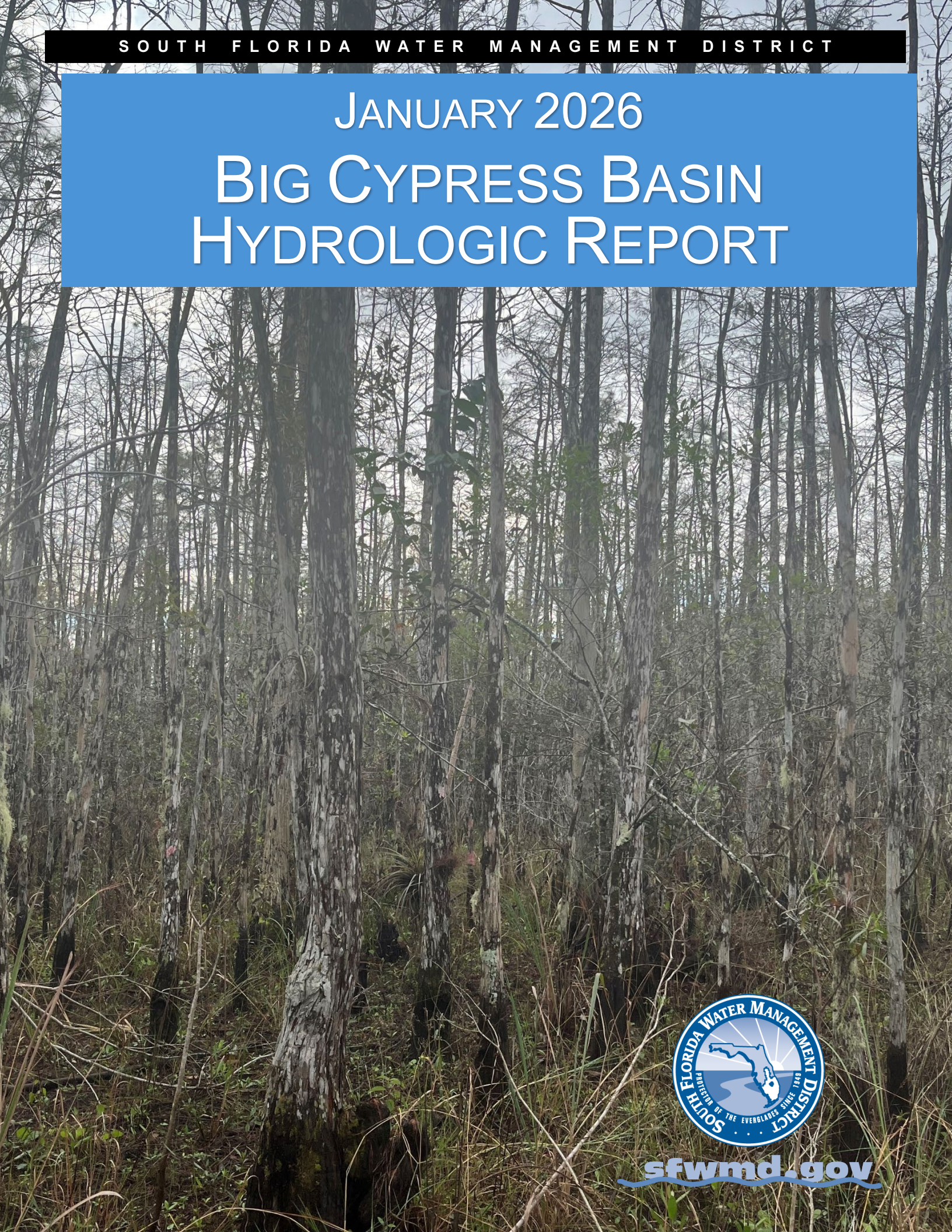
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

JANUARY 2026

BIG CYPRESS BASIN HYDROLOGIC REPORT

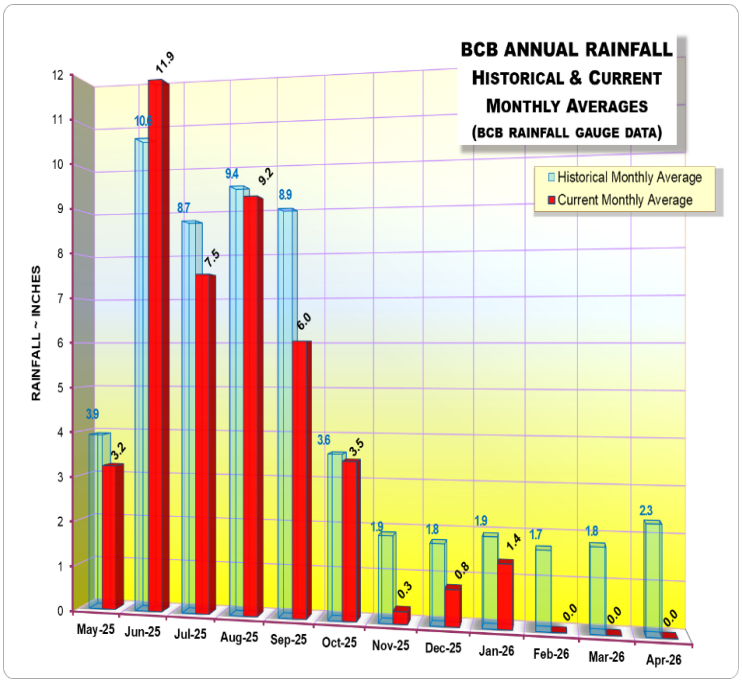


sfwmd.gov

SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS IN THE BIG CYPRESS BASIN

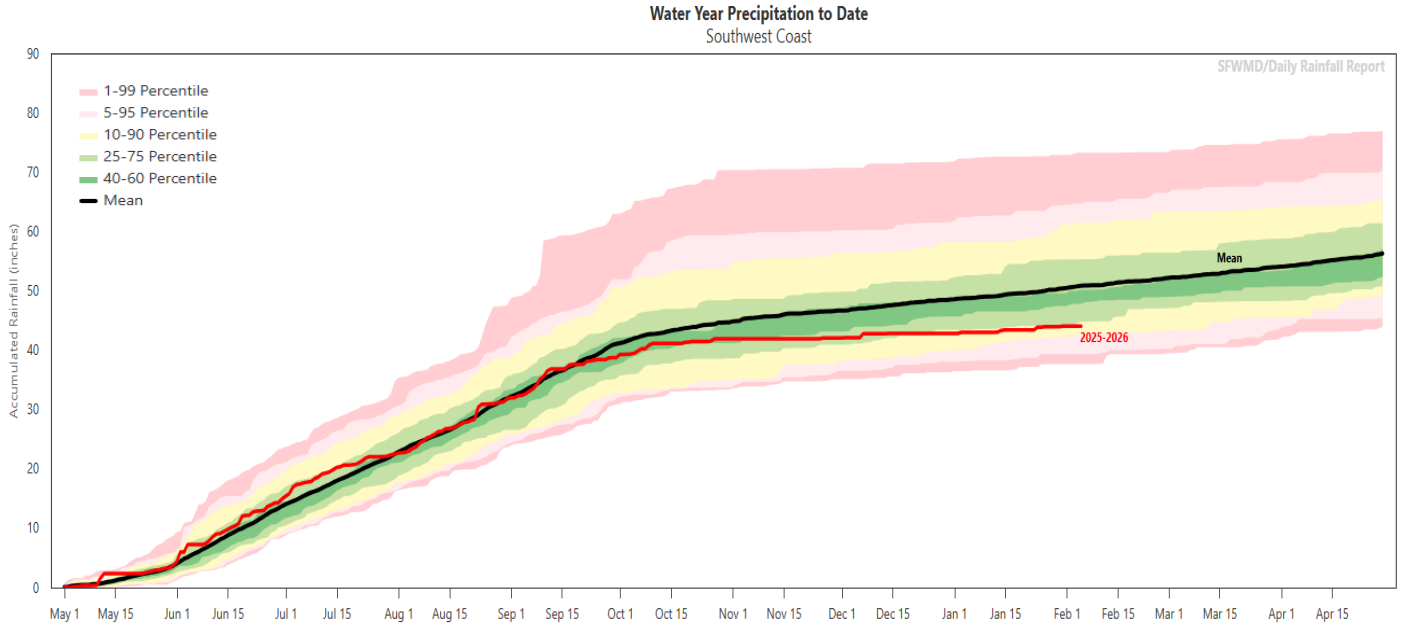
January 2026

SUMMARY

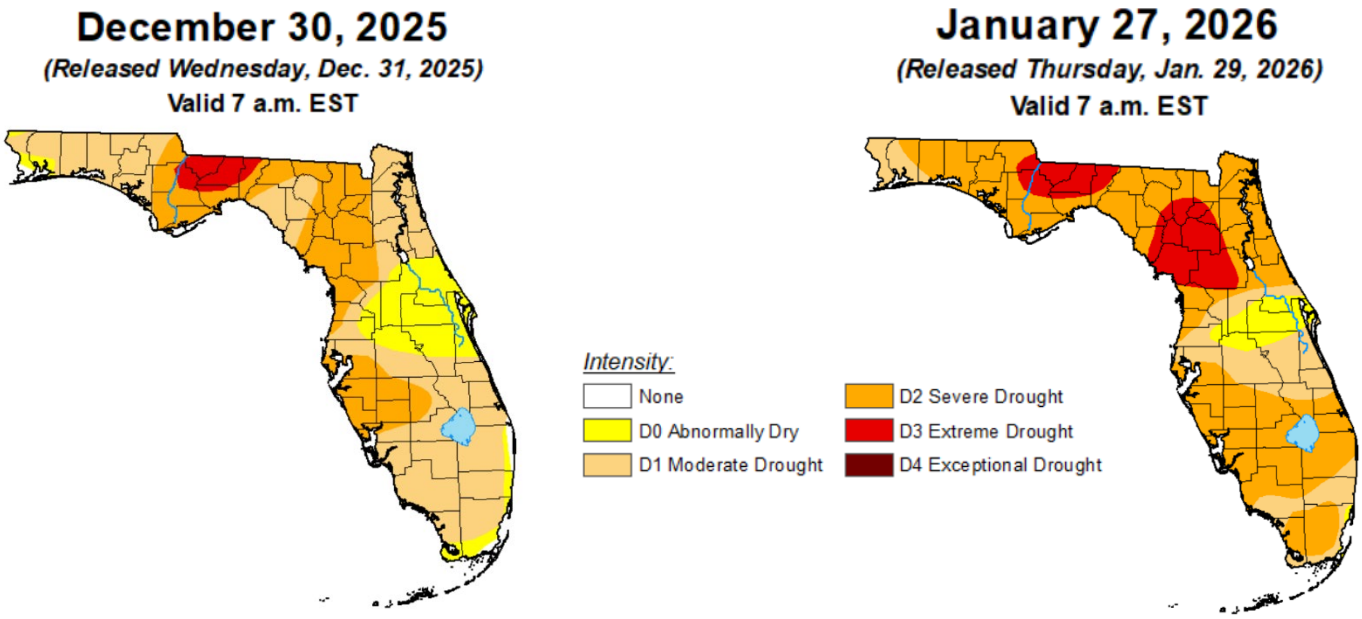


January continued the recent trend of sub-normal rainfall in the Big Cypress Basin (BCB). Rain gauges across BCB recorded an average of 1.38 inches of rainfall in January, just 71% of the normal monthly value. It is worth noting that this monthly average would have been noticeably lower, but for an unusual event on January 24th which dropped high intensity rainfall on portions of the Trafford, Faka Union and Fakahatchee watersheds. This intense rainfall was highly localized, however, resulting in notable water level improvement in only the impacted watersheds. Benefits to the remainder of the BCB system were less, as rainfall intensity in these other areas was significantly lower.

January now marks the 7th consecutive month of below normal rainfall in the BCB. Looking back over the last 13 months, only June 2025 saw rainfall exceeding the normal monthly average. To date in the current water year (May 2025 – April 2026), the BCB has received 42.4 inches of rainfall (86% of normal). The impact of the current water year's deficit is compounded – and more apparent – when noting that over the last three months, the BCB only received 2.4 inches of rainfall (just 44% of normal). This recent severe rainfall deficit has led to a noticeable separation of the current water year's precipitation to date from the mean in the historical record, as indicated in the graph below.



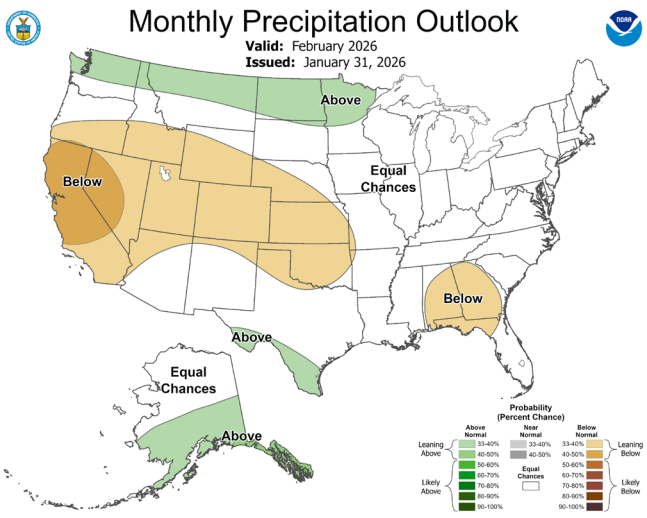
Due to the continuance of lower than normal precipitation totals, by January 29th the U.S. Drought Monitor had increased the severity of drought conditions in northern Collier County from "*D1 Moderate Drought"* to "*D2 Severe Drought*."

