

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 7, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for April 5, 2016 to April 11, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from April 5, 2016 to April 11, 2016. On April 4 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.09 feet, NGVD, in the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the Lake stage experienced an increase of 0.02 feet.

District-average rainfall for the month of March was below normal (84%). Rainfall for April up-to-date is also below normal (31%). 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 equal chances of above, below and normal rainfall for the month of April 2016, and increased chances of above-normal rainfall (45%) for the three-month window April to June 2016. The CPC rainfall outlooks into the 2016 wet season are for equal chances of above, below and normal rainfall. 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 March 28, 2016 to April 3, 2016, releases from Lake Okeechobee to the STAs were as follows: 1,100 ac-feet to STA-1E and 600 ac-feet to STA-1W. No releases from the Lake south to STA 3/4 were made. Releases from the Lake into the A-1 FEB were about 3,100 ac-ft. Releases from the Lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 were approximately 1,200 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. 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 WCA-2A through Pump Station S-7. Flows entering WCA-2A will be balanced with discharges to tide.

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 decreased and is now in the poor range. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinities at Sanibel and Shell Point remained in the good range for adult oysters. Salinity at Cape Coral increased over the past week and is now just below the fair range.