



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT

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CONTACT:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

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Re: Caloosahatchee River Update

On April 12, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board provided guidance to recommend a short-duration pulse release from Lake Okeechobee, if conditions warrant, to minimize algal blooms in the Caloosahatchee River. In the past week, District staff has conducted extensive water quality testing along more than 40 miles of the river to evaluate the potential for algal bloom formation and to determine the optimal timing and duration of recommended pulse releases.

Sampling results have so far found isolated increases in chlorophyll levels, which is an indirect indicator of the presence of algae, but there is no current indication of algal bloom formations. The District is continuing to conduct monitoring, analyze the data and closely review conditions in the river and estuary.

Significant rainfall is forecast for the 16-county region over the weekend, with an average downpour of 1.75 inches anticipated on the southwest coast. The District will assess the rainfall's impact on the river and determine whether conditions warrant pulse releases after the storms pass. The District continues to coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in planning for pulse releases from the lake, should conditions call for such actions.

For more information on the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, [click here](#).

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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.