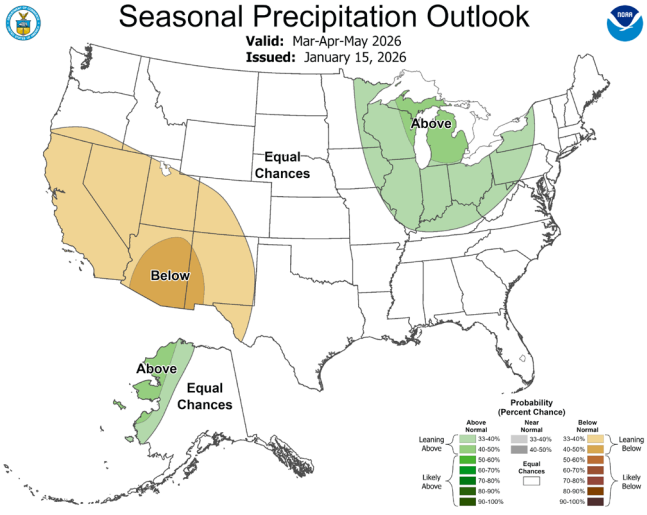


On February 2, 2026, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center updated the status of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), stating:

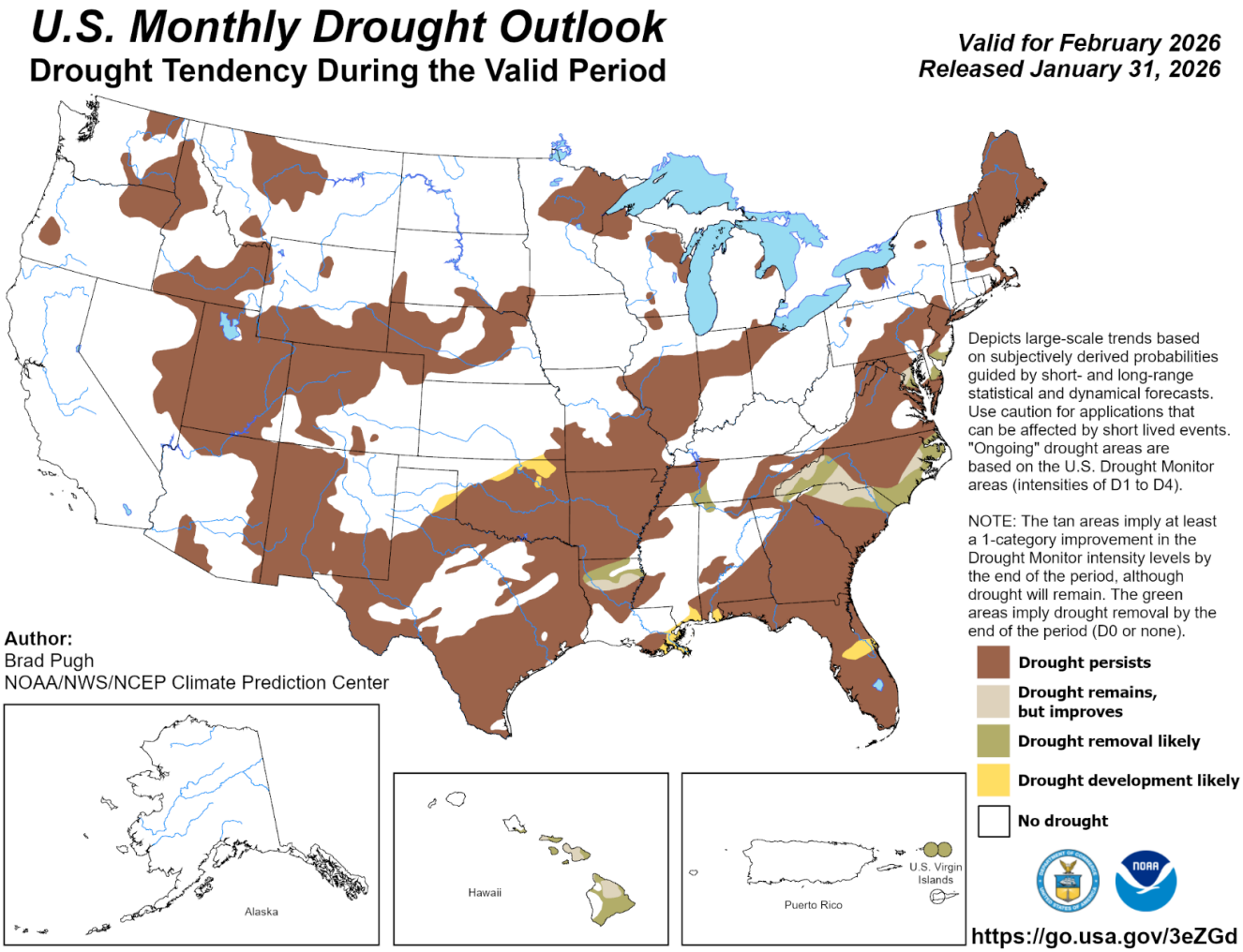
- *La Niña is present.*
- *Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below average across the east central and eastern Pacific Ocean.*
- *Atmospheric anomalies over the tropical Pacific Ocean are consistent with La Niña.*
- *There is a 75% chance of a transition to ENSO-neutral during January-March 2026. ENSO-neutral is likely through at least Northern Hemisphere late spring 2026.*

Due to the anticipated meteorological impacts associated with the transition of La Niña conditions to ENSO-neutral conditions, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) adjusted the February forecast to have equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions. This equal chance of wetter or drier than normal precipitation is anticipated to last through May 2026.





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 February 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 remainder of the Dry Season.

JANUARY 2026 BCB RAINFALL

The Basin-wide averaged, gauge-measured, monthly rainfall was 1.38 inches in January 2026. This measured rainfall amounted to 71% of the historic BCB January average of 1.9 inches **(see Figures 1, 2, 3A and Table 1).** In January 2026, the rain gauge with the highest measured precipitation was R-20 AVE MARIA, which recorded 4.73 inches. R-5 FAKAHATCHEE STRAND HQ received the lowest rain gauge monthly total with just 0.33 inches.

Figure 3B shows January'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 2.47 inches and the Coastal Basins watershed saw the lowest Raindar average of 0.58 inches. The BCB's overall calculated areal weighted average Raindar rainfall (by watershed) was 1.38 inches for the month, which matches the basin-wide rain gauge average. The Raindar totals and their locality distribution across the BCB/Lower West Coast are shown on **Figure 3C**.

JANUARY 2026 BCB OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS

During January, BCB structures remained in water conservation operations. An intense, highly localized rainfall occurred on January 24th and brought some much needed rain to the Lake Trafford, Upper Faka Union, and Upper Fakahatchee watersheds. Due to the localized nature of the intense rainfall, the benefit was significantly less in other watersheds across the Basin. With the exception of Lake Trafford and the Upper Faka Union Canal, by the end of month the impact of the sustained dry conditions had reasserted itself, and canal water levels resumed their steady decline. BCB canal conditions as of January 31, 2026 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 January with no discharges to tide over GG1. In mid-January the BCB communicated with the City of Naples, notifying them that their withdrawal cutoff elevation of 2.2 NAVD was approaching and forecast to occur by the end of the month. By January 31st the Golden Gate Main Canal had receded to between the 25th and 75th percentile **(see Figure 5),** with the exception of a short segment immediately upstream of GG6, which finished the month at the 90th percentile due to the aforementioned intense localized rainfall on January 24th.

COCOHATCHEE SYSTEM

The Cocohatchee Canal was kept in water conservation operations in January. By the end of the month, the most downstream segment of the system (between COCO1 and COCO2) remained at the 75th percentile. The canal segment upstream of COCO2 ended the month between the 10th and 25th percentile, while the upstream of reaches of the system finished the month between the 25th and 75th percentile. The short 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 January. Both FU4S and FU5 gates remained closed in January, as the intense localized rainfall in the Upper Faka Union watershed did not necessitate gate operations at FU5. By the end of the month, the portion of the Faka Union Canal upstream of FU5 had climbed back to the 90th percentile. The portion of the canal between FU5 and FU4s benefited to a small degree from the upstream rainfall due to minor overtopping of the closed gates at FU5. This benefit briefly paused recession in this canal segment, allowing it to finish the month between the 25th and 75th percentile. Downstream of FU4S, the Faka Union Canal remained near the 75th percentile as no pumping occurred at the Faka Pump Station (S487). Monitoring wells downstream of S487 – within the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP) – finished the month between the 25th and 75th percentile. Downstream of the PSRP, the remaining canal immediately north of FU1 finished the month below the 10th percentile. **(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 January. No discharges occurred at the HC1 structure 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 level trends in the groundwater monitoring stations were mixed in January **(Table 2 and Figure 9).** C-462 (north of Lake Trafford) spiked due to the January 24th localized rainfall near Lake Trafford, then quickly dropped to finish the month just above the 75th percentile. C-1224 (near Henderson Creek) rose slightly during January then leveled off to finish the month between the 25th and 50th percentile. C-1004R (a Tidally influenced well near Cocohatchee Canal) fluctuated between historical daily minimums and the 25th percentile, finishing the month slightly above its December 31st level, but midway between the 10th and 25th percentiles.

L-738 a Tamiami Aquifer well in Bonita Springs dropped into record low January territory mid-month, then rebounded somewhat, finishing slightly above the historic minimum for January 31st. L-2194, a Sandstone Aquifer well in Bonita Springs again continued its downward trend over the course of the month and finished the month midway between the 10th and 25th percentiles. L-2195, a surficial aquifer well in Bonita Springs, followed a steady downward trend in January, finishing the month at the 10th percentile.

Though all of the well water levels discussed currently remain above the first level of concern (yellow line on charts), it is important to note that, with the exception of C-462 and C1004R, well water levels are notably below those measured at the same time last year. Both L2194 and L2195 are very close to passing below this first level of concern, and will likely do so in the coming weeks. With the forecast of a continuance of drier than normal conditions, well levels may well decline below those experienced 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 2026 corresponding levels. CRKSWPS saw a notable rise in water level due to the intense localized rainfall on January 24th and rose from the 25th percentile to the 75th percentile. BRDROOK and CORK3, however, are located west of where the heavy rain occurred, and did not receive a similar benefit. Both BRDROOK AND CORK3 continued to see water levels decline in January, reaching levels by the end of the month that were not reached until early March in last year's dry season. Figure 11 shows that Lake Trafford has also benefited from the January 24th rainfall and returned to above the 75th percentile by the end of the month.

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 January and are trending below their historical daily minimum levels. The SOCREW sites 3, 4, 5 and 6 are newer sites and have a period of record of approximately 3 years, therefore do not have adequate data for statistical analysis.

