

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: July 13, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for July 12, 2016 to July 18, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from July 12, 2016 to July 18, 2016. On July 12 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.74 feet, NGVD, in the upper 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 0.2 feet.

District rainfall for July to date has been about 50 percent below average. Rainfall for the upcoming week is forecast to be below average, and the following week is expected to be near-average.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for Central and South Florida indicates a slight increased chance of above-normal rainfall for July 2016. The CPC rainfall outlooks into the 2016 wet season for the 3-month windows July to September and August to October show 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 July 4, 2016 to July 10, 2016, there were minimal releases from Lake Okeechobee to the STAs because WCA water levels were above their respective regulation schedules. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to about 5,500 ac-ft. Southward releases from the Lake included water supply releases and totaled about 8,800 ac-ft.

WCA 2A, and WCA 3A stages are currently above their regulation schedules. Therefore, the USACE has requested the District not send lake regulatory releases to those WCAs this week. The WCA-1 stage has receded slightly below its regulation schedule, and the USACE has requested the SFWMD to implement Lake regulatory releases to WCA-1 in such a way that inflows and outflows are balanced and the current stage recession continues. However treatment capacity in STA-1E and STA-1W is not available due to overloading from recent rainfall events.

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 falling from the Very Wet classification to the Wet classification, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends reducing the release limits: "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 last week to reduce discharges to the St. Lucie River and Caloosahatchee River to 1,170 cfs (S-80) and 3,000 cfs (S-77), respectively. The District recommends to continue to utilize the flexibility of LORS 2008 to further reduce discharges to the estuaries.

Salinities at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary remained in the poor range during the past week. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinities at Sanibel and Shell Point remained in the good range for adult oysters, and salinities at Cape Coral remained in the poor range during the past week.