



Georgia's
State Water Plan

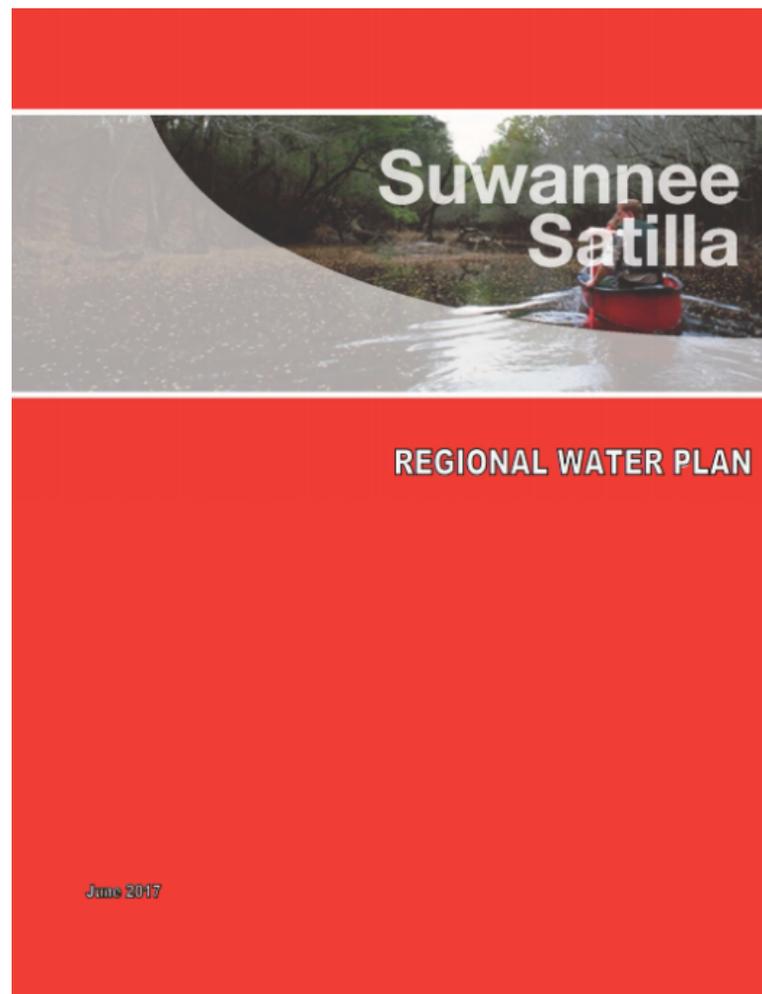
**2017 Regional Water Plan Update
Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Planning Council
Month, Day, 2017**

www.georgiawaterplanning.org



Presentation Outline

- Background of State Water Planning
- Findings During the Recent Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Plan Update
- Plan Recommendations and Next Steps





Drivers for Regional Water Planning

- Rapid population growth of Georgia
- Balance increasing and sometime conflicting demands
- Address water challenges in a more proactive and comprehensive manner
- Flexible and adaptive process utilizing a regional focus





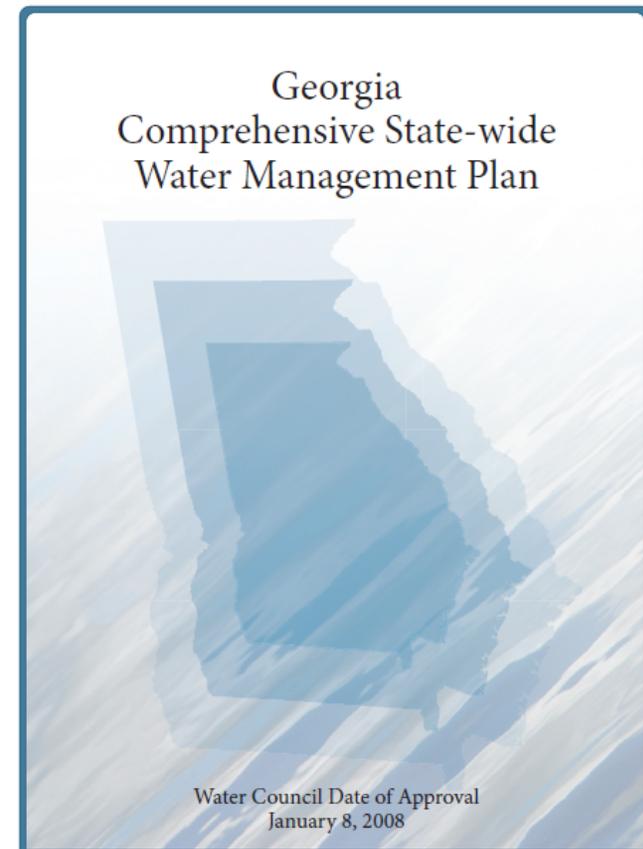
Regional Water Planning Efforts Statewide

Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Planning Act (2004)

- Georgia Water Council
- Stakeholder process
- State Water Plan (2008)

Regional Water Planning

- Councils appointed (2009)
- Initial plans adopted after 3-year planning process (2011)
- Updated plans adopted (2017)
- Plans reviewed, revised every five years



Georgia
Comprehensive State-wide
Water Management Plan

Water Council Date of Approval
January 8, 2008



Statewide Water Planning Policy Statement

“Georgia manages water resources in a sustainable manner to support the state’s economy, to protect public health and natural systems, and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens.”

