

Update of the Water Resource Management Plans for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

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Reference: McDowell RJ, CA Pruitt, RA Bahn (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2015 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, April 28-29, 2015, University of Georgia, Athens.

Abstract. The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (the District) is currently in the development of a major update to the Water Resource Management Plan (“the plan”) as required under O.C.G.A. §12-5-570 Et seq. The District is the entity responsible for watershed and stormwater management, wastewater management, and water supply and conservation management planning within the 15-county metropolitan area which includes Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale Counties. The District is governed by a 26 member Governing Board made of 16 elected officials and 10 citizen members appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House. The District also includes six Basin Advisory Councils (BACs) to provide a forum for stakeholder input and a Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) made up of local government staff. The District last updated and adopted the plan in 2009. The primary objectives of the 2016 plan update are to: 1) use the 2009 plan as a foundation, build on or modify sections that need improvement while addressing new requirements and challenges as described in this scope of work, 2) update the plan consistent with Georgia Environmental Division (EPD) guidance, District Governing Board, TCC and BACs guidance, 3) advance the District’s ongoing approach to integrated water planning, and 4) update the plan with the most current data and information covering a wide range of areas including management issues, plant capacities, demand forecasts, etc. The plan update will be prepared with involvement of local governments, State agencies, the District’s TCC and BACs, other regional water planning councils and other interested stakeholders. The plan update will also build upon and be coordinated with existing planning and regulatory activities being undertaken by local governments within the District, regional and state governmental agencies, as well as with plans being developed by the State, including the Regional Water Plans.