

Weekly Update: June 22, 2005



just the
FACTs

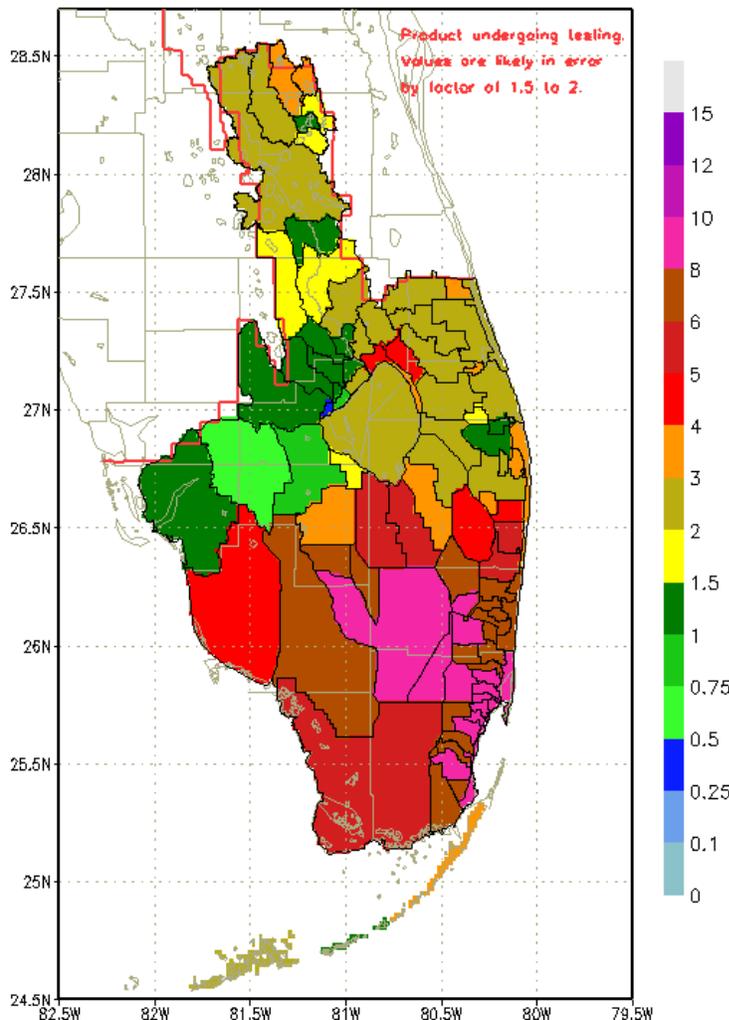
This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

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.



SFWMD RAINDAR 7-DAY BASIN RAINFALL ESTIMATES
FROM: 1400 EST, 06/14/2005 THROUGH: 1400 EST, 06/21/2005



DISTRICT-WIDE RAINFALL ESTIMATE: 3.973"

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Rainfall overview:

- More than 12" of rain fell in the last 30 days. This is one-fourth of the District's average annual rainfall.
- Heavy rainfall of up to 10" fell in Miami-Dade County this week.
- Long-term forecast for South Florida shows an increased chance of above-average rainfall for July, August and September.

(more)



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State of the Water Management System

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System-wide overview:

With the forecast of continued heavy rains this week, the District is operating under flood control protocols. District-wide operations will maintain low-range configuration in the canal system, meaning all coastal structures are open, and water levels are being adjusted to accommodate large amounts of stormwater runoff.

All major water control structures in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties are being operated to move as much water as possible to the ocean. For the first time that conditions warranted, water is being pushed west in the C-4 canal and into the new C-4 emergency detention reservoir through the G-420 pumping station in Miami-Dade County. This reservoir is capable of holding more than 1 billion gallons of stormwater runoff.

Lake Okeechobee — Lake level this week was 15.42 ft NGVD, which is 2.7 ft higher than this time last year. The lake continues to rise more than a tenth of a foot per day.

Note: SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage the lake. Water releases from the lake are dictated by a fixed regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.

If the rapid rise continues, the lake's regulation schedule will trigger large and constant releases to the east and west by the weekend. Note that at high lake levels, flood control becomes the primary factor in managing the lake, and the regulation schedule dictates that there is no longer flexibility for environmental releases. Unlike pulse releases, the discharges are higher and are continuous. These larger releases now may prevent more serious damage from even higher releases later this summer.

Windy conditions over the last few days have caused wave action in the lake, breaking up algal blooms that were forming. No algal formation is expected now.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin – Inflows to Lake Okeechobee from the north are at 9000 cubic feet per second (cfs). This is expected to increase as rainfall moves north of the lake. The Upper Chain of Lakes is full, which means that any additional rainfall will trigger higher releases to the south to maintain flood control.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries – Outflows through both estuaries are relatively high, with significant amounts of flow coming from basin runoff due to heavy rainfall. Conditions in both estuaries are poor.

Water Conservation Areas – All water conservation areas are above their regulation schedules. As a result, no additional water can be sent into these areas at this time. District officials are meeting with landowners in the Everglades Agricultural Area to see if more storage areas for lake water can be found.

Everglades National Park – Rainfall for the past week was 2-4". Water levels in Shark River Slough have increased by approx. 0.15 ft.

Florida Bay – Salinity levels are decreasing very slowly.