

## **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

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

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### **Georgia EPD Announces Call For Nominations To Regional Water Councils**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has announced a call for nominations for members of the regional water planning councils, which is an important step in the statewide water planning process.

Under requirements of the Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives will consider nominees for appointment to the regional water planning councils. Each council will consist of 25 members and three alternates. Each council will be broadly represented to include agriculture, forestry, industry, commerce, local governments, water utilities, regional development centers, tourism, recreation and the environment.

“Given the early interest we have received, I expect that the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker will have the opportunity to select highly-qualified nominees to these important councils,” said EPD Director Carol A. Couch.

The announcement follows the finalization of the boundaries for water planning regions. The Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan included an initial map of the regional boundaries, but also offered 75 counties the opportunity to petition to be moved into an adjacent region. Five counties petitioned and three were approved.

Walton and Laurens counties will be moved from the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and the Altamaha region respectively, and will be included in the Upper Oconee region. Haralson County will move from the Coosa-North Georgia region to the Middle Chattahoochee region. Habersham and Bulloch counties petitioned for transfer to adjoining regions, but will remain in their initially assigned regions. Habersham County is in the Coosa-North Georgia region and Bulloch County is in the Coastal Georgia region.

“In reviewing the petitions, EPD considered a county’s current and future sources of water, current and future locations for treated wastewater discharges, and its relationship with surrounding counties,” said EPD Director Couch.

A map of the water planning regions is included with this news release. More information about statewide water planning and the council membership nomination form is available at [www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org).

News Media Contact: Kevin Chambers (404) 651-7970