

Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Planning Council Meeting

May 24, 2023



**GEORGIA
WATER PLANNING**

waterplanning.georgia.gov

A scenic background image featuring a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb positioned slightly to the right of the center, partially obscured by a dark, silhouetted treeline. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and light blue. The water in the foreground reflects the warm colors of the sky and the sun, creating a shimmering effect. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Council Business

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Council Business

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approve meeting summary from March 14, 2023, Council Meeting
- Approve meeting agenda

Council Meeting Agenda



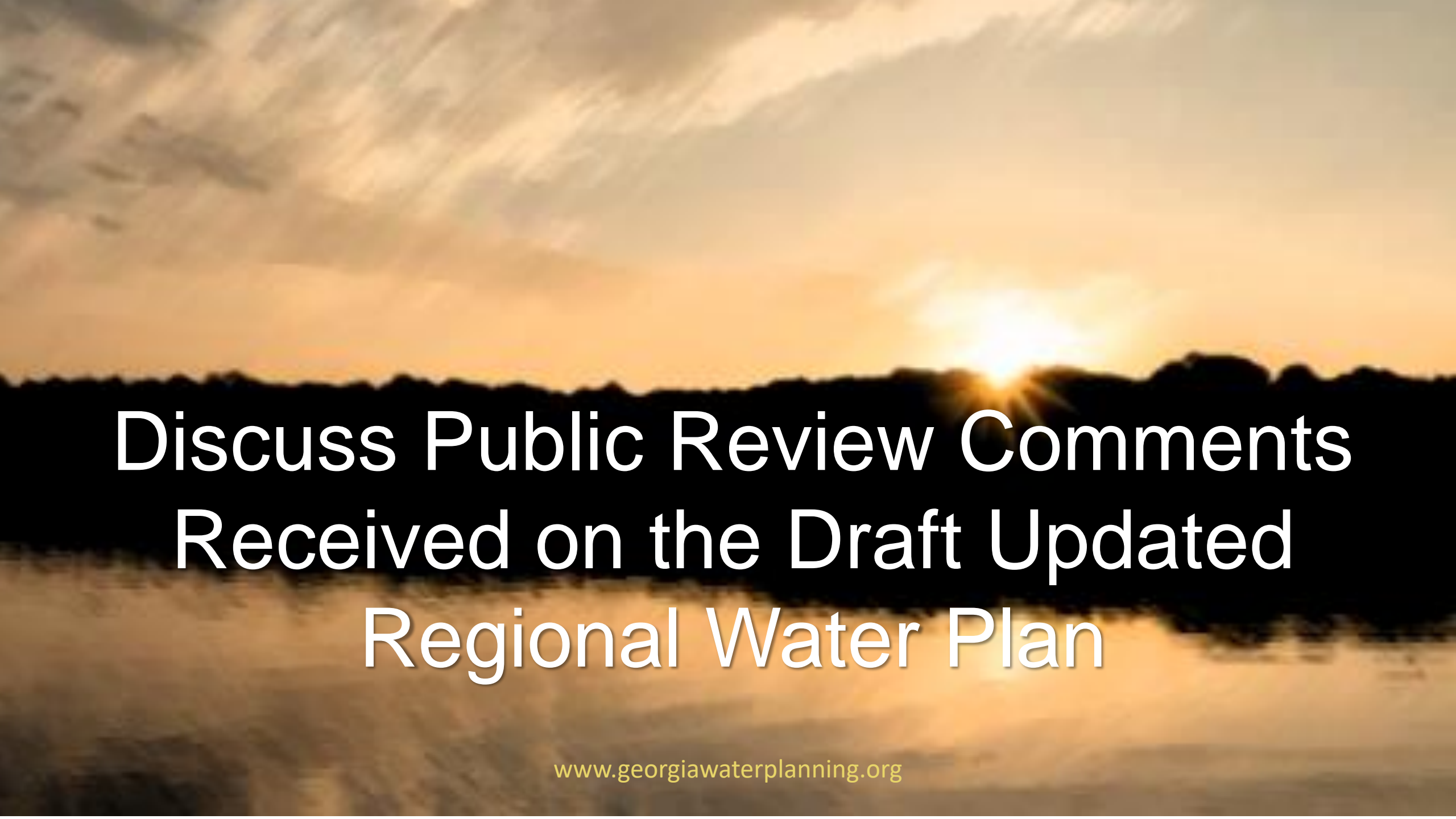
Georgia's State Water Plan

Council Meeting
Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Council
Draft Agenda – May 24, 2023

Objectives:

