SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

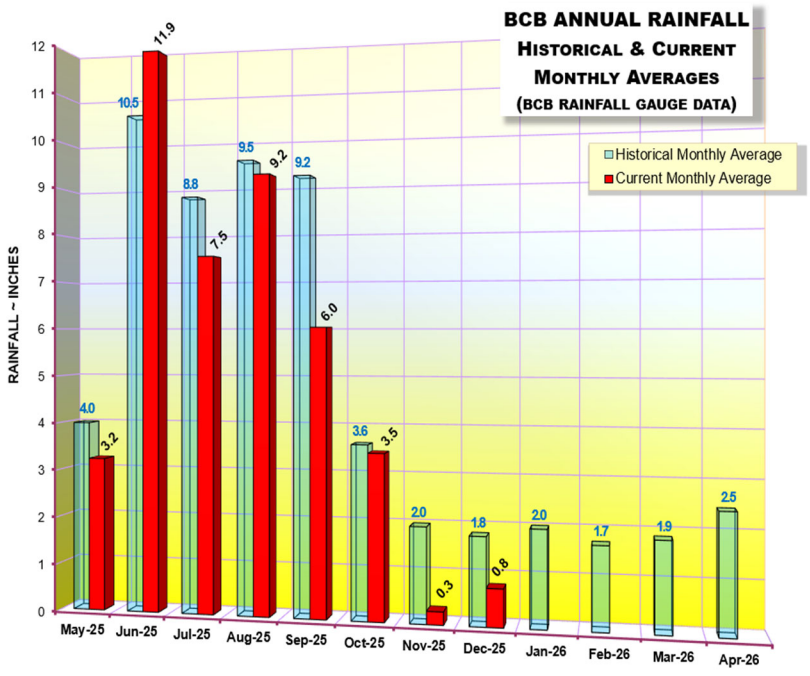
DECEMBER 2025

BIG CYPRESS BASIN HYDROLOGIC REPORT

sfwmd.gov

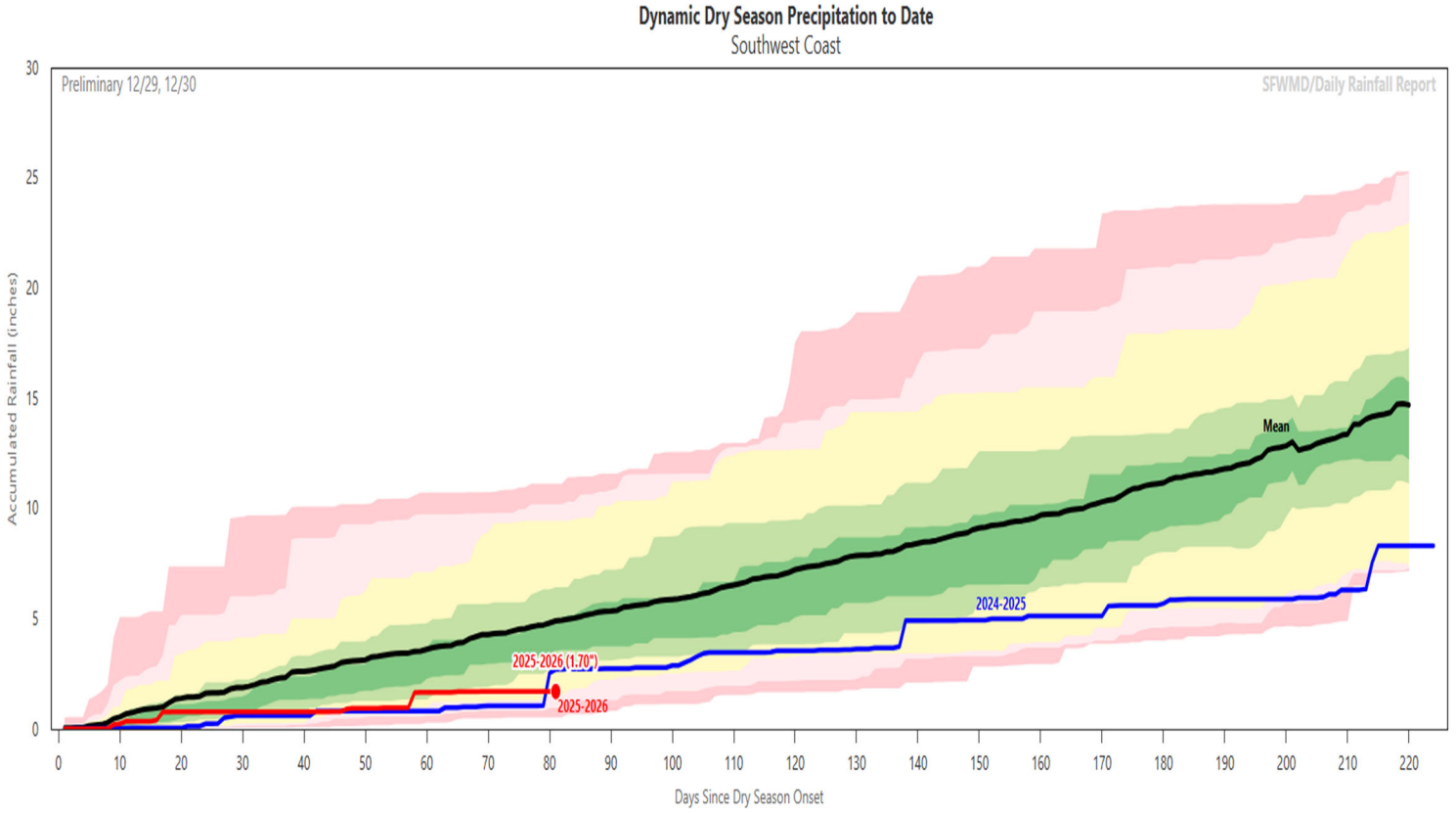
SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS IN THE BIG CYPRESS BASIN

December 2025



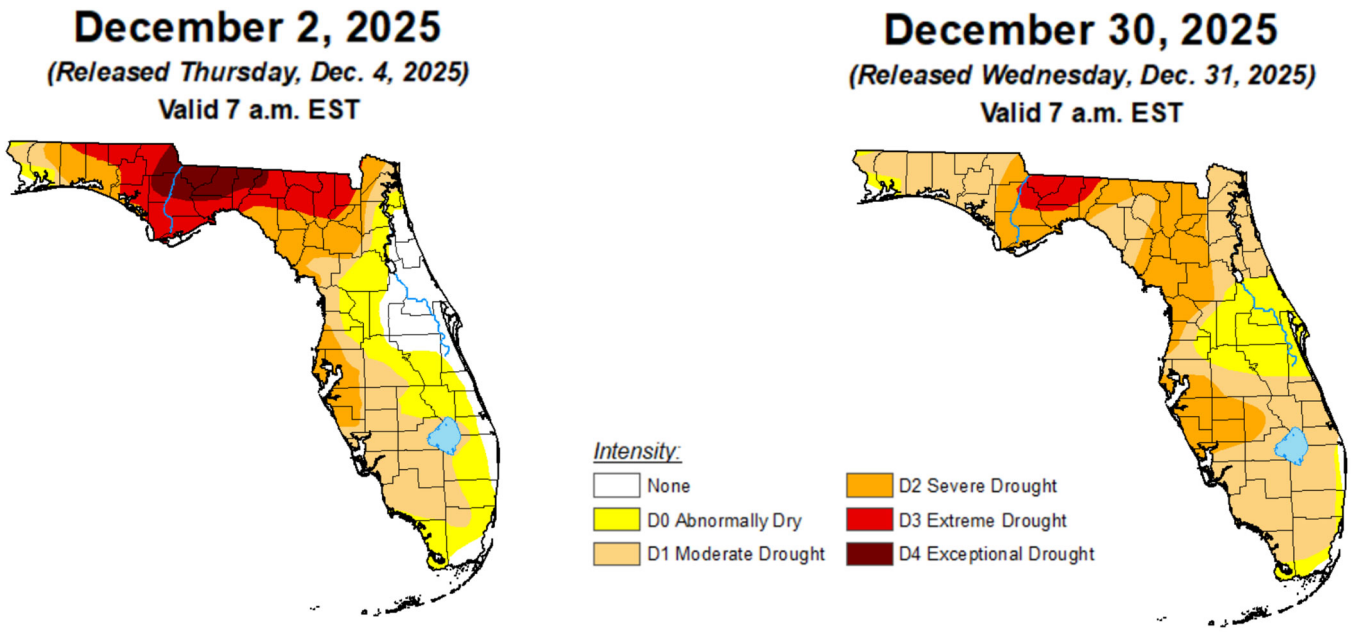
SUMMARY

December continued the recent trend of below normal rainfall in the Big Cypress Basin (BCB). Rain gauges across the BCB recorded an average of just 0.77 inches of rainfall over the last month, just 42% of normal for the month of December. This below normal monthly rainfall came directly on the heels of a exceptionally dry November. By the end of December, BCB rainfall totals for the current dry season had dipped below that seen at the same time in last year's unusually dry winter. Despite a small rain event in early December, the subsequent lack of precipitation led to this dry season beginning as one of the five driest since 1993.



Over the course of the 2025 calendar year, the BCB saw a significant rainfall deficit, receiving an average of just 45.3 inches (79%) of the normal annual precipitation. Of the past 12 months, only June 2025 saw rainfall totals exceeding the normal monthly average.

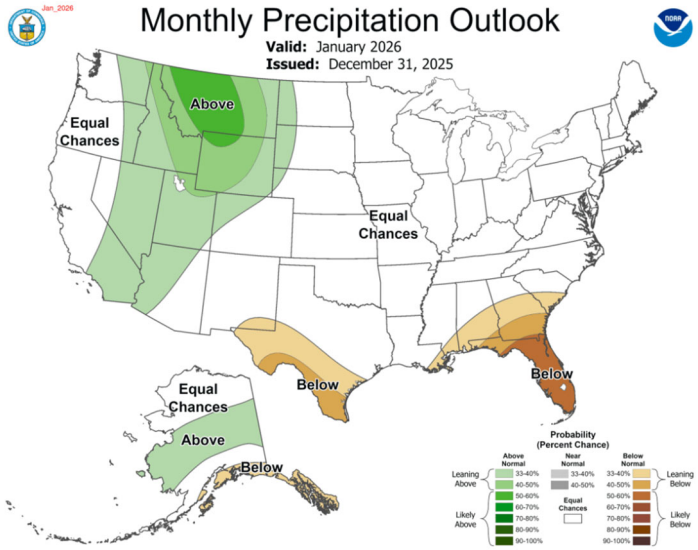
Due to the low precipitation totals over the last three months – in conjunction with the longer term rainfall deficits discussed above – by the end of December 2025 the U.S. Drought Monitor had expanded the limits of drought conditions across all of Florida. Colliar County remained in classification "D1 Moderate Drought."

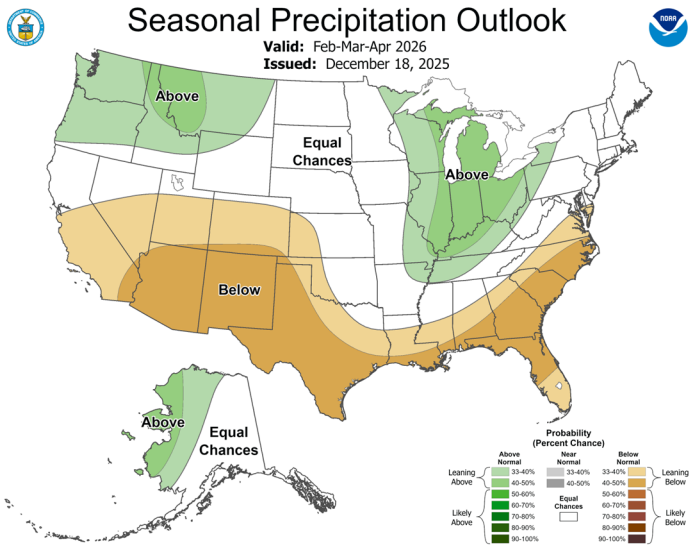


On January 8, 2026, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center updated the status of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), stating:

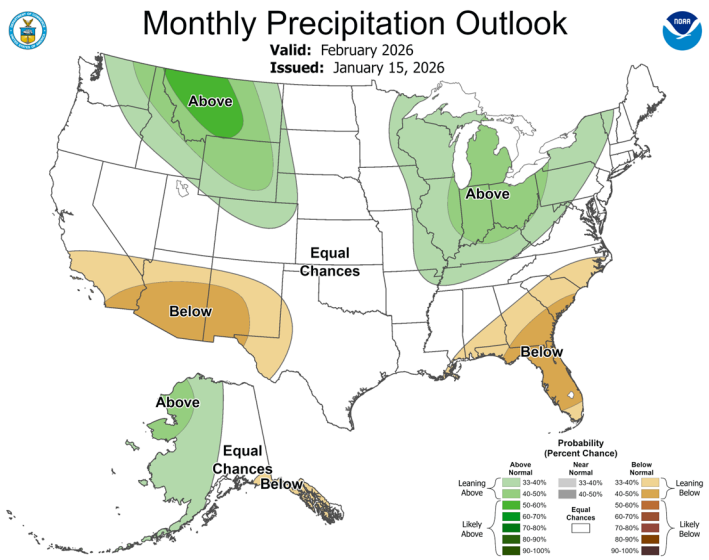
- *La Niña conditions persist*
- *There is a 75% chance of a transition to ENSO-neutral conditions during January-March 2026*
- *ENSO-neutral conditions are then likely to remain at least through late spring 2026*
- *Longer term forecasts indicate a growing chance of El Niño in summer, though uncertainty remains due to lower accuracy of model forecasts through the spring.*

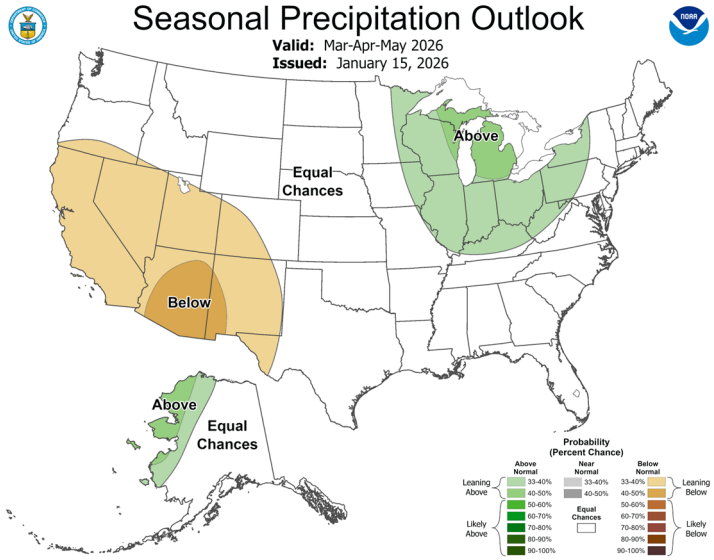
Due to the anticipated meteorological impacts associated with La Niña conditions, the Climate Prediction Center has increased the probability of drier than normal conditions in January, and over the next three months.