FIGURE 1
RAIN GAUGE LOCATIONS

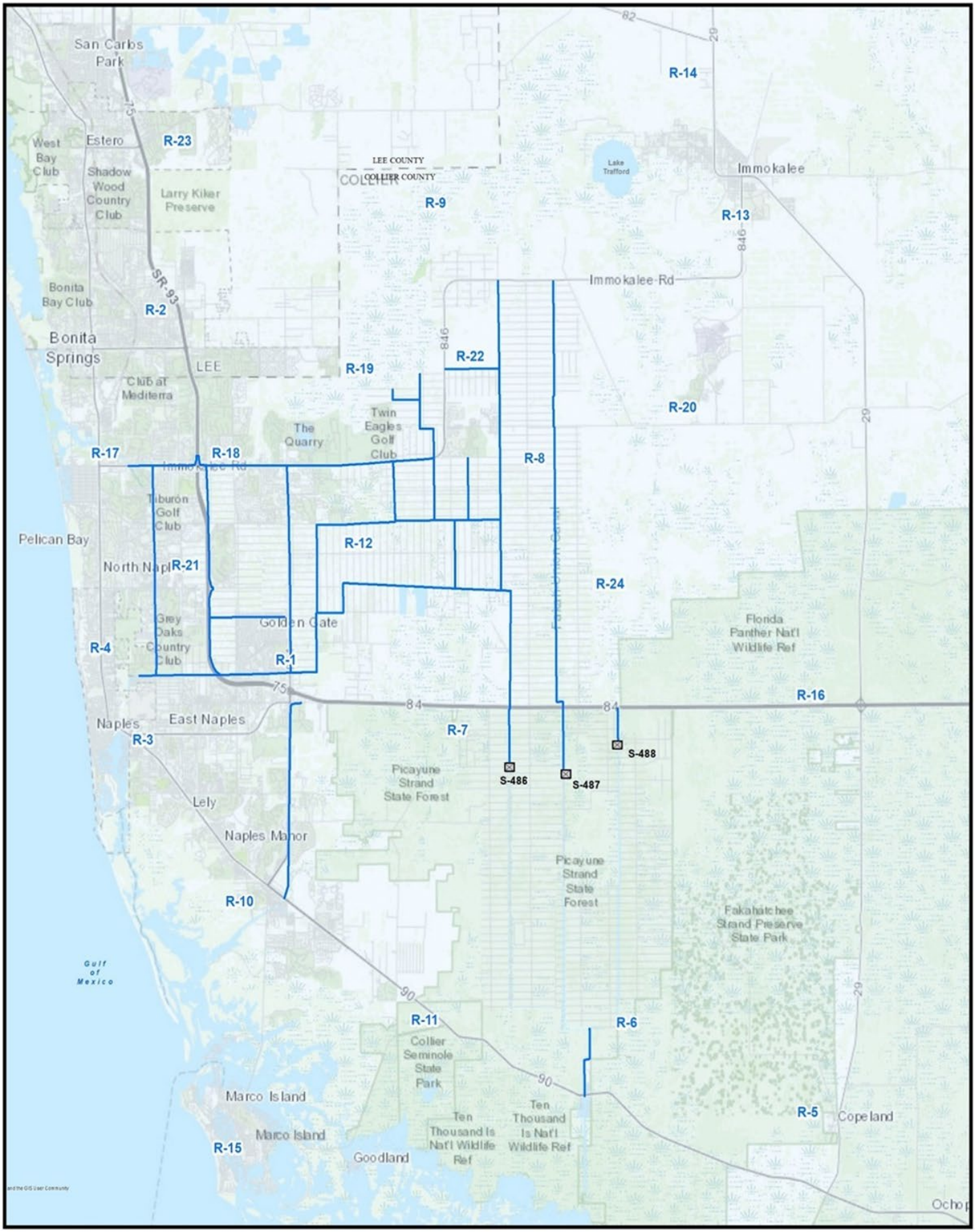


FIGURE 2
BCB GAUGE MEASURED RAINFALL MONTHLY AVERAGES
CALENDAR YEAR 2026

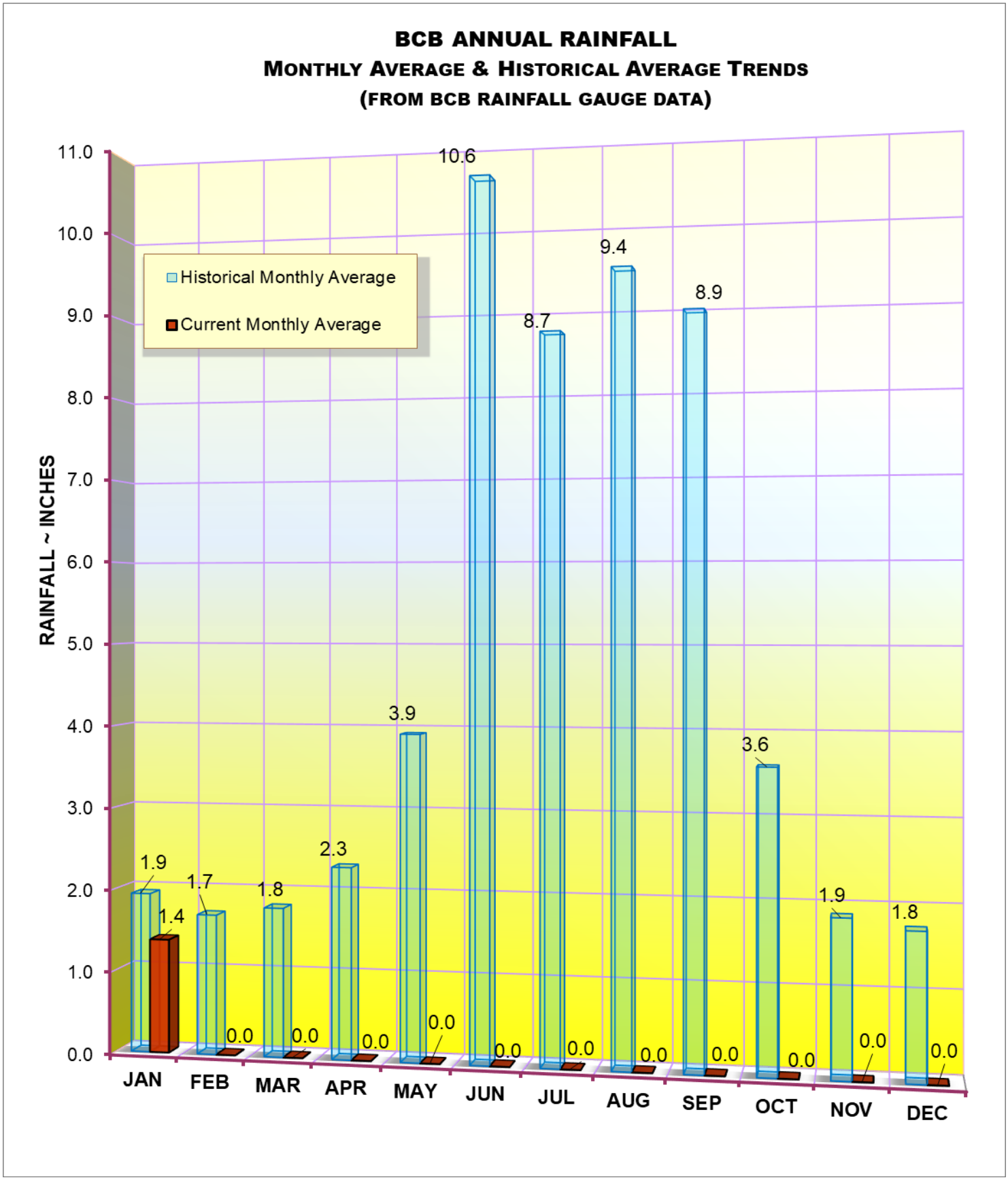


TABLE 1
RAINFALL REPORT - JANUARY 2026
DISTRICT/BASIN RAINFALL STATIONS
(ALL NUMBERS ARE IN INCHES)

STATION INDEX NO.	STATION NAME	Jan-26	LONG TERM MONTHLY AVERAGE	MONTHLY DIFFERENCE	CALENDAR YEAR 2025 CUMULATIVE TOTAL	AVERAGE CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE DIFFERENCE
R-1	GG#3	1.34	2.43	-1.09	1.34	2.43	-1.09
R-2	BONITA SPRINGS WATER PLANT	0.90	2.01	-1.11	0.90	2.01	-1.11
R-3	COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE	0.97	1.87	-0.90	0.97	1.87	-0.90
R-4	FREEDOM PARK	1.21	2.40	-1.19	1.21	2.40	-1.19
R-5	FAKAHATCHEE STRAND HQ	0.33	1.75	-1.42	0.33	1.75	-1.42
R-6	DAN HOUSE PRAIRIE	0.70	1.53	-0.83	0.70	1.53	-0.83
R-7	SGGE WEATHER STATION	0.82	1.72	-0.90	0.82	1.72	-0.90
R-8	FAKA UNION #5	1.37	2.63	-1.26	1.37	2.63	-1.26
R-9	CORKSCREW SWAMP NORTH END	2.20	1.88	0.32	2.20	1.88	0.32
R-10	ROOKERY BAY HQ	0.66	1.97	-1.31	0.66	1.97	-1.31
R-11	COLLIER SEMINOLE STATE PARK	0.46	1.82	-1.36	0.46	1.82	-1.36
R-12	G.G. FIRE STATION	1.13	1.97	-0.84	1.13	1.97	-0.84
R-13	IMMOKALEE LANDFILL	3.73	2.16	1.57	3.73	2.16	1.57
R-14	IFAS	2.62	1.95	0.67	2.62	1.95	0.67
R-15	MARCO R.O. PLANT	0.51	2.41	-1.90	0.51	2.41	-1.90
R-16	FAKAHATCHEE STRAND NORTH END	1.19	2.34	-1.15	1.19	2.34	-1.15
R-17	COCO#1	0.96	1.79	-0.83	0.96	1.79	-0.83
R-18	COCO#3	1.25	1.71	-0.46	1.25	1.71	-0.46
R-19	BIRD ROOKERY	0.73	1.66	-0.93	0.73	1.66	-0.93
R-20	AVE MARIA	4.73	2.16	2.57	4.73	2.16	2.57
R-21	I75W2	1.19	1.62	-0.43	1.19	1.62	-0.43
R-22	GG#7	1.94	1.57	0.37	1.94	1.57	0.37
R-23	FPWX	1.30	1.80	-0.50	1.30	1.80	-0.50
R-24	DSOTO10	0.88	1.35	-0.47	0.88	1.35	-0.47
	AVERAGES	1.38	1.94	-0.56	1.38	1.94	-0.56

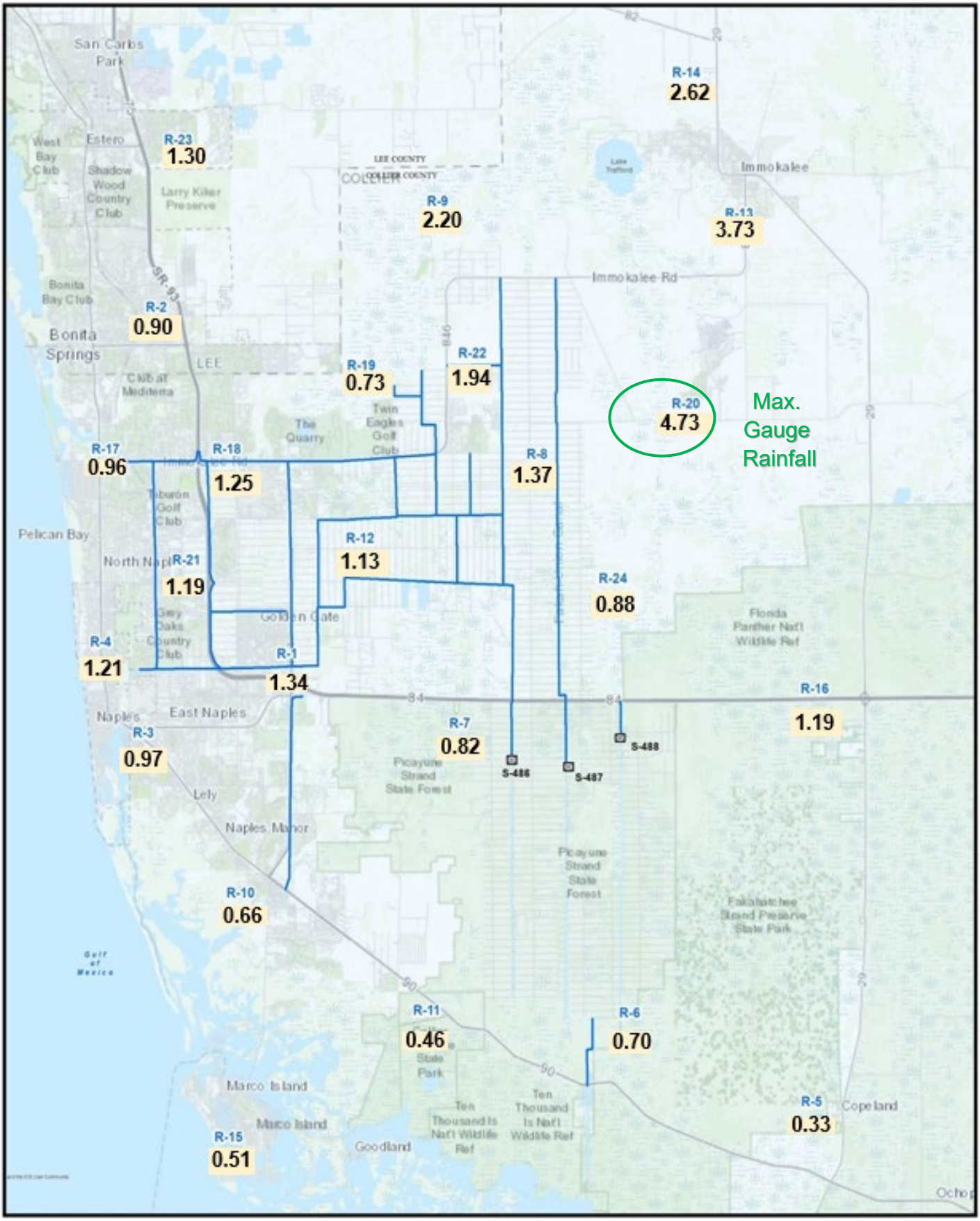
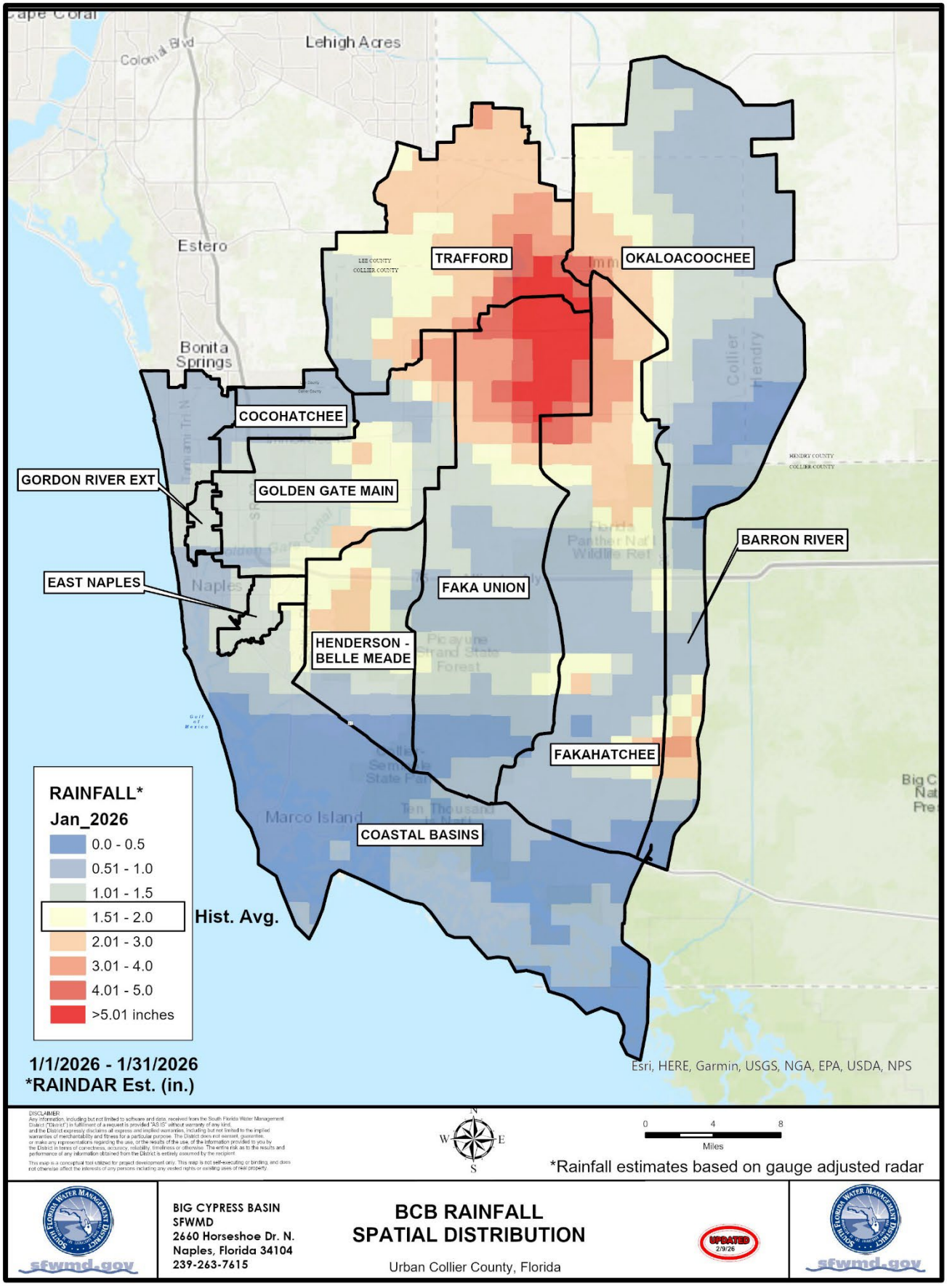
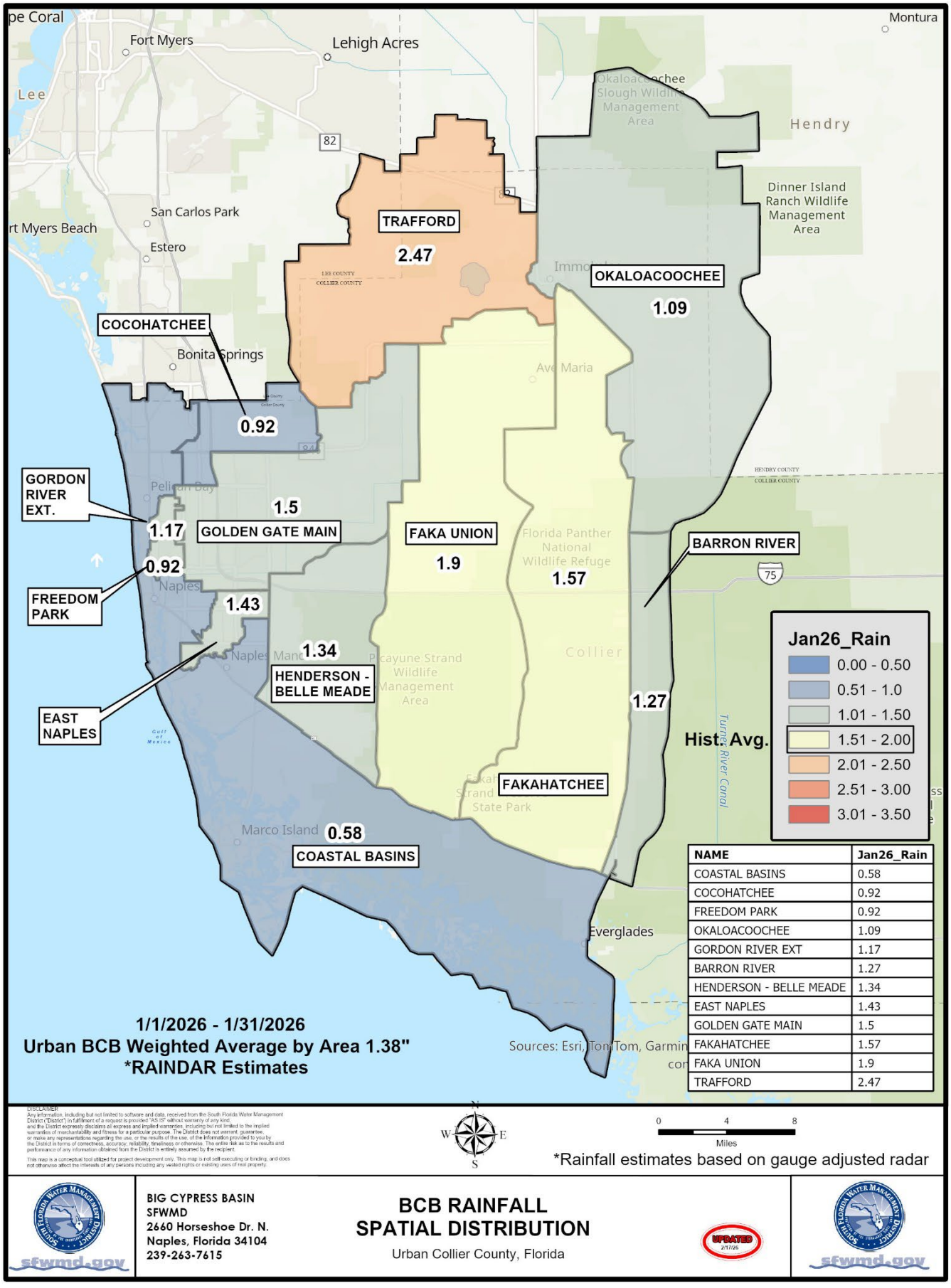


