



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# STATEMENT

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**Re: Caloosahatchee Releases**

“Warm weather and little recent rainfall have contributed to conditions that can foster algae growth in regional water bodies, including the Caloosahatchee River. On Thursday, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board gave direction for staff to recommend short-duration pulse releases from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee River.

“The recommended releases would take place for up to three days, if conditions warrant, to help circulate the water, improve water quality and limit the potential for algal blooms. These recommendations fall under options in the Water Control Plan, part of the guidance documents used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage Lake Okeechobee.

“The District is currently conducting water quality sampling to evaluate the potential for algal bloom formation in the river and to determine the ideal timing and duration of recommended pulse releases. We will continue to coordinate with the Corps on operational recommendations for the lake based on weather, water quality, water supply needs and other conditions. Protecting and improving the Caloosahatchee watershed remain a District priority.”

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.*