

# Welcome

Ken Rentiers

Deputy Director

S.C. Department of Natural Resources  
Land, Water and Conservation Division



Edisto River Basin Council – Meeting #1 (Virtual)  
June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Notice on Public Comments



- Public engagement is a necessary part of the planning process.
- River Basin Council (RBC) meetings are intended to include a public comment period.
- However, due to the potential challenges of hosting the first Edisto RBC meeting via a virtual format, we are requesting that any public comments be submitted in written format after the meeting.
  - ***Written comments should be submitted to Tom Walker at [tcwalke@Clemson.edu](mailto:tcwalke@Clemson.edu) by June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.***
  - Comments will be reviewed and addressed to the extent practical at the next RBC meeting.
- Formal public comment periods will be added to the agenda in subsequent meetings.

# Purpose of River Basin Planning and Guiding Principles

**Scott Harder**

Hydrology Section Chief

S.C. Department of Natural Resources  
Land, Water and Conservation Division

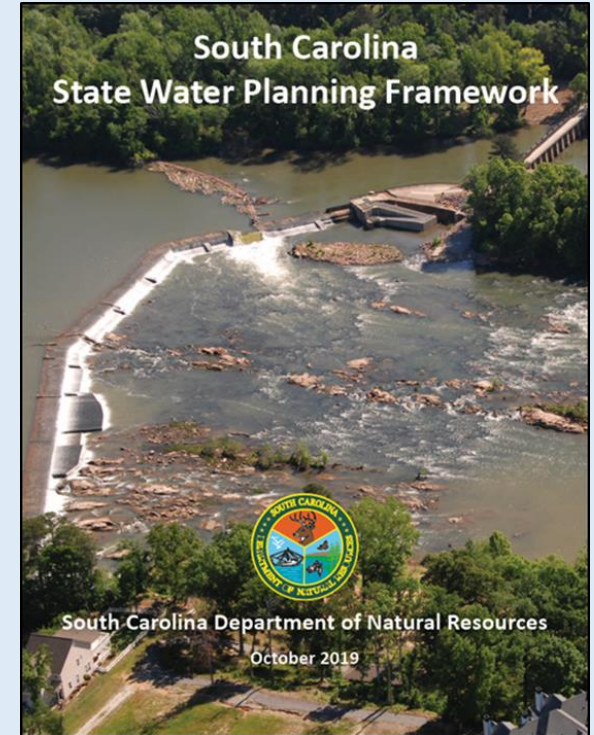


Edisto River Basin Council – Meeting #1 (Virtual)  
June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC)

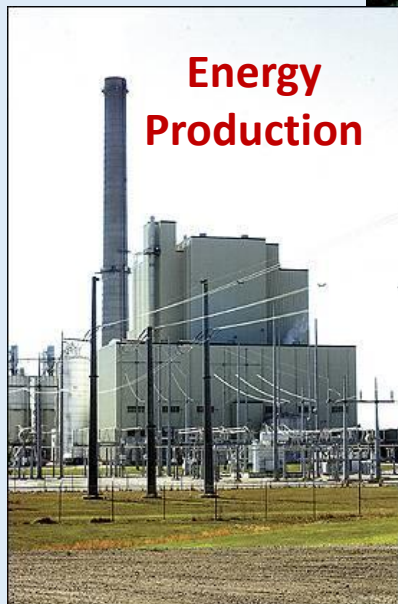


- Convened by SCDNR in March 2018.
- Purpose - develop a guidance document (Planning Framework) for developing River Basin Plans and for updating the State Water Plan.
- South Carolina State Water Planning Framework (Planning Framework) - published in October 2019.



