

MEMORANDUM

TO: Luis Alejandro, Chief, Water Management Section (USACE)

FROM: John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMD)

DATE: June 22, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for June 20, 2017 to June 26, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from June 20, 2017 to June 26, 2017. On June 19, Lake Okeechobee stage was 12.04 feet NGVD, in the Beneficial Use Sub-band. Lake stage increased by 0.27 feet during the last 7 days.

District total rainfall for June up to date is well above average (~250 %). Current forecast indicates below-average rainfall for the District for the coming week and near-average for the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook indicates equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall for south Florida for July 2017. The outlook for the three-month windows extending into the 2017 wet season and the 2017-2018 dry season is for equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within Beneficial Use Sub-band, Part C of the 2008 LORS does not suggest releases to the WCAs to manage lake stages.

Over the 7-day period from June 12 to June 18, 2017, there were no releases south from Lake Okeechobee through EAA canals. No releases were made from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 either.

At this time, the USACE is not requesting the SFWMD implement lake regulatory releases to WCA-1, WCA-2A or WCA-3A. Due to the continued large volumes of runoff that the STAs are receiving, there will be no releases from the lake to any of these facilities during the coming operational period.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the Beneficial Use Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS does not suggest releases to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries to manage lake stages.

The Caloosahatchee basin has received considerable amounts of rainfall for the month of June up to date. With the current local and tidal basin runoff being generated, inflows into the Caloosahatchee Estuary, both at S-79 and tidal, will remain high. Consequently, it is expected that the Caloosahatchee Estuary salinities will remain low without supplemental releases from the lake. Therefore, the District recommends the USACE not implement any releases from S-77 to the Caloosahatchee Estuary and to continue operations at S-78 and S-79 to manage basin runoff and maintain normal canal stages in the C-43.

Salinities continued to substantially decrease during last week for both estuaries. Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary decreased into the lower fair range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers are improving for tape grass. Salinity conditions are in the good range for adult oysters at the Shellpoint and the Sanibel Causeway locations, but salinity at Cape Coral Bridge decreased into the lower fair range.