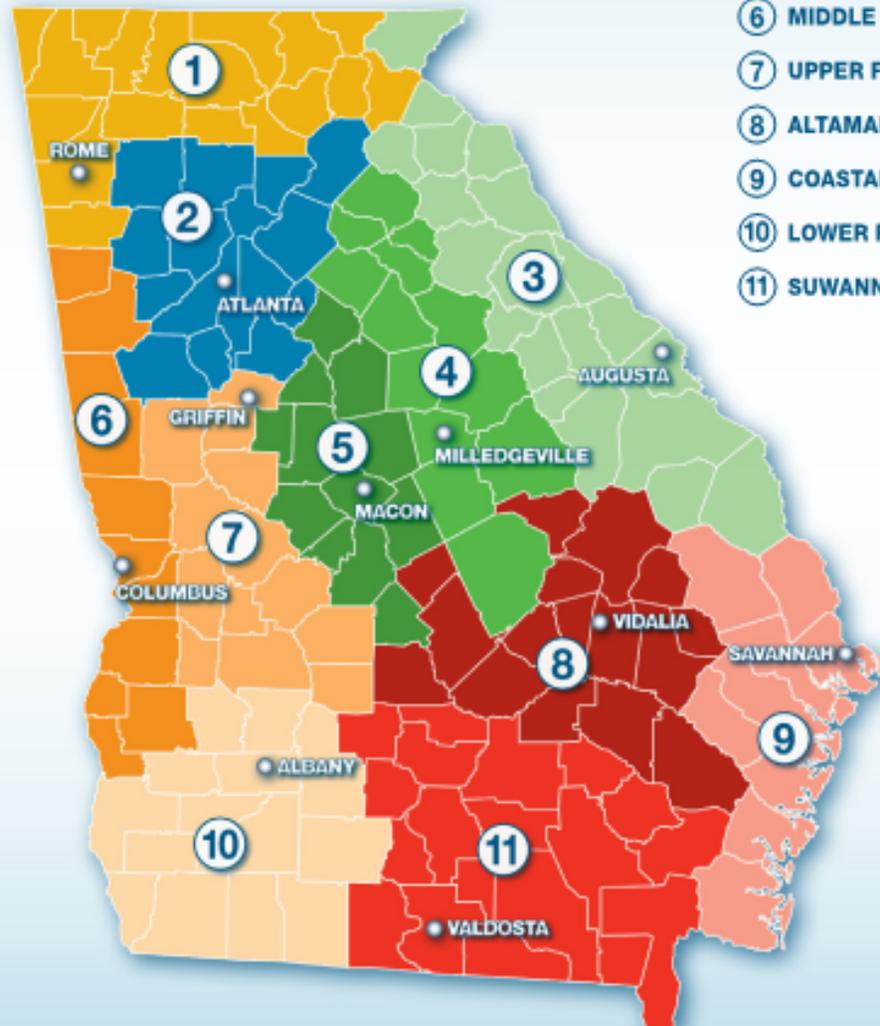


*2004 Comprehensive Statewide
Water Management Planning Act*



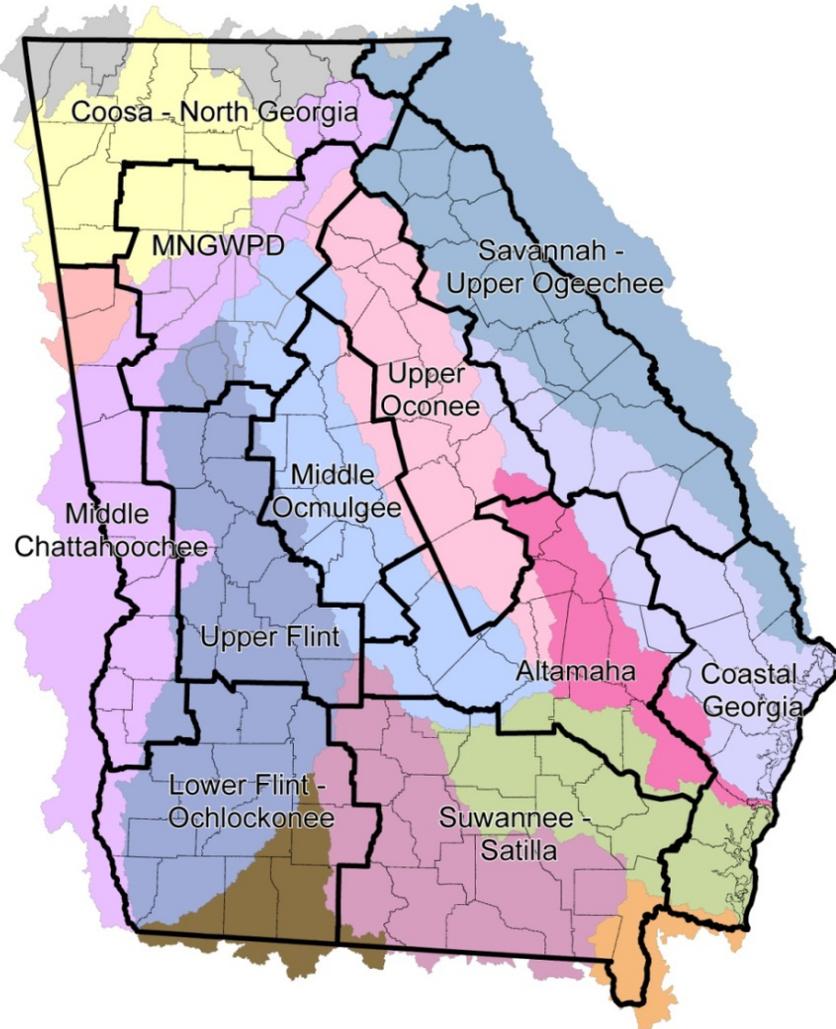
Georgia's Water Planning Regions

- ① COOSA-NORTH GEORGIA
- ② METRO WATER DISTRICT
- ③ SAVANNAH-UPPER OGEECHEE
- ④ UPPER OCONEE
- ⑤ MIDDLE OCMULGEE
- ⑥ MIDDLE CHATTAHOOCHEE
- ⑦ UPPER FLINT
- ⑧ ALTAMAHA
- ⑨ COASTAL
- ⑩ LOWER FLINT-OCHLOCKONEE
