SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

November 2025

Big Cypress Basin Hydrologic Report

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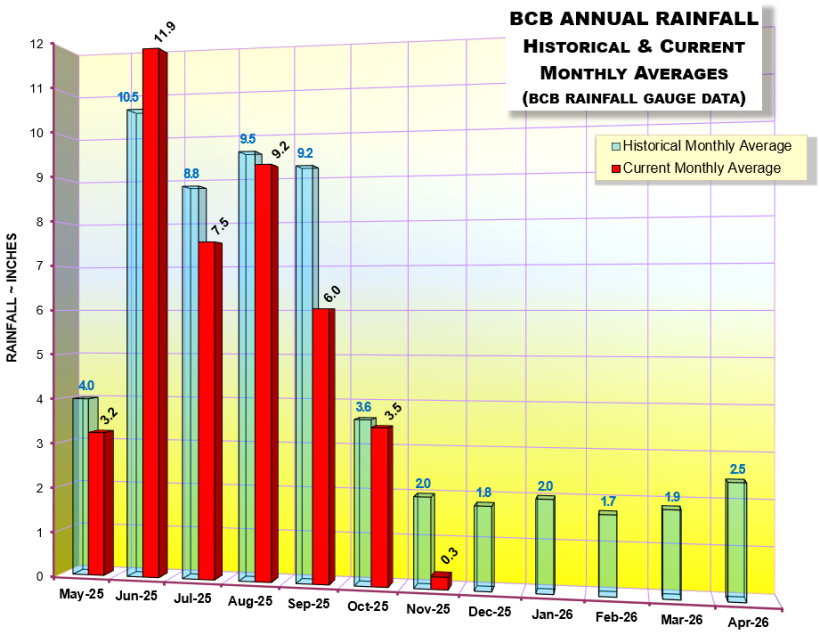
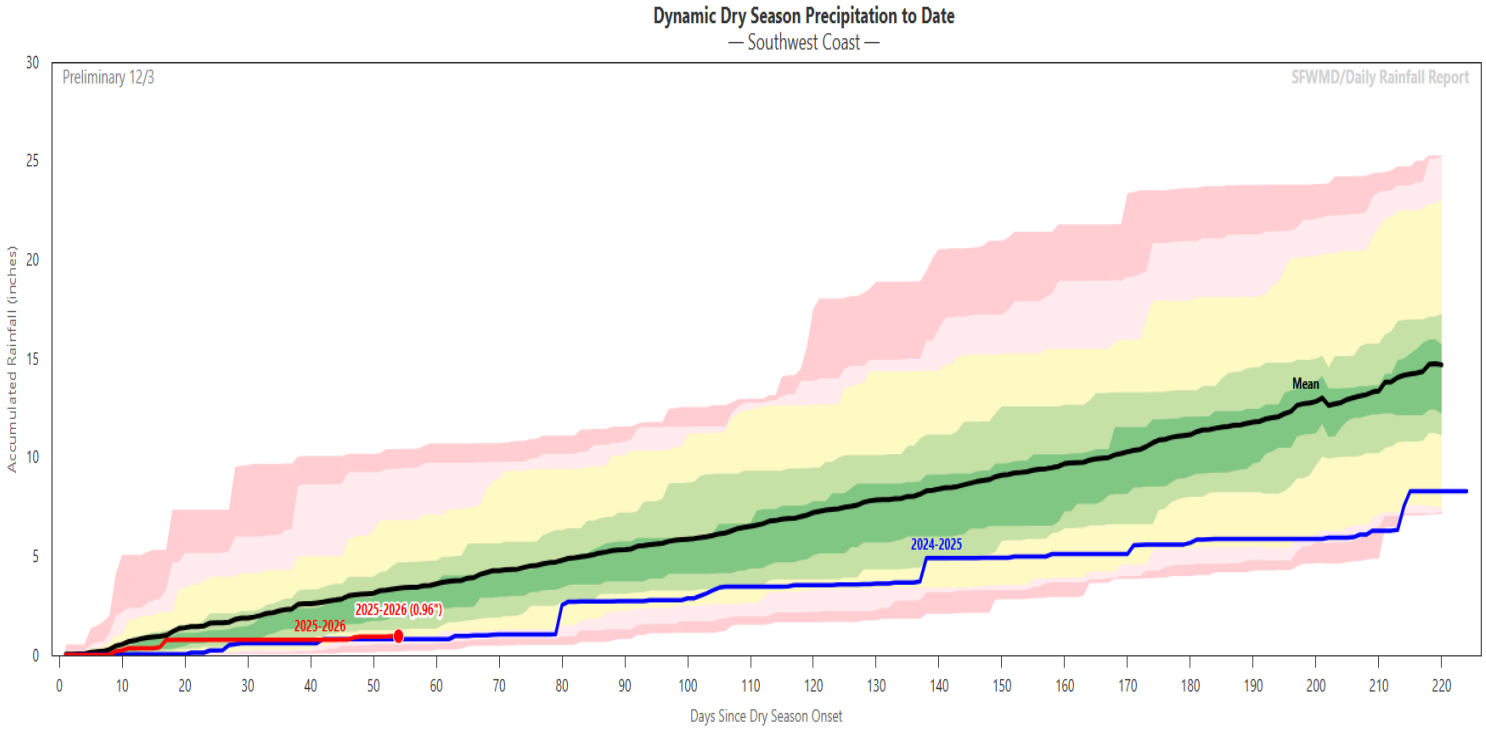
SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS IN THE BIG CYPRESS BASIN

November 2025

SUMMARY

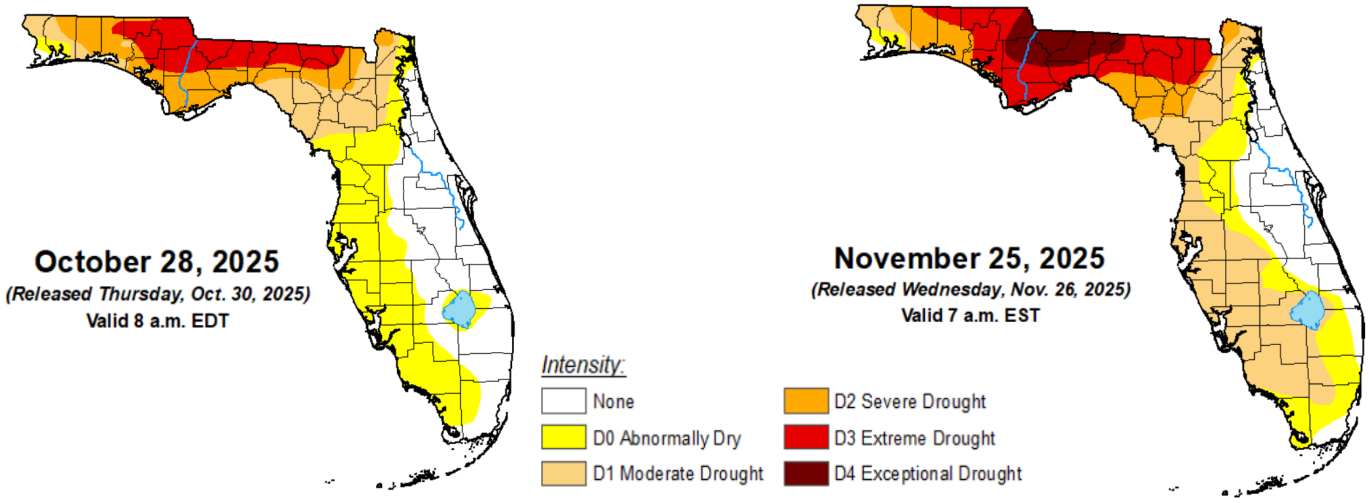
November was the first full month in the 2025/2026 Dry Season, which began October 11, 2025. Rain gauges across Big Cypress Basin (BCB) recorded an average November precipitation of just 0.27 inches (14% of normal). Though the prior month's October rainfall was closer to normal, the majority fell in the beginning of the month (the end of the wet season), with just 0.68 inches falling after the dry season began. As such, the BCB has received less than 1 inch of rainfall so far this dry season. The dry November continued the drier than normal trend for the current water year (May 2025-April 2026). To date this water year, only the month of June exceeded its long-term monthly average.





A review of the first 50+ days of the 2025/2026 Dry Season for the Southwest Coast shows a trend similar to last year, with total dry season precipitation near the 10th percentile. This low early dry season rainfall falls on the heels of a dry September, causing the BCB to begin the dry season with less surplus than in 2024, when Hurricane Milton topped off the canal system in early October. Though there were no late wet season tropical events to recharge the system, drier forecasts – in conjunction with minimal tropical threats – allowed an earlier transition to water conservation operations, thus helping save water.

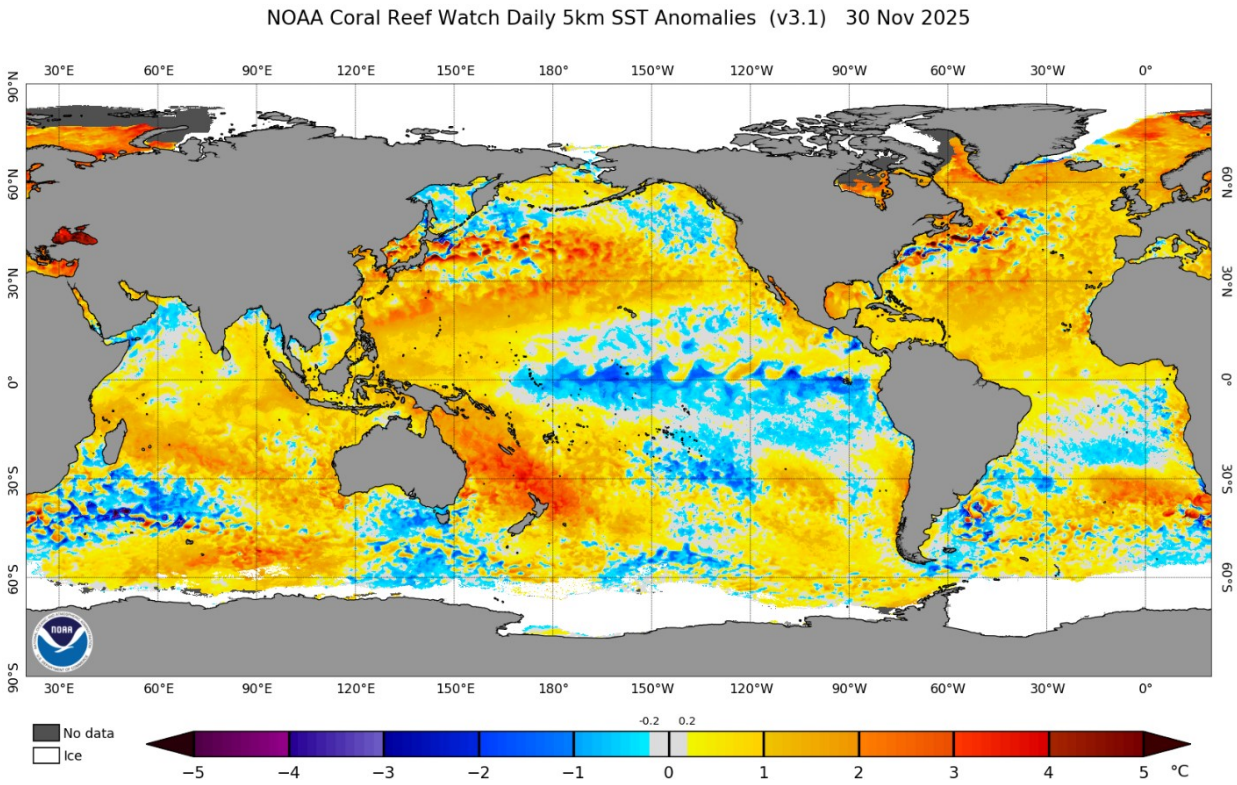
Due to the rainfall deficit experienced over the last three months, by the end of November the U.S. Drought Monitor had increased the classification of drought conditions in Collier County from “D0 Abnormally Dry” to “D1 Moderate Drought”.



