



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Natural Resources
Department*

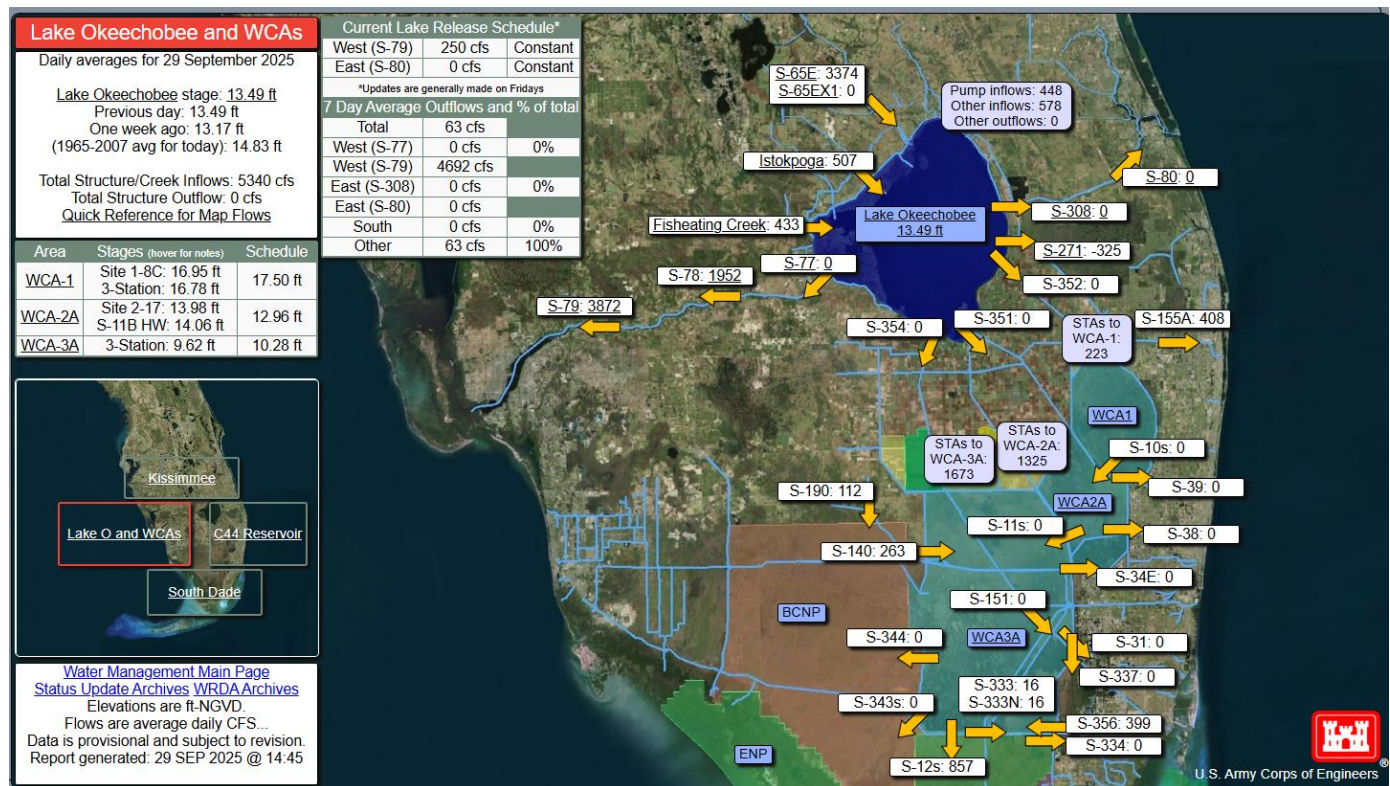
City Council Regular Meeting Date: October 7, 2025

To: City Council
From: Holly Milbrandt, Natural Resources Director
Date: September 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Water Quality Updates

BACKGROUND:

CALOOSAHAATCHEE RIVER & ESTUARY CONDITIONS REPORT



Click to view: [September 22, 2025 Caloosahatchee Conditions Report](#)

CURRENT RAINFALL AND CLIMATE OUTLOOK

SFWMD rainfall for September was above normal at 7.48" (110% of normal). However, there was a high degree of variability across the District, with below average rainfall for the Southwest Coast (6.86") and Upper Kissimmee (4.52") regions and above average rainfall (>10") for regions on the east coast.

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/weather-radar/rainboard>

For the 2025 wet season to date (May 22, 2025-September 28, 2025), the SFWMD has received 31.86" of rain (99% of normal). Rainfall has varied some across the District, with regions north of the lake being slightly wetter and regions south of the lake slightly drier.

