

each District county is deficient. Hydrologic conditions indicate that enhanced monitoring of drought conditions and outreach efforts to maximize the efficiency of water use within the District should be employed to protect the water resource from serious harm in all counties within the District, as well as in unincorporated areas of Alachua and Levy counties within other water management District boundaries, in accordance with interagency agreements in place.

7. Drought indicators are summarized as follows:

#### **Rainfall**

- For the period December 22, 2024, through December 21, 2025, there was a Districtwide average rainfall deficit of approximately 11.5 inches based on records beginning in 1932.
- The 12-month rainfall average, ending December 21, 2025, is in the lowest 10 percent of all 12-month periods, with 5 counties showing below 5 percent of all 12-month periods.

#### **Groundwater Conditions**

- Of the 90 Upper Floridan Aquifer monitor wells queried on December 20, 2025, six wells had levels in the lowest 10 percent of all records and are considered extremely low. Forty-one wells (46 percent) had levels in the lowest 25 percent of all records.

#### **Surface water Conditions**

- The Suwannee River at Branford gage monitors flow contributed by 79 percent of the 9,973-square mile Suwannee River drainage area and has continuous records since 1931. The average flow rate on December 21, 2025, was in the lowest 20 percent of all 7-day and 8-week average flows.
- The Santa Fe River near Fort White gage monitors flow contributed by 74 percent of the 1,374-square mile Santa Fe River drainage area and has continuous records since 1927. The average flow rate on December 21, 2025, was in the lowest 10 percent of all 7-day and 8-week average flows.
- The average flow rate on December 21, 2025, for the Econfina River near Perry and the Steinhatchee River near Cross City was in the lowest 20 percent for all 7-day average flows and the lowest 10 percent of all 8-week average flows.
- The average flow rate on December 21, 2025, for the Withlacoochee near Pinetta was in the lowest five percent for all 7-day and 8-week average flows.
- The daily flow rate on December 21, 2025, in the upper Santa Fe River basin at Worthington Springs, near Graham, and on the New River was below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile.

#### **Drought Indices**

- As of December 18, 2025, the U.S. Drought Monitor for Florida designates the District within either Moderate Drought (D1), Severe Drought (D2), or Extreme Drought (D3). Neighboring water management districts are also monitoring drought conditions. Southwest Florida Water Management District issued a Phase I Water Shortage Order for the entire area of their district as of November 2025. The U.S. Drought Monitor monthly outlook for December 2025 shows drought persisting within our District.
- The Long-Term Composite Drought Indicator map published by the National Drought Mitigation Center shows parts of North Florida in the abnormally dry category with an area of moderate drought for the week of December 22.

#### **Forecast and Climatology**

- The three-month precipitation probability outlook, published by the Climate Prediction Center on December 18, 2025, shows North Florida having warmer than normal temperatures across the District, and below normal precipitation for the District through March 31, 2026.