

Weekly Update: November 15, 2006



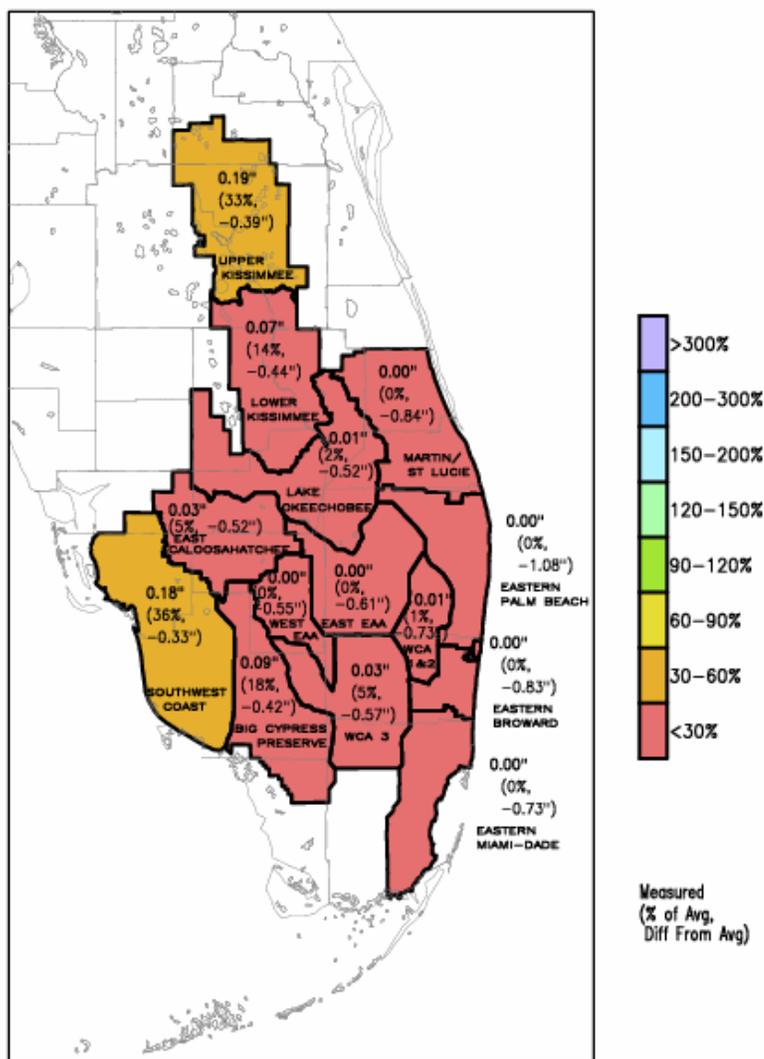
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FACTs

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.

SFWMD Rainfall
08-NOV-2006 to 14-NOV-2006



DISTRICT-WIDE: 0.06" (10%, -0.56")

GrADS: COLA/IGES

2006-11-14-10:02



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Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 0.06 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for below average rainfall.

State of the Water Management System

Weekly Update: November 15, 2006 (page 2)

System-wide overview:

The District received only 0.06 inches of rain last week, with numerous basins receiving no rainfall at all. The most rainfall occurred in the Upper Kissimmee but measured less than 0.2 inches. Current water levels are approaching or are below supply-side management levels – the traditional water shortage triggers – across the District’s 16 counties. The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for below average rainfall. The November Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook and November through January CPC outlook indicate increased chances of normal or above normal rainfall.

Lake Okeechobee — The lake stage is approximately 12.51 feet NGVD 29 (11.21 feet NAVD 88), 0.14 feet lower since this date last week and declining slowly. Surface inflows are 28 cubic feet per second. Surface outflows are 893 cubic feet per second. November submerged aquatic vegetation surveys are 60% complete, and preliminary results indicate that plant coverage has remained stable or increased slightly since last month, a positive sign for recovery of the lake’s aquatic vegetation.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin — During the last seven days, the upper basin received 0.23 inches of rainfall to bring the 30-day total to 1.02 inches (38 percent of the long-term average). The lower basin received 0.11 inches of rain to bring the 30-day total to 1.07 inches, which is 44 percent of the long-term average. All of the lakes are below regulation schedule. Lake Toho is 2.13 feet below the regulation schedule. Lake Kissimmee is 3.40 feet below schedule. Releases from Lake Toho for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project ended on Nov.8.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries — In the St. Lucie Estuary, no discharges occurred at S-80 during the past week. There has been no discharge from C-23 since Sept. 22 and no discharge from C-24 since Oct 10. Salinity conditions are good. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, no discharges occurred at S-79 during the past week. Salinity continues to increase in the estuary. Salinity conditions in the upper estuary are poor. Conditions in the lower estuary and San Carlos Bay are good.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) — Rainfall accumulations for the week were very low, with the WCAs receiving between 0.01 and 0.12 inches. As a result, water levels decreased, on average, by 0.12 feet across the WCAs. Average water depth is 1.4 feet in WCA-1, WCA-2A and WCA-3A (northern end). Depth remained steady in the southern end of WCA-3A, at 2.6 feet. WCA-3B is at 1.6 feet, having dropped slightly. WCA-1 is significantly below regulation schedule, WCA-2A is slightly above regulation, and WCA-3A is below regulation.

Everglades National Park — The Park received only a trace amount of rainfall for the week, averaging 0.03 inches. Water levels declined from 0.5 to nearly 2 inches across the Park’s wetlands.

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 — Despite some inflows from Florida Bay, salinity concentrations are near seasonal levels.

* 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

Weekly Update: November 15, 2006 (page 3)

Biscayne Bay — Salinity conditions were unchanged overall in Biscayne Bay from Sept. 16 through Oct. 15. Daily rainfall ranged from 0 – 1.4 inches, with a cumulative rainfall of approximately 5 inches. Daily salinity within the bay changed little during this time. Salinity conditions were also unchanged in Manatee Bay.

Other District News and Happenings —

- The District declared a mandatory water shortage order for the Lake Okeechobee Service Area, which comprises the Everglades Agricultural Area, and portions of Hendry, Glades, Lee, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Public meetings were held in Belle Glade and Okeechobee this week to discuss the water shortage declaration and restrictions affecting residents and agricultural users.
- The District also issued a formal water shortage warning for the Lower East Coast Service Area, which comprises Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and eastern Palm Beach Counties. No mandatory water restrictions were issued, but residential and agricultural water users are encouraged to voluntarily reduce their water consumption to avoid or forestall potential water shortage orders.
- The official closing on \$546 million in 2006 Certificates of Participation for *Acceler8* Everglades restoration took place on Wednesday. This is the first time in the country that COPs have been used for environmental restoration projects.
- The Martin/St. Lucie Service Center celebrated its new location at 780 S.E. Indian Street, Stuart by hosting an open house on Nov. 15.
- As designated by the 2006 Florida Legislature, water managers, state and local elected officials and community activists will gather on Nov. 17 at 10 a.m. at the edge of the Everglades to celebrate the naming of the *Acceler8* Water Preserve Area/Site 1 Impoundment Project of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as the Fran Reich Preserve. Ms. Reich was a dedicated Boca Raton citizen, community leader and Everglades supporter whose vibrant energy and steadfast commitment drove efforts to preserve the southeastern border of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge into what has become the project site. This particular restoration project will consist of a 1,660-acre, eight-foot deep aboveground impoundment that will improve water flow into the Everglades by capturing and storing water currently lost to tide and releasing it into the natural system.

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.