MEMORANDUM

TO: Jason Engle, Chief, Engineering Division (USACE)

FROM: John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)

DATE: November 19, 2026

SUBJECT: System Operational Position Statement November 17, 2026 to November 30, 2026

This Position Statement is to provide operational input for the two-week period from November 17, 2026 to November 30 based on system conditions and data observed during the previous Monday to Sunday 7-day period.

Current climate conditions: District November rainfall to date is much above normal (495% normal). The rainfall forecast (issued November 18) calls for much above normal rainfall for the coming 7-day period and the following one.

Climate and weather forecasts: The most recent CPC precipitation outlook for Nov 2026 is increased chances (40-50%) of above normal rainfall for the entire District. El Niño is present and continues to strengthen, with a strong-to-very strong El Niño likely through January-March 2027. The 3-month windows of Nov 2026 – Jan 2027 and Dec 2027 – Feb 2027 are substantial increased chances (50-60%) to significant increased chances (60-70%) of above normal rainfall for the entire District. The 3-month windows of Jan 2026 – Mar 2027 and Feb 2027 – April 2027 are significant increased chances (60-70%) to considerable increased chances (70-80%) of above normal rainfall for the entire District. The 3-month window of Mar 2027 – May 2027 indicates increased chances (40-50%) of above normal rainfall for the Lake Okeechobee and south, and substantial increased chances (50-60%) of above normal for the respective remainder areas of the District. The outlooks for the 3-month windows from Apr 2027 – Jun 2027 to Nov 2027 – Jan 2028 signal equal chances of below, normal and above normal rainfall (EC) for south Florida.

Hydrologic and tropical outlooks: Current climatological conditions are wet, and hydrological conditions are Wet. The lake stage is in Zone D and is projected to remain until December.

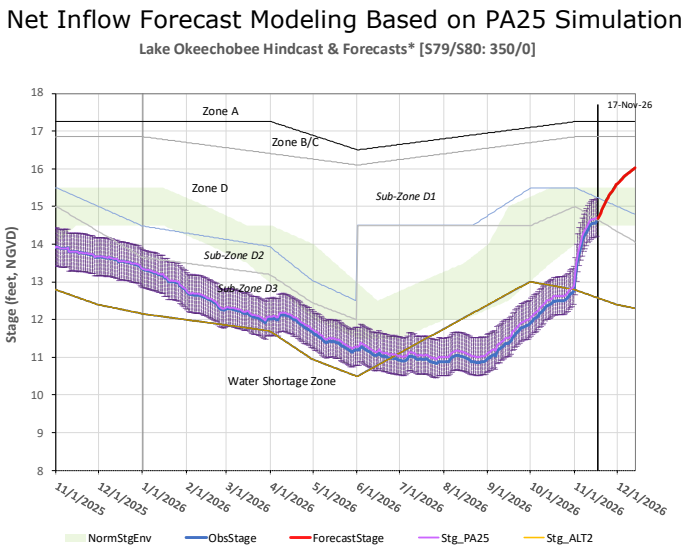
Water-supply conditions: The Lake Okeechobee seasonal net inflow outlook is Normal to Extremely Wet and at Low risk for water supply. The multi-seasonal net inflow outlook is Wet and at Low risk for water supply.

Estuary conditions: For the past 7-day periods, November 9 to November 15, 2026, total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary averaged approximately 3,500 cfs with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee through S-77. Salinities were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass the upper estuary. Salinities were in the lower stressed range (5-9) for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral, and in the optimal range (10-25) at Shell Point and in the upper stressed range (>25) Sanibel. Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was about 7,300 cfs with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee, about 1,600 cfs coming from C-44 Basin, about 950 cfs coming from Ten Mile Creek, about 1,200 cfs coming from C-23 Basin, about 1,900 cfs coming from C-24 Basin and about 1,600 cfs coming from Tidal Basin. The average salinity in the middle estuary was within the damaging range (<5) for adult eastern oysters.