- ⑪ SUWANNEE-SATILLA





Water Planning Regions



0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

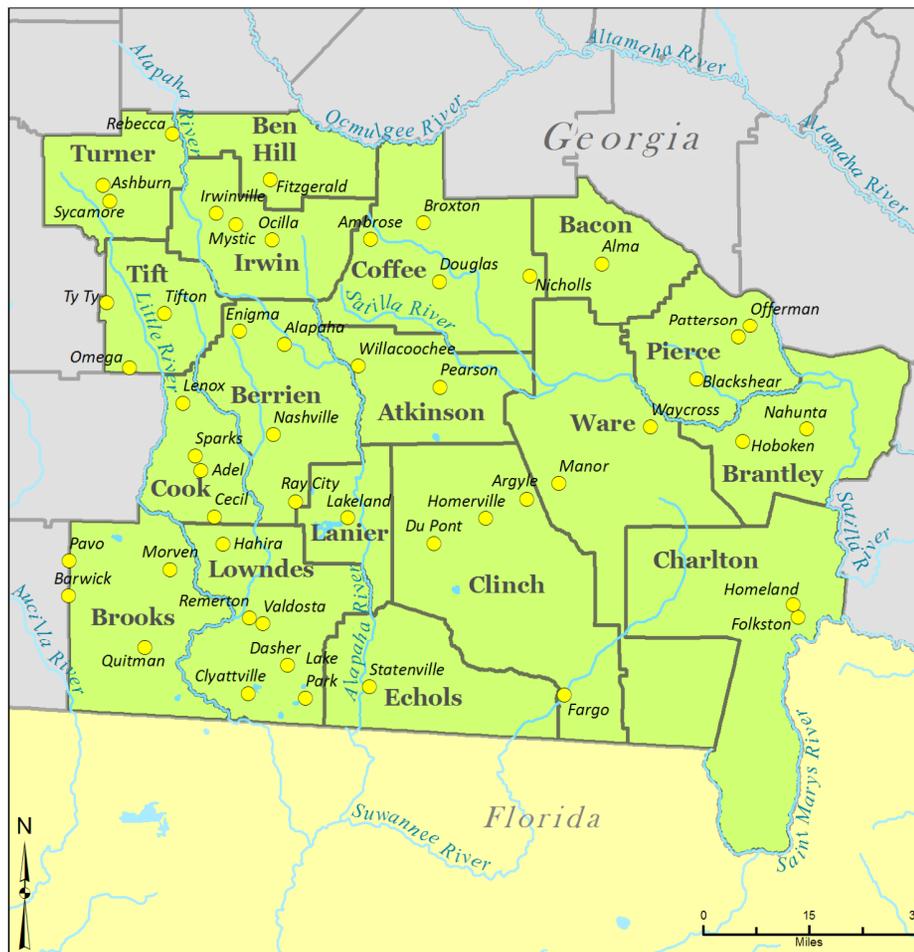


March 2009



Suwannee-Satilla Region

- 18 counties with 416,000 residents
- Major cities include: Valdosta, Tifton, and Douglas
- The major surface water resources in the region include the Alapaha, Satilla, St. Marys, Suwannee, and Withlacoochee Rivers