FIGURE 3A
BCB RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION
JANUARY 2026



JANUARY 2026 — FIGURE 3B



NAME	Jan26_Rain
COASTAL BASINS	0.58
COCOHATCHEE	0.92
FREEDOM PARK	0.92
OKALOACOOCHEE	1.09
GORDON RIVER EXT	1.17
BARRON RIVER	1.27
HENDERSON - BELLE MEADE	1.34
EAST NAPLES	1.43
GOLDEN GATE MAIN	1.5
FAKAHATCHEE	1.57
FAKA UNION	1.9
TRAFFORD	2.47

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

BCB RAINFALL SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Urban Collier County, Florida

UPDATED 2/17/26

sfwmd.gov

JANUARY 2026 —FIGURE 3C

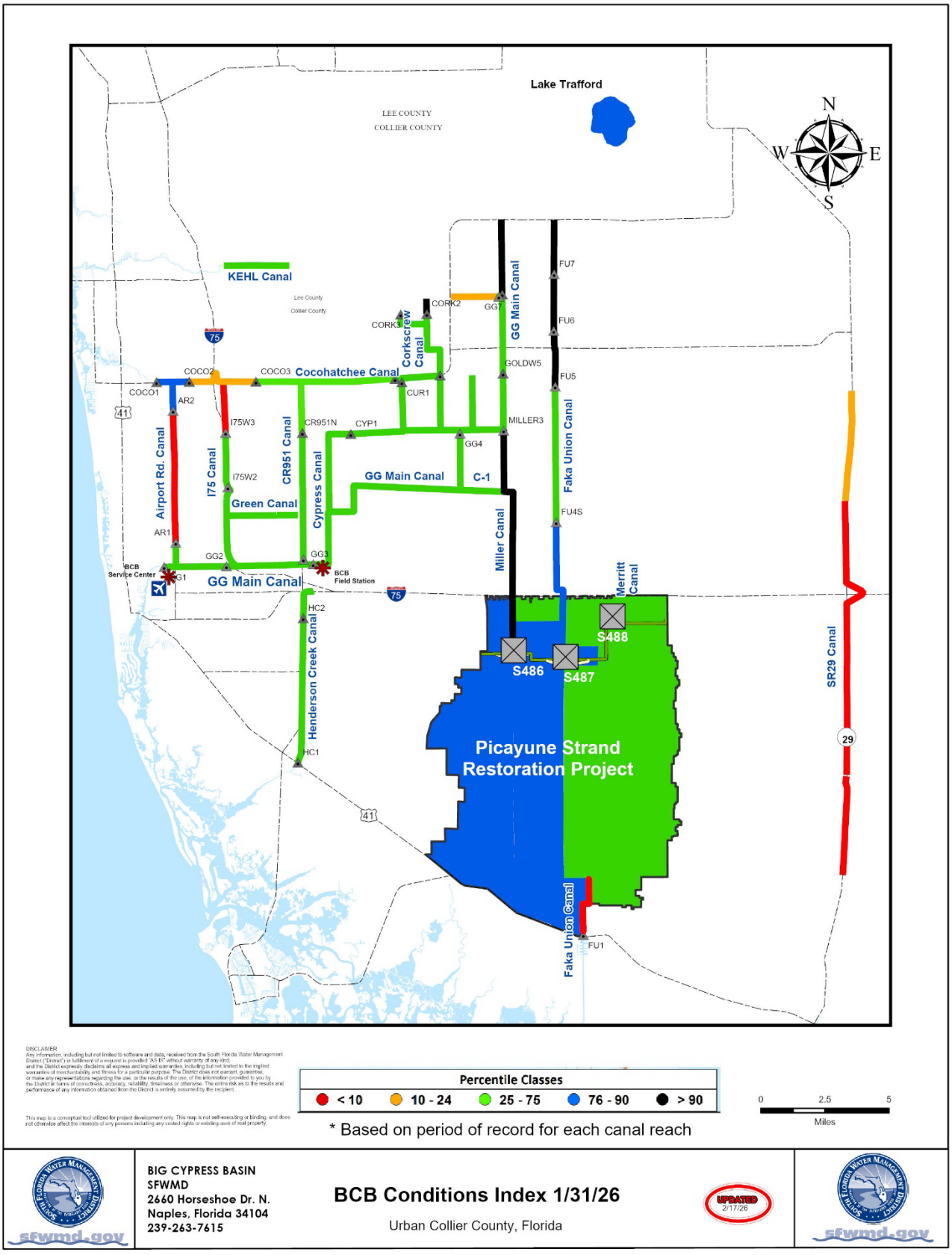


FIGURE 4
BCB WATER CONDITIONS

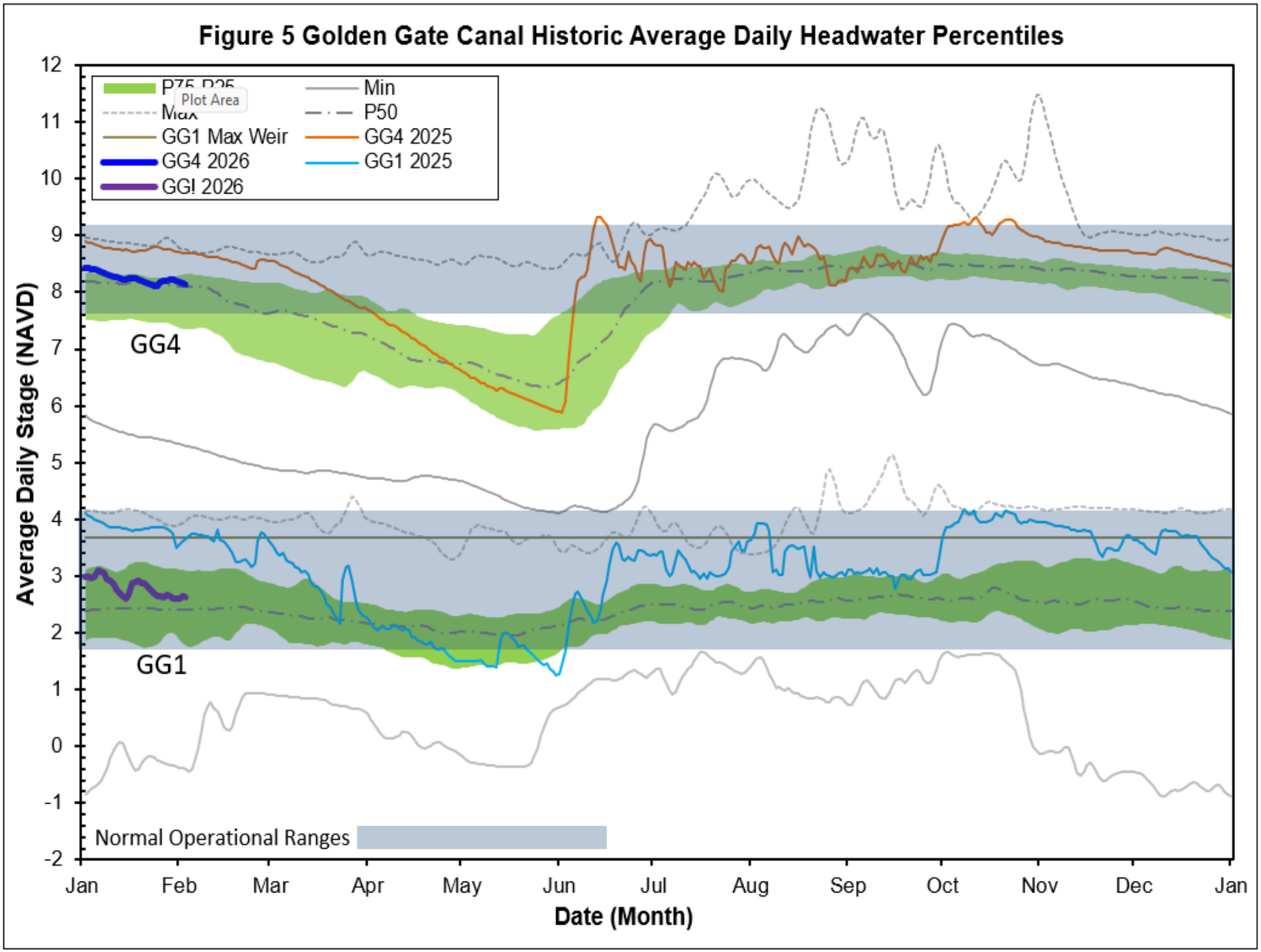
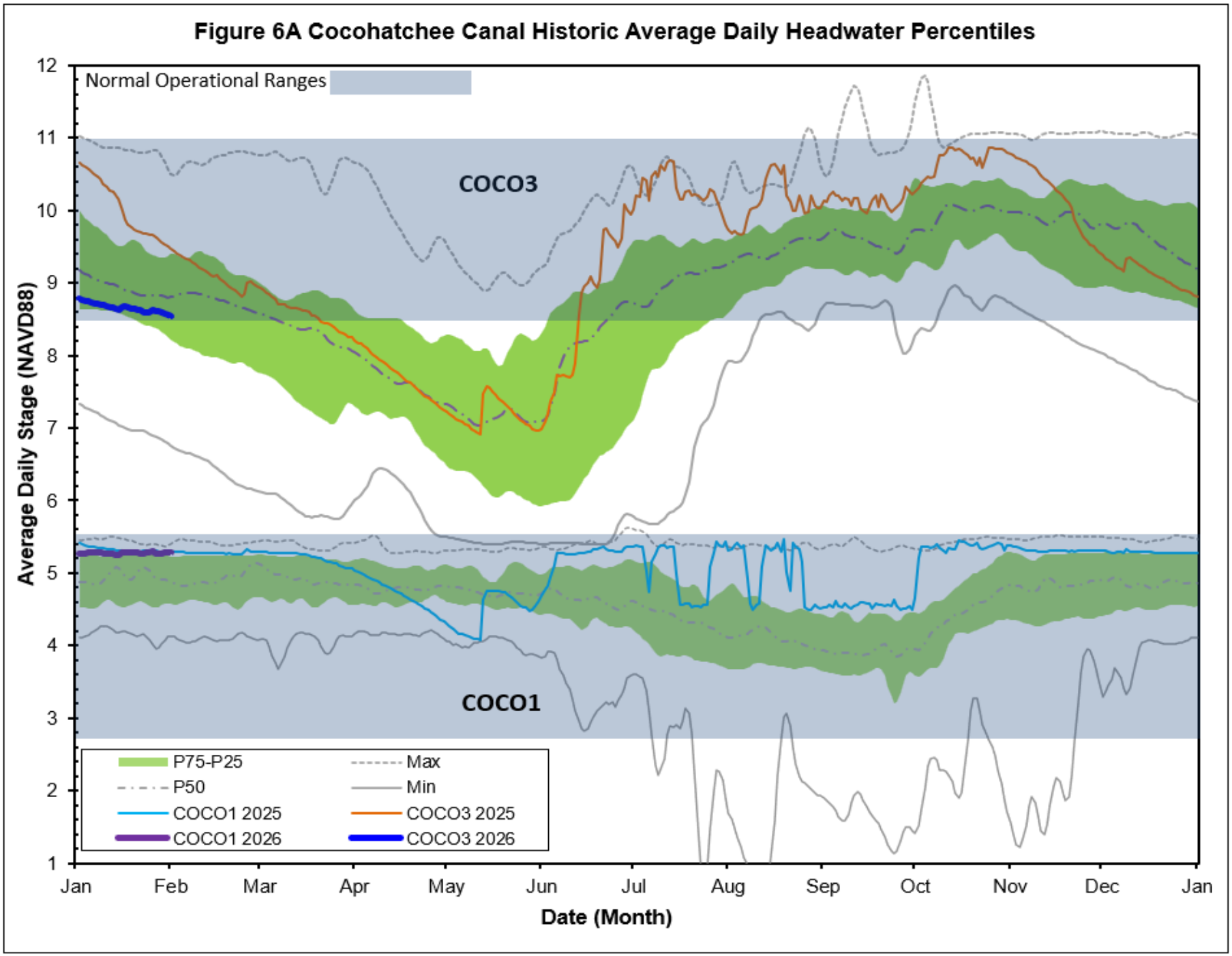


Figure 5 Golden Gate Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Plot Area
Min
Max
P50
GG1 Max Weir
GG4 2025
GG4 2026
GG1 2025
GG! 2026
GG4
GG1
Normal Operational Ranges
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
Date (Month)
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan

Figure 6A Cocohatchee Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles



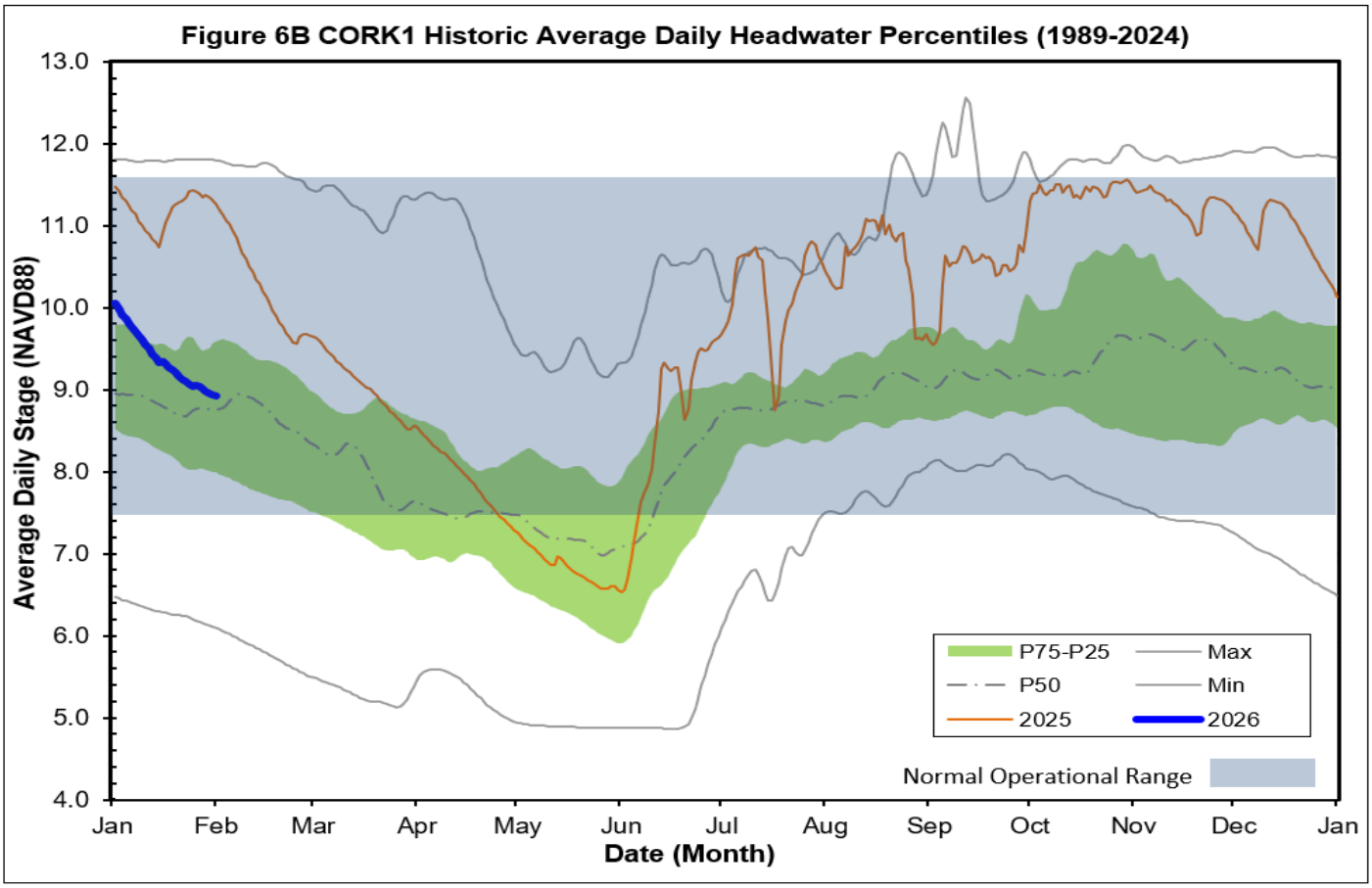


Figure 6B CORK1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (1989-2024)
Average Daily Stage (NAVD88)
13.0
12.0
11.0
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
2026
Normal Operational Range

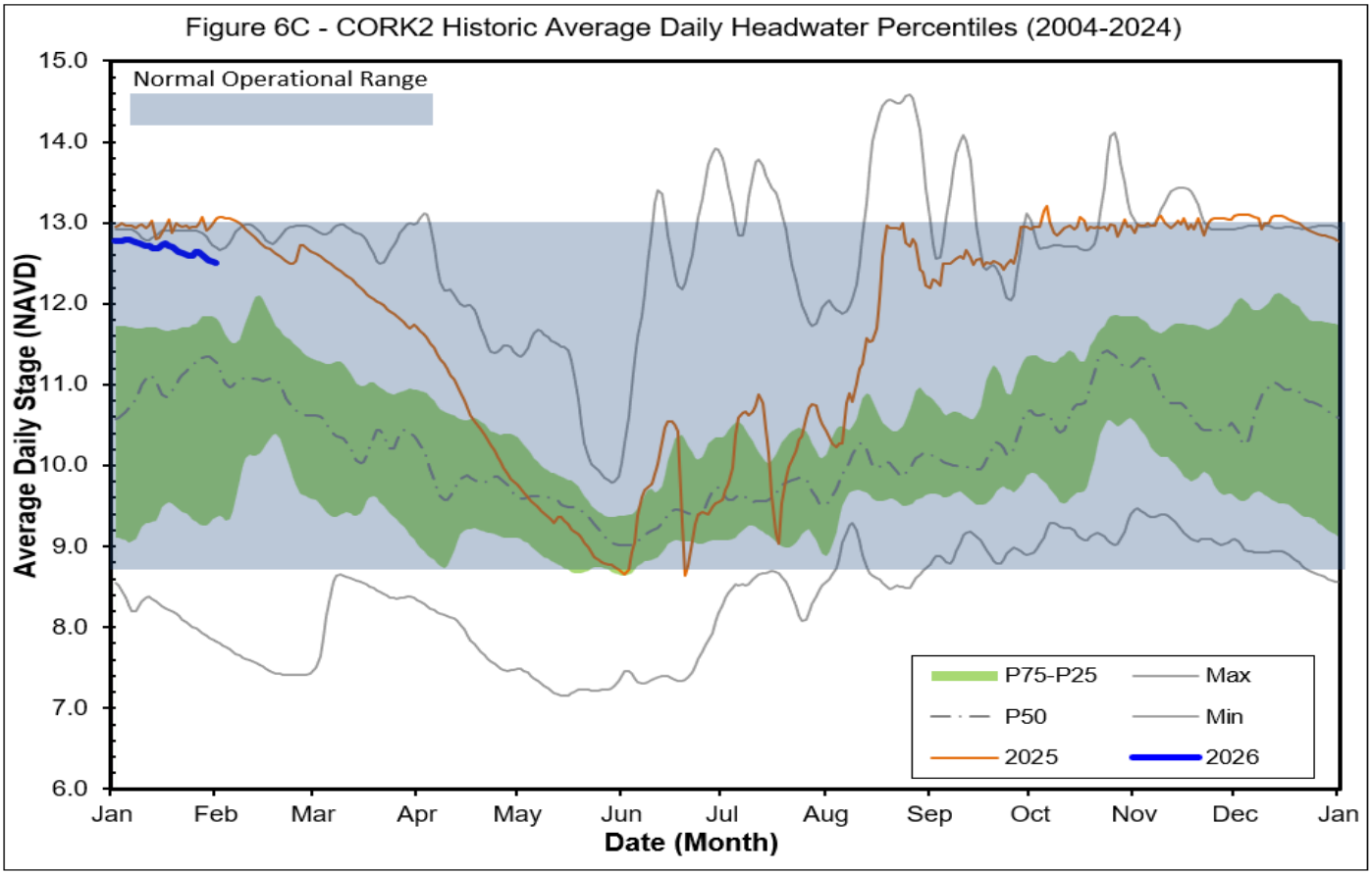


Figure 6C - CORK2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (2004-2024)
Normal Operational Range
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
15.0
14.0
13.0
12.0
11.0
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
2026

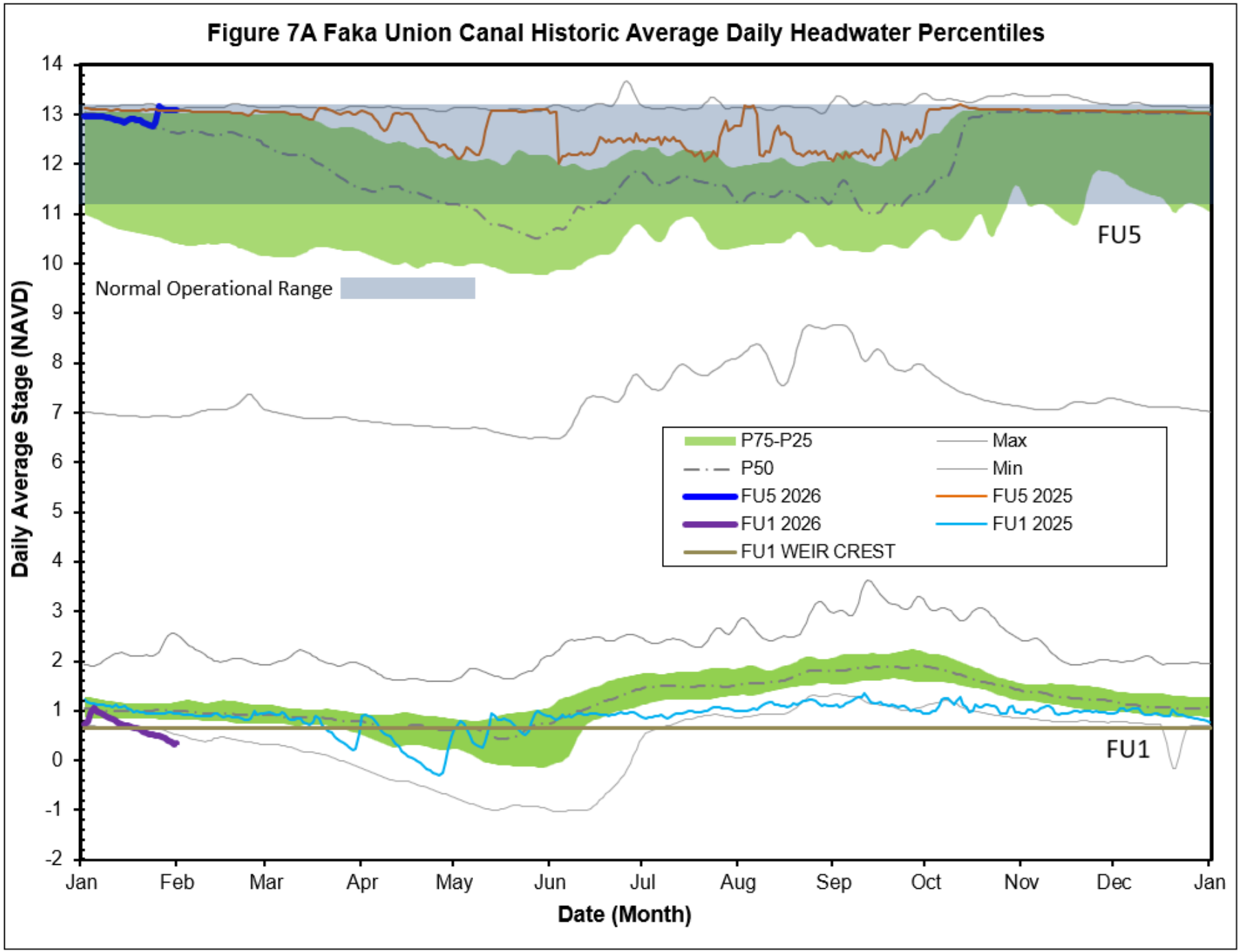


Figure 7A Faka Union Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Daily Average Stage (NAVD)
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
Normal Operational Range
FU5
FU1
P75-P25
P50
FU5 2026
FU1 2026
FU1 WEIR CREST
Max
Min
FU5 2025
FU1 2025
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)