- 1) Discuss Public Review Comments Received on the Draft Updated Regional Water Plan
- 2) Receive updates from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Lake Beatrice Seed Grant Project
- 3) Receive updates from Suwannee River Water Management District regarding on-going technical work
- 4) Receive updates on Seed Grants
- 5) Receive updates from EPD
- 6) Review and Discussion of Regional Water Plan Updating Process and Schedule to Finalize Updated Plan

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. | Welcome and Introductions |
| | Approve meeting minutes from March 14, 2023, Council Meeting and Approve meeting agenda |
| 10:45 – 11:00 a.m. | Review and Discuss Public Review Comments Received on the Draft Updated Regional Water Plan (Shayne Wood, CDM Smith) |
| 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. | Updates on the Lake Beatrice Seed Grant Project (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) |
| 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. | Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) presentation on Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) (Sean King, SRWMD) |
| 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 – 1:15 p.m. | Seed Grant Updates (Shayne Wood, CDM Smith) |
| 1:15 – 1:30 p.m. | Updates from EPD (Cliff Lewis, Georgia EPD) |
| 1:30 – 1:45 p.m. | Review and Discussion of Regional Water Plan Updating Process and Schedule to Finalize Updated Plan (Shayne Wood, CDM Smith) |
| 1:45 – 2:00 p.m. | Discussion/Next Steps and Public Comments /Local Elected Official Comments |
| 2:00 p.m. | Adjourn |

A sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The water in the foreground is calm, showing clear reflections of the sun and clouds. A dark silhouette of a treeline or distant shore is visible just above the water.

Discuss Public Review Comments Received on the Draft Updated Regional Water Plan

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Summary of Public Review Comments

- 15 total comments received from three organizations
 - Southern Georgia Regional Commission
 - St. Marys River Management Committee
 - Wwals Watershed Coalition
- Comments were in ES, Section 2, Section 4 and Section 7
- Screened for “Plug and Play” (P&P), “Needs Discussion” (ND) or No Change (NC)
- For example, of a P&P, one comment was to correct a typo in the ES where we had “27” should be “27%” – ones like these we will fix
- We will review the “ND” comments with you later in today’s agenda
- There were 3 other general comments from a UGA professor that were general in nature and related to all 10 RWPs across Georgia. EPD is working on draft response to these comments but no changes are anticipated to the RWPs as a result of these comments.

A sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. A dark, silhouetted shoreline separates the sky from the water.

Update Presentation from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Lake Beatrice Seed Grant Project

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A scenic background image showing a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, partially obscured by dark, silhouetted trees and land. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds, and the water in the foreground reflects the warm light from the sun.

Presentation from Suwannee River Water Management District on technical work related to MFLs

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A scenic photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, partially obscured by dark, silhouetted trees and land. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and wispy clouds. The water in the foreground reflects the warm colors of the sunset, creating a shimmering effect. The word "Lunch" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the dark silhouette of the land.

Lunch

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A scenic photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. The text "Seed Grant Updates" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Seed Grant Updates

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Seed Grant Updates

- Notes for up-coming grant cycle:
 - Discuss gameplan for future Seed Grant Projects and the Application Process
 - Grant awards are limited to \$75,000 and the project period is limited to thirty (30) months in duration.
 - Applicants must attend a pre-application meeting with EPD by October 15th each year and applications must be e-mailed by October each year.
 - Contact Joyce McClain, (470) 251-2761, joyce.mcclain@dnr.ga.gov
- Others or New Grant Ideas?

A scenic photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, orange-hued clouds. The text "Updates from EPD" is overlaid in white, centered horizontally.

Updates from EPD

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A sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. Silhouetted trees and land are visible along the horizon line.

Review and Discussion of Regional Water Plan Updating Process and Schedule to Finalize Updated Plan

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Discussion/Next Steps

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Regional Commission's Regional Plan provides guidance to regional and local business leaders, local governments, state and federal agencies, and citizens to promote quality growth in region. It is a vision of the future for the region and includes quality community based objectives related to water resources such as water supply, wastewater, and stormwater management. A key component is the establishment of "performance standards", which are actions, activities, or programs a local government can implement or participate in that will advance their efforts to meet the vision of the Regional Plan. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Regional Plan defines two achievement thresholds (Minimum and Excellence), which are attained by implementing the performance standards. ~~Local governments are required to achieve the~~

