

**HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS IN WEST-CENTRAL FLORIDA**

The Floridan aquifer system consists of the Upper and Lower Floridan aquifers separated by the middle confining unit. The middle confining unit and the Lower Floridan aquifer in west-central Florida generally contain highly mineralized water. The water-bearing units containing fresh water are herein referred to as the Upper Floridan aquifer. The Upper Floridan aquifer is the principal source of water in the Southwest Florida Water Management District and is used for major public supply, domestic use, irrigation, and brackish water desalination in coastal communities (Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2000).

This map report shows the potentiometric surface of the Upper Floridan aquifer measured in September 2008. The potentiometric surface is an imaginary surface connecting points of equal altitude to which water will rise in tightly-cased wells that tap a confined aquifer system (Lohman, 1979). This map represents water-level conditions near the end of the wet season, when ground-water levels usually are at an annual high and withdrawals for agricultural use typically are low. The cumulative average rainfall of 50.83 inches for west-central Florida from October 2007 through September 2008 was 2.26 inches below the historical cumulative average of 52.89 inches (Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2008). Historical cumulative averages are calculated from regional rainfall summary reports (1915 to most recent complete calendar year) and are updated monthly by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

This report, prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, is part of a semi-annual series of Upper Floridan aquifer potentiometric-surface maps prepared for west-central Florida. Potentiometric-surface maps have been prepared for January 1964, May 1968, May 1971, May 1973, May 1974, and for each May and September since 1975. Water-level data are collected in May and September each year to show the approximate annual low and high water-level conditions, respectively. Most of the water-level data for this map were collected by the U.S. Geological Survey during the period September 15-19, 2008. Supplemental water-level data were collected by other agencies and companies. A corresponding potentiometric-surface map was prepared for areas east and north of the Southwest Florida Water Management District boundary by the U.S. Geological Survey office in Orlando, Florida (Kinman and Dixon, 2009). Most water-level measurements were made during a 5-day period; therefore, measurements do not represent a "snapshot" of conditions at a specific time, nor do they necessarily coincide with the seasonal high water-level condition.

**WATER-LEVEL CHANGES**

Water levels in about 66 percent of the wells measured in September 2008 were higher than the September 2007 water levels (Ortiz, 2008b). Data from 401 wells indicate the September 2008 water levels ranged from about 4 feet below to about 13 feet above the September 2007 water levels (fig. 1). The largest water level rise occurred in southeast Hillsborough County, southwest Polk County, western Hardee County and large portions of Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Significant water level declines occurred over the areas of northern Hillsborough county, southeast Hernando County, and southwest DeSoto County (fig. 1).

Water levels in about 94 percent of the wells measured in September 2008 were higher than the May 2008 water levels (Ortiz, 2008a). Data from 401 wells indicate the September 2008 water levels ranged from about 5 feet below to 30 feet above the May 2008 water levels. The largest water level decline was in north-central Pasco County and the largest rise in water levels was in central Hardee County.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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**SELECTED REFERENCES**

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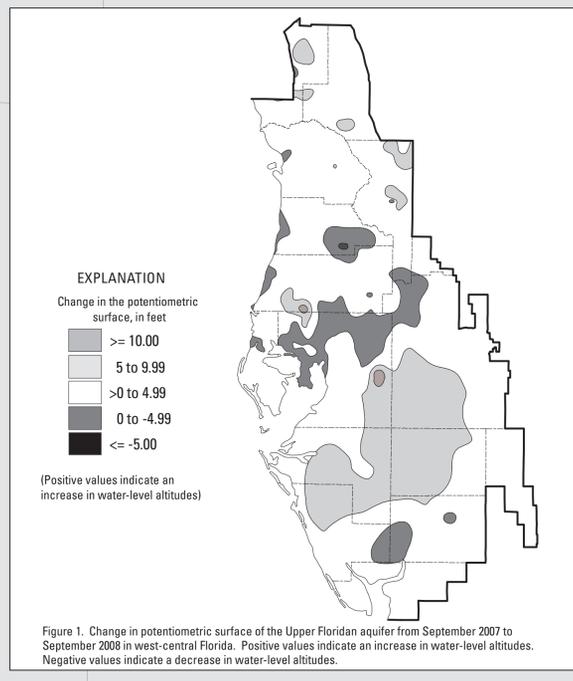
Lohman, S. W., 1979. Ground-water hydraulics: U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 708, 72 p.

Ortiz, A. G., 2008a. Potentiometric surface of the Upper Floridan aquifer, west-central Florida, May 2008: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Map 3057, 1 sheet.

Ortiz, A. G., 2008b. Potentiometric surface of the Upper Floridan aquifer, west-central Florida, September 2007: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2008-1105, 1 sheet.

Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2000. Aquifer characteristics within the Southwest Florida Water Management District: Brooksville, FL, 123 p.

Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2008. Hydrologic conditions for the month of September 2008: Brooksville, FL, 81 p.



**EXPLANATION**

VERNA ■ MUNICIPAL WELL FIELD

—20— POTENTIOMETRIC CONTOUR -- Shows altitude at which water would have stood in tightly cased wells. Contour interval is 10 feet. National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929. Hachures indicate depressions. Dashed where approximately located.

— BOUNDARY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

35 OBSERVATION WELL -- Number is altitude of water level in feet above or below NGVD of 1929.

28 OBSERVATION WELL -- Number is altitude of water level in feet above or below NGVD of 1929. Bold number indicates water levels corrected for salinity.

○ SPRING

■ CITY OR TOWN

NOTE: The potentiometric contours are generalized to synoptically portray the head in a dynamic hydrologic system, taking due account of the variations in hydrogeologic conditions, such as differing depths of wells, nonsimultaneous measurements of water levels, variable effects of pumping, and changing climatic influence. The potentiometric contours may not conform exactly with the individual measurements of water level.

