

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 31, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for August 29, 2017 to September 4, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from August 29, 2017 to September 4, 2017. On August 21, Lake Okeechobee stage was 13.50 feet NGVD, in the Base Flow Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.11 feet during the last 7 days.

Rainfall for the month of August, to date, is near-average. Current forecast for the District indicates below-average rainfall for the current week and the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook indicates equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall for south Florida for September 2017. The outlook for the three-month window September-November is for slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall. The outlook for the three-month windows December-February and January-March is for an increased chance (~45%) of below normal rainfall. The outlook for the remainder of the three-month windows extending through 2017 and 2018 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, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions in the Wet category and the Lake Okeechobee Net Inflow Multi-Seasonal Outlook in the Wet 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".

There were no releases south from Lake Okeechobee through the EAA canals over the 7-day period from August 21 to August 27, 2017. No releases were made from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 either.

Currently WCA-1 stage is at regulation schedule, while stages in WCA-2A and WCA-3A are above their respective regulation schedules. 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 were in the range from 330 to 4,470 cfs (average of about 2,100 cfs), without any releases from Lake Okeechobee through S-77. Given this past 7-day period rainfall, tidal basin runoff, downstream from S-79, will continue to contribute to the total inflows into the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The District has applied the Lake Okeechobee Adaptive Protocols (AP) release guidance flowchart and recommends the USACE not implement any regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee, and 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 remained 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 poor range.