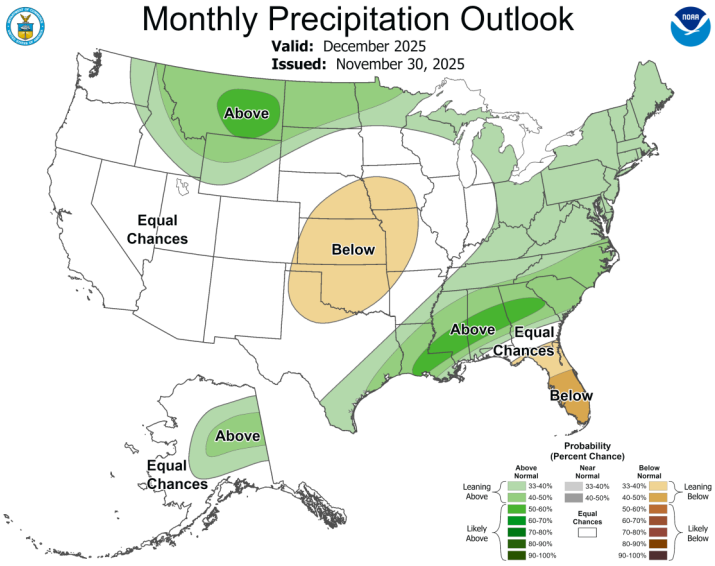
On December 1, 2025, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center updated the status of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), stating:

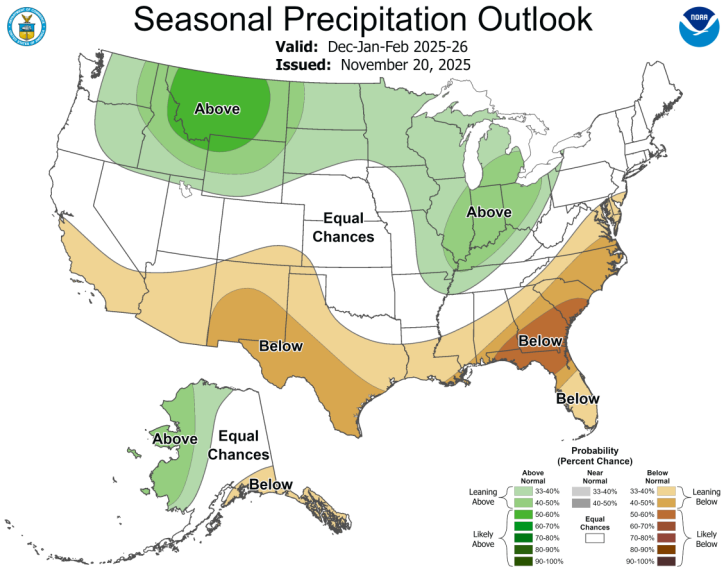
- *La Niña is present.*
- *Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below average across the central and east-central Pacific Ocean.*
- *Atmospheric anomalies over the tropical Pacific Ocean are consistent with La Niña.*
- *La Niña is favored to continue into the Northern Hemisphere winter, with a transition to ENSO-neutral most likely in January-March 2026 (61% chance).*

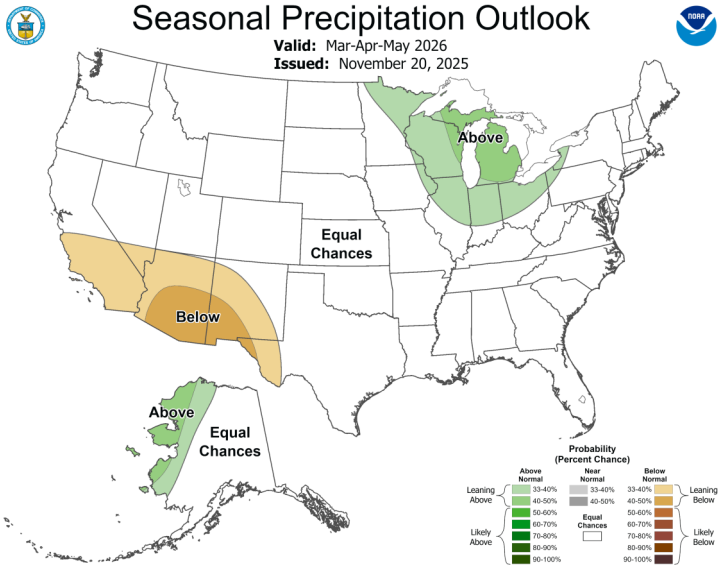
The chart immediately below shows the below average sea surface temperatures, which have persisted in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.



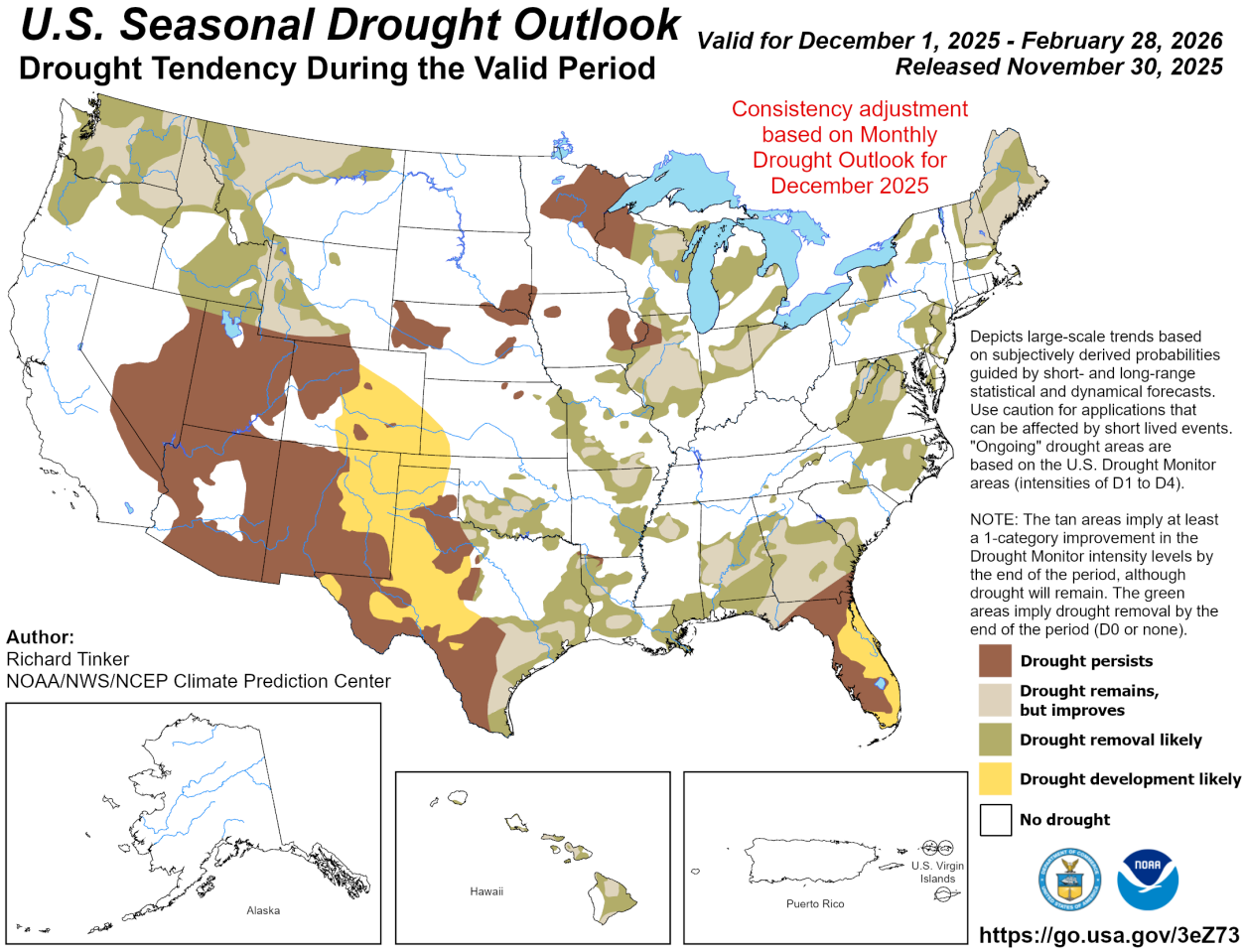
The current prediction continues to favor this year's La Niña to be weak to moderate with a transition back to ENSO neutral conditions in early 2026. Due to the anticipated meteorological impacts associated with La Niña conditions, the Climate Prediction Center has increased the probability of drier than normal conditions over the next three months. Equal probabilities of wetter or drier than normal conditions are predicted to return once ENSO neutral conditions return, as shown in the Mar-Apr-May 2026 Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.







Though more normal precipitation is anticipated to return in Spring 2026, due to the current dry conditions and the increased likelihood of drier than normal conditions through February, the Climate Prediction Center has predicted that drought conditions will persist in southwest Florida through February 28, 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.

NOVEMBER 2025 BCB RAINFALL

The Basin-wide averaged, gauge-measured, monthly rainfall was **0.27** inches in November. This measured rainfall was significantly below (14% of) the historic November BCB average of 2.0 inches **(see Figures 1, 2, 3A and Table 1)**. In November, the rain gauge with the highest measured precipitation was R-14 (IFAS), which recorded 1.06 inches. R-19 (Bird Rookery) received the lowest rain gauge monthly total with no rainfall recorded in November. Nine (9) of the twenty-four (24) monitored rain gauges recorded less than a 0.1 inches of rainfall in November, with seven (7) recording 0.03 inches or less.

Figures 3B shows November's calculated average rainfall estimates for each of the Basin's watersheds, based on gauge adjusted radar (Raindar). The Barron River watershed saw the highest Raindar average of 0.50 inches and the Henderson - Bell Meade watershed saw the lowest Raindar average of 0.10 inches. The BCB's overall calculated areal weighted average Raindar rainfall (by watershed) was 0.25 inches for the month, slightly below the basin-wide rain gauge average of 0.27 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 November, BCB structures remained in water conservation operations. By the end of month, the impact of the unusually dry November become apparent, with most canal water levels receding into the middle of their normal operating ranges. November's decline in water levels was most apparent in tributary

canals and in the middle areas of the BCB canal system. BCB canal conditions as of November 30, 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 November. Discharge rates at GG1 continued to steadily decline in the first half of the month, ceasing on November 17 when water levels dropped below the weir crest. On November 28th, minor discharges (less than 10 cubic feet per second) briefly resumed due to rainfall, then stopped again by the end of the month. By November 30th the downstream portions of the GG Main (downstream of GG3) remained above the 75th percentile. The lower-middle regions of the GG Main (GG3 to GG4 and CYP1) dropped to slightly below the 75th percentile. The upper-middle regions of the GG Main (CYP1 and GG4 to GG5) remained above the 90th percentile, due to the ability of the new CYP1 structure to maintain water levels higher than the old/replaced GOLD4A fixed crest weir. The upper portions of GG Main dropped below the 50th percentile due to the physical limitations of the older fixed crest GG5 structure. **(see Figure 5)**.

COCOHATCHEE SYSTEM

The Cocohatchee Canal was kept in water conservation operations in November. By the end of the month the lower portion of the system (COCO1 to COCO2) remained at the 75th percentile. The middle portions of the canal receded more noticeably, and finished the month between the 25th and 50th percentile. Further upstream, the Corkscrew Canal was operating above the 75th percentile, while the segment immediately upstream of CORK2 remained above 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 November. Both FU4S and FU5 gates remained closed in November, and did not release water southward. By the end of November, the portion of the Faka Union Canal upstream of FU5 remained at just under the 75th percentile. The portion of the canal between FU5 and FU4S declined more rapidly, and finished the month above the 25th percentile. Downstream levels (FU4 to S487) dropped to the 75th percentile due to lack of inputs from the north, and pumping at S487 ceased after the first week of November. Monitoring wells downstream of S487 – in the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP) – remained above the 50th 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 November. There was no discharge from the HC1 structure in November, other than on November 11th, when the water levels briefly rose above the fixed crest weir. After that very brief minor rise, canal levels steadily declined and finished November between the 25th and 50th percentile. (**Figure 8A & 8B**).

BIG CYPRESS BASIN & LOWER WEST COAST GROUNDWATER LEVELS

For the Lower West Coast [LWC], the water levels in the groundwater monitoring stations continued their decline in November, with all wells showing a decrease in groundwater elevation (**Table 2 and Figure 9**).

By the end of November, C-462 (north of Lake Trafford), was between the 50th and 75th percentile; C-1224 (near Henderson Creek) was between the 10th and 25th percentile; and C-1004R (near Cocohatchee Canal) remained below the 25th percentile.

L-738 a Tamiami Aquifer well in Bonita Springs finished the month below the 5th percentile, nearing its historic minimum for the end of November. L-2194, a Sandstone Aquifer well in Bonita Springs finished the month below the 25th percentile. Finally, L-2195, a surficial aquifer well in Bonita Springs, finished November between the 10th and 25th percentile.

All of the wells discussed above currently remain above the level of low concern, however, with the exception of C462 and C-1004R, water levels this year are lower than at the same time in 2024. With prediction of a drier than normal winter, a rate of recession similar to that experienced in 2024 seems probable, potentially causing well levels to continue trending lower than 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 November. By month's end, CRKSWPS had declined to just above the 50th percentile, while BRDROOK had dropped to between the 10th and 25th percentile. CORK3 (a manually operated structure south of BRDROOK) also showed decline and finished the month at the 75th percentile. **Figure 11** shows that Lake Trafford declined to slightly below historical averages in November and finished the month below 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. Both SOCREW1 and SOCREW2 continued their dry season decline in November, and by the end of the month, had dropped to between the 10th and 25th percentile. 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

