SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

JUNE 2026

BIG CYPRESS BASIN HYDROLOGIC REPORT

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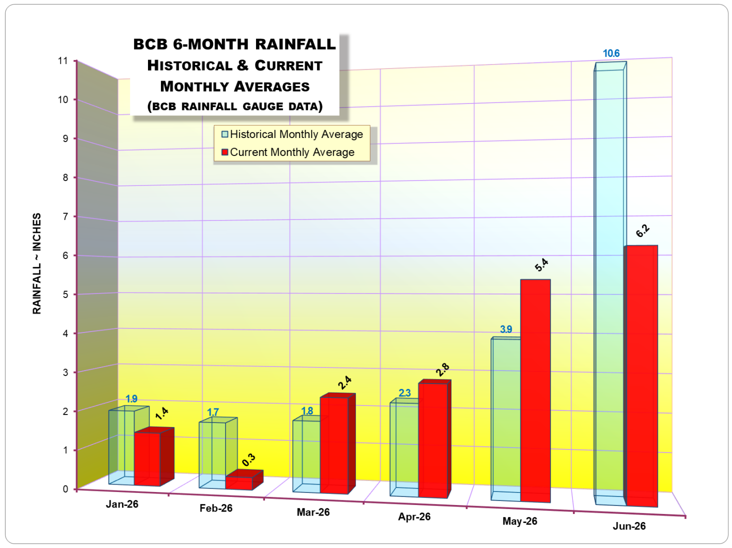
SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS IN THE BIG CYPRESS BASIN

JUNE 2026

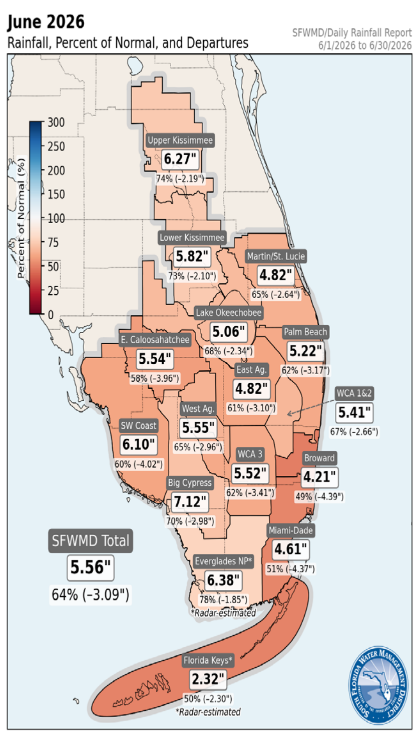
SUMMARY

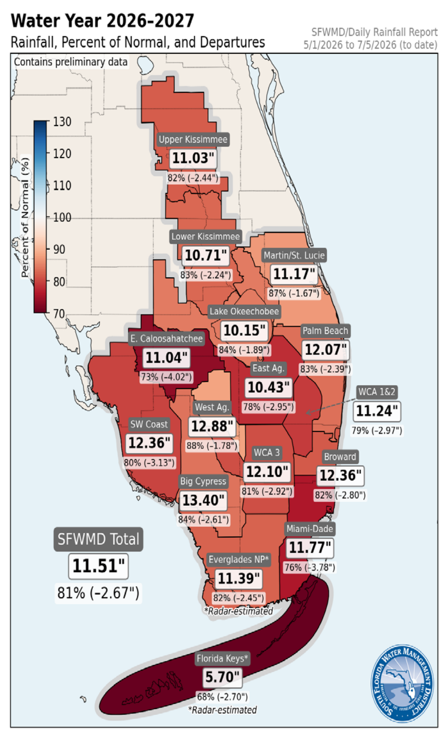
June interrupted the prior three consecutive months of above-normal precipitation in the Big Cypress Basin (BCB), with basin-wide gauges averaging just **6.20 inches** of rainfall (59% of normal). The June rainfall deficit erased May's surplus and placed the BCB in a rainfall deficit for the current water year which began on May 1, 2026. June's below-normal rainfall – combined with the very dry preceding winter – slowed the full implementation of flood control operations, as canal levels remained lower than desired at many locations.



Despite below-normal rainfall and canal levels remaining below targets in many locations, water levels continued their seasonal recovery, albeit more slowly than in recent years. The rate of recovery varied significantly by location, with some areas showing substantial gains while others saw limited recovery due to the localized nature of the month's rainfall.

During June, the Southwest Coast Forecast Area (SWCFA) received an average of 6.10 inches of rainfall, consistent with the BCB gauge-based average of 6.20 inches. Minor differences between the two rainfall averages are expected, as the boundaries of the SWCFA and BCB are not identical.



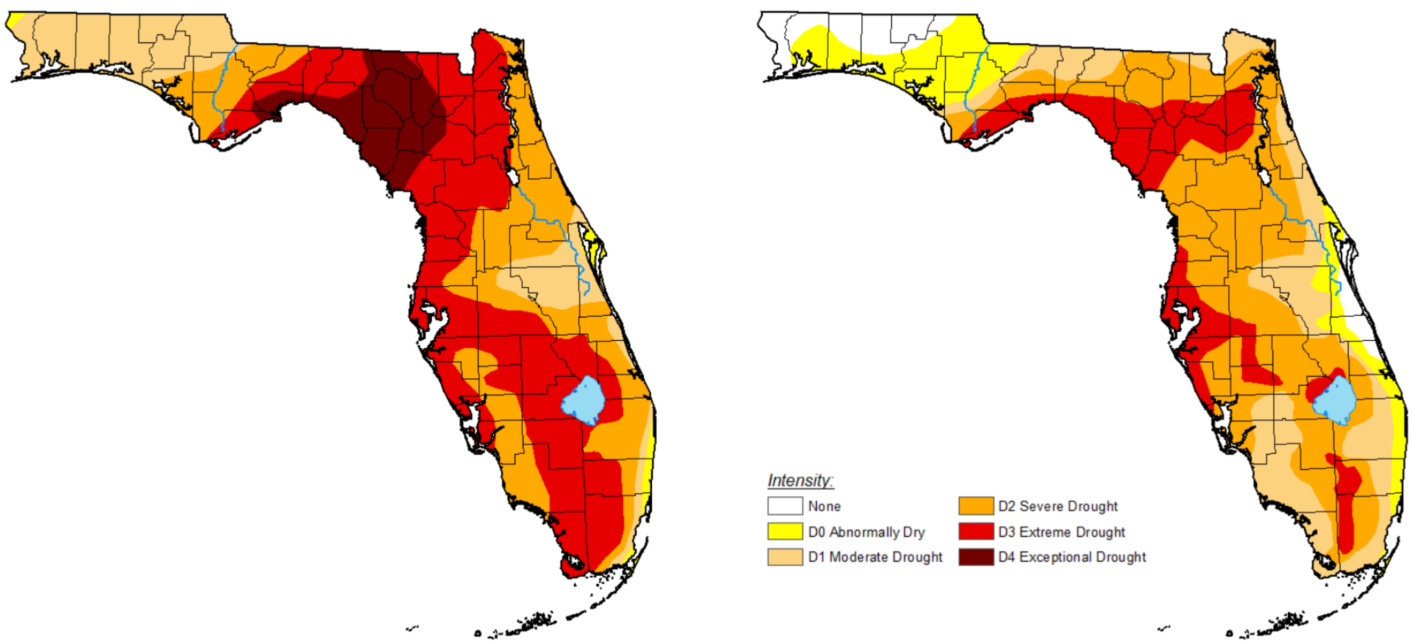


June's below-normal rainfall represents a setback from May's above-normal start to the 2026 wet season. As a result of this below-normal precipitation, the SWCFA was running a 3.13-inch rainfall deficit for the 2026–2027 water year as of July 5, 2026. Recovery from this rainfall deficit, as well as the longer-term deficit, will require continued normal to above-normal precipitation in the coming months.

Drought Conditions

June's below-normal precipitation was insufficient to allow the BCB canal system to fully recover to typical wet season water levels. When combined with May's above-normal rainfall, June's rainfall was, however, sufficient to ease drought conditions across Collier County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of June 30, 2026, drought conditions in the western half of Collier County improved from "D2 Severe Drought" to "D1 Moderate Drought," while the eastern half of the county improved from "D3 Extreme Drought" to "D2 Severe Drought." This easing of drought conditions allowed the South Florida Water Management District to lift its water shortage warning for Collier County on June 4, 2026.

June 2, 2026 **June 30, 2026**



El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

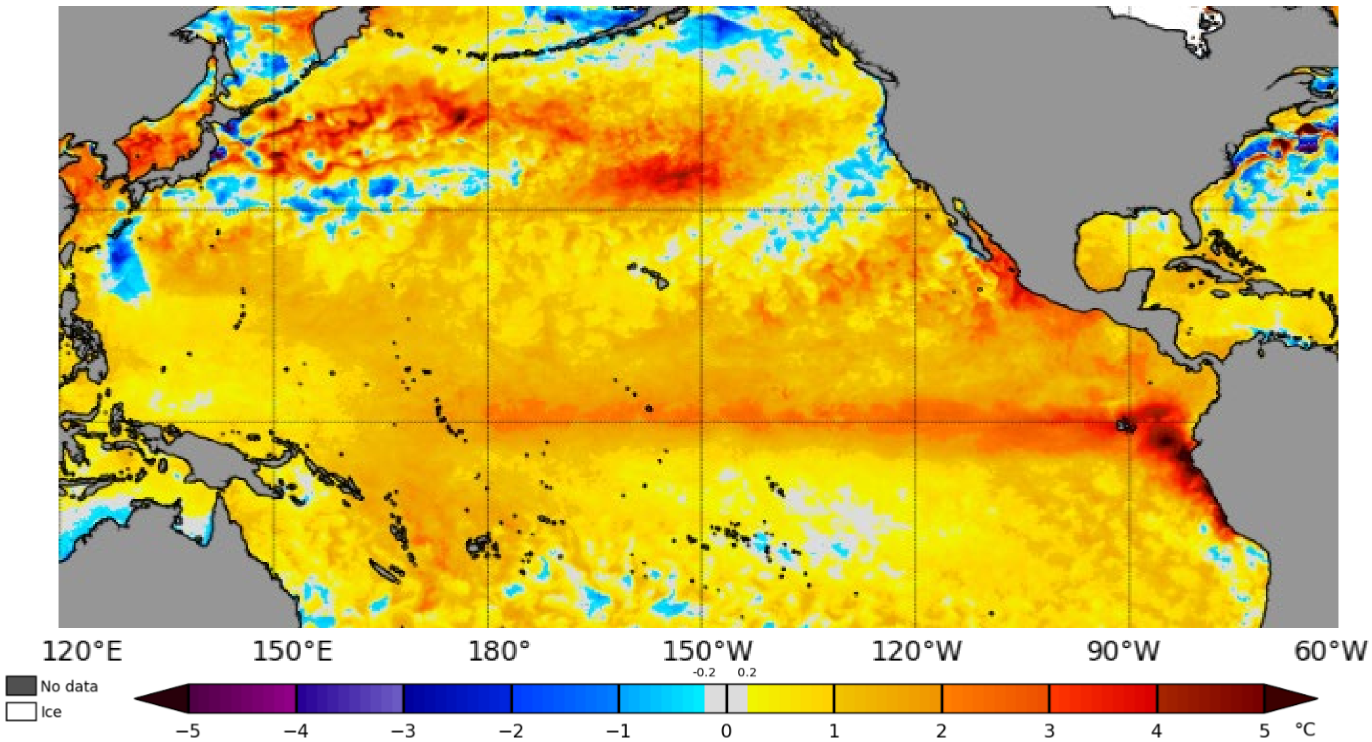
The July 6, 2026 ENSO update prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), summarizes ENSO conditions as follows:

- El Niño conditions are present.*
- Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean.
- The atmospheric circulation anomalies over the equatorial Pacific Ocean are consistent with El Niño.
- El Niño conditions are expected to strengthen into the Northern Hemisphere winter 2026-27.*

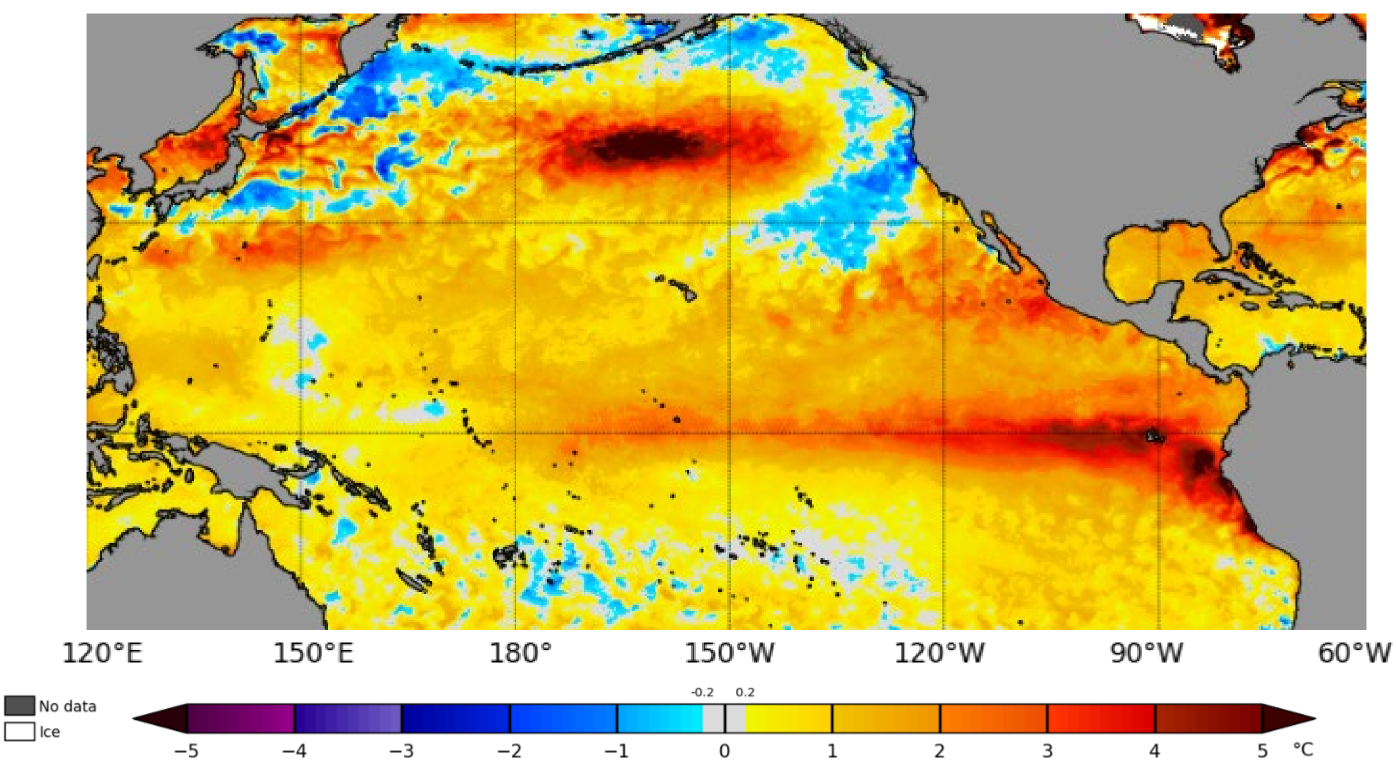
* Note: These statements are updated once a month (2nd Thursday of each month) in association with the ENSO Diagnostics Discussion, which can be found at: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/

Comparison of sea surface temperature anomaly maps from June 6, 2026 and July 5, 2026, shows continued warming of the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean as El Niño conditions strengthen. Sea surface temperatures along the eastern and western Florida coasts have also risen over the past 30 days and are now approximately 2 degrees Celsius above the historical average.

NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km SST Anomalies (v3.1) 6 Jun 2026



NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km SST Anomalies (v3.1) 5 Jul 2026

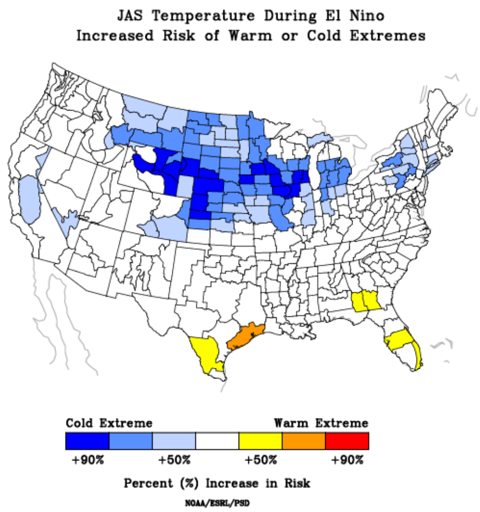


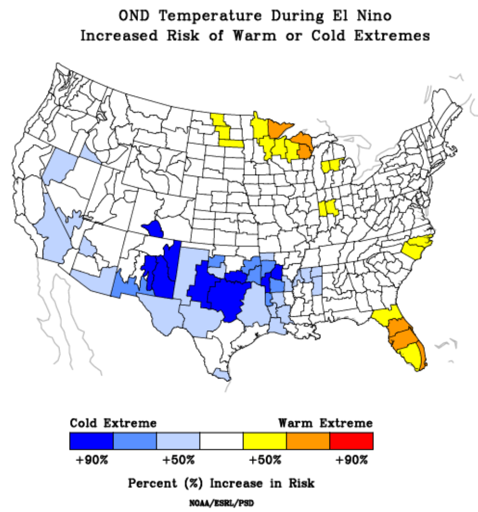
In June 2026, the CPC forecast a very strong El Niño to persist through the winter of 2026–27. El Niño has historically influenced temperature and precipitation patterns across Florida and the broader United States. Summer El Niño impacts (July–September) are typically less pronounced in South Florida because the jet stream remains well north of the region, while weather is dominated by the subtropical high, sea-breeze circulations, and other local processes. Drier-than-normal summer conditions can sometimes occur as El Niño contributes to a more stable atmospheric environment that suppresses deep convection and increases vertical wind shear across the tropical Atlantic, reducing opportunities for tropical cyclone development and associated rainfall.

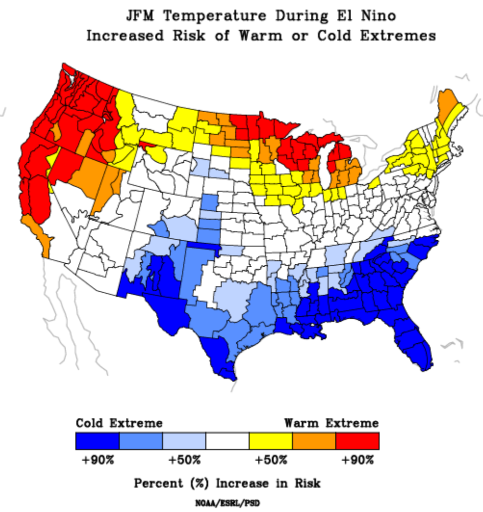
During autumn (October–December), El Niño may increase the risk of warm temperature extremes as coastal waters remain warm while the winter circulation pattern develops. The strongest autumn rainfall impacts typically occur from central Florida northward. If El Niño persists through winter (January–March), it often strengthens the subtropical jet stream across the southern United States, leading to more frequent storm systems along the Gulf Coast. These storms can draw Arctic air southward behind their cold fronts, increasing the likelihood of cold-air outbreaks and cold extremes.

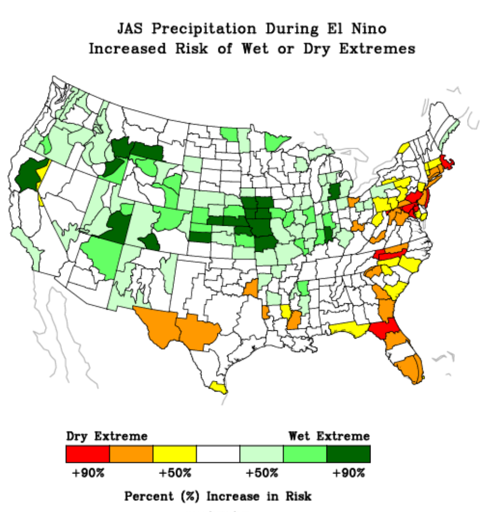
The maps below show risk of seasonal climate extremes in the United States related to El Niño conditions over the next nine months:

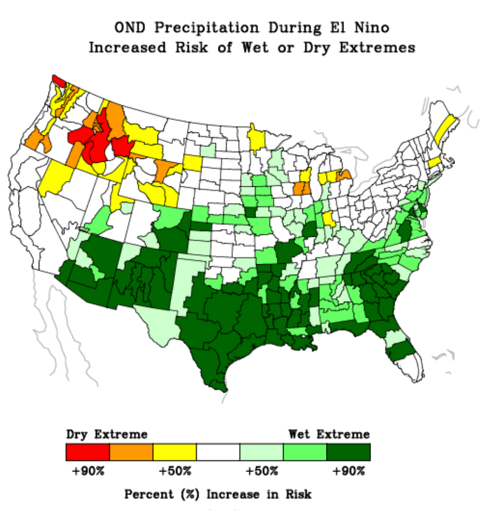
July – September | **October- December** | **January - March**

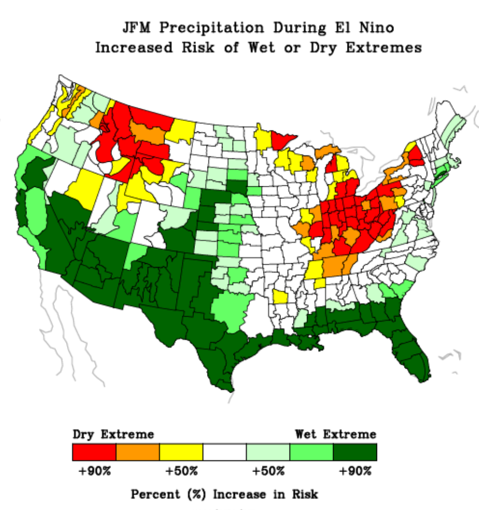




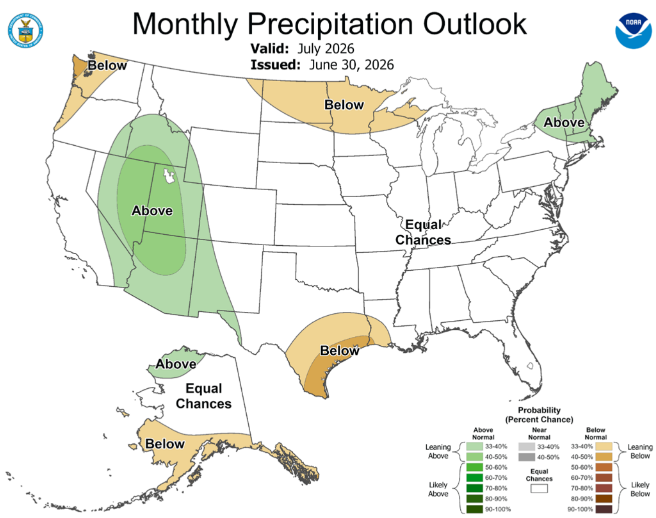


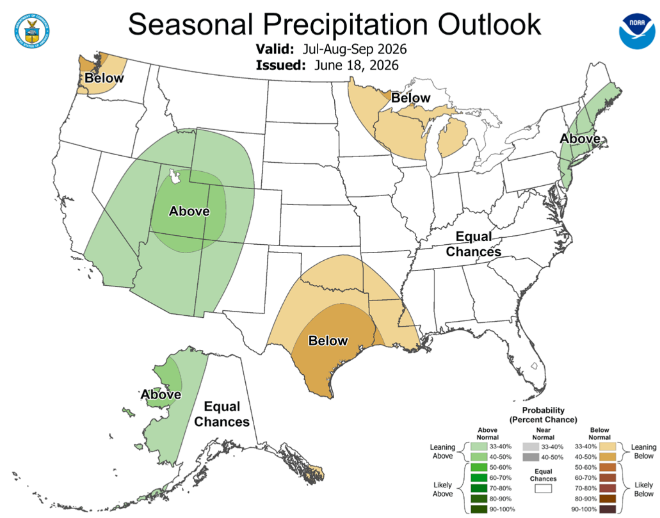




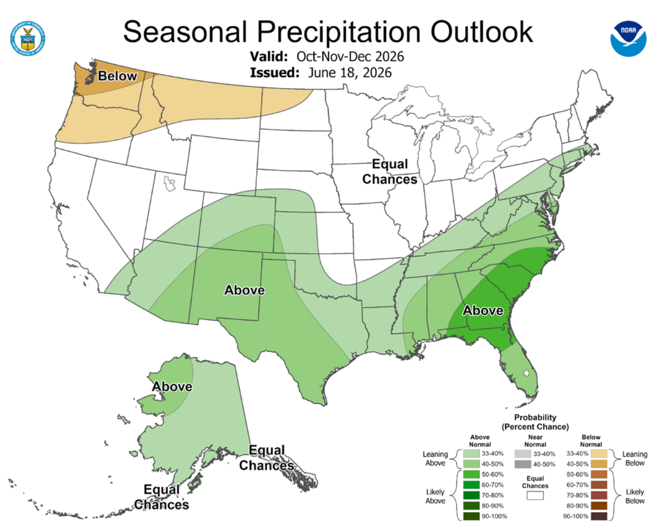


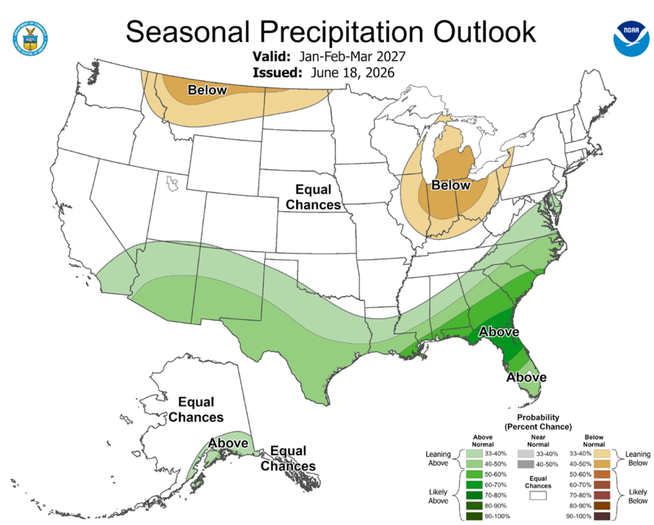
The CPC analyzed the probable impacts of El Niño in conjunction with anticipated local weather drivers and estimated equal chances of above-, near-, or below-normal precipitation for July, as well as for the three-month period from July through September 2026.



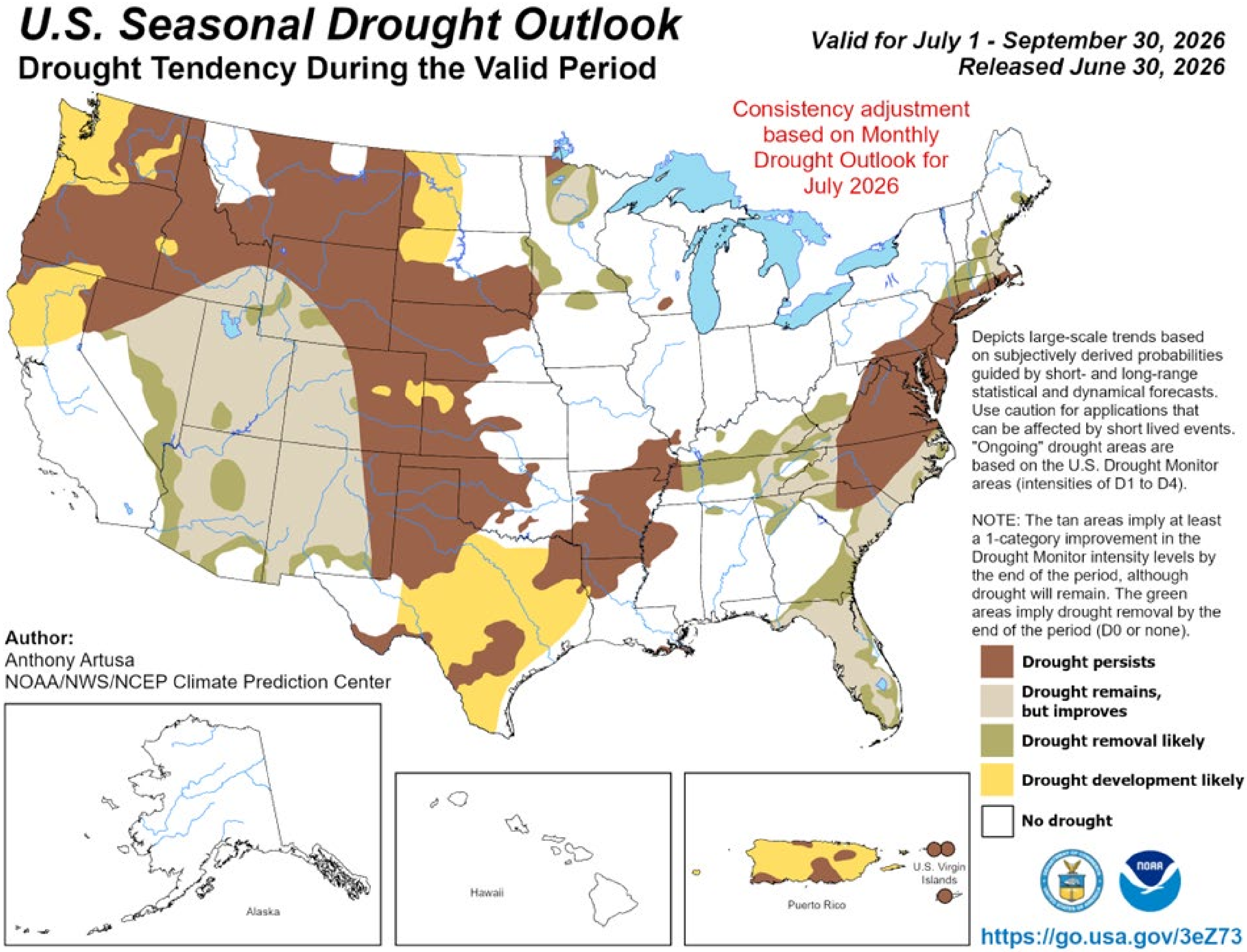


Consistent with the expected impacts of a strong El Niño through winter, the CPC currently predicts an increased probability of above-normal precipitation from October 2026 through March 2027.





Due to the improvement in drought conditions during May and June, in conjunction with the projected equal chances of wetter-than-normal or drier-than-normal conditions this summer, the U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook predicts that drought conditions will persist but improve in eastern Collier County, while drought removal is likely in western Collier County.



Despite below-normal rainfall in June, canal water levels across the BCB generally continued their seasonal rise in stage, though at a slower rate than in recent years. BCB water managers continued a strategic transition into flood control operations at locations where canal levels had recovered sufficiently. Because some areas of the BCB system have not fully recovered from the prior dry season, this transition is expected to continue into July, depending on canal and groundwater levels and precipitation forecasts.

