

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Laureen Borochaner, Chief, Engineering Division (USACE)  
**FROM:** John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)  
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMD)  
**DATE:** September 13, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for September 11, 2018 to September 17, 2018

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from September 11, 2018 to September 17, 2018. On September 10, 2018, the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.70 feet NGVD, which places it within the Low Sub-band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS). The Lake stage increased by 0.13 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District September rainfall to date is near average (102% of average), with above normal rainfall from Tropical Storm Gordon observed in the Lower East Coast and the WCAs, and the remainder areas of the District being mostly below normal. District forecast (issued September 11) predicts below-average rainfall for the coming week and near average rainfall for the following week.

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 Very 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 September 3, 2018 to September 9, 2018, STA-2 received 2,700 acre-feet of Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases and the A-1 FEB, STA 3/4 complex received 5,800 acre-feet. No releases 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 Very Wet category, lake stage more than 1.0 feet from the Intermediate Sub-band, 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 2,620 cfs over the past week with 930 cfs (36%) 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 4,220 cfs over the past week with 1,510 cfs (36%) 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.