

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Robbie McKinney, Hydrologic Program Manager, Office of Water Resources

THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

DATE: October 31, 2025

RE: October 2025 Hydrologic Conditions Report

RAINFALL

- Districtwide average rainfall for the month was 1.53", which was about 46 percent lower than the 1932-2024 average of 2.85" (Table 1, Figure 1). The 12-month period ending October 31 reflected a Districtwide rainfall deficit of 11.82", which was a slight increase to the 11.63" deficit seen at the end of September. District counties ranged from <1" to almost 3" of rainfall on average, with parts of Levy County receiving more than 5" of rainfall (Figure 2).
- Overall, a 12-month rainfall deficit was present in all river basins, with the Santa Fe, Suwannee, and Waccasassa basins increasing deficits by the end of October (Figure 3). An area of 12-month surplus greater than 6" was represented in the Waccasassa Basin, while sections with deficits greater than 14" were observed in each basin. The Waccasassa Basin also transitioned from a 3-month rainfall surplus to a deficit, while each of the other basins maintained rainfall deficits through the end of October (Figure 4). Over the past 3 months, four of the basins had areas with neutral (-2" to 2") rainfall conditions, while portions with greater than 10" of rainfall deficit were scattered within the Aucilla, Coastal, and Suwannee basins.

SURFACE WATER

- **Rivers:** Many of the river gages in Figure 5 finished the month in the normal (25th – 75th percentile) or below normal (10th – 25th percentile) flow ranges. However, gages on the Withlacoochee (Pinetta), Steinhatchee (Cross City), and the Alapaha (Statenville) spent time in October with extremely low (<10th percentile) flows. River gages at Ft. White and Graham in the Santa Fe Basin showed slight improvements after beginning the month with much below normal (<10th percentile) flows and finishing in the below normal category (Figure 6). Elsewhere in Florida, the Fenholloway, Suwannee (Ellaville), and the Alapaha (Jennings) gages began and ended the month in the normal flow range.
- **Lakes:** Water levels decreased at nearly all the monitored lakes in the District this month (Figure 7). The median decrease in stage across all measured lakes was about 0.3', with all 14 of the monitored lakes ending October below their respective long-term average. Waters Lake represented the largest water level decrease this month with a drop of around 1' since last month.
- **Springs:** Flow measurements were made at 3 springs in October by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), District staff, and contractors. Madison Blue Springs saw flows in the normal range this month (Figure 8). Fanning Springs, on the other hand, saw flows in the normal and below normal categories throughout the month of October (Figure 9).