

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 2, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for May 31, 2016 to June 6, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from May 31, 2016 to June 6, 2016. On May 30 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.40 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 0.11 feet.

District rainfall for May closed above average, with the Upper and Lower Kissimmee areas more than 260% of average. Rainfall for the coming week is expected to be below-average. Rainfall 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 equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall for June 2016 and for the three-month window June to August 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 (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 May 23, 2016 to May 29, 2016, releases from Lake Okeechobee to the STAs were 800 ac-ft to STA-1E and 200 ac-ft to the A-1 FEB. STA-3/4 did not received releases from the lake. Discharges from the A-1 FEB were directed to STA-3/4 in the amount of 10,100 ac-ft and to STA-2 in the amount of 1,900 ac-ft. Releases from the Lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to 3,800 ac-ft.

Due to water levels in all the WCAs above regulation schedules, the USACE is requesting the District not to implement Lake regulatory releases to the WCAs this week.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With the Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band and within one foot of 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". The forecast for early next week is for meaningful rainfall District wide. Maintaining current release rates at S-77 and S-80 will likely flush the main areas of both estuaries at rates high enough to prevent large scale algae blooms, and as such the District recommends following LORS 2008.

Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary declined from the fair to 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 ended in the lower fair range after dipping into the poor range during the past week.