Georgia’s Water Crisis and the Role of Planners

Panelists

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Session Outline

I. Georgia Water Basics
II. Overview and Response to Tri-State Water Wars
III. Georgia’s Statewide Water Plan
IV. Governor’s Task Force
V. The Role of Utility Managers and Planners
Georgia’s Water Resources

- GA uses primarily surface water.
- Chattahoochee River is major source for Metro Atlanta.
- Lakes serve as raw water storage reservoirs.
Water Use in Georgia

- Thermoelectric: 2,720 Mgal/d
- Public supply: 1,237 Mgal/d
- Domestic/commercial: 149 Mgal/d
- Industrial/mining: 603 Mgal/d
- Irrigation: 752 Mgal/d
- Livestock: 67 Mgal/d

Total water withdrawals—5,528 Mgal/d
Raw water treatment and distribution

- Annual Average Daily Demand (AADD)
- Peak Daily Demand (PDD)
- Non-Revenue Water
  - In-Plant Use
  - Water Losses & Non-Billed Quantity
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Source → Water Treatment Plant → Distribution Network → Water Customer

Indoor Use
Consumptive Outdoor Use
Wastewater collection, treatment, and discharge
Why is it Important for Planners to Consider Water?

1) Water is needed for life and provides economic development opportunities.

2) Where growth and development occurs greatly impacts the cost of infrastructure development and management.

3) There is an opportunity for Planners to work more closely with Utilities to develop and manage more sustainable infrastructure systems.