

### 3.4 Normal Weather Conditions

TTL calculates a subject site's normal weather conditions before performing site work to understand whether aquatic features in the landscape may exhibit certain characteristics related to current and near past hydrologic regime. TTL utilizes the USACE Antecedent Precipitation Tool (APT) Version 1.0 to evaluate climatological parameters when determining and documenting whether precipitation and other climatic variables are within the normal periodic range (i.e., seasonally, annually) for the delineation area. Included with the APT output are the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) and the WebWIMP Climatic Water Balance. The APT output indicates the following:

- APT Result –13 Normal Conditions
- Drought Index (PDSI) – Normal
- WebWIMP H2O Balance – Wet Season

The Palmer Drought Severity Index provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is accessed at <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/prelim/drought/palmer.html> and was used to cross-reference the APT results. The Palmer Drought Severity Index indicates that the region of the site experienced “mid-range” conditions during the weeks prior to the site visit.

As an additional cross-reference, the U.S. Drought Monitor was accessed and evaluated. The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced through a partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and NOAA. The most recent update of the U.S. Drought Monitor (March 16, 2021) Map of Georgia exhibited no drought conditions in the general vicinity of the review area.

The APT output, Palmer Drought Severity Index Map, and U.S Drought Monitor Map of Georgia are included in Appendix A.

## 4.0 WETLAND AND WATERS DELINEATION

### 4.1 Wetland Identification Methodology

TTL utilizes the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (USACE, 1987) and *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region* (USACE, 2010) technical guidelines for determining the presence of wetlands. This determination requires that a positive wetland indicator be present for each of the three parameters (hydrology, soil, and vegetation), with the exception of areas altered by recent human activities or natural events. During field activities, TTL assessed the project area for the presence of