JUNE 2026 BCB RAINFALL

The Basin-wide averaged, gauge-measured, monthly rainfall was 6.20 inches in June 2026. This measured rainfall amounted to just 59% of the historic BCB June average of 10.58 inches **(see Figures 1, 2, 3A and Table 1).** June rainfall was highly variable by location. The rain gauge with the highest measured precipitation was R-8 FAKA UNION #5 which recorded 13.54 inches. R-14 IFAS received the lowest rain gauge monthly total with just 2.24 inches.

Figure 3B shows June's calculated average rainfall estimates for each of the Basin's watersheds, based on gauge adjusted radar (Raindar). The Henderson – Belle Meade watershed saw the highest Raindar average of 9.18 inches and the Freedom Park watershed saw the lowest Raindar average of 3.19 inches. The BCB's overall calculated areal weighted average Raindar rainfall (by watershed) was 6.09 inches for the month, very close to the basin-wide rain gauge average of 6.20 inches. The Raindar totals and their locality distribution across the BCB/Lower West Coast are shown on **Figure 3C**.

JUNE 2026 BCB OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS

During June, BCB structures continued to be cautiously transitioned into flood control operations as water levels gradually increased. The transition to flood control operations has been staged and strategic due to many locations being slow to recover to target water levels. This uneven distribution of the seasonal water level recovery is due to a combination of below normal rainfall and its variable geographic distribution across the various sub-watersheds. As a result of this staged transition into flood control operations, many structures remain in water conservation operations until such time that their levels rise sufficiently to warrant transition.

Systemwide transition to flood control operations is now anticipated to be complete in July, though full implementation is remains dependent upon canal stages, groundwater levels and precipitation (actual and forecast). BCB canal conditions as of June 30, 2026 are shown on **Figure 4**.

GOLDEN GATE SYSTEM

Water levels in the Golden Gate Main Canal varied significantly by location due to the uneven distribution of rainfall over the watershed. Structures closest to the coast (e.g. GG1 and GG2) completed their transition to flood control operations by mid-month and finished June at the 75th percentile. Discharges to tide from GG1 tapered off and paused by mid-June, then resumed 10 days later, finishing the month at a rate just shy of 300 cubic feet per second (cfs). Structures further upstream, and in tributary canals, rose in stage more slowly, resulting in a more cautious transition to flood control operations. East of Collier Boulevard, upstream of GG3, water levels eventually rose sufficiently in late June to allow transition to flood control operations on June 30th. The Golden Gate Main system upstream of GG3 finished the month between the 25th and 75 percentile. The stage and percentile difference between the lower (GG1) water level and middle/upper (GG4) Golden Gate Mail Canal water level is shown on **Figure 5** and illustrates the more gradual seasonal recovery of the upper Golden Gate Main Canal system.

COCOHATCHEE SYSTEM

As with the Golden Gate Main system, Cocohatchee Canal water levels varied by location, with the downstream segment (between COCO1 and COCO2) finishing the month just under the 75th percentile, while the next canal segment upstream (COCO3) finished the month between the 25th and 50th percentile. Due to the slow rate of upstream canal water level increase, the Cocohatchee system remained in water conservation operations throughout June, with no tidal discharges occurring at COCO1. Further upstream, canal water levels finished the month generally between the 25th and 75th percentile with the exception of CORK 2 (north of Shady Hollow Boulevard), which remained at the 75th percentile **(Figures 6A, 6B, & 6C).**

FAKA UNION SYSTEM

Similar to other systems, canal water levels were variable across the length of the Faka Union Canal, with the upstream portions transitioning to flood control operations and the downstream portions generally remaining in water conservation operations. FU5 transitioned to flood control and began a gradual release of water downstream toward FU4S. By the end of June, the canal upstream of FU5 remained above the 75th percentile. The water level downstream of FU5 began slowly rise in response to the upstream discharges and local rainfall. Due to its extremely low beginning of the month level, as of June 30th this canal segment still had more than 3 feet water level rise before reaching operational triggers at FU4S. FU4S thus had no gate operations in June **(Figures 7A & 7B).**.

Downstream of FU4S, the canal reach between FU4S and S487 (Faka Pump Station) ended the month just below the 75th percentile. Pumping at the Faka Pump Station (S487) commenced on June 25, 2026, and is currently limited to electric low-flow pumps. The high-flow diesel pumps remain secured until flows increase sufficiently to warrant their operation. Pumping at the Merritt Pump Station (S488) also resumed in the second half of June. As with S487, Merrit pumping is currently limited to low flow electric pumps. Monitoring wells downstream of S487 – within the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP) – finished the month above generally above the 50th percentile in the eastern half of PSRP, and at or above the 75th percentile in the western half. The remaining segment of the Faka Union Canal north of FU1 finished the month below the 25th percentile.

HENDERSON CREEK SYSTEM

The Henderson Creek system responded favorably to local rainfall and rose to end June at the 75th percentile. On June 9th the HC1 transitioned into flood control operations and began discharging to tide over the fixed crest weir. To date this wet season, flow over the fixed crest weir has been sufficient to manage upstream water levels, and no remote structure operations have been warranted. The HC1 structure, however, remains in flood control operation, and stands ready to remotely lower variable weirs should the water level rise beyond the capacity of the fixed crest weir. **(Figure 8A & 8B).**

BIG CYPRESS BASIN & LOWER WEST COAST GROUNDWATER LEVELS

For the Lower West Coast [LWC], water level trends in the groundwater monitoring stations were mixed during June **(Table 2 and Figures 9A and 9B). C-462** (north of Lake Trafford) saw a month-to-month decline, finishing June just above the 25th percentile. **C-1224** (near Henderson Creek), however, saw an increase in level and finished the month at the 75th percentile. **C-1004R** (a Tidally influenced well near Cocohatchee Canal) also experienced a month-to-month decline, receding sharply in the first half of June, before rebounding and finishing the month just below the 25th percentile.

L-738 a Tamiami Aquifer well in Bonita Springs experienced a similar trend as C-1004R, dropping sharply in the first half of June, then rebounding by month's end, and finishing slightly below the May 31st level; still in daily record low territory for the end of June. **L-2194**, a Sandstone Aquifer well in

Bonita Springs, trended slightly better, rising above the level of low concern by month's end, though also remaining in record low territory for June 30th. **L-2195**, a surficial aquifer well in Bonita Springs, also saw an increase in June – though more slowly than seen in historical trends – finishing at the 25th percentile and above the level of low concern.

CORKSCREW SWAMP

Figure 10 shows the historical trends for Corkscrew Swamp (CRKSWPS), Bird Rookery (BRDROOK), and the Cork 3 (CORK3) structure, and their 2026 corresponding levels. CRKSWPS briefly set record daily lows in mid-June, after which it rose sharply and approached the 25th percentile by month's end. During the month of June both BRDROOK and CORK3 remained at stages below the detection levels of their water level sensors, resulting in the continued "flatline" appearance of their graphs in Figure 10. **Figure 11** shows that Lake Trafford continued its recession through most of June, then rebounded at the end of the month, finishing midway between the 24th and 50th percentile and slightly below the level at the end of May.

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 respond well to rainfall and saw noticeable corresponding increases in water level late in June. SOCREW1 finished the month between the 25th and 50th percentile after briefly touching record daily lows in mid-June. SOCREW2 similarly flirted with record daily lows in mid-month, before quickly rising to the 50th percentile by June 30th. SOCREW sites 3, 4, 5 and 6 are newer sites with a period of record of less than 4 years, therefore, they do not have adequate data to generate meaningful statistical cyclic analysis.

FIGURE 1
RAIN GAUGE LOCATIONS

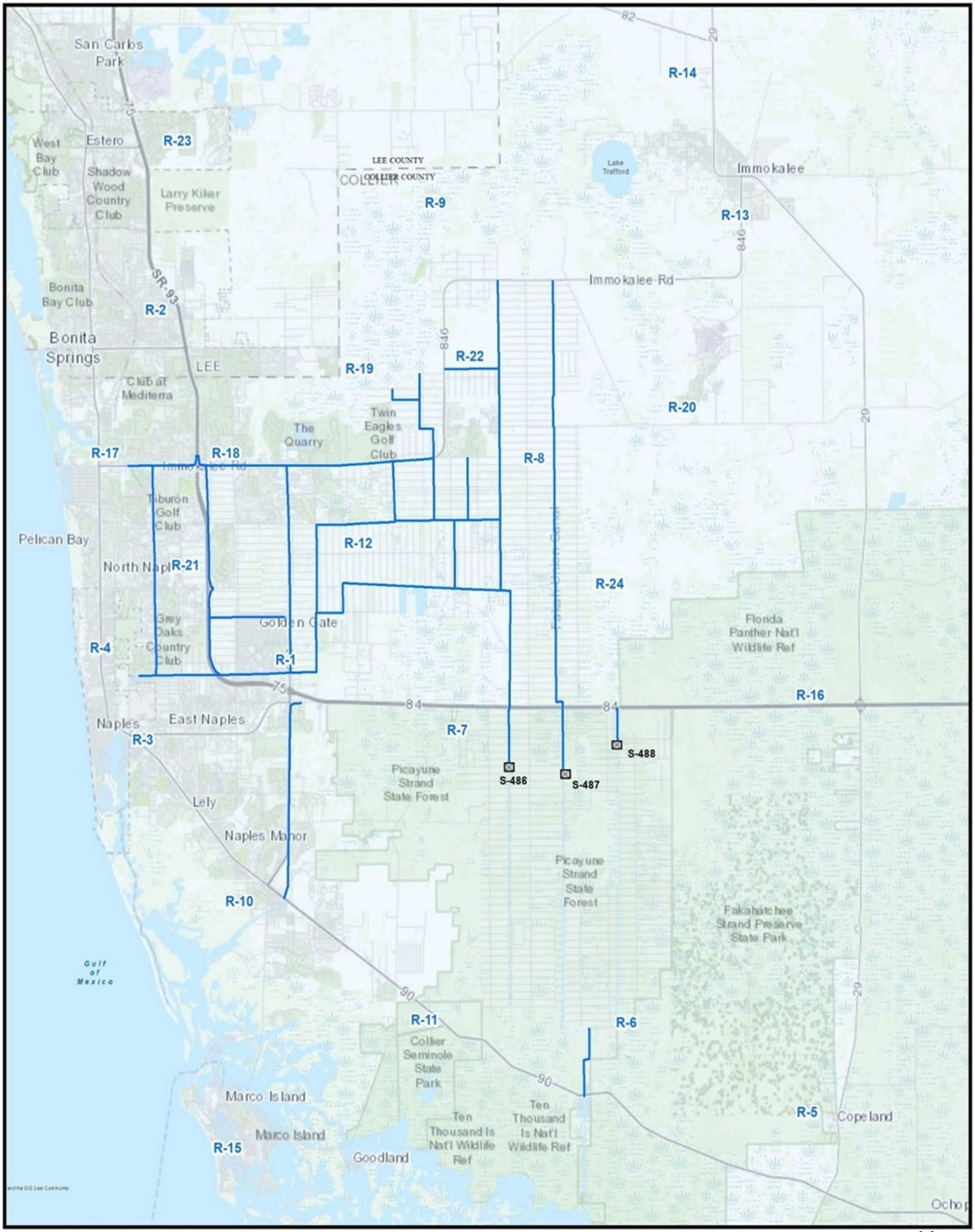


FIGURE 2
BCB GAUGE MEASURED RAINFALL MONTHLY AVERAGES
CALENDAR YEAR 2026

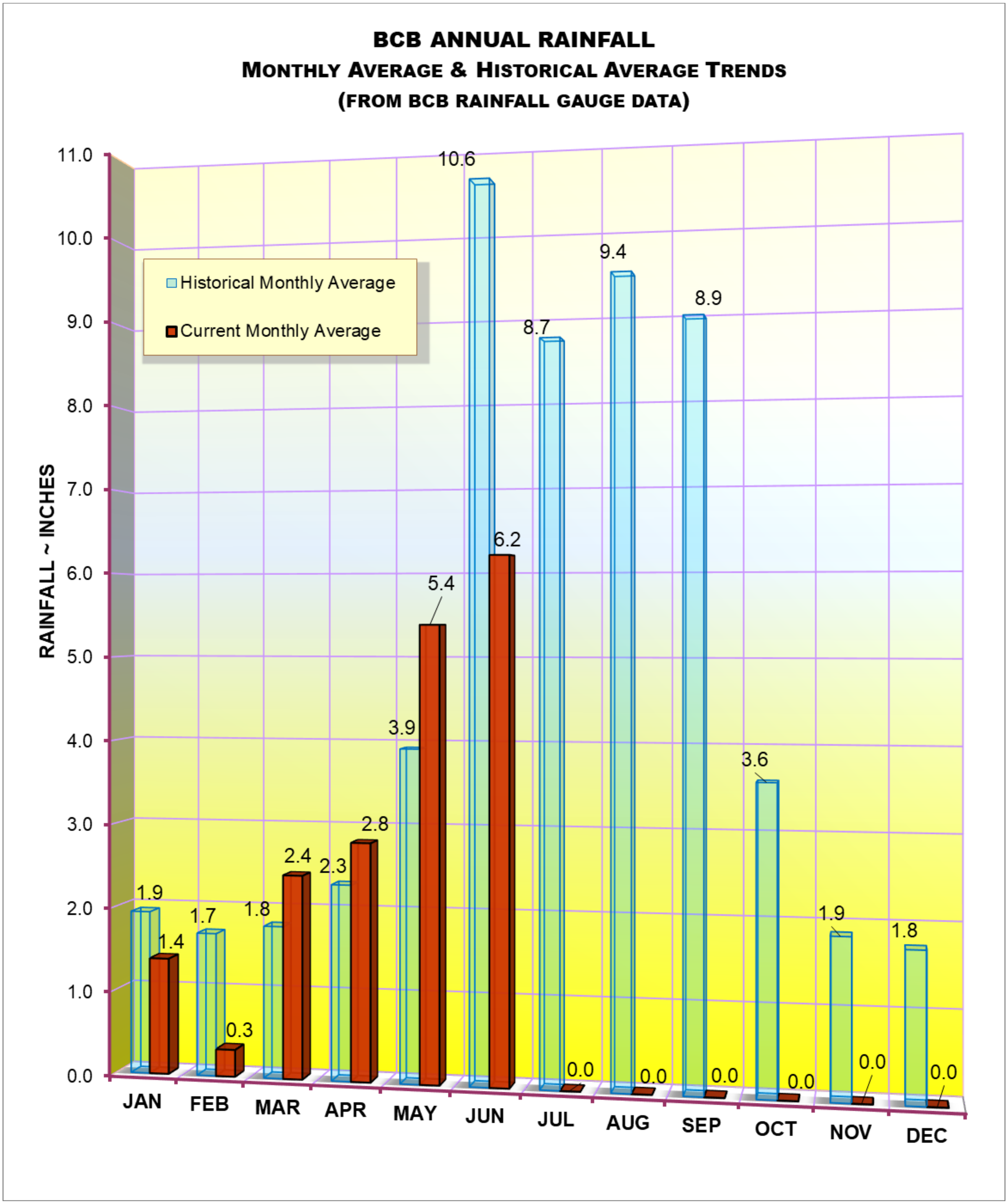


TABLE 1
RAINFALL REPORT - JUNE 2026
DISTRICT/BASIN RAINFALL STATIONS
(ALL NUMBERS ARE IN INCHES)

