Coastal Georgia Sound Science Initiative
1997-2005

The Water Council

Interim Strategy for Managing Salt Water Contamination in the Upper Floridan Aquifer in Coastal Georgia

Georgia EPD, April 1997-December 2005

- **Goals:**
  - Stop the encroachment of salt water *before* municipal supplies at Hilton Head Island, S.C. and Savannah, Georgia are contaminated,
  - Prevent the existing salt water intrusion at Brunswick, Georgia from worsening

Questions the Sound Science Initiative Was Designed to Answer

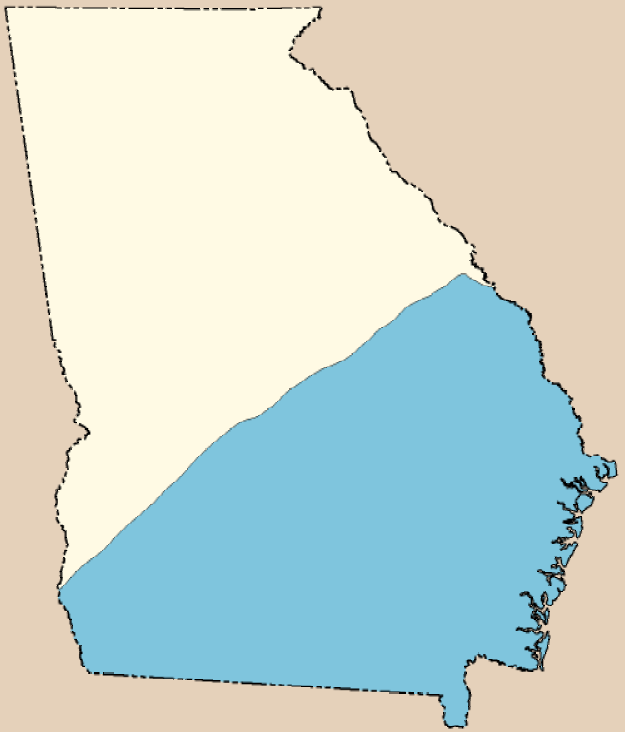
- Where is salt water entering the Upper Floridan Aquifer?
- How fast is salt water traveling under current and possible future conditions?
- When will Upper Floridan wells in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina no longer meet drinking water standards?
- Does pumping in some parts of coastal Georgia not affect salt-water intrusion?

Questions the Sound Science Initiative Was Designed to Answer (cont'd)

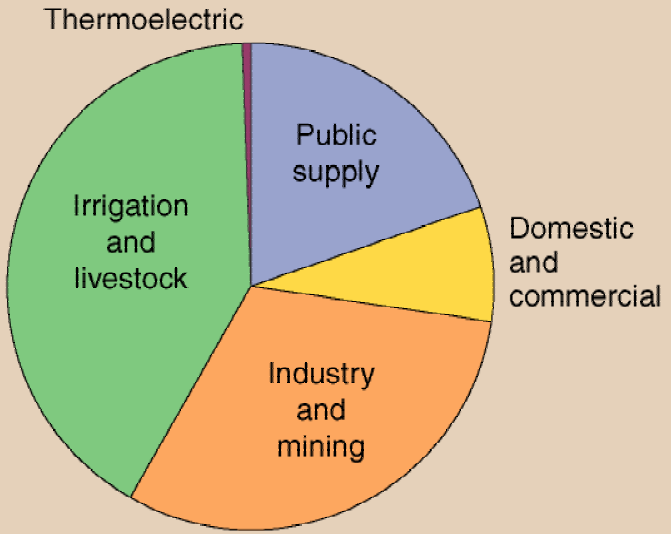
- What are the other fresh water sources in coastal Georgia and how much would it cost to develop them?
- What are the current information gaps?
- How can the salt-water intrusion problem be stopped and about how much will this cost?

