

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 27, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for July 25, 2017 to July 31, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from July 25, 2017 to July 31, 2017. On July 24, Lake Okeechobee stage was 12.70 feet NGVD, in the Base Flow Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.14 feet during the last 7 days.

Rainfall for July up to date is average. Current forecast indicates near-average rainfall for the District for the next two weeks, with the middle third of this period expected to be above average.

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 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 17 to July 23, 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"

With frequent daily rainfall occurrences in the Caloosahatchee basin, S-79 flows continue to increase gradually. Tidal basin runoff continues to contribute a good portion of the total inflows into the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The District has applied the Lake Okeechobee Adaptive Protocols (AP) and determined that no releases through S-77 are necessary to supplement flows entering the Caloosahatchee Estuary at S-79. Considering also the smooth and gradual increase in lake stage, 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 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.