

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: May 5, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for May 3, 2016 to May 9, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from May 3, 2016 to May 9, 2016. On May 2 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.15 feet, NGVD, in the middle third of the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the lake stage experienced a decrease of 0.32 feet.

District rainfall for April was well below average (45%) and is in the same category for May up-to-date. Rainfall for the coming week is expected to be above average with one day exhibiting substantial rainfall. Rainfall is likely to be below average for the second week.

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 May 2016, and slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall (37%) for the three-month window May to July 2016. The CPC rainfall outlooks into the 2016 wet season are for equal chances of above, below and normal rainfall, with the exception of the 3-month windows for July to September and August to October which show slightly increased chances of above-normal rainfall (37%) in the Upper Kissimmee 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 April 25, 2016 to May 1, 2016, releases from Lake Okeechobee to the STAs were 2,900 ac-ft to STA-1E, 1,400 to STA-1W and 2,700 to the A-1 FEB. Neither STA-2 nor STA-3/4 received releases from the lake or from the A-1 FEB. Releases from the Lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 were minimal (100 ac-ft).

USACE has requested the District to implement Lake regulatory releases into WCA-1, in such a way that inflows and outflows are balanced and the current stage recession continues. The District will continue to implement releases from the lake to the A-1 FEB, and from the A-1 FEB to STA-2 and STA-3/4. STA-3/4 associated releases will be directed to pump stations G-404 and G-409. However, all these operations are contingent on the rainfall that the District could receive during the current week.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With the Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "S-79 up to 3,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,170 cfs". The SFWMD recommends following the 2008 LORS.

In the St. Lucie Estuary, salinity during the past week remained inside the fair range. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinities at Sanibel increased from the good to the upper fair range, while salinities at Shell Point remained in the good range for adult oysters. Salinity at Cape Coral remained in the lower fair range.