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Introductions of the WaterSC Working Group

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State Water Planning History

Rob Devlin, Bureau of Water

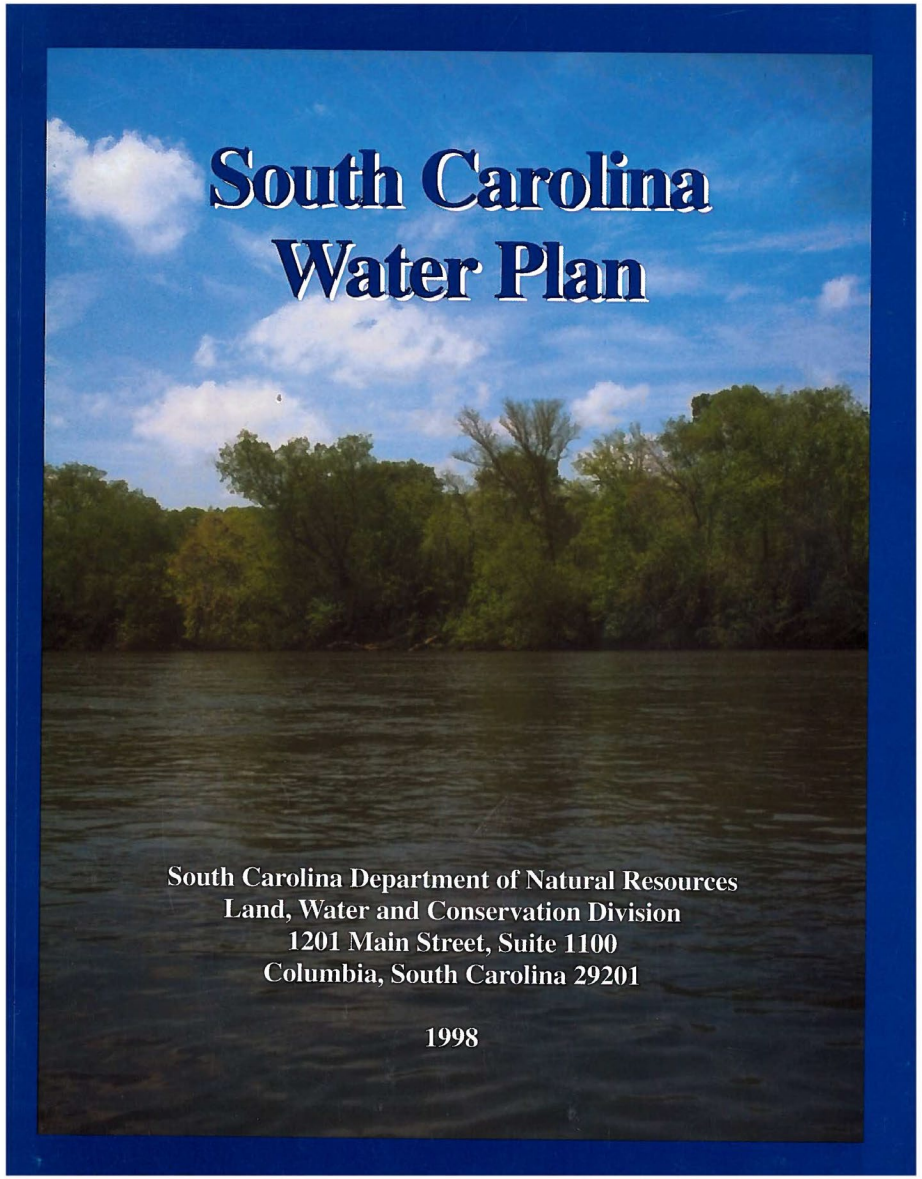
October 30, 2024

Initial South Carolina Water Plan

In 1998, SCDNR published the state's first Water Plan.

