

Updates on Regional Water Planning

Jennifer Welte, Georgia EPD



Regional Water Planning

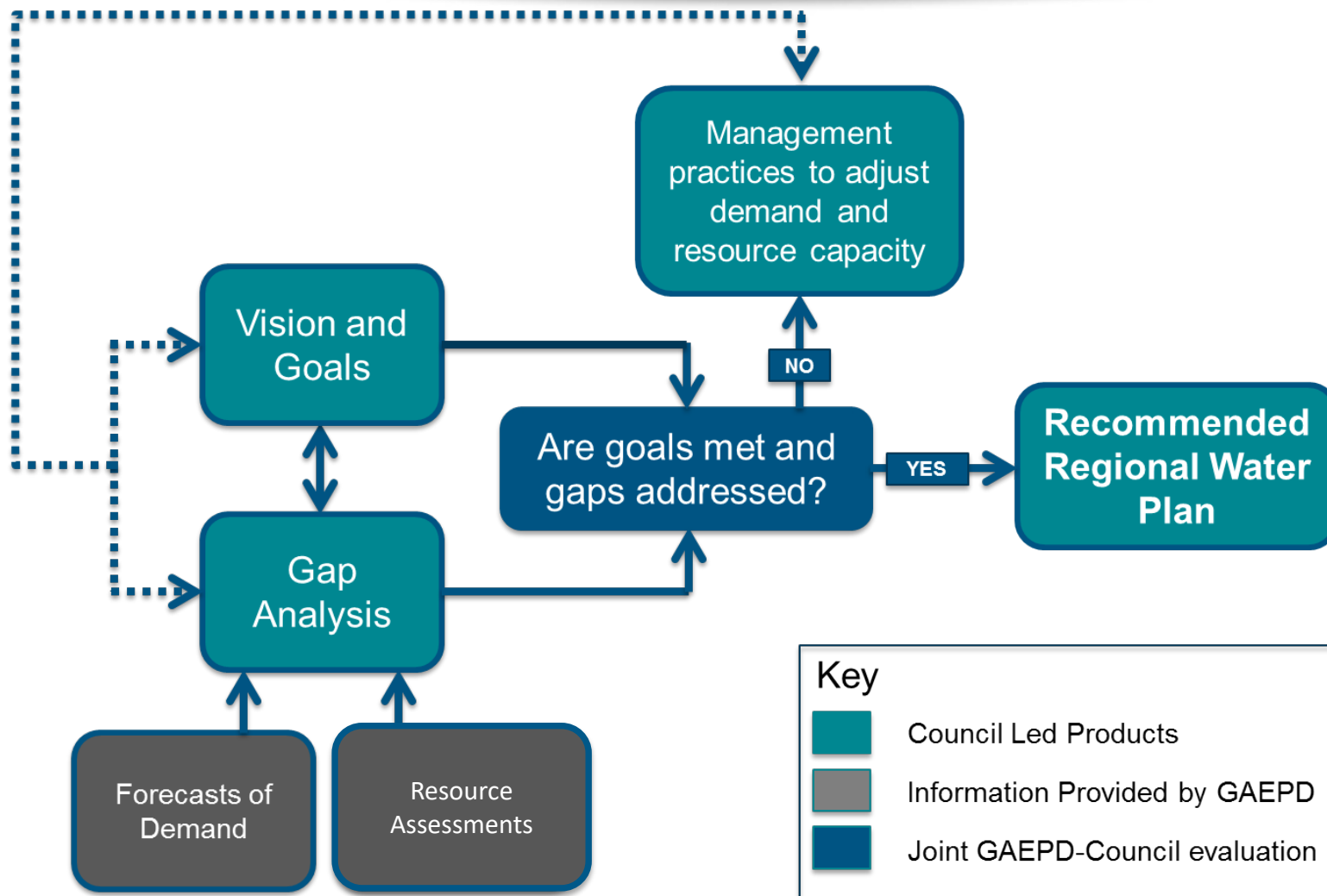
- Regional Water Plans reviewed and updated every 5 years
- Plan update process will begin in 2020, with Plans updated by June 2022
- Final schedule still being completed
- EPD working with contractors on developing updated information:
 - Forecasts of water demands
 - Resource Assessments



