

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King Jr., Dr., Suite 1152 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Chris Clark, Commissioner
Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
Environmental Protection Division
(404) 656-4713

For Immediate Release

August 27, 2009

Georgia EPD Releases New Information To Better Manage Coastal Stormwater

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has issued important guidance information written to help coastal Georgia communities better manage stormwater and protect the coastal region's unique natural resources.

The Coastal Stormwater Supplement (CSS), Version I, of the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual was developed by a diverse group of stakeholders qualified to provide input into stormwater-related issues.

"Georgia's coast is now the second fastest growing area of the state, and its unique features such as tidal flows, sandy soils and elevated water tables require specific approaches to stormwater management," said EPD Director Carol A. Couch. "It's critical that we preserve the natural resources, as they contribute to the region's economic health, natural beauty and quality of life."

The CSS adds to the depth of information found in Georgia's Stormwater Management Manual published nearly eight years ago. However the CSS concentrates on preventing runoff at the source rather than just treating runoff. Guidance in the CSS will help communities protect the resources in the face of rapid growth.

"The CSS contains guidance that is innovative and tailored for the coastal region, but I also see this as a potential model for improved stormwater management in other parts of Georgia," added EPD Director Couch.

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Planning Commission had an important leadership role in the development of this project, said Director Couch. The Director also thanked the Georgia Conservancy for having the insight to recognize the need for coastal stormwater management. Director Couch also gave credit to the Wildlife Resources and Coastal Resources divisions of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Center for Watershed Protection, and numerous communities, private businesses and individuals.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided significant levels of funding through a Section 319 (h) grant for the state to accomplish the project. Initial funding was provided through the Coastal Zone Management Act under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Coastal Stormwater Supplement and related materials can be found at <http://www.georgiaepd.com/Documents/CoastalStormwaterSupplement.html>.

News Media Contact: Kevin Chambers

404-651-7970