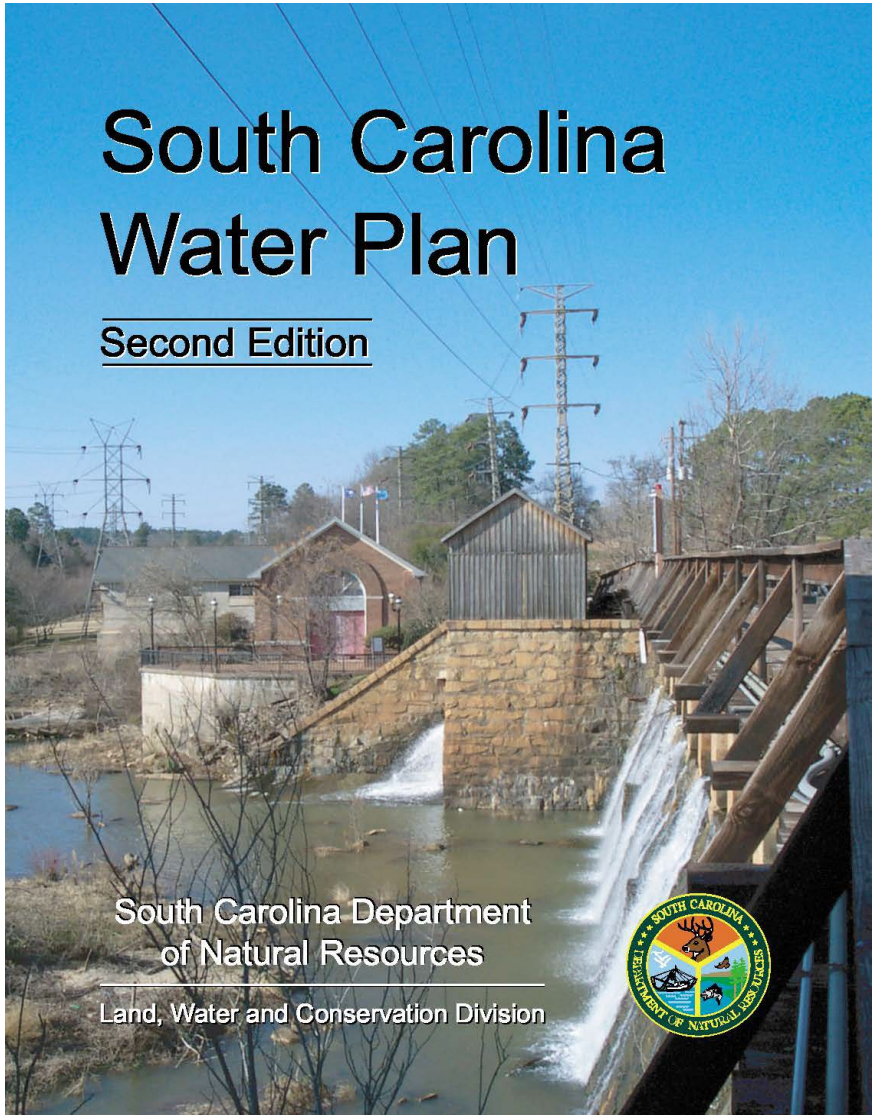
Key elements include:

- Increasing demands on water resources
- Water conservation practices are needed now, not only in times of water shortages
- Water use **should** be reported
- Aquifer characteristics should be determined



South Carolina Water Plan - 2004

- 1998-2002 Historic drought of record
- Rapid increase in population of Atlanta and Charlotte
- Focused on the need to manage water availability for future generations
- Regulate surface and groundwater withdrawals
- Evaluate existing water quality regulations and programs