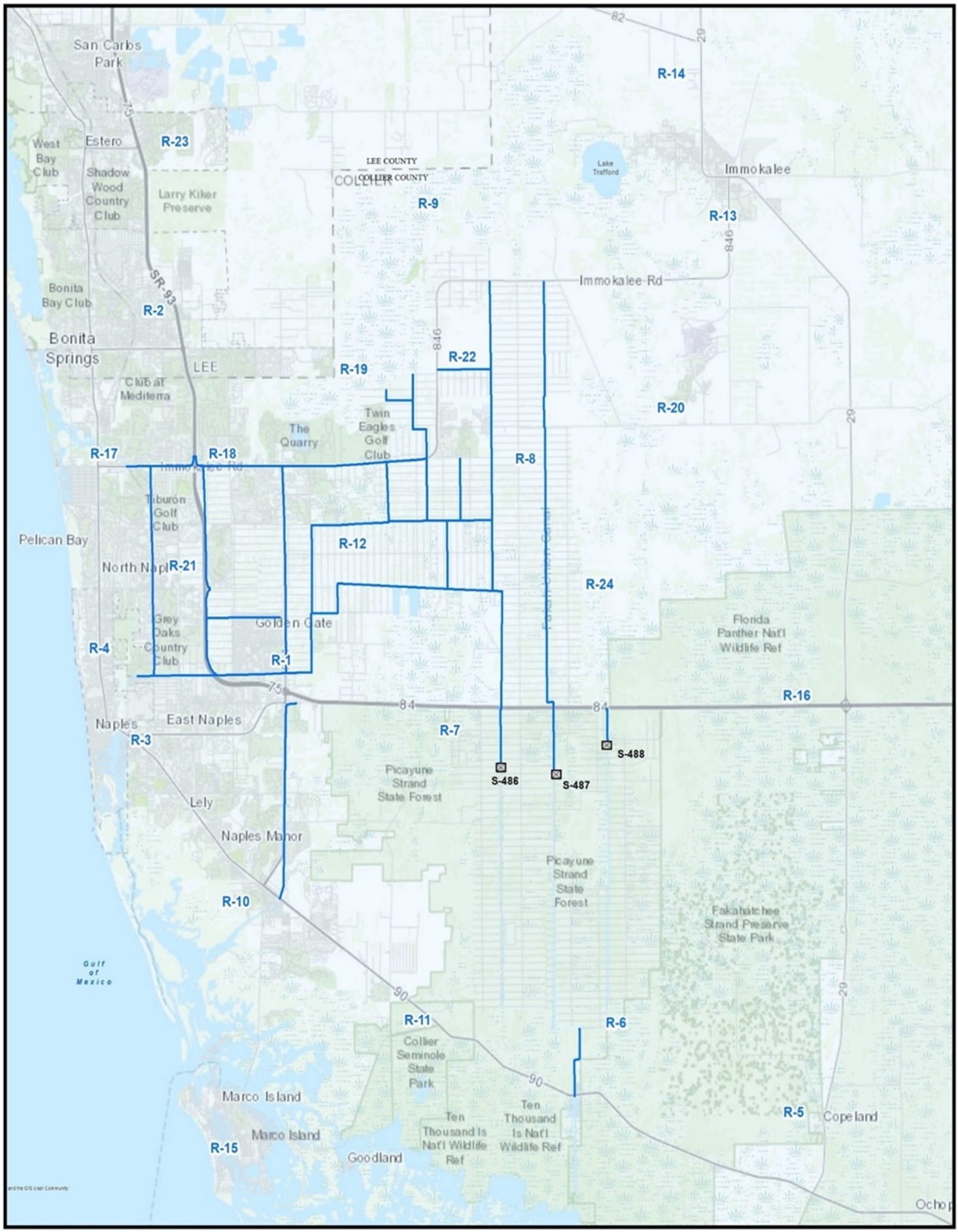
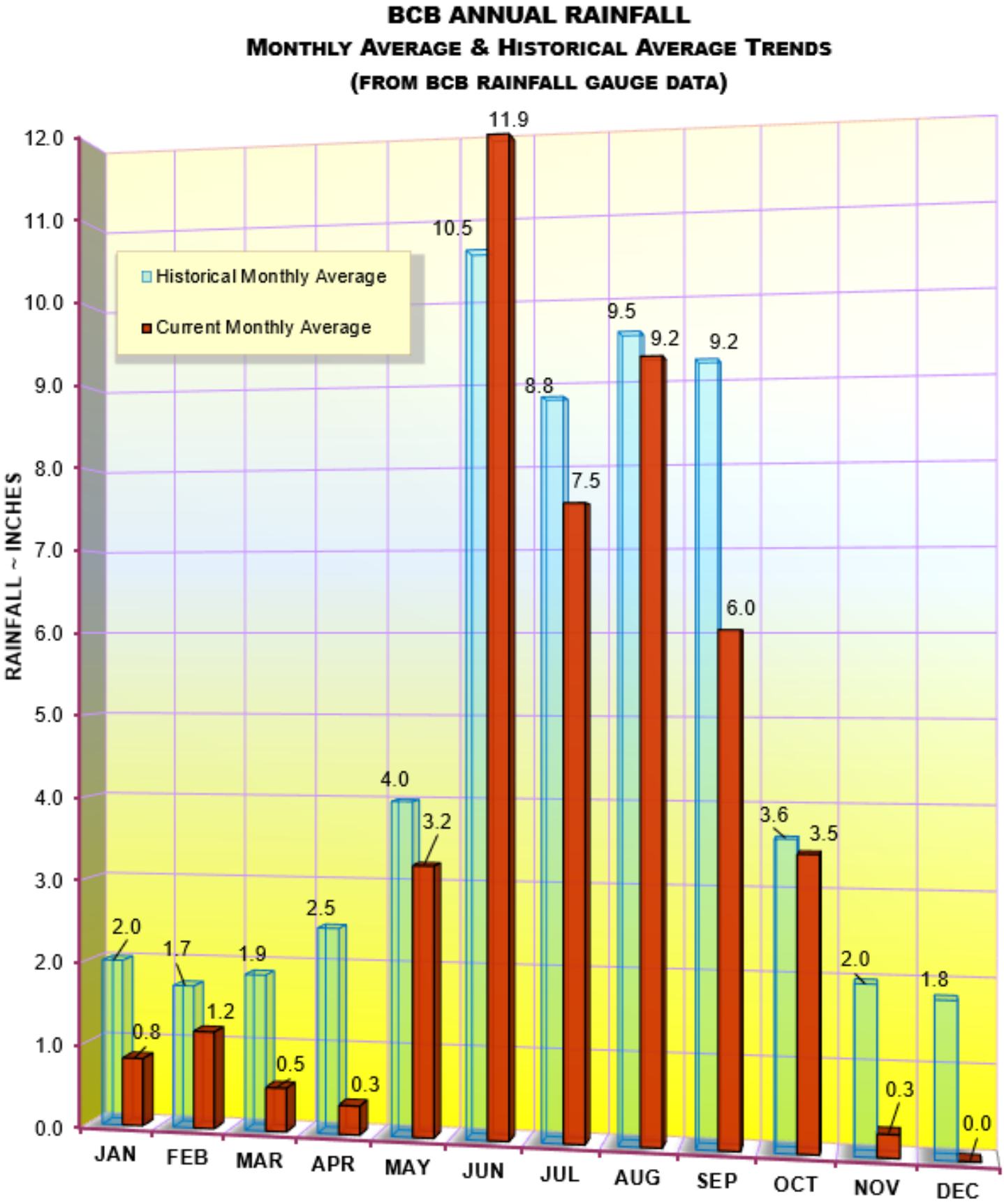

San Carlos Park
West Bay Club
Estero
R-23
Shadow Wood Country Club
Larry Kiker Preserve
LEE COUNTY
COLLIER COUNTY
COLLIER
R-9
Lake Trafford
Immokalee
R-14
R-13
846
Immokalee Rd
SR-93
Bonita Bay Club
R-2
Bonita Springs
LEE
Club at Mediterra
R-19
R-22
846
R-20
Twin Eagles Golf Club
The Quarry
R-17
R-18
Immokalee Rd
R-8
Tiburón Golf Club
Pelican Bay
R-12
North Naples
R-21
R-24
Grey Oaks Country Club
Golden Gate
Florida Panther Nat'l Wildlife Ref
R-4
R-1
75
84
84
R-16
Naples
East Naples
R-3
R-7
S-488
S-486
S-487
Picayune Strand State Forest
Lely
Naples Manor
Picayune Strand State Forest
R-10
Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park
Gulf of Mexico
90
R-11
R-6
Collier Seminole State Park
90
Marco Island
Marco Island
R-5
Copeland
Ten Thousand Is Nat'l Wildlife Ref
Ten Thousand Is Nat'l Wildlife Ref
R-15
Goodland
Ocho

TABLE 1

RAINFALL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025
DISTRICT/BASIN RAINFALL STATIONS
(ALL NUMBERS ARE IN INCHES)

STATION INDEX NO.	STATION NAME	Nov-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	0.47	1.73	-1.26	37.92	63.82	-25.90
R-2	BONITA SPRINGS WATER PLANT	0.03	1.82	-1.79	35.76	50.97	-15.21
R-3	COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE	0.08	2.07	-1.99	37.60	52.04	-14.44
R-4	FREEDOM PARK	0.24	2.01	-1.77	36.42	56.57	-20.15
R-5	FAKAHATCHEE STRAND HQ	0.62	1.90	-1.28	45.29	57.74	-12.45
R-6	DAN HOUSE PRAIRIE	0.77	2.31	-1.54	34.80	51.83	-17.03
R-7	SGGE WEATHER STATION	0.02	1.63	-1.61	50.57	60.19	-9.62
R-8	FAKA UNION #5	0.32	2.13	-1.81	42.07	60.23	-18.16
R-9	CORKSCREW SWAMP NORTH END	0.12	1.45	-1.33	39.02	50.77	-11.75
R-10	ROOKERY BAY HQ	0.11	1.69	-1.58	43.83	54.93	-11.10
R-11	COLLIER SEMINOLE STATE PARK	0.31	2.26	-1.95	42.65	55.84	-13.19
R-12	G.G. FIRE STATION	0.02	1.93	-1.91	45.58	58.00	-12.42
R-13	IMMOKALEE LANDFILL	0.46	2.26	-1.80	39.02	51.09	-12.07
R-14	IFAS	1.06	1.98	-0.92	44.97	49.06	-4.09
R-15	MARCO R.O. PLANT	0.36	2.12	-1.76	46.43	51.67	-5.24
R-16	FAKAHATCHEE STRAND NORTH END	0.16	2.20	-2.04	37.68	58.67	-20.99
R-17	COCO#1	0.01	1.69	-1.68	35.66	48.24	-12.58
R-18	COCO#3	0.09	1.30	-1.21	37.82	54.75	-16.93
R-19	BIRD ROOKERY	0.00	2.05	-2.05	45.99	61.33	-15.34
R-20	AVE MARIA	0.62	2.17	-1.55	34.77	52.21	-17.44
R-21	I75W2	0.26	1.84	-1.58	37.56	60.26	-22.70
R-22	GG#7	0.03	2.29	-2.26	43.97	57.42	-13.45
R-23	FPWX	0.03	2.19	-2.16	36.88	53.12	-16.24
R-24	DSOTO10	0.31	2.53	-2.22	41.19	64.70	-23.51
	AVERAGES	0.27	1.98	-1.71	40.56	55.64	-15.08

