

## 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 22, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for September 20, 2016 to September 26, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from September 20, 2016 to September 26, 2016. On September 19, Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.44 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 0.22 feet.

District wide rainfall for September up to date is near average (98%). SFWMD Rainfall forecast calls for average conditions for the next week and above-average conditions for following week.

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 12, 2016 to September 18, 2016, Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases in the amount of 300 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 1,400 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 45% of its storage capacity available to capture and attenuate EAA runoff. 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 to manage high lake stages and the need to maintain current releases to the estuaries or establish higher releases in case inflow into the lake continues to increase.

Salinities at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary increased and is in 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 Shell Point and the Sanibel Causeway.