

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Laureen Borochaner, Chief, Engineering Division (USACE)  
**FROM:** John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)  
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMD)  
**DATE:** January 23, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for January 21, 2020 to January 27, 2020

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from January 21, 2020 to January 27, 2020. On January 20, Lake Okeechobee stage was 12.96 feet NGVD, which places it within the Base Flow Sub-band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS). Lake stage decreased by 0.10 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District January rainfall to date is well below average (16% of normal). District rainfall forecast (issued January 7) predicts below average rainfall for this 7-day period and near average rainfall for the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent CPC precipitation outlook for February 2020 calls for increased chances of above-normal rainfall for south Florida. The outlook for the 3-month window Feb-Apr is for equal chances of above-normal, normal, or below-normal rainfall. The outlook for the 3-month windows Apr-Jun and May-Jul is for slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall. All the other 3-month windows to the end of the 2020 wet season call for equal chances of above-normal, normal, or below-normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Base Flow Sub-band, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions in the Normal category and the Multi-seasonal Lake Okeechobee Net Inflow Outlook in the wet category, Part C of the 2008 LORS suggests "Up to Maximum Practicable to the WCAs if desirable or with minimum Everglades impact; otherwise no releases to WCAs".

Over the 7-day period from January 13 to January 19, 2020, no Lake Regulatory releases were sent to the STAs, or to the Lake Worth Lagoon through the C-51 canal. Stage in WCA-1 is in Zone B of the regulation schedule. Stage in WCA-2A is in Zone A of the regulation schedule. WCA-3A stage is in Zone E of the regulation schedule. For the coming operational period, the USACE is requesting the SFWMD implement maximum practicable regulatory releases south from the lake to the WCAs. In accordance with this request the District has initiated moving water south from the lake to the WCAs.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the Base Flow Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS suggests "S-79 Up to 450 cfs and S-80 Up to 200 cfs".

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged approximately 300 cfs over the past week with no releases from Lake Okeechobee. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge is in the good range for adult oysters. Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged approximately 750 cfs over the past week with about 500 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Salinity conditions are in the good range for Tape Grass at Val I-75 and in the fair range at Ft. Myers. Salinity conditions for adult eastern oysters are in the good range at Cape Coral and Shell Point, and in the fair range at the Sanibel location.

The District, in coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), has considered the current system conditions and the application of the SFWMD's Lake Okeechobee Adaptive Protocols (AP), since the lake stage is in the Base Flow Sub-band and LORS 2008 suggests Base Flow releases to the Estuaries. The SFWMD recommends the USACE continue to follow LORS 2008 as the District increases flows south to the WCAs.