FIGURE 2
BCB GAUGE RAINFALL MONTHLY AVERAGES



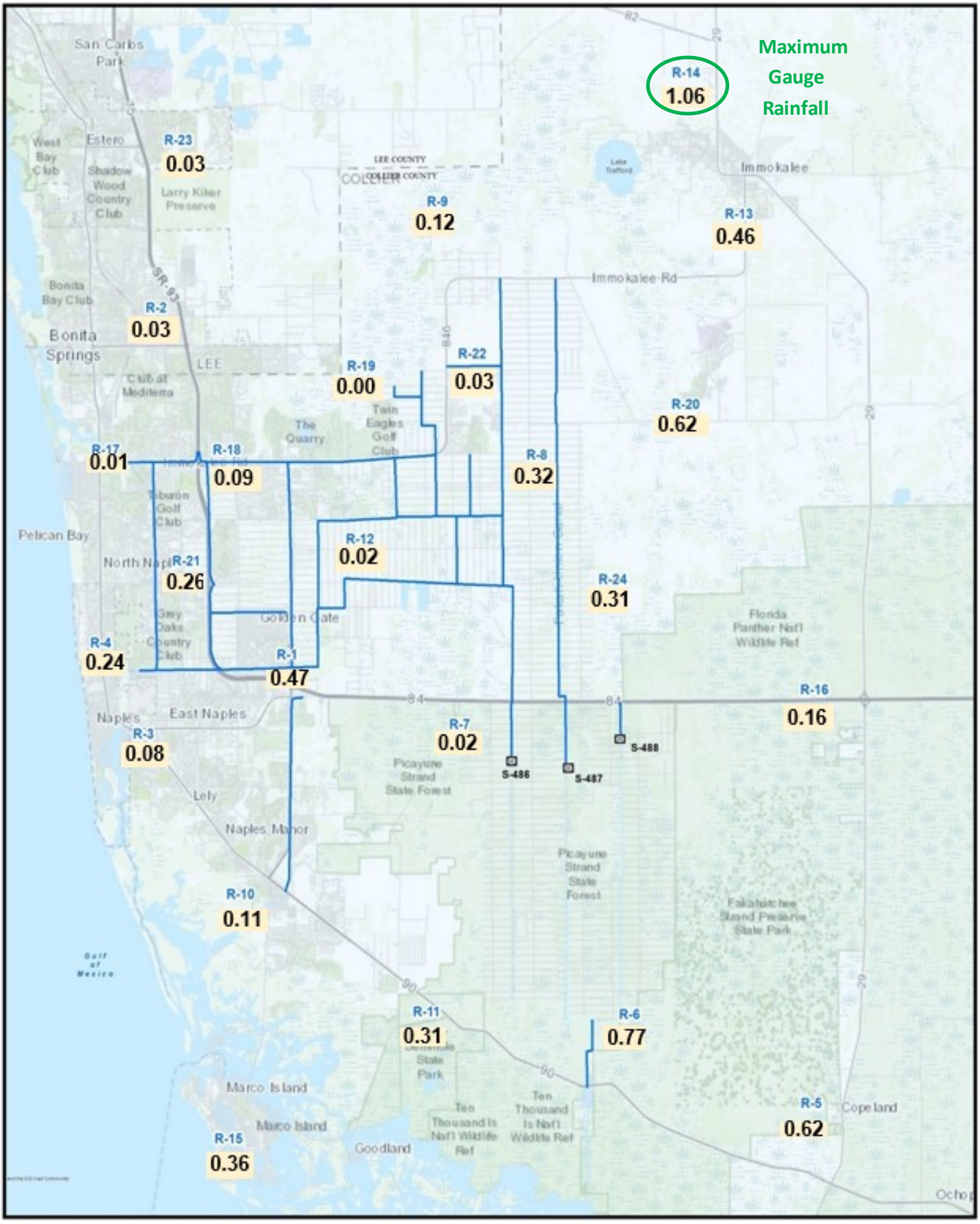
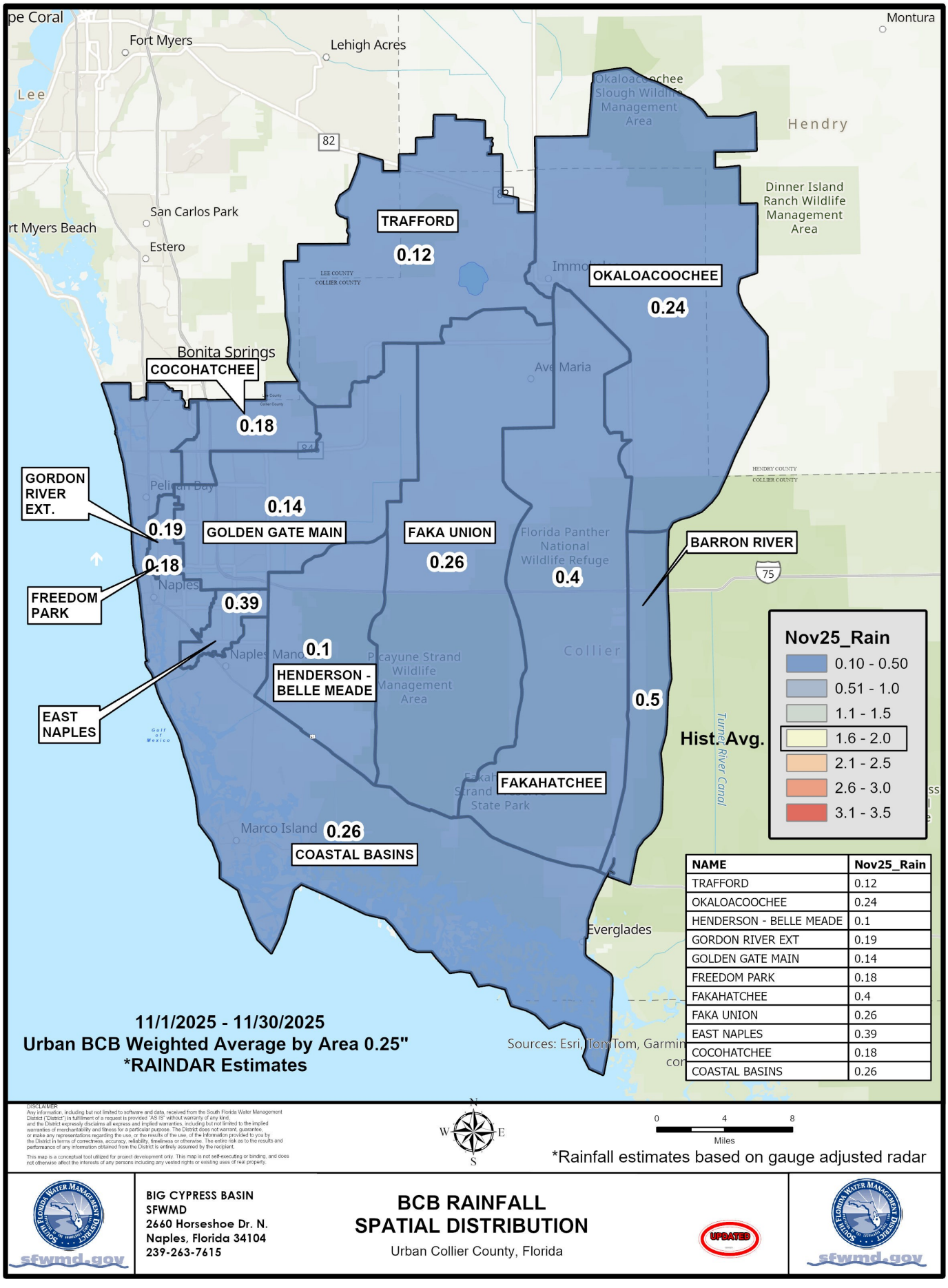
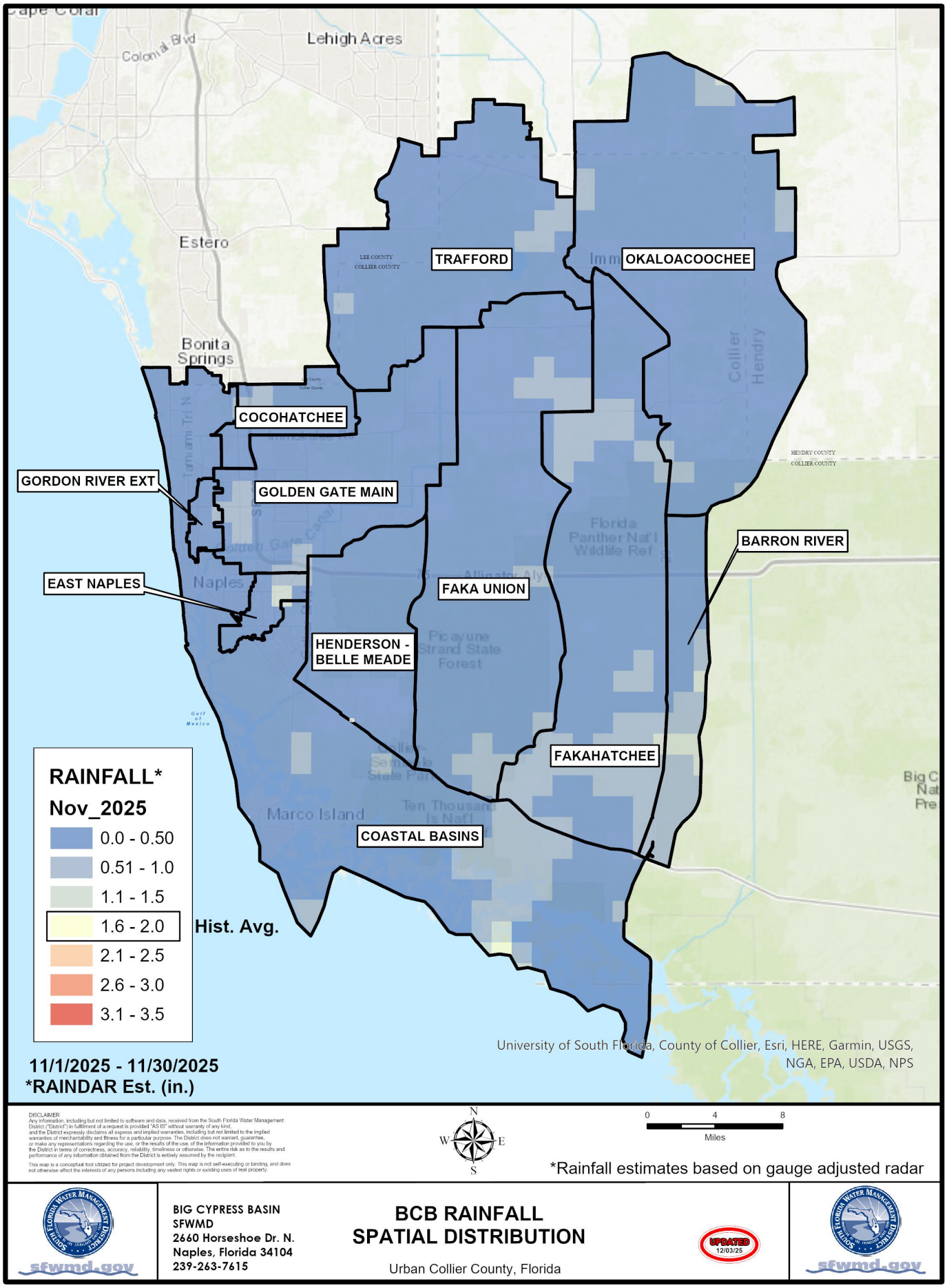


FIGURE 3A
BCB RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

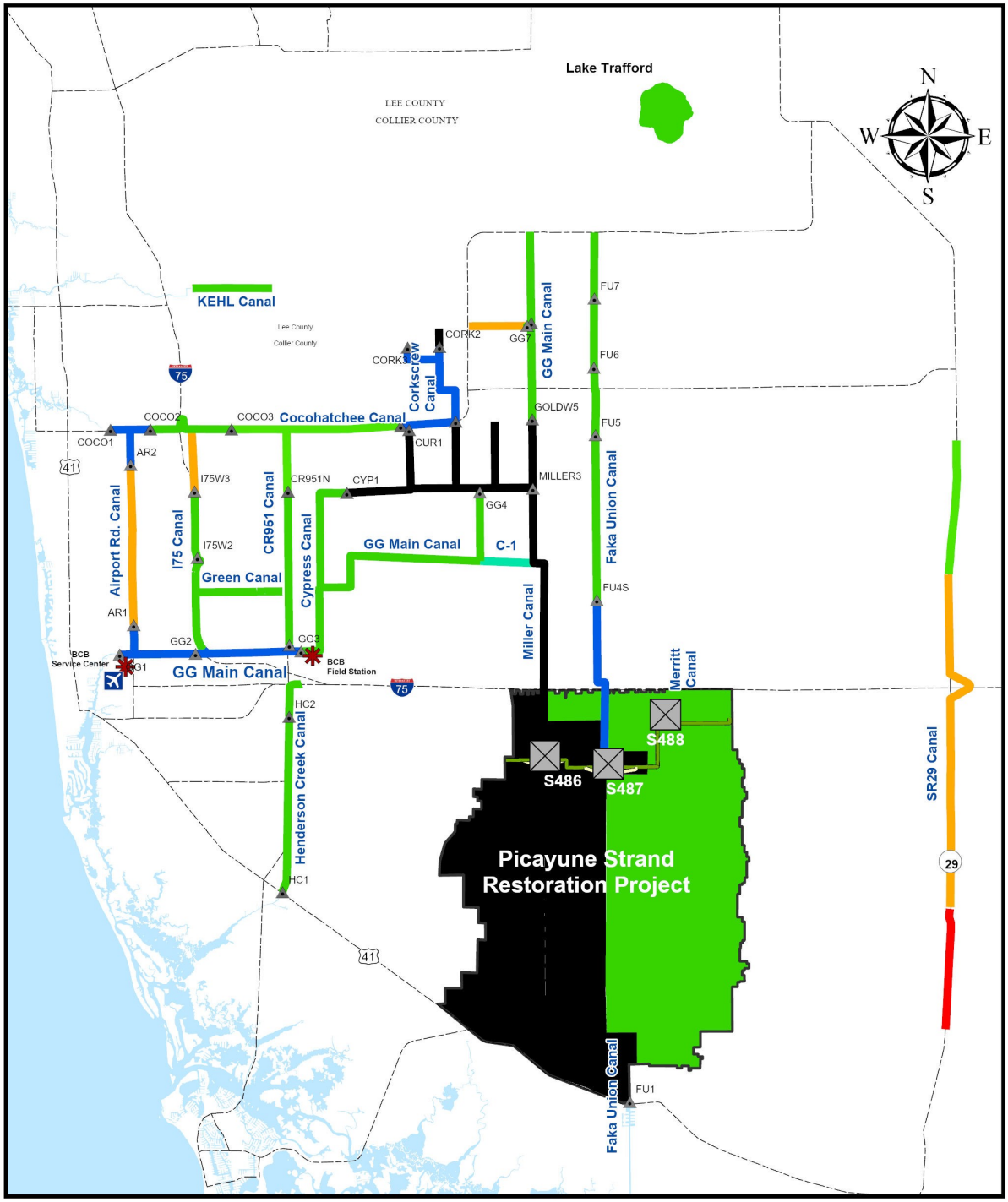


NAME	Nov25_Rain
TRAFFORD	0.12
OKALOACOOCHEE	0.24
HENDERSON - BELLE MEADE	0.1
GORDON RIVER EXT	0.19
GOLDEN GATE MAIN	0.14
FREEDOM PARK	0.18
FAKAHATCHEE	0.4
FAKA UNION	0.26
EAST NAPLES	0.39
COCOHATCHEE	0.18
COASTAL BASINS	0.26

OCTOBER 2025—FIGURE 3B



OCTOBER 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

0 2.5 5
Miles

* Based on period of record for each canal reach

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

BCB Conditions Index 11/30/25

Urban Collier County, Florida

UPDATED 12/04/25

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FIGURE 4

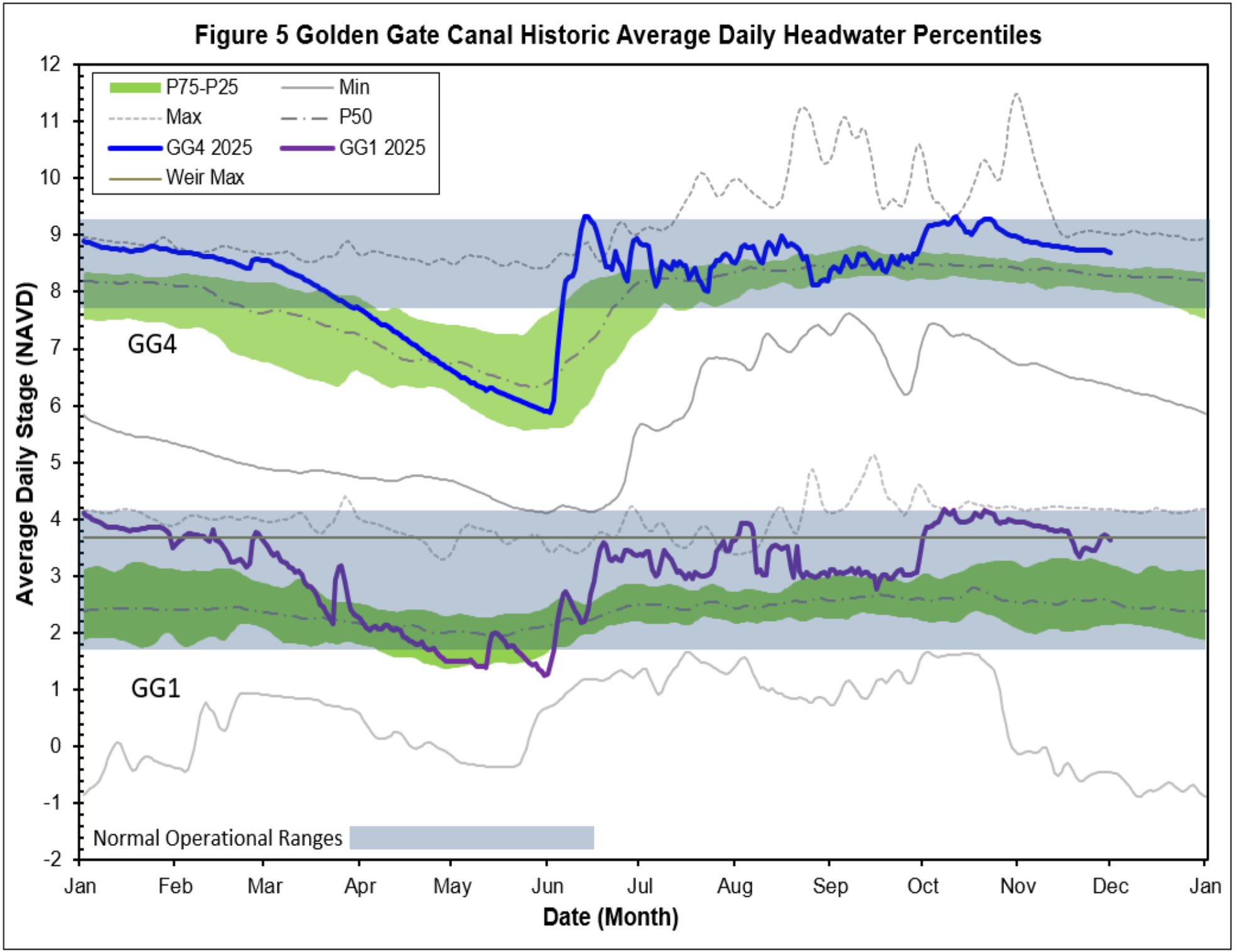


Figure 5 Golden Gate Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
P75-P25
Min
Max
P50
GG4 2025
GG1 2025
Weir Max
GG4
GG1
Normal Operational Ranges
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
Date (Month)
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan