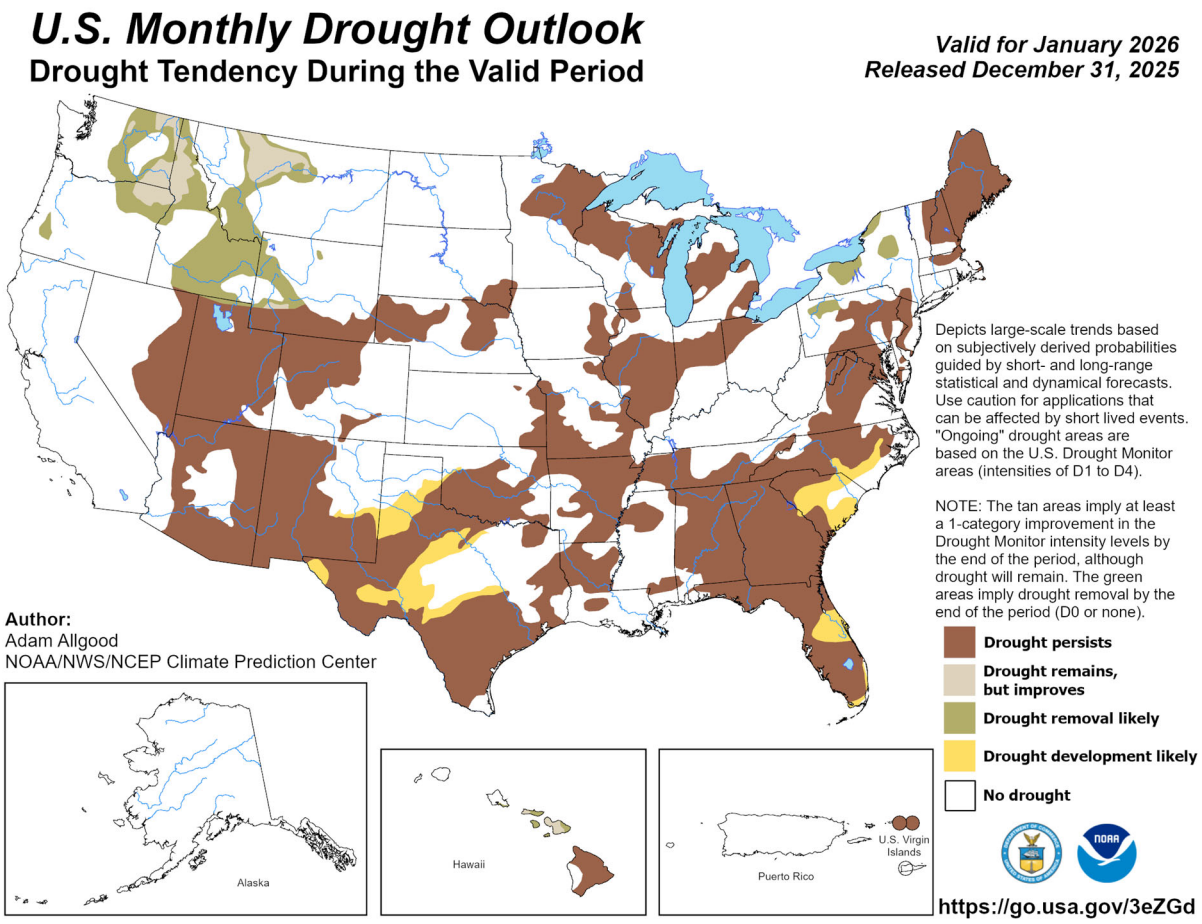


The most recent Monthly Precipitation Outlooks (released on January 15, 2026) see a higher probability of below normal rainfall for the month of February, then equal probabilities of above or below normal rainfall resuming in the Spring, once ENSO-neutral conditions return.





Due to the probability of the short-term continuance of drier than normal conditions, the U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook forecasts that drought conditions will persist in January 2026.



BCB water managers will continue to operate the BCB system in water conservation regimens to capture and conserve as much runoff as possible though the Dry Season.

DECEMBER 2025 BCB RAINFALL

The Basin-wide averaged, gauge-measured, monthly rainfall was **0.77** inches in December 2025. This measured rainfall amounted to 42% of the historic BCB December average of 1.82 inches **(see Figures 1, 2, 3A and Table 1)**. In December 2025, the rain gauge with the highest measured precipitation was R-17 (COCO#1), which recorded 1.36 inches. R-5 (FAKAHATCHEE STRAND HQ) received the lowest rain gauge monthly total with just 0.26 inches.

Figures 3B shows December's calculated average rainfall estimates for each of the Basin's watersheds, based on gauge adjusted radar (Raindar). The Trafford watershed saw the highest Raindar average of 1.25 inches and the Barron River watershed saw the lowest Raindar average of 0.27 inches. The BCB's overall calculated areal weighted average Raindar rainfall (by watershed) was 0.76 inches for the month, which closely matches the basin-wide rain gauge average of 0.77 inches. The Raindar totals and their locality distribution across the BCB/Lower West Coast are shown on **Figure 3C**.

BIG CYPRESS BASIN CANAL SYSTEMS

During December, BCB structures remained in water conservation operations. By the end of month, the impact of the continued dry conditions become more apparent, with canal water levels continuing to recede systemwide. In contrast to the previous month, where tributary canals saw the most recession, December saw areas in the middle of the canal system begin to also notably decline. BCB canal conditions as of December 31, 2025 are shown on **Figure 4**.

GOLDEN GATE SYSTEM

Control structures in the Golden Gate Main Canal (GG Main) system remained in water conservation regimens for the month of December. Minimal discharges briefly resumed on December 8th in response to a minor rainfall event, after which levels steadily declined, with discharge ceasing by December 21st. Canal levels continued to decline thereafter despite no discharges to tide. By December 31st all portions of the Golden Gate Main Canal had receded to between the 25th and 75th percentile. **(see Figure 5)**.

COCOHATCHEE SYSTEM

The Cocohatchee Canal was kept in water conservation operations in December. By the end of the month the most downstream segment of the system (between COCO1 and COCO2) remained at the 75th percentile. Though this segment remained at approximately the COCO1 fixed crest weir elevation, the segment immediately upstream of COCO2 receded more noticeably and ended the month below the 25th percentile. Upstream reaches of the system fared better, and finished the month at approximately the 75th percentile, while the segment immediately upstream of CORK2 remained at the 90th percentile (**Figures 6A, 6B, & 6C**).

FAKA UNION SYSTEM

As with the other BCB canals, the Faka Union system operated in water conservation regimens in December. Both FU4S and FU5 gates remained closed in December, and did not release water southward. By the end of December, the portion of the Faka Union Canal upstream of FU5 had declined to between the 25th and 75th percentile. As is typical during dry season, the portion of Faka Union between FU5 and FU4S declined more rapidly, but still managed to finish the month between the 25th and 75th percentile. Downstream levels (FU4 to S487) remained near the 75th percentile despite the lack of upstream input, as no pumping occurred at S487 in December. Monitoring wells downstream of S487 – in the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP) – finished the month between the 25th and 75th

percentile. The Faka Union Canal immediately upstream of FU1 (the fixed crest weir just north of U.S. Highway 41) continued to trend lower than historic values due to the completion of the PSRP last summer. (**Figures 7A & 7B**).

HENDERSON CREEK SYSTEM

As with the other BCB canals, water control structures in the Henderson Creek remained in water conservation operations in December. No discharges occurred at the HC1 structure in December and the system finished the month between the 25th and 50th percentile. (**Figure 8A & 8B**).

BIG CYPRESS BASIN & LOWER WEST COAST GROUNDWATER LEVELS

For the Lower West Coast [LWC], water levels in the groundwater monitoring stations generally continued their decline in December, with C948R and L-738 being exceptions. (**Table 2 and Figure 9**). By the end of December, C-462 (north of Lake Trafford), was between the 50th and 75th percentile; C-1224 (near Henderson Creek) was at the 25th percentile; and C-1004R (near Cocohatchee Canal) remained below the 25th percentile.

L-738 a Tamiami Aquifer well in Bonita Springs remained near its historic minimum at the end of December. L-2194, a Sandstone Aquifer well in Bonita Springs again finished the month below the 25th percentile, and finally, L-2195, a surficial aquifer well in Bonita Springs, also finished the month below the 25th percentile.

All of the wells discussed above currently remain above the level of low concern. With the forecast of a continuance of the drier than conditions in January and February, a rate of recession similar to that experienced in 2024 seems probable, potentially causing well levels to decline below that measured last year.

CORKSCREW SWAMP

Figure 10 shows the historical trends for Corkscrew Swamp (CRKSWPS), Bird Rookery (BRDROOK), and the Cork 3 (CORK3) structure, and their 2025 corresponding levels. Water levels in CRKSWPS and BRDROOK continued their dry season decline in December. By month's end, CRKSWPS had declined to approximately the 50th percentile and BRDROOK had dropped to near the 10th percentile. CORK3 (a manually operated structure south of BRDROOK) continued its seasonal decline and finished the month near the 75th percentile. **Figure 11** shows that Lake Trafford has also continued it seasonal decline and remains near the 50th percentile.

Figures 12 and Figure 13 show the locations for Southern Corkscrew (SOCREW) sites 1 through 6, all of which are combination surface and groundwater monitoring wells . Also shown are the historical trends for SOCREW1 and SOCREW2, which have been monitored since 2016. Both SOCREW1 and SOCREW2 continued their dry season decline in December, and by the end of the month, had dropped to near their historical monthly minimums. The SOCREW sites 3, 4, 5 and 6 are newer sites and only have a period of record for approximately 2.5 years, so there is not adequate data to complete a statistical analysis.