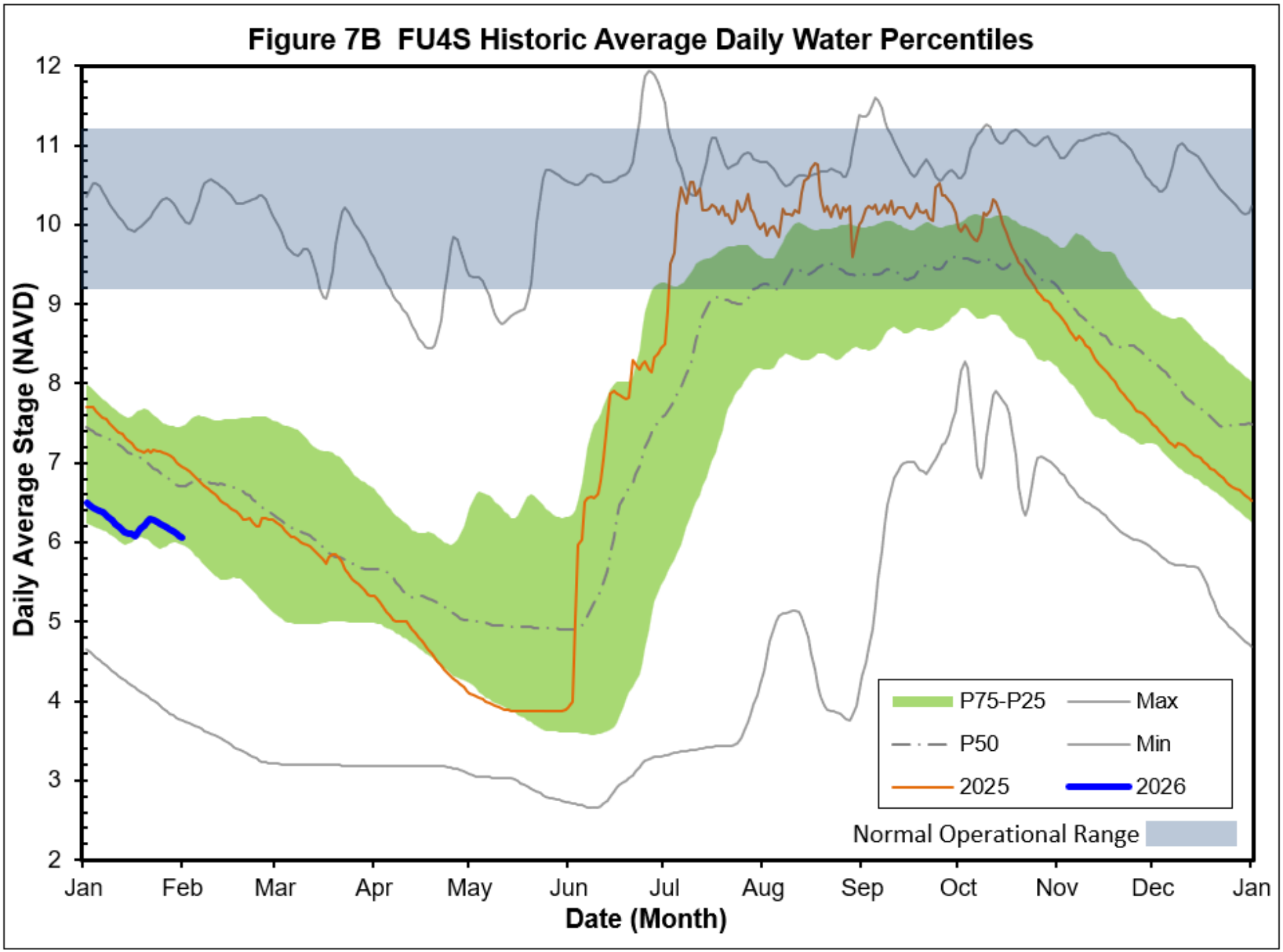


Figure 7B FU4S Historic Average Daily Water Percentiles
Daily Average Stage (NAVD)
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
2026
Normal Operational Range

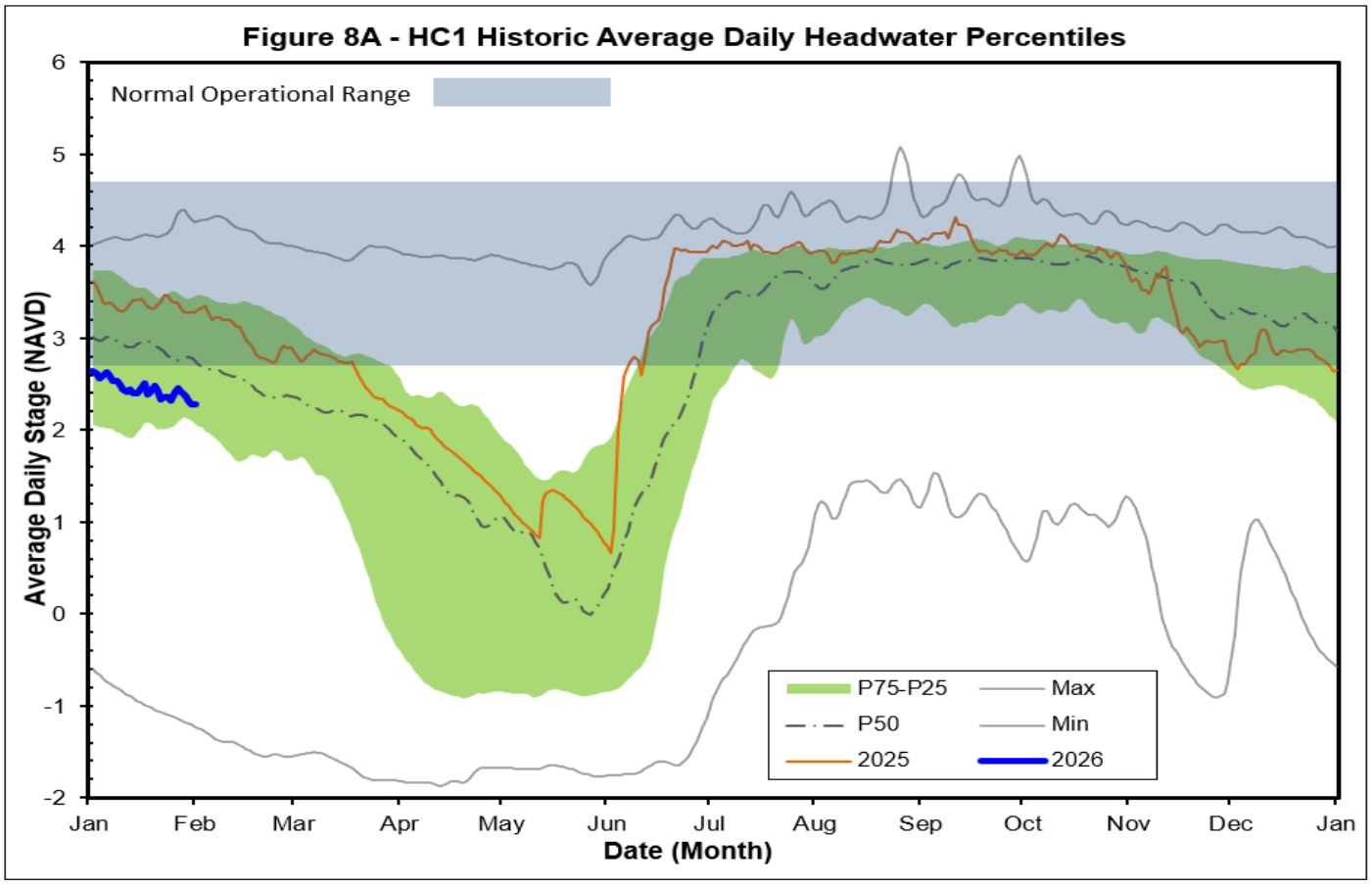


Figure 8A - HC1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Normal Operational Range
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
2026

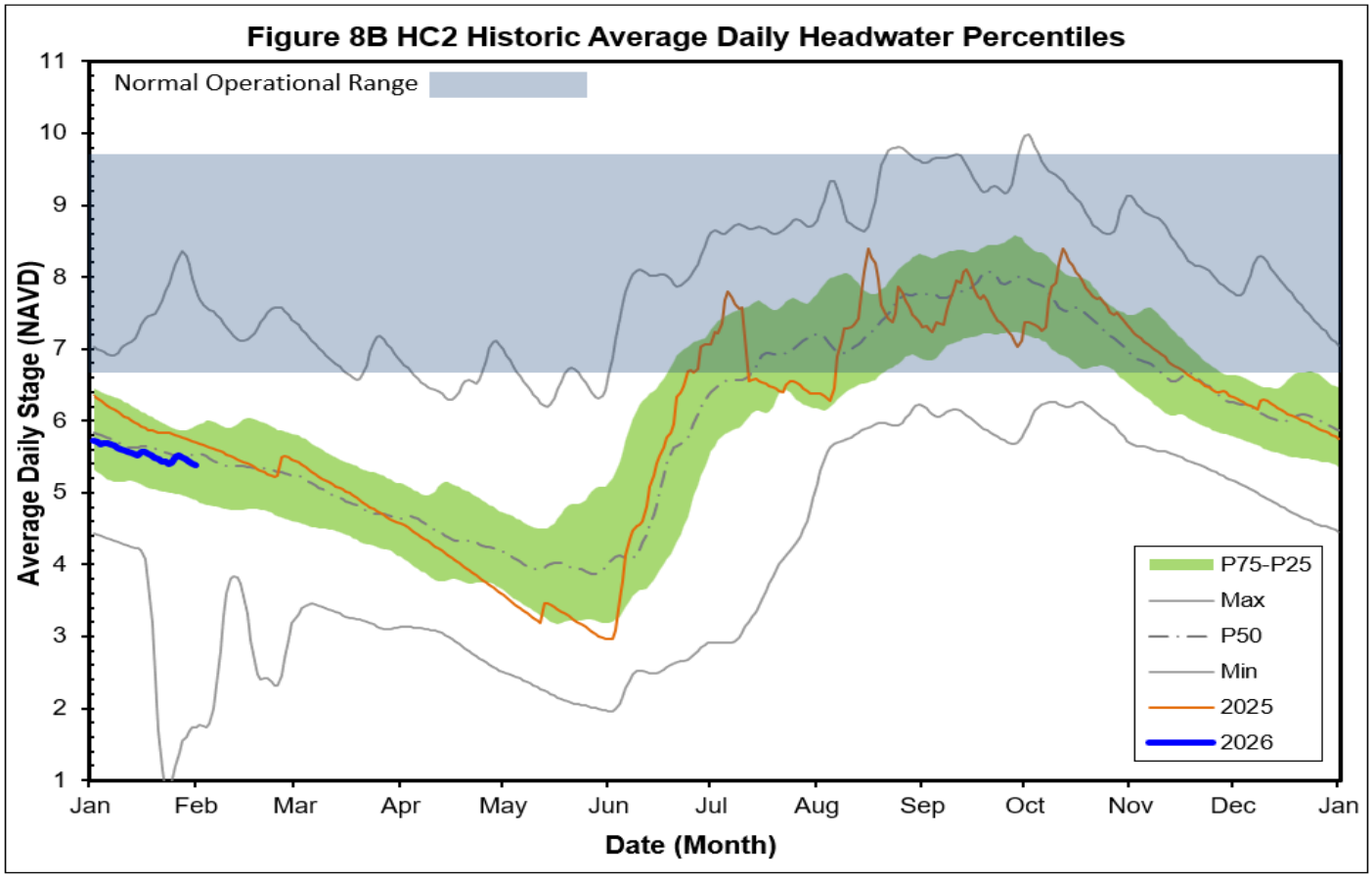


Figure 8B HC2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Normal Operational Range
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
2026

Last Reading Date :		January 31, 2026					
Previous Period Reading Date		December 31, 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	0.65	29.52	30.17	↑	GREEN
C-1004R	Naples	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-0.01	0.17	0.16	↓	GREEN
C-1224	Marco Lakes	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	0.27	1.37	1.64	↑	GREEN
C-948R	Golden Gate	Mid Hawthorn Aquifer	0.16	26.64	26.80	↑	
C-951R	Golden Gate	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-0.36	1.08	0.72	↓	
L-2194	Bonita Springs	Sandstone Aquifer	-0.49	0.86	0.37	↓	GREEN
L-2195	Bonita Springs	Surficial Aquifer System	-0.63	7.58	6.95	↓	GREEN
L-738	Bonita Springs	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-0.23	-3.11	-3.34	↓	GREEN

