

For Immediate Release

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Town Hall Meetings To Give Citizens Early Look At Statewide Water Planning

The Georgia Water Council has scheduled a series of town hall meetings to share details of the statewide water planning effort and to give citizens an opportunity to ask questions and offer comments on this important project. The Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan is being developed to help Georgians understand the current demands on water throughout the state and to better manage our water resources in the future.

The Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Planning Act of 2004 formed the Water Council, which consists of legislators, legislative appointees and state agency heads who have water-related responsibilities. The Act requires that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) develop the Plan, and present it to the Georgia Water Council next July. The Plan will be brought before the General Assembly in 2008.

The town hall meetings schedule is:

- Monday, July 10, 2006
Southern Polytechnic State University
Burruss Auditorium (H203)
1100 South Marietta Parkway
Marietta, Ga. 30060
- Tuesday, July 11, 2006
Macon State College
Humanities/Social Science Building Theater
100 College Station Drive
Macon, Ga. 31206
- Wednesday, July 12, 2006
UGA College of Agriculture & Environmental Science Auditorium
2356 Rainwater Road
Tifton, Ga. 31794
- Thursday, July 13, 2006
Coastal Georgia Center, Room 111
305 Fahm Street
Savannah, Ga. 31401

Each of the meetings starts at 5:00 p.m. with an open house to give citizens a chance to discuss the water planning process with Water Council members and their staffs. A presentation on the draft policy recommendation will begin at 6:15 p.m. followed by a comment period at 7:00 p.m.

EPD is planning to make a town hall meeting accessible via the Internet. More information about accessing this meeting via web cast will be posted on the water planning web site at www.gadnr.org/gswp/.

At least two additional rounds of town hall meetings are planned. These meetings will be held to collect public comments on future water management recommendations and ultimately, to share the draft water management plan as presented to the Water Council.

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