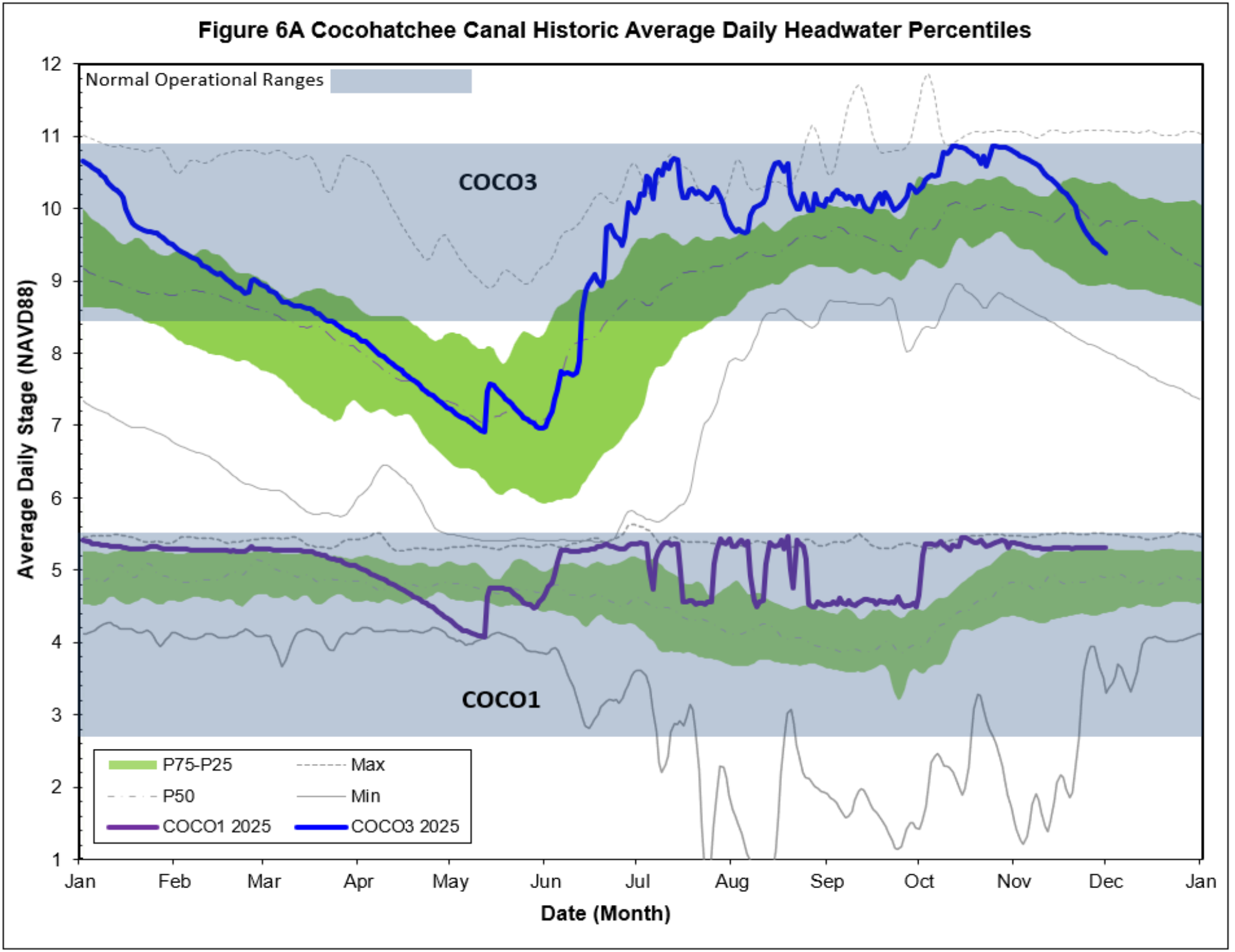


Figure 6A Cocohatchee Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Normal Operational Ranges
COCO3
COCO1
Average Daily Stage (NAVD88)
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
COCO1 2025
COCO3 2025

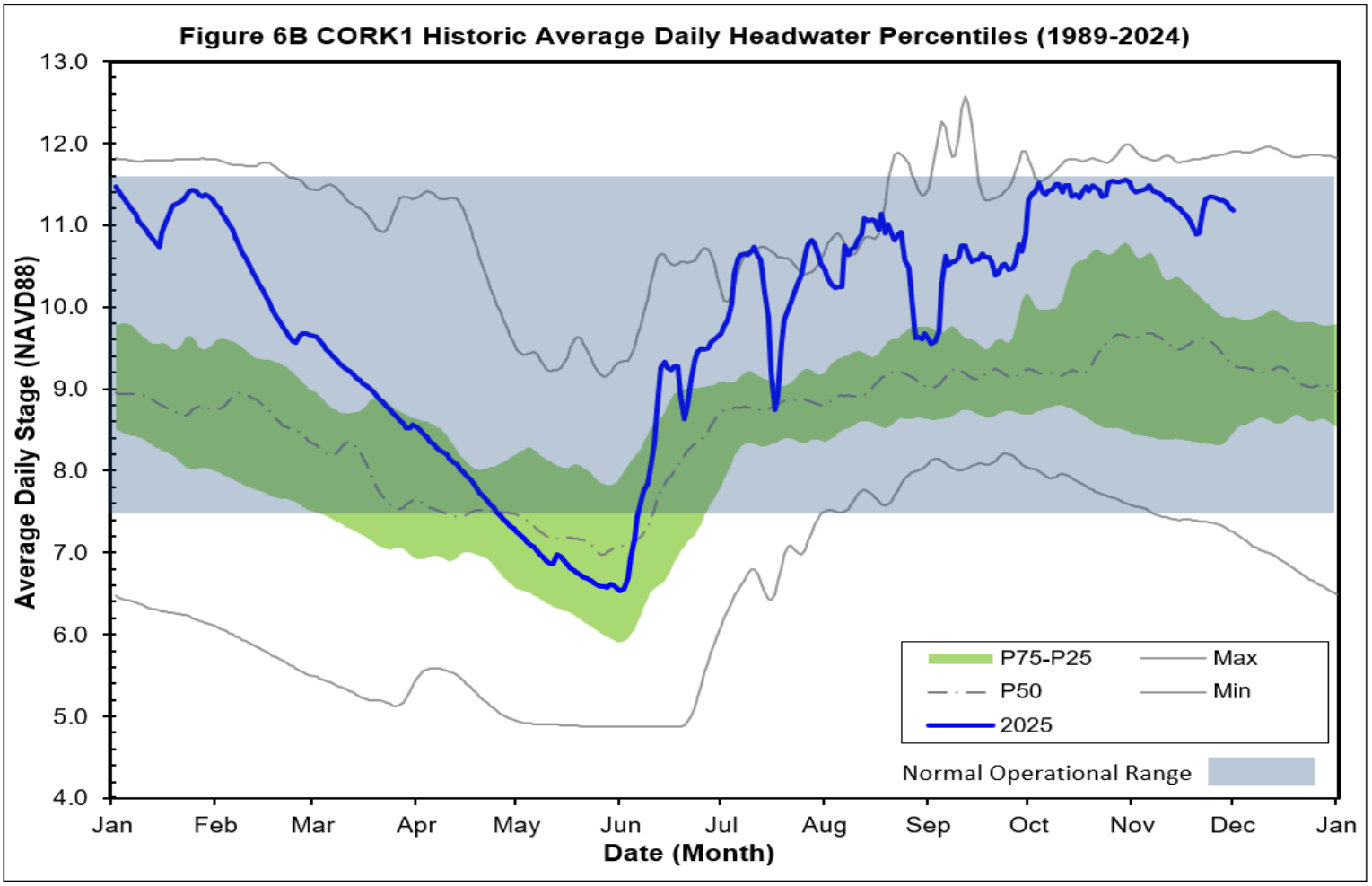


Figure 6B CORK1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (1989-2024)
Average Daily Stage (NAVD88)
13.0
12.0
11.0
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
Normal Operational Range

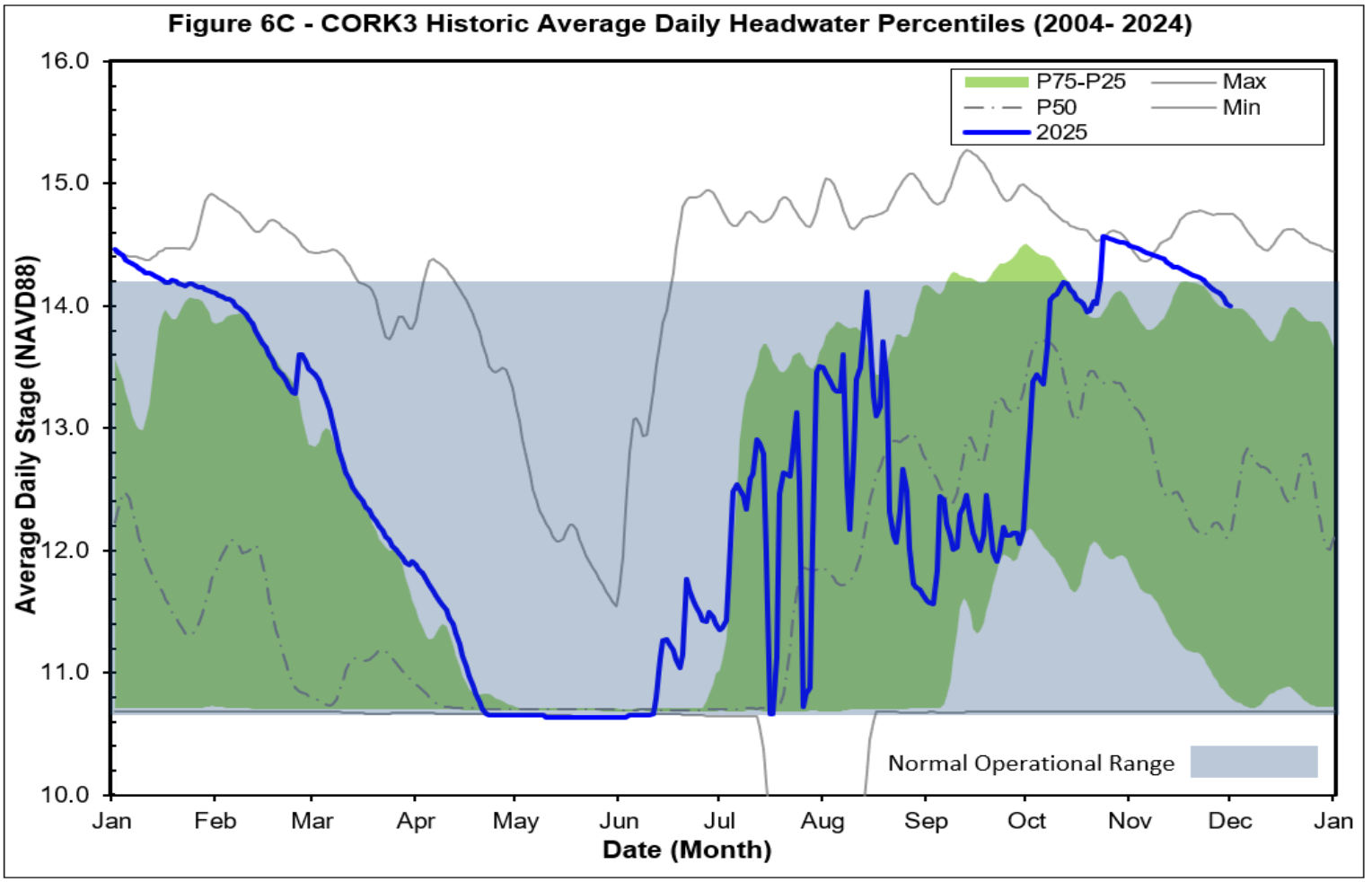


Figure 6C - CORK3 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (2004- 2024)
Average Daily Stage (NAVD88)
16.0
15.0
14.0
13.0
12.0
11.0
10.0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
Normal Operational Range

