



**Responses to Comments on:**

**Coastal Regional Water Planning Council's  
Regional Water Plan**

As provided in the Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan, before taking action to adopt any regional water development and conservation plan, the Director shall provide public notice of the recommended plan and a comment period of at least forty-five days. EPD provided this comment period from May 9, 2011 to June 23, 2011.

Comments were received via EPD's interactive comment collection website, via e-mail, fax and mail. All comments received are available on Georgia's water planning website here: [http://www.georgiawaterplanning.com/documents/CombinedComments8-22-11\\_000.pdf](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.com/documents/CombinedComments8-22-11_000.pdf)

This document provides a summary of comments and responses specific to the Coastal Regional Water Planning Council's plan received during the public comment period. The summary of comments and responses directed to EPD or that apply to multiple plans can be found here:

[http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org/pages/regional\\_water\\_planning/EPD\\_Responses\\_to\\_EPD\\_Centered\\_Public\\_Comments.php](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org/pages/regional_water_planning/EPD_Responses_to_EPD_Centered_Public_Comments.php)

**Comment:** The Coastal Council plan's portrayal of water use for energy production is misleading due to distinctions between power plants in the coastal portion of the five watersheds involved (Savannah, Ogeechee, Altamaha, Satilla, and St. Marys) and areas of the same watershed further inland.

**Response:** The Coastal Council discussed this comment. Surface water availability for all water use sectors (including energy) was evaluated for entire watersheds at specific planning nodes. Although the Coastal region includes downstream portions of 5 major watersheds, water use associated with current and future energy production for the entire watershed was included in the Surface Water Assessments.

**Comment:** Commenter expressed concern that the Coastal Council's plan included Management Practice recommendations influenced by EPD that were not supported by Council members

**DRAFT Response to Public Comments on Draft Regional Water Plan**

**Response:** The Coastal Council discussed this comment. The Council unanimously approved the Management Practices in the Council's plan before being submitted to EPD.

**Comment:** The Coastal Council's plan should recommend that the other regional water plans fully consider impact of inter-basin transfers on donor basins

**Response:** The Coastal Council discussed this comment. The Council's plan references the need for both the donor basin and receiving basin to benefit if inter-basin transfers are considered.

**Comment:** The Coastal Council plan's estimates for Camden County do not seem to include the possibility that the Idlewilde project and Cabin Bluff development plan (DRI #1905) could be adding 52,948 homes.

**Response:** The Coastal Council discussed this comment. County level population projections developed by the Office of Planning and Budget were used for forecasting and was based on population trends not growth potential. Specific developments may or may not grow at the same rate as the county.

**Comment:** The Coastal Council plan's recommendations to "Determine Desalination Feasibility" and "Determine Reverse Osmosis Feasibility" could be partially funded by GEFA, but nowhere near the listed cost.

**Response:** The Coastal Council discussed this comment. A footnote has been added to the Plan to indicate that GEFA-administered loan programs are intended to finance eligible activities related to construction of infrastructure projects.

**Comment:** The Coastal Council plan's recommendation to "Collect Water Quality Data" lists GEFA's Georgia Fund as a potential funding source. This would not be an eligible project for the Georgia Fund.

**Response:** The Coastal Council discussed this comment. GEFA has been removed as a potential funding source for these Management Practices.

**Comment:** The Coastal Council's plan includes several Management Practices that may not be eligible for financing through GEFA

**Response:** The Coastal Council discussed this comment. A footnote has been added to the Plan to indicate that GEFA-administered loan programs are intended to finance eligible activities related to construction of infrastructure projects.