STATION INDEX NO.	STATION NAME	Jun-26	LONG TERM MONTHLY AVERAGE	MONTHLY DIFFERENCE	CALENDAR YEAR 2026 CUMULATIVE TOTAL	AVERAGE CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE DIFFERENCE
R-1	GG#3	9.18	12.61	-3.43	23.35	24.68	-1.33
R-2	BONITA SPRINGS WATER PLANT	7.78	8.71	-0.93	17.62	20.16	-2.54
R-3	COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE	4.07	8.80	-4.73	18.55	20.34	-1.79
R-4	FREEDOM PARK	2.91	10.73	-7.82	14.47	21.49	-7.02
R-5	FAKAHATCHEE STRAND HQ	5.87	11.08	-5.21	18.67	23.73	-5.06
R-6	DAN HOUSE PRAIRIE	6.07	9.56	-3.49	17.38	19.94	-2.56
R-7	SGGE WEATHER STATION	9.13	12.10	-2.97	24.34	24.16	0.18
R-8	FAKA UNION #5	13.54	12.75	0.79	24.70	25.82	-1.12
R-9	CORKSCREW SWAMP NORTH END	9.57	11.76	-2.19	20.30	22.40	-2.10
R-10	ROOKERY BAY HQ	6.21	10.15	-3.94	18.98	20.79	-1.81
R-11	COLLIER SEMINOLE STATE PARK	3.35	10.29	-6.94	12.84	21.60	-8.76
R-12	G.G. FIRE STATION	8.49	10.29	-1.80	21.65	22.67	-1.02
R-13	IMMOKALEE LANDFILL	4.81	9.02	-4.21	18.28	21.81	-3.53
R-14	IFAS	2.24	9.07	-6.83	14.82	21.99	-7.17
R-15	MARCO R.O. PLANT	5.50	9.40	-3.90	14.72	21.01	-6.29
R-16	FAKAHATCHEE STRAND NORTH END	6.23	10.58	-4.35	18.47	25.33	-6.86
R-17	COCO#1	3.83	8.31	-4.48	16.32	18.71	-2.39
R-18	COCO#3	5.50	9.31	-3.81	18.05	19.86	-1.81
R-19	BIRD ROOKERY	5.34	13.64	-8.30	16.12	23.96	-7.84
R-20	AVE MARIA	2.67	8.70	-6.03	16.95	21.63	-4.68
R-21	I75W2	6.22	11.97	-5.75	21.05	21.99	-0.94
R-22	GG#7	6.16	11.21	-5.05	18.73	21.73	-3.00
R-23	FPWX	6.35	10.11	-3.76	18.36	20.65	-2.29
R-24	DSOTO10	7.78	13.81	-6.03	19.61	28.04	-8.43

AVERAGES	6.20	10.58	-4.38	18.51	22.27	-3.76

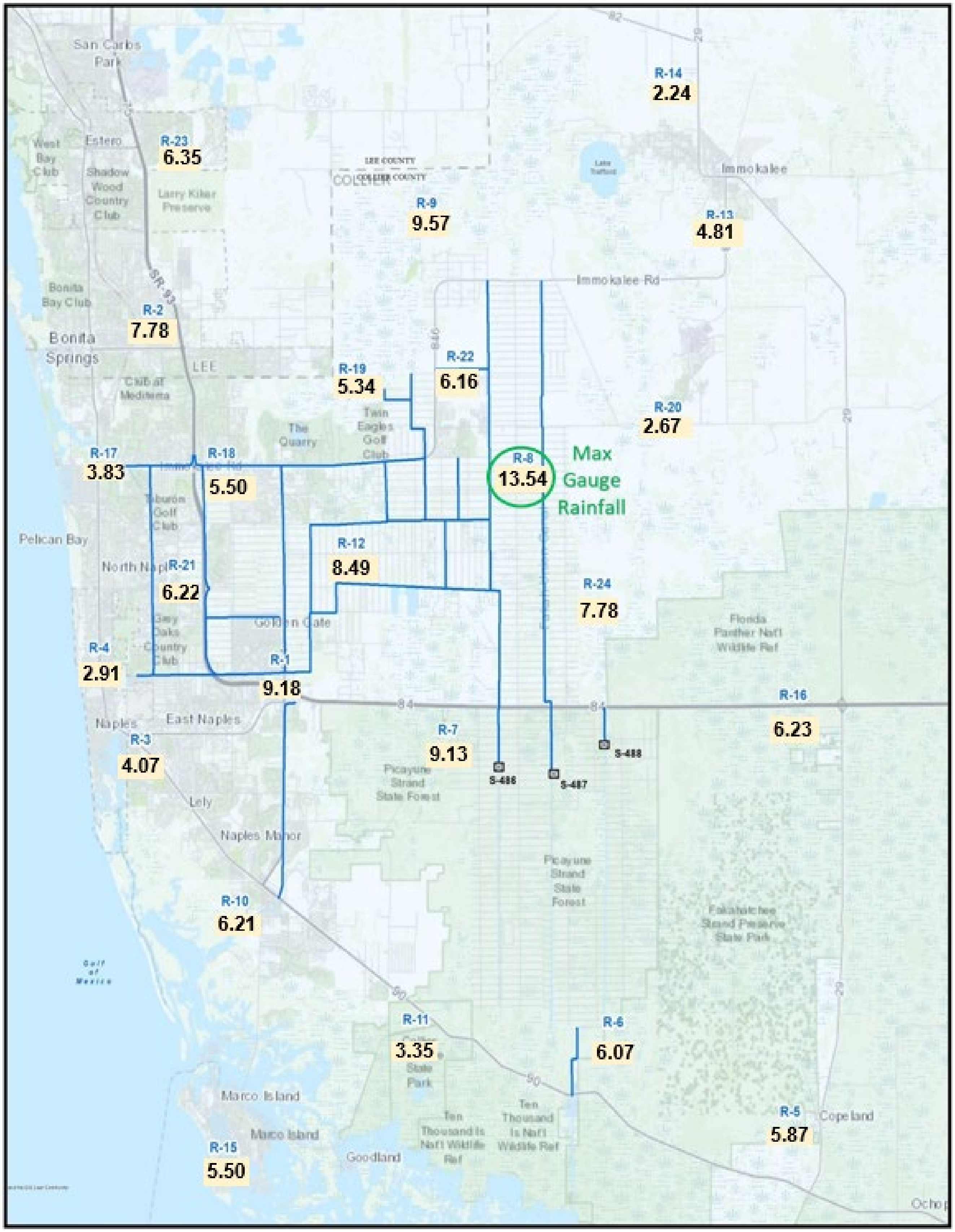
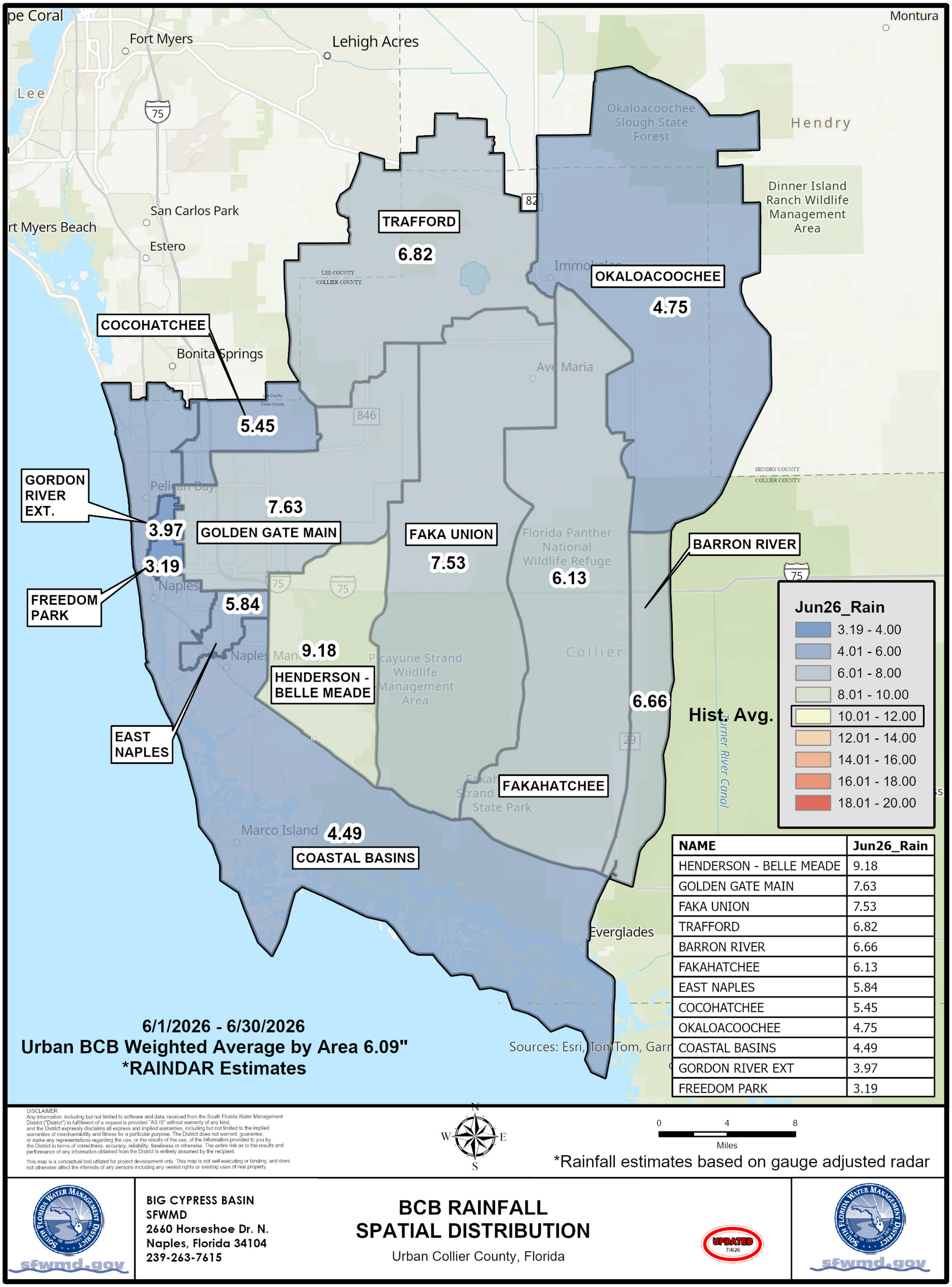
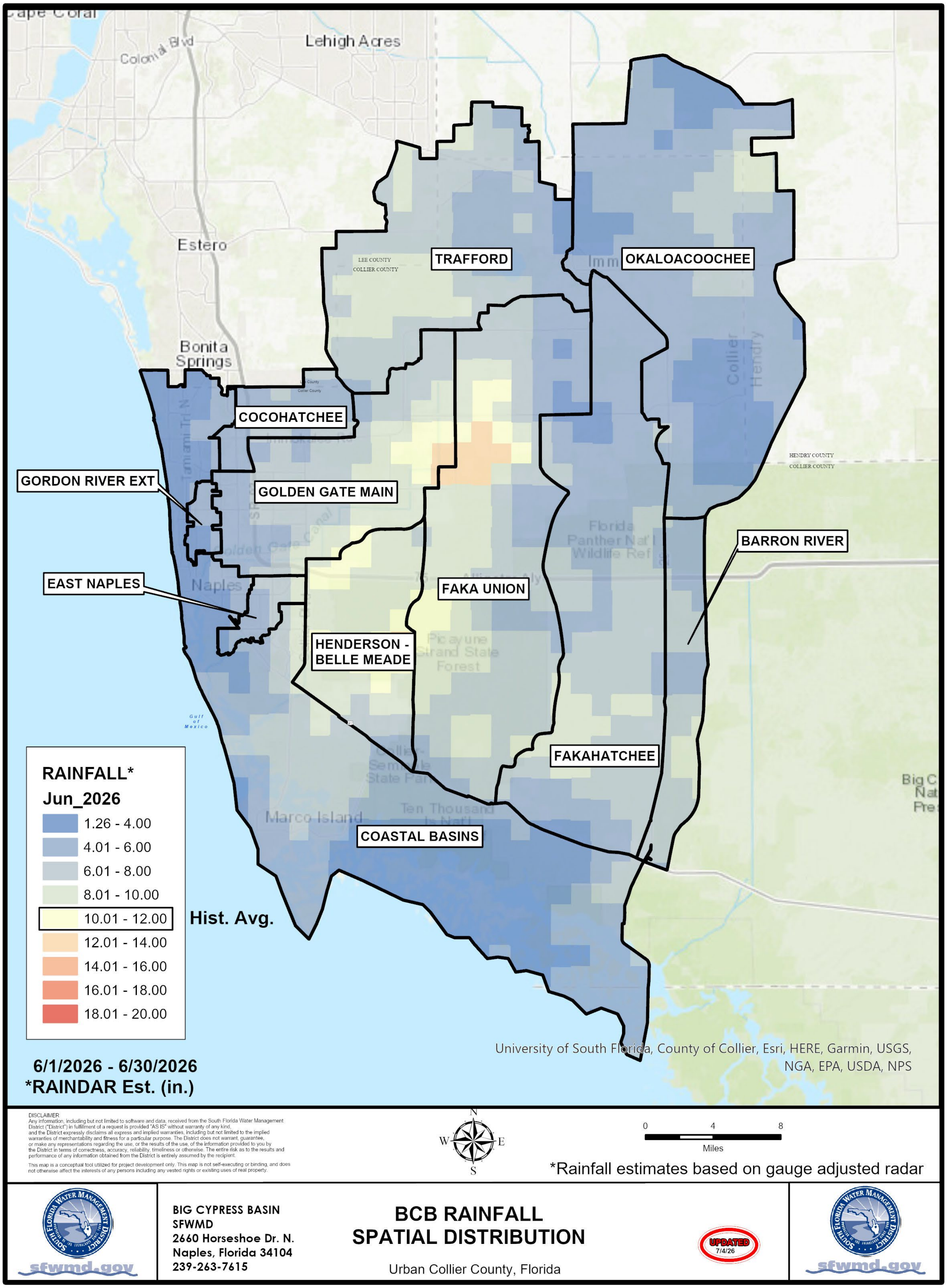


FIGURE 3A
BCB RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION
JUNE 2026



NAME	Jun26_Rain
HENDERSON - BELLE MEADE	9.18
GOLDEN GATE MAIN	7.63
FAKA UNION	7.53
TRAFFORD	6.82
BARRON RIVER	6.66
FAKAHATCHEE	6.13
EAST NAPLES	5.84
COCOHATCHEE	5.45
OKALOACOOCHEE	4.75
COASTAL BASINS	4.49
GORDON RIVER EXT	3.97
FREEDOM PARK	3.19

