



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Completes Emergency Flow-Way to Protect Residents



(The C-51 Basin in western Palm Beach County experienced a 1-in-100-year rainfall event with nearly 15 inches of rain over a 72-hour period. Click on the picture for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL — To aid in local flooding relief efforts, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) engineers and field staff designed and constructed an emergency flow-way to relieve pressure from Tropical Storm Isaac's historic deluge on a levee adjacent to a residential area in Palm Beach County's western communities. The 100-foot flow-way and 140-foot weir can move enough water out of the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area to fill a residential swimming pool every 2.7 seconds until a long-term solution is completed.

"Public health and safety will always be a top priority in this agency's core mission to operate and maintain the regional flood control system," said SFWMD Executive Director Melissa L. Meeker. "We continue to monitor conditions in the aftermath of those historic rains while working with local community partners to develop a plan that provides long-term protection for area residents."

Based on continuing visual inspections, the levee separating Corbett and The Acreage community does not present an imminent threat. Following more than three weeks of

emergency operations by the District, water levels in Corbett have been lowered from 24 feet at the peak of the storm to 21.66 feet today. Engineers reported this is an acceptable level to maintain the integrity of the levee. The effort continues to be closely coordinated with the Indian Trails Improvement District, which owns and operates the levee, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which manages Corbett.

Coordination will continue as the District works to reopen the rural portion of Seminole Pratt Whitney Road at the location of the flow-way. While some access roads have been temporarily closed, alternate access to the Corbett area has been provided. All public entry points along the western boundary of the Mecca site are expected to reopen when recovery is complete.

To strengthen the levee over the long-term, the District is working with Palm Beach County, the Indian Trail Improvement District, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the state Department of Emergency Management. Options may include modification of the existing levee or construction of a new facility, subject to funding, permitting and engineering/geotechnical design.

More information on storm facts and recovery operations is available on the District's [Tropical Storm Isaac](#) web page.

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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.