Regional Water Plans

- Regional Water Plans are used by:
 - EPD to guide water permitting decisions
 - GEFA to guide decisions regarding state loans for water-related projects
- Council meetings to include information on permitting and loan activities, and to highlight applicable regional projects

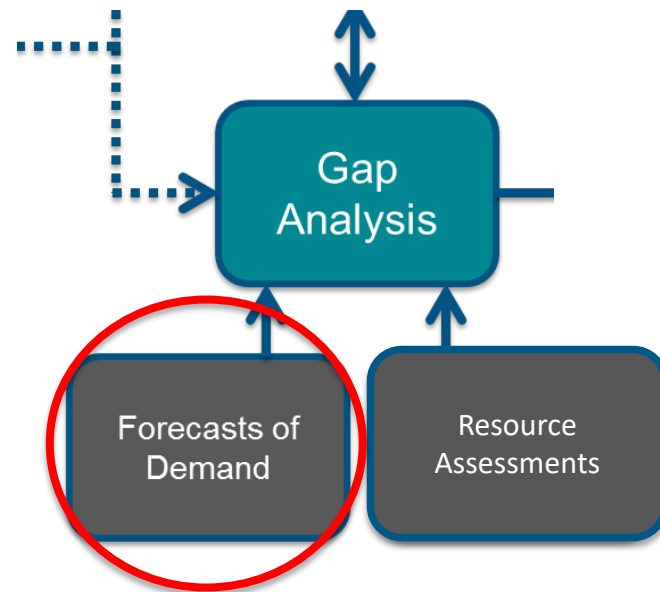
Steps in Developing Regional Water Plans



Forecasts of Demands

Water demands and wastewater returns are estimated under current and future conditions:

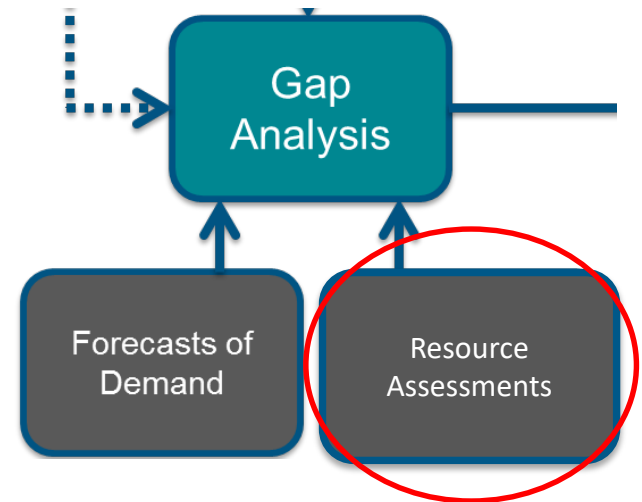
- Municipal
- Industrial
- Thermoelectric energy
- Agricultural



