

## 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 21, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for June 19, 2018 to June 25, 2018

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from June 19, 2018 to June 25, 2018. On June 18, 2018, Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.10 feet NGVD, which places it in the Low Sub-band. Lake stage decreased by 0.08 feet during the preceding 7 days.

June to date District rainfall is below average (79% of normal). District forecast (issued June 19) predicts below average rainfall for the coming week and above average rainfall for the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook for June 2018 indicates equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall for the District. The outlook for the 3-month window Jun-Aug is for slightly increased chances of above normal rainfall (~ 37%). For the Jul-Sep window, the area north of the lake exhibits slightly increased chances of above normal rainfall (~ 37%), while the rest of the District has a precipitation outlook for increased chances (~45%) of above normal rainfall. The 3-month windows from Oct-Dec 2018 to Jan-Mar 2019 show increased likelihood of above normal rainfall. For the remaining 3-month windows (i.e., Aug-Oct), the outlooks are for equal chances (EC) of below-normal, normal and above normal precipitation.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions in the Wet category and the Multi-Seasonal Lake Okeechobee Net Inflow outlook in the Wet category, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "Up to maximum practicable releases to the WCAs if desirable or with minimum Everglades impacts". Otherwise no releases.

Over the 7-day period from June 11, 2018 to June 17, 2018, a total volume of 2,800 ac-ft of regulatory releases was sent south from Lake Okeechobee to the A-1 FEB and STA 3/4. The other STAs did not receive any lake regulatory releases. Releases to tide through the C-51 canal did not occur either. Stage at gauge 1-8C in WCA-1 is above the regulation schedule. Stage in WCA-2A (S-11B HW) is above the regulation schedule. Stage in WCA-3A is above the regulation schedule. For the coming operational period, the USACE is requesting the SFWMD make maximum practicable regulatory releases from the lake south to the WCAs. The District and USACE will continue to evaluate the capacity in the system to send lake water to the WCAs.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions in the Wet category and the Multi-Seasonal Lake Okeechobee Net Inflow outlook in the Wet category, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests: "S-79 up to 3,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,170".

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged around 3,900 cfs over the past week with approximately 1,400 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge increased slightly but is still in the poor range for adult oysters. Total inflow to Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged approximately 8,100 cfs over the past week with 4,100 cfs coming from the Lake. Salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers remain good for tape grass. Salinity is in the good range for adult oysters at Shell Point and in the poor range at Cape Coral.

Below average rainfall and current releases from the lake through S-77 and S-308 have resulted in a lake stage decrease within the Low Sub-band for the preceding 7 days. The District recommends that the Corps follows the LORS 2008 Regulation Schedule, with consideration for local basin runoff and the downstream estuaries, for the coming operational period. The Corps should look for opportunities to make reductions in Lake Okeechobee discharges in the coming weeks and continued consideration should be given to implementing pulse releases to the estuaries in order to allow the estuaries a rest period in between releases.