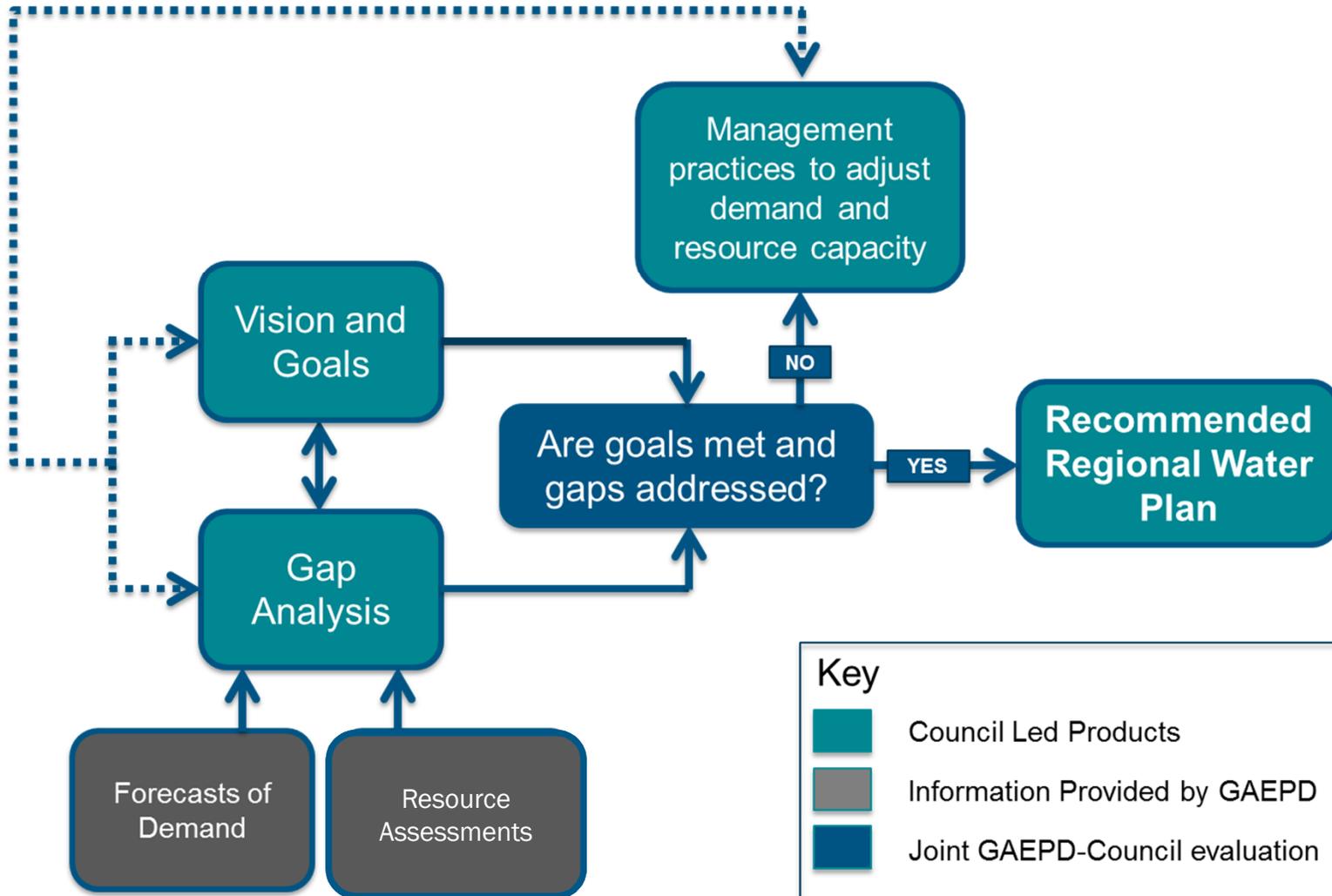


Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Planning Partners

- **Regional Water Planning (RWP) Councils**
 - Up to 30 members appointed by Governor, Lieutenant Governor, & House Speaker
 - Represent local governments, water users, & other water-related interests
- **Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)**
- **Planning contractors**
- **Other agencies**
- **Stakeholders**
- **Implementing actors**