Resource Assessments

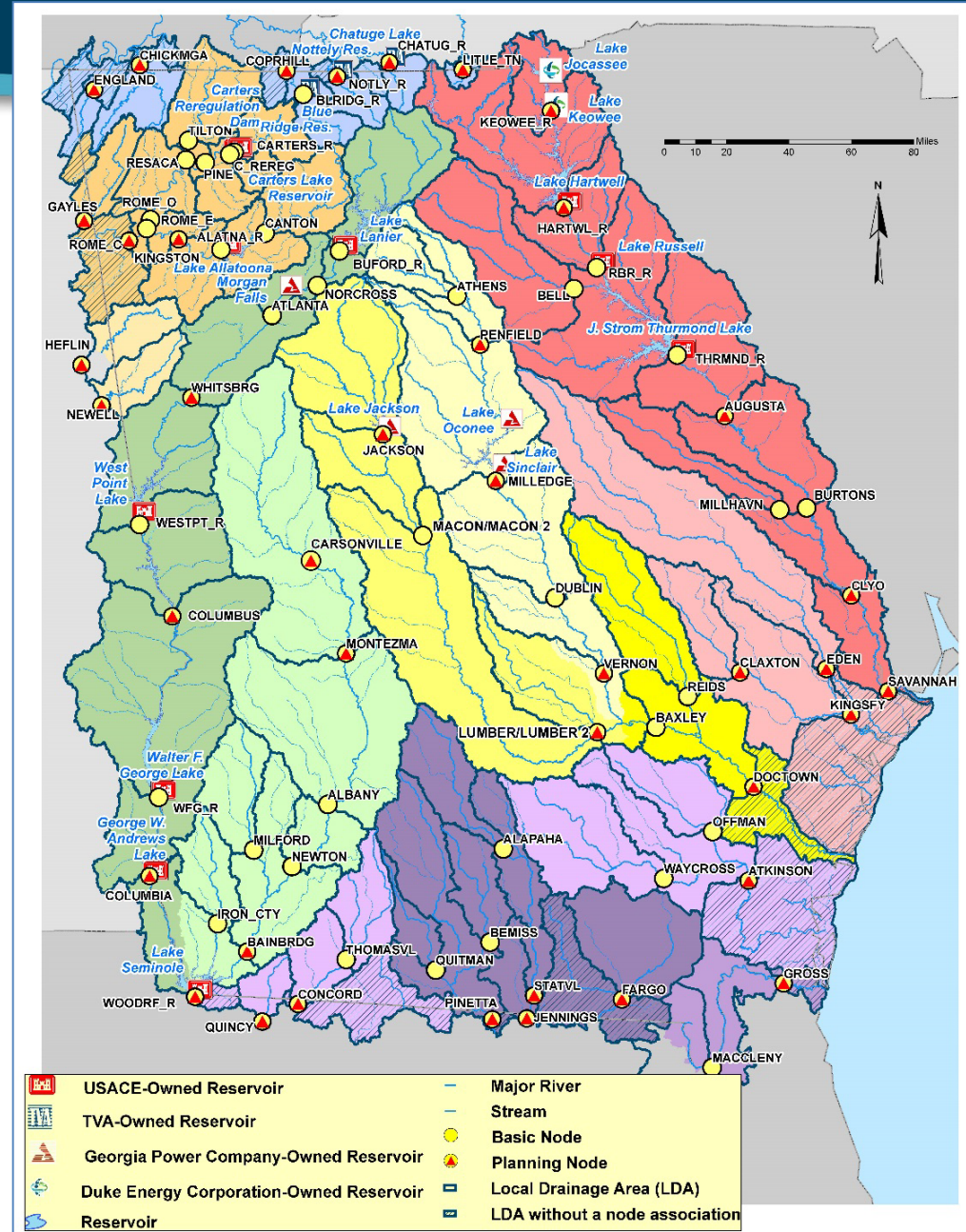
Resource Assessments are conducted under current and future conditions:

