

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 1, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for August 30, 2016 to September 5, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from August 30, 2016 to September 5, 2016. On August 29 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.71 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 decreased 0.01 feet.

District wide total rainfall for August up to date is 6% above average. Rainfall forecast is for above-average rainfall for the first week and average rainfall for the second week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for Central and South Florida indicates 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 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 August 22, 2016 to August 28, 2016, Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases in the amount of 1,900 acre-feet made it to STA-1E and STA-1W, and about 500 acre-feet 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 1,100 ac-feet. Southward releases from the Lake for water supply were approximately 2,100 acre-feet.

WCA-1 stage is in the middle of Zone A-2 of its regulation schedule and steady. The USACE continues to request the SFWMMD send Lake regulatory releases to WCA-1. These releases will be implemented if conveyance capacity is available in the canals and treatment capacity in the STAs. The USACE also requests the SFWMMD not send Lake Okeechobee releases to WCA-2A and WCA-3A. A-1 FEB has about 60% of its storage capacity available, but it is being reserved for rainfall in the next few days. Substantial discharges from STA-2 and STA-3/4 will continue into WCA-2A and 3A, using S-7, G-335/G-436 and S-8. Releases from STA-1E and STA-1W into WCA-1 will experience an increase for this coming week, but District operations will balance these inflows with releases through S-39.

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 Normal classification, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests Base Flow releases: “S-79 up to 450 cfs and S-80 up to 200 cfs”. Considering Governor Rick Scott’s executive order extending declared State of Emergency in Lee, Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties and the possibility of significant rainfall during this operational period, 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 last week, S-79 at 2,800 cfs and S-80 at 650 cfs. This will allow USACE to implement a decrease to LORS recommended Base Flow releases once the rainfall/runoff generated by Tropical Storm Hermine has subsided.

Salinities at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary are at the line separating the fair and the good ranges. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions remain favorable for tape grass in the upper estuary, and

transitioned from the poor to the fair range for oysters at the Cape Coral Bridge. At Shell Point salinity remained in the good range for adult oysters.