JUNE 2026 — FIGURE 3B



JUNE 2026 —FIGURE 3C

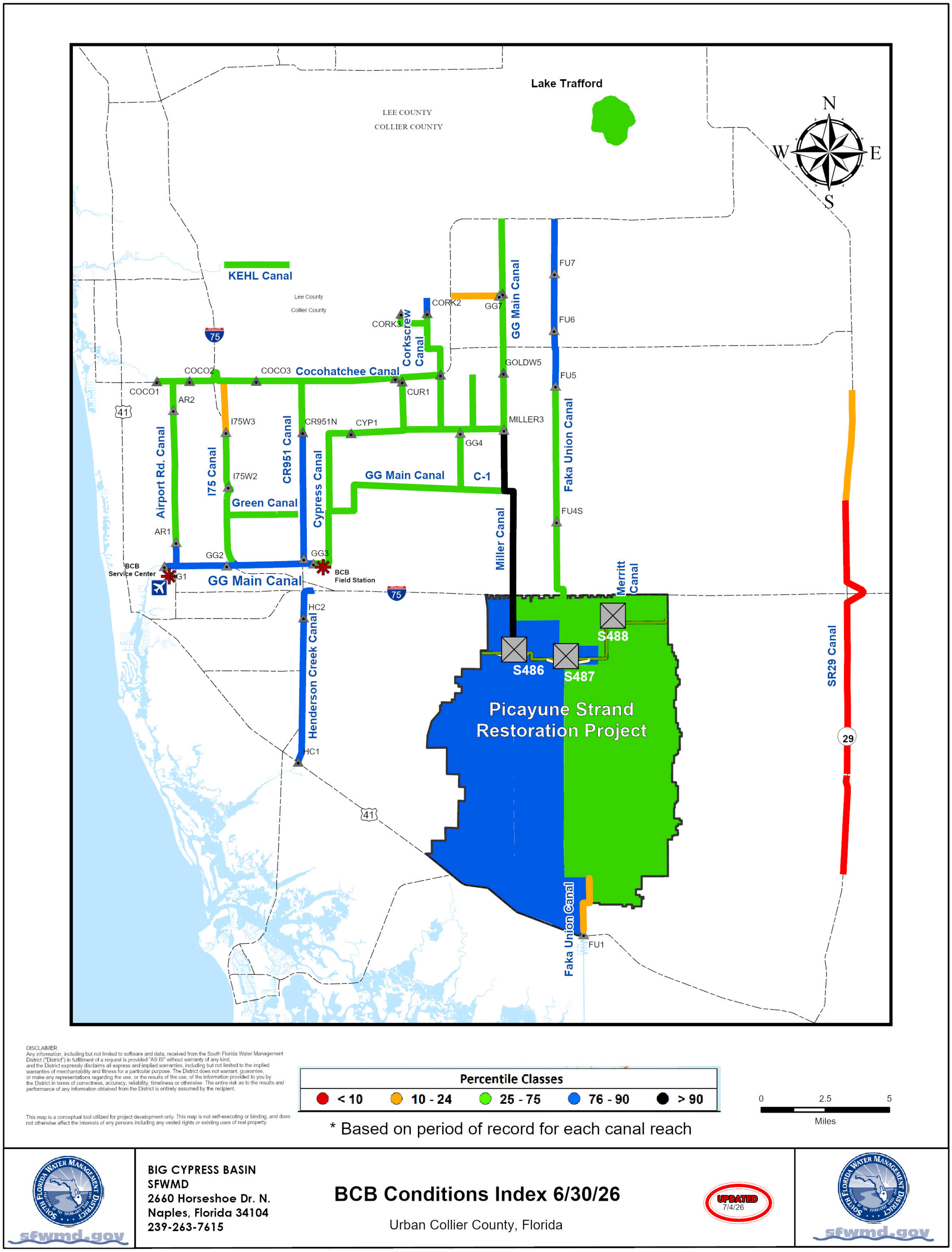
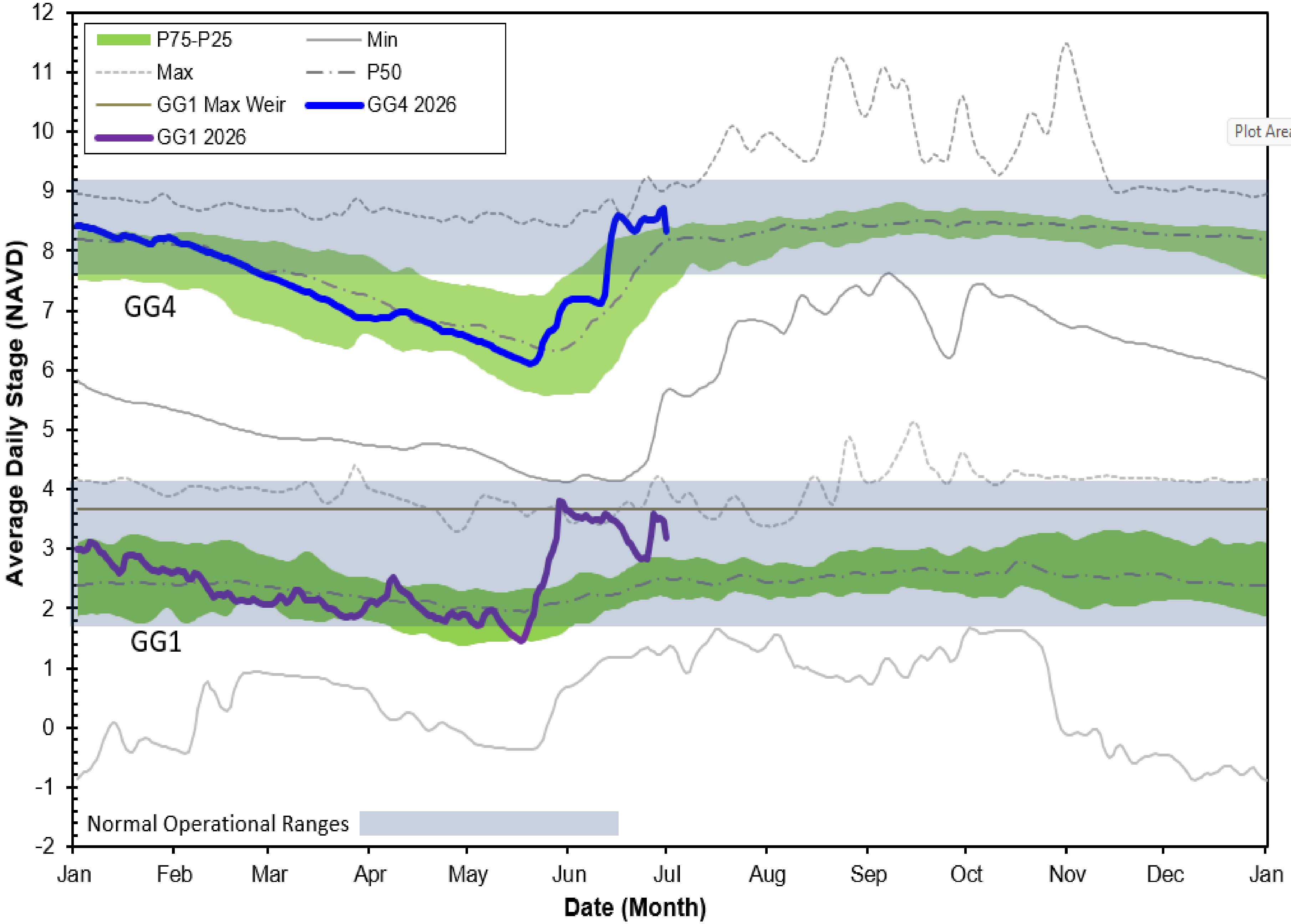


FIGURE 4
BCB WATER CONDITIONS

Figure 5 Golden Gate Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles



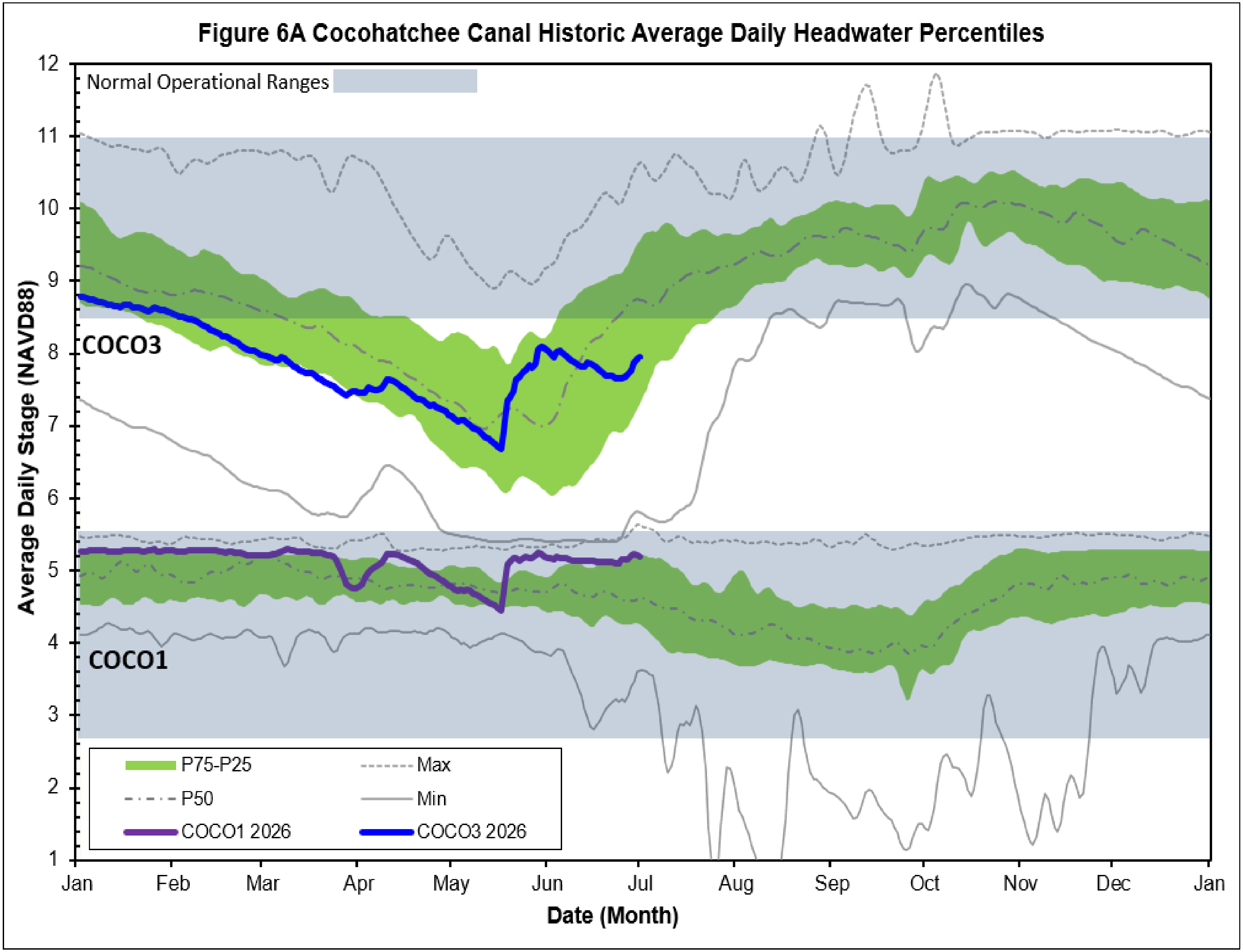


Figure 6A Cocohatchee Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Normal Operational Ranges
COCO3
COCO1
P75-P25
P50
COCO1 2026
Max
Min
COCO3 2026
Average Daily Stage (NAVD88)
Date (Month)
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

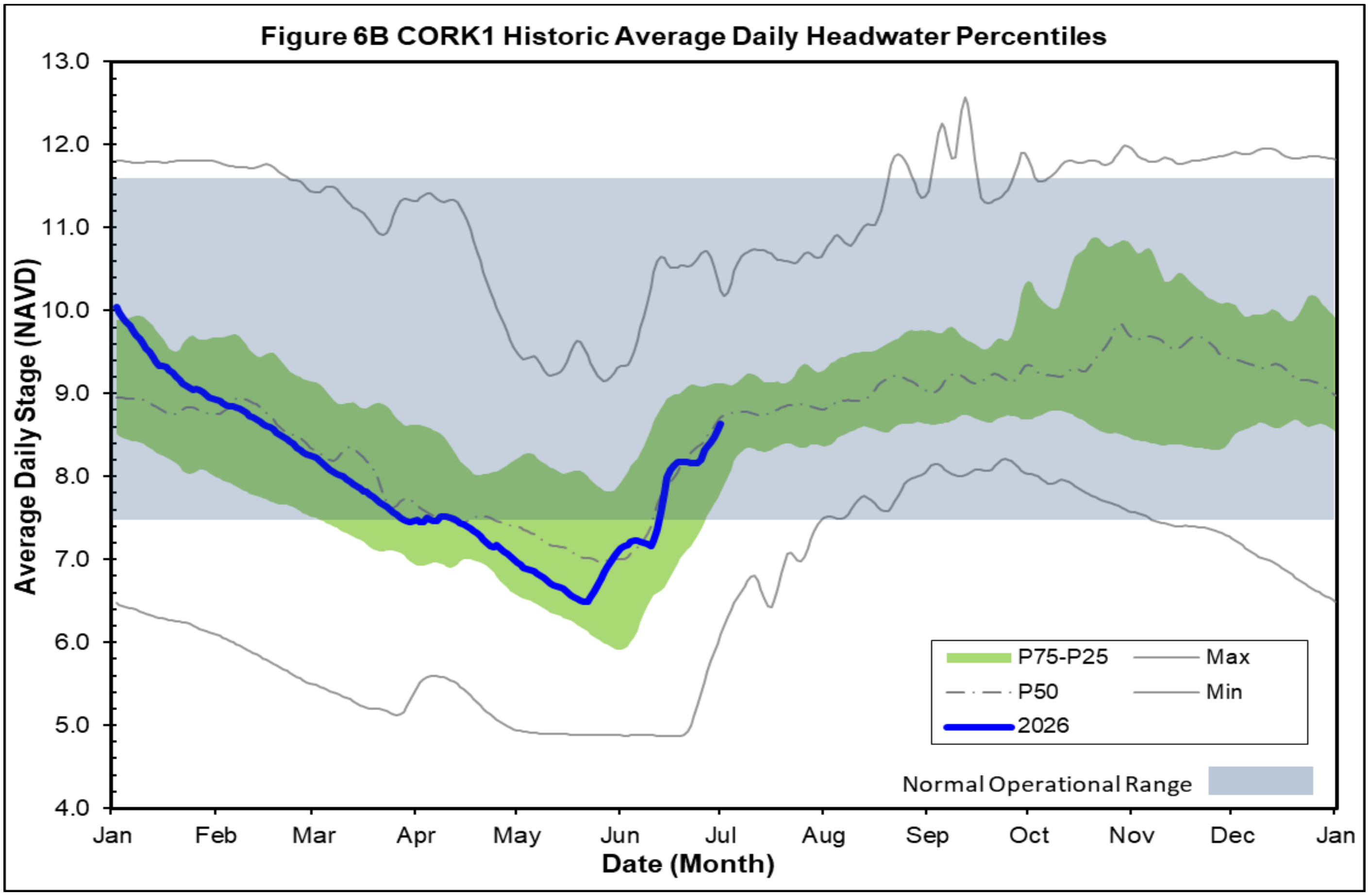


Figure 6B CORK1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
13.0
12.0
11.0
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2026
Normal Operational Range

