

MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: November 16, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for November 14, 2017 to November 20, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from November 14, 2017 to November 20, 2017. On November 13, 2017, Lake Okeechobee stage was 16.68 feet NGVD, in the Intermediate Sub-band. Lake stage decreased by 0.26 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District wide rainfall for November up-to-date is below average. District forecast (issued November 14) indicates near-average rainfall for the coming week and below-average for the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook for November indicates slightly increased chances (~38%) of below-normal rainfall for most of the District, with the Upper Kissimmee area trending to higher chances of below-normal (~45%). The outlooks for the three-month windows from November-January to February-April gradually increase to a more severe below-normal condition, peaking for the January-March window with ~55% below-normal, and transitioning to equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall for the March to May window.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Intermediate Sub-band and stages in WCA-2A and WCA-3A higher than the maximum of their respective schedules plus 0.25 feet, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "No Releases to the WCAs".

There were no releases south from Lake Okeechobee through the EAA canals over the 7-day period from November 6 to November 12, 2017. No releases were made from Lake Okeechobee to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 either. Stages in WCA-1, WCA-2A, and WCA-3A remain high and are above their respective regulation schedules.

For the coming operational period, the USACE is requesting the SFWMD to not implement releases from the lake south to the WCAs. The District and USACE will continue to evaluate the capacity to send lake water to the WCAs.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): Since Lake Okeechobee stage is in the Intermediate Sub-band, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions are in the Very Wet category and Lake Okeechobee stage is projected to stay below the High Lake Management Band, the release guidance for Part D of the 2008 LORS is "S-77 Up to 4,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,800 cfs"

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 5,500 cfs over the past week with about 2,370 cfs (43%) coming from Lake Okeechobee. Salinities were low throughout the St. Lucie Estuary. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge is in the poor range for adult oysters.

Total inflow to Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged 8,680 cfs over the past week with 6,310 cfs (73%) coming from the Lake. Salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers remain good for tape grass. Salinity conditions are in the good range for adult oysters at Shell Point and estimated to be in the poor range at Cape Coral.

Lake Okeechobee stage is receding normally in the Intermediate sub-band. The District recommends that USACE follows the LORS 2008 Regulation Schedule.