

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: October 27, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for October 25, 2016 to October 31, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from October 25, 2016 to October 31, 2016. On October 24, Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.74 feet NGVD, in the upper 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 0.17 feet.

District rainfall for October up to date is slightly below average. Rainfall forecast for the first week is for significant rainfall in the south portion of the District, with below-average rainfall in the north and central areas, with the overall forecast being below-average. For the second week the forecast for below-average rainfall.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for November and the three-month window November-January indicates a slightly increased likelihood (~38%) of below-normal rainfall for the lake and areas north of the lake; and a higher likelihood (~45%) for areas south of the lake. 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 2016-17 dry season 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 10, 2016 to October 16, 2016, a total of 6,400 acre-feet were delivered south from Lake Okeechobee through the three major EAA canals. Of this volume, inflows into STAs were as follows: 100 acre-feet to STA-1E, no inflow to STA-1W, 800 acre-feet to STA-2 and 100 acre-feet to STA-3/4. Inflow into the A-1 FEB from the lake was 500 acre-feet. The A-1 FEB received some EAA runoff and discharged to STA-2 and STA-3/4. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to about 700 acre-feet.

The WCA-1 marsh average stage is in the water supply zone, but the canal stage is in the lower half of Zone A-2 of its 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. The District may also send releases from the lake to the A-1 FEB and then to STA-2 to support a flow test in Cell 3. At this time, the USACE is not requesting the SFWMD to send Lake Okeechobee releases to WCA-3A. Discharges from STA-2 and STA-3/4 will continue into WCA-2A and WCA-3A; using S-7, G-404 and G-335/G-436. Pump Stations S-8 and G-404 stopped passing releases from STA 5/6 and the Rotenberger Area to WCA-3A. Low volume releases from STA-1E and STA-1W into WCA-1 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 and multi-seasonal outlooks in the wet category, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests "S-79 up to 3,000 and S-80 up to 1,170 cfs". The District recommends that the USACE follows LORS 2008.

Due to an expected switch in the lake net inflow seasonal outlook to the dry category for next week, the outcome of Part D of LORS 2008 will be for Base Flow releases. Based on this, the District supports the development and

implementation of a transition plan by USACE that will allow for a gradual reduction in releases to the estuaries for the coming weeks.

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