

## 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:** September 15, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for September 13, 2016 to September 19, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from September 13, 2016 to September 19, 2016. On September 12, Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.22 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 increased 0.21 feet.

District wide rainfall for September up to date is below average (95%). Rainfall forecast calls for above average conditions for the next two weeks.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for Central and South Florida indicates equal chances of above-normal, normal, or below-normal rainfall for October, a slight increase in the likelihood of below-normal rainfall for areas north of the lake for the 3-month window October-December. The CPC outlook for the remainder of the 2016-17 dry season is for increased chances of below-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 September 5, 2016 to September 11, 2016, Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases in the amount of 2,500 acre-feet were sent to STA-1E and STA-1W. No lake releases were made to the A-1 FEB, STA-2 and STA-3/4. The A-1 FEB continued to receive 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 1,800 acre-feet. There were no southward releases from the Lake for water supply purposes.

WCA-1 stage is in the middle of Zone A-2 of its regulation schedule and rising. 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. At this time, the USACE is not requesting the SFWMD to send Lake Okeechobee releases to WCA-2A and WCA-3A. A-1 FEB has about 35% of its storage capacity available to capture and attenuate EAA runoff. Substantial discharges from STA-2 and STA-3/4 will continue into WCA-2A and WCA-3A; using S-7, G-335/G-436 and S-8. Releases from STA-1E and STA-1W into WCA-1 continue. The District is releasing from the WCAs to tide through S-39, S-38, S-34, S-151 and S-31. S-333 and S-334, as well as the S-12s structures are releasing water from WCA-3A.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, less than one foot from the Intermediate Sub-band, and with tributary hydrologic conditions within the Very Wet classification, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests "S-77 up to 4,000 and S-80 up to 1,800 cfs". The District recommends that the USACE follows LORS 2008. The District recognizes the responsibility the USACE has in controlling high lake stages and the current need to transition to larger releases to the estuaries.

Salinities at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary continued to decrease and moved into the poor range. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions remain favorable for tape grass in the upper estuary, but decreased into the poor range for oysters at the Cape Coral Bridge. Salinity remained in the good range for oysters at Shell Point and the Sanibel Causeway.