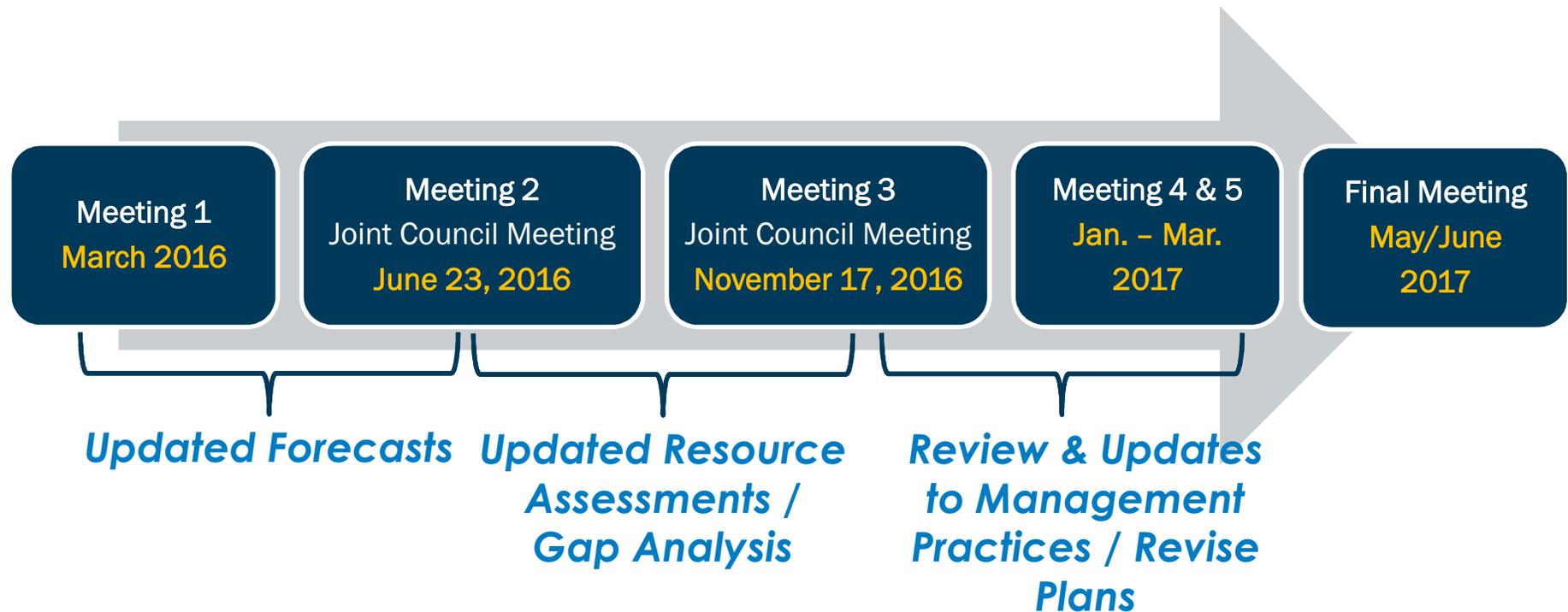


Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Planning Process





Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Planning Update Timeline

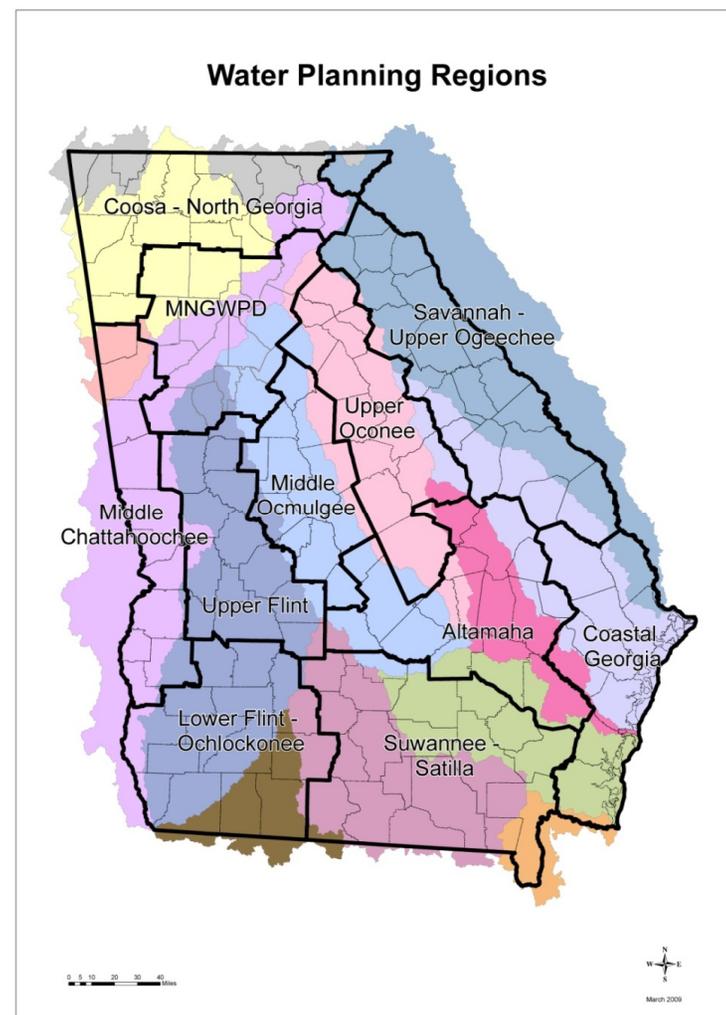


**Updated Regional Water Plan was
adopted by EPD in June 2017**



Components of the Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Plan

- Vision & goals
- Current & future water supply, wastewater needs
- Resource assessments
- Management practices
- Recommendations to the State