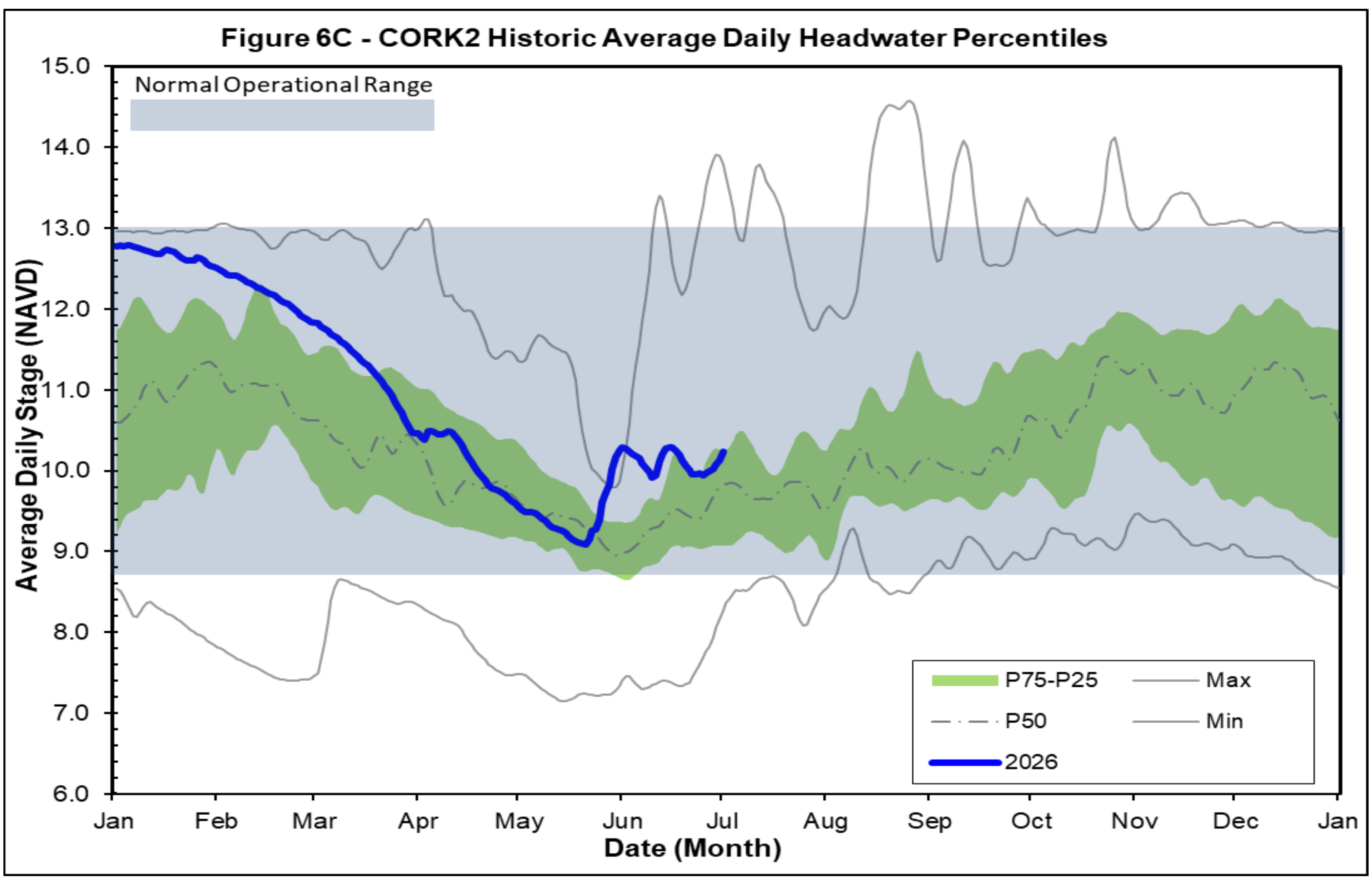
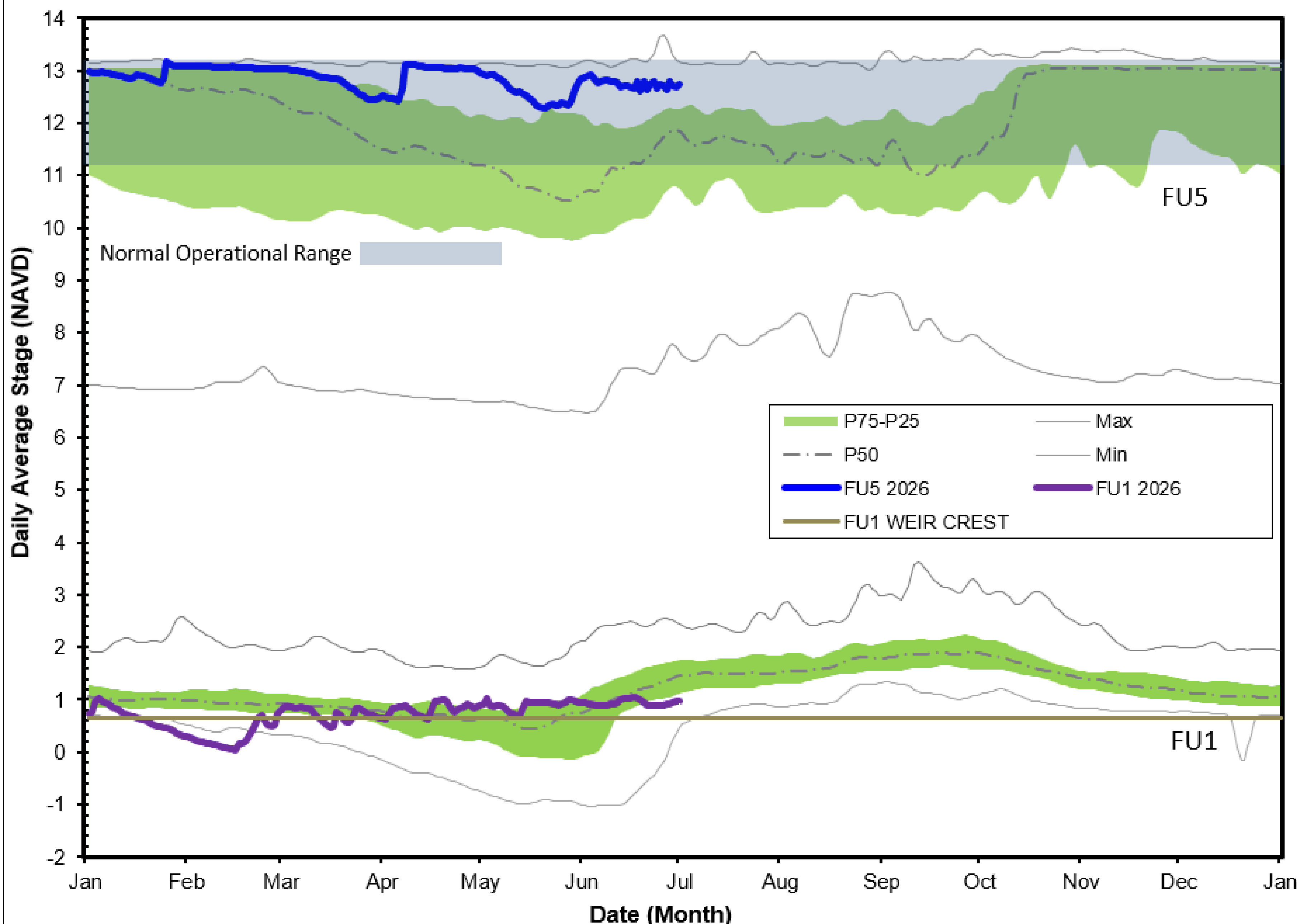


Figure 6C - CORK2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Normal Operational Range
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
15.0
14.0
13.0
12.0
11.0
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2026

Figure 7A Faka Union Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles



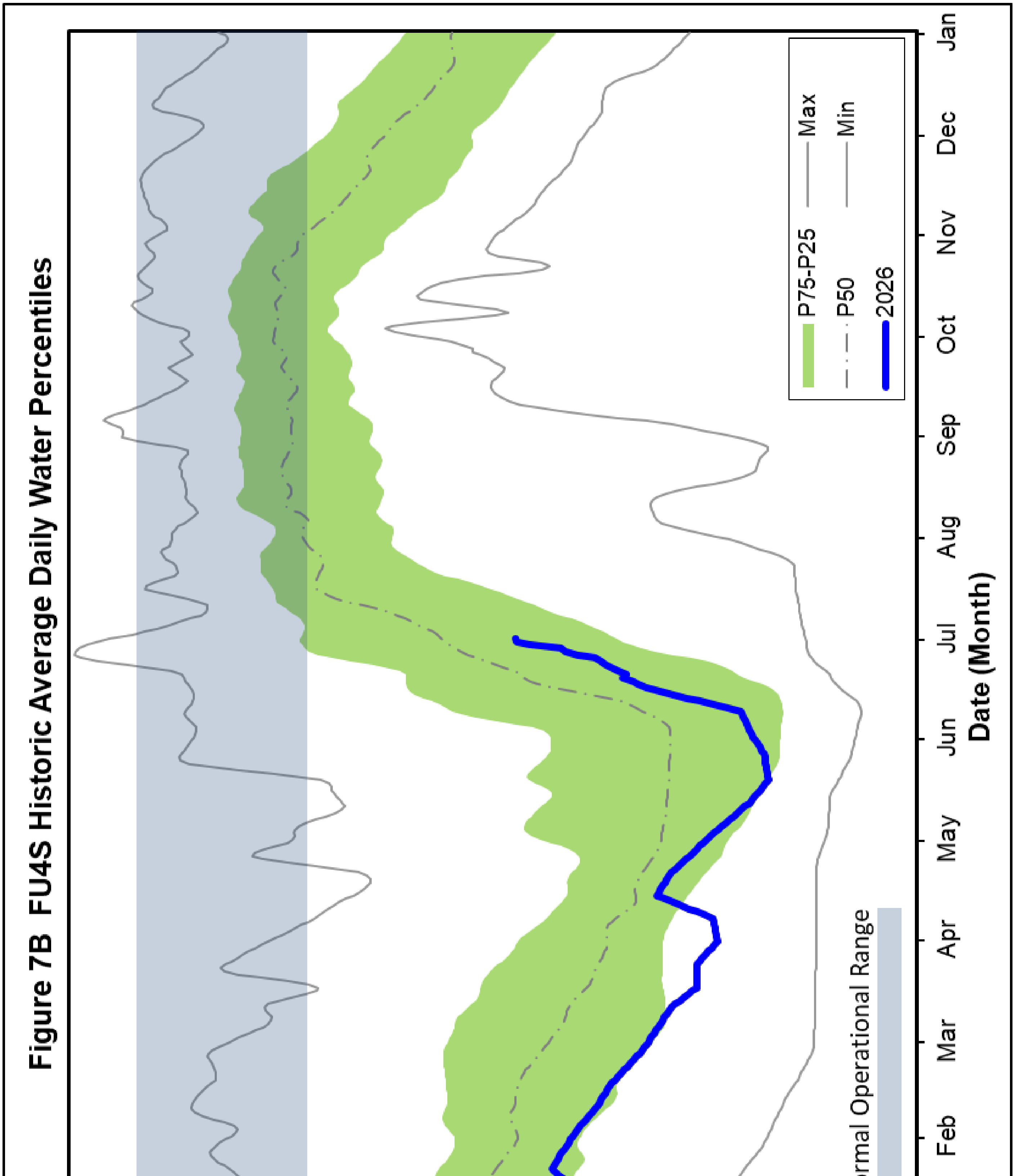


Figure 7B FU4S Historic Average Daily Water Percentiles

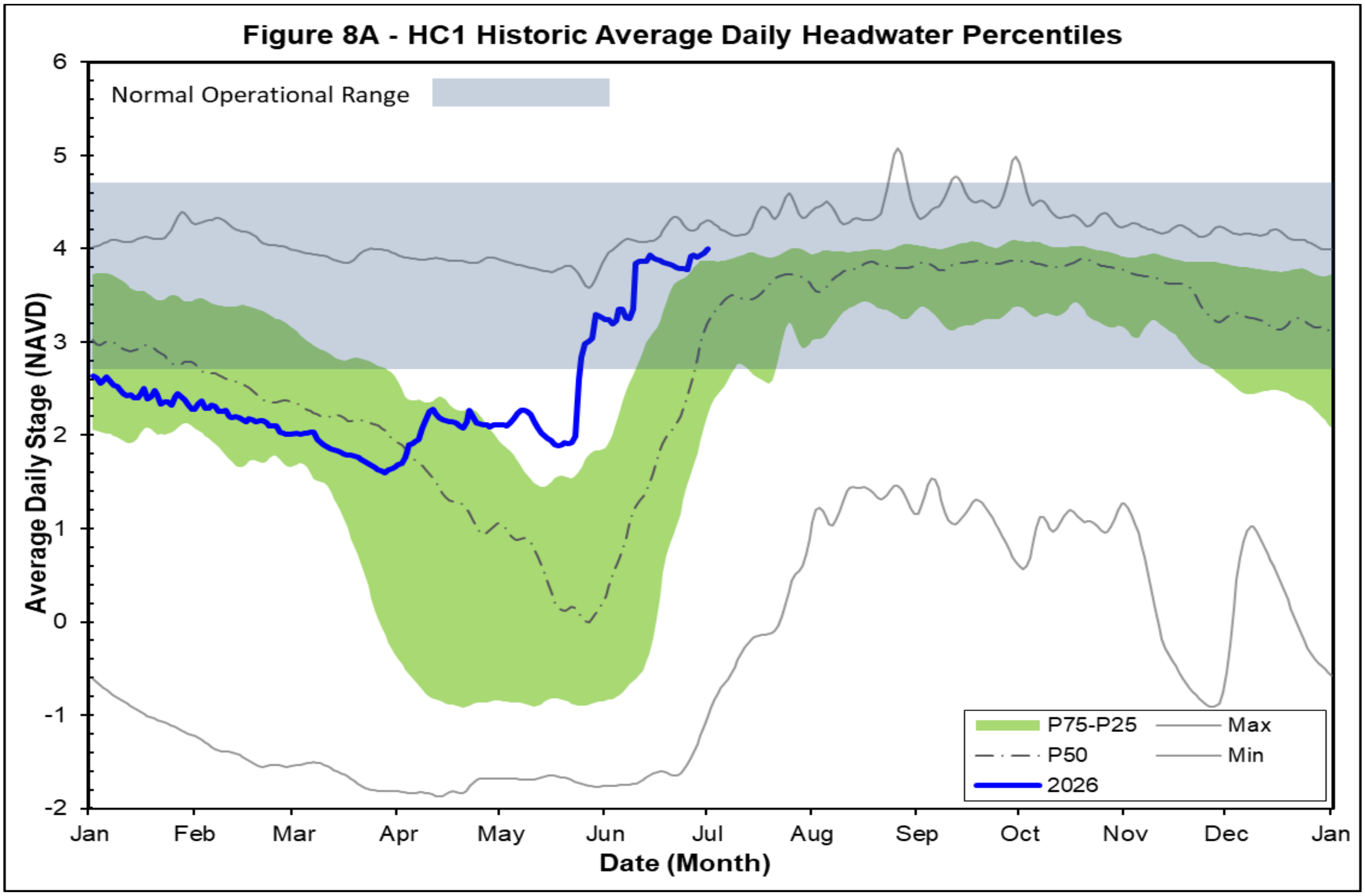


Figure 8A - HC1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Normal Operational Range
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2026