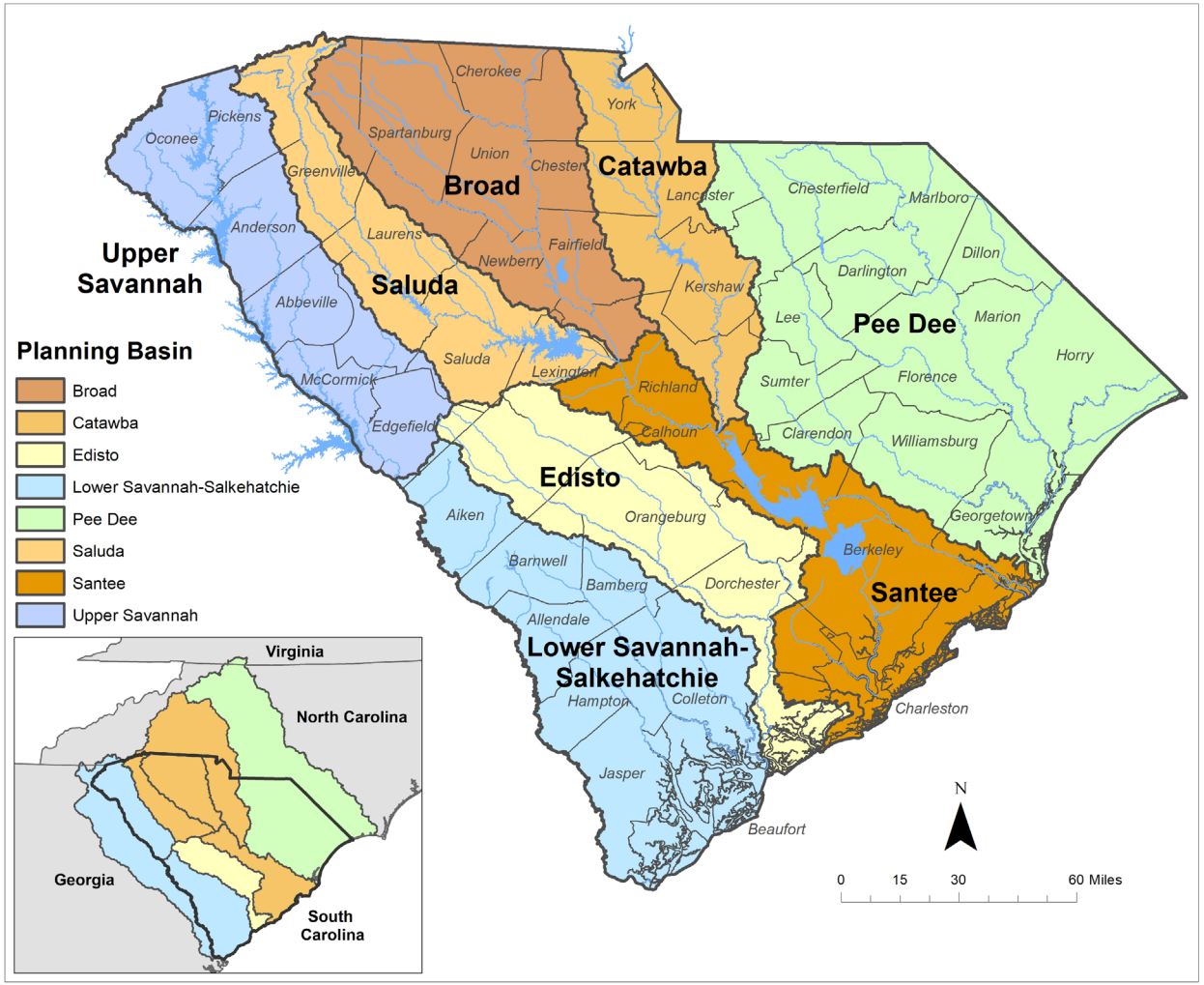


2004 Water Plan Recommendations

- **The State should work to establish a River Basin Advisory Committee for each of its four River Basins**
- To effectively manage the State's water resources, a comprehensive and accurate monitoring of water use is needed
- To protect aquifer systems and ensure the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources, the entire coastal plain province should be designated as a Capacity Use Area
- A comprehensive groundwater flow model of the coastal plain should be developed and used to predict the effects of future pumping
- Potentiometric maps of each aquifer should be constructed at least every 5 years to identify areas where over pumping is occurring

