

MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: July 13, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for July 11, 2017 to July 17, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from July 11, 2017 to July 17, 2017. On July 10, Lake Okeechobee stage was 12.44 feet NGVD, in the Beneficial Use Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.04 feet during the last 7 days.

Rainfall for July up to date is below average. Current forecast indicates near-average rainfall for the District for the two coming weeks.

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 July 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 Beneficial Use Sub-band, Part C of the 2008 LORS does not suggest releases to the WCAs to manage lake stages.

Over the 7-day period from July 3 to July 9, 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.

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 Beneficial Use Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS does not suggest releases to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries to manage lake stages.

S-79 flows have been reducing recently, which is an indication that local basin runoff is gradually receding. Tidal basin runoff continues to contribute a good portion of the total inflows into the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The District recommends the USACE not implement any releases from Lake Okeechobee at S-77 to the Caloosahatchee Estuary but continue operations at S-78 and S-79 to manage basin runoff which should be sufficient to keep salinity within acceptable levels in the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary increased into the fair range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers are improving 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 lower range.