***The Edisto basin was selected as the first basin for implementing the Planning Framework.***

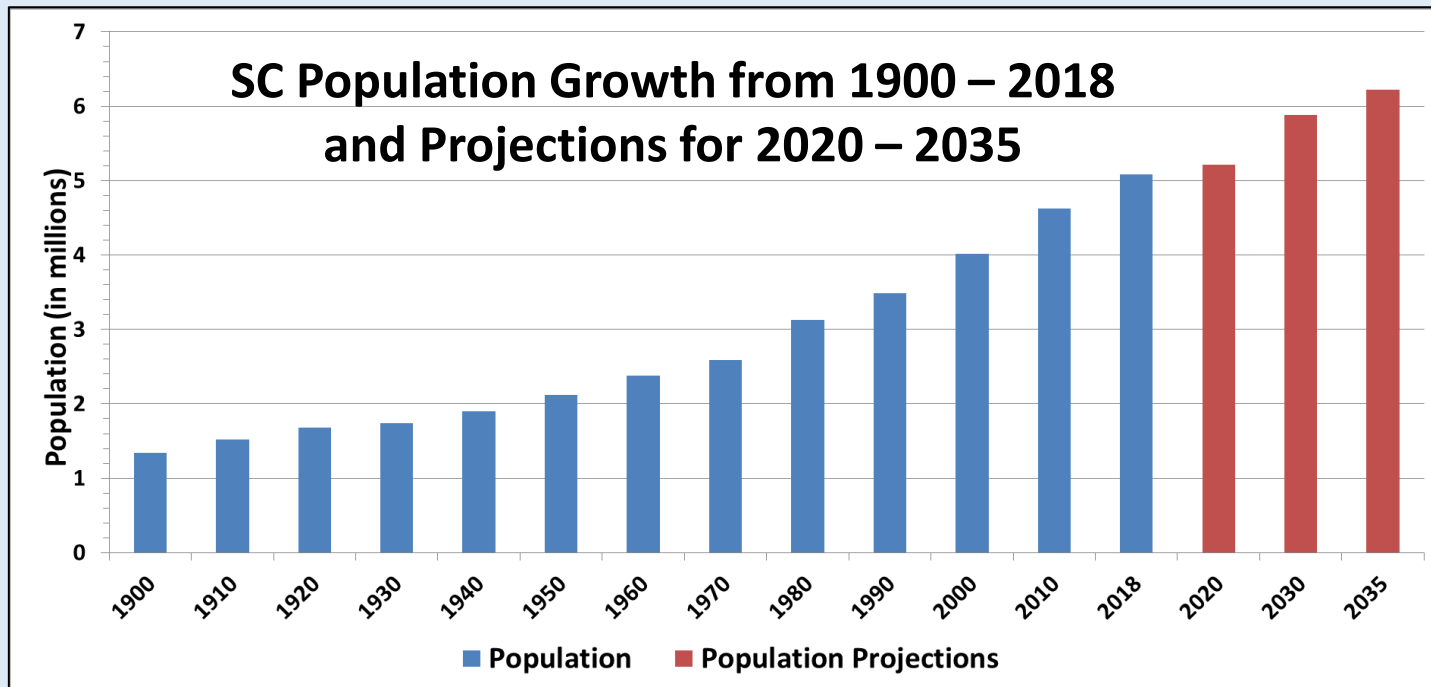
# Why Plan? Water is a Critical Resource





# Why Plan?

- **Population Growth** → Will lead to an increase in future water demands and an increase in the competition for our water supplies.
- **Drought** → SC *generally* has an abundance of water, but recent droughts (1998-2002, 2007-2008, 2011-2012, 2016, 2019) have stressed the State's water resources.





# Why Plan?

*Uncertainty in the nature of future droughts combined with increased water demands highlights the importance of comprehensive State and river basin planning*

