

## 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 28, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for June 26, 2018 to July 9, 2018

This Position Statement is for the two-week period from June 26, 2018 to July 9, 2018. On June 25, 2018, Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.05 feet NGVD, which places it in the Low Sub-band. Lake stage decreased by 0.05 feet during the preceding 7 days.

June to date District rainfall is below average (81% of normal). District forecast (issued June 26) predicts below average rainfall for the coming week and the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook indicates equal chances (EC) of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall for the District for July 2018 and for the 3-month windows from Jul-Sep to Sep-Nov. The outlook for the 3-month window Oct-Dec is for slightly increased chances of above normal rainfall (~ 37%). The Nov-Jan and Dec-Feb windows show considerably increased chances of above normal rainfall (~ 55%). The 3-month windows from Jan-Mar to May-Jul 2019 slowly transition from increased likelihood of above normal rainfall to equal chances 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 18, 2018 to June 24, 2018, STA-1W received 400 acre-feet of regulatory releases, STA 2 received 1,800 acre-feet and 13,000 acre-feet were sent to the A-1 FEB STA 3/4 complex. Releases to tide through the C-51 canal were in the amount of 2,900 acre-feet. Stages in all three WCAs are above their respective regulation schedules. 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 3,000 cfs over the past week with approximately 1,000 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge continued to increase slightly but is still in the poor range for adult oysters. Total inflow to Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged approximately 5,700 cfs over the past week with 2,800 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.

Lake Okeechobee stage remains the Low Sub-band, showing little change 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.