

## 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:** November 10, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for November 8, 2016 to November 14, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from November 8, 2016 to November 14, 2016. On November 7, Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.30 feet NGVD, in the middle third of the Low Sub-band and within one foot of the Intermediate Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the lake stage decreased 0.19 feet.

District rainfall for November up to date is well below average. District rainfall is forecast to be below-average for the next two weeks.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook for November indicates a slightly increased likelihood (~38%) of below-normal rainfall for south Florida. For the three-month window November to January, the likelihood of below-normal rainfall remains the same for areas south of Lake Okeechobee; the lake and areas north of the lake have a higher likelihood (~45%) for below normal rainfall. For the same areas and for the window December-February, the likelihood of below-normal rainfall increases by 5%. 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 October 31, 2016 to November 6, 2016, a total of 24,500 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: 700 acre-feet to STA-1E (via L-8 canal), 600 acre-feet to STA-1W and no inflow to STA-2 and to STA-3/4. Inflow into the A-1 FEB from the lake was 2,400 acre-feet as flow-through to STA-2 to support a District Science Plan flow test. About 1,100 acre-feet released from the lake through the West Palm Beach canal were used to help fill the L-8 FEB. The remainder of the releases from the lake south were for water supply needs in the EAA. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to about 1,800 acre-feet.

The WCA-1 stage is in the water supply zone. 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. No releases from the lake into the A-1 FEB for this operational period. Releases from A-1 FEB will be directed to STA 3/4. At this time, the USACE is not requesting the SFWMD to implement lake regulatory releases to WCA-2A or WCA-3A. Discharges from STA-2 and STA-3/4 will continue into WCA-2A; using S-7 and G-335/G-436, but at a lower rate compared to previous weeks. Releases from STA-1E and STA-1W into WCA-1 will continue.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, less than one foot from the Intermediate Sub-band, with 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 400 and S-80 up to 250 cfs". The District recommends that the USACE continues with the release reduction plan started on October 28, 2016.

Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary increased to the middle of the fair 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 and the Shell Point locations. Salinity conditions at the Cape Coral Bridge continue to improve, getting closer to cross into the good range.