

## 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 20, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Operational Position Statement for July 19, 2016 to July 25, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from July 19, 2016 to July 25, 2016. On July 19 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.66 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 0.08 feet.

District rainfall for July to date has been about 33 percent below average. Rainfall for the upcoming week is forecast to be near-average north and east of Lake Okeechobee, and above-average south and west of the Lake; 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 11, 2016 to July 17, 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 4,900 ac-ft. Lake releases to the STAs & A-1 FEB were about 3,800 ac-ft. Southward releases from the Lake included water supply releases and totaled about 14,600 ac-ft.

The WCA-1 stage is near the top of Zone B of its regulation schedule this week, and the USACE has requested the SFWMD to send Lake regulatory releases to WCA-1. The USACE has also requested the SFWMD send Lake Okeechobee releases to WCA-2A as there is now sufficient capacity to tide to moderate the stages in WCA-2A with these inflows. The SFWMD will continue to send Lake Okeechobee releases through S354 and G372 to the A-1 FEB and then pass through most of this water to STA-2/3/4. Most of the discharge from STA-2/3/4 will be sent to WCA-2A using S7 and G335/G436 with some water sent to NE WCA-3A through S-150 and NW WCA-3A using G404 if additional capacity is needed now that the deer gage is more than 0.25 feet below 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 falling from the Wet classification to 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 two 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 to continue to utilize the flexibility of LORS 2008 to make reduced releases.

Salinities at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary increased into the fair range during the past week. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions were 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.