

Weekly Update: April 26, 2006



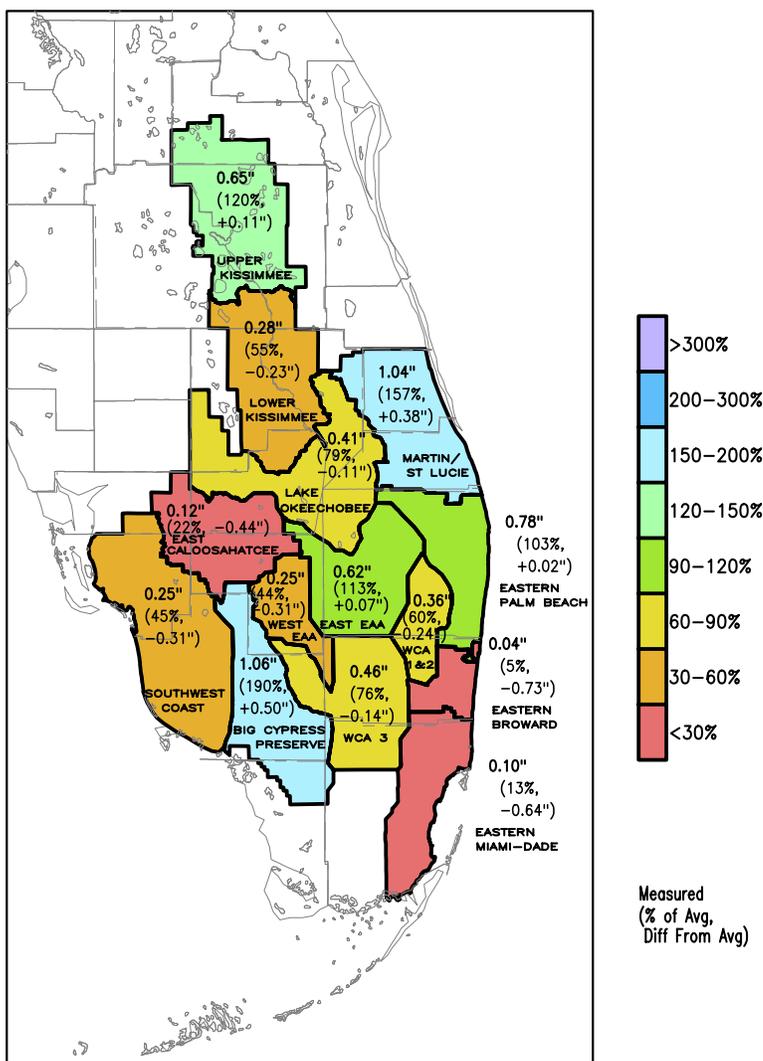
## State of the Water Management System

*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  
19-APR-2006 to 25-APR-2006



**DISTRICT-WIDE: 0.50" (86%, -0.08")**

GRADS: COLA/IGES

2006-04-25-13:02

#### Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 1/2 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for below average rainfall.



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## State of the Water Management System

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### System-wide overview:

This past week, 0.02 to 0.11 inches of rain fell District-wide. Rainfall for the last 30 days has been 47% of normal. Below average rainfall is anticipated over the next 12-15 days District-wide.

**Lake Okeechobee** — The Lake stage is approximately 13.78 feet NGVD 29 (12.48 feet NAVD 88), down 0.22 feet since this day last week and 1.06 feet lower than on this date last year.\* Monthly routine biomonitoring of submerged aquatic vegetation and algal blooms for the month of May will begin next week.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin** — In the last seven days, the upper basin received 0.65 inches resulting in a 30-day total of 1.41 inches, which is 55% of normal. The lower basin received 0.28 inches of rainfall during this same period, which resulted in a 30-day total of 0.59 inches or 25% of normal. The spring recession for the upper basin lakes continues. Discharges continued from East Lake Tohopekaliga at S-59 and from Lake Tohopekaliga at S-61.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries** — Modified level-1 pulse releases to both estuaries ended on April 24. Water sampling occurred in both estuaries last week. The dissolved oxygen concentrations in the St. Lucie are good. Water clarity in the North Fork and lower estuary is good. In the Caloosahatchee, both dissolved oxygen and water clarity are good. Salinity conditions in both estuaries are good.

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)** — Places within the Greater Everglades, received as much as 2.0 inches of rain; however, most regions received between 0.25 and 0.75 inches. Despite relatively heavy rain in places, recession rates were good across the entire Everglades, and depths are dropping below one foot in many regions making the sloughs good for foraging by long-legged wading birds such as Wood Storks and Great Egrets. All the WCAs are slightly below regulation.

**Everglades National Park** — Rainfall was spotty across the Park last week. The highest wetland accumulations were out west in Shark River Slough with slightly more than 1.0 inch. At Taylor Slough Bridge, weekly totals were close to 0.4 inches, while just to the east in the panhandle, only trace amounts of precipitation were measured. Despite the rainfall, wetland water levels continue to decline.

*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** — Most of Florida Bay received little or no rain during the past week, and salinity increased in most areas.

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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.

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**Keetch-Byram drought index** — This is used by the Florida Division of Forestry to indicate soil dryness. The scale ranges from zero (no moisture deficit) to 800, which means moisture is not found for eight inches below the soil. It is based on daily rainfall and temperature measurements, and increases for each day without rainfall. High values of the KBDI are an indication that conditions are favorable for the occurrence and spread of wildfires. The index can be viewed at [http://www.fl-dof.com/fire\\_weather/KBDI/](http://www.fl-dof.com/fire_weather/KBDI/). The April 25 KBDI average for the District's 16 counties is 567 -- an increase of 7 points since last week -- with a minimum of 14 in Orange, Osceola and Monroe counties and a maximum of 747 in Palm Beach County.

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

- The District received the draft permit and signed Notice of Intent to Issue from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Phase 2 construction of the G-161 Northlake Boulevard Structure. This structure will provide the final link for the connection between the L-8 Reservoir at the Palm Beach Aggregates site, helping to maintain healthy flow in the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. The draft permit will be finalized after the 21-day public comment period.
- The District received its U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit authorizing the construction on the C-1 Canal and Pump Station associated with the Acceler8 Acme Basin B project.
- This week, the District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host ribbon cutting ceremonies for two projects designed to improve the health of Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie River estuary and the Indian River Lagoon. The ceremonies mark the milestone construction completion of two of the nine Critical Restoration Projects authorized by Congress in 1996 to provide benefits to the south Florida ecosystem. The Water Retention and Phosphorous Removal Project encompasses two Stormwater Treatment Areas north of Lake Okeechobee, one at Taylor Creek and one at Nubbin Slough. This project will help to improve the quality of water flowing into Lake Okeechobee. The Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area Project will provide relief to the St. Lucie River from damaging freshwater discharges and will enhance the ability to maintain appropriate salinities in the North Fork Aquatic Preserve.

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Did you know the South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply? Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Doris Urban at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6202.