

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laureen Borochaner, Chief, Engineering Division (USACE)
FROM: John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMD)
DATE: September 6, 2018
SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for September 4, 2018 to September 10, 2018

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from September 4, 2018 to September 10, 2018. On September 3, 2018, the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.57 feet NGVD, which places it within the Low Sub-band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS). The Lake stage increased by 0.04 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District August rainfall was below average (79% of average). For the first 3 days of September 2018, the District received substantial rainfall from Tropical Storm Gordon, with the Lower East Coast and the WCAs being the most impacted areas. District forecast (issued September 4) predicts below-average rainfall for the coming two weeks.

Precipitation Outlook: The CPC precipitation outlook for September is for increased chances (45%) of above normal rainfall. The Sep-Nov and Oct-Dec 3-month windows have an increased chance of above normal rainfall (37-45%). The Nov-Jan and Dec-Feb periods have a substantial increased chance of above-normal rainfall (45-55%). Chances of above-normal rainfall remain high (45%) during the 3-month windows Jan-Mar through Mar-May. The Apr-Jun period has a slight increased chance of above-normal rainfall (37%). All periods starting with the May-Jul window show equal chances of above-normal, normal, or below normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions in the Wet category and the Multi-Seasonal Lake Okeechobee Net Inflow outlook in the 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 August 27, 2018 to September 2, 2018, STA-1E received 100 acre-feet of Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases, STA-1W received 2,900 acre-feet, STA-2 received 6,700 acre-feet, and 5,200 acre-feet were sent to the A-1 FEB, STA 3/4 complex. A total of 1,400 acre-feet from Lake Okeechobee were sent to tide through the C-51 canal. Stage in WCA-1 is below regulation schedule. Stages in WCA-2A and WCA-3A are above their respective regulation schedules. For the coming operational period, the USACE is requesting the SFWMD make maximum practicable regulatory releases from the lake south to the WCAs. The District and USACE will continue to evaluate the capacity in the system to send lake water to the WCAs.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions in the Wet category and the Multi-Seasonal Lake Okeechobee Net Inflow Outlook in the Wet category, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests: "S-79 up to 3,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,170 cfs".

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged around 2,830 cfs over the past week with 1,290 cfs (46%) coming from Lake Okeechobee. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge is in the poor range for adult oysters. Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged approximately 7,230 cfs over the past week with 2,230 cfs (31%) 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.

The District recommends that the Corps follows the LORS 2008 Regulation Schedule, with consideration for local basin runoff and the downstream estuaries, for the coming operational period. The Corps should look for opportunities to make reductions in Lake Okeechobee discharges and continued consideration should be given to implementing pulse releases to the estuaries in order to allow the estuaries a rest period in between releases.