- Surface water availability
- Groundwater availability
- Surface water quality



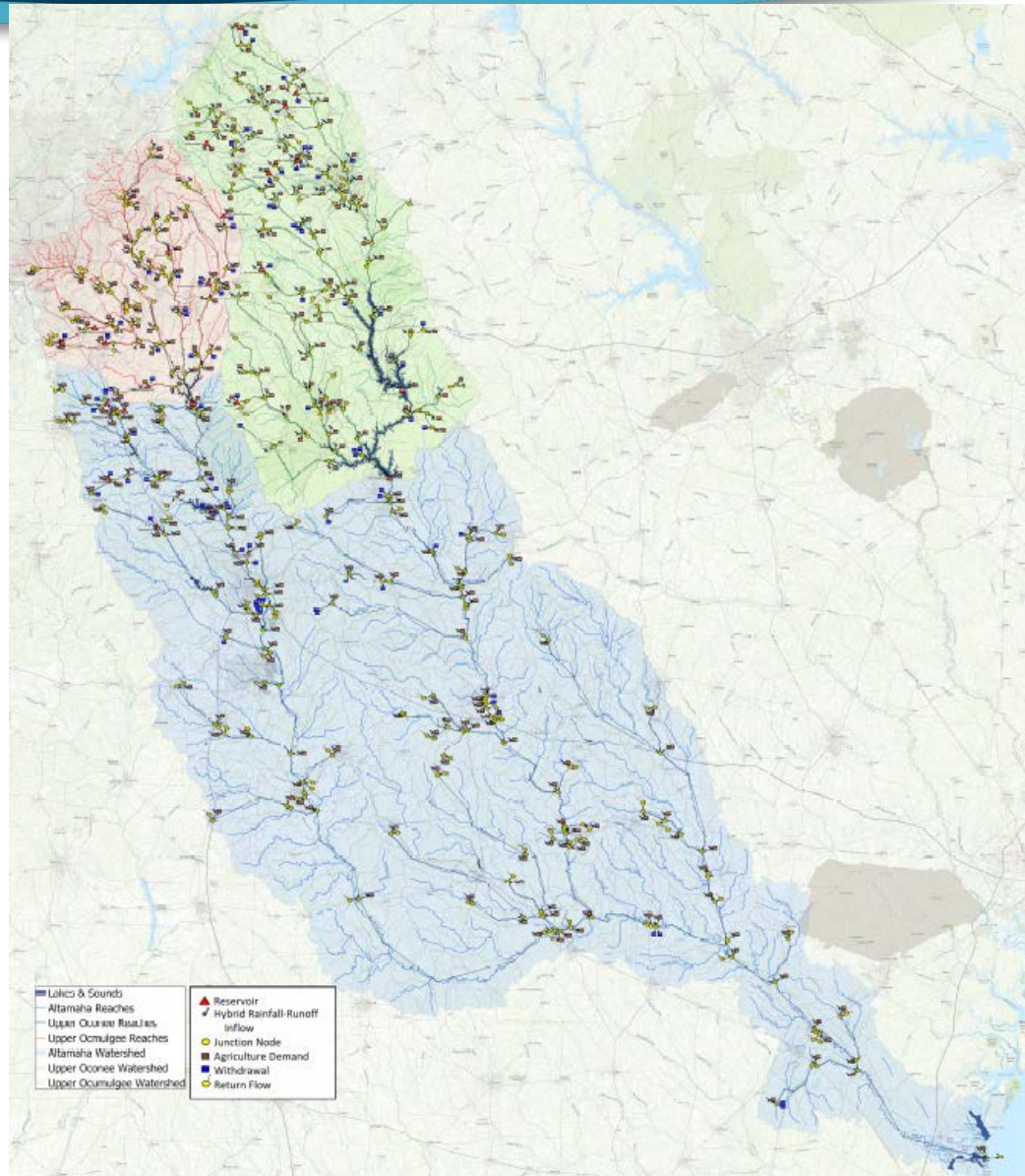
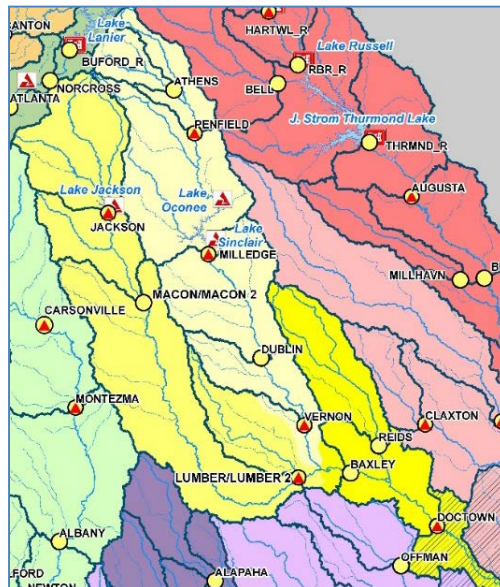
Surface Water Availability

