

Weekly Update: April 5, 2006



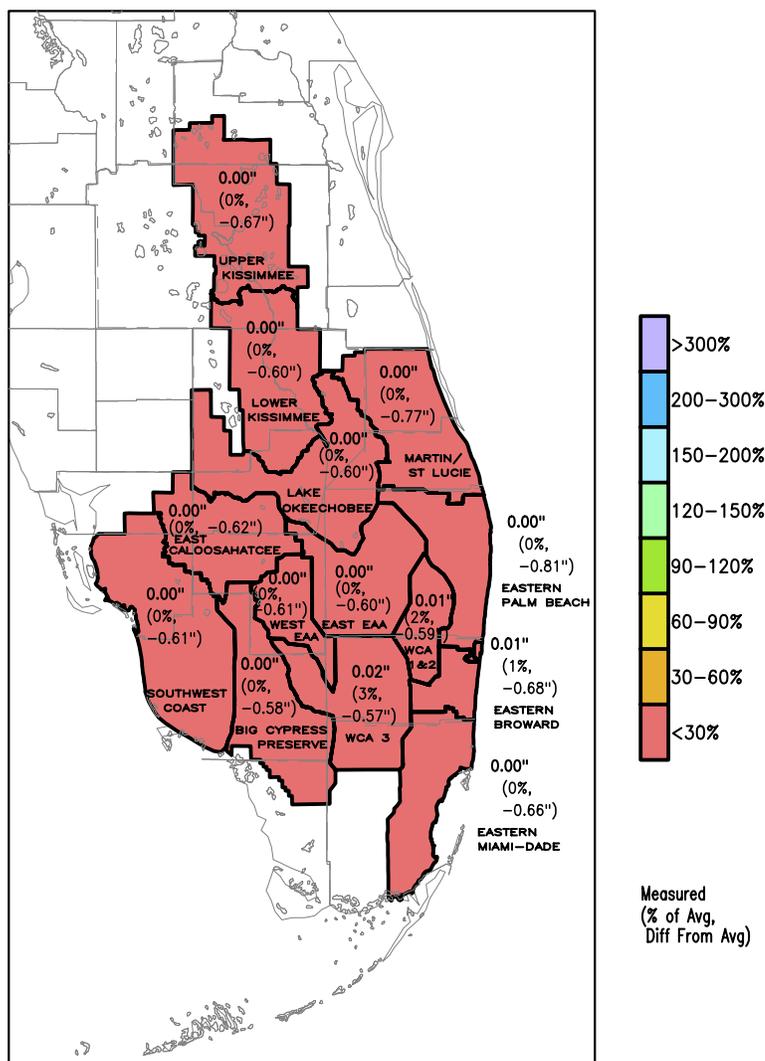
*just the*  
**FACTs**

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  
29-MAR-2006 to 04-APR-2006



**DISTRICT-WIDE: 0.00" (0%, -0.64")**

GRADS: COLA/IGES

2006-04-04-14:02

**Rainfall overview:**

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was zero.
- 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:

There has been no rainfall for the last few weeks. Current conditions (63% average) are little below the normal average (70%) of dry season. Two fronts will move through the area, but are not expected to bring much rainfall. Below average rainfall is anticipated over the next 15 days.

**Lake Okeechobee** — The Lake stage is approximately 14.47 feet NGVD, down 0.17 feet since this day last week and 0.91 feet lower than on this date last year.\* While, preliminary results from submerged aquatic vegetation sites indicate a continuing absence of plants, water clarity measurements indicate that turbidity is abating. This, coupled with reductions in lake stage, is beginning to improve the light climate in the zone of potential submerged aquatic vegetation growth. While there is still no light reaching the bottom anywhere in the submerged aquatic vegetation zone, improvements may continue if lake levels continue to fall.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin** — In the last seven days, the upper basin received no rain resulting in a 30-day total of 0.18 inches, which is 6% of normal. The lower basin also received no rain during this same period, which resulted in a 30-day total of 0.44 inches or 16% of normal. The spring recession for the upper basin lakes continues. Stage recession rates were 0.02 feet per day in East Lake Tohopekaliga and 0.03 feet per day in Lake Tohopekaliga and are very close to desirable rates for snail kite nesting.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries** — Pulse releases to both estuaries began on March 31. Surface salinities in the St. Lucie Estuary were within the preferred range at both monitoring sites during the past week. Salinity conditions in the St. Lucie are good. Salinity data for the Caloosahatchee Estuary was not available at the time of printing this report.

**Water Conservation Areas** — Stages in Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) 1 and 3 are below regulation depths, while WCA 2A is above regulation. Wading birds are now foraging throughout the Everglades and the numbers of nests have more than doubled since last month. Depths and recession rates are in line for an excellent wading bird nesting period if weather patterns allow them to continue.

**Everglades National Park** — With another dry week, water levels across the Park continue to decline, and in some cases, drop below the surface, which is typical for 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.*

**Florida Bay** — Salinity continued to rise during the past week in parts of Florida Bay, and bay water continues to push upstream into the Taylor River ponds. Dry season salinities for most of the bay are now expected to be controlled by weather conditions and wind patterns.

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

- The District will issue a Request for Bid for its temporary forward pumps for Lake Okeechobee on April 6, 2006. These pumps will again allow the District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move toward lower lake levels, primarily to improve the health of the lake.
- Kissimmee River Restoration Land Acquisition is complete! The District will celebrate this milestone at the April 12 Governing Board meeting in Okeechobee.
- Later this month, the District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold two ribbon cutting ceremonies:
  - Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough on Thursday, April 27 at 1:00 pm.
  - Ten Mile Creek on Friday, April 28 at 12:30 p.m., adjacent to Structure 382.