

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is increased pressure on the surface and ground water resources within the State of Georgia, but a lack of information as to the natural quantities of water in its rivers and aquifers, and

WHEREAS, Athens Clarke County believes that the surface and ground waters of the state should continue to be managed in the public interest and in a sustainable manner to meet human and economic needs and protect natural systems, and

WHEREAS, protection and restoration of water resources requires regional water planning, based on assessments of watersheds, river basins, and aquifers, that is tied to implementation, including a comprehensive management process, and

WHEREAS, the majority of water planning management practices outlined in the proposed Statewide Water Management Plan will fall on local governments and public water providers to implement, and failure to implement them will directly impact local governments' ability to receive EPD permits and GEFA loans – critical components in providing safe and sanitary water and sewer services; and

WHEREAS, having elected local governments officials adequately represented on regional water planning bodies is critical in ensuring public and stakeholder accountability and involvement in the water planning process; and

WHEREAS, protection of river basins must be strengthened to reflect scientific knowledge and respect natural systems, and

WHEREAS, downstream communities in Georgia rely on certain flow levels in river basins for current and future economic development, recreation, and environmental quality, and

WHEREAS, decisions on new water supplies for growing communities should recognize that efficiency and the wise use of current resources are the best course for taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, wasteful use of water resources by upstream communities can adversely affect downstream communities and unfairly redistribute economic growth,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Athens Clarke County supports and adopts the principles outlined above and urges the General Assembly of Georgia to fully fund comprehensive regional and statewide water planning and monitoring,

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Athens Clarke County urges the Water Council and General Assembly to assure that elected local government officials and public water providers represent at least half of the voting members on each regional water planning council called for under the current Statewide Water Management Plan, and that regional water planning districts reflect the boundaries of Georgia's 14 major river basins to the greatest extent practicable;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Athens Clarke County urges the General Assembly of Georgia to find solutions that prevent adverse affects on current and future downstream economic growth and the natural health of rivers and streams from the transfer of water from one basin to another.

Duly adopted the ____ day of _____, 2008.

Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Commission