2-5

Section 2 The Suwannee-Satilla Water Planning Region

SUWANNEE SATILLA | REGIONAL WATER PLAN

~~Minimum Standard to maintain their Qualified Local Government status, which qualifies them for certain state funding. By achieving the Excellence Standard, a local government may be eligible for special incentives. The Department of Community Affairs maintains the list of Qualified Local Governments (QLG) for the state of Georgia. Local governments remain eligible for State funding (i.e., CDBG grants, GEFA loans, etc.) while they are current on their QLG status. QLG status is maintained by completing required reports and by updating the local government's Comprehensive Plan every five years. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission completed their Regional Plan in 2013 and it was updated in 2018. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission is expected to adopt their updated regional plan by September 1, 2023.~~

Item Reference No.	Date Received	Document/Specific Section	Page	By (Name)	Affiliation	Comment - [hover and see note]
1		Section 2	2-5		Southern	On page 2-5 on the last line on the page, it is stated that Local Governments are required to achieve the Minimum Standard to maintain the QLG status – however it is DCA who controls if a local government were to lose their QLG (per this website: http://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/planning.asp) It would be preferable to state that local governments are required to achieve the minimum standards as required by DCA (rather than by the RC Minimum Standards). P&P
2	4/3/2023	Section 2	2-6	Elizabeth Backe	Georgia Regional Commission	On page 2-6 on the last line of the page, we (SGRC) are currently drafting an update to our Regional Plan and we are due to adopt the update prior to July 1, 2023
3		Section 7	7-28			On page 7-28 for the 4th bullet point down the page, the SGRC no longer has an Environmental Program nor do we have an Environmental Project Manager therefore, this recommendation for expanding water quality monitoring of tributaries may no longer be an item that should be included.

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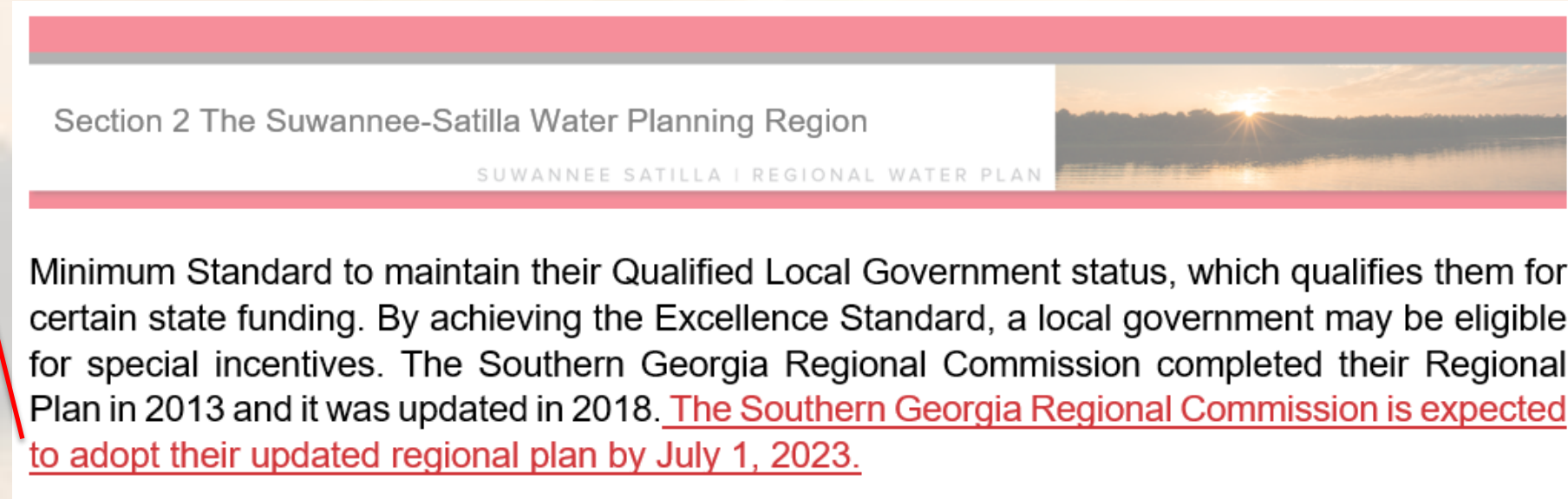
SUWANNEE SATILLA | REGIONAL WATER PLAN

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implementation. If additional rules or other administrative or regulatory actions are deemed necessary, the State should work with Councils to help ensure workable solutions.

The following specific recommendations to the State are provided to help aid in the successful implementation of the Plan.


Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

- Consider "institutionalizing" planning. This would entail a long-term commitment of staff and funding to: monitor and support Plan recommendations; coordinate improved data collection, management and analysis; continue to develop and improve Resource Assessment tools; and help provide funding, permitting, and technical support to address challenges and water resource needs.
- Work with EPD's Agricultural Water Metering Program, as well as other partners, including but not limited to, the University of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Agriculture, to improve agricultural water use data collection and management. This effort would focus on refining source(s) of supply for multiple irrigation sources, continuing to assess data on crop water requirements, evaluating the effects of farm ponds on direct irrigation withdrawals and the hydrologic cycle, and further research on crop consumptive use. This data in turn should be coordinated with Resource Assessment tools to ensure accurate simulation of any challenges and assumptions.
- Support completion, maintenance and improvement of the Agricultural Water Use Measurement Program, which is aimed at cost effectively collecting agricultural water use data across the State, and integrating cooperative arrangements with the private sector and partnerships with other State agencies. This program is a vital component to helping the State and regions effectively manage and utilize water resources.
- As applicable, work with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission/local partners to expand water quality monitoring of tributaries on the State's 303(d) list and tributaries identified as having little or no dissolved oxygen assimilative capacity. Develop a new dissolved oxygen standard that reflects the naturally low concentrations in blackwater streams that are prevalent in this area.
- Focus funding support and permitting assistance to projects and programs aimed at addressing challenge areas. Where possible, leverage federal funds to help support and expedite project implementation.
- Consider collaborative approaches to collecting more standardized water use data and improving data on water demands. This would include continued improvement and updating databases used in the planning process. It would also involve working with the Georgia Municipal Association, Georgia Association of County Commissioners, and other relevant stakeholders to improve water use information.

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4		Executive Summary	ES-4			ES-4 mid page first full paragraph (27 should be (27%)		P&P
5	4/21/2023	Executive Summary	ES-4	Merrill Varn	St. Marys River Management Committee	ES-4 4th line it should probably say... Over half (59%) of the St. Marys River drainage basin lies in Georgia...		ND
6		Executive Summary	ES-5			ES-5 Water Resource needs paragraph first sentence possibly add... Though municipal water and waste water forecasts...SS Region, they do not necessarily track together because of the regional nuances discussed below.		
7		Executive Summary	ES-9			ES-9 last line gray box E. colie should be E. coli no e		P&P

Executive Summary

SUWANNEE SATILLA | REGIONAL WATER PLAN

River flows to the southeast and discharges to the Atlantic Ocean between Cumberland and Jekyll Islands. This water body is a blackwater stream consisting of tannins and other natural leachates, which cause the river to have a darkly stained appearance and have unique physical and chemical characteristics and dissolved oxygen dynamics. Over half (59%) of the St. Marys River tributary area lies in Georgia and the remainder is in Florida. The St. Marys River is also a blackwater stream. However, the St. Marys River flows north and east, forming the border between southeast Georgia and northeast Florida and discharges into the Atlantic Ocean.

As shown in Figure ES-2, in 2015 surface water provided 19% of the water supply within the region (USGS, 2019). Based on water use trends and forecast information through 2060, the majority of the agricultural and industrial surface water use in the region is projected to come from the Suwannee River basin (72%) and Satilla River basin (27%). This information is based on the assumption that future use will follow current practices and trends.

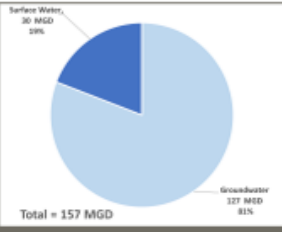


Figure ES-2 2015 Water Supply by Source

Groundwater

As shown in Figure ES-2, groundwater provided 81% of the region's water supply needs in 2015. Based on 2020 groundwater withdrawal data, approximately 99 % of groundwater in the region is supplied from the Floridan aquifer, which is one of the most productive groundwater aquifers in the United States.

Water and Wastewater Needs in the Suwannee-Satilla Region – A Closer Look

Figure ES-3 presents 2015 surface water and groundwater use by sector in the Suwannee-Satilla Region. All surface water withdrawals in the region are for the agricultural sector. Of the 127 MGD of groundwater withdrawn in 2015, 52% was used to supply agricultural, 37% municipal users and 11% industrial users.

Wastewater treatment types representing current conditions in the region are shown in Figure ES-4. According to the Suwannee-Satilla Wastewater Forecast developed for the Regional Water Plan (CDM Smith, 2022), 51% of treated wastewater in the region is disposed of as a municipal/industrial point source discharge or to a land application system (25%). The remaining wastewater is treated by on-site sewage treatment (septic) systems (24%).