TABLE 2
BCB WATER CONDITIONS SUMMARY
JANUARY 2026

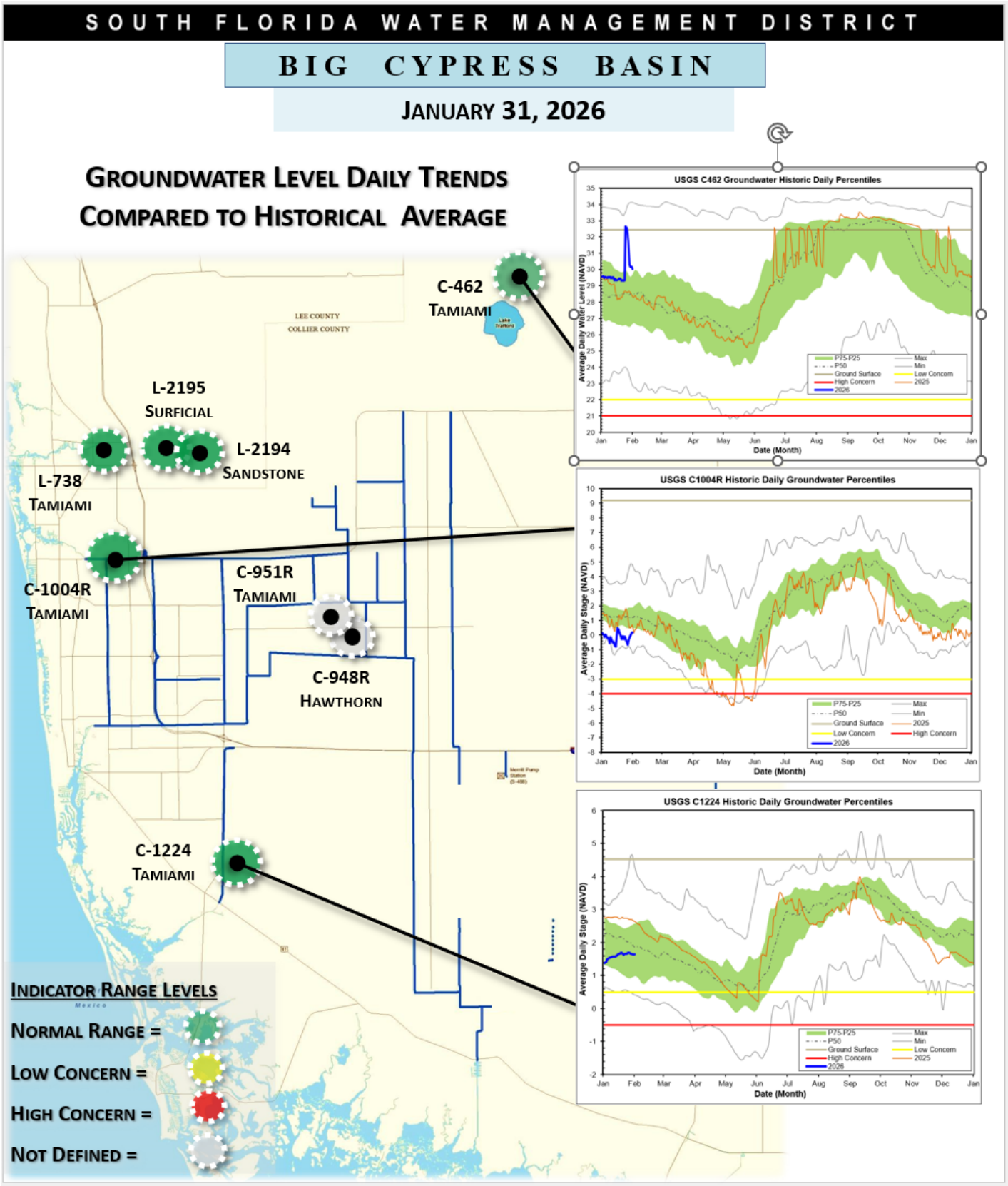
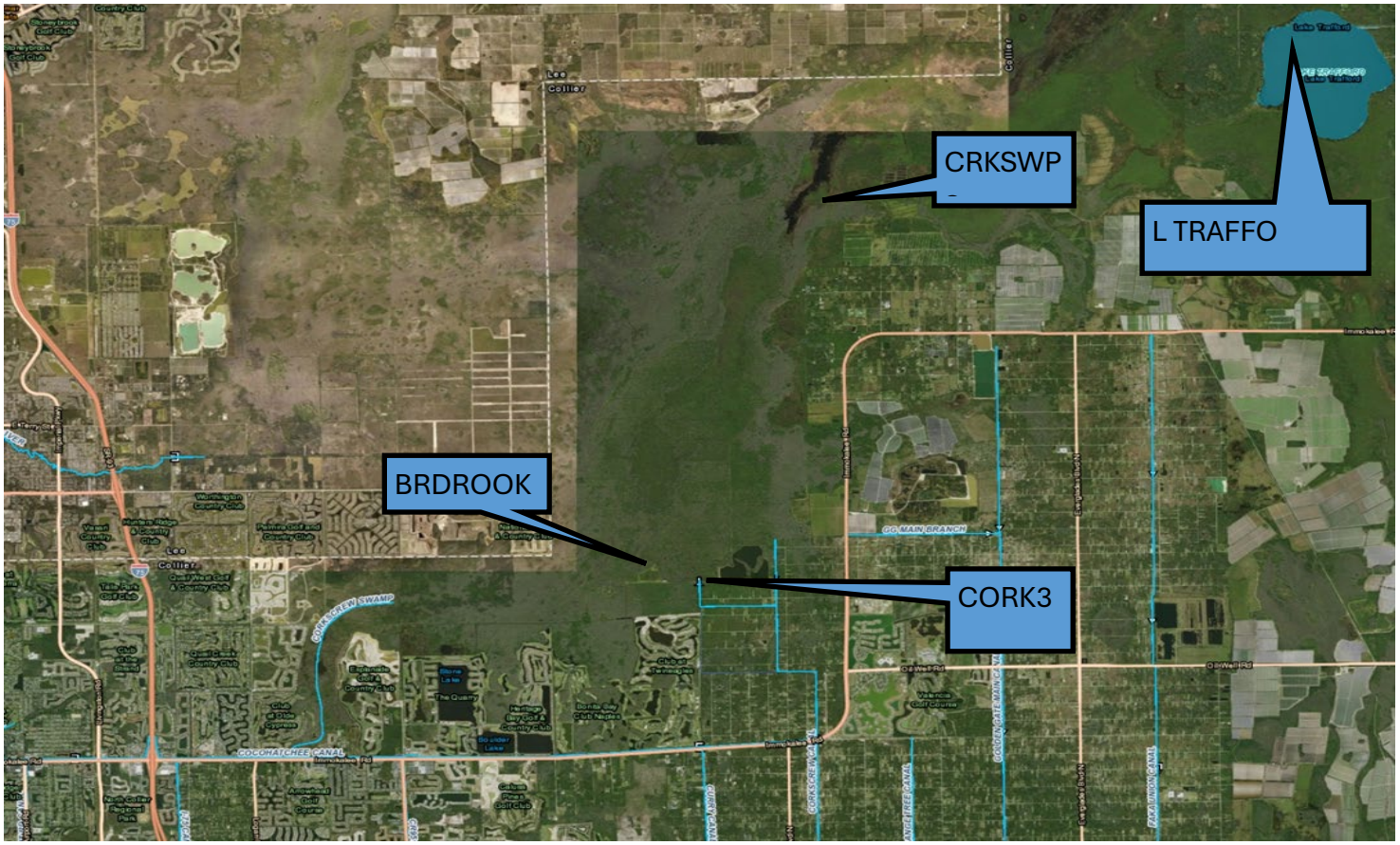

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BIG CYPRESS BASIN
JANUARY 31, 2026
GROUNDWATER LEVEL DAILY TRENDS
COMPARED TO HISTORICAL AVERAGE
C-462
TAMIAMI
L-2195
SURFICIAL
L-2194
SANDSTONE
L-738
TAMIAMI
C-1004R
TAMIAMI
C-951R
TAMIAMI
C-948R
HAWTHORN
C-1224
TAMIAMI
LEE COUNTY
COLLIER COUNTY
USGS C462 Groundwater Historic Daily Percentiles
USGS C1004R Historic Daily Groundwater Percentiles
USGS C1224 Historic Daily Groundwater Percentiles
Average Daily Water Level (NAVD)
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
Date (Month)
P75-P25
P50
Ground Surface
High Concern
Low Concern
Max
Min
2025
2026
INDICATOR RANGE LEVELS
NORMAL RANGE =
LOW CONCERN =
HIGH CONCERN =
NOT DEFINED =

FIGURE 9


CRKSWP
L TRAFFO
BRDROOK
CORK3

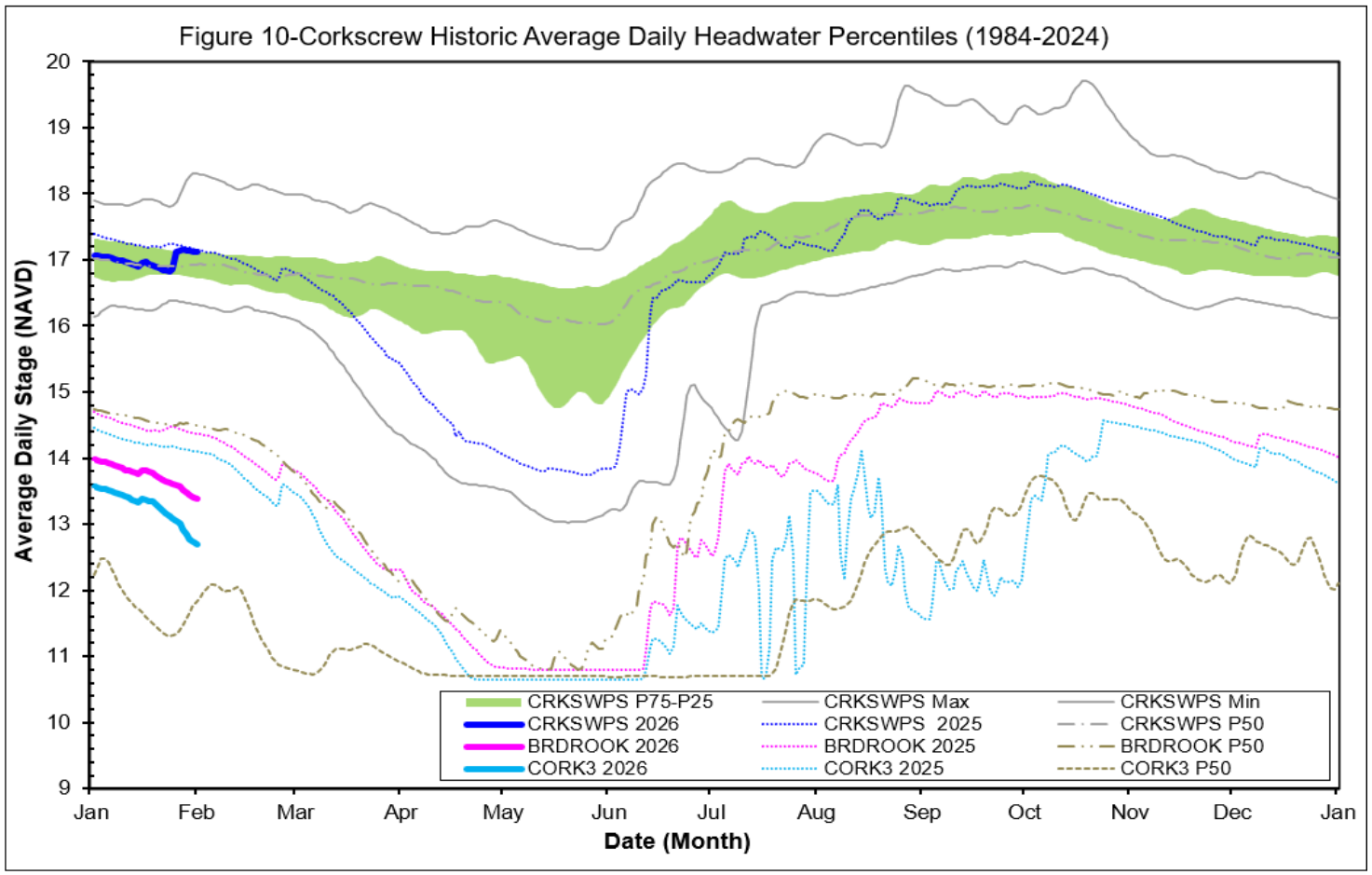
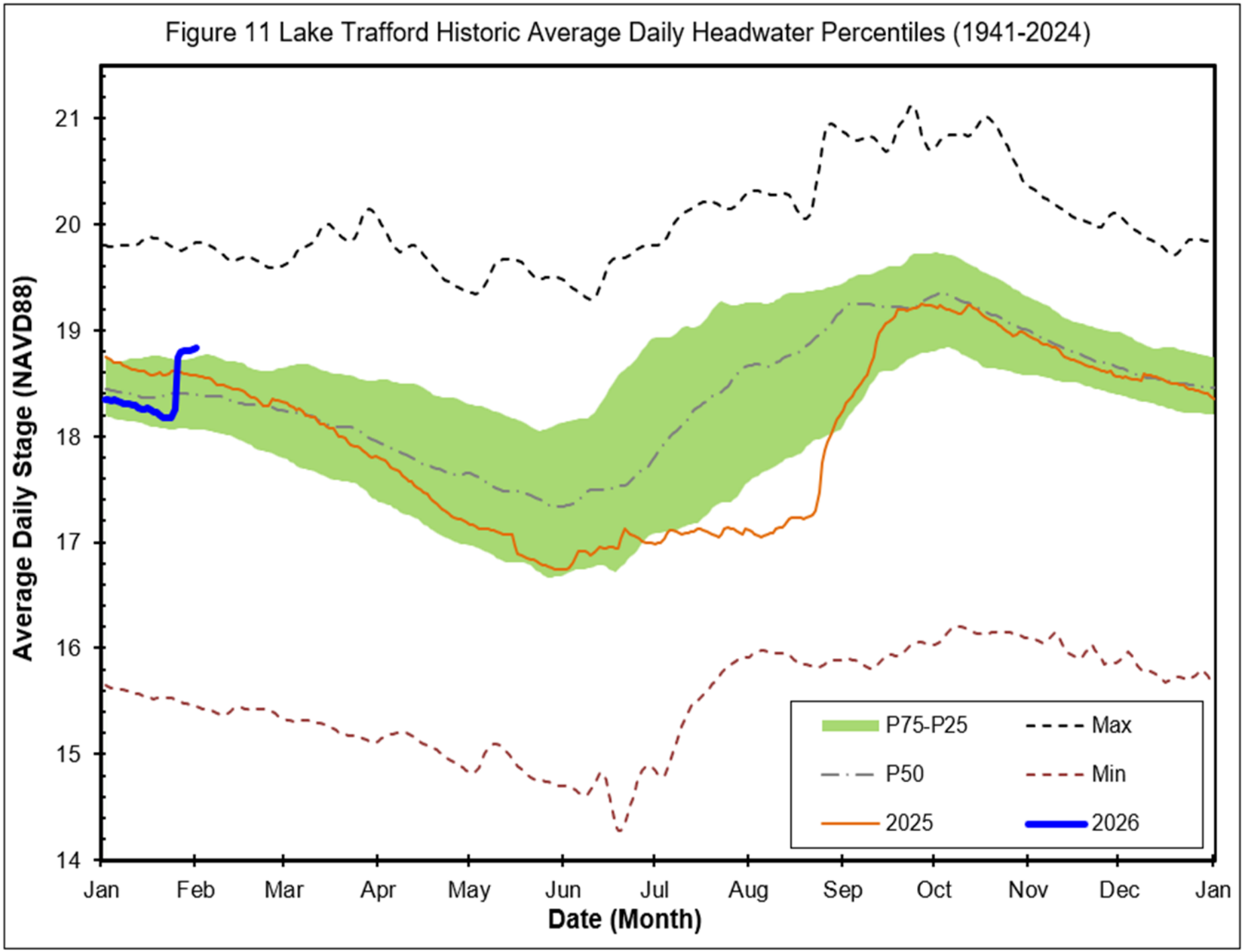
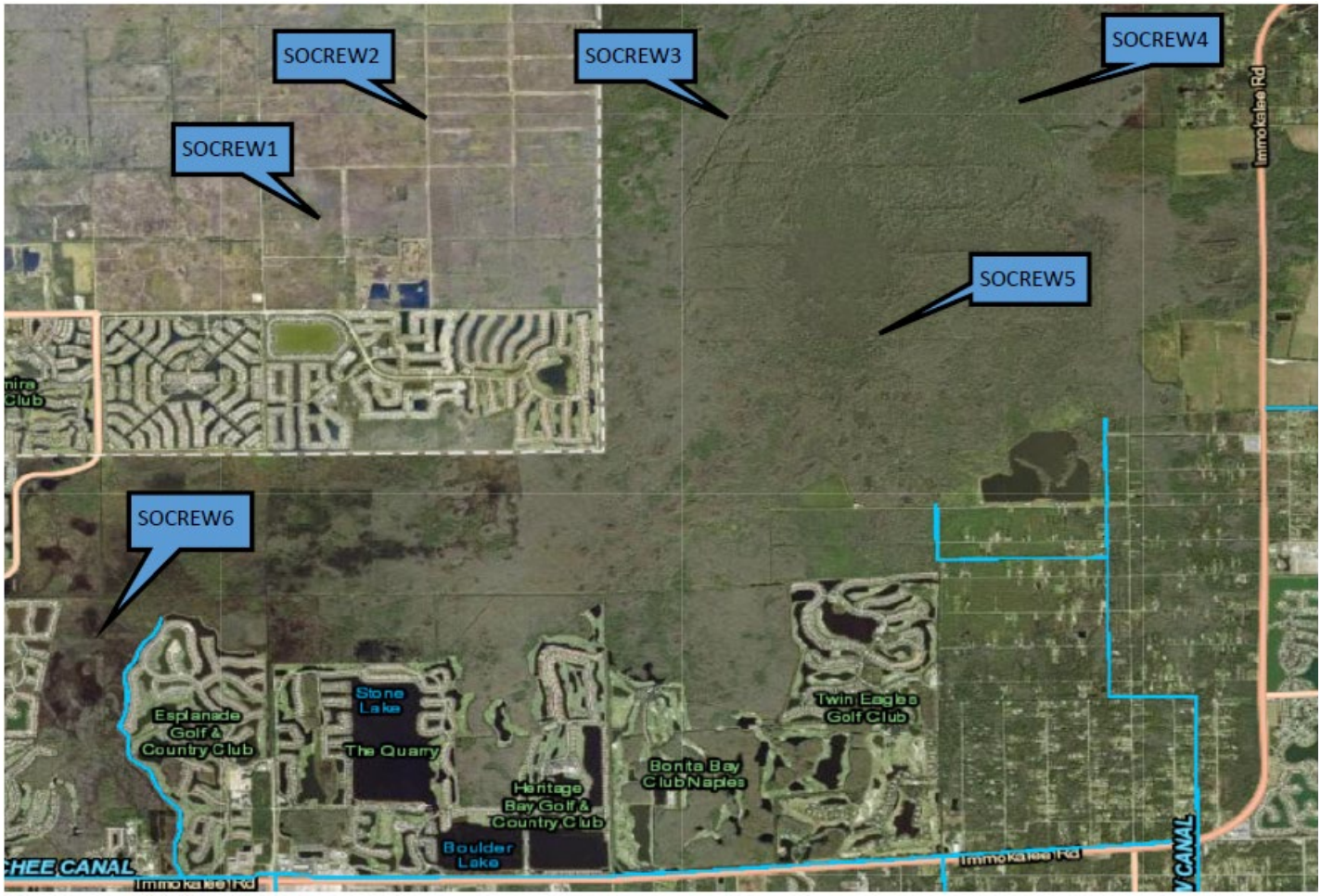