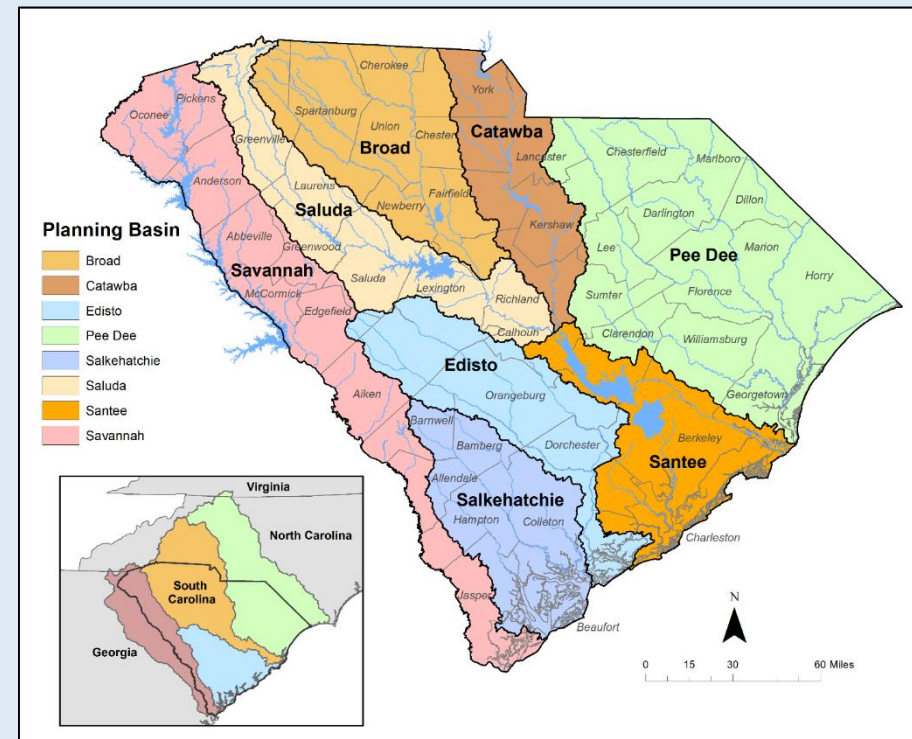
**Proactive Water Management, not Reactive!**



*Photos courtesy of National Drought Mitigation Center*

# Why Basin-Scale Planning?

- Each basin has unique geological and geographical features and unique water resource challenges and considerations
- River basin – a natural planning unit for surface water, but basin plans will consider both surface water and groundwater
- River Basin Plans will be developed for the State’s 8 major river basins using a **“bottom-up”** approach where stakeholders in each basin lead the development of their basin plan.
- Collectively, the River Basin Plans will form the foundation of a new State Water Plan.





# What is a River Basin Plan?



A River Basin Plan answers four questions:

1. What is the basin's current available water supply and demand?
2. What are the current permitted and registered water uses?
3. What will be the basin's water demand over the next 50 years, and will the water supply meet the demand?
4. What water management strategies and policies can be employed to ensure the supply meets or exceeds the projected demand over the next 50 years?

**Proactive Water Management, not Reactive!**

# Water Management Strategies



- Water management strategies mitigate/eliminate water shortages or increase water supply
  - Demand side (water conservation measures)
  - Supply side (new water sources)
- Example strategies
  - Water conservation
  - Water utility interconnections
  - New wells
  - Desalination
  - Aquifer storage and recovery
  - Conjunctive water use



# A River Basin Plan Should Include Technical, Process, and Legislative Recommendations



- Policy, Legislative, or Regulatory
  - Revisions to existing laws and regulations
  - New laws or regulations
  - Recurring funding
- Technical
  - Need for additional data, decision-making tools
  - Need for studies on specific topics/issues
- Process
  - Changes to RBC membership, bylaws, procedures, etc.

*River Basin Plan recommendations will be compiled for each basin and documented in the State Water Plan*

# Guiding Principles



- River Basin Plans should strive for the equitable use of water resources with the goal of ensuring water is available for all uses, when and where needed, throughout the Planning Horizon and under drought conditions.
- River Basin Plans should protect the public's health and well-being and should balance social, economic, and environmental needs.
- Plans must recognize existing laws and regulations but should recommend needed changes.