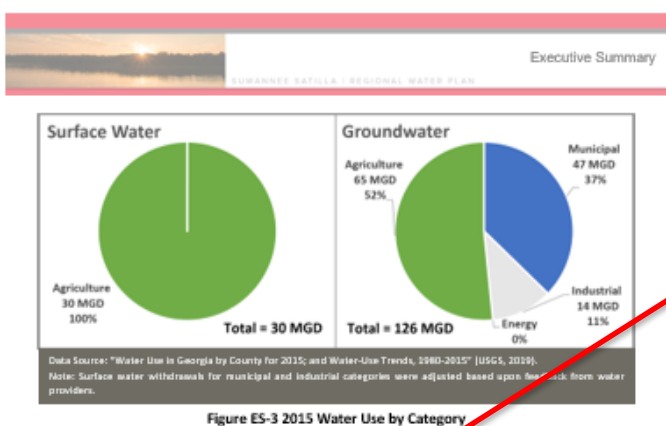
ES-4

Executive Summary

SUWANNEE SATILLA | REGIONAL WATER PLAN

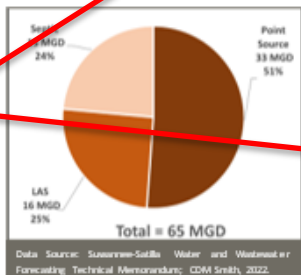
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Suwannee-Satilla Forecasted Water Resource Needs from the Year 2020 to 2060

Municipal water and wastewater forecasts are closely tied to population projections for the counties within the Suwannee-Satilla Region. The population projections were developed by the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and are shown in Figure ES-5. Industrial, energy, and agricultural water and wastewater forecasts were estimated separately from population projections. Overall, the region's water supply needs are expected to grow by 23% (74 MGD) in demand from 2020 through 2060. Wastewater return flows are expected to grow by 5% (3 MGD) from 2020 through 2060.



Was not necessarily intended to infer they follow each other exactly – it's a factual statement that population projections do tie to water and wastewater demands – doesn't mean they are tied by a 1:1 or linear relationship – tied is used to note there is a correlation

Suwannee-Satilla Forecasted Water Resource Needs from the Year 2020 to 2060

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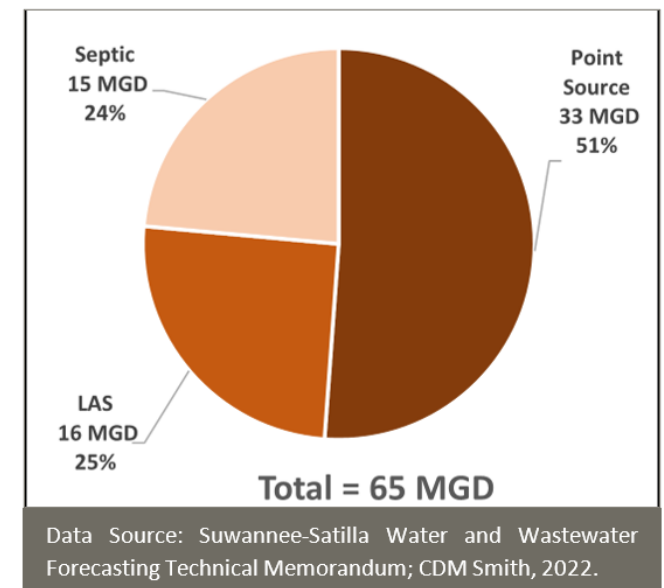



Figure ES-4 2020 Patterns of Wastewater Discharge and Return Flows

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Executive Summary

All impaired lakes in the region are impaired for trophic-weighted residual mercury in fish tissue. TMDLs have been completed for 95 of the impaired stream reaches. A full list of impaired waters can be found on the EPD website (epd.georgia.gov/georgia-305b303d-list-documents). This list is updated every 2 years by EPD; the above information is based upon the approved 2022 list.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Management Practices should be developed and implemented to address water resource shortfalls as determined by the three Resource Assessments.

Groundwater: Overall, results indicate that the sustainable yield for the modeled portions of the regional aquifer(s) is greater than the forecasted demands, but site-specific challenges could arise without careful planning.

Surface Water Quantity: Refined modeling suggests that there are numerous challenges with the ability of surface water to provide sufficient flow for wastewater assimilation or withdrawals throughout the region.

Surface Water Quality: Throughout the region, 1,279 miles of stream reaches are impaired, principally for trophic-weighted residual mercury in fish tissue, E. coli, and dissolved oxygen.

Identifying Water Management Practices to Address Water Resource Challenges and Future Needs

The comparison of the Resource Assessments and forecasted demands identified the region's likely resource shortfalls or potential challenges and demonstrated the necessity for region and resource specific water management practices. In selecting the actions needed (i.e., water management practices), the Suwannee-Satilla Council considered practices identified in existing plans, the Region's Vision and Goals, and coordinated with local governments and water providers as well as neighboring Councils that share these water resources.

