

MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: October 26, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for October 24, 2017 to October 30, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from October 24, 2017 to October 30, 2017. On October 23, 2017, Lake Okeechobee stage was 16.97 feet NGVD, in the High Sub-band. Lake stage decreased by 0.21 feet during the preceding 7 days.

Rainfall for the month of October up-to-date is well above-average. District forecast (issued October 24) indicates above-average rainfall for the coming week and near-average rainfall 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 the Kissimmee and Lake Okeechobee areas, and equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall for the remainder of the District. 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 High 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 October 16 to October 22, 2017. No releases were made from Lake Okeechobee to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 either. Stages in WCA-2A and WCA-3A remain high above their respective regulation schedules, while WCA-1 stage is slightly above its regulation schedule.

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 High Sub-band, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions are the Very Wet category and the Lake Okeechobee stage is projected to not rise to the High Lake Management Band, the release guidance for Part D of the 2008 LORS is “S-77 Up to 6,500 cfs and S-80 up to 2,800 cfs”

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 5,740 cfs over the past week with about 2,530 cfs (44%) 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 9,490 cfs over the past week with 6,960 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 fair range for adult oysters at Shell Point and in the poor range at Cape Coral.

Lake Okeechobee stages continue to recede slowly. The District recommends that USACE follows the LORS 2008 Regulation Schedule.