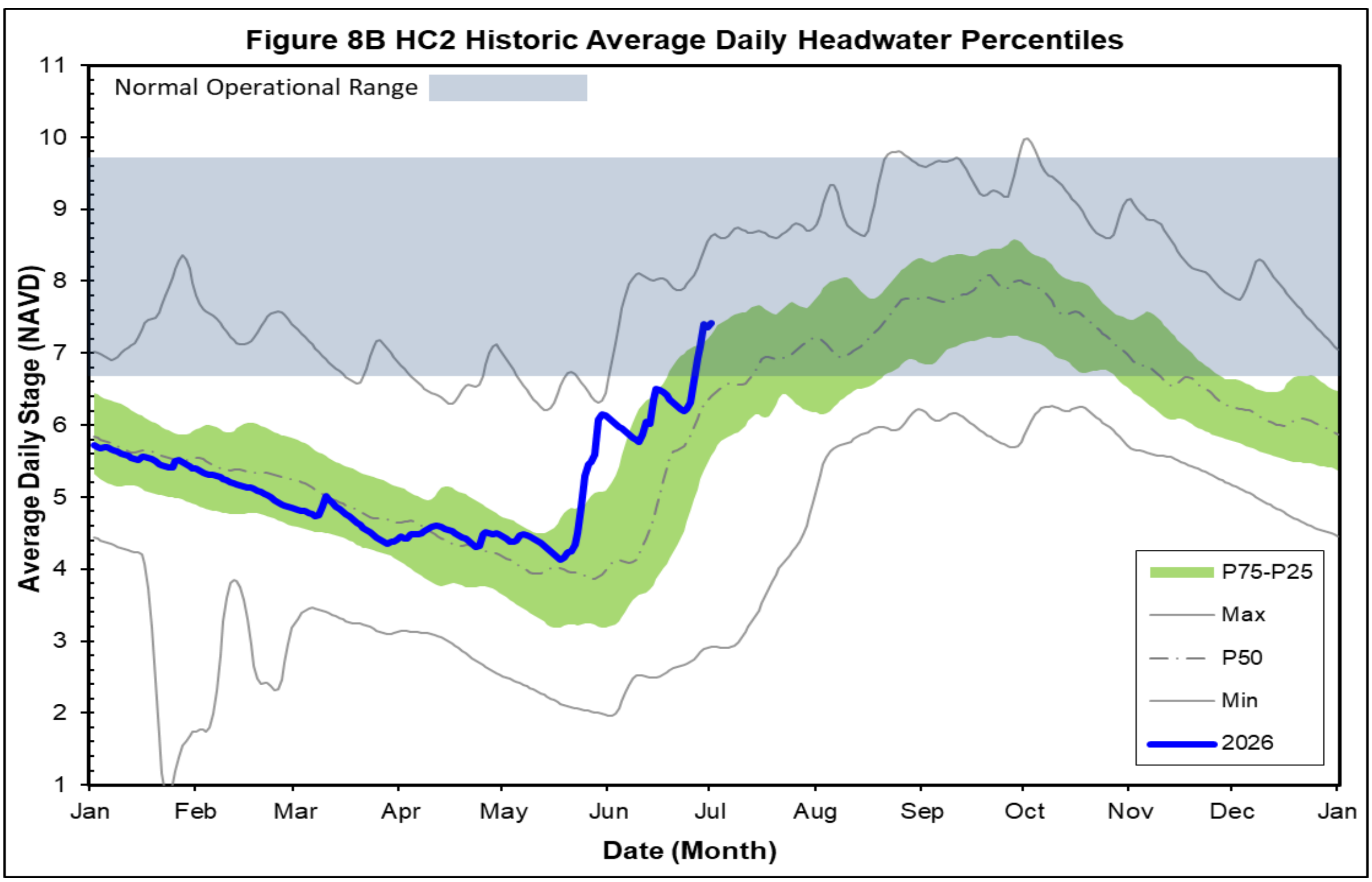


Figure 8B HC2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Normal Operational Range
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2026

TABLE 2

WATER CONDITIONS SUMMARY - JUNE 2026

SELECTED STATIONS for BCB AREA / SW FLORIDA

Last Reading Date :	June 30, 2026						
Previous Period Reading Date:	May 31, 2026						
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-NAVD88							
C-462	Immokalee	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-0.53	28.50	27.97	↓	GREEN
C-1004R	Naples	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-0.32	1.09	0.77	↓	GREEN
C-1224	Marco Lakes	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	0.71	2.74	3.45	↑	GREEN
C-948R	Golden Gate	Mid Hawthorn Aquifer	1.26	25.20	26.46	↑	
C-951R	Golden Gate	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	2.26	0.30	2.56	↑	
L-2194	Bonita Springs	Sandstone Aquifer	0.85	-0.76	0.09	↑	GREEN
L-2195	Bonita Springs	Surficial Aquifer System	0.56	6.82	7.38	↑	GREEN
L-738	Bonita Springs	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-0.40	-3.07	-3.47	↓	GREEN

BIG CYPRESS BASIN

JUNE 30, 2026

GROUNDWATER LEVEL DAILY TRENDS COMPARED TO HISTORICAL AVERAGE

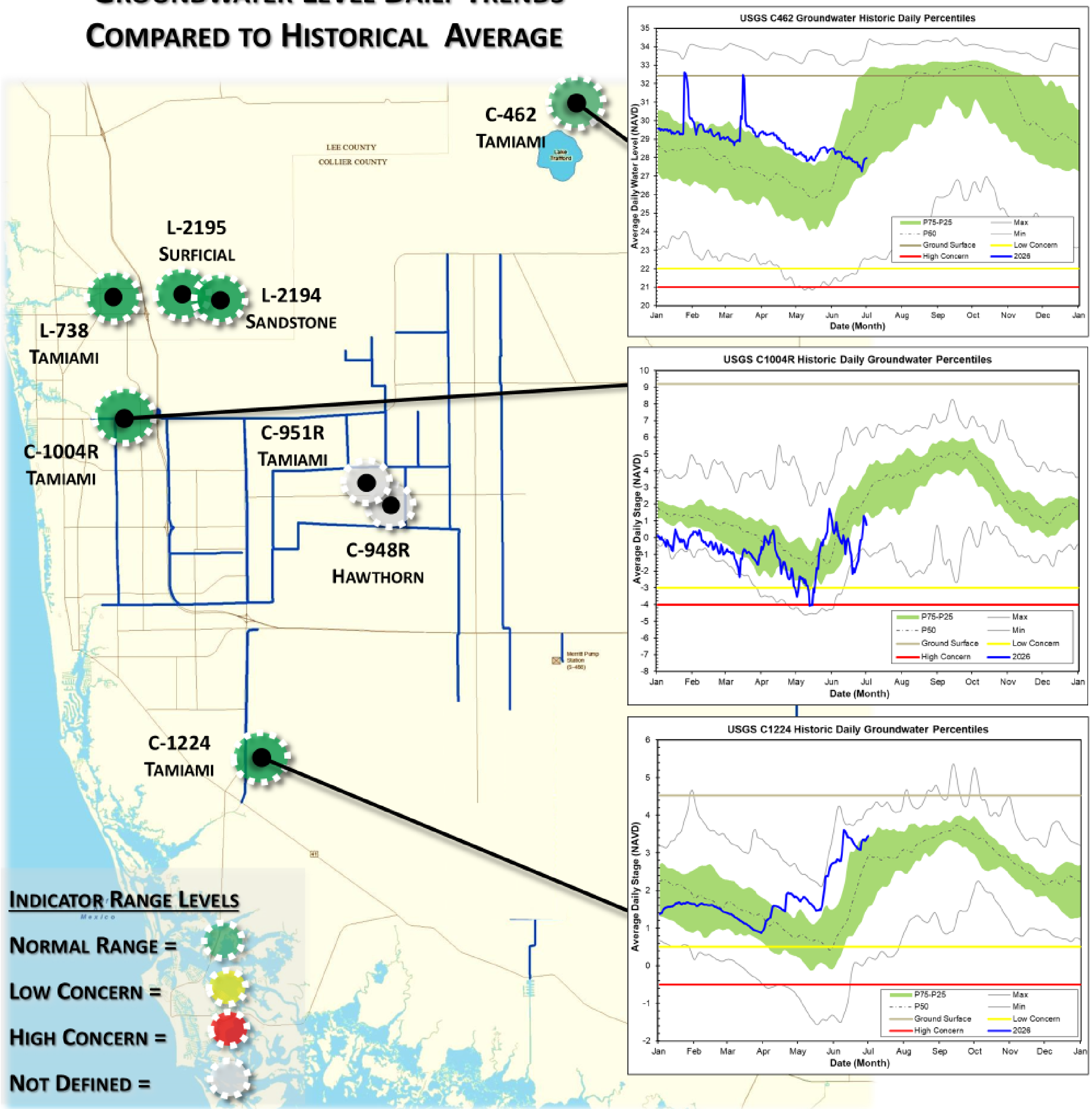


FIGURE 9A

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BIG CYPRESS BASIN

JUNE 30, 2026

GROUNDWATER LEVEL DAILY TRENDS COMPARED TO HISTORICAL AVERAGE

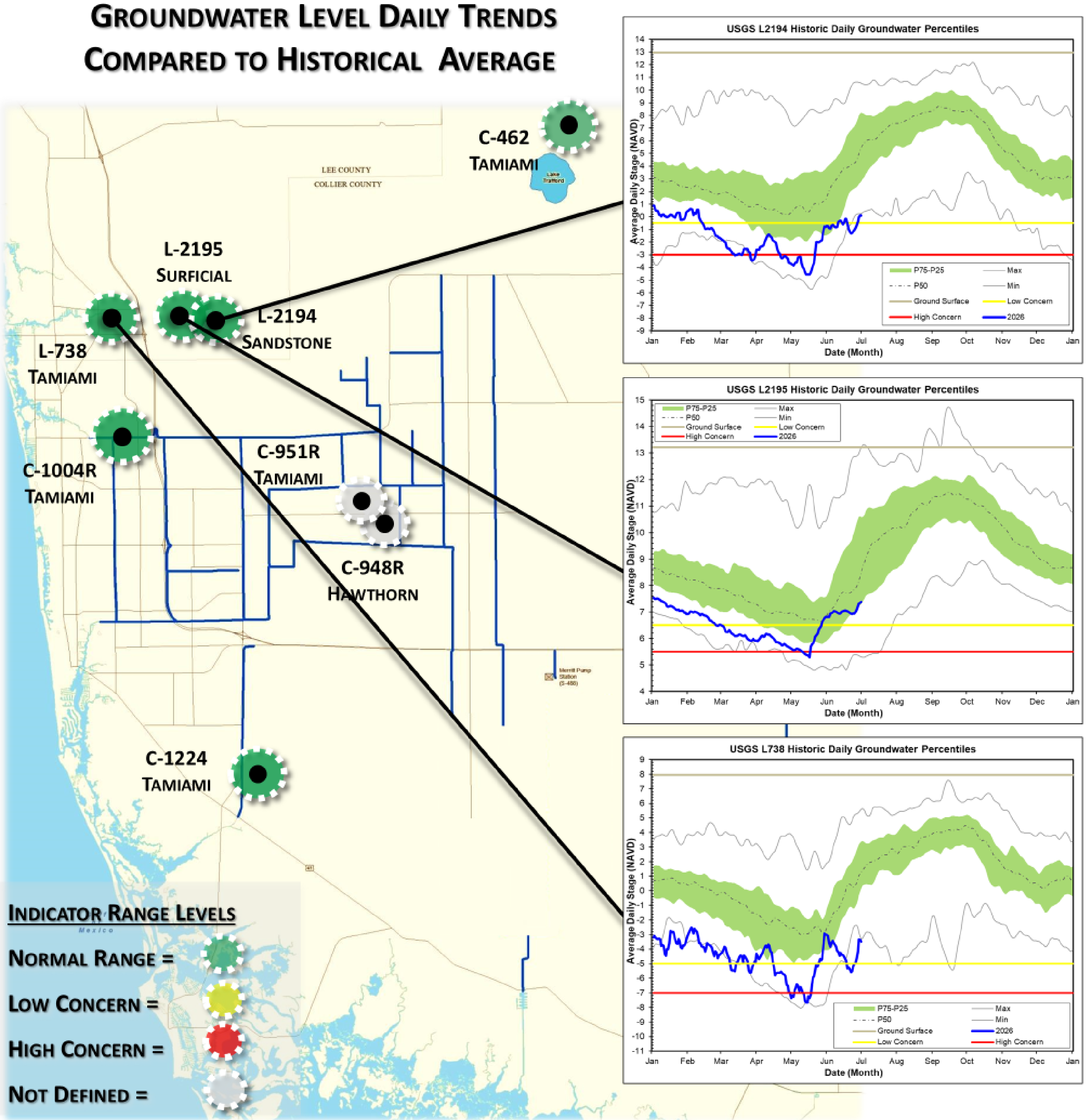
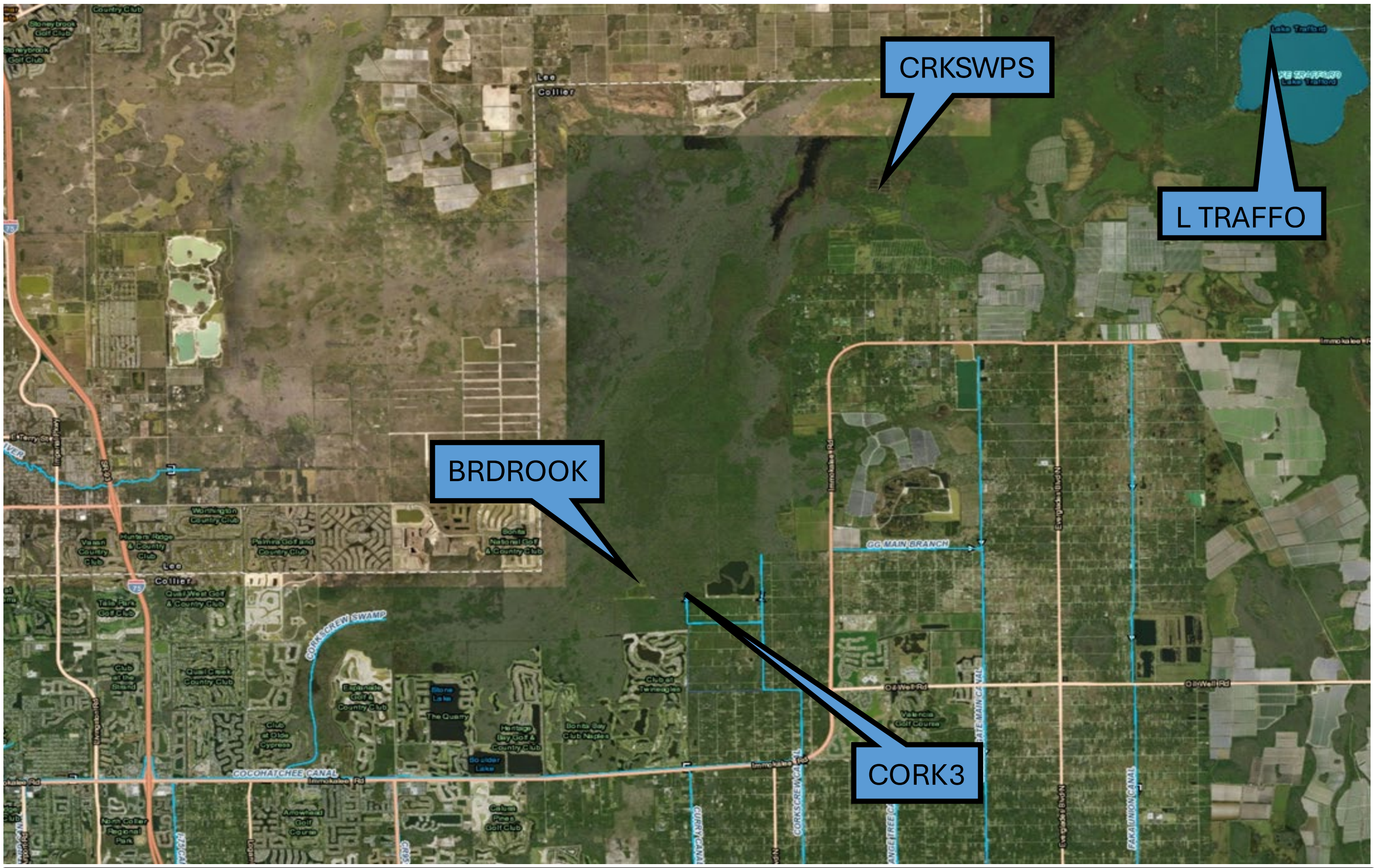


