

## 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 26, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for May 24, 2016 to May 30, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from May 24, 2016 to May 30, 2016. On May 23 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.32 feet, NGVD, in the middle third of the Low Sub-band, and within one foot of the Intermediate Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the lake stage experienced an increase of 0.65 feet.

District rainfall for May up-to-date is above average, with the Upper and Lower Kissimmee areas more than 300% of average. Rainfall for the coming week is expected to be below-average and average over southeastern SFWMMD. Rainfall forecast for the second week is average with low confidence. During the 7-day period May 17-24, the SFWMMD experienced nearly 4 inches of rainfall.

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 for the three-month window June to August 2016. The CPC rainfall outlooks into the 2016 wet season for the 3-month windows July to September and August to October show slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall (35%). 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 16, 2016 to May 22, 2016, releases from Lake Okeechobee to the STAs were 1,200 ac-ft to STA-1E, 100 ac-ft to STA-1W, 700 ac-ft to STA-2 and 500 ac-ft to the A-1 FEB. STA-3/4 did not received releases from the lake or from the A-1 FEB. Releases from the Lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to 300 ac-ft.

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. Due to water levels in the WCAs, the USACE is requesting the District not implement Lake regulatory releases to the WCAs this week.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With the Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band and within one foot of the Intermediate Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "S-79 up to 4,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,800 cfs". However, weather predictions at this time show that no rain is anticipated over Lake Okeechobee, nor its contributing basins to the north, for the next five days. Accordingly, the District recommends no change in Lake regulatory releases to the estuaries this week as compared to last week.

Due to high basin runoff, salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary declined from the good to the fair 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.