MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: December 1, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for November 29, 2016 to December 5, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from November 29, 2016 to December 5, 2016. On November 28, Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.80 feet NGVD, in the lower third of the Low Sub-band. During last week the lake stage decreased 0.18 feet.

District rainfall for November was well below average. District rainfall is forecast to be below-average for the next week and near average for the second week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook for December indicates a slightly increased likelihood (~38%) 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 November 21, 2016 to November 27, 2016, a total of 34,300 acre-feet were delivered south from Lake Okeechobee through the three major EAA canals and the L-8 canal. Of this volume, inflows into STAs were as follows: 800 acre-feet to STA-1E, 900 acre-feet to STA-1W, 1,000 acre-feet to STA-2 and 100 acre-feet to STA-3/4. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to about 200 acre-feet.

The WCA-1 stage has receded below Zone A2 of the regulation schedule. The USACE continues to request the SFWMD 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 Zone D of the regulation schedule. The USCAE is requesting the SFWMD to send lake regulatory releases to WCA-3A. These releases will be implemented if conveyance capacity in the canals and treatment capacity in the STAs 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 SFWMD to implement lake regulatory releases to WCA-2A. Releases from STA-1E and STA-1W into WCA-1 and low volume discharges 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". The District has considered the application of the SFWMD's Lake Okeechobee Adaptive Protocols (AP) this week since the lake stage is in the Low Sub-band and the LORS release guidance is recommending Base Flow releases. Given that the estuary does not need water, the AP recommendation is for "No S-77 releases to the Caloosahatchee Estuary …". The District recognizes the USCAE desire to manage the lake stage by making Base Flow releases per the LORS release guidance and therefore recommends continuation of releases at S-77 to supplement the target release 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 Sanibel Causeway, the Shell Point and the Coral Bridge locations.