

Weekly Update: July 6, 2005



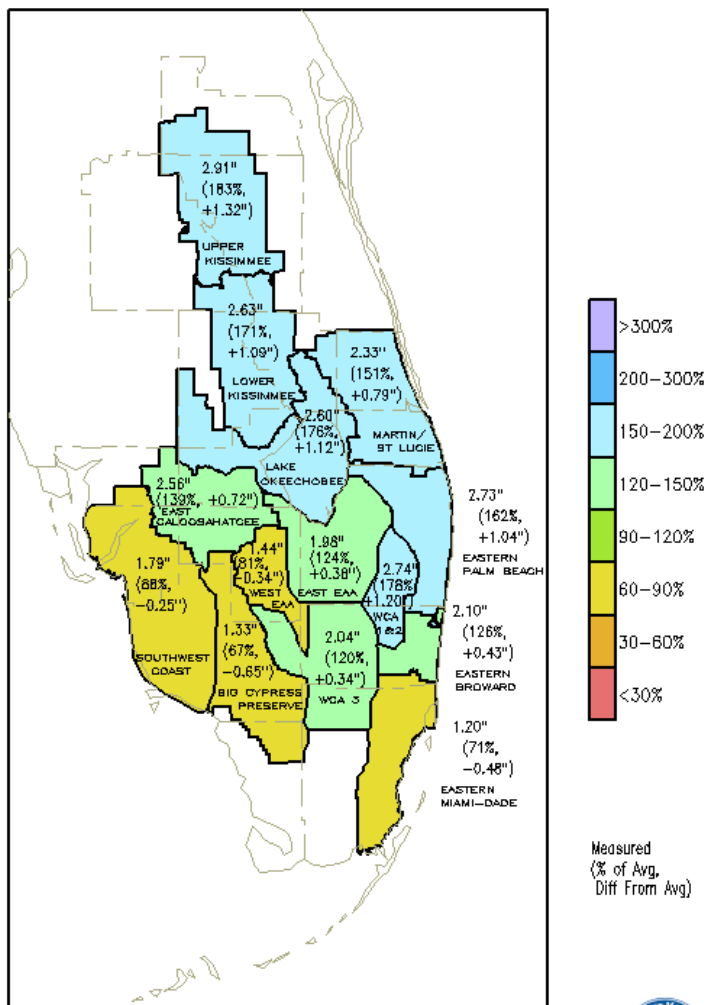
just the
FACTs

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 Rainfall
29-JUN-2005 to 05-JUL-2005



DISTRICT-WIDE: 2.20" (130%, +0.50")

GRADS: COLA/IGES



Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the last week was 2.20"
- Monthly total for June: 14.35"- wettest June on record since 1992
- Year to date (through June 30) rainfall is 29.56"
- Conditions should be dry through Thursday
- Based on 11 a.m. July 6 advisory, Tropical Storm Dennis may bring rainfall Fri, Sat or Sun with heaviest in Keys and Southwest coast



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System-wide overview:

The District continues to closely monitor Tropical Storm Dennis and is prepared to respond should the storm impact the 16-county region. 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. At this time – subject to change – heaviest rains expected for the Southwest coast.

Lake Okeechobee — Lake level on Tuesday was 16.26 ft NGVD, up 0.57 ft from last week and 3.78 ft higher than this time last year. Lake inflows continue to exceed outflows.

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.

Constant releases to the east and west began June 30 and were stepped up on July 2. Net rainfall is monitored on a daily basis. 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.

Conditions in the lake are still poor. Algae blooms are present. While water clarity is showing some improvement, turbidity is not.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin – All Upper Chain of Lakes in the Kissimmee Basin are above regulation schedule. Significant discharges continue to be made. The S65 structure is releasing at 9,000+ cfs. The S65E is releasing 10,000+ cfs. Locks and boat ramps have been closed for recreational use.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries – Constant outflows through both estuaries are high, with significant amounts of flow coming from basin runoff. Conditions in both estuaries are poor, and salinity is outside preferred ranges.

Water Conservation Areas – All areas of the Everglades received significant rainfall and water conservation areas are all 0.5 to 2 ft above regulation schedules.

Everglades National Park – Rainfall ranged from 0.75” to 1” in the past week. Water levels increased slightly, except in the Northeast Shark River Slough where a decline was noted.

Florida Bay – Salinity levels are decreasing.