Regional Water Plan Update Components

- Updated Water Demand Forecasts
 - Population Forecasts
 - Municipal and Industrial Water & Wastewater Needs
 - Agricultural Water Needs
 - Thermoelectric Power Needs and Returns
- Updated Resource Assessments
 - Groundwater Availability
 - Surface Water Availability
 - Surface Water Quality



Regional Water Plan Update Components

- Updated Management Practices
 - Identified actions necessary to meet the current and future water needs of the region
 - Management Practices focus on:
 - Water Conservation
 - Water Supply
 - Wastewater and Water Quality
 - Information Needs
 - Recommendations to the State





Suwannee-Satilla Region Vision

Suwannee-Satilla Adopted Vision

as adopted by the Council 9.23.09

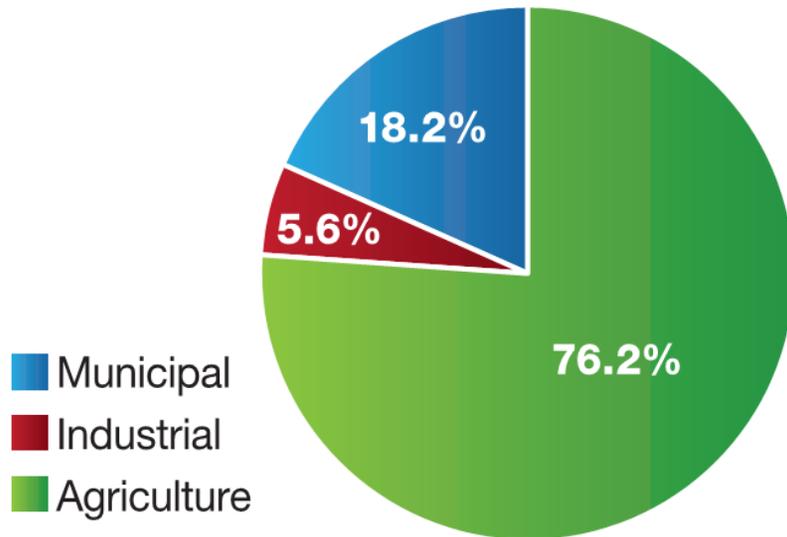
“The Vision of the Suwannee-Satilla Regional Council is to manage water resources in a sustainable manner under Georgia’s regulated riparian and regulated reasonable use laws to support the state’s and region’s economy, to protect public health and natural resources, and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens; while preserving the private property rights of Georgia’s landowners, and in consideration of the need to enhance resource augmentation and efficiency opportunities.”



Suwannee-Satilla Region Forecast of Demands

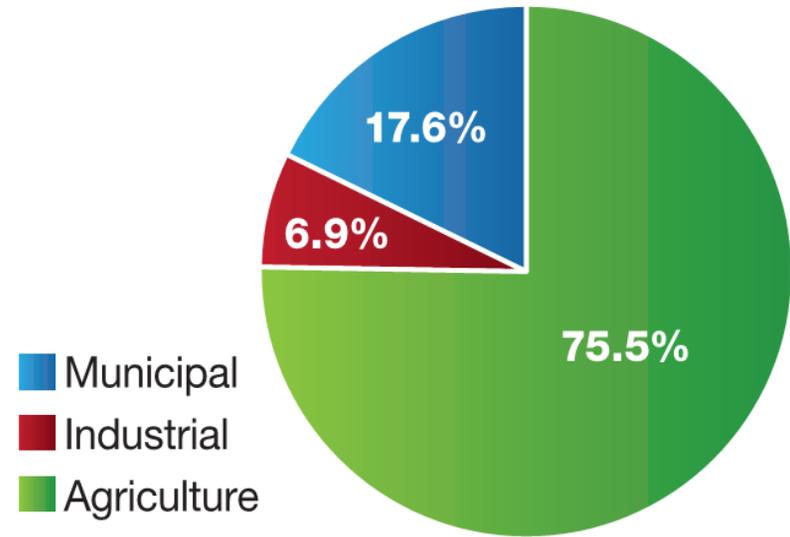
2015 WATER DEMAND

TOTAL = 276.3 MGD



2050 WATER DEMAND

TOTAL = 319.2 MGD





Suwannee-Satilla Region Resource Assessments

Current & Future Conditions

- Groundwater availability
- Surface water availability
- Surface water quality

Gaps

- Determine if there are potential shortfalls in current or future water availability or water quality



