

## **For Immediate Release**

**June 30, 2006**

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Environmental Protection Division**

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Department of Community Affairs**

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Georgia Environmental Facilities  
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Georgia Forestry Commission**

**Ross Tolleson  
State Senator, District 18**

**B. J. Walker, Commissioner  
Department of Human Resources**

## **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 Rural Development Center Small Auditorium  
15 Rural Development Center 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/](http://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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