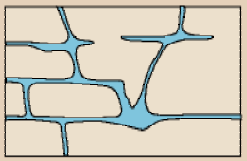
Coastal Georgia

Floridan Aquifer System



Depth: 40–900 feet
Yield: 1,000 to 5,000 gal/min
May exceed 11,000 gal/min





Limestone, dolomite

1997 Water Use
347 Million gal/day

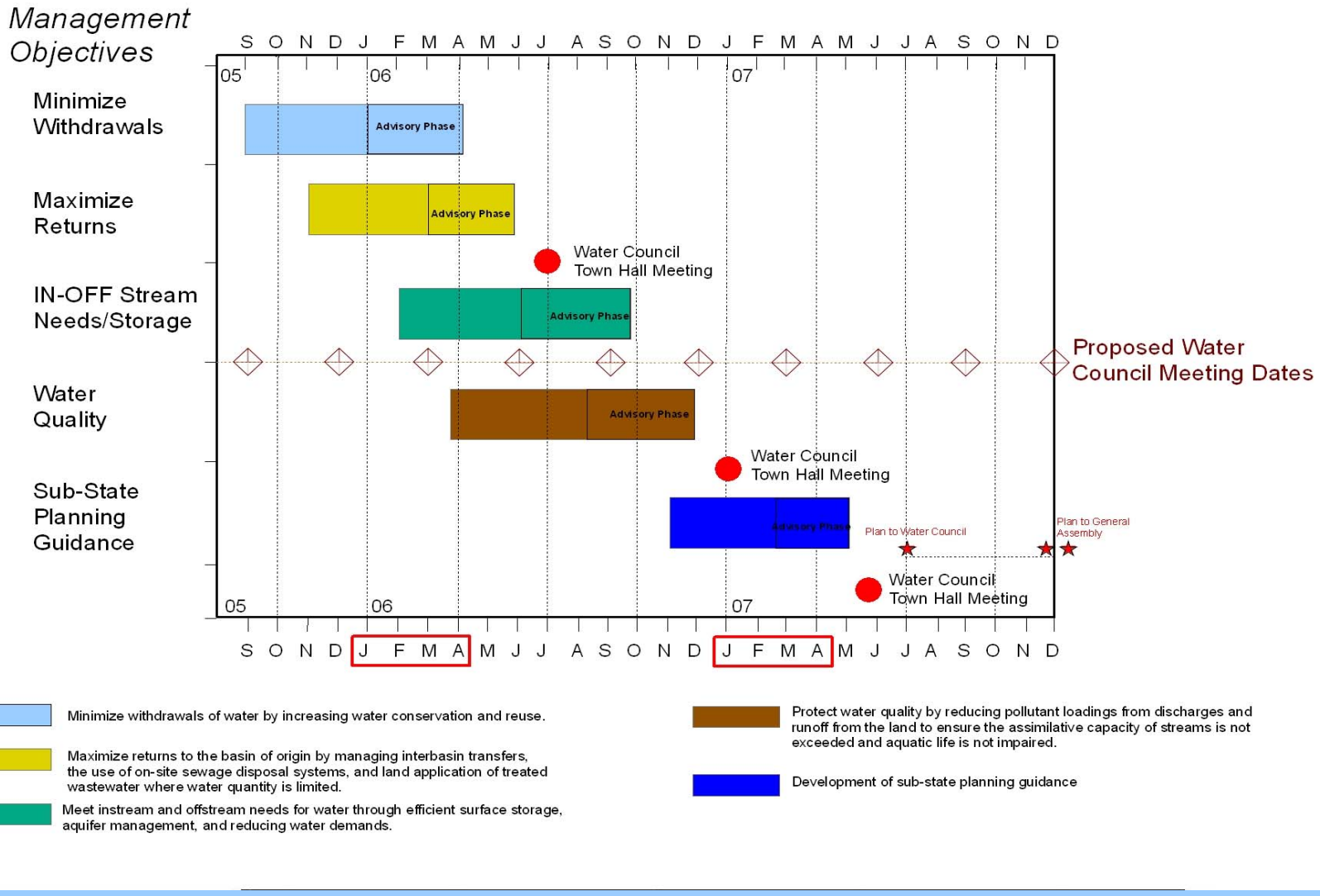
Ground-Water Issues in Coastal Georgia

- Declining ground-water levels
- Saltwater contamination
  - Hilton Head Island
  - Brunswick
- Competition for available supply
  - Projected growth in region
  - EPD restrictions on usage
- Impact of Savannah Harbor expansion
- Need for alternative water sources
- Impact of development on estuaries/wetlands

What Do We Know Now That We Didn't Know in 1997?