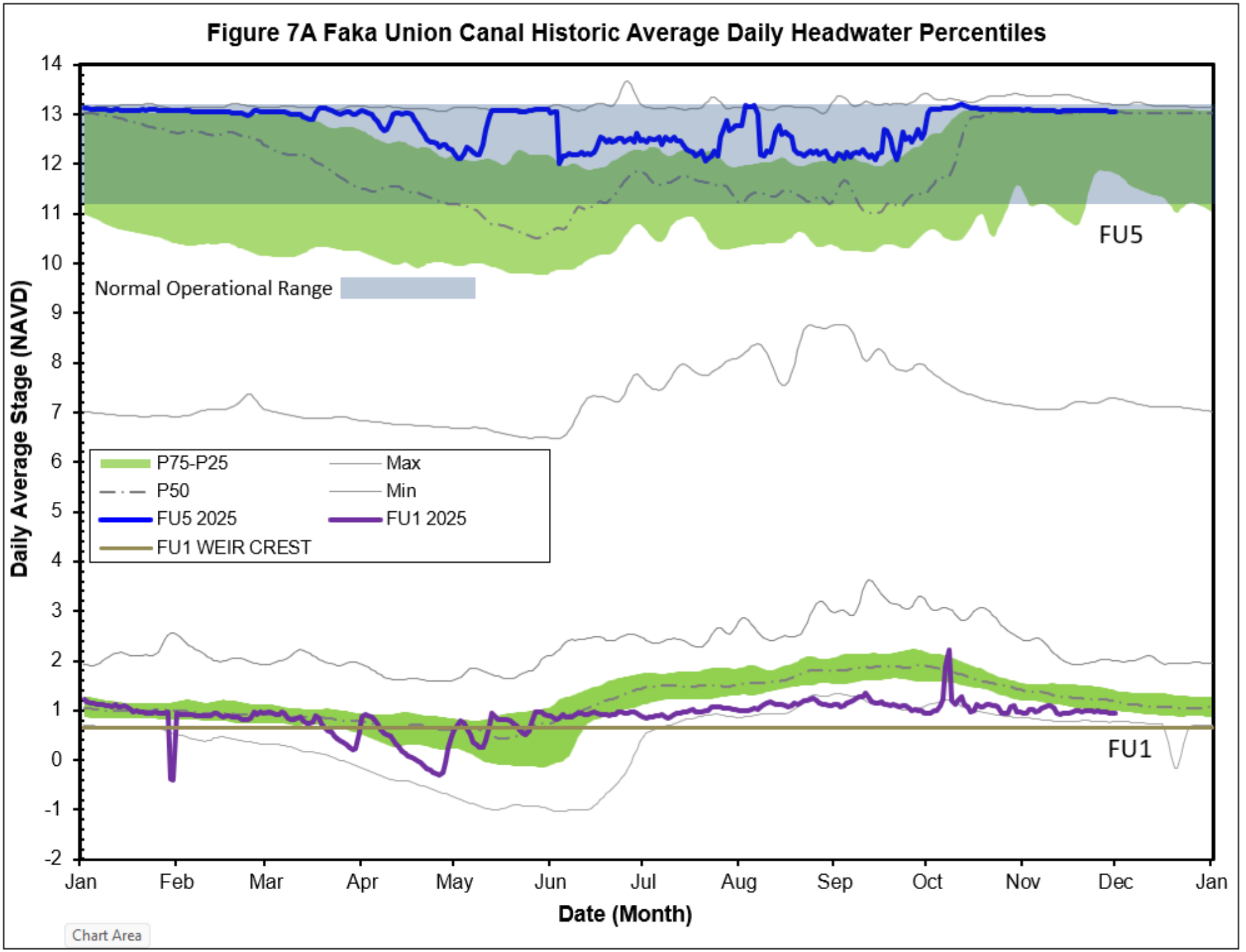


Figure 7A Faka Union Canal Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Daily Average Stage (NAVD)
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
Normal Operational Range
FU5
FU1
P75-P25
P50
FU5 2025
FU1 WEIR CREST
Max
Min
FU1 2025
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
Chart Area

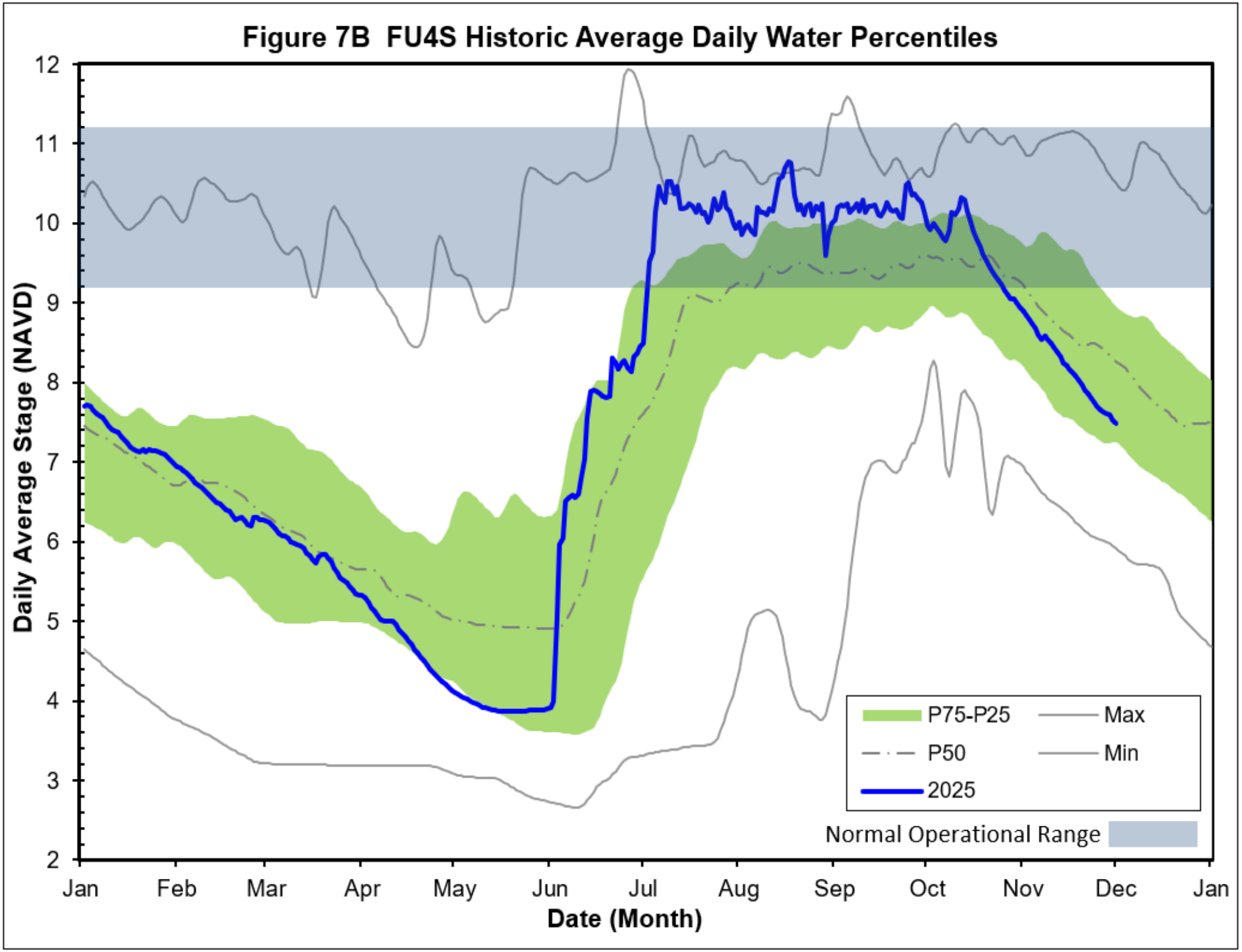


Figure 7B FU4S Historic Average Daily Water Percentiles
Daily Average Stage (NAVD)
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025
Normal Operational Range

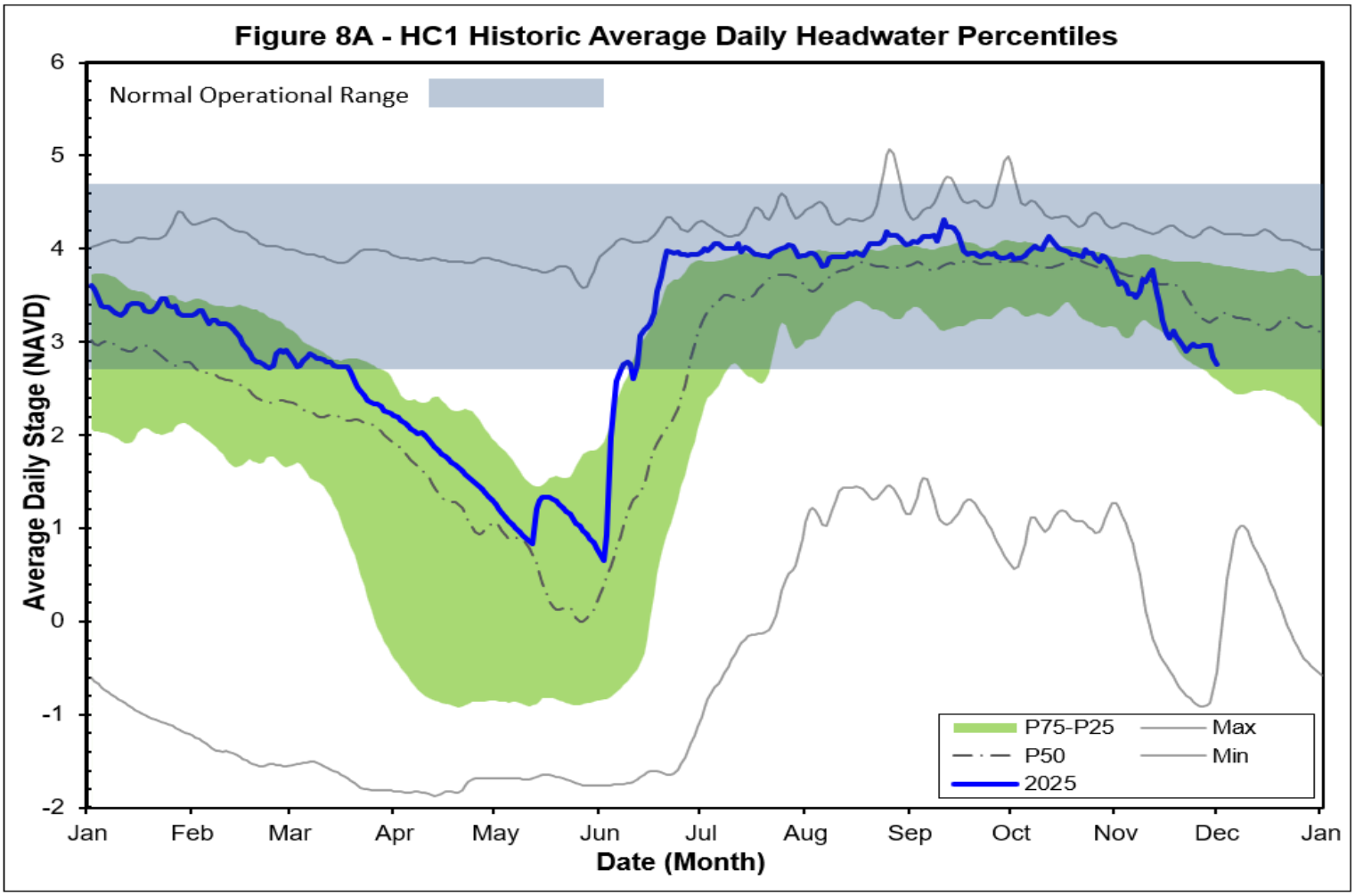


Figure 8A - HC1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Normal Operational Range
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
2025

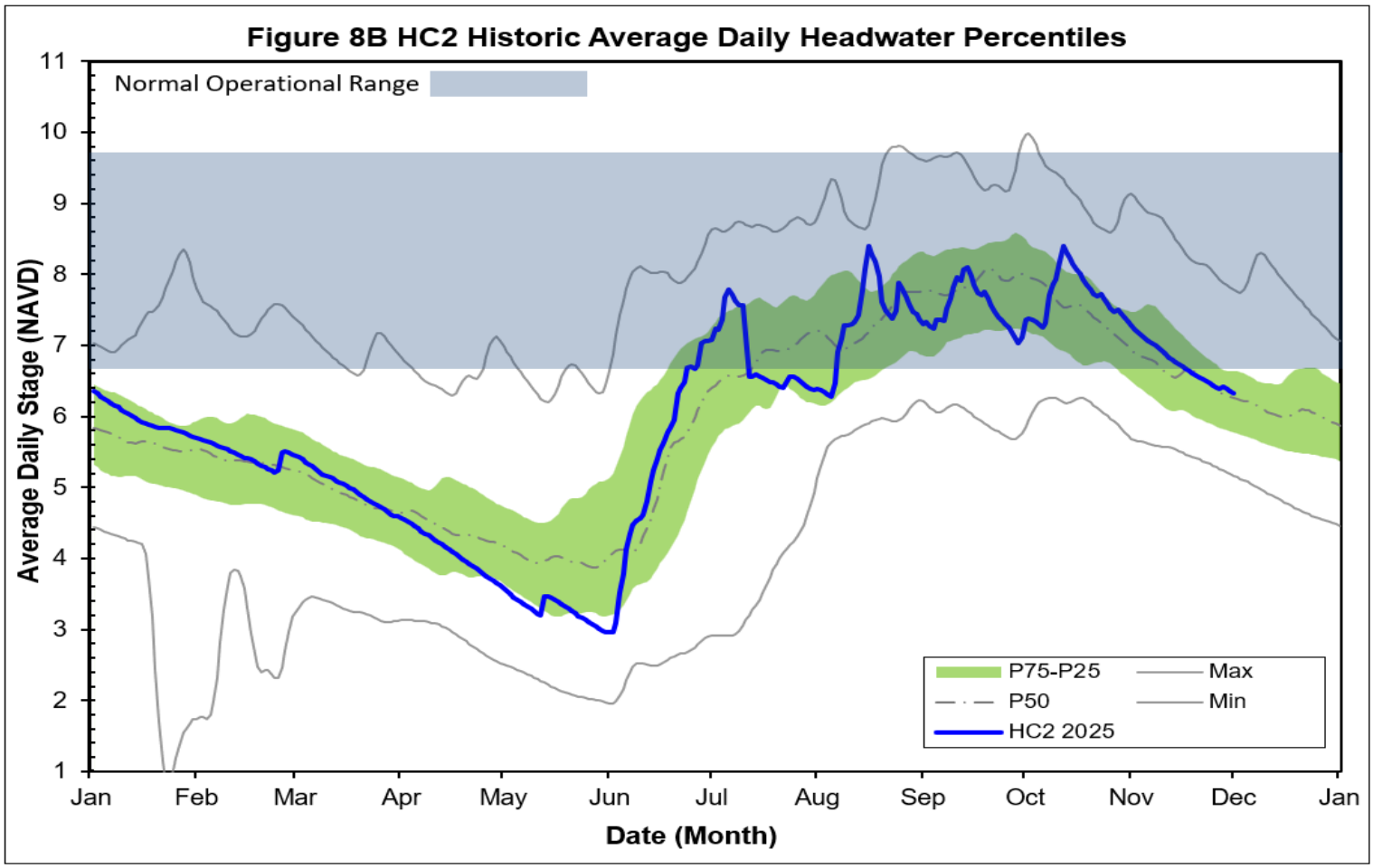


Figure 8B HC2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles
Normal Operational Range
Average Daily Stage (NAVD)
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
Max
P50
Min
HC2 2025

