

MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: May 4, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for May 2, 2017 to May 8, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from May 2, 2017 to May 8, 2017. On May 1, Lake Okeechobee stage was 11.61 feet NGVD, in the Beneficial Use Sub-band. During last week the lake stage decreased 0.17 feet.

District total rainfall for April was below average (~73%). District rainfall is expected to be average for the next 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 May 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.

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 April 24, 2017 to April 30, 2017, a total of 17,100 acre-feet were released south from Lake Okeechobee through EAA canals. Of this volume, inflows into STAs were as follows: no flows to STA-1E, 500 acre-feet to STA-1W, 700 acre-feet to STA-2 and 3,400 acre-feet to STA-3/4. 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. There will be no releases from the lake into the A-1 FEB for this operational period. Releases from STA-3/4 will be directed to north WCA-3A.

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 Lake Okeechobee Adaptive Protocols (AP) recommend releases through S-77 to supplement flows entering the Caloosahatchee Estuary at S-79 up to 300 cfs, based on Lake Okeechobee stage, the 30-day moving average salinity forecast, chance of lake stage falling below 11.0 feet NGVD by June 1, and current time of the year. The District recommends that the USACE operate to meet a target pulse release of 300 cfs, 7-day average, measured at S-79. In addition, the District recommends that the USACE implement operations at S-78 and S-79 so as to conserve basin runoff and further extend the period of time that basin runoff can supply water to the Caloosahatchee Estuary with minimal deliveries of water through S-77. Should local runoff be insufficient to achieve the S-79 targets, the District recommends supplemental releases at S-77 to achieve the target release at S-79.

Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary remains within the fair range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers are deteriorating for tape grass. Salinity conditions are in the good range for adult oysters at the Cape Coral Bridge, in the fair range at Shellpoint, and likely in the fair range at the Sanibel Causeway.