# Guiding Principles

- Water Planning is a continuous process that requires cooperation and transparency.
  - Stakeholder-led process involving multiple interests
  - Effective public engagement is vital

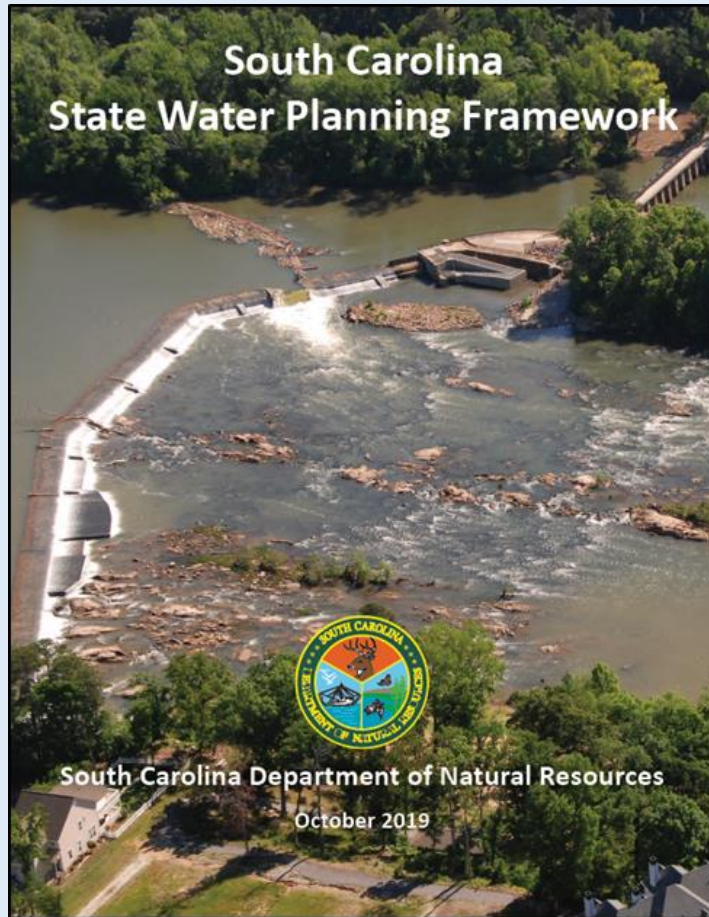
*The effective management of the State's water resources is beyond the scope of any single agency or organization and will require cooperation and shared responsibility among Federal, State, and local entities, as well as public and private parties.*

*- 2004 South Carolina State Water Plan*

# Planning Links



## Planning Framework:



## Edisto Planning Page:

A screenshot of the "Edisto Basin Planning" website. The page has a header with the title "Edisto Basin Planning" and a sub-header "Activities and reports on water planning in the Edisto River basin." Below this is an "Overview" section with text about the new framework and public meetings. A green callout box contains a "Public Notice" for a meeting on June 17th. At the bottom, there is a section for the "Edisto River Basin Council" with a search bar and a table header with columns for Name, Organization, Position, and Interest Category.

**Edisto Basin Planning**  
Activities and reports on water planning in the Edisto River basin.

### Overview

The new [South Carolina State Water Planning Framework](#) will be first applied to the Edisto Basin. Two public meetings were held on November 18th and 21st, 2019 to introduce the new Planning Framework to stakeholders and to solicit River Basin Council Membership applications ([presentations given at each meeting can be accessed below](#)). River Basin Council members were appointed by SCDNR in March 2020 ([see below for list of members](#)) and CDM Smith, Inc. was recently awarded a contract to provide facilitation and authorship services for the Council. Due to the uncertainties regarding when large public gatherings will be allowed in the State, River Basin Council meetings are scheduled to begin in June using a virtual format. The virtual format will be tested on a trial basis, and after several meetings, the effectiveness of online meetings will be evaluated, and the nature of future meetings will be adjusted accordingly. Please visit this website for periodic updates and new information regarding Edisto river basin planning activities.

**Public Notice: First Edisto River Basin Council Meeting Scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM (Agenda)**

The meeting will take place via a virtual format. Please contact Scott Harder ([harders@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:harders@dnr.sc.gov)) to request meeting access information.

### Edisto River Basin Council

Show  entries Search:

Name	Organization	Position	Interest Category
------	--------------	----------	-------------------

<http://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/edisto-basin-planning.html>

[http://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/pdfs/basin-planning/SC Water Planning Framework.pdf](http://hydrology.dnr.sc.gov/pdfs/basin-planning/SC%20Water%20Planning%20Framework.pdf)