FIGURE 9B



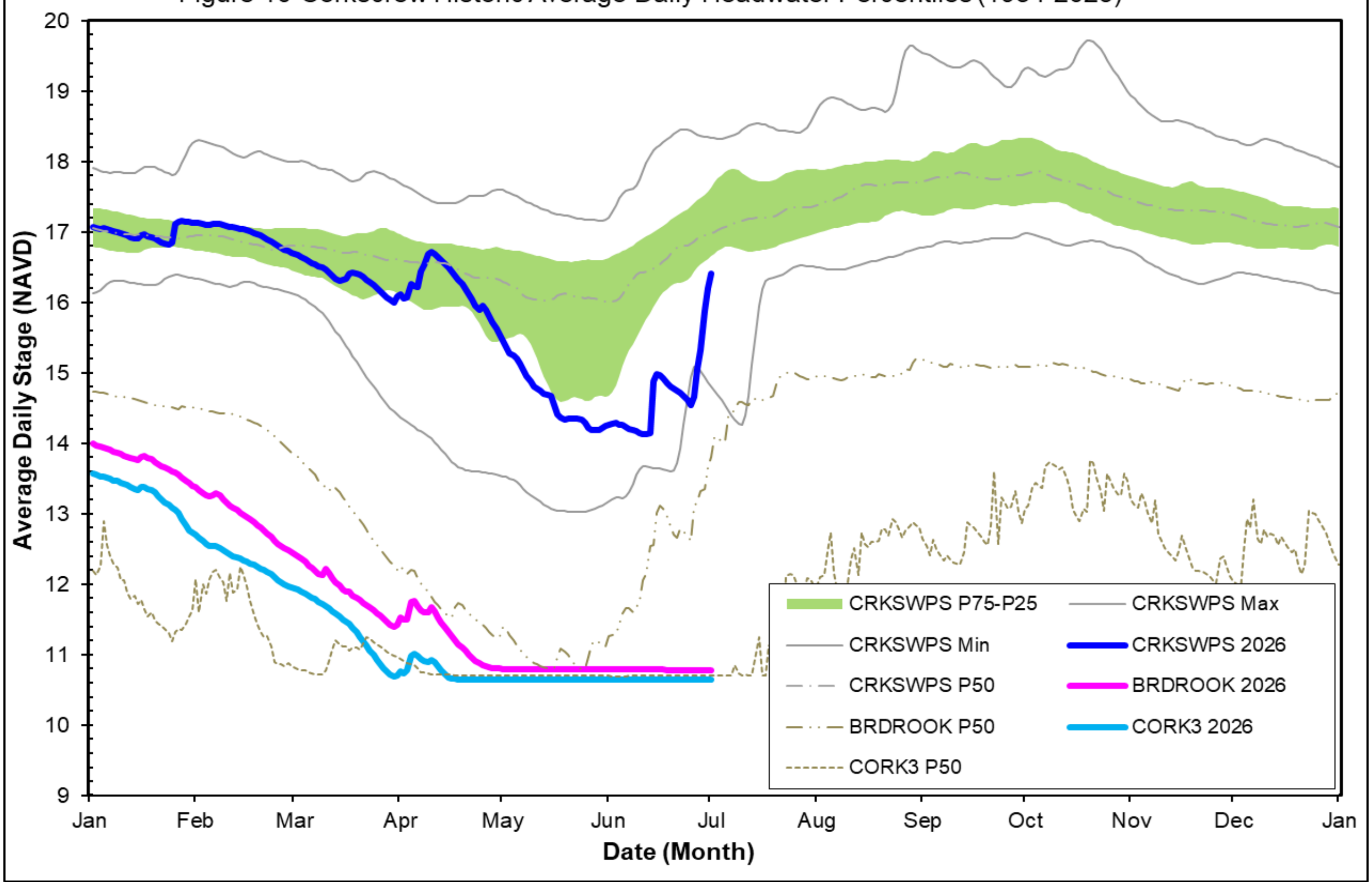
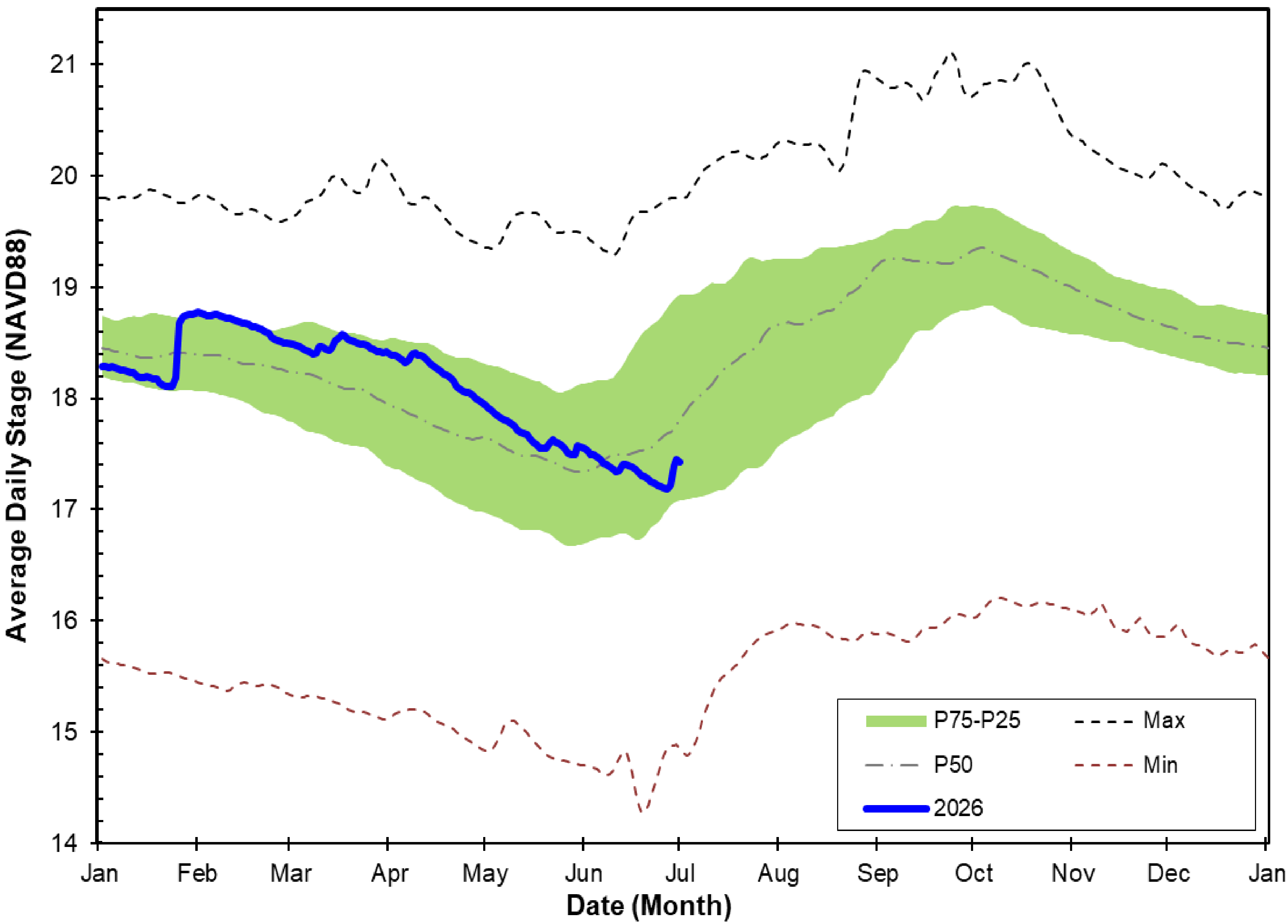


Figure 10-Corkscrew Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (1984-2025)

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



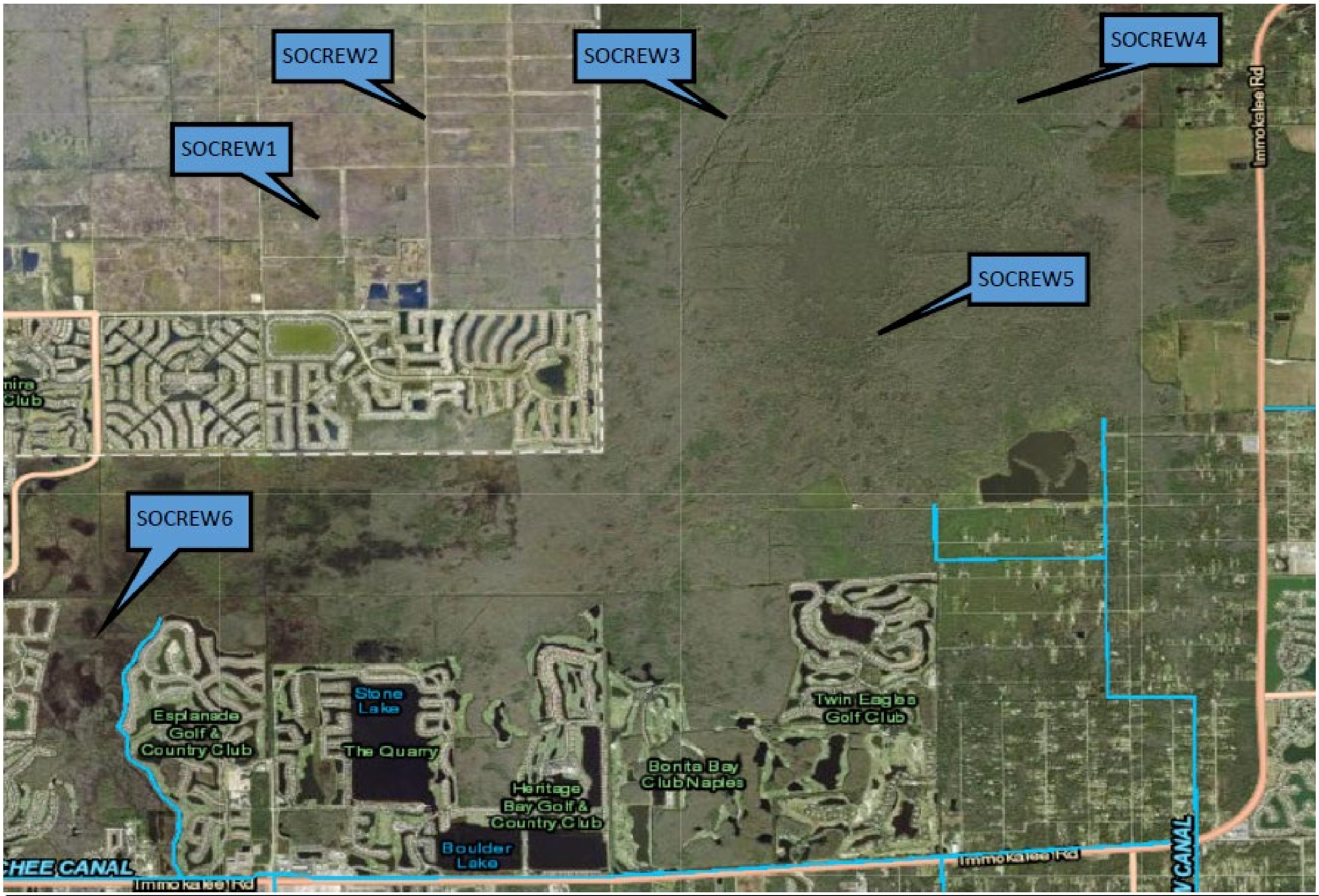


Figure 12 - SOCREW1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles

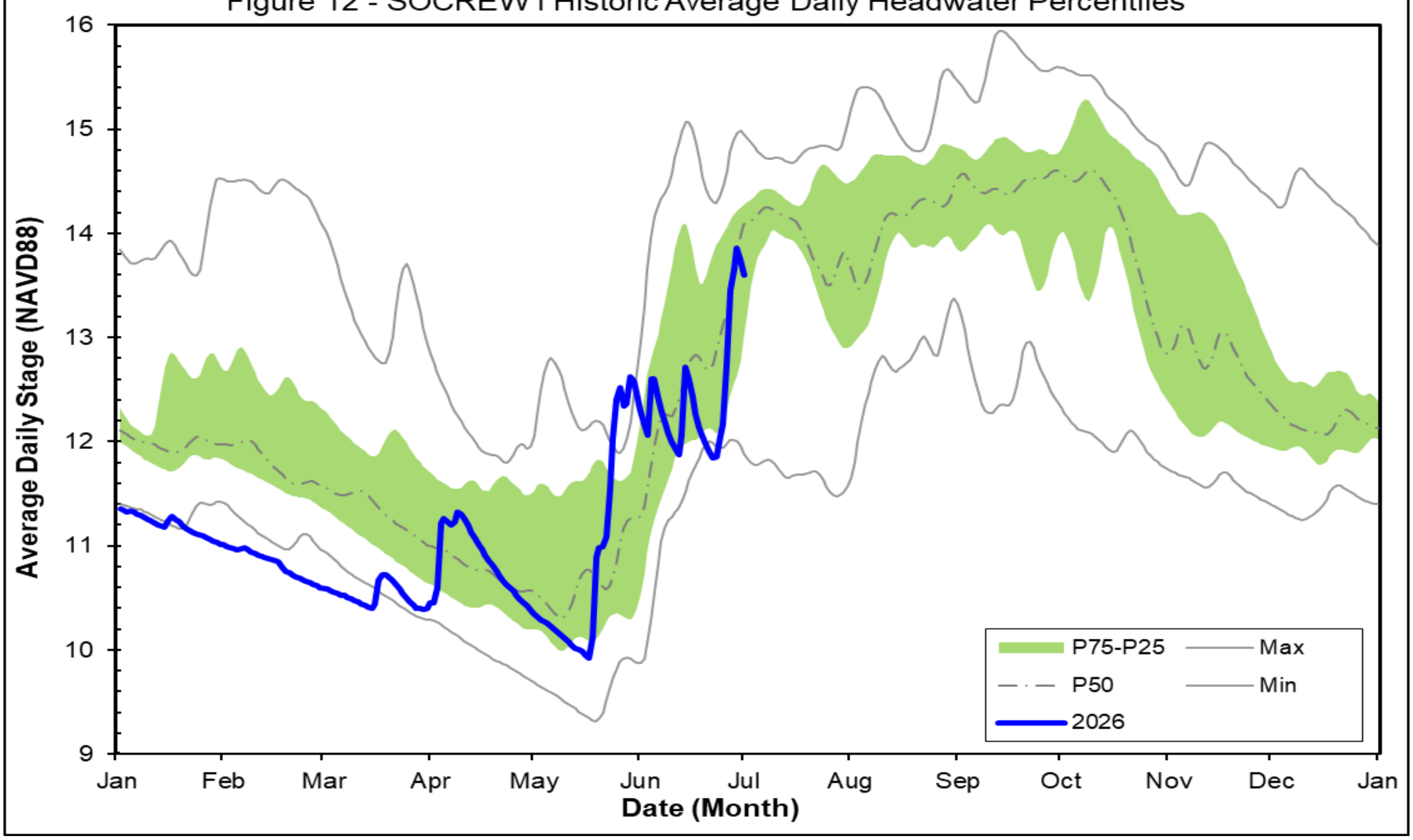


Figure 13 - SOCREW2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles