



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACTS:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

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SFWMD Continues Moving Historic Magnitude of Water *Recovery efforts continue; emergency pumping is lowering water levels*



(Click on the pictures to view a photo gallery of structures moving water.)

West Palm Beach, FL — Since the onslaught of Tropical Storm Isaac five days ago, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has moved more than 25 billion gallons of water in western Palm Beach County, which was heavily inundated with rainfall during the storm. The agency's Emergency Operation Center remains fully activated, and emergency operations continue to provide flood relief to communities hit hardest by the 1-in-100-year storm event.

"The District's flood control pumps and infrastructure were operating at maximum capacity to move huge volumes of water through the regional system during and after the event," said Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Director of Operations, Maintenance and Construction. "With areas of western Palm Beach County receiving more than a foot of rain over a three day period, water managers moved water at record rates to reduce the impacts of flooding."

Stormwater Volume

Based on radar rainfall estimates, up to 14.85 inches of rain fell over 72 hours in an area of western Palm Beach County known as the C-51 Basin, encompassing communities

that include Royal Palm Beach, Loxahatchee Groves and the Acreage. Since Monday, water managers moved 25 billion gallons of water in the C-51 Basin in response to the storm, enough to fill 38,000 Olympic-size swimming pools. At the peak of storm response, the C-51 canal was moving 9,600 cubic-feet of water per second, the highest rate ever recorded. The C-51 Basin covers 100,000 acres, one-quarter the size of Lake Okeechobee.

In addition to the regional system's permanent pumps moving water through the primary canal system, the District also deployed nine temporary pumps in western Palm Beach County to help alleviate flood conditions in the Acreage and Deer Run communities.

Rainfall

In a boost for recovery efforts, the most heavily impacted areas received little to no rainfall in the past 24 hours. District meteorologists are forecasting below-average rainfall through the Labor Day weekend, further allowing flood waters to drain without additional inflows.

With one day left in the month, August rainfall to-date for the Palm Beach County area was 16.18 inches. This is double, or approximately 8.64 inches more rainfall, than the average for the month. The C-51 Basin received 27 percent of its average annual rainfall in the four days of rainfall associated with Tropical Storm Isaac. Eastern Broward, Miami-Dade, Martin and St. Lucie counties, the Lower Kissimmee Basin and Lake Okeechobee all received above-average rainfall for the month.

Regional Flood Control

The South Florida Water Management District operates and maintains the regional water management system known as the Central and Southern Florida Project, which was authorized by Congress more than 60 years ago to protect residents and businesses from floods and droughts. The regional water management system is comprised of more than 1,600 miles of canals, 1,000 miles of levees/berms, 1,300 water control structures and 64 pump stations. During the past five years, the District has invested approximately \$240 million to maintain the region's flood control infrastructure and ensure it operates at optimal capacity.

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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.