



# NEWS RELEASE

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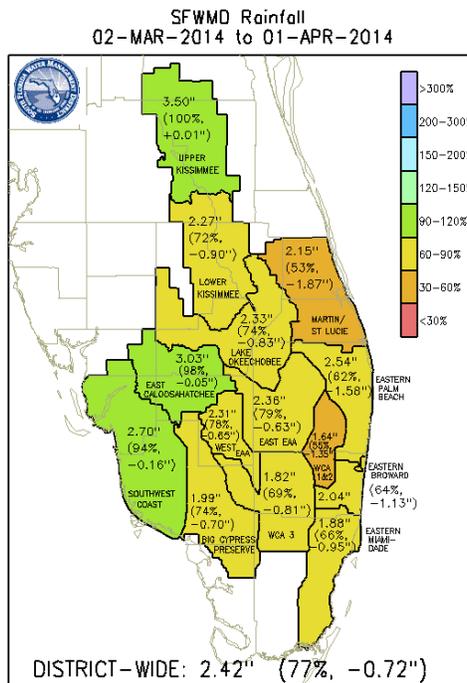
South Florida Water Management District

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## March Rain Falls Below Average *Water supplies remain adequate*



*(Click on the map for a larger version.)*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — March mimicked February’s typical dry-season pattern of mainly dry days with a few widespread showers and thunderstorms during the month. Overall, most of the region had below-average rainfall, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today.

“Most of March’s rain fell on just four days, but it was enough recharge to keep water supplies in a good range,” said Susan Sylvester, Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “As South Florida enters the final two months of the dry season, the agency continues to watch water levels across the region.”

District-wide rainfall for March averaged 2.42 inches, representing 77 percent of average, or 0.72 inches below average. Martin and St. Lucie counties were the driest

areas in the District, receiving 2.15 inches of rain, representing 53 percent of average, or 1.87 inches below average.

The Upper Kissimmee Basin was the wettest area, with 3.50 inches of rain in March, which is average for this time of year. The Southwest Coast and the East Caloosahatchee Basin also received near-average rainfall.

Overall, South Florida’s dry season has seen near-average rainfall, with 10.74 inches District-wide representing 93 percent of average, or 0.85 inches below average.

<b>South Florida’s Dry Season</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>November – May</i></li><li>• <i>About 18 inches of rainfall is the average</i></li><li>• <i>May and October are important transition months</i></li><li>• <i>March, April and May are the driest months because evaporation is highest</i></li></ul>

Lake Okeechobee stood at 13.59 NGVD today, which is 0.72 inches below its historic average for this date. The lake received 2.33 inches of direct rainfall in March, representing 74 percent of average, or 0.83 inches below average.

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**About the South Florida Water Management District**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*