The Suwannee-Satilla Council developed a management practice strategy based on the best data and modeling results available. The Council recognizes that as data are refined and modeling results improve—including water and wastewater projections and Resource Assessments—the resulting future needs and challenges may change. Therefore, the Council has prioritized short-term management practices to address challenges with the understanding that more complex management practices may be required in the future. These short-term management practices are presented in Table ES-2 and Table ES-3.

ES-9

the Suwannee-Satilla Council considered practices identified in existing plans, the Region's Vision and Goals, and coordinated with local governments and water providers as well as neighboring Councils that share these water resources.

Surface Water Quality: Throughout the region, 1,279 miles of stream reaches are impaired, principally for trophic-weighted residual mercury in fish tissue, E. coli, and dissolved oxygen.

8	5/15/2023	Executive Summary, Section 2 (see pw:\\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)	Executive Summary, Page ES-2, and in 2.1.1 Surface Water Resources, page 2-2	John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The rivers that run by or are downstream of the most populous cities in the Suwannee-Satilla Region are overlooked in the summaries. The Little, Withlacoochee, Alapaha, Willacoochee, and Alapahoochee Rivers should be more prominently mentioned.	Shayne Wood	ND or NC?
9		Section 4 Industrial Wastewater Forecasts (see pw:\\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	No mention of the titanium dioxide strip mine proposed within three miles of the Okefenokee Swamp, nor of its potential effects on surface and groundwater, including the Suwannee and St. Marys Rivers and the Floridan Aquifer. Resolutions have been passed against the proposed strip mine and in favor of the waters, by Valdosta, Waycross and Ware County, Homeland, Kingsland, and St. Marys. SSRWPC should also pass such a resolution against the proposed strip mine and for the Okefenokee Swamp and associated rivers and groundwater.		Need to discuss at the council meeting. This comment would not require any edits to the SS RWP.
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Discuss w/ Council

Screened for No Change (NC) required – typically, consistent with most of the other regional water plans across the State of Georgia, the description of the surface water bodies have been at the watershed or river basin level e.g, Suwannee River, Satilla River, St. Marys River, Altamaha River, Savannah River, etc.

8	5/15/2023	Executive Summary, Section 2 (see pw:\\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)	Executive Summary, Page ES-2, and in 2.1.1 Surface Water Resources, page 2-2	John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The rivers that run by or are downstream of the most populous cities in the Suwannee-Satilla Region are overlooked in the summaries. The Little, Withlacoochee, Alapaha, Willacoochee, and Alapahoochee Rivers should be more prominently mentioned.	Shayne Wood	ND or NC?
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Discuss w/ Council

Based on links provided by WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS) the following entities have passed resolutions against the proposed Twin Pines Minerals (TPM) titanium dioxide mine that is under permit consideration near the Okefenokee Swamp:

- City of Homeland
- City of Kingsland
- City of St Marys
- City of Waycross
- City of Valdosta
- Ware County

WWALS asked that the SS Water Council consider passing a similar resolution.

8	5/15/2023	Executive Summary, Section 2 (see pw:\\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)	Executive Summary, Page ES-2, and in 2.1.1 Surface Water Resources, page 2-2	John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The rivers that run by or are downstream of the most populous cities in the Suwannee-Satilla Region are overlooked in the summaries. The Little, Withlacoochee, Alapaha, Willacoochee, and Alapahoochee Rivers should be more prominently mentioned.	Shayne Wood	ND or NC?
9		Section 4 Industrial Wastewater Forecasts (see pw:\\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	No mention of the titanium dioxide strip mine proposed within three miles of the Okefenokee Swamp, nor of its potential effects on surface and groundwater, including the Suwannee and St. Marys Rivers and the Floridan Aquifer. Resolutions have been passed against the proposed strip mine and in favor of the waters, by Valdosta, Waycross and Ware County, Homeland, Kingsland, and St. Marys. SSRWPC should also pass such a resolution against the proposed strip mine and for the Okefenokee Swamp and associated rivers and groundwater.		Need to discuss at the council meeting. This comment would not require any edits to the SS RWP. ND/NC
10		Section 4 Industrial Wastewater Forecasts (see pw:\\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	There is no mention of mining in the modeled water challenges.		Reference Industrial Demand Forecast TM that is posted on GA EPD Water Planning Web site. Mining is specifically tracked as demand sector. ND/NC

Discuss w/ Council

A few items for discussion:

