

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Jeff Kivett, Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction Division  
Terrie Bates, Director, Water Resources Division

**FROM:** Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydraulics & Hydrology Bureau  
John Mitnik, Chief, Engineering & Construction Bureau  
Susan Gray, Chief, Applied Science Bureau  
Dean Powell, Chief, Water Supply Bureau

**DATE:** December 10, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for December 8 to December 14, 2015

This Position Statement is for the period from December 8 through December 14, 2015. According to USACE the Lake Okeechobee stage is in the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS.

Consistent with the forecast 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 (53%) for the month of December 2015 and increased chances of above normal rainfall (75%) for the three-month window December 2015 to February 2016. The CPC rainfall outlook for the remainder of the 2015-2016 dry season is for a substantial increase in the likelihood (up to 75%) for above-normal precipitation. SFWMD rainfall for the month of November was above average. Rainfall for this week is forecast to be below average for all areas except eastern Broward and eastern Miami-Dade Counties, which are expected to receive near-average rainfall. Next week's rainfall is forecast to be above-average.

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 November 30 to December 6, 2015, a total of 700 ac-ft were released from the lake south to the STAs, distributed as follows:

STA-1 E	700 ac-ft	STA 3/4	0 ac-ft
STA- 1W	0 ac-ft	A-1 FEB	0 ac-ft
STA2	0 ac-ft		

Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 were in the amount of 700 ac-ft.

The LORS release guidance is for "Up to Maximum Practicable to the WCAs if Desirable or with minimum Everglades impacts." The USACE recognized the limited capability to release south due to high water levels in the WCAs, continuing basin runoff due to last week's rainfall, releases from the A1 FEB, and currently high stages in the STAs (above target stages). For the upcoming week no Lake Okeechobee releases to the WCAs will be implemented.

District Everglades scientists also indicated that Lake Okeechobee releases to the WCAs would not be beneficial this week. All WCA water levels are above their respective regulation schedules. S-333 has been closed and all the S-12 structures, except S-12A, are open to deliver SRS Rainfall Plan prescribed releases from WCA-3A to ENP. The G-3273 constraint relaxation and S-356 field test (Increment 1) continues, but releases through S-333 and S-356 are suspended. South Miami-Dade agricultural drawdown for the C102 and C-103 canals was progressing normally until the excessive rainfall event last week.

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.

On Friday December 4 (0700 hours) the USACE started 7-day pulse regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee Estuary, averaging 1,000 cfs measured at S-79; and no regulatory release through S-80. This 7-day release period will end on Friday December 11, 2015 (0700 hours).

Over the past week, flows at S-79 averaged approximately 1,536 cfs, with about 112 cfs directly from the lake through S-77. No lake releases were made from December 4-8 due to relatively high C-43 basin runoff. Flows through S-80 averaged 522 cfs with none coming from Lake Okeechobee. In the St. Lucie Estuary, salinity declined for the last three weeks but remained in the good range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity continued to be in the good range for adult oysters at Shell Point, Cape Coral, and Sanibel.

The Lake Okeechobee stage rose 0.24 feet during the past week and continues to rise. Stage recessions are ecologically desirable during this time of year. When recessions resume they should not exceed 0.4 feet/month to be beneficial to the lake.

Rainfall was heavy in the greater Everglades and Florida Bay during the past week. Basin averages ranged from 2.9 inches in WCA-3A to 5.9 inches in WCA-2B. Maximum local rainfall was 10.4 inches in ENP. Salinity conditions in Florida Bay decreased but remain above average at many sites.

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