Eight River Basins

- River Basin Plans are being implemented for the State's eight major river basins
- Plans are using a "bottom-up" approach where stakeholders in each basin lead the development of their basin plan
- Collectively, the River Basin Plans will be incorporated into the State Water Plan



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Water Use Reporting 2012 - 2022

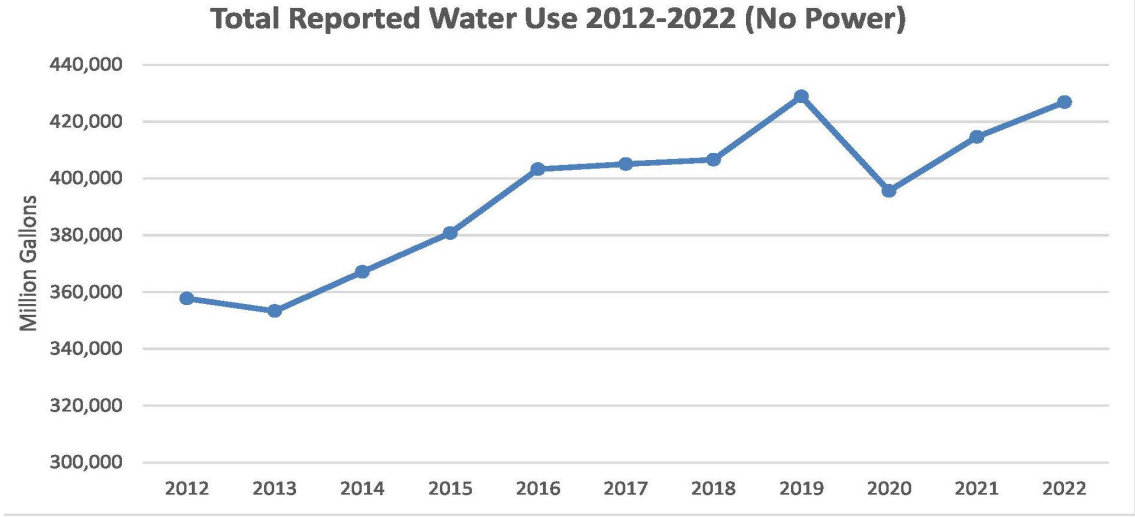

Figure 9: Total Reported Water Use from 2012-2022 (No Power Production)