Lake Okeechobee stage and ecological conditions:

On November 15, the daily average Lake Okeechobee stage was 13.25 feet NAVD88 (14.56 feet NGVD29), which placed it within Zone D of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). Lake stage increased by 0.3 feet over the preceding 7-day period. El Niño is present and continues to strengthen, with a strong-to-very strong El Niño likely through January-March 2027. The District will continue to monitor conditions in Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries, as well as the systemwide conditions. Normal Lake Operations continue pursuant to the considerations in LOSOM as informed by PA25. Given the long-term forecast and the projection for the lake to quickly enter Zone D1 of PA25, it is recommended that flow targets for the Caloosahatchee Estuary utilize Lake Okeechobee flows from S-77 to ensure S-79 flows reach a steady release of 2,000 cfs; flow targets for the St. Lucie Estuary and Lake Worth Lagoon should remain at 0 cfs consistent with Normal Operations within Zone D. The District will continue to monitor salinity conditions in the estuaries and water supply conditions within the Lake Okeechobee Service Area. The USACE typically implements the releases to the estuaries over a 7-day period starting on Saturday and ending on Friday.

Net Inflow Forecast Modeling Based on PA25 Simulation



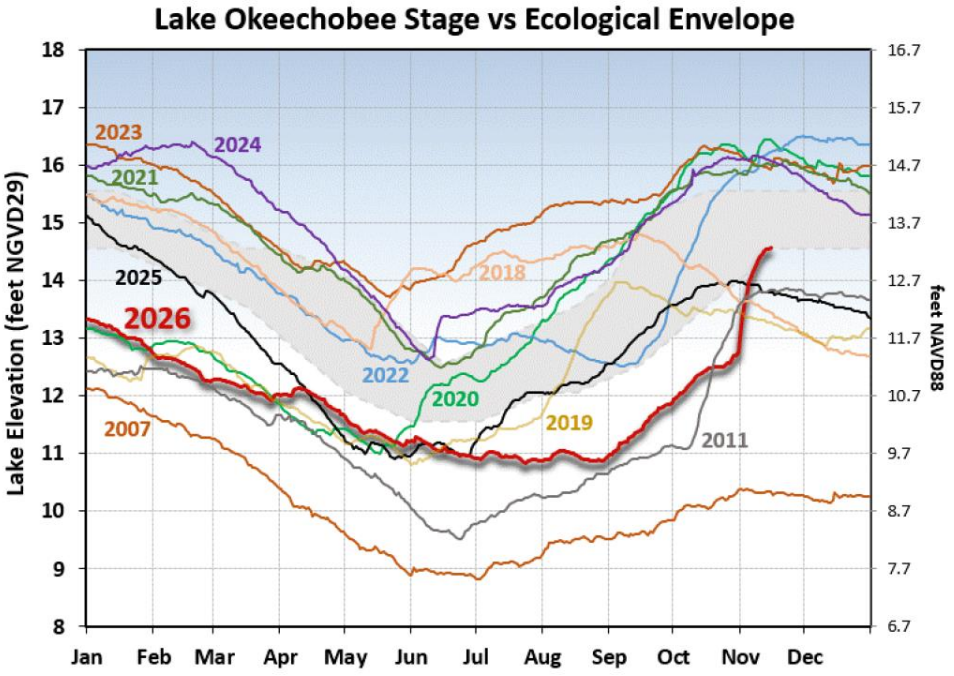


Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

The current and seven prior years' annual stage hydrographs for Lake Okeechobee in comparison to the ecological envelope (light grey).

Navigation and recreation conditions: All five north shore navigational boat locks (S-135/G-36/S-127/S-131/S-193) are open. Boaters are encouraged to exercise caution on the Kissimmee River (C-38 Canal). Public access along the L-29, L-67A and L-67C Canals near Tamiami Trail in Miami-Dade County is closed for maintenance activities.

STOF water supply conditions: Current Lake Okeechobee stage is sufficiently high that water supply deliveries to the Seminole Tribe of Florida (STOF) Brighton Reservation, if needed, will not be impacted. When Lake Okeechobee stage recedes below 8.75 feet NAVD88 (10 feet NGVD29) and 6.75 feet NAVD88 (8 feet NGVD29), water supply delivery is not achievable via Pump Station G-207 on the Harney Pond Canal and Pump Station G-208 on the Indian Prairie Canal, respectively, as the respective canals become disconnected from Lake Okeechobee.

Algal Bloom conditions: The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute reported on November 13, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed at bloom concentrations within the District region. In the most recent non-obscured satellite image from November 15, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests minimal cyanobacteria potential across Lake Okeechobee.

