

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 7, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for January 5, 2015 to January 11, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from January 5 through January 11, 2016. On January 4 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.71 feet, NGVD, and in general receding slowly within the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS.

District wide rainfall for the month of December was above average (>200%). For the first week of January, District wide rainfall is above average. Rainfall for the two upcoming weeks is forecast 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.

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 28, 2015 to January 3, 2016, releases from the lake south to the STAs were distributed as follows:

STA-1 E	400 ac-ft	STA 3/4	N/A
STA- 1W	0 ac-ft	A-1 FEB	0 ac-ft
STA2	N/A	L-8 FEB	0 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), 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 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 rose into the good range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity continued to be in the good range for adult oysters at Shell Point and Cape Coral, but salinity rose into the fair range at Sanibel.

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