

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 6, 2016

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

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from July 5, 2016 to July 11, 2016. On June 27 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.89 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 experienced no change.

District rainfall for June was average and so far for July it is below average. Rainfall for the coming two weeks is expected to be either average or below 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 June 27, 2016 to July 3, 2016, there were no releases from Lake Okeechobee to the STAs. The A-1 FEB collected runoff from the EAA and discharged around 11,400 ac-ft to STA-2 and STA-3/4. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to 4,300 ac-ft.

WCA 1, WCA 2A, and WCA 3A are above their regulation schedules. Therefore, the USACE has requested the District not send lake regulatory releases to the WCAs.

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, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "S-77 up to 4,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,800 cfs." In light of the State of Emergency declared by Governor Rick Scott, the USACE is utilizing the flexibility of LORS 2008 to curtail discharges to the St. Lucie River and Caloosahatchee River to 1,170 cfs and 3,000 cfs, respectively. The District recommends to continue to utilize the flexibility of LORS 2008 to 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.