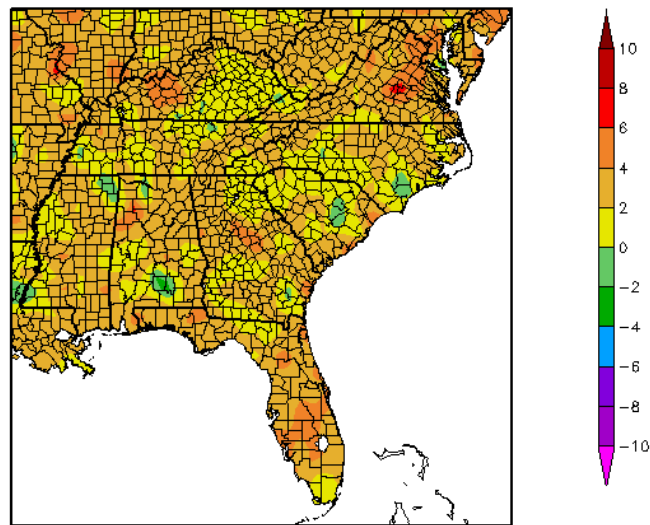


## February 2012 Climate Summary - Georgia

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February saw a continuation of above average temperatures (*Fig.1*) with several records set across the state. St. Simons Island reached a high temperature of 84° on the 24<sup>th</sup>, breaking the old record of 82° set in 1962. Athens tied a record high of 79° on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is the 7<sup>th</sup> highest maximum temperature since 1893. Augusta reached 82° on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, breaking a previous record of 81°.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
2/7/2012 - 3/7/2012



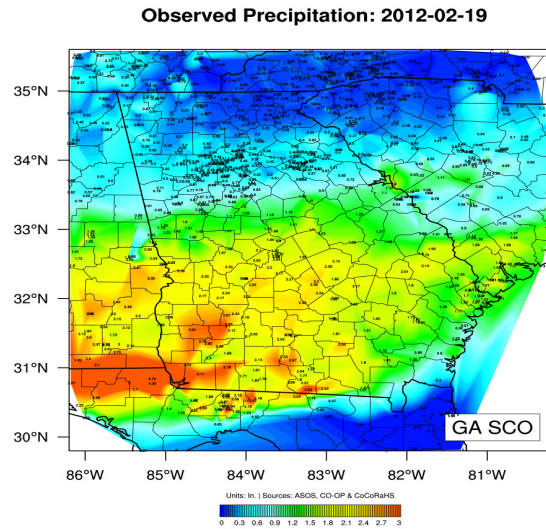
Generated 3/8/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

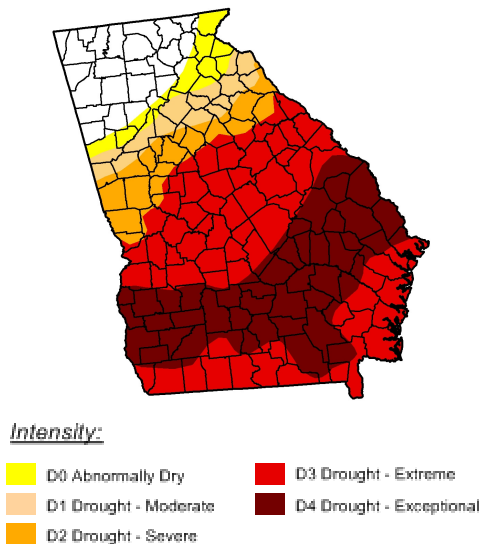
**Figure 1-** Temperature Departures from Normal across Southeast Region

Precipitation remained well below normal for areas across the state, including Atlanta (-2.23), Athens (-2.98), Columbus (-0.80), Macon (-1.84) and Augusta (-2.80). A few active weeks in early to mid-February brought some improvement to the region as several pulses of moisture crossed the state. The greatest 24hr. rainfall totals registered on Feb.18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> as an area of low pressure moved across the Gulf States and spread moisture across the region. The composite map of observed rainfall (*Fig. 2*) shows that upwards of three inches of much-needed rainfall fell in exceptional drought stricken areas of southwest Georgia from 7am on the 18<sup>th</sup> through 7am on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

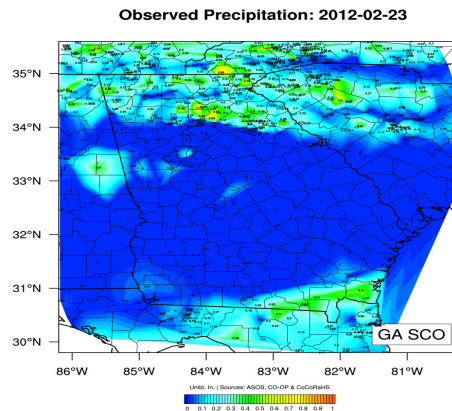
The rainfall led to some slight improvement in the D4 region (*Fig.3*), while the rest of the state remained with persistence. Another system moved through on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (*Fig. 4*), dropping a moderate amount of rainfall across northeast and southeast Georgia. Streamflows were low statewide except in the northern basins.



**Figure 2** – Composite of observed precipitation totals for 24 hr. period ending at 7am on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

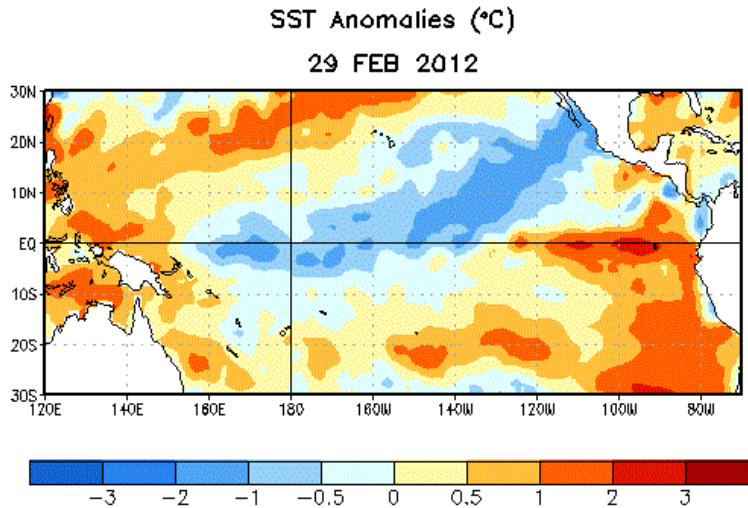


**Figure 3** – U.S. Drought Monitor for February 28, 2012.



**Figure 4** – Composite of observed precipitation totals for 24 hr. period ending at 7am on February 23<sup>rd</sup>

February also saw La Nina weaken, according to the Climate Prediction Center, as near-to-average sea surface temperatures developed in the eastern equatorial Pacific (*Fig. 5*).



**Figure 5**- Average sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C) for the week centered on 29 February 2012.

Although La Nina is expected to transition to ENSO-neutral conditions by the end of April, impacts are expected to persist into the upcoming season. This favors a continuation of above average temperatures and drier than average conditions across the state.