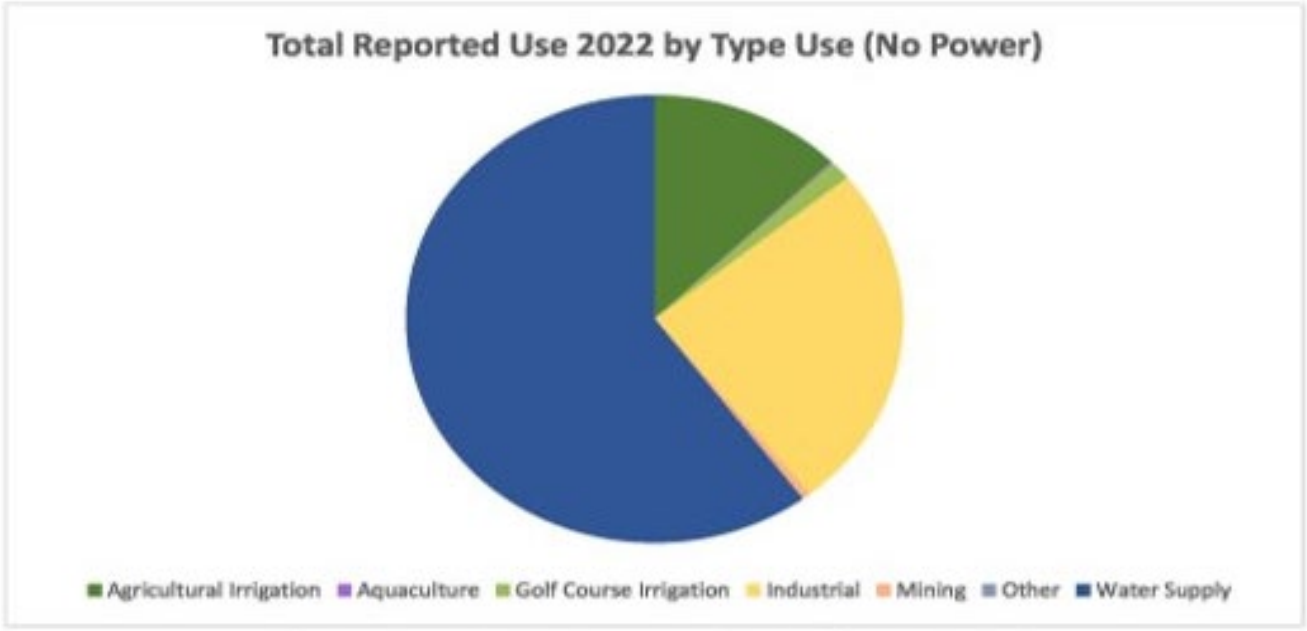

Figure 10: Total Reported Use in 2022 by Type Use (No Power Production)