- Current permit application does not anticipate any impacts to surface water
- TPM's permit request is for one groundwater well that would pull from the Floridan aquifer
- The mining pit would have dewatering needs which would essentially be a surficial aquifer withdrawal
- TPM does propose in their permit application the need for a surface water pond management system to allow for storage – would be designed for self containment therefore no off-site discharge

Notes on Regional Water Planning Perspective:

- Regional water plan is updated every 5-years
- Industrial forecast was completed for this region, which included experts from across the state. Mining was looked at as a specific sector.
- For the most part, industrial sectors forecast very little to no growth in demands for water
- If the TPM permit were to be approved, it would be included in the next 5-year plan update

11		Section 4 Industrial Wastewater Forecasts (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)	John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The history of TPM in Florida and Georgia and the TPM MLUP cast much doubt on the assertion in the SSRWPC Draft Plan that "some facility types (i.e., mining) may recycle stormwater discharges...." It would be best to remove that assertion from the SSRWPC Draft Plan.	The statement referenced in this comment is generic and factual - no need to update the RWP. This was based on feedback from representatives in the Industrial Demand Forecast work group that comprised of Industry Experts in mining. ND or NC?
12		2.1.2 Groundwater Resources (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)	John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The Plan does not mention that surface and groundwater interchange in the Region. Modeling of potential surface and groundwater effects of the proposed titanium dioxide stripmine within three miles of Okefenokee Swamp, including potential deleterious effects on fishing due to mining stirring up more mercury which as it gets into waterways accumulates in fish tissue	EPD has continued to demonstrate improves the modeling methodologies and tools/models used to support the development of the RWPs. We can share this for consideration with the EPD team that leads model development.
13		ES. Surface Water Quality (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)	John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	No mention of Mercury in the TPM MLUP; More mercury stirred up by mining would be even worse for recreational fishing than the mercury already in our rivers, adding to accumulated mercury in fish tissue.	This comment is more pertinent to the permitting action that is still under consideration

Section 4 Forecasting Future Water Resource Needs

processing, manufacturing, and mining industries. Both common and sector-specific conclusions were determined.

Industrial Water Forecasts

In addition to sub-sector advisory group feedback, confidential trade association surveys were collected for additional input. This information was used in conjunction with municipal water purchases and facility withdrawal permit information to develop the water withdrawals forecast by county and sub-sector. The average water withdrawal from 2010 to 2019 for the majority of industrial facilities was used as the basis for projected water use. Figure 4-3 shows the industrial water and wastewater forecast over the planning period. Water withdrawals are estimated to remain constant over time for all sub-sectors except for an expected increase in water demand for food processing.

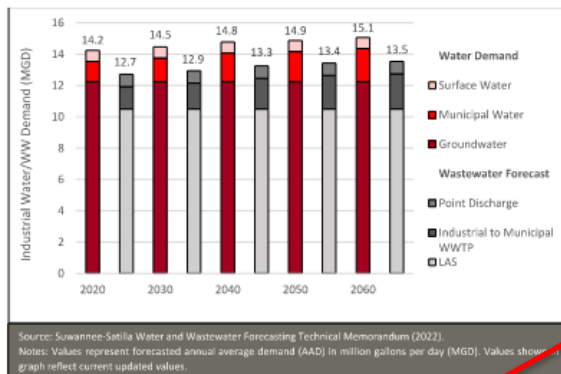


Figure 4-3 Total Industrial Water and Wastewater Forecast (in AAD, MGD)

Industrial Wastewater Forecasts

Similar to the industrial water forecast, the industrial wastewater forecast is estimated using facility discharge permit information from 2015 to 2019. Trade association surveys also reported industrial discharges, however, the information was limited to 2019 data in some cases. It should be noted that some facility types (i.e., mining) may recycle stormwater discharges causing an increase in overall discharges but a decrease in water withdrawal. Discharges are estimated to remain constant over time for all sub-sectors except for an expected increase for food processing.

Industrial Wastewater Forecasts

Similar to the industrial water forecast, the industrial wastewater forecast is estimated using facility discharge permit information from 2015 to 2019. Trade association surveys also reported industrial discharges, however, the information was limited to 2019 data in some cases. It should be noted that some facility types (i.e., mining) may recycle stormwater discharges causing an increase in overall discharges but a decrease in water withdrawal. Discharges are estimated to remain constant over time for all sub-sectors except for an expected increase for food processing.

4-6

Discuss w/ Council (Remove this assertion?)

Screened for No Change (NC) required – The statement referenced in this comment is generic and factual - no need to update the RWP. This was based on feedback from representatives in the Industrial Demand Forecast work group that comprised of Industry Experts in mining.

