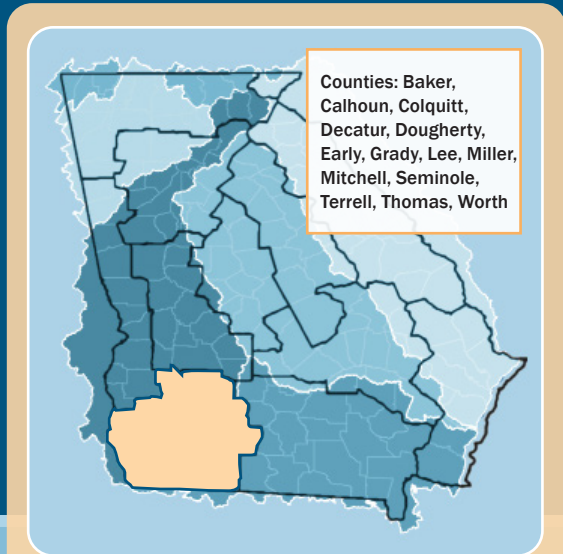


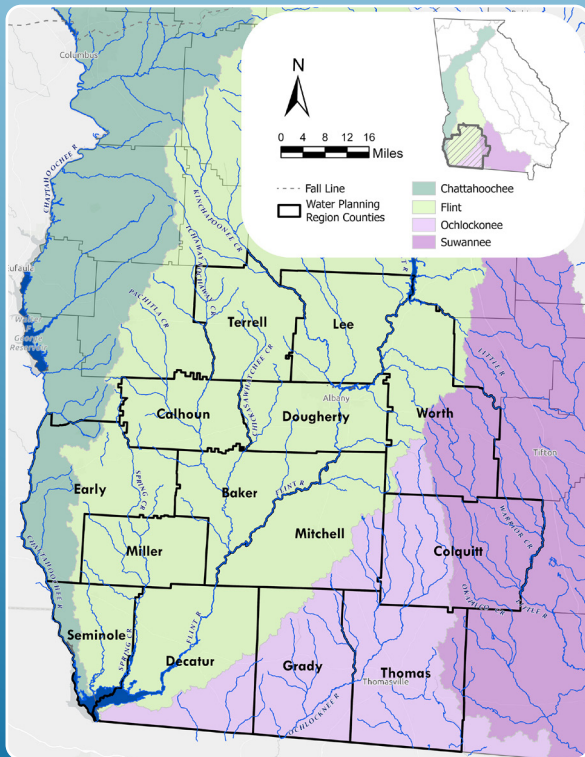
LOWER FLINT-POCHLOCKONEE REGION

BACKGROUND

The Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Regional Water Plan (the Plan) was first adopted in 2011, and revised plans were adopted in 2017 and 2023. The Plan is the product of the work of the Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Regional Water Planning Council (the Council). The Regional Water Plan outlines strategies to meet water needs through 2060 and fulfill the Council's vision and goals for the water planning region. Major water resources in the water planning region include the Flint River Basin and the Clayton, Claiborne, and Floridan Aquifers.



KEY WATER FEATURES OF THE LOWER FLINT-POCHLOCKONEE REGION



KEY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL IN THE 2023 PLAN

1. Water demand and supply management practices to address potential challenges in water availability
2. Regional economic activities that are dependent on water availability
3. Habitat conservation planning to reduce uncertainties over agricultural water security and rare species conservation
4. Coordination with neighboring water planning councils and regional environmental agencies
5. Targeted water quality issues



Flint River, Baker County

SUMMARY OF RESOURCE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY

A model-based assessment of groundwater availability in the region estimated that groundwater use is below the sustainable yield range for the Claiborne Aquifer and above the sustainable yield range for the Floridan Aquifer in the Dougherty Plain. Aquifer use above the estimated sustainable yield range does not necessarily mean the aquifer is likely to be exhausted by use; management practices may be needed to meet long-term demands. Also, because of the interconnected nature of the Floridan Aquifer and surface water sources in this area, drawdowns in the aquifer in areas that intersect a stream will generally result in streamflows replenishing the aquifer.

SURFACE WATER AVAILABILITY

A model-based assessment of surface water availability in the region identified water and wastewater treatment facilities where water availability may not meet current or future needs for water supply or wastewater assimilation. These challenges will be addressed, as needed, through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) permitting process. The model also evaluated surface water availability relative to Council-identified metrics for streamflow Council-identified flow metrics in Ichawaynochaway Creek, Spring Creek, and the Flint River mainstem. The Council considered these results to inform its assessment of water availability and streamflow conditions, especially during drought periods.

SURFACE WATER QUALITY

Water quality model results indicated increasing availability of assimilative capacity in some areas of the Flint River Basin as treated wastewater discharge permit requirements become more stringent in the future. In other areas, model results indicate limited or exceeded availability of assimilative capacity under future conditions. In these areas, more non-point source management practices may be needed to improve assimilative capacity in the future.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

The Plan outlines seventeen management practices to address potential challenges in water availability and water quality and fulfill the Council's vision and goals. The Council identified three high priority management practices in the Plan, and those are listed below. See Section 6 of the plan for a detailed description of all management practices and recommendations.

DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Continue to improve agricultural water use efficiency through innovation and technology.

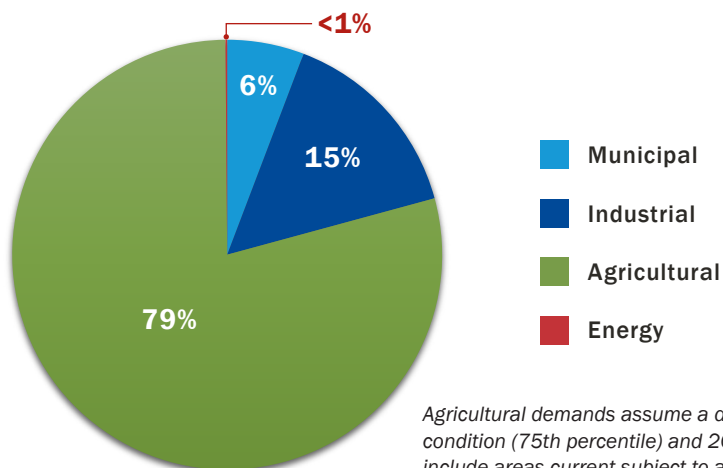
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT AND FLOW AUGMENTATION

Develop groundwater source alternatives to replace surface water withdrawals during drought, where site specific evaluation indicates that this practice is practical and will not harm environmental resources.

Encourage the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to provide habitat protection for endangered and threatened freshwater mussels in the Flint River Basin while improving water security for irrigation water supply needs within the region.

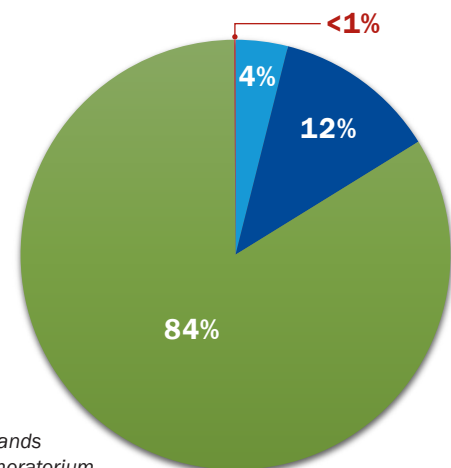
2020 WATER DEMAND

TOTAL = 793 MGD



2060 WATER DEMAND

TOTAL = 987 MGD



Agricultural demands assume a dry year condition (75th percentile) and 2060 demands include areas current subject to a permit moratorium (see Plan sections 4.3 and 5.1 for more details).