FIGURE 1
RAIN GAUGE LOCATIONS

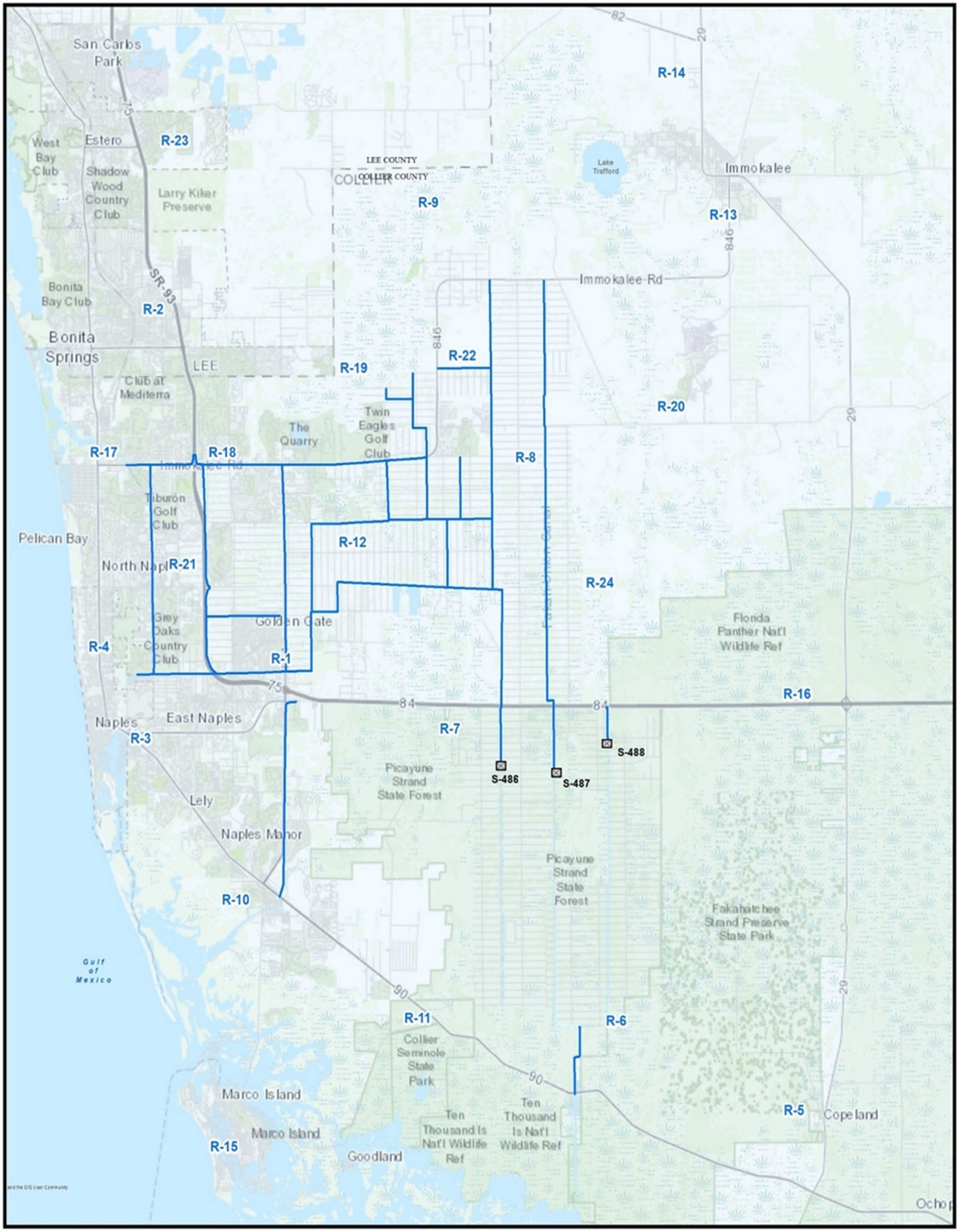


FIGURE 2
BCB GAUGE MEASURED RAINFALL MONTHLY AVERAGES
CALENDAR YEAR 2025

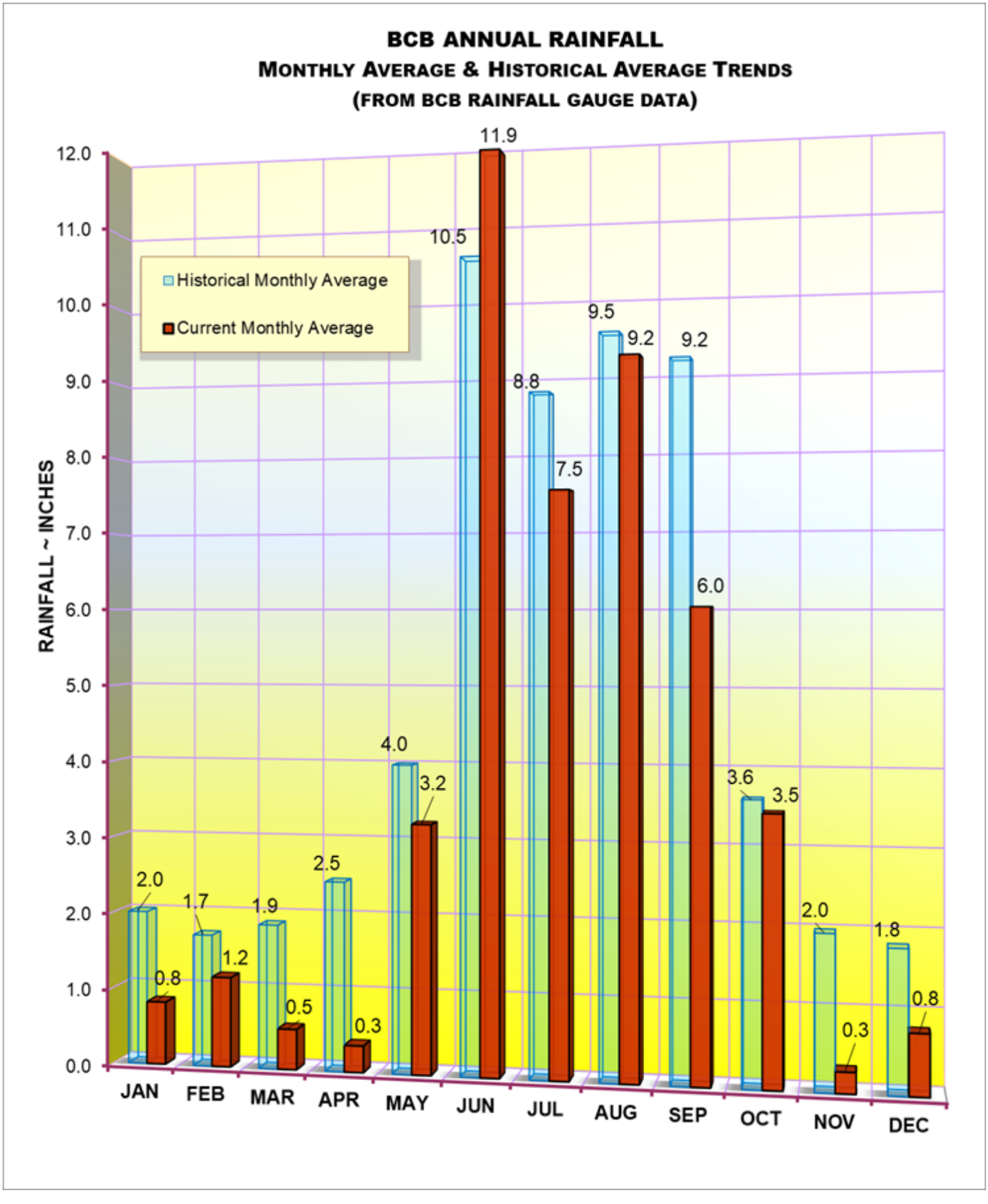


TABLE 1
RAINFALL REPORT - DECEMBER 2025
DISTRICT/BASIN RAINFALL STATIONS
(ALL NUMBERS ARE IN INCHES)

STATION INDEX NO.	STATION NAME	Dec-25	LONG TERM MONTHLY AVERAGE	MONTHLY DIFFERENCE	CALENDAR YEAR 2025 CUMULATIVE TOTAL	AVERAGE CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE DIFFERENCE
R-1	GG#3	0.62	2.16	-1.54	38.54	65.99	-27.45
R-2	BONITA SPRINGS WATER PLANT	1.09	1.49	-0.40	36.85	52.46	-15.61
R-3	COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE	0.75	1.75	-1.00	38.35	53.79	-15.44
R-4	FREEDOM PARK	0.69	2.16	-1.47	37.11	58.72	-21.61
R-5	FAKAHATCHEE STRAND HQ	0.26	1.58	-1.32	45.86	59.32	-13.46
R-6	DAN HOUSE PRAIRIE	0.30	1.48	-1.18	35.10	53.31	-18.21
R-7	SGGE WEATHER STATION	0.70	1.62	-0.92	51.27	61.81	-10.54
R-8	FAKA UNION #5	0.72	2.05	-1.33	42.79	62.28	-19.49
R-9	CORKSCREW SWAMP NORTH END	1.27	1.63	-0.36	40.29	52.40	-12.11
R-10	ROOKERY BAY HQ	0.79	1.86	-1.07	44.62	56.79	-12.17
R-11	COLLIER SEMINOLE STATE PARK	0.49	1.78	-1.29	43.14	57.62	-14.48
R-12	G.G. FIRE STATION	0.69	1.73	-1.04	46.27	59.72	-13.45
R-13	IMMOKALEE LANDFILL	0.80	1.57	-0.77	39.82	52.65	-12.83
R-14	IFAS	1.19	1.58	-0.39	46.16	50.64	-4.48
R-15	MARCO R.O. PLANT	0.56	1.72	-1.16	46.99	53.39	-6.40
R-16	FAKAHATCHEE STRAND NORTH END	0.46	1.98	-1.52	38.14	60.65	-22.51
R-17	COCO#1	1.36	1.70	-0.34	37.02	49.93	-12.91
R-18	COCO#3	0.96	1.82	-0.86	38.78	56.57	-17.79
R-19	BIRD ROOKERY	1.21	2.20	-0.99	47.20	63.53	-16.33
R-20	AVE MARIA	0.61	1.66	-1.05	35.38	53.88	-18.50
R-21	I75W2	1.02	2.46	-1.44	38.58	62.71	-24.13
R-22	GG#7	0.83	1.96	-1.13	44.80	59.38	-14.58
R-23	FPWX	0.47	1.40	-0.93	37.35	54.52	-17.17
R-24	DSOTO10	0.65	2.42	-1.77	41.84	67.13	-25.29
	AVERAGES	0.77	1.82	-1.05	41.34	57.47	-16.12

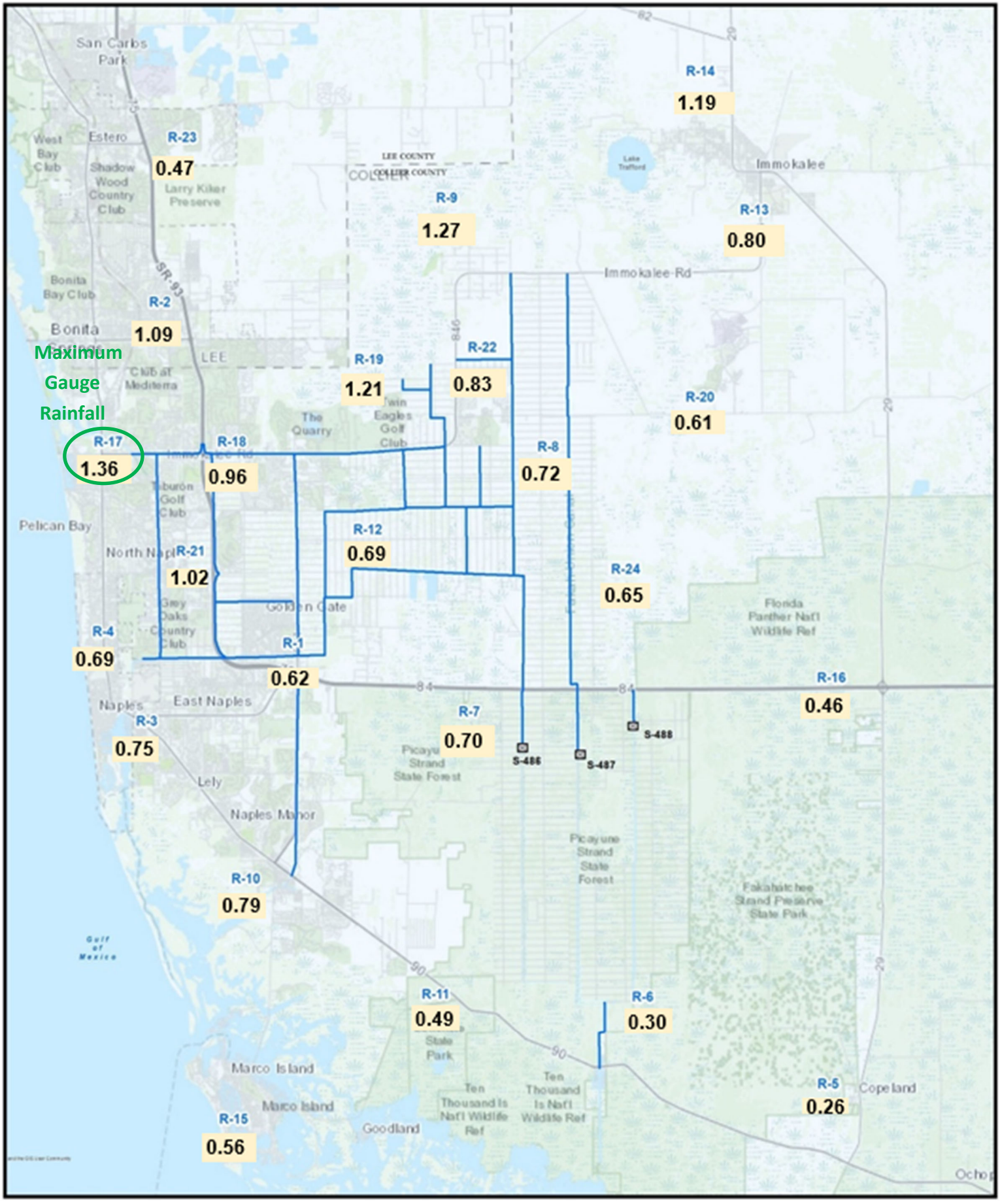
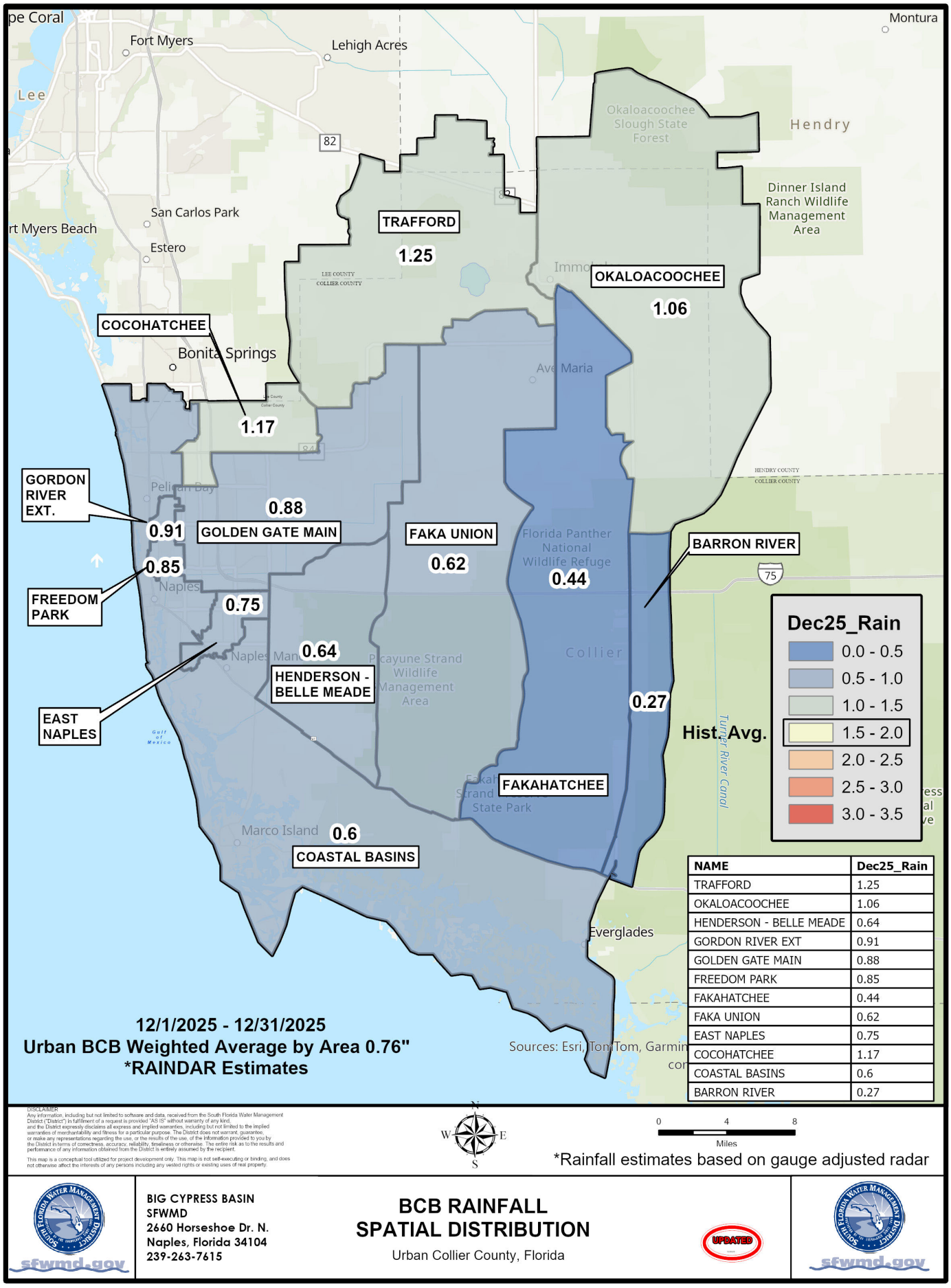


