

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 10, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for August 8, 2017 to August 14, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from August 8, 2017 to August 14, 2017. On August 7, Lake Okeechobee stage was 13.09 feet NGVD, in the Base Flow Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.36 feet during the last 7 days.

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

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 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".

Over the 7-day period from July 31 to August 6, 2017, about 700 acre-feet were sent from the lake to the West Palm Beach Canal to facilitate testing at the L-8 FEB. There were no releases south from Lake Okeechobee through the other 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 were in the range from 1,850 to 4,450 cfs (average of about 3,000 cfs). Tidal basin runoff 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 decreased into the fair 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.