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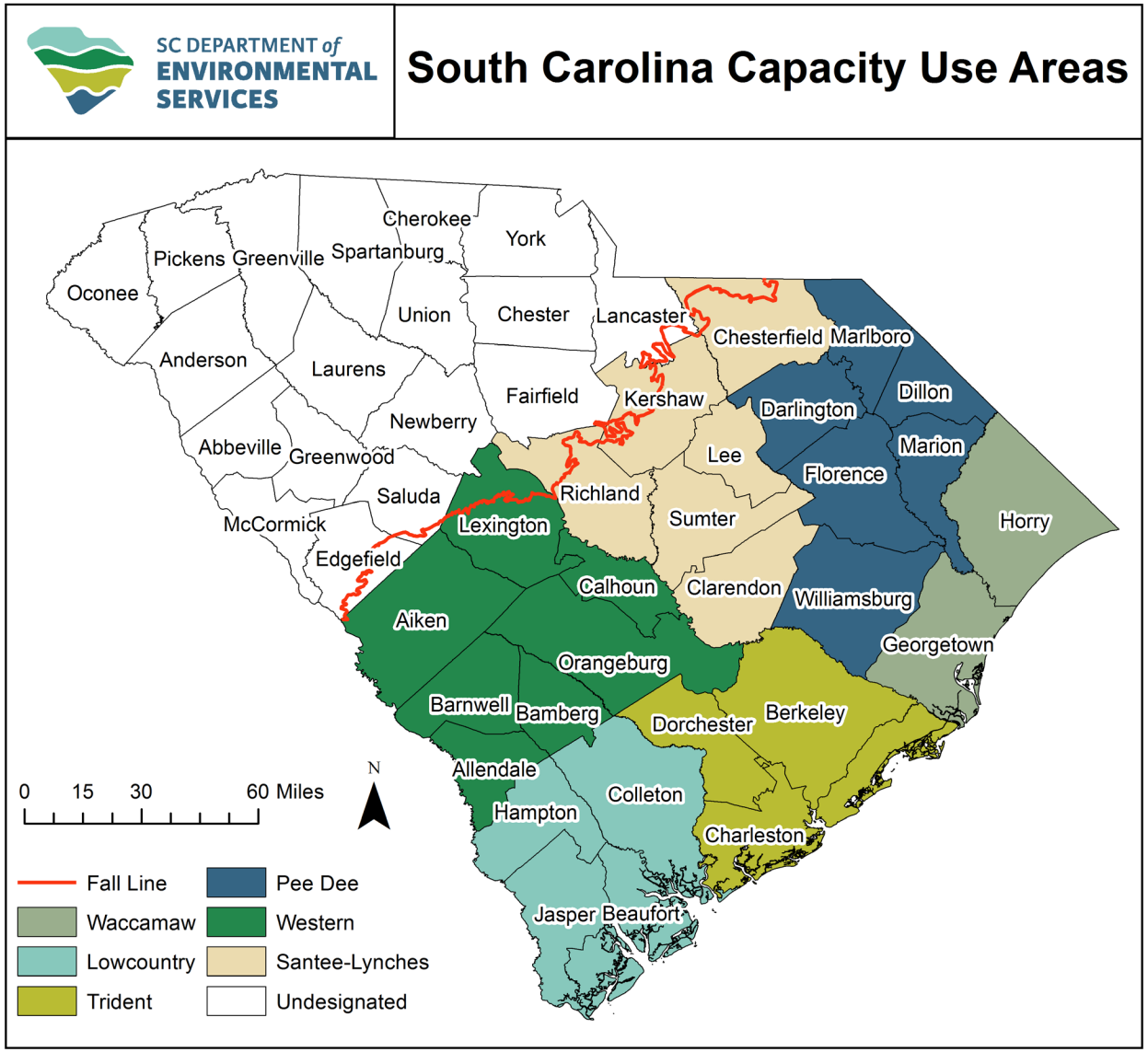
Six Coastal Plain Capacity Use Areas