Last Reading Date :		November 30, 2025					
Previous Period Reading Date		October 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	-2.42	32.79	30.37	↓	GREEN
C-1004R	Naples	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-1.54	1.76	0.22	↓	GREEN
C-1224	Marco Lakes	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-1.03	2.52	1.49	↓	GREEN
C-948R	Golden Gate	Mid Hawthorn Aquifer	-2.63	27.43	24.80	↓	
C-951R	Golden Gate	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-1.01	2.62	1.61	↓	
L-2194	Bonita Springs	Sandstone Aquifer	-2.42	4.25	1.83	↓	GREEN
L-2195	Bonita Springs	Surficial Aquifer System	-1.02	9.20	8.18	↓	GREEN
L-738	Bonita Springs	Lower Tamiami Aquifer	-2.72	-0.44	-3.16	↓	GREEN

TABLE 2
BCB WATER CONDITIONS SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 2025

BIG CYPRESS BASIN

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

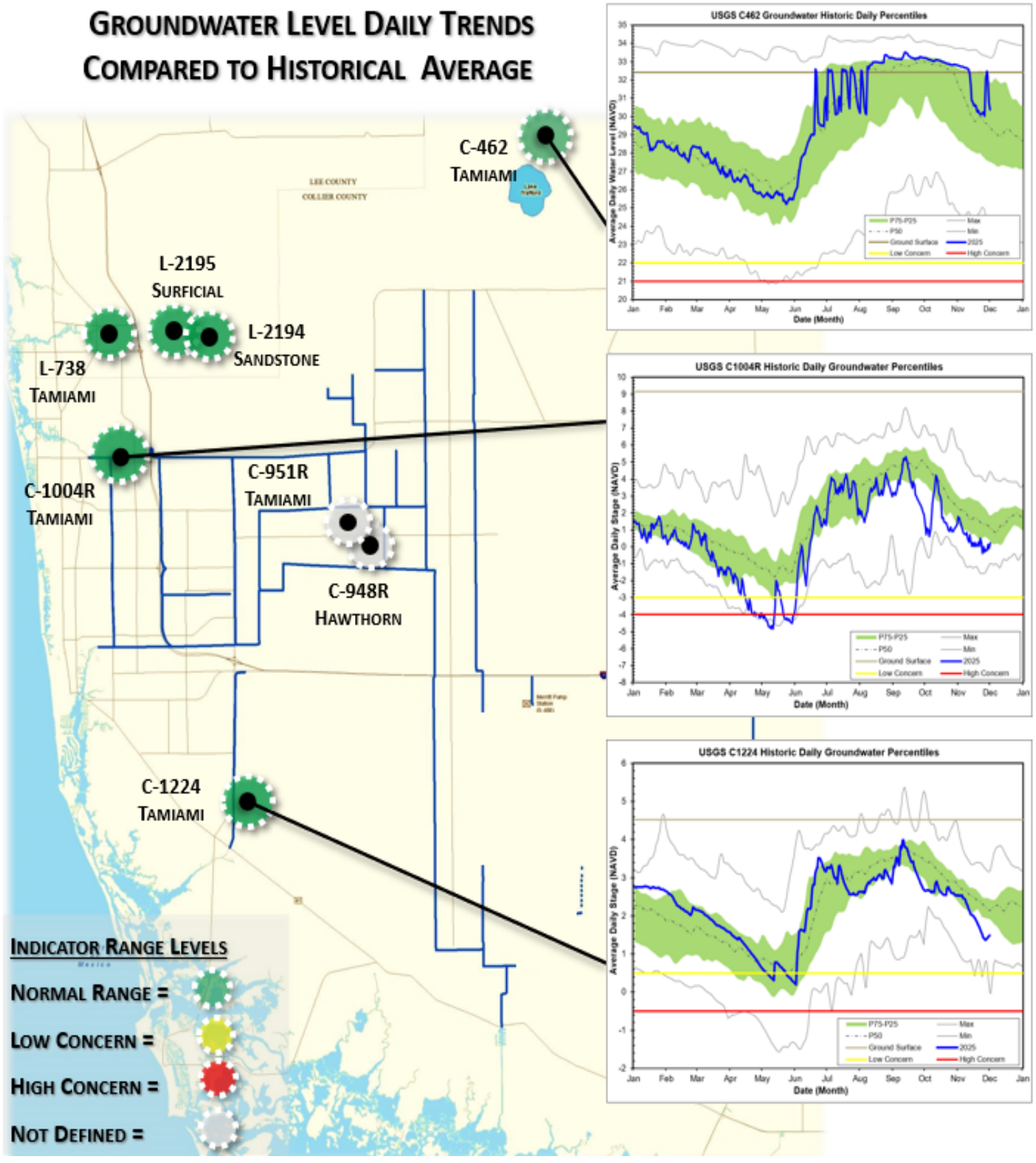


FIGURE 9

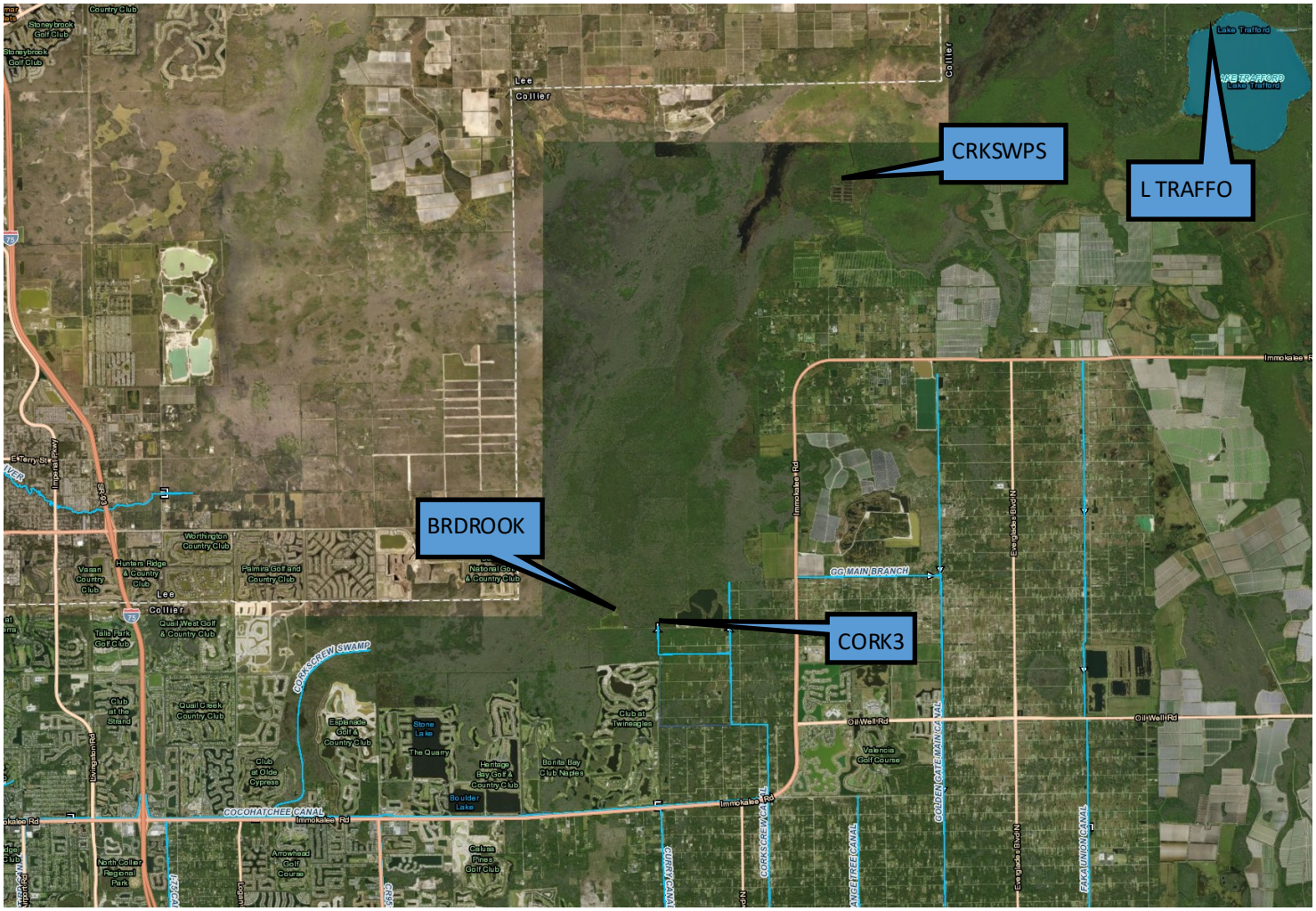
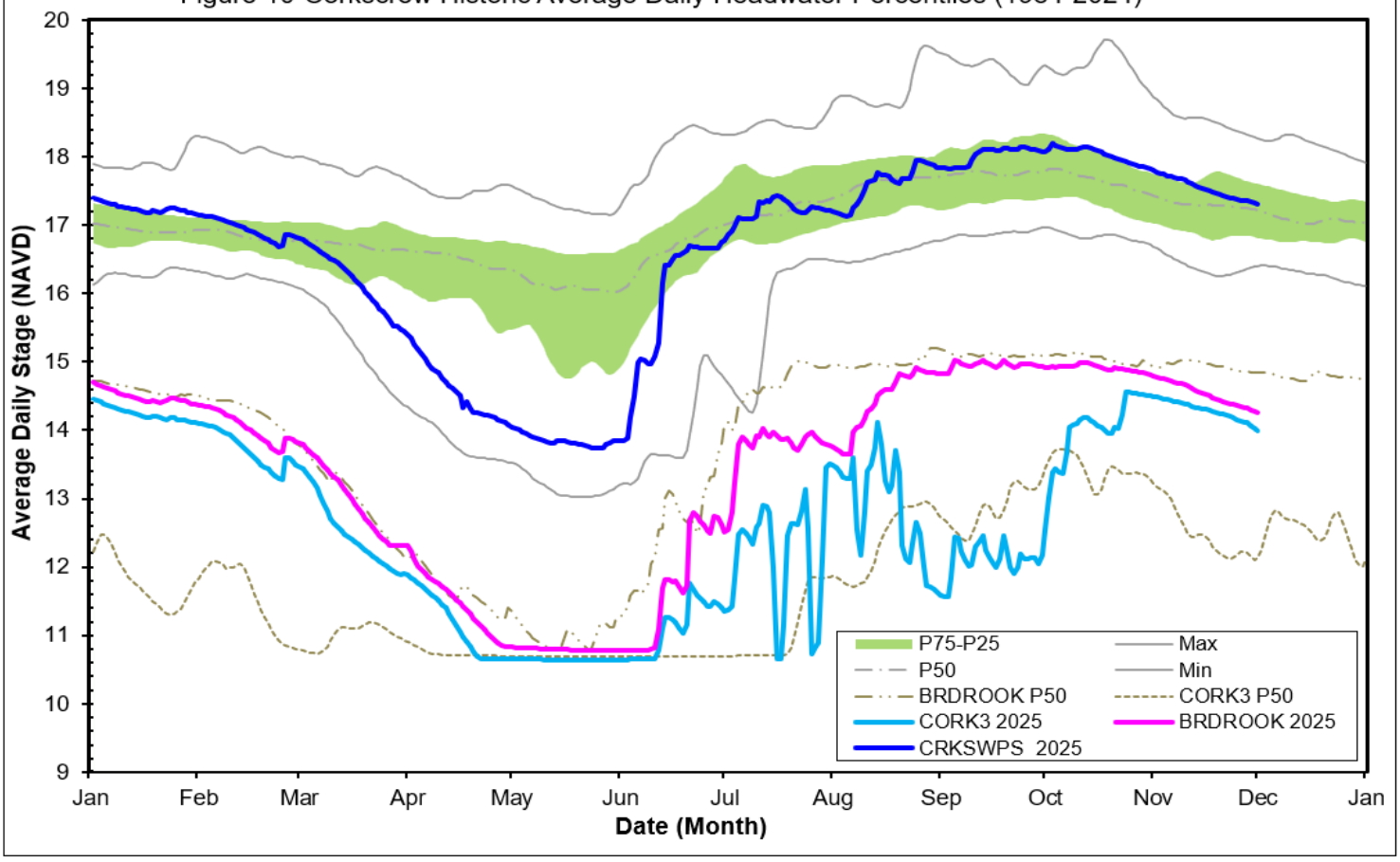


Figure 10-Corkscrew Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (1984-2024)



