



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT

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Re: Caloosahatchee River Update

Portions of the 16-county South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) received up to 3 inches of rainfall during the past three days, providing some local basin runoff into the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

While the rainfall provided some relief, conditions remain favorable for the potential formation of algal blooms in the river. Earlier this month, in anticipation of potential algal bloom formation, the SFWMD Governing Board authorized staff to recommend short-duration freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee, if conditions warrant.

Based on the best available data and science collected over the last nine days, staff today recommended to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the immediate start of a three-day pulse release of 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee, as measured at the S-79 structure located in Alva, east of Fort Myers. The Corps has indicated that the releases will begin later today.

SFWMD staff have been conducting water quality testing along more than 40 miles of the Caloosahatchee River to evaluate the potential for algal bloom formation. 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 will continue to conduct monitoring, analyze the data and closely review conditions in the river and estuary.

For more information:

- [Caloosahatchee River and Estuary](#)
- [3-Day Rainfall Estimates Map](#)

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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.