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For Immediate Release

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

Due to sufficient rainfall this winter and the forecast for a wet spring, Allen Barnes, Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will not issue a severe drought declaration 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. "Current stream flows and groundwater levels are above normal and the 90-day precipitation outlook predicts higher than normal rainfall through May," said EPD Director Barnes. "Conditions do not support a drought declaration."

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

According to the federal government U.S. Drought Monitor, conditions throughout Georgia, including the lower Flint River Basin, are currently normal due to plentiful rainfall.

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

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