

Weekly Update: October 18, 2006



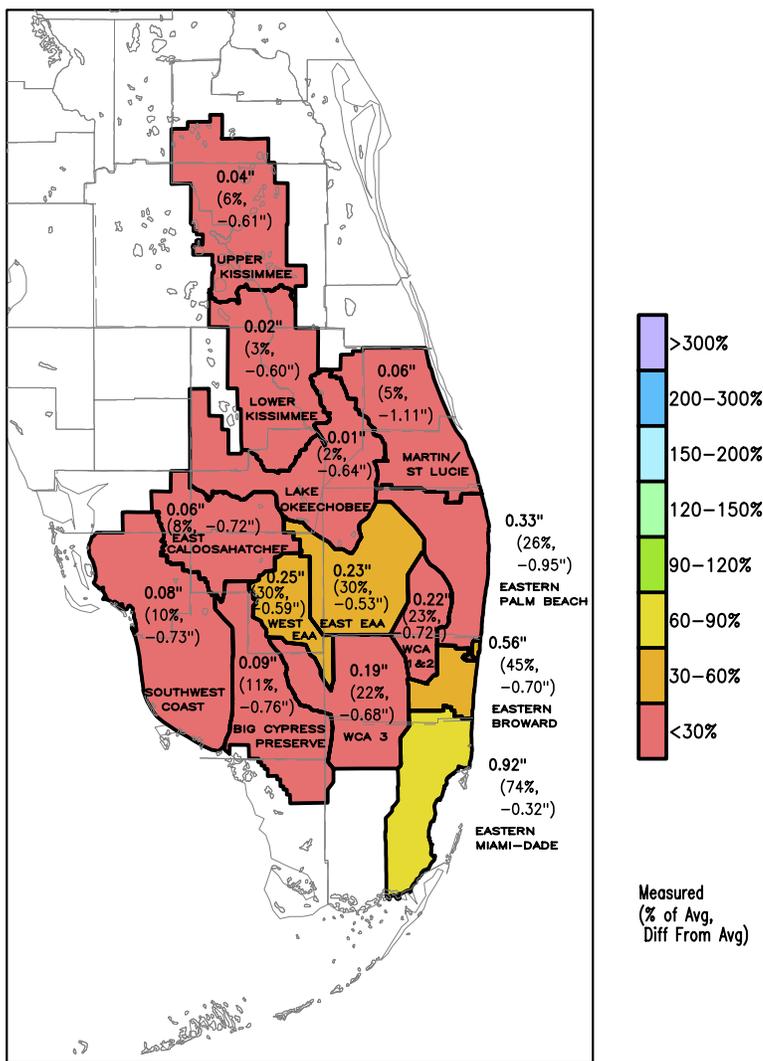
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FACTs

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
11-OCT-2006 to 17-OCT-2006



DISTRICT-WIDE: 0.16" (19%, -0.69")

GrADS: COLA/IGES

2006-10-17-13:02

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was approximately .16 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for below average rainfall.



sfwmd.gov
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
561-686-8800 FL WATS 1-800-432-2045
www.sfwmd.gov
MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

State of the Water Management System

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System-wide overview:

Dry air is over the District, but moisture will quickly return to the area Tuesday morning as an old frontal boundary returns north. Rainfall is predicted to be below average over the next 10 days. The October through December Climate Prediction Center outlook does not indicate any shift from normal probabilities for wet, normal or dry conditions.

