



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

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**Re: Lake Okeechobee Operating Plan**

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers follow the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule and reduce discharges from the lake to levels identified in the plan.

Currently, releases by the Corps exceed amounts called for in the operating plan. SFWMD has requested discharges be reduced according to the plan to 2,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the St. Lucie River (a 50 percent reduction) and 6,500 cfs in the Caloosahatchee River, starting this Friday.

Lowering the discharge amounts will reduce the adverse ecological impacts to the estuaries while achieving reasonable water management goals for the lake.

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*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.*

*Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.*