

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 31, 2018

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for May 29, 2018 to June 4, 2018

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from May 29, 2018 to June 4, 2018. On May 29, 2018, Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.02 feet NGVD, in the Low Sub-band, within 1.0 feet of the intermediate Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.45 feet during the preceding 7 days.

To date District rainfall for May is well above average (292% of normal). District forecast (issued May 29) predicts below average rainfall for the two coming weeks for most of the District areas, but near average for the Kissimmee Valley.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook indicates slightly increased chances (~37%) of above-normal rainfall for the District for the month of June and for the 3-month window Jun-Aug. The outlook for the 3-month window Jul-Sep is for a slight increase in chances of above-normal (~37%) for the area north of the lake, and for a moderate increase in chances of above-normal (~45%) for the lake and south areas. The outlooks for the future 3-month windows in the period October 2018 to March 2019 are for increased chances (~37% to ~45%) of above-normal rainfall. For 3-month windows not specified here (e.g. 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 Very Wet category and the Multi-Seasonal Lake Okeechobee Net Inflow outlook in the Very 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 May 14, 2018 to May 20, 2018, there were no releases south from Lake Okeechobee to any of the STAs, FEBs or to tide through the C-51 canal due to heavy rainfall the prior week and USACE requesting the SFWMD make no regulatory releases from the lake south to the WCAs. Stage at gauge 1-8C in WCA-1 is in Zone A1 of the regulation schedule. Stage in WCA-2A (S-11B HW) is above the regulation schedule. Stage in WCA-3A is in Zone A. For the coming operational period, the USACE is requesting the SFWMD make no regulatory releases from the lake south to the WCAs.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions in the Very Wet category, lake stage within 1.0 feet of the Intermediate Sub-band, and the Seasonal Lake Okeechobee Net Inflow outlook in the Very Wet category, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests: "S-77 up to 4,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,800cfs".

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged around 8,100 cfs over the past week with no releases coming from Lake Okeechobee. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge decreased to the poor range for adult oysters. Total inflow to Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged approximately 4,250 cfs over the past week with no flows 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 Cape Coral and Shell Point.

Lake Okeechobee stages continue to increase from recent rainfall associated with extreme wet conditions. The District recommends that the Corps follows the LORS 2008 Regulation Schedule, with consideration for local basin runoff, for the coming operational period.