FIGURE 3A
BCB RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION



NAME	Dec25_Rain
TRAFFORD	1.25
OKALOACOOCHEE	1.06
HENDERSON - BELLE MEADE	0.64
GORDON RIVER EXT	0.91
GOLDEN GATE MAIN	0.88
FREEDOM PARK	0.85
FAKAHATCHEE	0.44
FAKA UNION	0.62
EAST NAPLES	0.75
COCOHATCHEE	1.17
COASTAL BASINS	0.6
BARRON RIVER	0.27

BIG CYPRESS BASIN
SFWMD
2660 Horseshoe Dr. N.
Naples, Florida 34104
239-263-7615

BCB RAINFALL SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Urban Collier County, Florida

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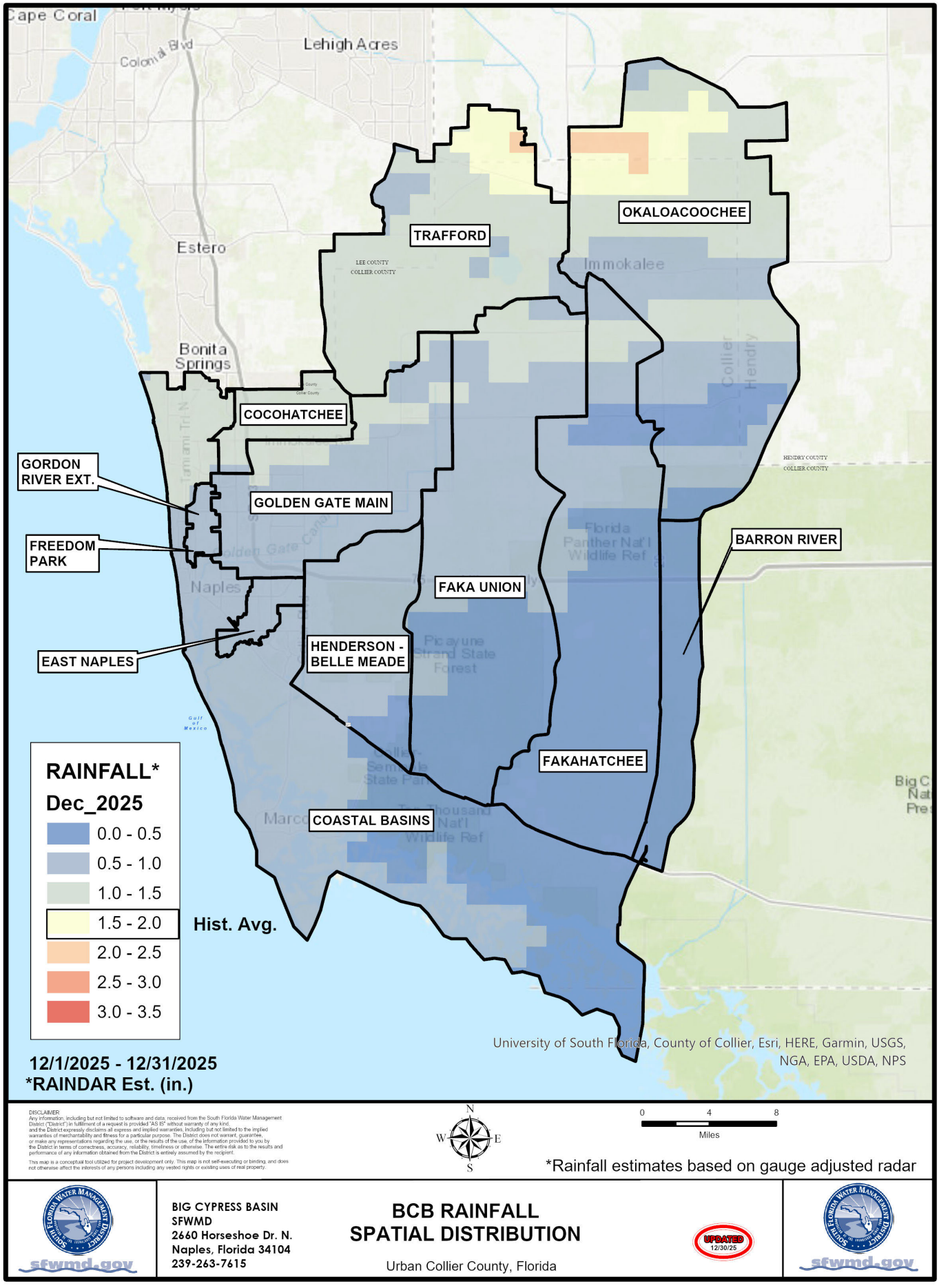
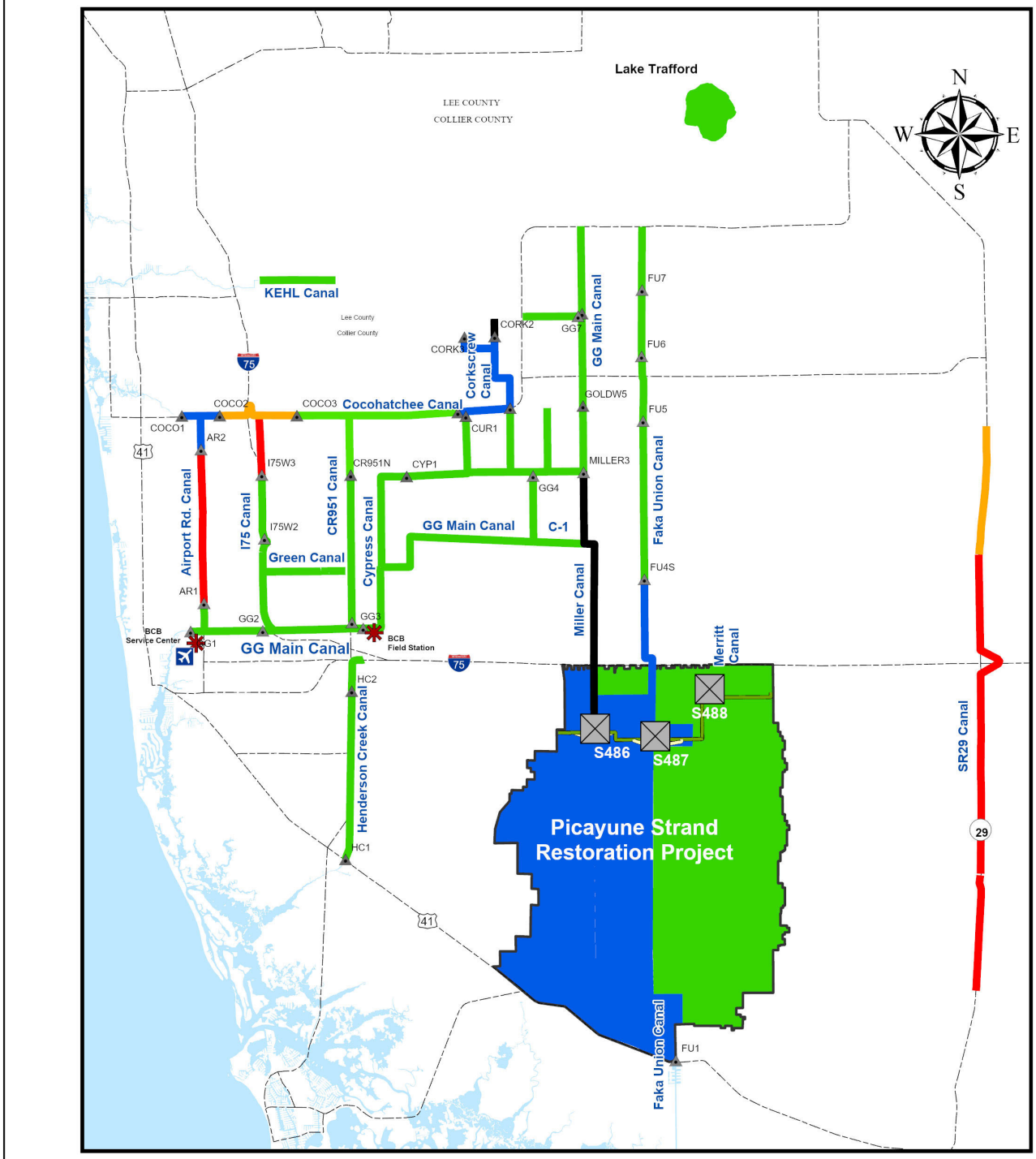
DECEMBER 2025—FIGURE 3B



DECEMBER 2025—FIGURE 3C



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This map is a conceptual tool utilized for project development only. This map is not self-executing or binding, and does not otherwise affect the interests of any persons including any vested rights or existing uses of real property.

