

## MEMORANDUM

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

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

**DATE:** May 19, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for May 17, 2016 to May 23, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from May 17, 2016 to May 23, 2016. On May 16 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 13.67 feet, NGVD, in the lower third of the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the lake stage experienced a decrease of 0.27 feet.

District rainfall for May up-to-date is above average, with the Upper and Lower Kissimmee areas above 300% of average. Rainfall for the coming week is expected to be above average. Rainfall forecast for the second week is uncertain. It is important to note that in the 24 hr period 0700 May 17 to 0700 May 18, District wide rainfall was in excess of 1.8 inches.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for Central and South Florida indicates equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall for May 2016, and slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall (37%) for the three-month window May to July 2016. The CPC rainfall outlooks into the 2016 wet season are for equal chances of above, below and normal rainfall, with the exception of the 3-month windows for July to September and August to October which show slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall (37%) in the Upper Kissimmee area. The long-range CPC outlook for the 2016-17 dry season is for increased chances of below-normal rainfall.

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. Otherwise no releases to the WCAs"

Over the 7-day period from May 9, 2016 to May 15, 2016, releases from Lake Okeechobee to the STAs were 2,300 ac-ft to STA-1E, 300 ac-ft to STA-1W, 400 ac-ft to STA-2 and 2,600 ac-ft to the A-1 FEB. STA-3/4 did not received releases from the lake or from the A-1 FEB. There were no releases from the Lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51.

USACE has requested the District to implement Lake regulatory releases into WCA-1, in such a way that inflows and outflows are balanced and the current stage recession continues. Given the considerable amount of rainfall on the ground and the rainfall forecast for the next days, implementation by the District of any lake regulatory releases south to the STAs and the WCAs will not be possible.

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 recommends following the 2008 LORS.

Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary remained in the good range during the past week. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinities at Sanibel and Shell Point remained in the good range for adult oysters. Salinity at Cape Coral remained in the lower fair range.