- Capacity Use Areas manage groundwater withdrawals to protect and sustain the resource
- Initial groundwater management plans formed with stakeholders
- 5-year evaluations to determine changes in groundwater conditions and resource management needs



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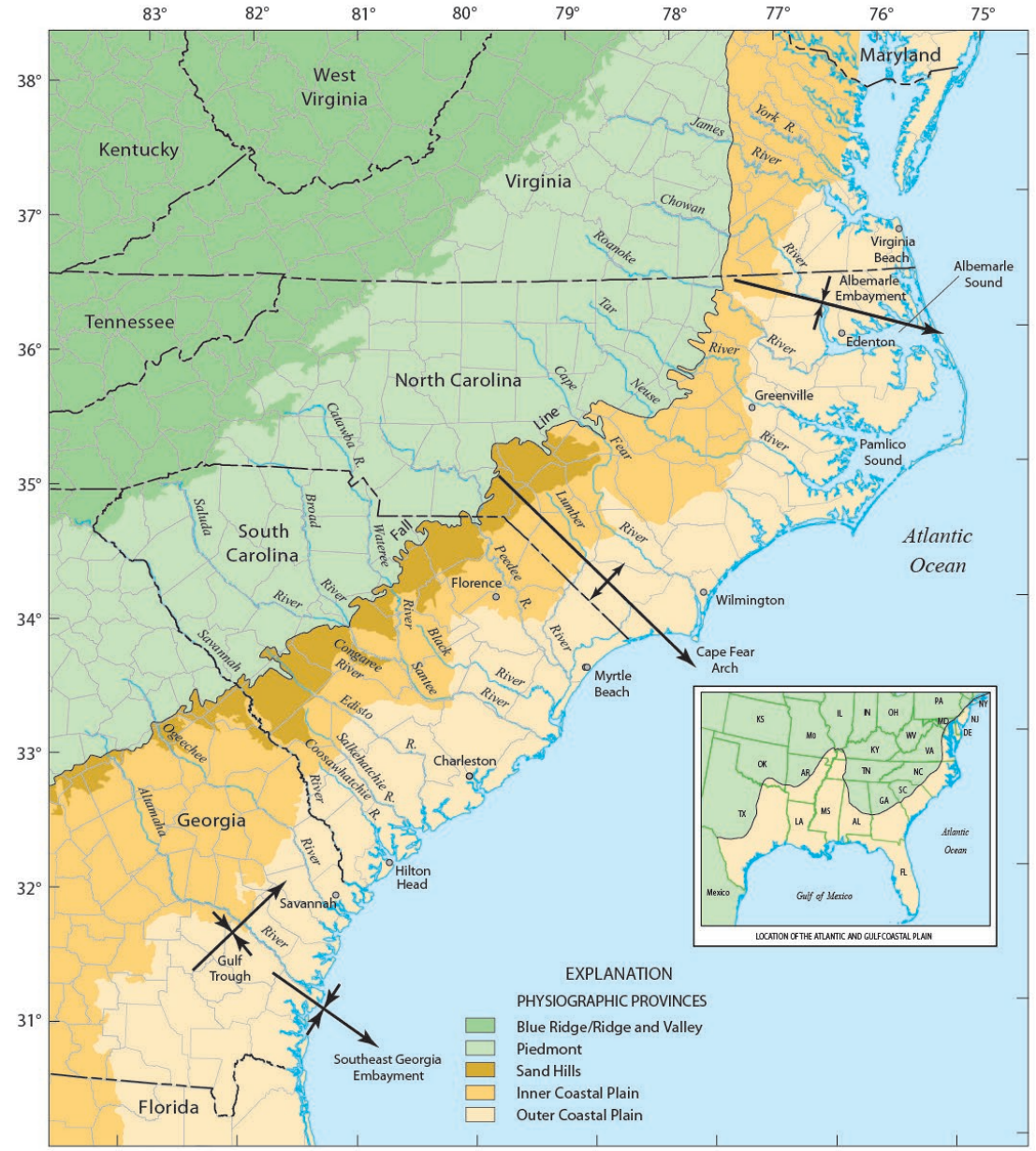
Coastal Plain Groundwater Flow Model