Percentile Classes				
< 10	10 - 24	25 - 75	76 - 90	> 90

* Based on period of record for each canal reach

0 2.5 5
Miles

BIG CYPRESS BASIN
SFWMD
2660 Horseshoe Dr. N.
Naples, Florida 34104
239-263-7615

BCB Conditions Index 12/31/25

Urban Collier County, Florida

UPDATED 12/31/25

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FIGURE 4

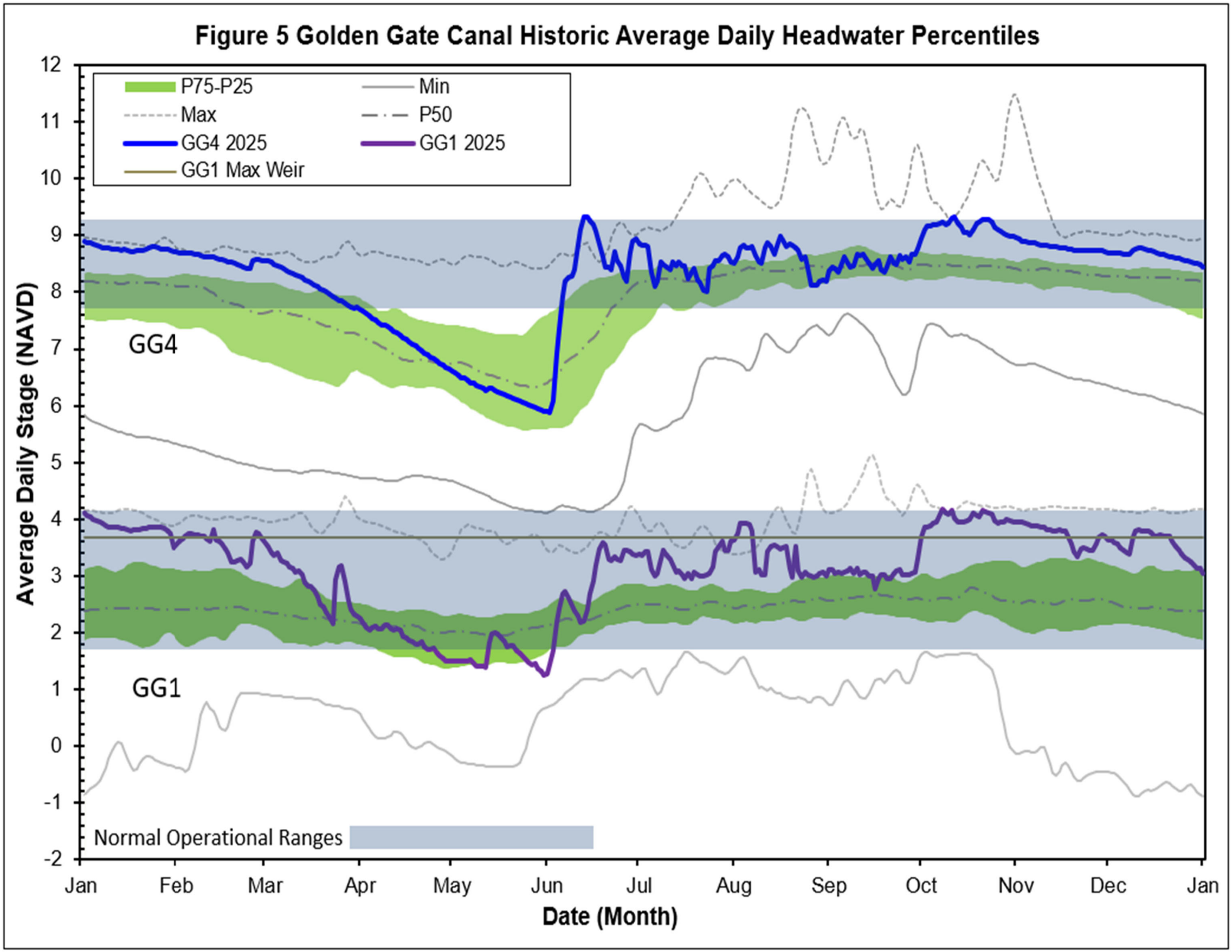
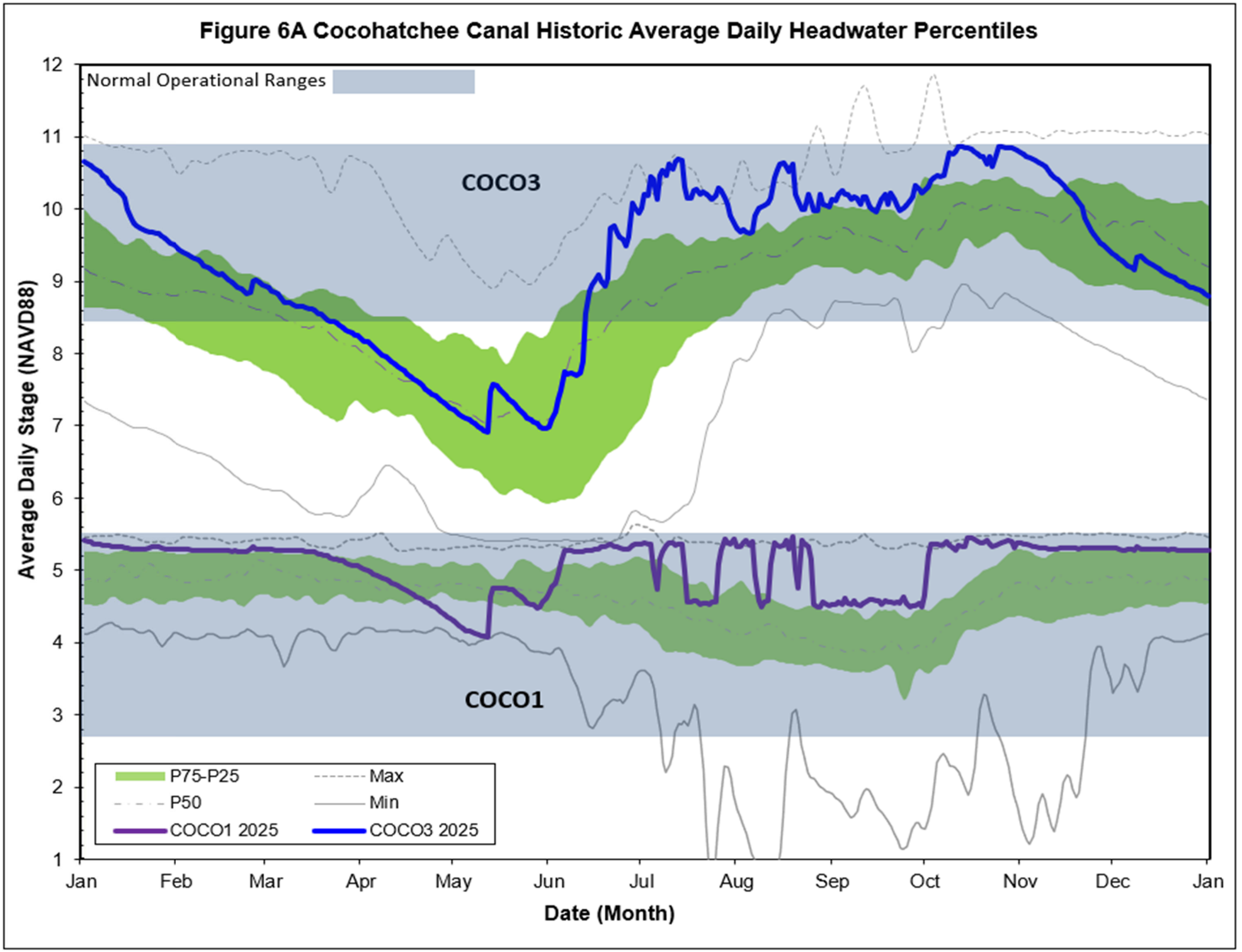


Figure 5 Golden Gate Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
P75-P25
Min
Max
P50
GG4 2025
GG1 2025
GG1 Max Weir
GG4
GG1
Normal Operational Ranges
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)

Figure 6A Cocohatchee Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles



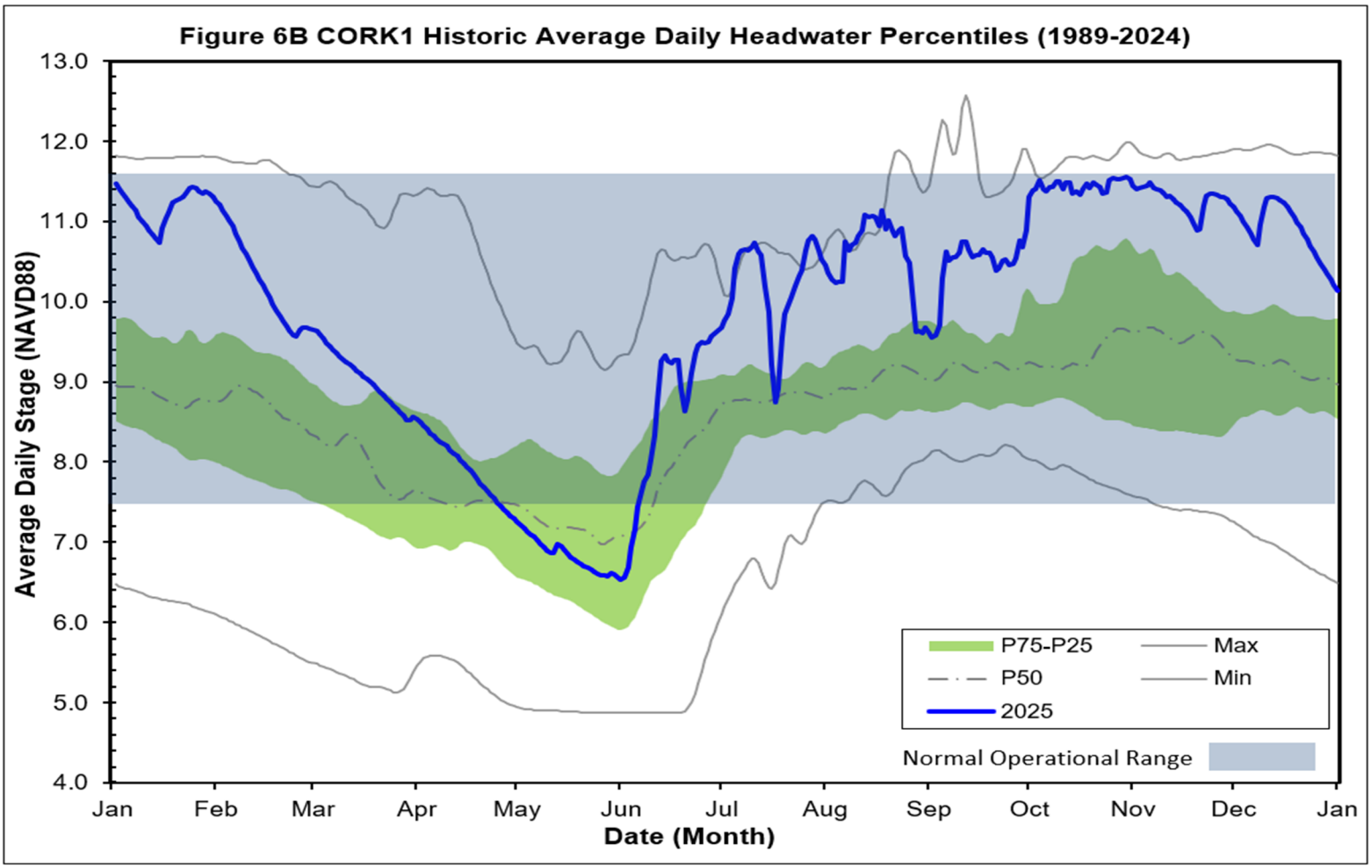


Figure 6B CORK1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (1989-2024)
Average Daily Stage (NAVD88)
13.0
12.0
11.0
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
Normal Operational Range

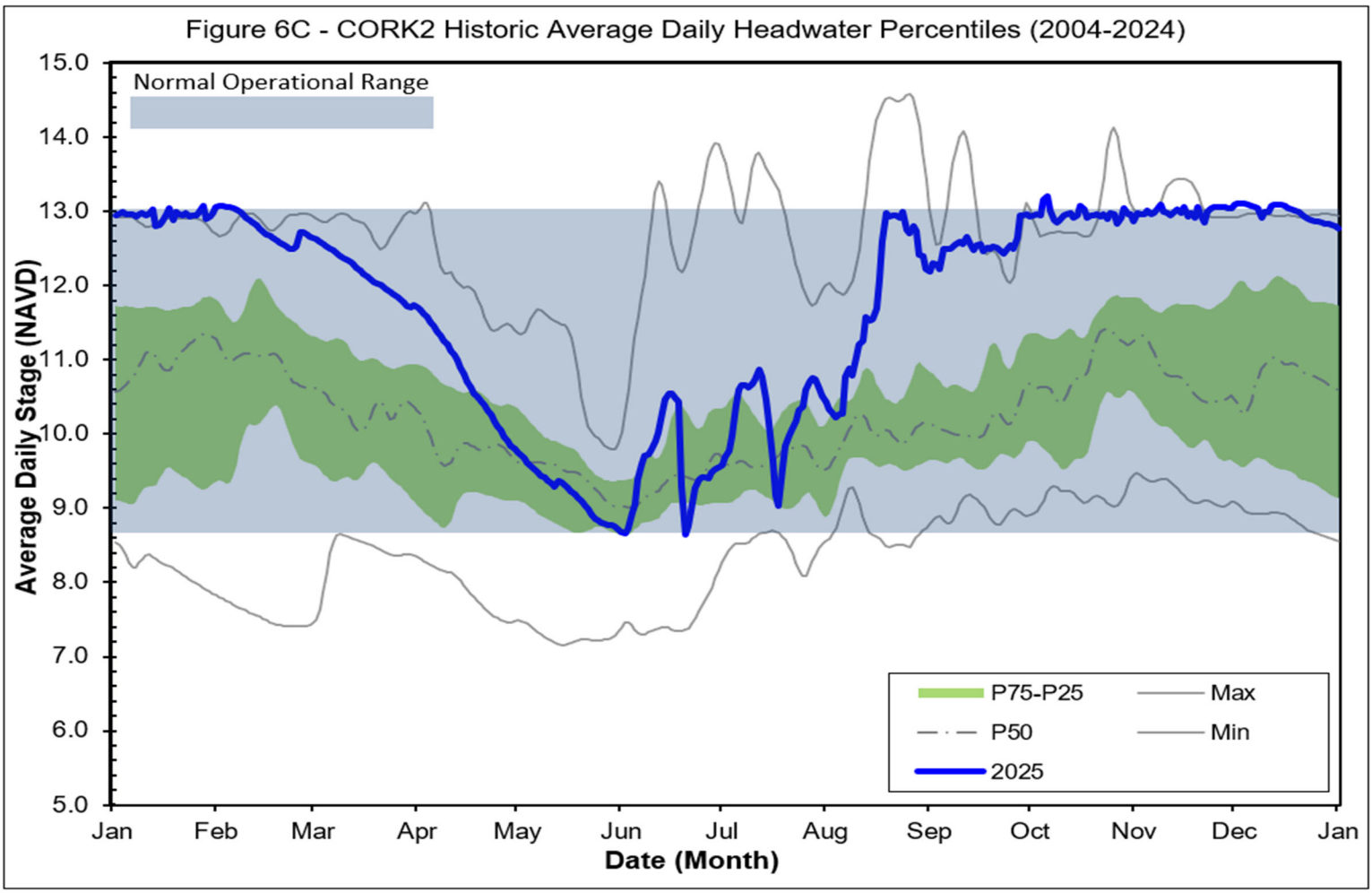


Figure 6C - CORK2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (2004-2024)
Normal Operational Range
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
15.0
14.0
13.0
12.0
11.0
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025

