



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Natural Resources Department

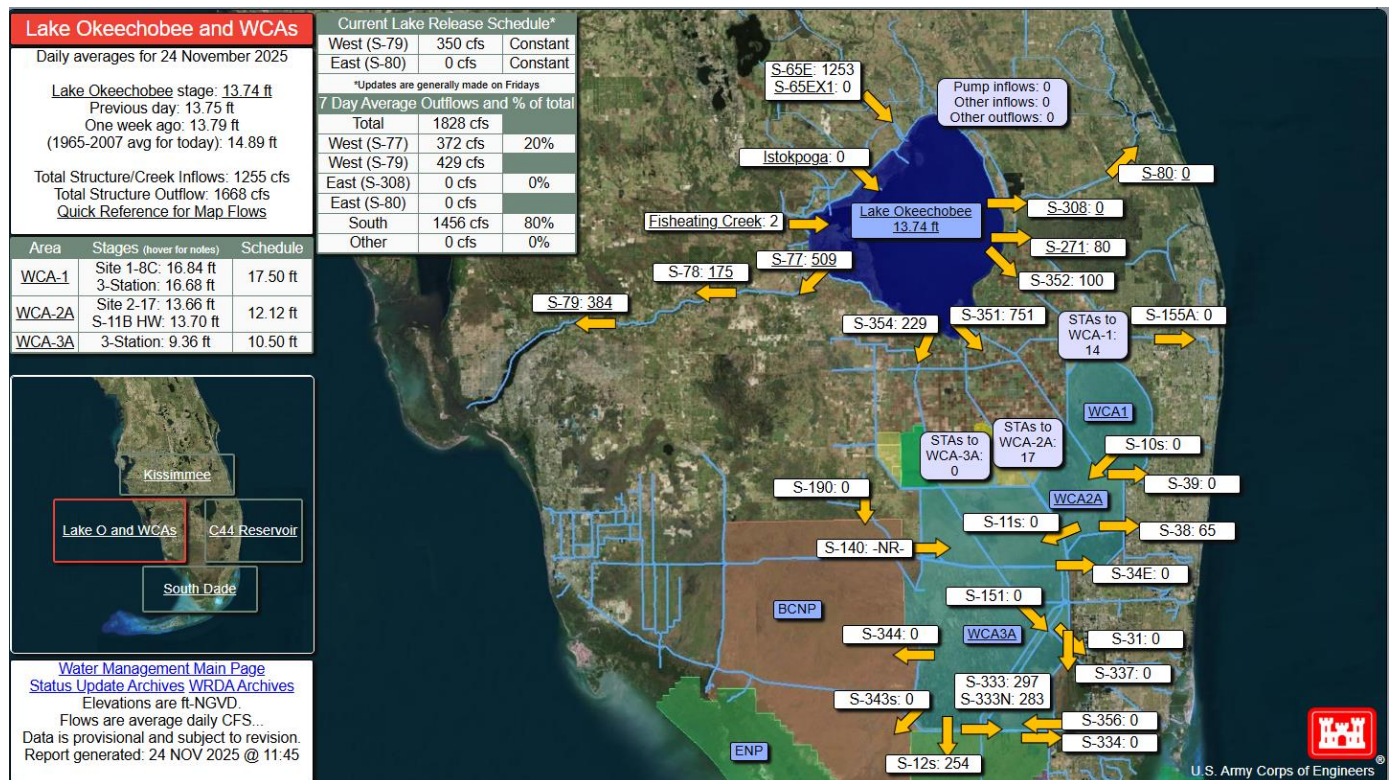
City Council Regular Meeting Date: December 2, 2025

To: City Council
From: Holly Milbrandt, Natural Resources Director
Date: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Water Quality Updates

BACKGROUND:

CALOOSAHAATCHEE RIVER & ESTUARY CONDITIONS REPORT



Click to view: [November 18, 2025 Caloosahatchee Conditions Report](#)

CURRENT RAINFALL AND CLIMATE OUTLOOK

SFWMD rainfall for November to date is well below normal at 0.06" (4% of normal). Many regions, including the Southwest Coast, East Caloosahatchee, and Lake Okeechobee have recorded no rainfall at all.

