



## Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District 2008 Legislative Agenda

### **Secure \$550,000 in State Funding for the MNGWPD in the FY2009 Budget**

The District was conceived as a partnership between the State and local governments of the 16-county District area. Until 2007, this partnership was funded with 70% local funds and 30% state funds. The District has traditionally received \$250,000 annually in state funds.

State law mandates that the District Plan be updated every five years. The cost of the Plan updates is \$1.2 million. In 2007, the District requested an additional 300,000 from the State to help with the cost of the plan updates. The request was in addition to our annual funding of \$250,000, and was to be split between FY2008 and FY 2009. None of the request was funded in the 2008 budget. Therefore, we request full funding to the additional \$300,000 in the FY2009 budget.

If the State funds the additional amount, the cost of the Plan update would be 75% local and 25% State. If the District does not receive the additional revenues, the cost share will be 83% local and 17% State.

### **Support Ratification of the State Water Plan**

The District approves the Georgia Water Council's current draft of the State Water Plan, and urges its adoption by the General Assembly.

### **Support State funding for full implementation of the State Water Plan**

The Governor's budget will, most likely, contain funding for the first year of the State Water Plan implementation, which will consist of data-gathering and basin assessments. Total estimated funding for full implementation of the plan is estimated to be \$36.5 million over a three-year period.

### **Introduce and Support a Statewide Plumbing Fixtures Bill**

Conservation is a key component in reducing consumption. The District recognizes the need for legislation to encourage and require low-flow plumbing fixtures (toilets, faucets, showerheads). The integral components of the legislation should include the following:

1. tax incentives;
2. requiring low-flow fixtures upon the sale of a single family home or other property resale, or upon the application for homestead tax exemption;
3. requiring ultra low-flow devices on all new installations after a date certain;
4. requiring all new multi-family developments be individually-metered.

### **Support Reservoir Development and Drought Relief Legislation**

Support legislation expediting the planning, permitting and construction of drinking water reservoirs. It may contain a provision for State funding.

### **Support HB895 and HB 898 Promoting Ultra-Low Flow Plumbing Fixtures**

HB 895 adds water-efficient products to the existing State sales tax holiday for energy-efficient products.

HB 898 provides for the phased requirement of ultra low-flow toilets (1.28gpf) for new installations. It also provides tax credits for replacement of existing, inefficient fixtures.

This legislative agenda was formally adopted by the full board of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District at its regular meeting on December 6, 2007.

Kit Dunlap  
District Chair

Hon. Sam Olens  
District Vice-Chair

Mayor Boyd Austin  
Legislative Policy Committee Chair