

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 20, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for July 18, 2017 to July 24, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from July 18, 2017 to July 24, 2017. On July 17, Lake Okeechobee stage was 12.56 feet NGVD, in the Beneficial Use Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.12 feet during the last 7 days.

Rainfall for July up to date is average. Current forecast indicates above-average rainfall for the District this week and near average for next 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 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. About 1,000 acre-feet of lake water were used for L-8 FEB testing purposes.

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 for the past week have increased compared to the previous operational period. 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 decreased slightly but is within 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.