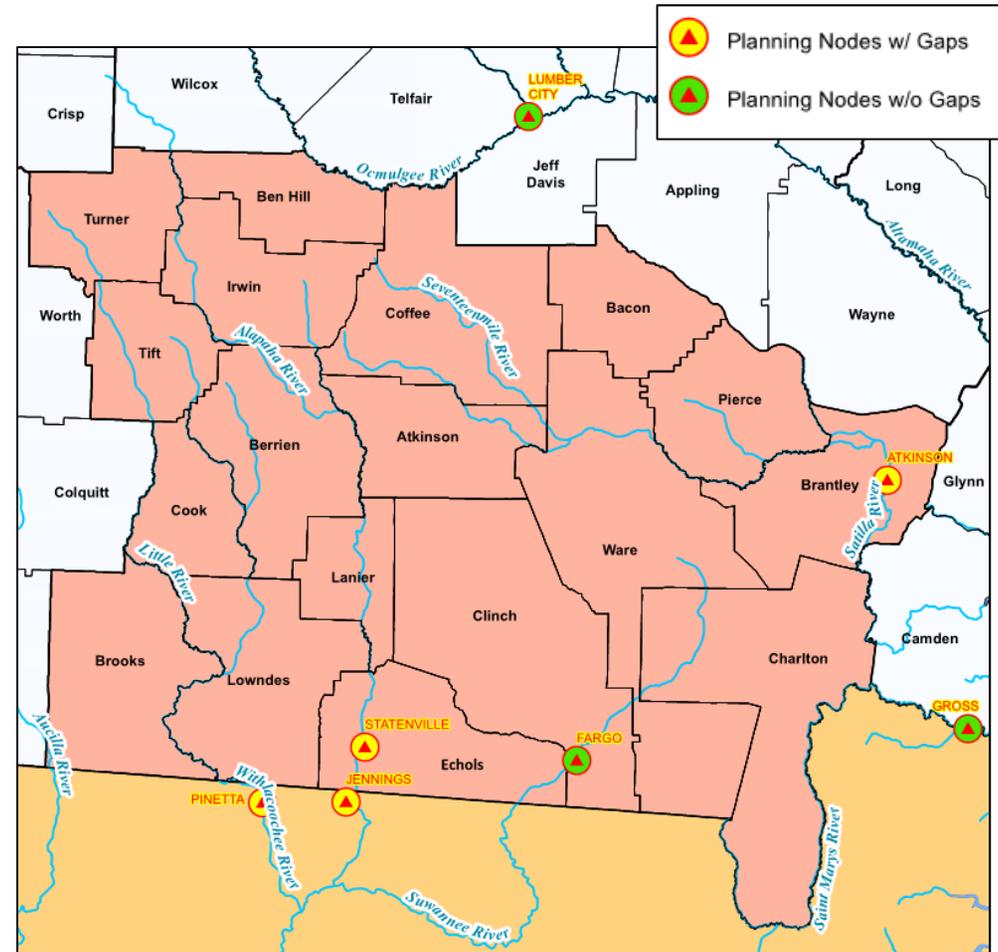
Suwannee-Satilla Region Groundwater Availability Assessment

- Suwannee-Satilla groundwater usage comes largely from the Floridan aquifer
- The Floridan aquifer has adequate capacity to meet 2050 water demands in the region
- Some counties may need additional permitted capacity as future demand is projected to exceed current permitted withdrawal limits



Suwannee-Satilla Region Surface Water Availability Assessment

- Surface water availability was assessed at locations with long-term records of measurements.
- A potential gap occurs when streamflow is projected to fall below targets for instream uses
- Potential gaps in streamflow identified on the Satilla River near Atkinson, on the Withlacoochee River near Pinetta, and on the Alapaha River near Jennings and Statenville.





Suwannee-Satilla Region Surface Water Quality Assessment

Issue

- Some stream segments may have limited ability to assimilate future pollutant loads, based on modeling
- Modeling focused on two primary indicators of water quality: dissolved oxygen and nutrients

Recommendations

- Improved wastewater treatment in some facilities
- Address non-point sources of pollution and existing water quality impairments



Suwannee-Satilla Region Impaired Surface Water Quality

- The Suwannee-Satilla Region has 83 impaired stream reaches with a total length of 946 miles.

Streams	
	Supporting
	Assessment Pending For
	Multiple*
	Bio (Fish Community)
	Dissolved Oxygen
	Fecal Coliform
	Mercury in Fish Tissue
	Not Evaluated





Suwannee-Satilla Region Management Practices

- The Suwannee-Satilla Plan describes over 70 management practices targeted toward current and future needs.
- Some representative practices include:
 - Water Conservation: support the goals contained in the 2010 Water Conservation Implementation Plan
 - Water Supply: provide incentives for dry-year releases from farm ponds
 - Water Quality: monitor nutrient pollution
 - Information Needs: confirm data on agricultural consumptive water use