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

For the 2025/2026 dry season to date (October 11, 2025-November 23, 2025), the SFWMD has received 1.16" of rain (26% of normal). Rainfall varied some across the District, with regions along the east coast and the FL Keys being slightly wetter.

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

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

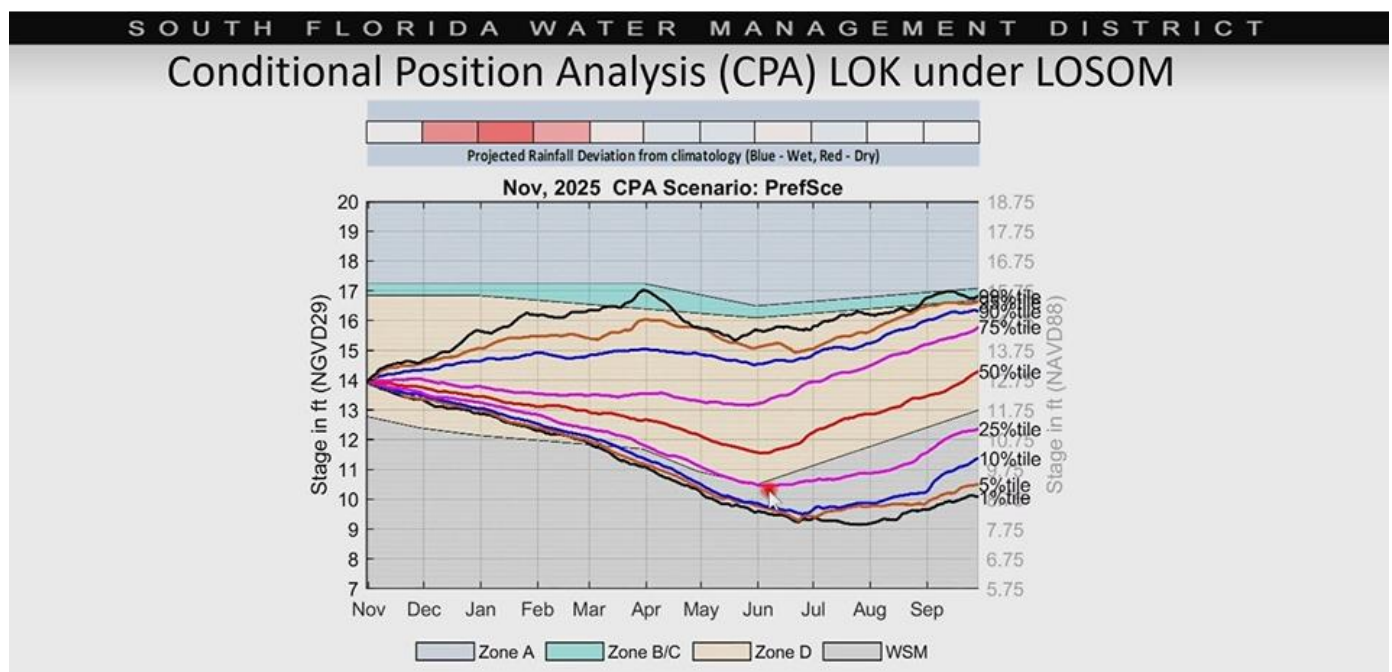
https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead14/

The three-month outlook for Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-2026 indicates a 33-40% chance of below normal rainfall for areas south & central Florida.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_prctp.gif

NOAA ENSO Report (updated on 11/24/2025):

- La Niña is present.
- Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below average across the central and east-central Pacific Ocean.
- La Niña is favored to continue into the Northern Hemisphere winter, with a transition to ENSO-neutral most likely in January-March 2026 (61% chance).
- https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf



Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

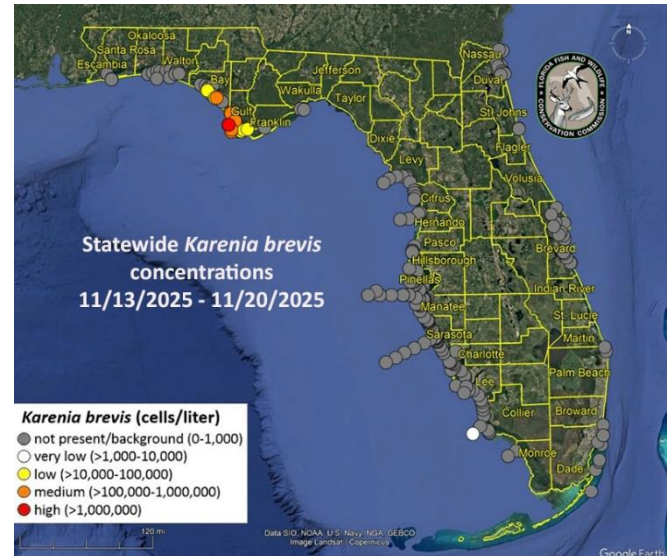
ALGAE BLOOMS

Red Tide: FWC Update for November 21, 2025

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

Over the past week, the red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed in 31 samples from Florida's Gulf Coast. **Bloom concentrations (>100,000 cells/liter) were observed in 12 samples from Northwest Florida.**

In Southwest Florida over the past week, *K. brevis* was observed at background concentrations in Pinellas County, offshore of Hillsborough County, and in Lee County. *K. brevis* was observed at very low concentrations in one sample collected offshore of Collier County.



Fish kills & respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide were reported in Northwest FL.

Blue-Green Algae: ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov

Effective Oct. 31, 2025, the DEP weekly blue-green algae report was phased out and transitioned to the water quality dashboard at ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov. This interactive platform provides real-time statewide data on water quality, blue-green algae and red tide. Anyone interested may sign up for email or text alerts at ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov to stay informed about conditions in your area.

Red Drift Algae: Since early October, periodic deposits of red drift algae have been reported on Sanibel's beaches. Deposits have ranged from light to heavy. Beach patrol reports from Officer Royka noted algae deposits on 11/1, 11/5, 11/6, 11/7, 11/8, 11/14, 11/15, 11/18, 11/20.

Trichodesmium: No reports

Sargassum: No reports

PAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

SFWMD Tour: C-43 Water Quality Treatment and Testing Project

October 29, 2025

SFWMD Boma property, Labelle, FL

By Invitation Only

- Natural Resources staff (Milbrandt & Dettmar) attended this tour organized by the SFWMD. The District has been using this property to evaluate nitrogen removal technologies with a focus on the use of wetland plants. Earlier this year, using the results from the Phase I Mesocosm Study, they completed the planting of the Phase II Test Cells to evaluate the use of select plants to remove nitrogen.



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SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

November 13, 2025

West Palm Beach, FL

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/event/governing-board-meeting-36>

- Executive Director's Report
 - The EAA Reservoir Project Inflow Pump Station Groundbreaking held with Governor DeSantis on November 6, 2025 marked the 80th achievement towards Everglades Restoration.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

C&SF Water Management: Local Engagement and Collaboration - Seasonal Assessment Point - Dry Season

December 2, 2025

12:30 PM

Virtual

As part of the Lake Okeechobee System Operations Manual (LOSOM) implementation and to continue the model of seasonal assessments in the Combined Operations Plan (COP), the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) system operating agencies, will be hosting a Seasonal Assessment Point on Tuesday, Dec 2, 2025. The Seasonal Assessment Point will cover both the northern and southern regions of the C&SF system with the intent to identify the desired outcomes for the 2025/2026 dry season. A part of the workshop will be focused on a review of the system-wide conditions over the past several seasons (a look back) and climate projections (a look forward). The workshop discussion will help assess operational goals and strategies for the dry season across the south Florida system – which in turn will set the trajectory that can be reviewed at each subsequent monthly meeting for the north and south regions. Each stakeholder will have an opportunity to provide data, assessments, and desired outcomes/goals for the dry season – which can be provided in writing or verbally during the meeting.

CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

December 4, 2025

Port Charlotte, FL

<https://www.chnep.org/technical-advisory-committee>

Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force

December 9, 2025

St. Petersburg, FL

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

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

December 11, 2025

9:00 AM

West Palm Beach, FL

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/event/governing-board-meeting-36>

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USACE Jacksonville District-Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) Public Engagement Workshop

December 12, 2025

TBD

<https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/workshops/dec122025-ids-workshop>

CHNEP Management Committee Meeting

January 9, 2026

Port Charlotte, FL

<https://www.chnep.org/technical-advisory-committee>

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: N/A

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