

## MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydraulics & Hydrology Bureau (SFWMMD)  
John Mitnik, Chief, Engineering & Construction Bureau (SFWMMD)

**DATE:** January 21, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for January 19, 2016 to January 25, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from January 19 through January 25, 2016. On January 18 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.05 feet, NGVD. Lake stage remains in the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the Lake stage experienced an increase of 0.25 feet.

District wide rainfall for the month of January to date is above average. Rainfall for the upcoming week is forecast to be average, and above average for the second week.

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 (>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.

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 January 11, 2016 to January 17, 2016, releases from the lake south to the STAs were made only to STA-1E in the amount of 100 ac-ft. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 were in the amount of 1,600 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); 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 SFWMMD 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 during the past week decreased, but remained in the good range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinities also decreased, but remained in the good range for adult oysters. Salinity at Cape Coral is close to entering the fair range.

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