

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: June 16, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for June 14, 2016 to June 20, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from June 14, 2016 to June 20, 2016. On June 13 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.68 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 an increase of 0.36 feet.

District rainfall for June up to date is above average. Rainfall for the coming week is expected to be above average for the areas north of Lake Okeechobee and average for the remainder of the District. Forecast for the second week is uncertain at this point in time.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for Central and South Florida indicates a slight increased (35%) chance of above-normal rainfall for June 2016, for the portion of the District south of Lake Okeechobee, and equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall for the lake and north of the lake. The outlook for the three-month window June to August 2016 is for equal chances. 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 (35%). 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 6, 2016 to June 12, 2016, releases from Lake Okeechobee to the STAs were 3,100 to STA-1E and 500 ac-ft to STA-1W. No release from the lake to the A-1 FEB, STA-3/4 or STA-2 took place. The A-1 FEB collected runoff from the EAA and discharged around 5,300 ac-ft to STA-3/4. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to 2,900 ac-ft.

Due to water levels in all the WCAs above the corresponding regulation schedules and expected rainfall for the coming days, the USACE is requesting the District not to implement Lake regulatory releases to the WCAs for the current period.

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". Given current rainfall the District recommends following LORS 2008 and therefore maintaining current release rates at S-77 and S-80.

Salinity 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. Salinity at Cape Coral remained again into the poor range during the past week.