- Hydrologic modeling of major rivers
- Analysis at “planning nodes” (correspond to long-term river gages)
- Develop unimpaired (“natural”) flows
- Current and future demand modeling scenarios
- Compare modeled flows to low flow thresholds



Surface Water Availability

- Pilot project in Oconee, Ocmulgee and Altamaha basins
- Develop finer-scale hydrologic models (nodes at discharge and withdrawal points, at reservoirs and at flow gages)



Georgia EPD Updates

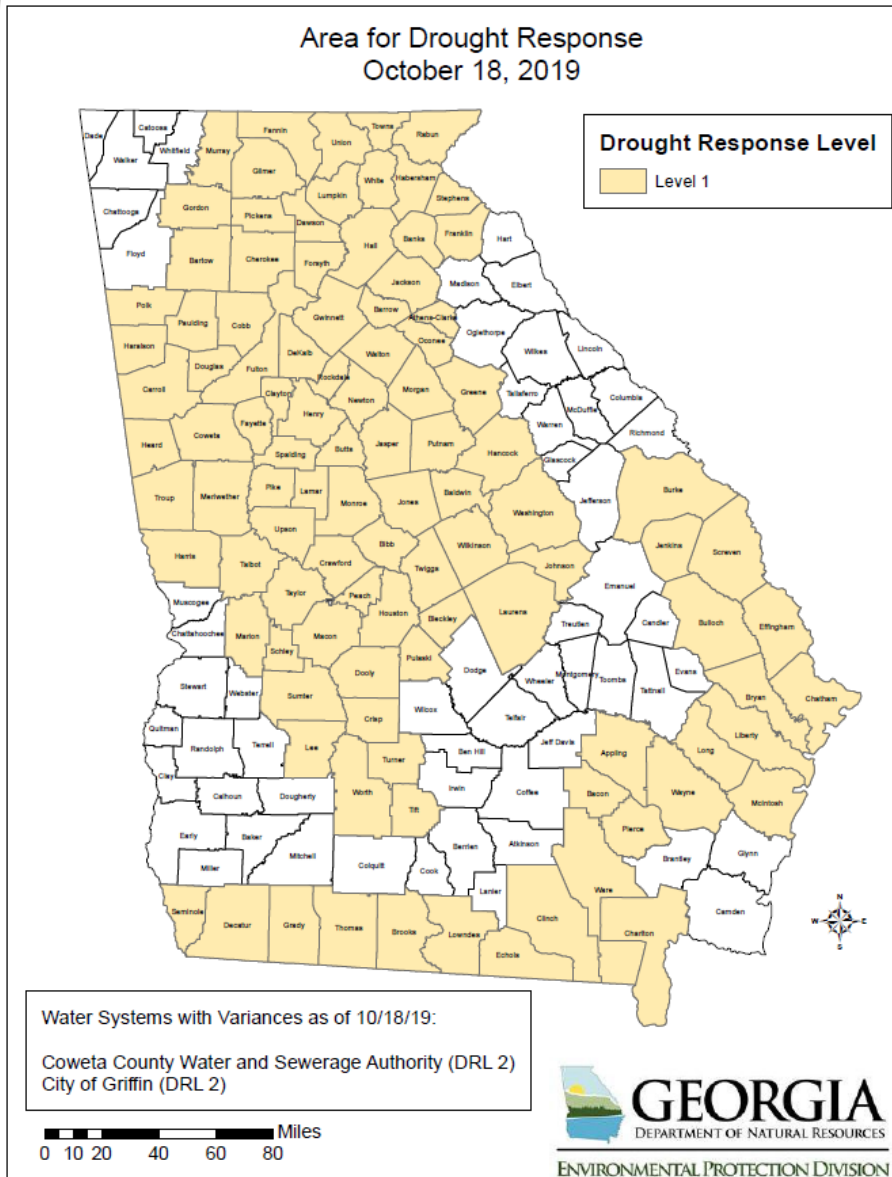
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Florida v. Georgia