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/weather-radar/rainboard>

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center one-month Probability Outlook for October 2025 indicates a 40-50% chance above normal rainfall for south Florida.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead14/

The three-month outlook for Oct-Nov-Dec 2025 indicates a 40-50% chance of above normal rainfall for areas south of Lake Okeechobee and a 33-40% of above normal rainfall for south and central Florida north of Lake Okeechobee.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_prpcp.gif

NOAA ENSO Report (updated on 9/22/2025):

- ENSO-neutral is present.
- Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are near-to-below average across most of the Pacific Ocean.
- A transition from ENSO-neutral to La Niña is likely in the next couple of months, with a 71% chance of La Niña during October - December 2025. Thereafter, La Niña is favored but chances decrease to 54% in December 2025 - February 2026.
- https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

ALGAE BLOOMS

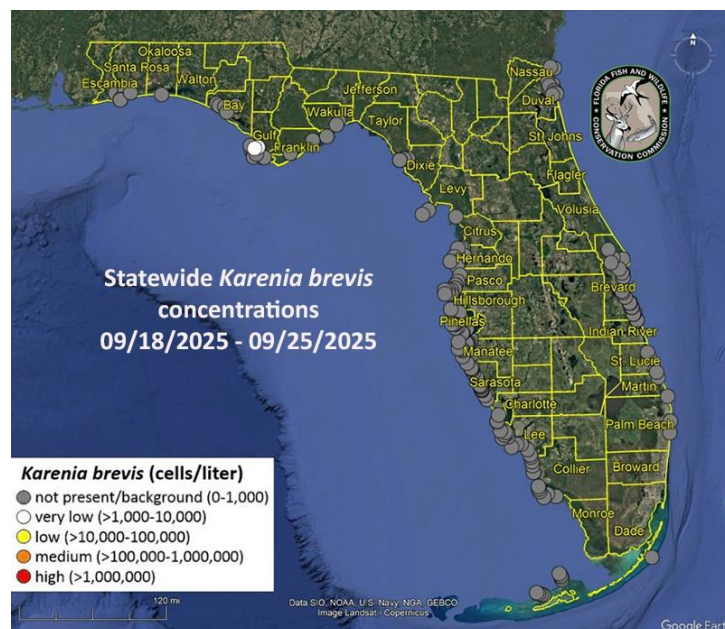
Red Tide: FWC Update for September 26, 2025

<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>

Over the past week, the red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed in five samples collected along Florida's coasts.

In Southwest Florida over the past week, *K. brevis* was observed at background concentrations in one sample collected from Lee County.

Fish kills or respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide were not reported over the past week in Florida.



Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

Blue-Green Algae: DEP Weekly Update (September 19-25)

<https://floridadep.gov/AlgalBloomWeeklyUpdate>

There were 37 reported site visits in the past seven days with 37 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at 22 of the sites.

The satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 9/25 is partially obscured by cloud cover and shows low to moderate bloom potential on at least 60% of the lake. The highest bloom potential is in the southwest quadrant of the lake.

The satellite imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary from 9/25 is partially obscured by cloud cover and shows highly scattered low bloom potential in the lower estuary.

The satellite imagery for the St. Lucie Estuary from 9/25 is partially obscured by cloud cover and shows no significant bloom potential on visible portions of the estuary.

Red Drift Algae: No reports

Trichodesmium: No reports

Sargassum: No reports

PAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

CHNEP Management Committee Meeting

September 4, 2025

Port Charlotte, FL

<https://www.chnep.org/management-committee>

- Extreme Rainfall Events on the Rise — Ana Carolina Coelho Maran, Ph.D., South Florida Water Management District

Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force

September 10, 2025 (Rescheduled to December 9, 2025)

FWRI St. Petersburg, FL

<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/taskforce/meeting/>

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

September 11, 2025

West Palm Beach, FL

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/event/governing-board-meeting-32>

- Executive Director's Report
 - SFWMD granted a 6-month extension to the materials submission deadline for the Southland Reservoir (rock mine) Project to February 27, 2026
 - [2025 SEA LEVEL RISE AND FLOOD RESILIENCY PLAN](#)

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

October 9, 2025

9:00 AM

West Palm Beach, FL

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/event/governing-board-meeting-39>

USACE Jacksonville District-Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) 101 and Listening Sessions

October 7 & 14, 2025

3:00 PM

Virtual

<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases/Article/4317290/us-army-corps-of-engineers-to-hold-an-integrated-delivery-schedule-101-and-stak/>

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: N/A

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary