

MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: October 19, 2017

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for October 17, 2017 to October 23, 2017

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from October 17, 2017 to October 23, 2017. On October 16, 2017, Lake Okeechobee stage was 17.18 feet NGVD, in the High Lake Management Band. Lake stage decreased by 0.03 feet during the preceding 7 days.

Rainfall for the month of October up-to-date is well above-average. District forecast (issued October 17) indicates average to above-average rainfall for the coming week and below-average rainfall for the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook indicates increased chances (~55%) of above-normal rainfall for south Florida for October. The outlook for the three-month windows from December-February to February-April is for an increased chance (~45%) of below normal rainfall. The outlook for the remainder three-month windows in the period October 2017 to May 2018 is for equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the High Lake Management Band, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "Pump Maximum Practicable to WCAs".

There were no releases south from Lake Okeechobee through the EAA canals over the 7-day period from October 9 to October 15, 2017. No releases were made from Lake Okeechobee to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 either. Stages in WCA-2A and WCA-3A remain high above their respective regulation schedules, while WCA-1 stage is slightly above its regulation schedule.

For the coming operational period, the USACE is requesting the SFWMD not to implement releases from the lake south to the WCAs. The District and USACE will continue to evaluate the capacity to send lake water to the STAs and WCAs.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the High Lake Management Band, the release guidance for Part D of the 2008 LORS is "Up to maximum Discharge Capacity to Tidewater"

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 7,850 cfs over the past week with about 3,580 cfs (46%) coming from Lake Okeechobee. Salinities remained about the same as last week at most sites in the St. Lucie Estuary. Bottom salinity at A1A Bridge appears to be rising, at 7.5 psu on October 16th. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge remains within the poor range for adult oysters.

Total inflow to Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged 11,050 cfs over the past week with 7,220 cfs (65%) coming from the Lake. Salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers remain good for tape grass. Salinity conditions are in the fair range for adult oysters at Shell Point and in the poor range at Cape Coral.

Lake Okeechobee stages are receding slowly. However, stages are still in the highest band in the LORS 2008. The District recommends that USACE follows the LORS 2008 Regulation Schedule.