

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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Georgia EPD Will Not Issue Drought Declaration For Lower Flint River Basin This Year

The Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Carol A. Couch, will not issue a severe drought declaration this year in southwest Georgia's lower Flint River Basin in accordance with the Flint River Drought Protection Act.

By March 1 of each year, the EPD Director, in consultation with the state climatologist and the state geologist, determines if a severe drought declaration should be issued for the lower Flint River Basin as required by the Flint River Drought Protection Act. The Act established a fund to compensate farmers in the Flint River Basin who voluntarily stop irrigating their crops when a severe drought is declared. The purpose of the Act is to protect stream flow in the lower Flint River and its tributaries during a severe drought.

According to state climatologist Dr. David Stooksbury, mild drought conditions exist across southwest Georgia, including much of the lower Flint River Basin. While the past two months have been dry, Dr. Stooksbury says total rain since Oct. 1 has been near normal in southwest Georgia.

According to the federal government U.S. Drought Monitor, drought conditions in lower Flint River Basin areas most likely affected by the potential declaration are now labeled as abnormally dry.

This is the seventh year in a row that a severe drought declaration has not been necessary in the lower Flint River Basin.

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