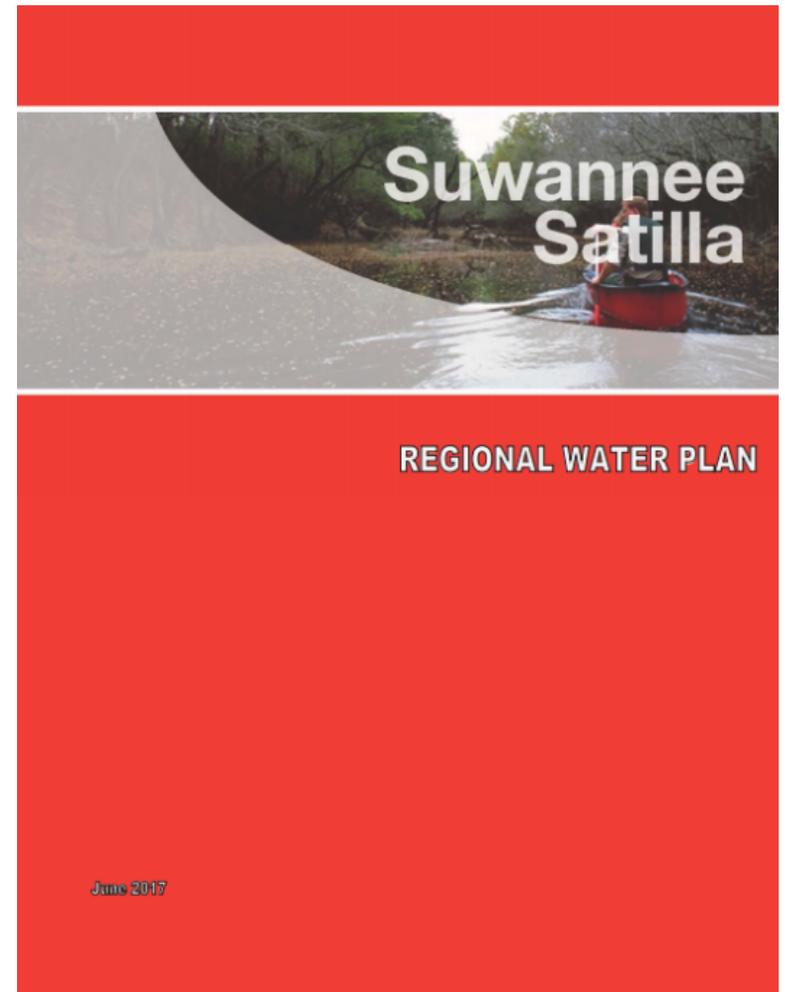
Suwannee-Satilla Region Recommendations To The State

- Focus on education, incentives, collaboration, cooperation and enabling and supporting plan implementers
- Institutionalize and fund water planning with a focus on funding and assistance on areas with shortfalls.
- Continue monitoring to help conserve Georgia's natural, historic, and cultural resources.
- Work to improve agricultural water use data collection and management.



Suwannee-Satilla Region Water Plan Implementation

- Council working to raise awareness of Plan
- Council identifying and coordinating with partners to facilitate implementation
- State providing funds to support Council activities, technical work
- Seed grants available to support Plan implementation
- Next review and revision of Plan in 2021 through 2022





Where To Find The Plan

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Georgia Environmental Protection Division website. The URL in the address bar is <https://epd.georgia.gov/suwannee-satilla-rwp-updates>. The page header includes the Georgia logo and the text 'Environmental Protection Division' and 'A Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources'. A navigation menu contains links for 'About EPD', 'Enforcement', 'Forms and Publications', 'Technical Guidance', 'Rules and Laws', 'EPD News', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area is titled 'Suwannee - Satilla RWP Updates' and contains a paragraph of text followed by a bulleted list of links. A red arrow points to the first link, 'Updated Regional Water Plan'. The footer of the page includes links for 'Site Map', 'Accessibility', 'DNR Accessibility Notice', 'Georgia Department of Natural Resources', and 'Privacy/Security'.

Home » Suwannee - Satilla RWP Updates

Suwannee - Satilla RWP Updates

The Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Planning Council was established in 2009 and completed an initial Regional Water Plan in 2011. The State Water Plan calls for the Council to review its Regional Water Plan (RWP) every five years. The Suwannee – Satilla Council began a review and revision process in 2016 that culminated in the Council finalizing an updated Regional Water Plan in June 2017 that was adopted by EPD in July 2017. The Suwannee – Satilla Council considered updated water and wastewater demand forecasts and resource assessment analyses in their preparation of the draft updated Regional Water Plan.

- [Updated Regional Water Plan](#)
- [Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memo](#)

For more information about the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Planning Council, please visit the [Council's Website](#).

Questions or concerns? Please contact Jennifer Welte at (404) 463-1694 or Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov

<https://epd.georgia.gov/suwannee-satilla-rwp-updates>



For More Information

epd.georgia.gov/updated-regional-water-plans

epd.georgia.gov/suwannee-satilla-rwp-updates

Council Member

Email address

Phone number