

## 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:** March 4, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for March 1, 2016 to March 7, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from March 1, 2016 to March 7, 2016. On February 29 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.92 feet, NGVD, in the Intermediate Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the Lake stage experienced a decrease of 0.19 feet.

District wide rainfall for the month of February was above average. Rainfall for the upcoming week is forecast be below normal and expected to be above normal 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 (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 22, 2016 to February 28, 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 200 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 4,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,800 cfs". The SFWMD 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 came out from the fair range, but decreased again into the fair range. Salinity at Cape Coral remained in the poor range.

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