Lake Okeechobee — The lake stage is estimated to be approximately 13.05 feet NGVD 29 (11.75 feet NAVD 88), down 0.15 feet since this date last week. Surface inflows are 88 cubic feet per second. Surface outflows are 1,211 cubic feet per second. Visual observations during bloom monitoring on Oct. 10 found no significant bloom activity. Bulrush monitoring indicated continuing appearance of new bulrush stems. Continued low lake levels are anticipated to maximize the potential for the persistence, or continued recovery, of submerged aquatic vegetation in the lake.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin — During the last seven days, the upper basin received 0.04 inches of rain to bring the 30-day total to .91 inches, which is 20 percent of the long-term average. The lower basin received 0.02 inches of rain to bring the 30-day total to 1.06 inches, which is 25 percent of the long-term average. In the upper basin, lake stages appear stable but are likely to begin dropping without more rain. Lake Kissimmee is approximately 2.7 feet below schedule. Releases of approximately 150 cubic feet per second continue to be made from Lake Toho and passed through Lake Kissimmee for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. Lake Toho stage is dropping and is 1.35 feet below regulation. Concentration of dissolved oxygen in the restored river channel has improved substantially after several weeks of extremely low values.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries — In the St. Lucie Estuary, no releases were made at S-80 in the last week. Inflows from C-23 and C-24 were negligible. Salinity conditions are good. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, small discharges at S-79 occurred on two days last week for a weekly average of 31 cubic feet per second. The 30-day average stands at 1,019 cubic feet per second and is within the preferred range. Salinity conditions are good throughout the Caloosahatchee Estuary and San Carlos Bay.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) — Rainfall accumulations for the week were slight, especially in comparison to the average pan evaporation rate for the past week in WCA-3A of 1.49 inches. The weekly total rainfall in WCA-1 was only 0.2 inches, WCA-2 received only 0.09 inches, WCA-3A received the most rain (0.43 inches), and WCA-3B received 0.37 inches. Due to the low amount of rain, the Everglades water levels decreased almost everywhere for the third consecutive week. The most significant decline was in WCA-3A where water depths have now decreased from a high of 3.39 feet some four weeks ago, to 2.38 feet today. Water levels have remained steady in northeast Shark River Slough and WCA-3B for the last three weeks due to relatively high flows through S-151 and the S-12s. All three WCAs are at different water levels relative to their regulation schedules. WCA-1 is below its regulation schedule, WCA-2A is at regulation, and WCA-3A is slightly above regulation.

* 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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Everglades National Park — The Park received about 0.37 inches of rain. Park data gaps have generally been fixed since last week, with the exception of Taylor Slough Bridge, which remains offline. Water levels displayed mixed trends for the week. In Shark River Slough, there continued to be very little change in water level. However, the water stage in the panhandle, dropped by 0.6 inches for the week and over the past 40 days, water level has dropped by just over 0.5 feet at Craighead Pond just west of Taylor Slough. This fast recession is occurring earlier in the season than expected and will need to be monitored.

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 at Trout Creek remained fairly high for most of last week. Salinity at the Taylor River mouth increased, though salinity in the Taylor River ponds remained unaffected. To the west of Taylor River and Lake Madeira, salinity concentrations in McCormick Creek and Terrapin Bay increased substantially in comparison to the concentrations measured just three weeks ago. In the Shark River Slough outflow at Tarpon Bay, salinity concentrations increased for the first time since June, and it is somewhat early in the dry season to get increasing salinity in this area.

Other District News and Happenings —

- The pricing of the South Florida Water Management District Certificates of Participation will take place in New York on Oct. 24 and 25. All individual purchases of Series 2006 Certificates will be made in denominations of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof.
- With \$18 million in matching funds from the state, the District Governing Board approved \$40.5 million last week to help communities in South Florida build alternative water supply projects. When completed, these projects will collectively provide 238.5 million gallons of additional water per day, protecting freshwater supplies by enhancing alternative sources. Over one-quarter of that water, 63.1 million gallons per day, is expected to be available as early as next year.
- More than 400 people and 50 exhibitors attended the Acceler8 Construction Symposium held last week at Florida Gulf Coast University. The all-day event for construction contractors, specialty contractors, vendors and work-force development agencies provided information on the \$1.8 billion construction program for *Acceler8*, a group of eight fast-tracked projects needed for Everglades restoration.

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.