

## MEMORANDUM

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

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

**DATE:** June 29, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for June 27, 2017 to July 3, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from June 27, 2017 to July 03, 2017. On June 26, Lake Okeechobee stage was 12.28 feet NGVD, in the Beneficial Use Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.23 feet during the last 7 days.

District total rainfall for June up to date is well above average (~195 %). Current forecast indicates near-average rainfall for the District for the coming week and below-average for 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 July 2017. The outlook for the three-month windows extending into 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 June 19 to June 25, 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. Due to the continued large volumes of runoff the STAs have been treating and the prevailing high water conditions in the WCAs, there will be no releases 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.

The Caloosahatchee basin received less rainfall for the last 7 days, compared to the rainfall observed during the first half of June. While the Inflows into the Caloosahatchee Estuary, both at S-79 and tidal basin remain high, flows decreased compared to the preceding week. 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.

Salinities decreased somewhat during last week and then increased slightly for both estuaries. Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary decreased into the lower poor 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, but salinity at Cape Coral Bridge decreased into the poor lower range.