

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: John Mitnik, Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction Division (SFWMMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMMD)

DATE: September 8, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for September 6, 2016 to September 12, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from September 6, 2016 to September 12, 2016. On September 5, Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.01 feet, NGVD, in the middle third of the Low Sub-band, and within one foot of the Intermediate Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the lake stage increased 0.30 feet.

District wide total rainfall for August was 6% above average. Rainfall forecast calls for average conditions for the next two weeks.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for Central and South Florida indicates a slight increase in the likelihood of above-normal rainfall for areas north of the lake for the month of September. Areas south of the lake show equal chances of above-normal, normal, or below-normal rainfall for September and for the 3-month window September to November 2016. The long-range CPC outlook for the 2016-17 dry season is for increased chances of below-normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "Up to Maximum Practicable to the WCAs if desirable or with minimum Everglades Impacts. Otherwise no releases to the WCAs".

Over the 7-day period from August 29, 2016 to September 4, 2016, Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases in the amount of 3,400 acre-feet made it to STA-1E and STA-1W. No lake releases were made to STA-2 and STA-3/4. The A-1 FEB continued to receive EAA runoff and discharged to STA-2 and STA-3/4. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to about 300 acre-feet. Southward releases from the Lake for water supply were approximately 800 acre-feet.

WCA-1 stage is in the middle of Zone A-2 of its regulation schedule and rising. The USACE continues to request the SFWMMD send Lake regulatory releases to WCA-1. These releases will be implemented if conveyance capacity in the canals and treatment capacity in the STAs are available. At this time, the USACE is not requesting the SFWMMD to send Lake Okeechobee releases to WCA-2A and WCA-3A. A-1 FEB has about 55% of its storage capacity available to capture and attenuate EAA runoff. Substantial discharges from STA-2 and STA-3/4 will continue into WCA-2A and WCA-3A; using S-7, G-335/G-436 and S-8. Releases from STA-1E and STA-1W into WCA-1 have increased. The District continues to release from WCA-1 to tide through S-39 and G-56.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, less than one foot from the Intermediate Sub-band, and with tributary hydrologic conditions within the Very Wet classification, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests "S-77 up to 4,000 and S-80 up to 1,800 cfs". Considering Governor Rick Scott's executive order extending declared State of Emergency in Lee, Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties, the District recommends that the USACE use operational flexibility in the LORS 2008 Water Control Plan to maintain release targets not to exceed the values for previous weeks, S-79 at 2,800 cfs and S-80 at 650 cfs. Maintaining these flow rates will allow USACE to implement a transition to larger or smaller flows, depending on net inflows into the Lake from rainfall and tributary conditions. .

Salinities at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary decreased approaching the transition from fair to poor range. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions remain favorable for tape grass in the upper estuary, and remained in the middle of the fair range for oysters at the Cape Coral Bridge. Salinity remained in the good range for oysters at Shell Point and the Sanibel Causeway.