- Forecasts impacts of groundwater pumping
- Simulates groundwater management scenarios
- Informs recommendations by identifying areas of stress
- Periodically updated as new data is available



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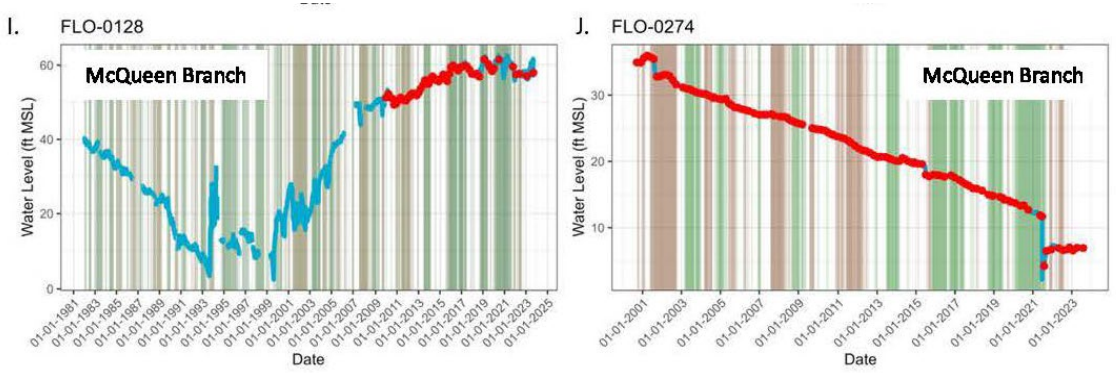
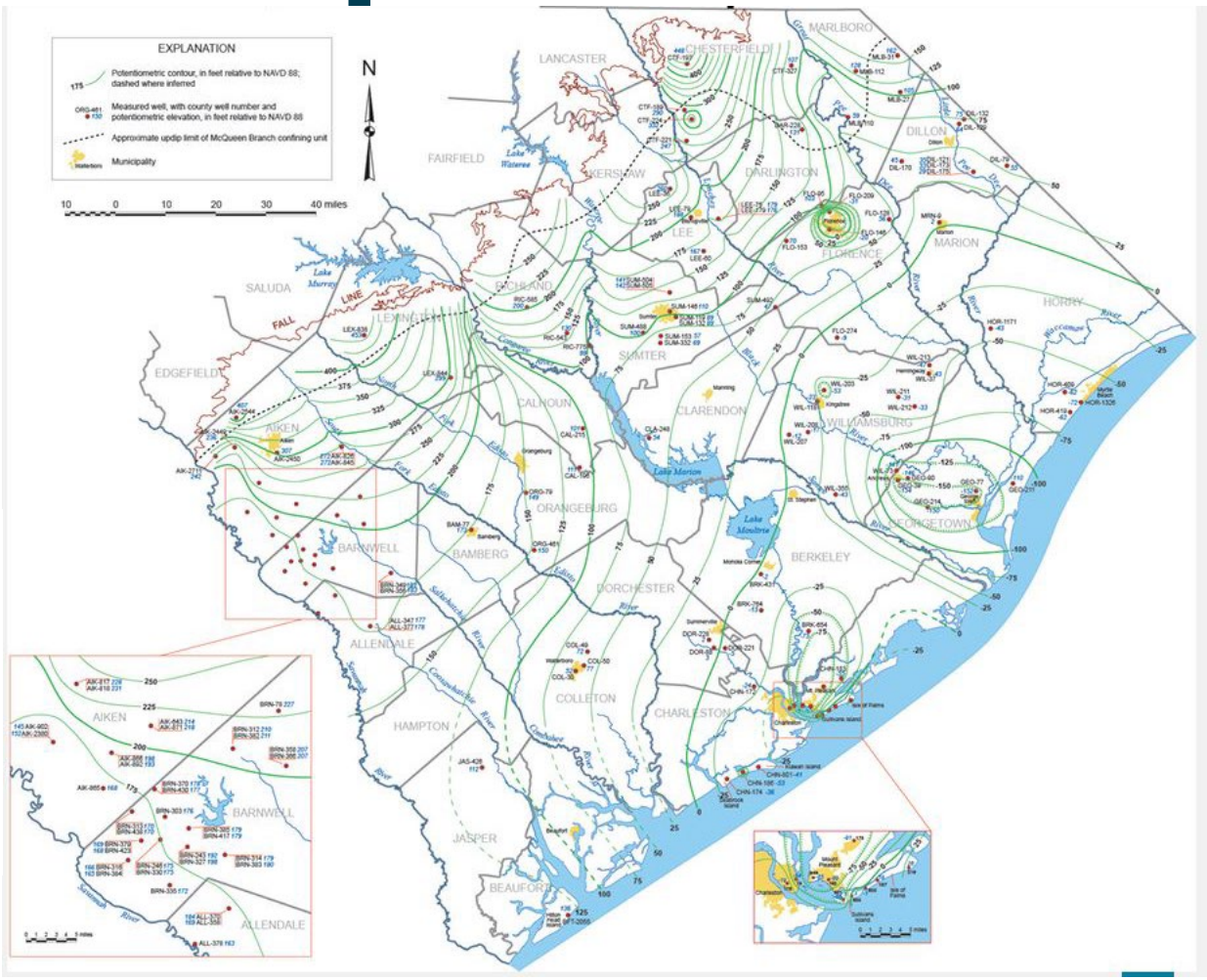
Major Aquifer Potentiometric Surface Maps

- Used to track groundwater trends and conditions
- Helps to identify areas where further management is needed





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How WaterSC Will Work

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The Charge for WaterSC
Executive Order No. 2024-22

- Balance the State's ***economic, environmental, and social needs***;
- Ensure the ***reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and sufficiency*** of the State's water resources ***for all existing and future uses***, while simultaneously ***protecting the environment***; and
- Support and facilitate additional ***collaboration*** with ongoing efforts and existing initiatives.

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The Charge for WaterSC

Executive Order No. 2024-22

Stakeholder Engagement Plan
October 31, 2024

Report to Surface Water Study Committee
January 31, 2025

Advise on updated State Water Plan
December 31, 2025

The WaterSC Working Group

- Have a statewide resource-focused approach
- Remain committed to the process
- Serve as a voice and connection for stakeholder sectors and categories
- Provide transparency
- Be collaborative and solution-focused

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Tiers of Engagement

waterSC Working Group

Stakeholder Forums

- Academia
- Public Water Supply
- Conservation & Historic Preservation
- Agriculture & Forestry
- Industry
- Energy
- Tourism & Hospitality

Statewide Listening Sessions

Organizations & River Basin Councils

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