

Forecast and Climatology

- The three-month precipitation probability outlook published by the Climate Prediction Center on February 19, 2026, shows North Florida having warmer than normal temperatures and equal chances of above, near, or below normal precipitation throughout the District through May 31, 2026.

9. Upon careful consideration of the hydrologic conditions, District data, qualitative factors and staff recommendations, the Executive Director has determined that a Phase II Water Shortage Order for the District is necessary and should be so ordered.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

10. The Governing Board of the District is duly authorized by Section 373.246(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 40B-21, F.A.C., to issue orders declaring the existence of a water shortage within all or part of the District and to impose such restrictions and require such measures as may be necessary to reduce demand on available water supplies.

11. The Executive Director authorized by Section 373.119(2), F.S., as directed by the Governing Board, to find that when an emergency exists requiring immediate action to protect the public health, safety, or welfare; the health of animals, fish or aquatic life; a public water supply; or recreational, commercial, industrial, agricultural or other reasonable uses, the executive director may, without prior notice, issue an order reciting the existence of such an emergency and requiring that such action be taken as the executive director deems necessary to meet the emergency.

12. County and city officials and all law enforcement authorities are required to enforce orders lawfully issued by the District pursuant to Chapter 40B-21, F.A.C., and Section 373.609, F.S.

13. The Governing Board held a public workshop on February 10, 2026, and a hearing on March 10, 2026, at the District's headquarters for the purpose of considering data, including quantitative and qualitative indicators and staff recommendations.

14. Upon careful consideration of the hydrologic conditions, District data, qualitative factors and staff recommendations, the Executive Director has determined that a District-wide Phase II Water Shortage is necessary and should be so ordered.

ORDERED

THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, it is hereby ORDERED:

15. A Phase II Water Shortage Order is declared for all ground and surface water sources within the District boundary and including those unincorporated areas of Alachua and Levy counties within the Saint Johns River Water Management District and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, respectively, in accordance with interagency agreements in place.

16. Water Use Restrictions are attached to this Order and are hereby incorporated.

17. Water Use Restrictions shall take effect on March 17, 2026.

18. County and city officials and all law enforcement authorities shall enforce this Order when requested, pursuant to the Plan and Section 373.609, F.S.