11		Section 4 Industrial Wastewater Forecasts (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The history of TPM in Florida and Georgia and the TPM MLUP cast much doubt on the assertion in the SSRWPC Draft Plan that "some facility types (i.e., mining) may recycle stormwater discharges...." It would be best to remove that assertion from the SSRWPC Draft Plan.		The statement referenced in this comment is generic and factual - no need to update the RWP. This was based on feedback from representatives in the Industrial Demand Forecast work group that comprised of Industry Experts in mining.
12		2.1.2 Groundwater Resources (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The Plan does not mention that surface and groundwater interchange in the Region. Modeling of potential surface and groundwater effects of the proposed titanium dioxide stripmine within three miles of Okefenokee Swamp, including potential deleterious effects on fishing due to mining stirring up more mercury which as it gets into waterways accumulates in fish tissue		EPD has continued to demonstrate improves the modeling methodologies and tools/models used to support the development of the RWPs. We can share this for consideration with the EPD team that leads model development. ND or NC?
13		ES. Surface Water Quality (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	No mention of Mercury in the TPM MLUP; More mercury stirred up by mining would be even worse for recreational fishing than the mercury already in our rivers, adding to accumulated mercury in fish tissue.		This comment is more pertinent to the permitting action that is still under consideration

Discuss w/ Council

Screened for No Change (NC) required – EPD leads efforts related to technical support in the form of modeling. EPD has demonstrated a continued effort to improve the methodologies and models used to support the technical work related to the water resource assessments. We can share with them the request to potentially use integrated surface water/groundwater models where applicable.

Related to the portion of this comment that notes the TPM permit. The permit is under review by EPD.

11		Section 4 Industrial Wastewater Forecasts (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The history of TPM in Florida and Georgia and the TPM MLUP cast much doubt on the assertion in the SSRWPC Draft Plan that "some facility types (i.e., mining) may recycle stormwater discharges...." It would be best to remove that assertion from the SSRWPC Draft Plan.		The statement referenced in this comment is generic and factual - no need to update the RWP. This was based on feedback from representatives in the Industrial Demand Forecast work group that comprised of Industry Experts in mining.
12		2.1.2 Groundwater Resources (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The Plan does not mention that surface and groundwater interchange in the Region. Modeling of potential surface and groundwater effects of the proposed titanium dioxide stripmine within three miles of Okefenokee Swamp, including potential deleterious effects on fishing due to mining stirring up more mercury which as it gets into waterways accumulates in fish tissue		EPD has continued to demonstrate improves the modeling methodologies and tools/models used to support the development of the RWPs. We can share this for consideration with the EPD team that leads model development.
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ND or NC?

Discuss w/ Council

Screened for No Change (NC) required – The TPM permit is under consideration by EPD.

14		N/A (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	Please oppose this titanium dioxide strip mine incursion into the Okefenokee Swamp and its environs.		NC
15		(see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	The SSRWPC Plan should model what a phosphate mine on the Suwannee River in Georgia, above the Floridan Aquifer, would mean to regional water supply and quality. A Plan looking forward 30 years should take into account what phosphate mining could mean to our surface and underground waters.		Again, the RWP does consider mining demands. <i>"The SSRWPC Plan should model what a phosphate mine on the Suwannee River in Georgia, above the Floridan Aquifer, would mean to regional water supply and quality."</i> This comment will be provided to the GA EPD modeling team

Discuss w/ Council

Screened for No Change (NC) required – This was discussed previously as part of comment # 9. No change to Regional Water Plan required as related to this comment.

14		N/A (see pw:\cdmsmith-az02-pw.bentley.com:pw_pl1\Documents\9204\262592\02 Project Information\02 QAQC\Public Comment\2023-05-15--WWALS-to-SSRWPC-Draft-Plan.pdf for details)		John S. Quarterman	Wwals Watershed Coalition	Please oppose this titanium dioxide strip mine incursion into the Okefenokee Swamp and its environs.		
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Discuss w/ Council

Screened for No Change (NC) required – This RWP does consider mining demands. There is not a current permit under review related to a Phosphate mine in the SS Region of Georgia. We can share this comment with EDP for consideration of a future modeling scenario.

A sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The water in the foreground is calm, showing a clear reflection of the sun and the sky. A dark silhouette of a treeline or shoreline is visible just above the water.

Public Comments/Local Elected Official Comments

www.georgiawaterplanning.org

Thank You!

Questions? Comments?
Need More Information?

woodsh@cdmsmith.com

cliff.lewis@dnr.ga.gov

GEORGIA COUNTIES

