

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 8, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for June 6, 2017 to June 11, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from June 6, 2017 to June 11, 2017. On June 8, Lake Okeechobee stage was 11.47 feet NGVD, in the Beneficial Use Sub-band.

District total rainfall for May was average (~101 %). For the first days of June, the District has received significant amounts of rainfall. Current forecast indicates above-average rainfall for the District for the coming week and near-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 June 2017. The outlook for the three-month windows extending into the 2017 wet season is for equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall. For the three-month windows falling in the first half of the 2017-2018 dry season, CPC indicates an increased change of above-normal rainfall for south Florida.

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 May 29, 2017 to June 4, 2017, a total of 17,200 acre-feet were released south from Lake Okeechobee through EAA canals. Of this volume, 1,000 acre-feet made it as inflow into STA-1E, 100 acre-feet into STA-1W, 400 acre-feet into STA-2 and 2,500 acre-feet into STA 3/4. A total of 1,100 acre-feet made it to the A-1 FEB for vegetation management purposes. No releases were made from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51.

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 large volumes of runoff that the STAs need to handle, there will be no releases from the lake to any of these facilities 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.

For the previous weeks, the District has recommended releases averaging 375 cfs measured at S-79. The Caloosahatchee basin received large amounts of rainfall for the first 7 days of June. With the local and tidal basin runoff generated from this event, inflows into the Caloosahatchee Estuary, both at S-79 and tidal, will remain high. Consequently, it is expected that the Caloosahatchee Estuary salinities will decline for the foreseeable future without any supplemental releases from the lake. Therefore, the District recommends to USACE not to implement any releases from S-77 to the Caloosahatchee Estuary and to continue operations at S-78 and S-79 to manage basin runoff and maintain normal canal stages in the C-43.