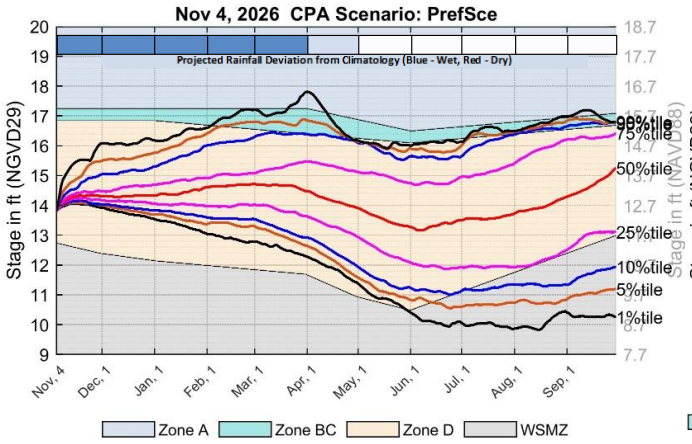
STA conditions: In STA-1E, Central Flow-way is offline for construction activities. An operational restriction is in place in the Western Flow-way for post-construction vegetation grow-in. Online treatment cells are at or above target stage. In STA-1W, Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are above target stage. Vegetation in the Western and Eastern Flow-ways is highly stressed. The 365-day PLRs for the Northern and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 $g/m^2/yr$. In STA-2, treatment cells are above target stage. An operational restriction is in place in Flow ways 1, 2, 3, and 4 for vegetation management activities. The 365-day PLRs for Flow-ways 2, 4, and 5 are below 1.0 $g/m^2/yr$ and Flow-ways 1 and 3 are above 1.0 $g/m^2/yr$. In STA-3/4, an operational restriction is in place in the Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are above target stage. Vegetation in the Central Flow-way is highly stressed. The 365-day PLRs for the Eastern, Central, and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 $g/m^2/yr$. For the current operational period, USACE is not requesting flows south from Lake Okeechobee towards the WCAs. The District will continue to work with the USACE to manage Lake Okeechobee levels in an effort to curtail harmful discharges over this year. To help with this objective the District will move as much water south through the Stormwater Treatment Areas as possible under the current permits as regional conditions allow.

WCA conditions: On November 15, the daily average stage in WCA-1 was at 15.65 feet NAVD88 (17.25 feet NGVD29), in Zone A2 and 0.25 feet below regulation schedule. The daily average stage in WCA-2A was at 12.65 feet NAVD88 (14.24 feet NGVD29), in Zone A and 1.99 feet above regulation schedule. The daily average stage in WCA-3A was at 9.41 feet NAVD88 (11.15 feet NGVD29), in Zone A and 0.64 feet above regulation schedule. Over the 7-day periods, November 9, 2026 to November 15, 2026, no regulatory releases were sent from Lake Okeechobee south to the STAs. No Lake regulatory releases reached Lake Worth Lagoon through the C-51 canal during this period.

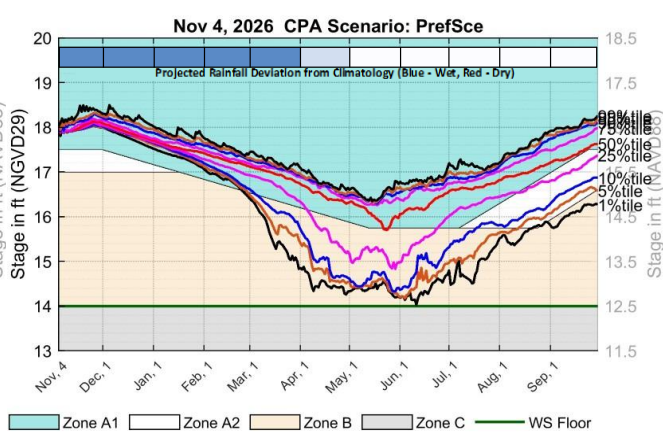
ENP conditions: Releases from WCA-3A to the ENP continue through the S12s, S333, and S333N structures. The water depths have increased across the Everglades Protection Area (EPA), particularly in already unseasonably wet WCA-1 and WCA-2A compared to one and two months ago. Water levels have risen in northern WCA 3A. The Big Cypress basin is also showing a stable wetting trend. Most stages decreased across Taylor Slough over the past week with an average decrease of 0.09 feet. Salinity decreased on average in Florida Bay compared to last week and remains above the estimated historical average and above the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) 75th percentile but is now below the hypersalinity threshold in all regions. The Tamiami Trail Flow Formula (TTFF) recommends maximum practicable releases from WCA-3A to ENP. The District recommends continuing with the current operations for the releases from WCA-3A in accordance with the Combined Operating Plan.

