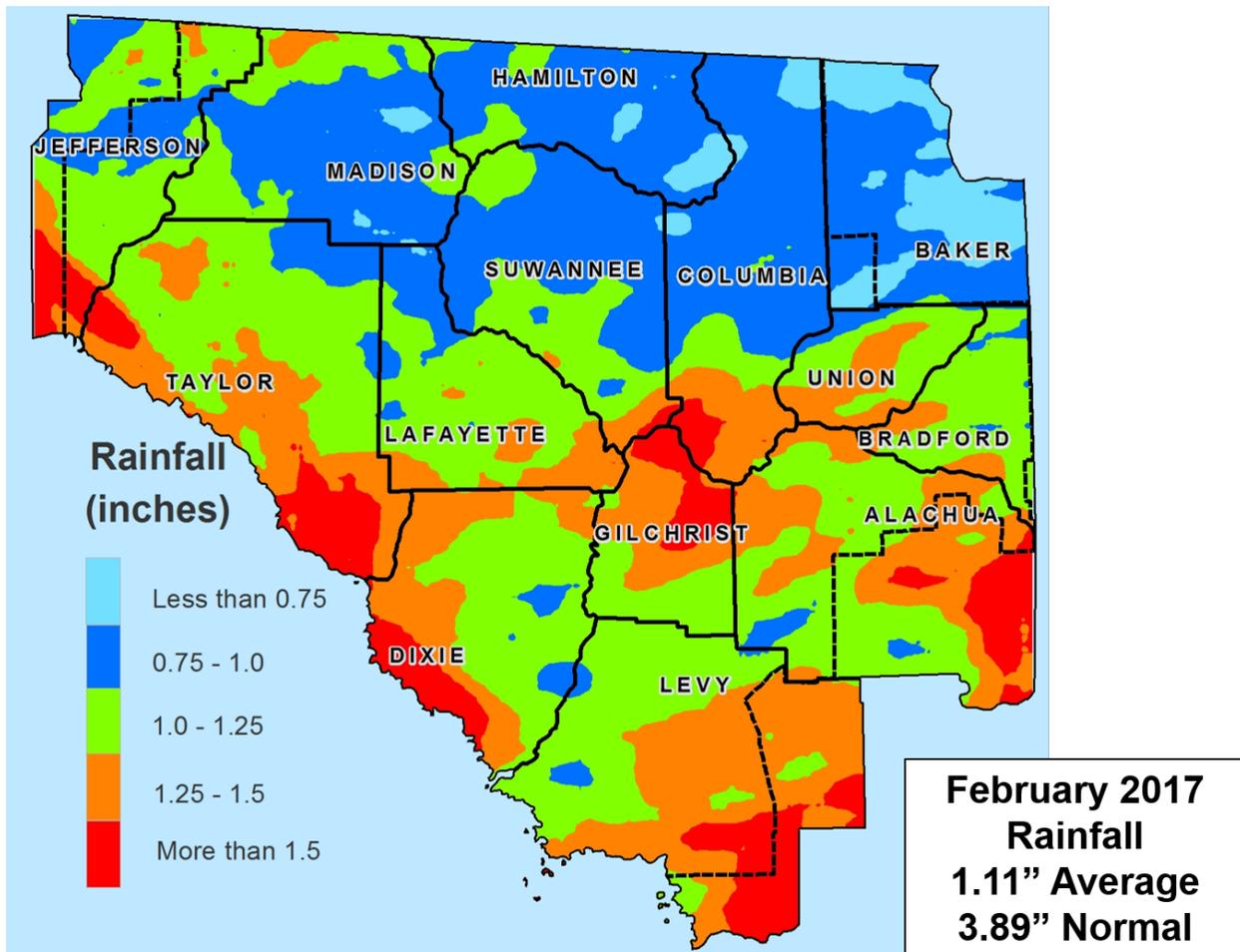


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**February 2017 Rainfall Report**

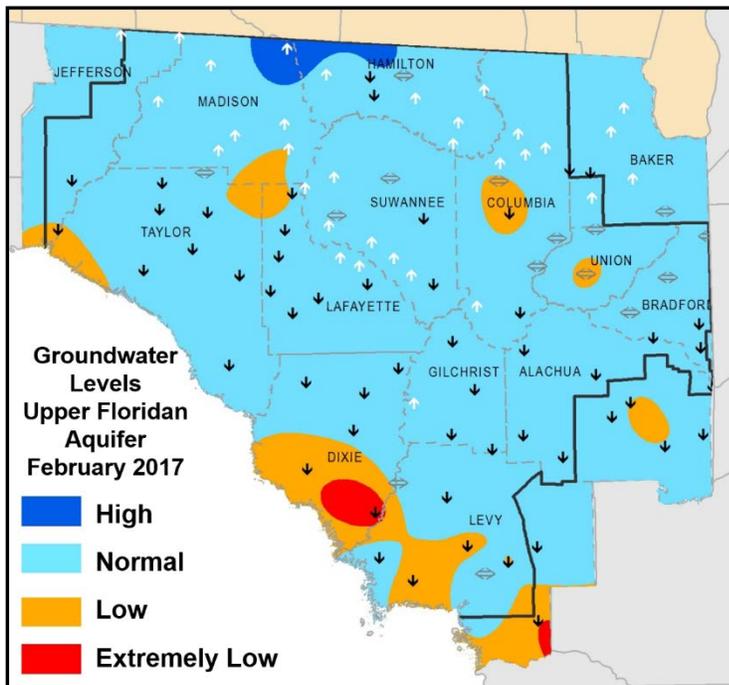
**RAINFALL DIPS IN FEBRUARY, IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION EVERPRESENT**

LIVE OAK, FLA, Mar. 14, 2017 – Rainfall across the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) dipped in February following a strong start in January. In conjunction with water usage changes for daylight savings time, the District encourages residents to monitor water usage and follow water-wise conservation practices.

“No matter the time of year or level of rainfall, water conservation is everyone’s responsibility and is core to the mission of the District,” said Noah Valenstein. “Wise water use is always important and ensures the long-term sustainability for the environment and users. Times of decreased rainfall are vital to remind us of the importance water provides for all resources.”

February rainfall averaged 1.1” across the District, down from the long-term average of 3.89.” Gilchrist and Levy counties saw the greatest amount of rainfall, both receiving over 1.3” of rain. The highest gaged monthly rainfall total of 1.73” was recorded at the rainfall station at Goose Pasture in southern Jefferson County. The northern part of the district saw the least amount of rain. The rainfall pattern was similar in the Georgia portion of the Suwannee River Basin, with no area receiving more than 50% of normal monthly rainfall.

“Rainfall patterns fluctuate from year to year and it’s important to view levels with a historic, long-term perspective,” said Tom Mirti, director for division of water resources with the District. “With the increase in data and information, water managers are better able to monitor rainfall and identify impacts.”



On a District-wide basis, Floridan Aquifer water levels decreased slightly during the month to the 41<sup>st</sup> percentile on average. However, almost half of the District’s long-term wells showed an increase in aquifer level. Primarily in the north; the average District aquifer level still rose by 0.3’.

For ways you can help conserve water and to view the full February Hydrological Report, visit [www.mysuwanneeriver.com](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com) under the under the “Water Resources” tab.

The mission of the Suwannee River Water Management District is to protect and manage water resources using science-based solutions to support natural systems

and the needs of the public. The District holds true to the belief of water for nature, water for people. Headquartered in Live Oak, Florida, the District serves 15 surrounding north-central Florida counties.

For more information about the District, visit [www.mysuwanneeriver.com](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter, search @SRWMD.

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