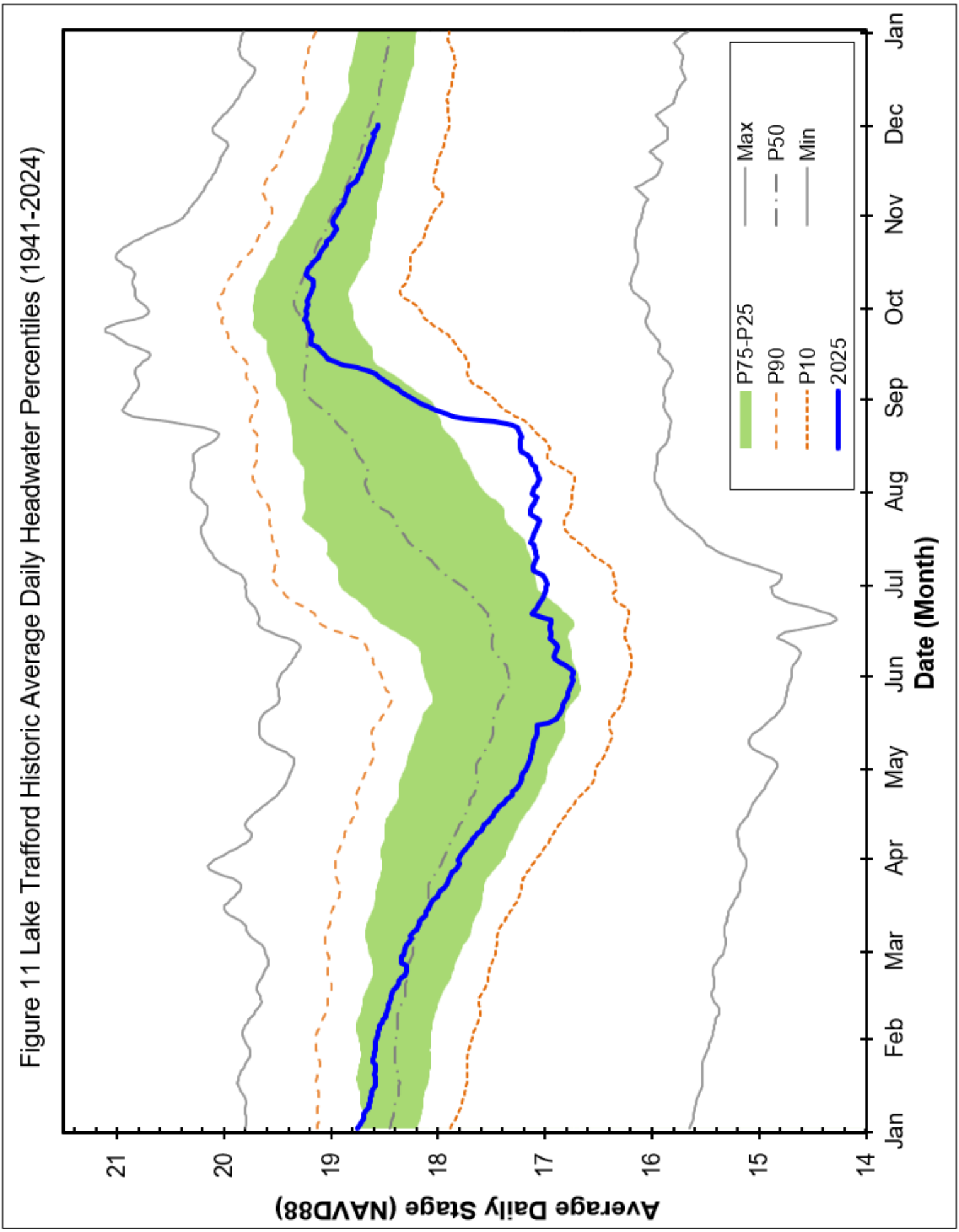


Figure 11 Lake Trafford Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles (1941-2024)
Average Daily Stage (NAVD88)
21
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date (Month)
P75-P25
P90
P10
2025
Max
P50
Min

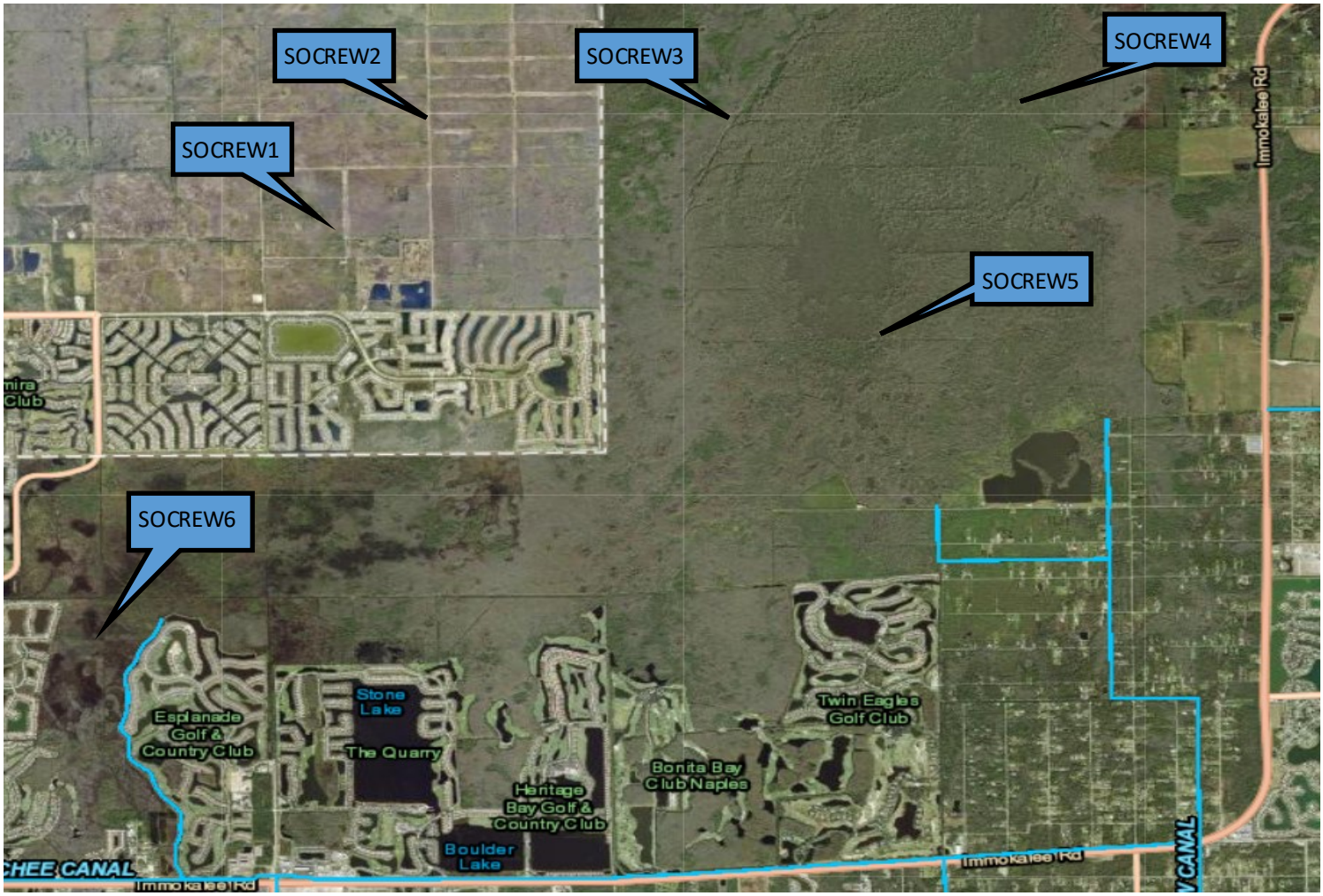
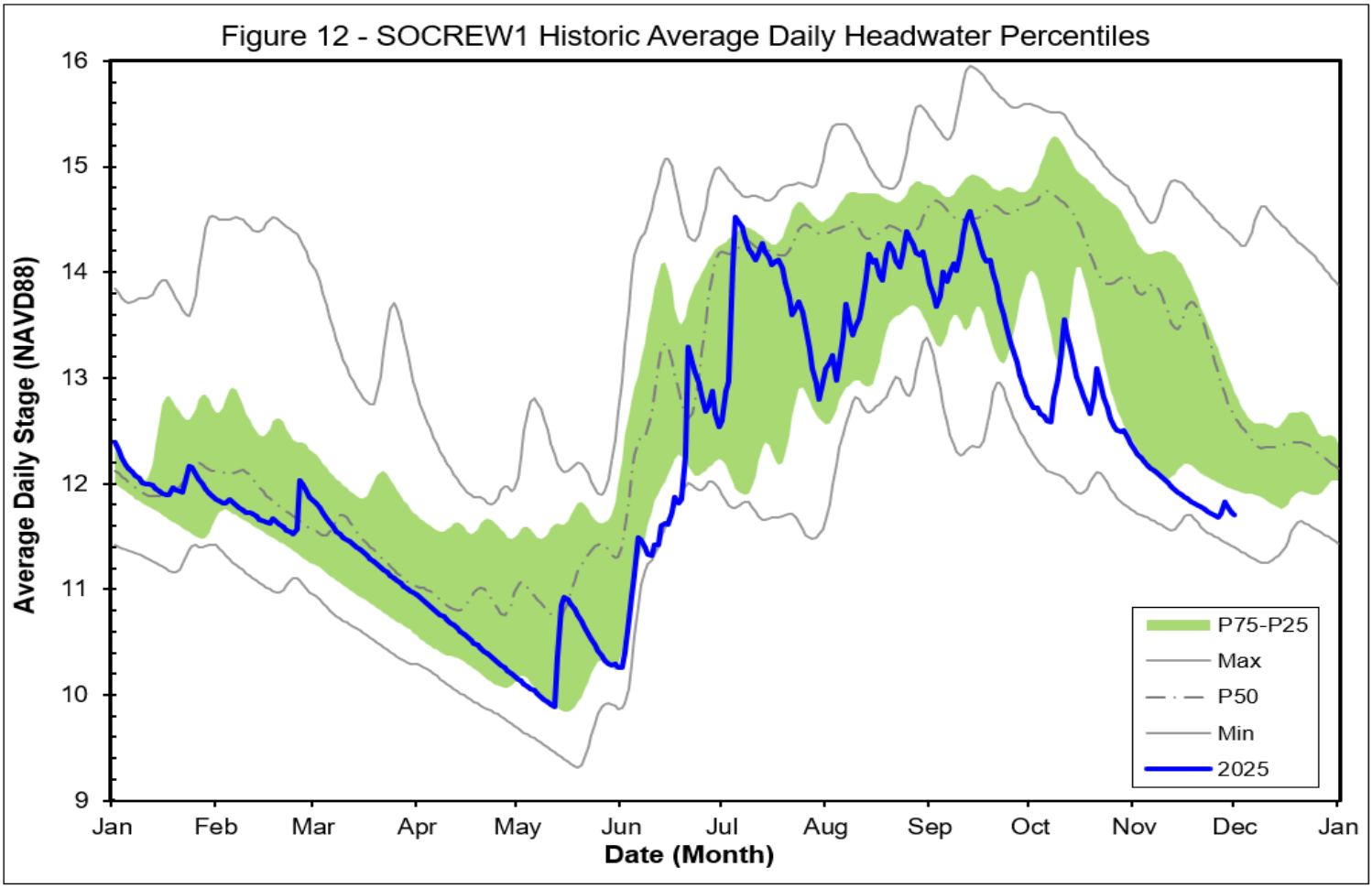


Figure 12 - SOCREW1 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles



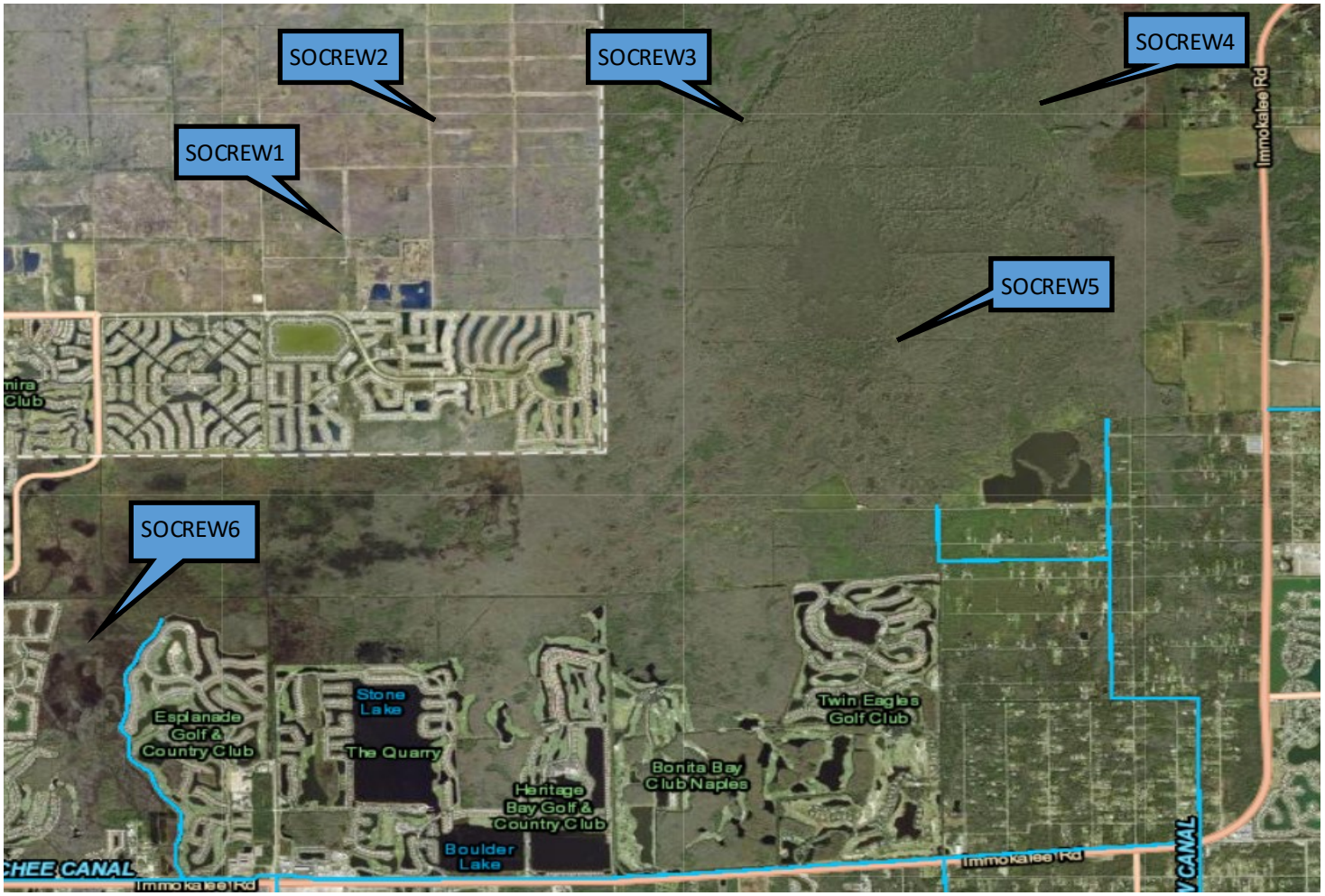


Figure 13 - SOCREW2 Historic Average Daily Headwater Percentiles