

STATE OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Weekly Update

February 07, 2007



Mission Statement:

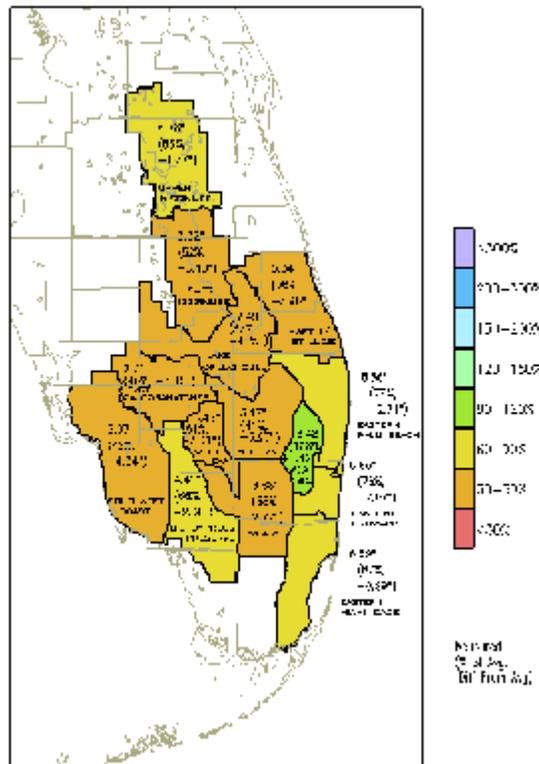
To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.

District News and Happenings

- The Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight met at District headquarters on February 5 to discuss Everglades Restoration. District Executive Director Carol Wehle gave a presentation on the District's progress to date and identified some of the challenges we face. Members of the public also attended and provided the legislators with input.
- On March 7, from 5-7 p.m., the District will hold an Acceler8 Pre-Solicitation meeting. The District is in the process of pre-qualifying firms for the construction of the next two major reservoir projects, C-44 and C-43.

District Rainfall

SFWMD Rainfall
02-FEB-2007 to 08-FEB-2007



DISTRICT-WIDE: 4.53" (61%, -2.92")



South Florida Water Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 0.46 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for below average rainfall.

System-wide overview:

The District received 0.46 inches of rain this past week. For the past 30 days, District-wide rainfall was 1.0 inch, which is 50 percent of normal. Many areas to the north and northeast of the District continue to experience 1-in-25-year dry spells, as District-wide rainfall for January 2007 averaged only 0.65 inches – 30 percent of the historical average for that month. Despite the presence of a weak-to-moderate El Niño, which historically signals a wetter-than-normal dry season for Central and Southern Florida, District meteorologists have recorded a total of only 4.06 inches of District-wide rainfall from November 2006 through January 2007, the first half of the current dry season. For this three-month period, this total is 59 percent of the historical average rainfall and approximately half the rainfall normally associated with El Niño weather events. Consequently, water supply indices across the District have dropped to troublingly low levels. The precipitation outlook for the next 10 days is below average.

Lake Okeechobee:

The lake stage is approximately 11.55 feet NGVD 29 (10.25 feet NAVD 88), and is 0.15 feet lower than it was on this date last week and 0.56 feet lower than it was a month ago. The current level of the lake is approximately 1 foot higher than the level recorded on this date in 2001, the year of one of the area's worst droughts on record. Surface inflows are 6 cubic feet per second (cfs). Surface outflows are 623 cfs. With the low water levels and the dormancy of the native buttonbush, crews were able to selectively treat 1,300 acres of torpedograss over the weekend. Another 2,000 are expected to be treated this week, weather permitting.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

The upper basin received 0.85 inches of rain over the last seven days to bring the 30-day total to 2.48 inches, which is 105 percent of the long-term average. The lower basin received 0.48 inches of rain to bring the 30-day total to 1.08 inches, which is 58 percent of the long-term average. Lake stages increased only slightly with the additional rainfall in the last seven days. In most lakes, the stage remains between the upper (high pool) and lower (low pool) limits of their respective regulation schedules and is below schedule for this time of year. Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel are 0.18 feet above schedule. To lower Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel back to schedule, small releases are being made through S-57 to Lakes Hart and Mary Jane. No other releases are being made in the system. Last week's rainfall has helped stabilize water levels within the area of Phase I of Kissimmee River Restoration Project.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

In the St. Lucie Estuary, no releases occurred at S-80 or S-308 during the past week. Salinity readings changed slightly, but remain within the preferred range, and salinity conditions in the estuary are good. The environmental releases to the Caloosahatchee Estuary that began on December 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. During the past week, discharge at S-79 has averaged 249 cfs with 100 percent supplied by releases from Lake Okeechobee. Salinity in the upper estuary remains high, but releases from S-79 continue to moderate concentrations. Salinity conditions in the lower estuary and San Carlos Bay are good.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Recession rates slowed for a second week due to rainfall. When coupled with depth readings, areas found to be poor for foraging continue to be WCA-3B, WCA-2B, and southern WCA-1. Depths are ranging from a low of 0.29 feet in northwest WCA-3A to a high of 2.16 feet in southern WCA-3A. As been the case since November, WCA-1 and WCA-3 continue to be below the regulation schedule, while WCA-2A remains above regulation schedule. February 5 was the first of the District's 2007 monthly flights of the WCAs to observe and track bird colonies. As expected, there were very few birds nesting yet this early in the

season, but there were large numbers of birds foraging in various parts the system.

Everglades National Park:

Higher rainfall accumulations were measured in stations to the west, while stations to the south and east picked up less than 0.5 inches of rain for the week. This rainfall had little effect on declining water levels in the Park wetlands. Water levels across Park appear to be particularly low for this time in the dry season and are near decadal lows at Shark River Slough and Craighead Pond.

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

Florida Bay:

Salinity concentrations were stable in most areas of the Bay.

Area Water Restrictions:

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.

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.

For additional information, area residents are encouraged to call the District's toll-free Water Conservation Hotline at 1-800-662-8876 or contact their regional service center. Helpful water conservation tips are available at <http://www.sfwmd.gov/site/index.php?id=52>

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 Niki Spencer at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6004.

** 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.*