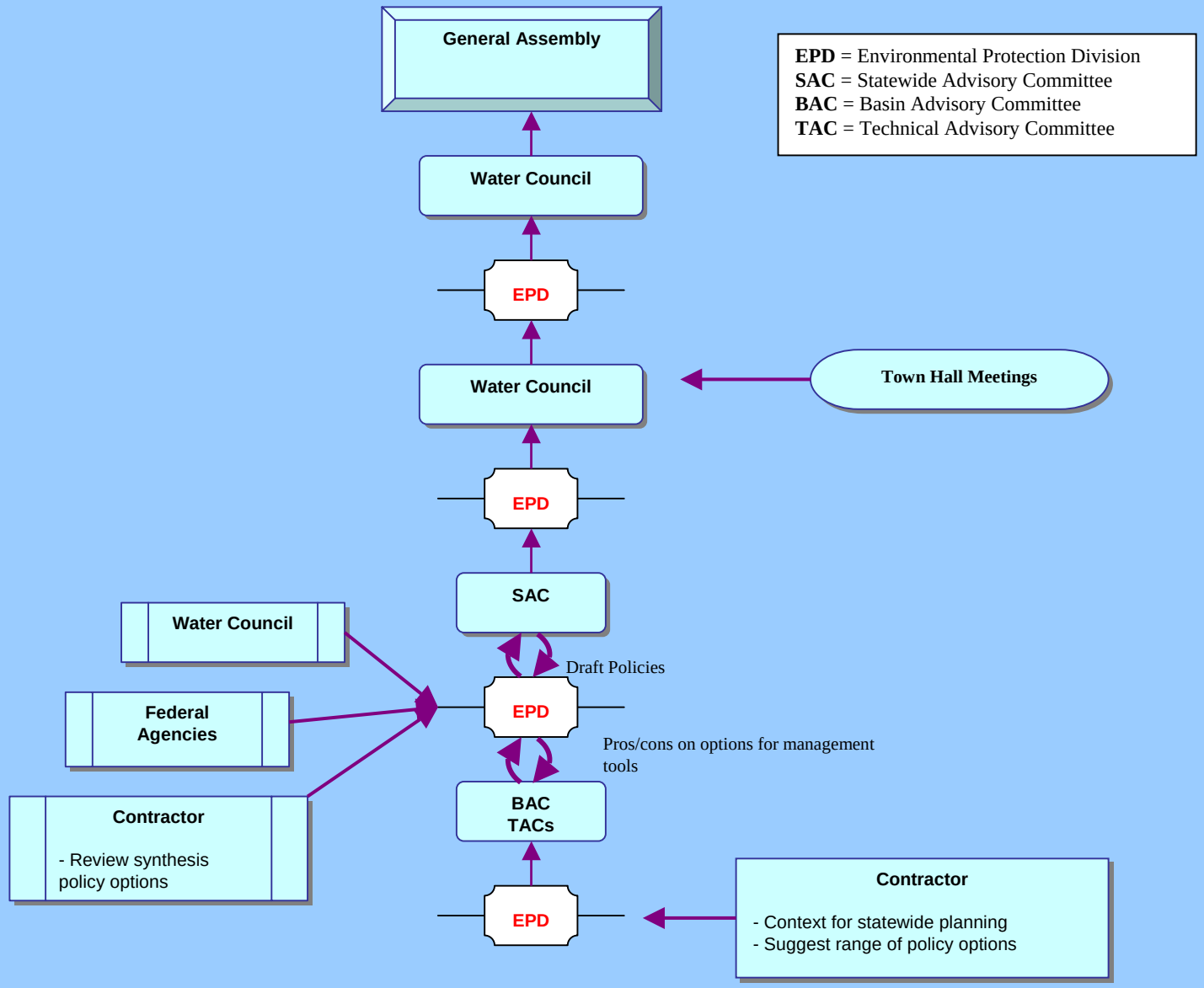
PLANNING SCHEDULE

Development of the GA Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan
- Tasks & Milestones -



ADVISORY PROCESS

Revised Process Flowchart



Roles of the SAC & BACs

- Provide statewide and local perspectives and input on water management goals, objectives, new policy tools, and sub-state planning framework

- Neither is a decision making body

Role of the TACs

- Provide expert technical input and advice to EPD related to specific questions on policy tools under consideration
- Two TACs (i.e., conservation & reuse) have held their initial meeting

BUDGET

State Water Plan Budget

Year	Federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	State Appropriated	Total
‘05	$300,000	$300,000	$600,000
‘06	$390,000	$540,000	$930,000

Water Planning Contracts & Expenditures (October 1, 2005)

CONTRACTS	NATURE OF WORK	TOTAL & SOURCE	BILLED	BALANCE
Carl Vinson Institute (UGA)	Policy Research	$247,150 (state)	$146,075	$101,075
Fanning Institute (UGA)	Professional Facilitation	$494,500 (federal)	0	$494,500
Corps of Engineers (Mobile/Savannah)	Project Management Software Training	$16,950 (state)	$12,450	$4,500 (in kind)
TOTAL		$758,600	$158,525	$600,075

WATER COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER

The Water Council

The Water Planning Act Directs

- “There shall be a coordinating committee called the ‘Water Council’ composed of…”

- Chairperson of Senate Natural Resources Committee (and one additional SNR member) and the chairperson of the House Committee on Natural Resources (and one additional HCNR member) serve in an advisory capacity

Other Business

- Request for research and technical resources distributed early October 2005; response due dates are specific to the management objectives (first due date is 10-28-05).

- Facilitator orientation meeting held on October 11, 2005.

Future Meeting Dates

- Next Water Council meeting scheduled for December 7, 2005. ***DISCUSSION?***