

MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: August 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for August 9, 2016 to August 15, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from August 9, 2016 to August 15, 2016. On August 8 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.61 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 receded 0.02 feet.

District wide total rainfall for August up to date is slightly below average. SFWMMD forecast is for average rainfall next week and below-average for the following 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 August 2016. The CPC rainfall outlooks for the 3-month window August to October shows slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall for the entire District 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 August 1, 2016 to August 7, 2016, Lake Okeechobee releases south totaled 5,400 acre-feet. Lake releases to STA-1E and 1W were 2,500 ac-feet, 700 ac-ft to STA-2 and 2,200 ac-feet to the A-1 FEB. STA 3/4 received no releases from the A-1 FEB. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to about 5,000 ac-feet. There were no southward releases from the Lake for water supply.

The WCA-1 stage is in the middle of Zone A-2 of its regulation schedule and raising, and the USACE continues to request the SFWMMD send Lake regulatory releases to WCA-1. These releases will be implemented conditional on available conveyance capacity 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. The A-1 FEB is full and therefore the SFWMMD will not use A-1 FEB to receive Lake Okeechobee releases. Substantial discharges from STA-2 and STA-3/4 are expected into WCA-2A and 3A, using S-7 and G-335/G-436 and S-8. The S-339 structure has been opened since the stage at the Deer Gauge (Site 62) is about to move above the upper line of the corresponding regulation schedule.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With the Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, less than one foot from the Intermediate Sub-band, and tributary hydrologic conditions within the Normal classification, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests no change in the release limits this week: “S-79 up to 3,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,170 cfs.” In light of the State of Emergency declared by Governor Rick Scott, the USACE utilized the flexibility of LORS 2008 during the past four weeks to reduce discharges to the St. Lucie River and Caloosahatchee River. Release targets last week for S-79 and S-80 were 2,800 cfs and 650 cfs, respectively. The District recommends that the USACE continue to utilize the flexibility of LORS 2008 to make reduced releases.

Salinities at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary remain in the good range. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions remain favorable for tape grass in the upper estuary, and poor for oysters at the Cape Coral Bridge. At Shell Point salinity remained in the good range for adult oysters.