cumulative flow through Taylor River was also close to the seasonal weekly average for this station. Negative flows were measured in late December at the Taylor River mouth causing the salinity in the Taylor River ponds to increase. Salinity levels have since dropped at these stations due the rain and wind direction.

**Area Water Restrictions** — Total rainfall through the first 11 months of 2006 currently ranks as the second-lowest on record at only 38.35 inches District-wide, approximately 77 percent of the historical average and very nearly equal to the record low of 38.31 inches set during the first 11 months of 1938.

In addition, rain patterns that disproportionately favored southern and southwestern portions of the District have left many areas to the north and northeast in 1-in-25-year dry spells. This is a concern because low rainfall at the top of the system typically means less water is available for storage and consumption District-wide.

At present, the water level of Lake Okeechobee, a bellwether measurement of the District's water supply, is more than three feet – or 21 percent – below its historical average for this time of year. This, too, is a concern because the lake serves as the region's primary back-up water supply.

*Mandatory Phase 1* water restrictions remain in force for the Lake Okeechobee Service Area as well as the Northern Indian Prairie Basin, which comprise the Everglades Agricultural Area, portions of Hendry, Glades, Lee, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and Martin Counties, as well as agricultural areas to the south of Lake Istokpoga in Highlands County.

Classified as *moderate* water shortage declarations, these orders predominantly impact agricultural, industrial and commercial water users as well as public water supply utilities in these areas; withdrawals from the Caloosahatchee River; and a relatively small number of residential users whose water source is Lake Okeechobee or any of the surface water canals recharged by the lake.

A formal water shortage warning remains in place for the District's Lower East Coast Service Area, which comprises Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and eastern Palm Beach Counties. Though no mandatory water restrictions have been issued as part of this warning, the District is encouraging both residential and agricultural water users here to voluntarily reduce their water consumption as a preemptive measure to avoid or forestall potential water shortage orders and mandatory water restrictions later in the dry season.

More information is available at [www.sfwmd.gov/shortage](http://www.sfwmd.gov/shortage).



## State of the Water Management System

**Weekly Update:** January 3, 2007 (page 4)

### **Other District News and Happenings —**

- The District received permit approval last week from the state Department of Environmental Protection to begin operating new pumps that will take the town of Wellington's storm water away from the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The water will be sent to a nearby 6,500-acre natural marsh treatment area. The pumps and added canals cost more than \$5 million and are part of a \$13.5 million drainage project planned for the area.
- The District is soliciting for a new series of general engineering services. A pre-proposal conference was held in December. The selected vendors will provide engineering, design, and construction management services for projects ranging from Acceler8 to Lake Okeechobee restoration to major operations and maintenance projects. The original deadline for submissions was extended from Jan. 11 to Feb. 6 at 2:30 p.m. due to a large volume of requests from vendors.
- On Aug. 3, 2006, the District's Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program became effective. Only four months into the program, the District achieved its goal of having 500 businesses certified as SBEs, and that number continues to grow. To generate this high level of interest in the program, staff planned and implemented an aggressive marketing and business development plan. Additionally, the first solicitation including the new SBE Program competitive solicitation preferences was the Information Technology solicitation, which received 56 proposals, 31 of which appear to be certified SBEs proposing as primes.