section 2.3, RMSE-NRMSE equations should come after the first paragraph in which the are introduced. It seems that the current text may have had formatting or layout troubles.

Response: Thank you for pointing this out. We apologize for the formatting error in the previous draft. We have adjusted the layout in Section 2.3 so that the equations now appear exactly where they are first introduced in the text.

- In the same paragraph, the part "relative metrics like the Nash-Sutcliffe Efficiency (NSE) and R2 were intentionally excluded, as they can be misleadingly inflated in large-scale regional contexts where model predictions closely align with a strong regional observation mean" would benefit from one (or more) reference.
I think that these are only technical corrections. Thus, I recommend acceptance subject to these corrections and I do not need to see the corrected version."

Response: We thank the reviewer for this constructive suggestion. We completely agree that providing a reference strengthens the rationale for excluding relative metrics in this large-scale regional context. We have updated the manuscript to include citations to support this statement.

The revised sentence in the manuscript now reads:

“Relative metrics like the Nash-Sutcliffe Efficiency (NSE) and R2 were intentionally excluded, as they can be misleadingly inflated in large-scale regional contexts where model predictions closely align with a strong regional observation mean (Gupta et al., 2009; Klotz et al., 2024).”

Reference:

Gupta, H. V., Kling, H., Yilmaz, K. K., and Martinez, G. F. (2009). Decomposition of the mean squared error and NSE performance criteria: Implications for improving hydrological modelling. *Journal of hydrology* **377**, 80–91.

Klotz, D., Gauch, M., Kratzert, F., Nearing, G., and Zscheischler, J. (2024). The divide and measure nonconformity–how metrics can mislead when we evaluate on different data partitions. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences* **28**, 3665–3673.