

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: John Mitnik, Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction Division (SFWMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydraulics & Hydrology Bureau (SFWMD)

DATE: February 25, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for February 23, 2016 to February 29, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from February 23 through February 29, 2016. On February 22 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 16.11 feet, NGVD, in the Intermediate Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the Lake stage experienced a decrease of 0.10 feet.

District wide rainfall for the month of February to date is above average. Rainfall for the upcoming two weeks is forecast to be above.

Forecasts: Consistent with the forecast associated with 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 (65%) for the month of March 2016, and increased chances of above-normal rainfall (55%) for the three-month window March to May 2016. The CPC rainfall outlooks for the April to June and into the 2016 wet season are for equal chances of above, below and normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With the Lake Okeechobee stage within the Intermediate Sub-band and stages in WCA-3A higher than the maximum of their respective schedules plus 0.25 feet, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "No Releases to the WCAs".

Over the 7-day period from February 15, 2016 to February 21, 2016, no releases from the lake south to the STAs were made. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 were approximately in the amount of 600 ac-ft.

Given the outcome of Part C, no Lake Okeechobee releases to the WCAs will be implemented during this week. In addition to the high stages in the WCAs, other factors contributing to this outcome are rainfall forecast for the current week and continued high stages in the STAs (above target stages).

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With the Lake Okeechobee stage in the Intermediate Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "S-77 up to 6,500 cfs and S-80 up to 2,800 cfs". The SFWMD strongly recommends following the 2008 LORS.

In the St. Lucie Estuary, salinity during the past week remained in the poor range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinities at Sanibel remained in the good range for adult oysters. Salinity at Shell Point increased slightly but remained in the fair range. Salinity at Cape Coral remained in the poor range.

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