Figure 10-Corkscrew Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (1984-2024)
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
Date (Month)
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
CRKSWPS P75-P25
CRKSWPS Max
CRKSWPS Min
CRKSWPS 2026
CRKSWPS 2025
CRKSWPS P50
BRDROOK 2026
BRDROOK 2025
BRDROOK P50
CORK3 2026
CORK3 2025
CORK3 P50

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




SOCREW1
SOCREW2
SOCREW3
SOCREW4
SOCREW5
SOCREW6
Immokalee Rd
Esplanade Golf & Country Club
Stone Lake
The Quarry
Heritage Bay Golf & Country Club
Boulder Lake
Bonita Bay Club Naples
Twin Eagles Golf Club
Immokalee Rd
Immokalee Rd

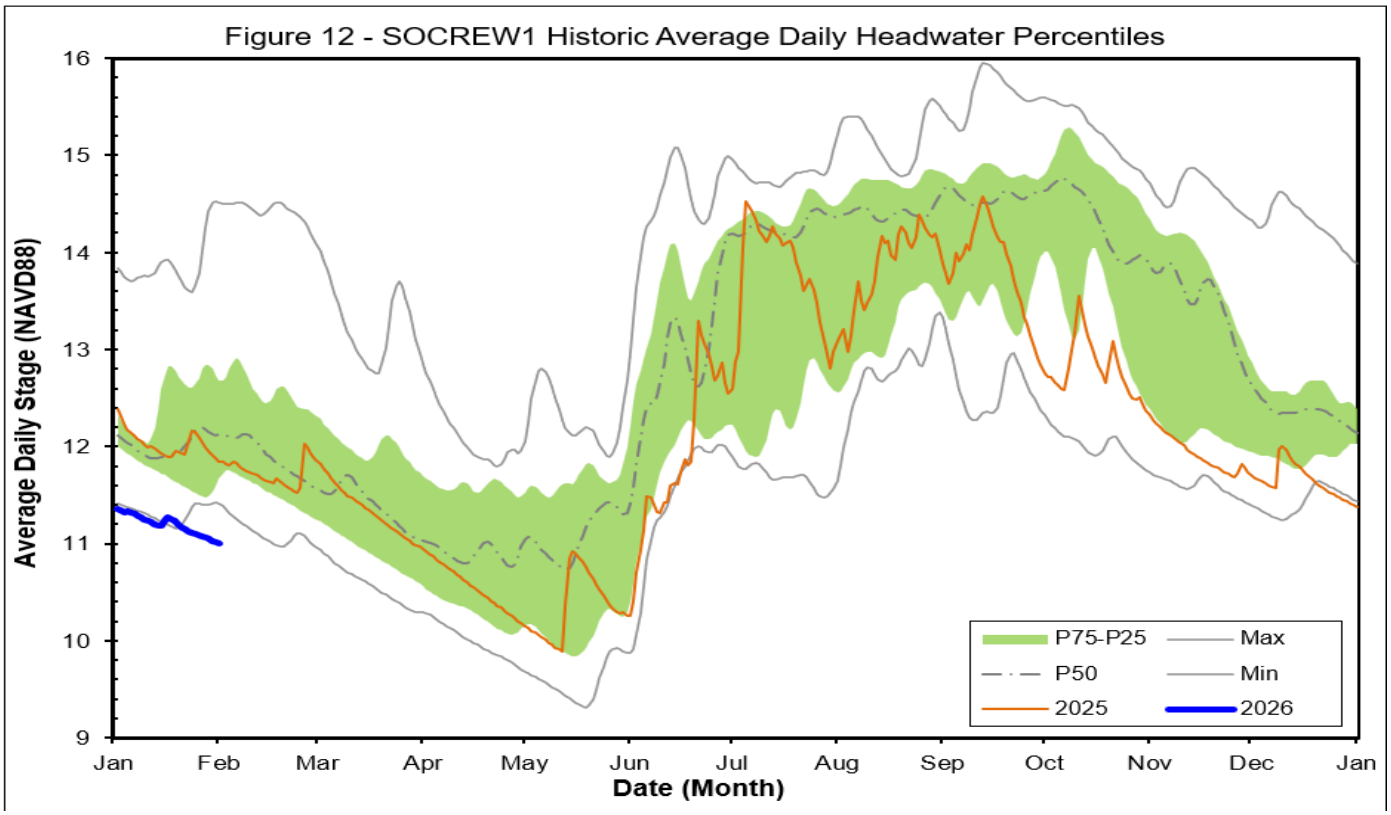
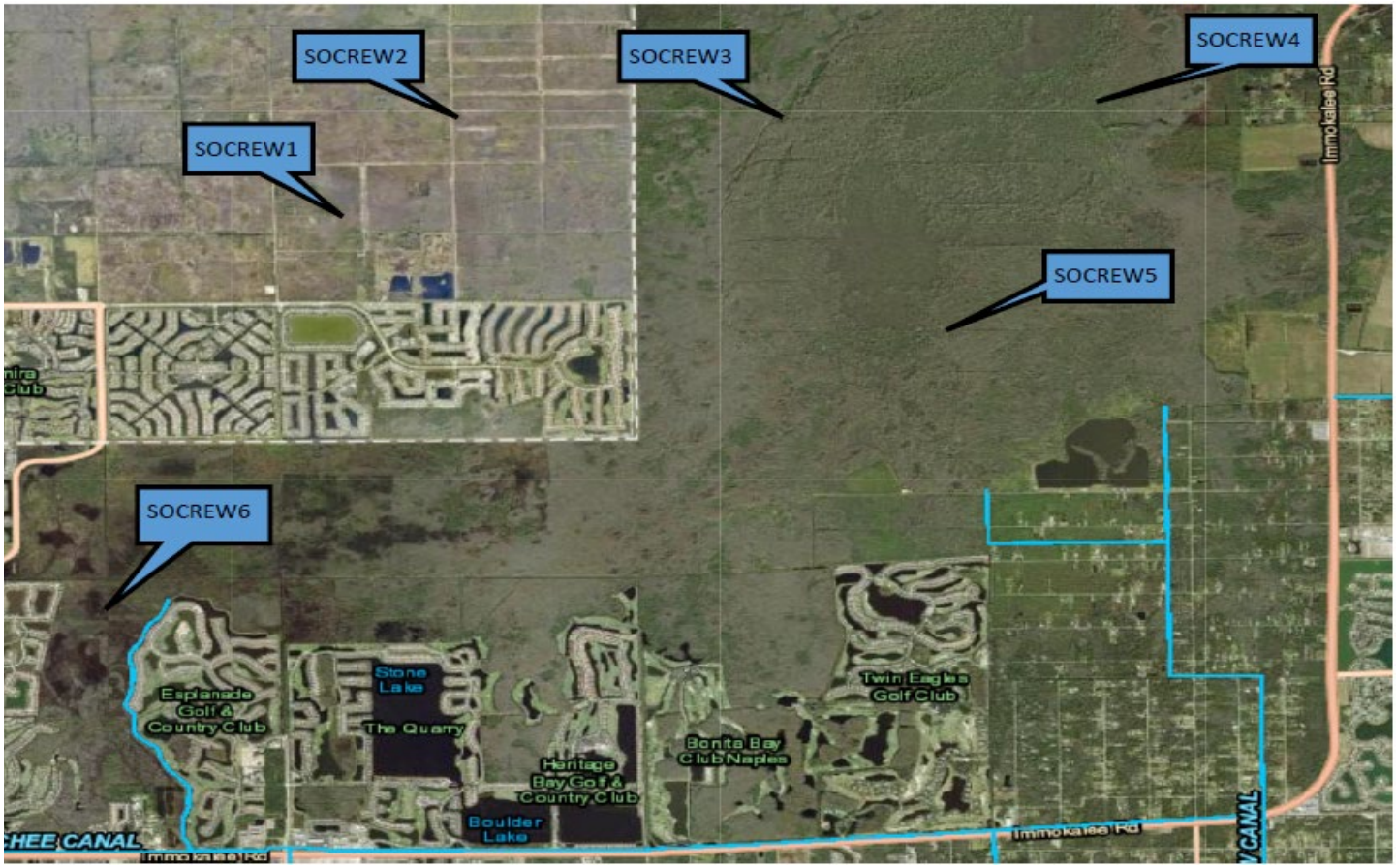


Figure 12 - SOCREW1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Average Daily Stage (NAVD88)
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
2026


SOCREW1
SOCREW2
SOCREW3
SOCREW4
SOCREW5
SOCREW6
Immokalee Rd
Esplanade Golf & Country Club
Stone Lake
The Quarry
Heritage Bay Golf & Country Club
Boulder Lake
Bonita Bay Club Naples
Twin Eagles Golf Club
Immokalee Rd

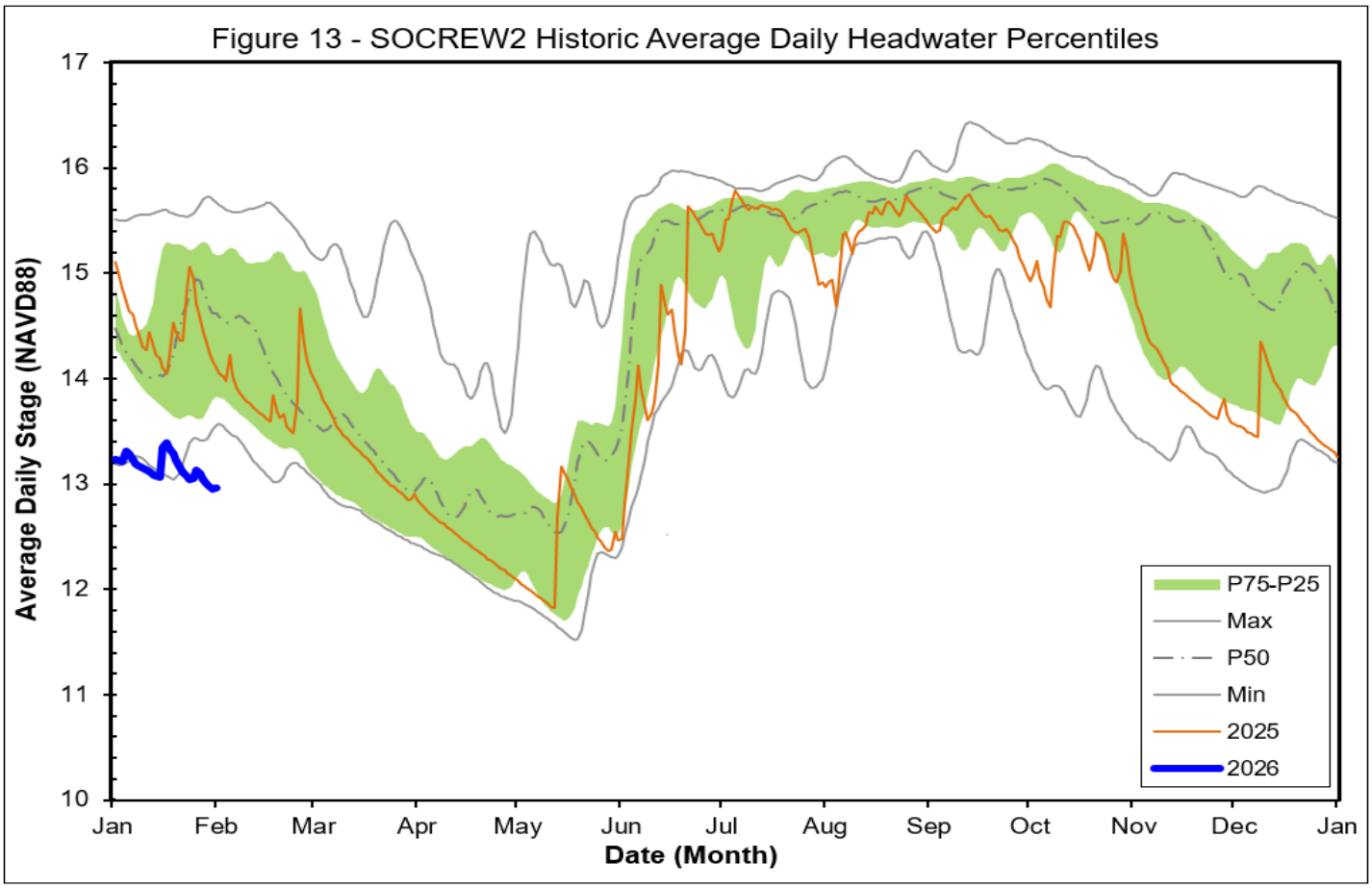


Figure 13 - SOCREW2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Average Daily Stage (NAVD88)
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
2026