Figure 7A Faka Union Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles

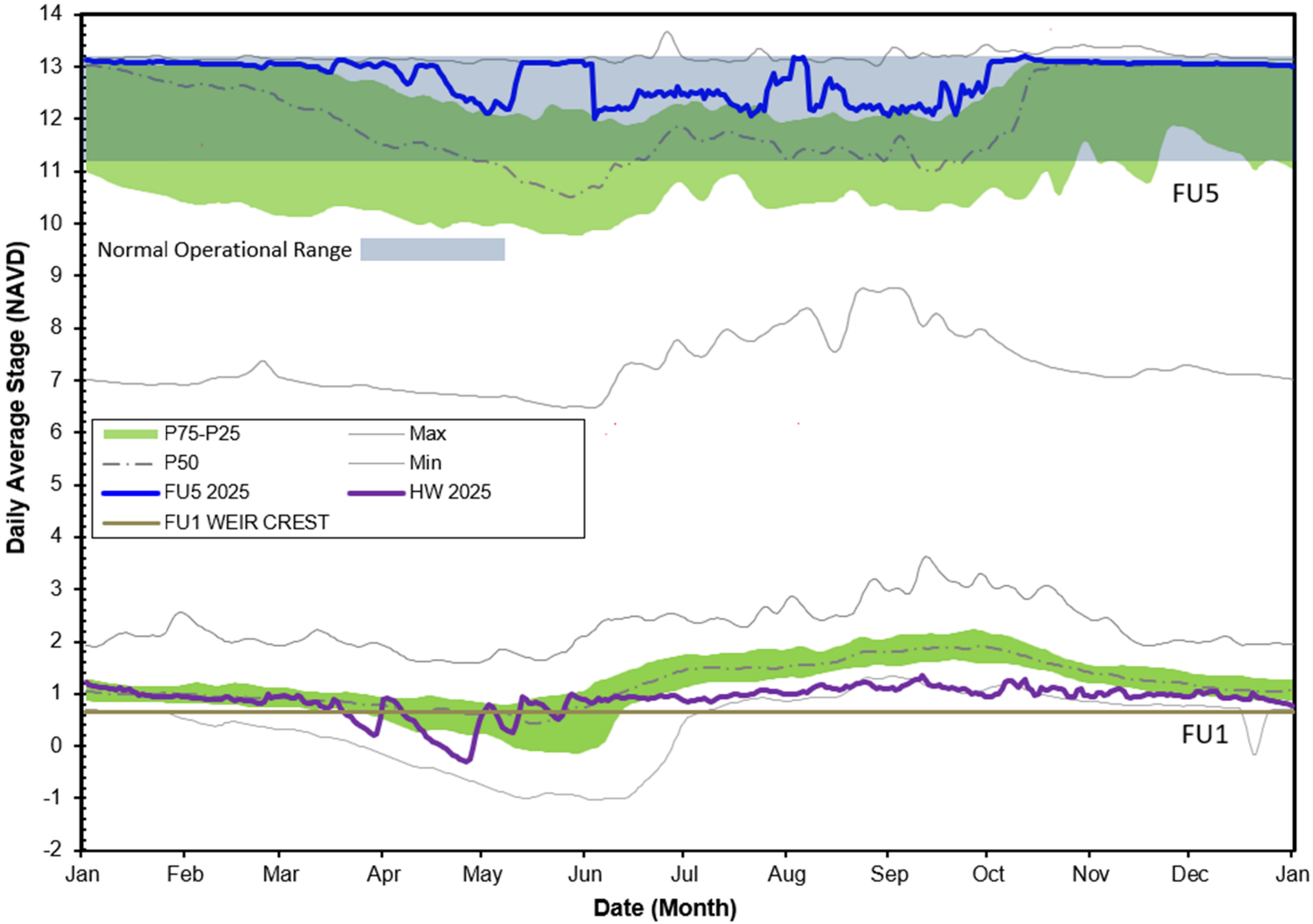


Figure 7B FU4S Historic Average Daily Water Percentiles

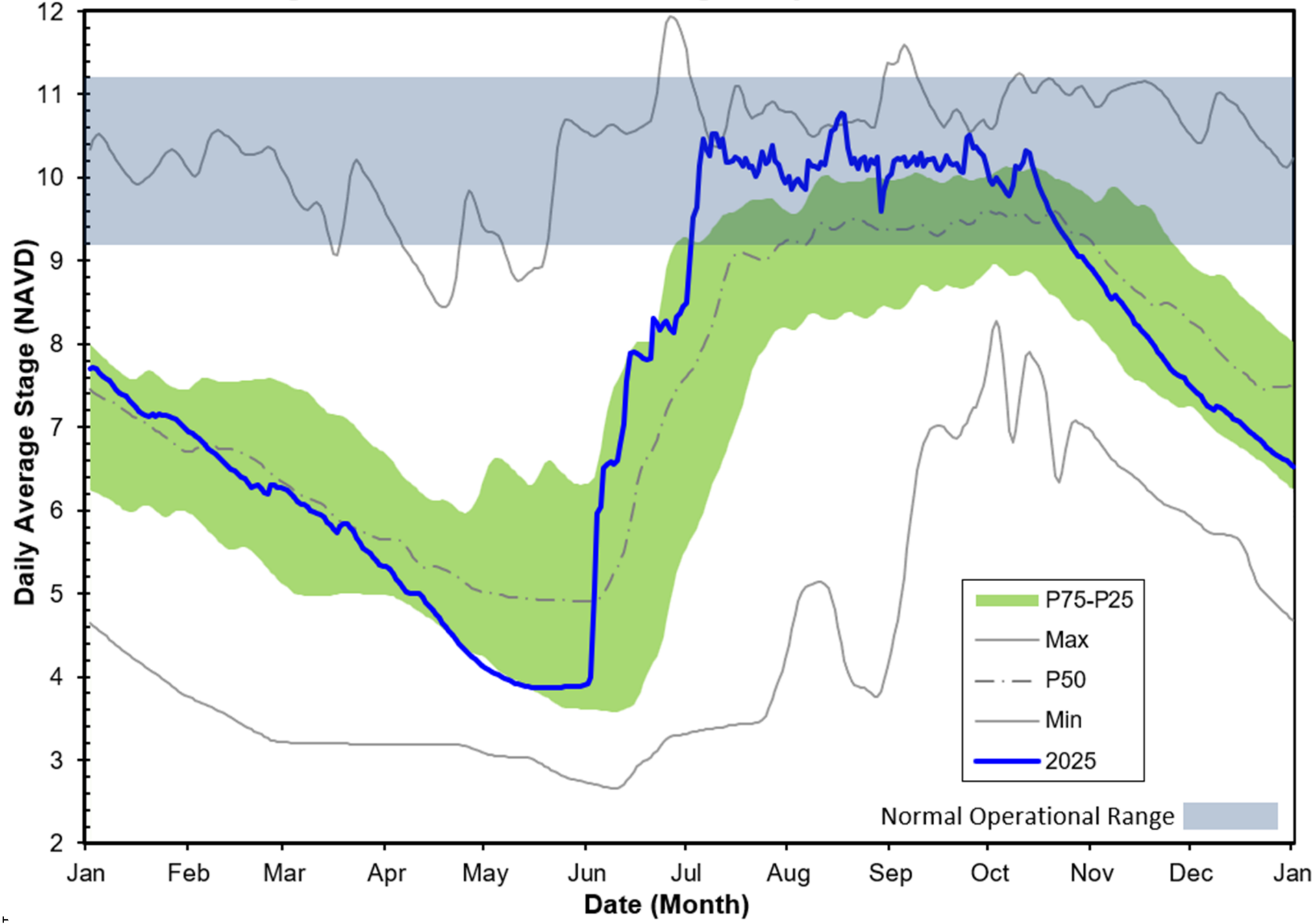


Figure 8A - HC1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles

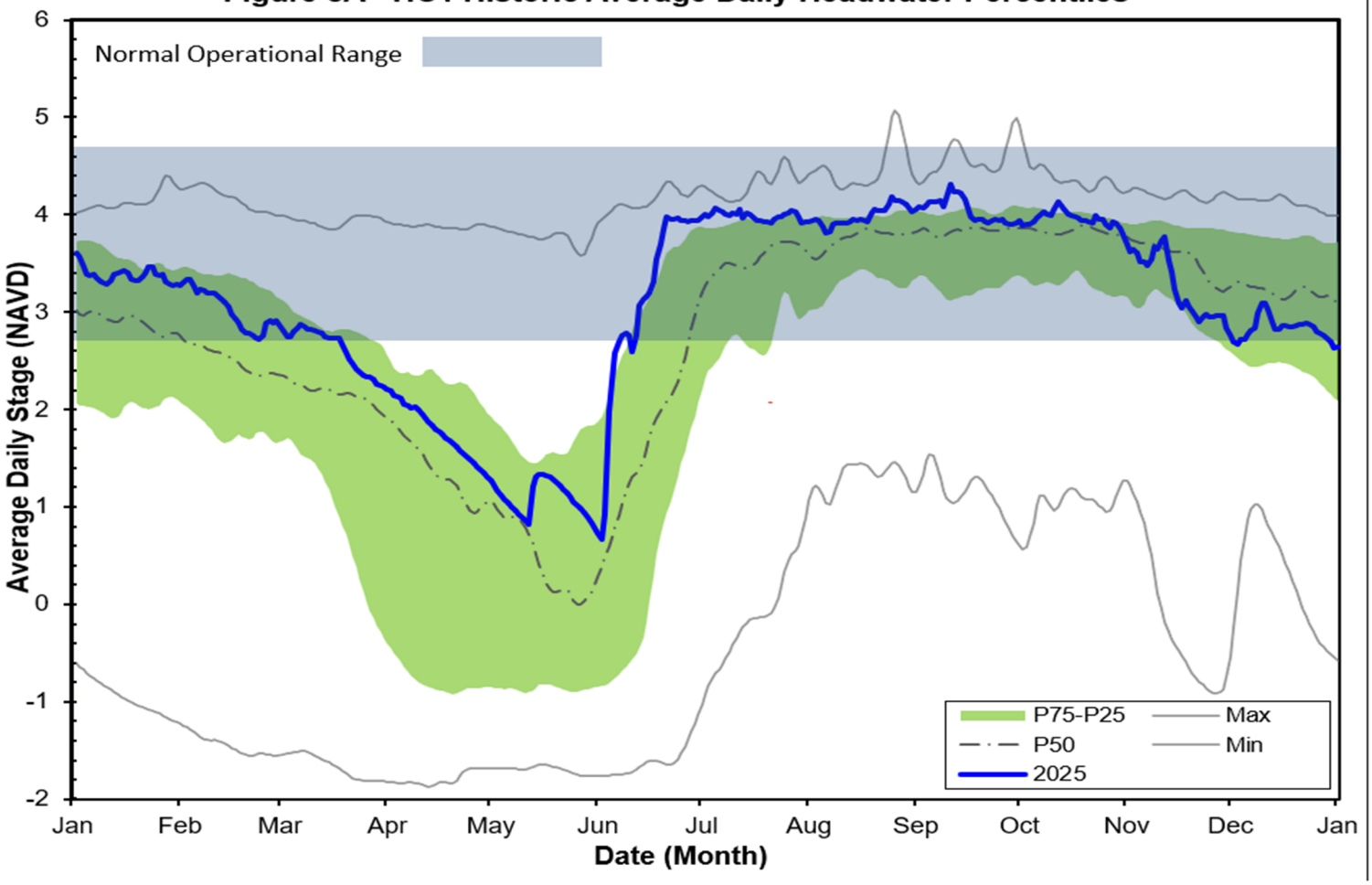
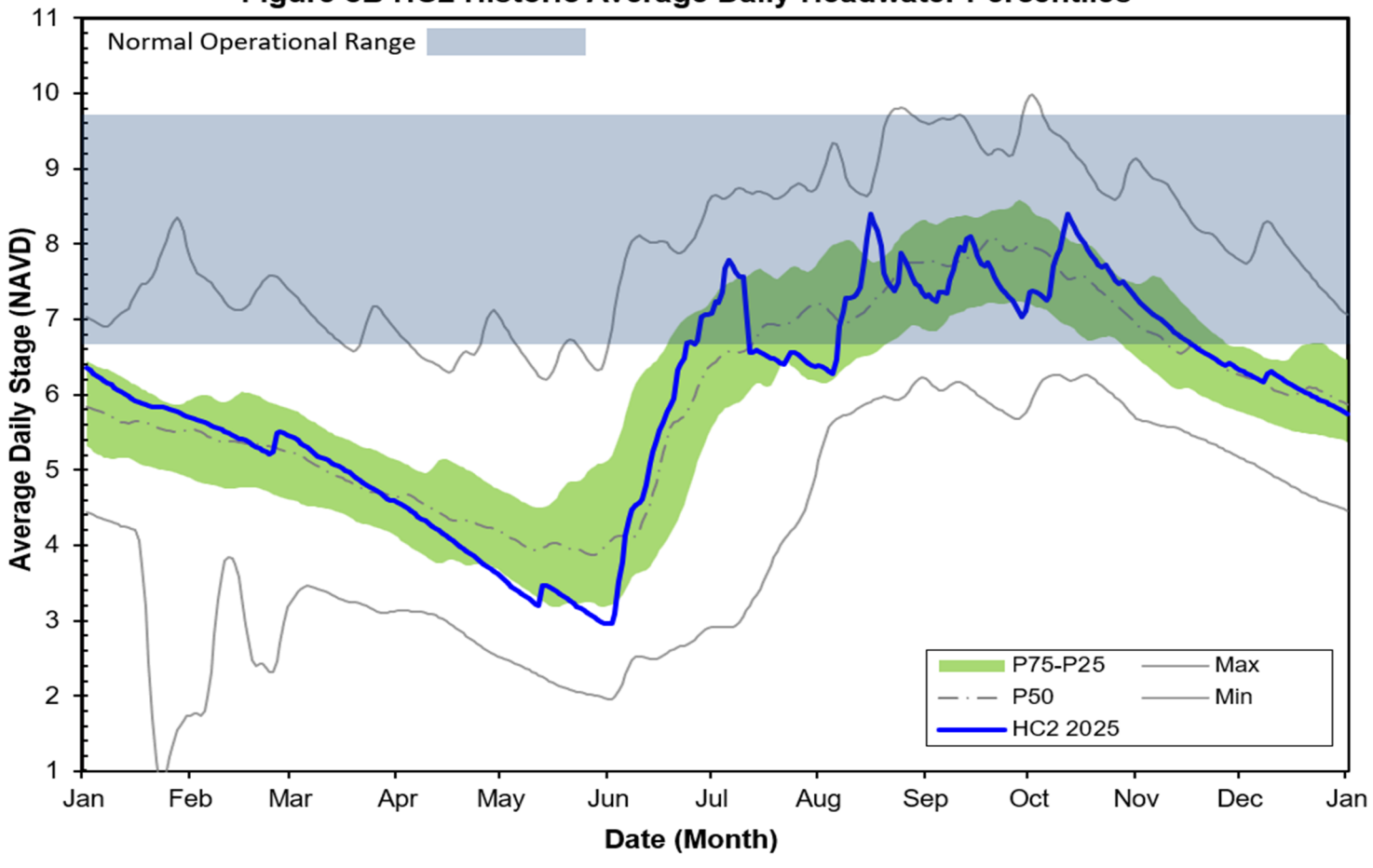


Figure 8B HC2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles



Last Reading Date :		December 31, 2025					
Previous Period Reading Date		November 30, 2025					
STATION INDEX NO.	WELL LOCATION	WELL / AQUIFER - TYPE	CHANGE (from previous date)	PREVIOUS LEVEL	CURRENT LEVEL (ft)	DIRECTION OF CHANGE	CONCERN INDICATOR
ALL INDICATOR LEVELS SHOWN IN FT-NGVD							
C-462	Immokalee	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-0.85	30.37	29.52	↓	GREEN
C-1004R	Naples	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-1.59	1.76	0.17	↓	GREEN
C-1224	Marco Lakes	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-0.12	1.49	1.37	↓	GREEN
C-948R	Golden Gate	Mid Hawthorn Aquifer	1.84	24.80	26.64	↑	
C-951R	Golden Gate	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-0.53	1.61	1.08	↓	
L-2194	Bonita Springs	Sandstone Aquifer	-0.97	1.83	0.86	↓	GREEN
L-2195	Bonita Springs	Surficial Aquifer System	-0.60	8.18	7.58	↓	GREEN
L-738	Bonita Springs	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	0.05	-3.16	-3.11	↑	GREEN

TABLE 2
BCB WATER CONDITIONS SUMMARY
DECEMBER 2025

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BIG CYPRESS BASIN

DECEMBER 31, 2025

GROUNDWATER LEVEL DAILY TRENDS COMPARED TO HISTORICAL AVERAGE

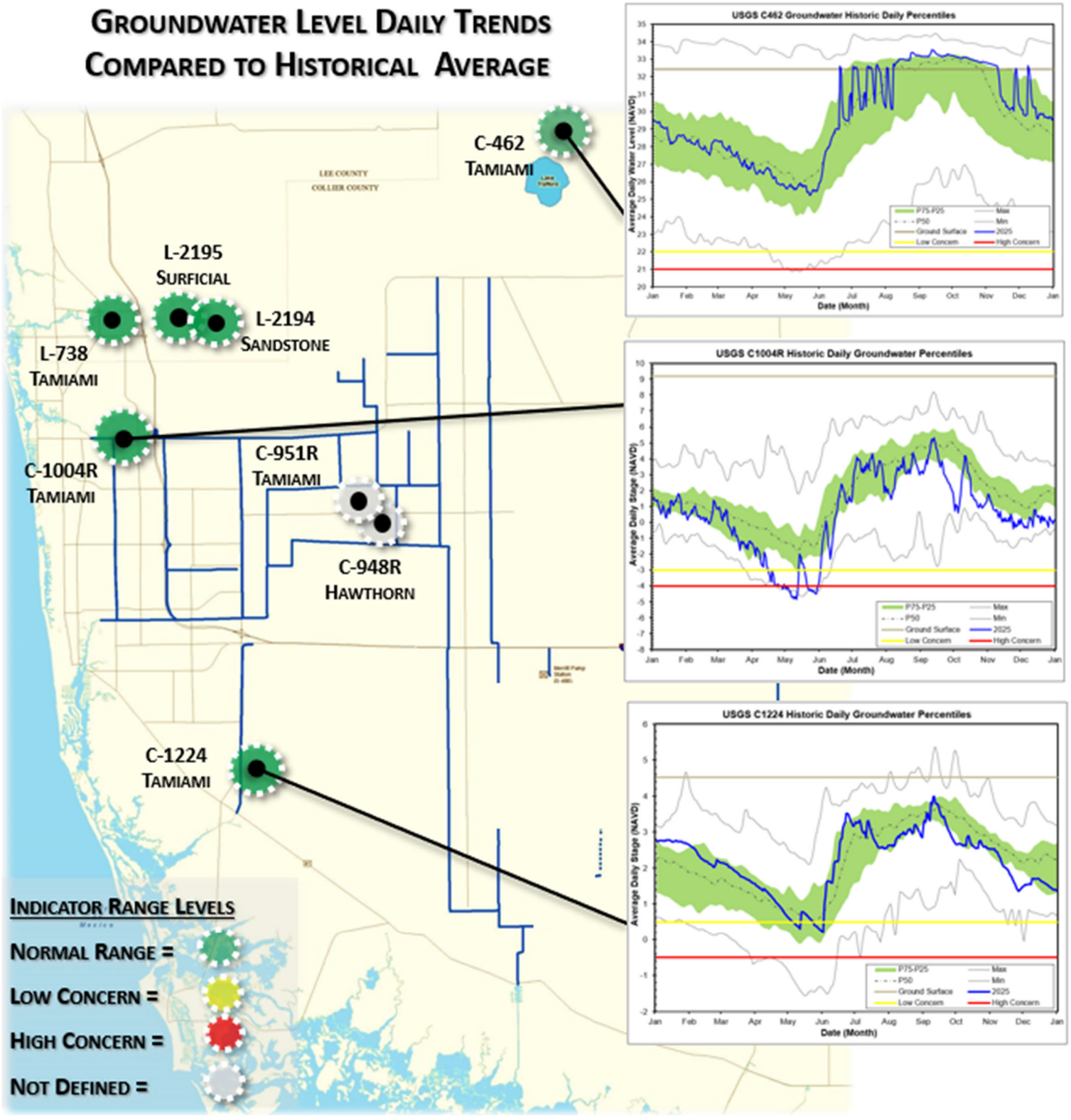


FIGURE 9

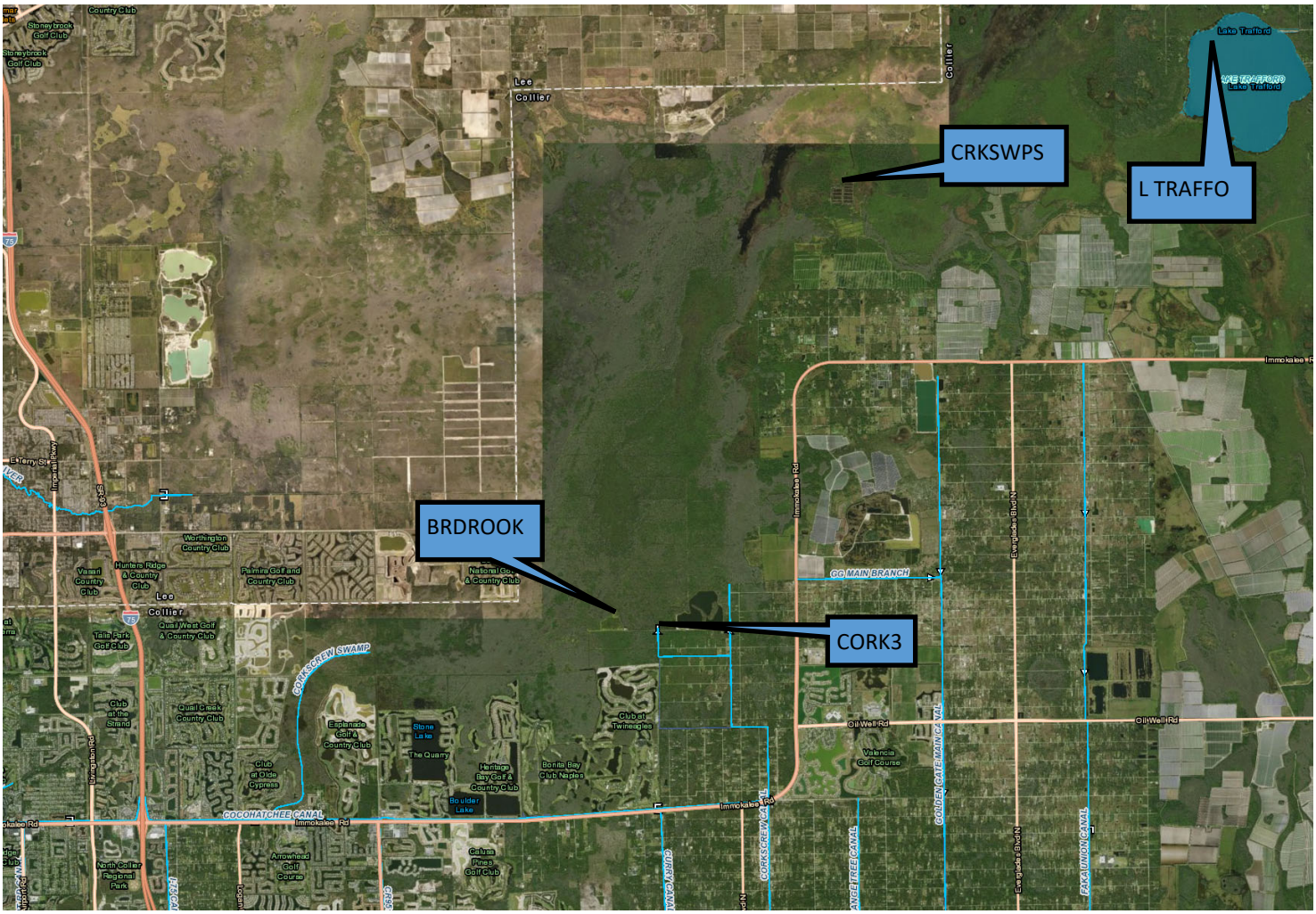


Figure 10-Corkscrew Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (1984-2024)

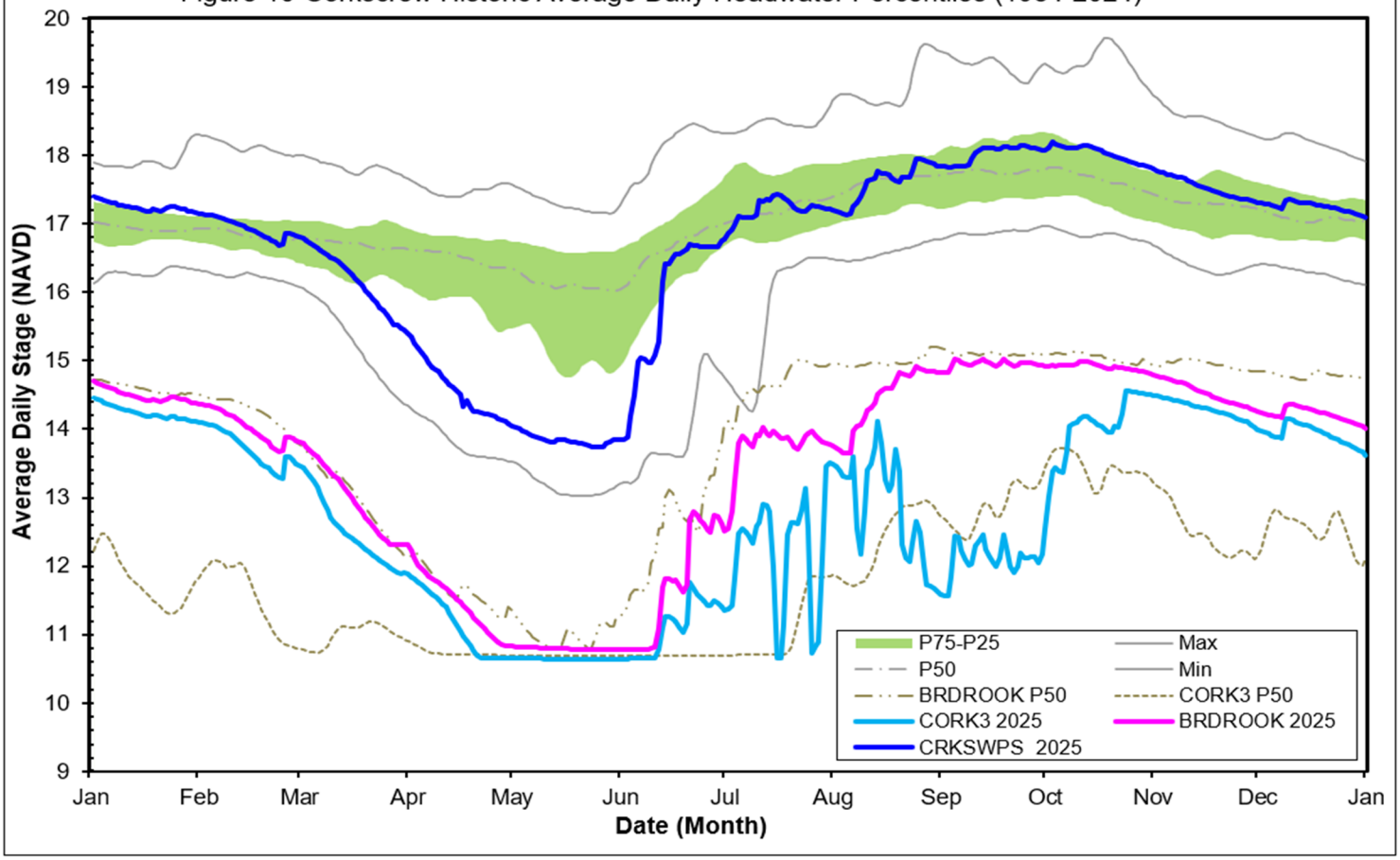
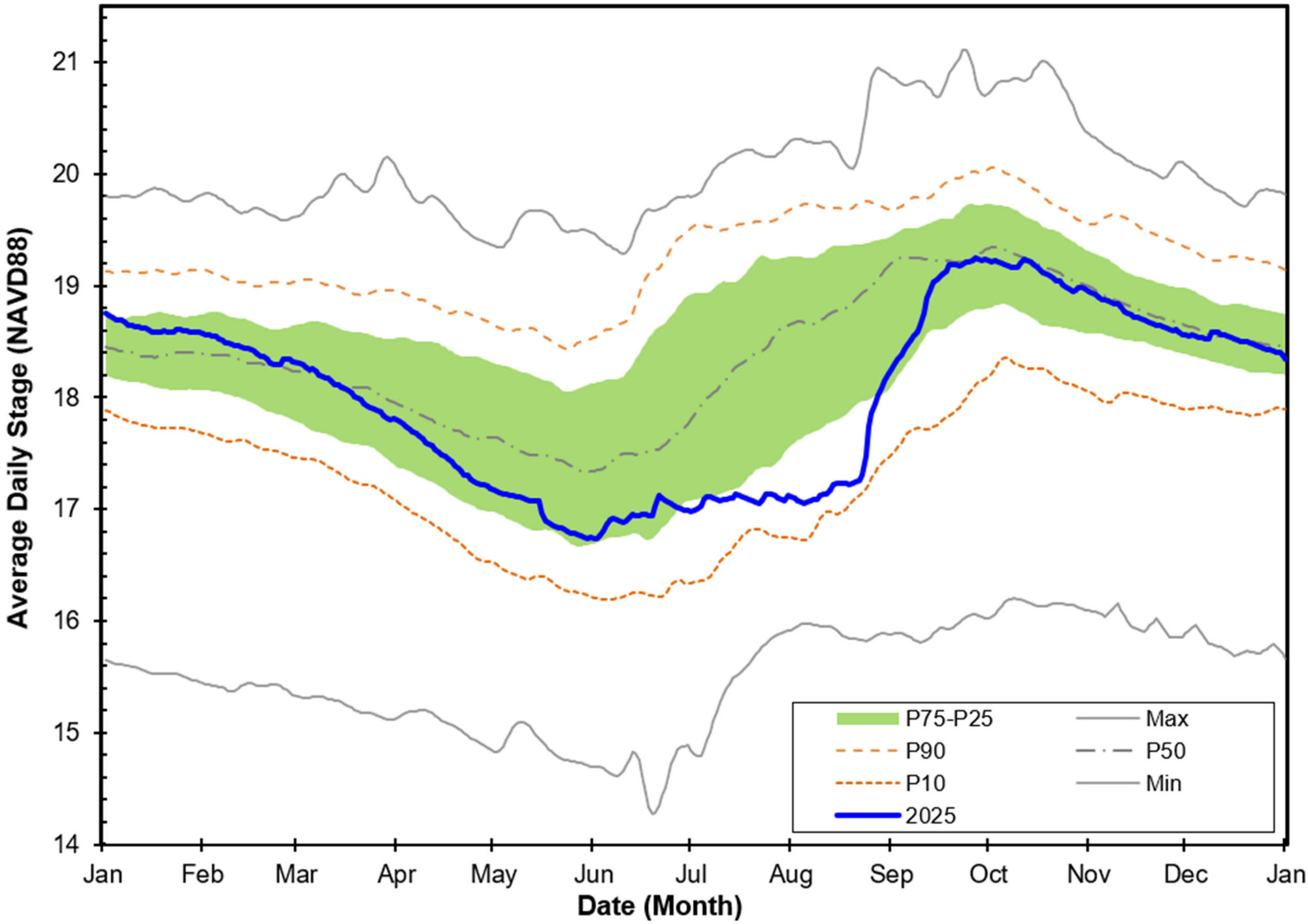


Figure 11 Lake Trafford Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (1941-2024)



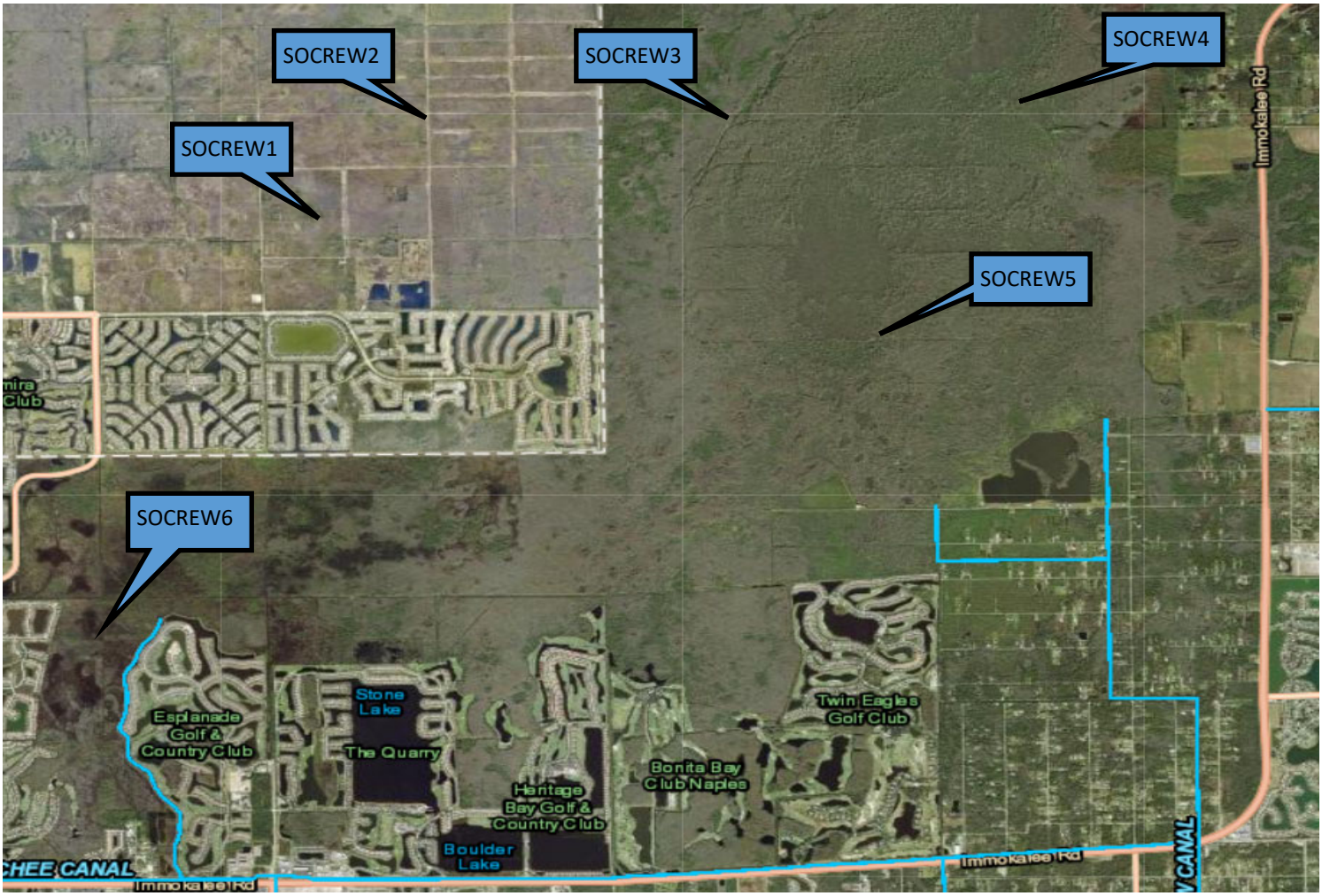
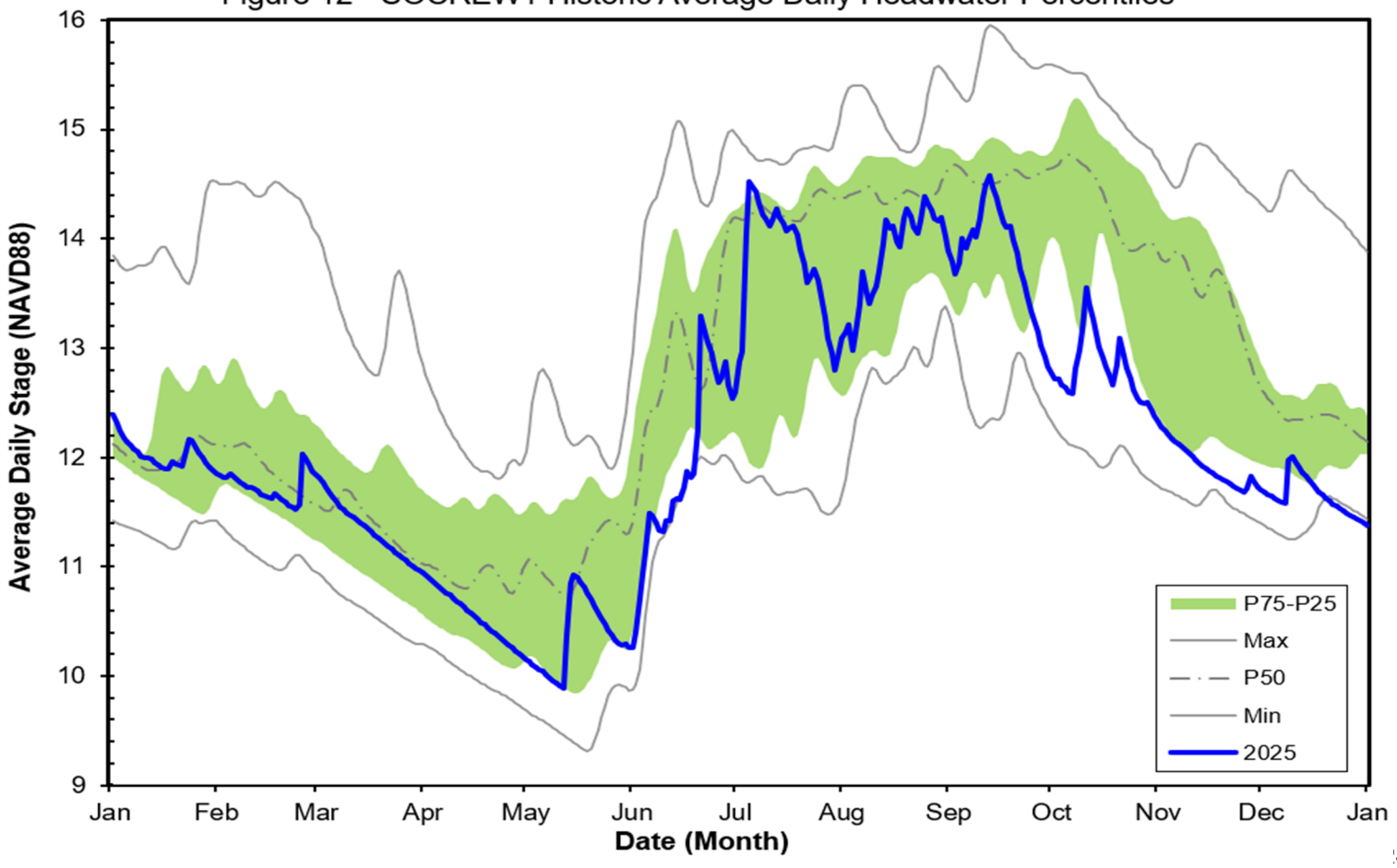


Figure 12 - SOCREW1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles



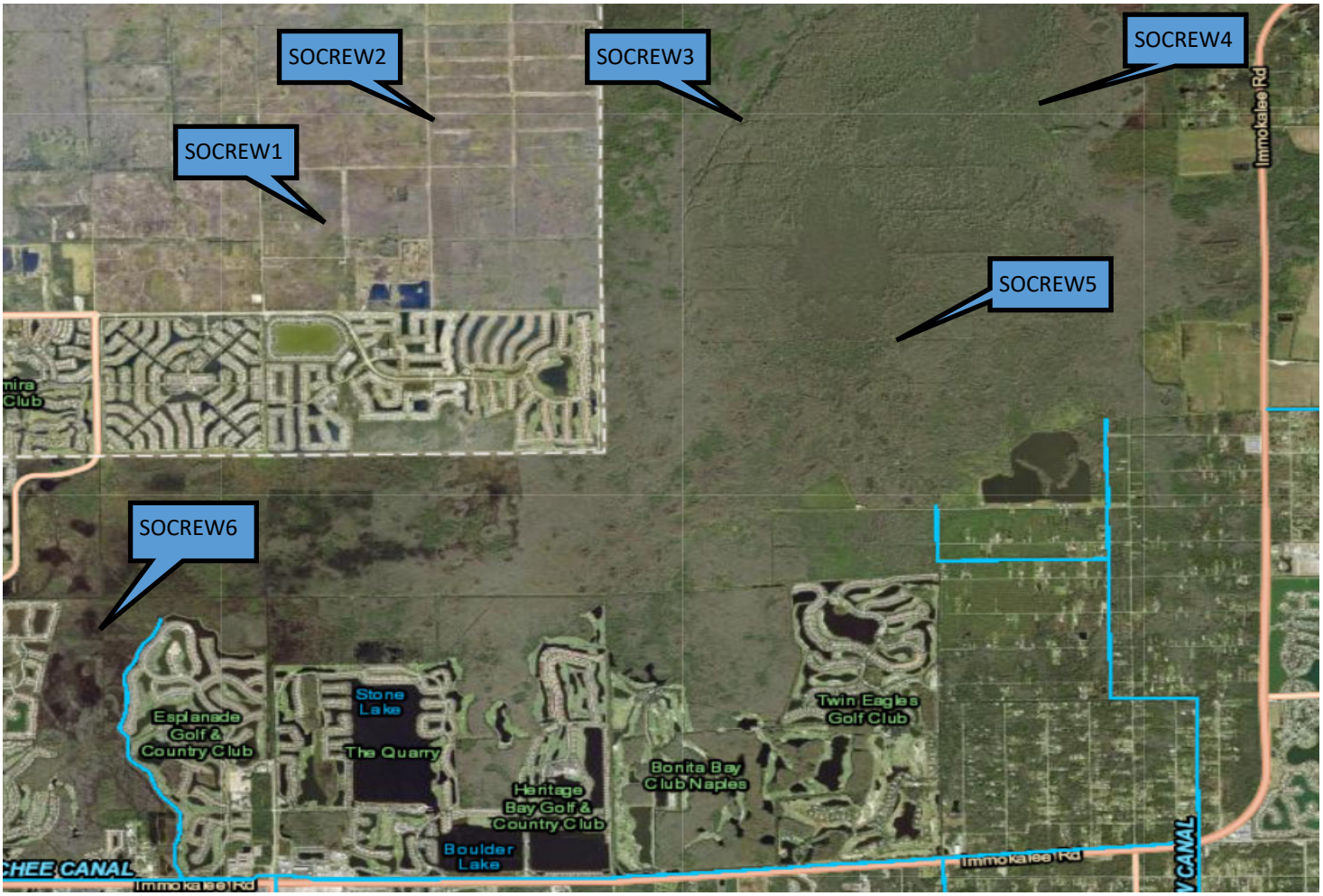


Figure 13 - SOCREW2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles