

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMD)

DATE: August 3, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for August 1, 2017 to August 7, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from August 1, 2017 to August 7, 2017. On July 31, Lake Okeechobee stage was 12.72 feet NGVD, in the Base Flow Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.02 feet during the last 7 days. Rainfall from tropical storm Emily brought lake stage to 12.96 feet NGVD as of August 2, 2017.

Rainfall for July was above average. For the three days from July 30 to August 1, tropical storm Emily produced a total of about 2.3 inches of rainfall over the entire District area. Current forecast indicates near-average rainfall for the District for the next two weeks.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook indicates slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall for south Florida for August 2017. The outlook for the three-month windows extending through the 2017 wet season and the 2017-2018 dry season is for equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within Base Flow Sub-band and the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions in the Normal category, the release guidance for Part C of the 2008 LORS is "Up to Maximum Practicable to the WCAs if desirable or with minimum Everglades Impacts".

Over the 7-day period from July 24 to July 30, 2017, there were no releases south from Lake Okeechobee through EAA canals. No releases were made from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 either.

Stages in all the WCAs are currently above their respective regulation schedule. At this time, the USACE is not requesting the SFWMD implement lake regulatory releases to WCA-1, WCA-2A or WCA-3A. No releases are planned from the lake to the STAs or any of the WCAs during the coming operational period.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the Base Flow Sub-band, the release guidance for Part D of the 2008 LORS is "S-79 up to 450 cfs and S-80 up to 200 cfs"

During the previous operational period, daily S-79 flows receded to about 650 cfs. However, S-79 flows are increasing again as result of recent rainfall. Tidal basin runoff will continue to contribute significantly to the total inflows into the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The District has applied the Lake Okeechobee Adaptive Protocols (AP) guidance decision tree and recommends the USACE not implement any regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee. The District recommends that operations at S-78 and S-79 be implemented to manage basin runoff in order to maintain salinity within acceptable levels in the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary is in the good range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers are favorable for tape grass. Salinity conditions are in the good range for adult oysters at the Shellpoint and the Sanibel Causeway locations, with salinity at Cape Coral Bridge in the fair range.