

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 28, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for January 26, 2016 to February 1, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from January 26 through February 1, 2016. On January 25 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.31 feet, NGVD. Lake stage remains in the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the Lake stage experienced an increase of 0.26 feet.

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

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 February 2016, and increased chances of above-normal rainfall (65%) for the three-month window February to April 2016. The CPC rainfall outlook for the March to May period also shows an increased likelihood (55%) 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 18, 2016 to January 24, 2016, releases from the lake south to the STAs were made only to STA-1E in the amount of 400 ac-ft. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 were in the amount of 2,200 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 current wet conditions; 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. Should the USACE initiate a lake release at S-79 and S-80, a pulse release table has already been provided to your staff.

In the St. Lucie Estuary, salinity during the past week decreased into the good fair range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinities at Sanibel and Shell Point remained in the good range for adult oysters. Salinity at Cape Coral is entered the poor range.

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