

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Luis Alejandro, Chief, Water Management Section (USACE)

**FROM:** John Mitnik, Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction Division (SFWMMD)  
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMMD)

**DATE:** December 15, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for December 13, 2016 to December 19, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from December 13, 2016 to December 19, 2016. On December 12, Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.61 feet NGVD, in the lower third of the Low Sub-band. During last week the lake stage decreased 0.08 feet.

District rainfall for December up to date is average, but rainfall is above average for the south and lower east coast and below average for the remainder of the District areas. District rainfall is expected to be below average for the next two weeks.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook for December indicates an increased likelihood (~45%) of below-normal rainfall for south Florida. For the three-month window December to February, the likelihood of below-normal increases to approximately 55% for most of the District, with the exception of the southern tip where the likelihood of below normal is 45%. For the January-March window, the likelihood of below-normal rainfall is 45% for the entire District. The CPC outlook for the remainder of the 2017 dry season months is for moderate chances of below-normal rainfall to equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "Up to Maximum Practicable to the WCAs if desirable or with minimum Everglades impacts. Otherwise no releases to the WCAs".

Over the 7-day period from December 5, 2016 to December 11, 2016, a total of 26,200 acre-feet were delivered south from Lake Okeechobee through the three major EAA canals. Of this volume, inflows into STAs were as follows: 2,500 acre-feet to STA-1E, 1,800 acre-feet to STA-1W, 2,600 acre-feet to STA-2 and 4,800 acre-feet to STA-3/4. No releases were made from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51.

The WCA-1 stage remains below regulation schedule. The USACE continues to request the SFWMMD to send Lake regulatory releases to WCA-1. These releases will be implemented if conveyance capacity in the canals and treatment capacity in the STAs are available, and if lake turbidity around structure S-352 is not high. WCA-3A stage has receded below regulation schedule. The USACE is requesting the SFWMMD to send lake regulatory releases to WCA-3A. These releases will be implemented if conveyance capacity in the canals and treatment capacity in STA 2 and STA 3/4 are available. There will be no releases from the lake into the A-1 FEB for this operational period. Releases from A-1 FEB will be directed to STA-2 or STA 3/4. At this time, the USACE is not requesting the SFWMMD to implement lake regulatory releases to WCA-2A. Releases from STA-1E and STA-1W into WCA-1 and from STA-2 into WCA-2A will continue.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, tributary hydrologic conditions within the Normal classification, and with the lake net inflow seasonal outlook in the dry category, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests Base Flow releases: "S-79 Up to 450 and S-80 Up to 200 cfs". Since the lake stage is in the Low Sub-band and the LORS release guidance is recommending Base Flow releases, and consistent with previous Governing Board direction, District staff evaluated SFWMMD's Lake Okeechobee Adaptive Protocols (AP) this week.

District staff recognizes the USCAE's desire to manage the lake stage by making Base Flow releases per the LORS release guidance and therefore does not object to the continuation of releases at S-77, to supplement target flow releases at S-79.

Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary remained in the good range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions remain favorable for tape grass in the upper estuary. Salinity remained in the good range for oysters at the Shell Point and the Coral Bridge locations. At the Sanibel Causeway, salinity remained in the high fair range.