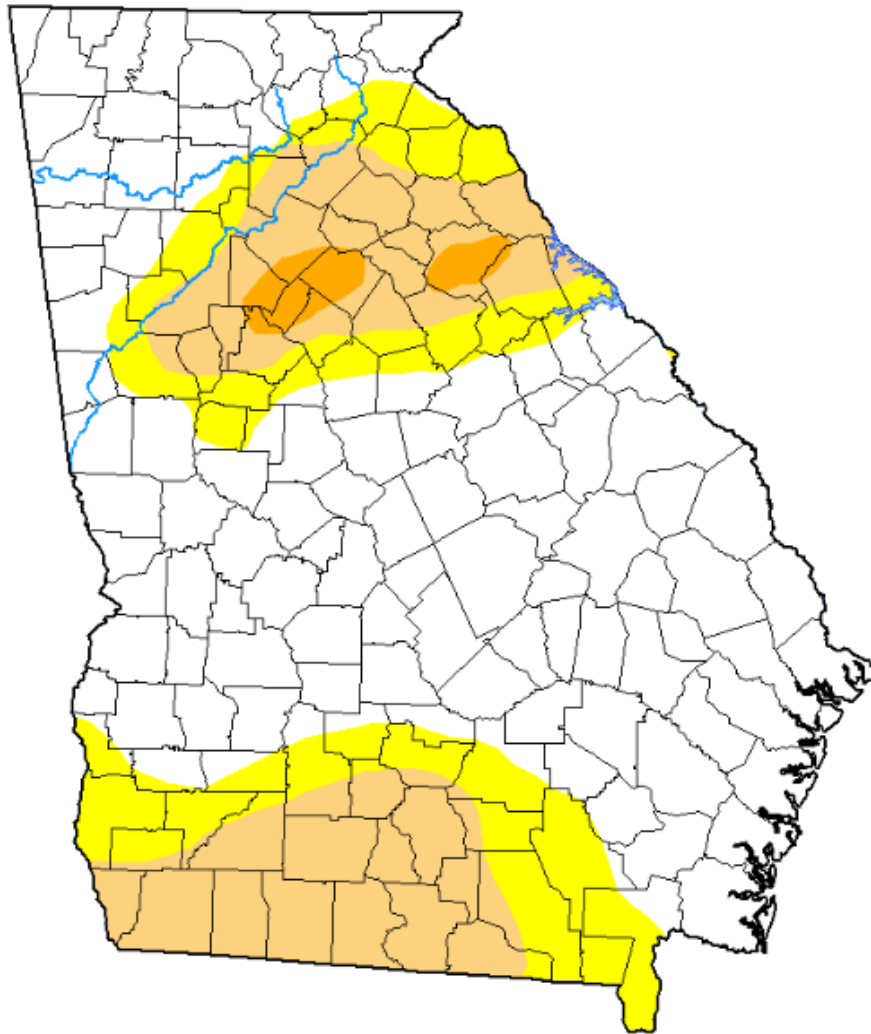
- Florida filed complaint with S. Ct. in Oct. 2013
- Special Master Lancaster appointed
 - Trial held Oct. 31 – Dec. 1, 2016
 - Special Master's Report on Feb. 14, 2017
- Supreme Court
 - Oral arguments on Jan. 8, 2018
 - Ruling (remand) on June 27, 2018
- Special Master Kelly appointed on Aug. 9, 2018
 - Briefings in Jan. – Feb. 2019
 - Oral arguments held on Nov. 7, 2019

Drought Response Declaration



- Monitoring of climatic indicators
- Input from water supply providers/systems
- Drought Indicators Report
- Drought Response Level 1 declaration on 10/18/19
 - Public water systems must conduct public information campaigns on water conservation
- Variances

U.S. Drought Monitor



Map released: Thurs. December 5, 2019

Data valid: December 3, 2019 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity:

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Albany CSO

- Compliance and enforcement
- Permit renewal in process
- Facility upgrades

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