

MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: April 28, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for April 26, 2016 to May 2, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from April 26, 2016 to May 2, 2016. On April 25 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.47 feet, NGVD, in the middle third of the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the lake stage experienced a decrease of 0.21 feet.

District rainfall for April up-to-date is well below average (47%). The upcoming two weeks are expected to have below average rainfall.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for Central and South Florida indicates increased chances of above-normal rainfall (45%) for May 2016, and slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall (37%) for the three-month window May to July 2016. The CPC rainfall outlooks into the 2016 wet season are for equal chances of above, below and normal rainfall, with the exception of the 3-month windows for July to September and August to October which show slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall (37%) in the Upper Kissimmee area. 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 the 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 April 18, 2016 to April 24, 2016, releases from Lake Okeechobee to the STAs were sent only to STA-1E in the amount of 3,300 ac-ft. STA-1W, STA-2 and STA 3/4 and the A-1 FEB did not receive any releases from the lake. Releases from the Lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 were approximately 1,300 ac-ft.

USACE has requested the District to implement Lake regulatory releases into WCA-1, in such a way that inflows and outflows are balanced and the current stage recession continues. As much as possible, due to high irrigation supply demands in the EAA, the District will continue to implement releases from the lake to the A-1 FEB, and from the A-1 FEB to STA-2 and STA-3/4. STA-3/4 associated releases will be directed to pump stations G-404 and G-409.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With the Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "S-79 up to 3,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,170 cfs". The SFWMD recommends following the 2008 LORS.

In the St. Lucie Estuary, salinity during the past week remained inside the fair range. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinities at Sanibel and Shell Point remained in the good range for adult oysters, while salinity at Cape Coral remained in the fair range.