

MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: November 30, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for November 28, 2017 to December 4, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from November 28, 2017 to December 4, 2017. On November 27, 2017, Lake Okeechobee stage was 16.26 feet NGVD, in the Intermediate Sub-band. Lake stage decreased by 0.23 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District wide rainfall for November up-to-date is below average. District forecast (issued November 28) indicates below-average rainfall for the coming week and the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook for December indicates increased chances (~45%) of below-normal rainfall for the District. The outlooks for the three-month windows from December-February to February-April gradually increase to a more severe below-normal condition, peaking for the January-March window with ~55% chance of 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 13 to November 19, 2017. No releases were made from Lake Okeechobee to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51. Stage in WCA-1 remains high and above its regulation schedule. Stage in WCA-2A remains above its regulation schedule, but below the temporary deviation schedule. It is recommended to manage WCA-2A to produce recession rates similar to those of the temporary deviation schedule, and to reduce inflows to WCA-3A. Stage in WCA-3A remains high and well-above its regulation schedule. For the coming operational period, the USACE is requesting the SFWM 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, and the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions are in the Wet category, 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 4,200 cfs over the past week with about 1,300 cfs (31%) coming from Lake Okeechobee. Salinities were low throughout the St. Lucie Estuary. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge is increasing gradually but is still in the poor range for adult oysters.

Total inflow to Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged 7,700 cfs over the past week with 6,000 cfs (78%) 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 in the poor range at Cape Coral.

Lake Okeechobee stage is receding normally. The District recommends that USACE follows the LORS 2008 Regulation Schedule release guidance for the current operational period.