

ACCG Action Alert

To: All Georgia Counties

Date: December 10, 2007

Re: Must Have Assured Local Government Participation in Water Plan

Regrettably, there has been a recent development with the draft statewide water plan that requires immediate county action. The proposed make up of the regional planning councils does not guarantee any number of seats for elected local government officials.

ACCG asks that your county please submit comments to the Water Council online by the close of business Wednesday, December 12, urging the Water Council to guarantee that elected local government officials represent half of the voting membership on each of these regional water planning councils.

Reasoning

Local elected officials will be primarily responsible for carrying out the regional water plans developed by these councils. Failure to implement these regional plans will directly impact local governments' ability to get EPD water permits and GEFA loans. Moreover, local governments will be the public's representation on these councils as they are accountable to the public, know what water management practices the local government is capable of employing, and at what costs these practices will bear on local taxpayers. Local governments, in short, are charged with protecting the public health, safety and welfare of Georgia citizens – the major guiding principle of the Water Plan. Accordingly, they must be guaranteed at least half of the seats on regional water planning councils.

Comments must be submitted online. To do so:

- 1) Please go to: http://www.georgiawaterplan.org/Pages/GWC_Index.aspx
- 2) Register by clicking the “register” button at top, then complete the form
- 3) Go back to the first page and click “submit comments”
- 4) Complete your comments and submit

Please contact Todd Edwards (tedwards@accg.org) at ACCG with any questions or to receive additional information.