

## 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 2, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for October 31, 2017 to November 6, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from October 31, 2017 to November 6, 2017. On October 30, 2017, Lake Okeechobee stage was 17.05 feet NGVD, in the High Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.08 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District rainfall for the month of October was well above-average. TS Philippe came through the District Saturday October 28, 2017 and affected mostly the East Coast and the central portion of the system, from Lower Kissimmee south to WCA-3A. District forecast (issued October 31) indicates below-average rainfall for the coming week and 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 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-1, 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. WCA-1 stage is above its regulation schedule. Stages in WCA-2A and WCA-3A remain high 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 High 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 6,500 cfs and S-80 up to 2,800 cfs"

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 8,140 cfs over the past week with about 2,320 cfs (29%) 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 11,530 cfs over the past week with 6,620 cfs (57%) 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 experienced a stage reversal from TS Philippe rainfall. The District recommends that USACE follows the LORS 2008 Regulation Schedule.