November 4, 2026 Conditional Position Analysis (CPA) results for Lake Okeechobee, WCA-1, WCA-2A and WCA-3A under LOSOM Operations.

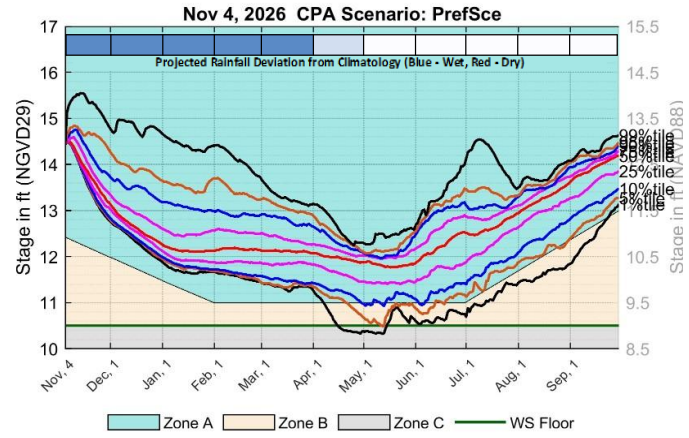
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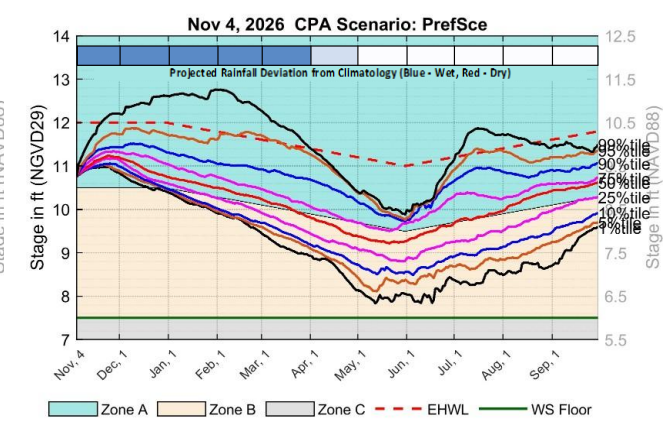
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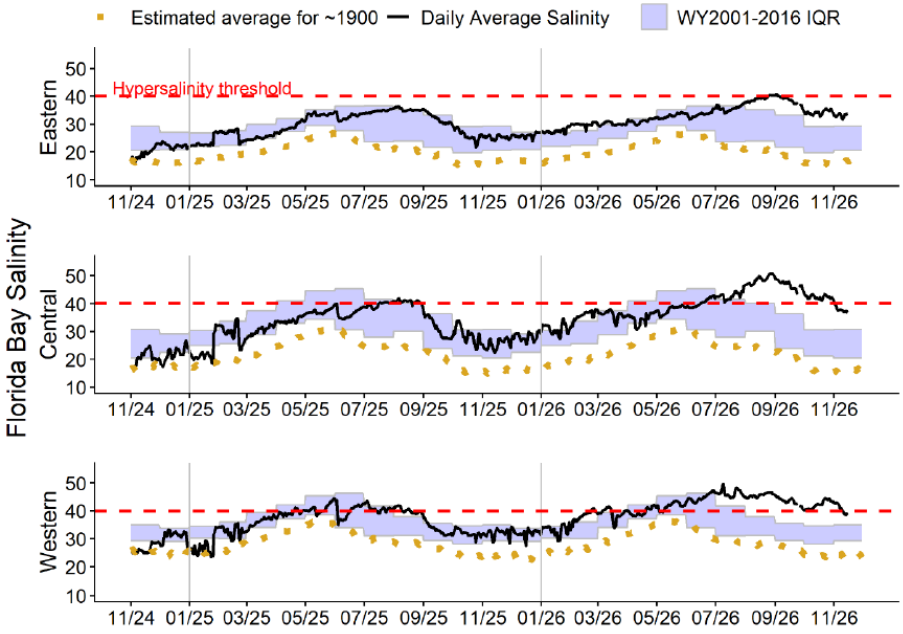


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WCA3AAvg





Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hyper salinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities start to become harmful to seagrass.