

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydraulics & Hydrology Bureau
John Mitnik, Chief, Engineering & Construction Bureau

DATE: December 23, 2015

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for December 22, 2015 to January 4, 2016

This Position Statement is for the two-week period from December 22 through January 4. On December 21 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.74 feet, NGVD, and receding slowly within the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS.

SFWMD rainfall for the month of December up to date is above average. Rainfall for the upcoming week is forecast to be below average; and for the following week rainfall is expected to be above average.

Forecasts: Consistent with the forecast associated with for strong El Niño conditions, the most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for Central and South Florida indicates an increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall (>50%) for the month of January 2016, and increased chances of above-normal rainfall (>70%) for the three-month window January to March 2016. The CPC rainfall outlook for the February to April period also shows an increased likelihood (>60%) for above-normal precipitation. As compared with last month's outlooks, the CPC has slightly lowered the chances for above-normal dry season rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With the 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".

Over the 7-day period from December 14 to December 20, 2015, a total of 2,500 ac-ft were released from the lake south to the STAs, distributed as follows:

STA-1 E	200 ac-ft	STA 3/4	0 ac-ft
STA- 1W	0 ac-ft	A-1 FEB	0 ac-ft
STA2	0 ac-ft	L-8 FEB	2,300 ac-ft

Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 were in the amount of 200 ac-ft.

Given the limited capability to release south, due to high water levels in the WCAs, releases from the A1 FEB, continued high stages in the STAs (above target stages), and no benefit of a release to the WCAs, for the upcoming week no Lake Okeechobee releases to the WCAs will be implemented.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With the Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "S-79 up to 3,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,170 cfs". The SFWMD recommendation to USACE is to follow the 2008 LORS and continue with the current release decision, which called for averaging 1,500 cfs measured at S-79; and no regulatory release through S-80.

In the St. Lucie Estuary, salinity rose slightly during the past week, but remains in the fair range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity continued to be in the good range for adult oysters at Shell Point (estimated), Cape Coral, and Sanibel.

Detailed reports are available at the [SFWM Operational Planning Portal](#).