

## **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Georgia EPD Will Not Issue Severe Drought Declaration For Flint River Basin**

Due to conditions in southwest Georgia's lower Flint River Basin, Allen Barnes, Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will not issue a severe drought declaration in accordance with the Flint River Drought Protection Act.

The law says that by March 1 of each year, the EPD Director will issue a prediction as to whether severe drought conditions are expected during the year. While conditions in the region are dry, stream flows and groundwater levels do not support a severe drought declaration, Director Barnes said. In addition, the 90-day precipitation forecast from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center calls for only a 40 percent chance of below average rainfall through May.

The Flint River Drought Protection Act was established to protect stream flow in the lower Flint River and its tributaries during a severe drought. 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.

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