

State Direct Investment Ground Water Projects

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Abstract. The Governor's Water Supply Program was initiated by Governor Deal in 2011 to assist in developing new sources of water supply to meet forecasted water demand. The program furthers the state's previous commitment to loan funds to local governments and utilities for water supply projects. In addition, it provides state direct investment (SDI) in water supply projects that are of state and regional significance but cannot or will not be funded by traditional water suppliers in Georgia. SDI funds are currently being used for two major groundwater projects. The first is an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) demonstration project in Baker County. In this project, a well installed in the shallow Floridan aquifer will provide recharge water to an ASR well installed across the deeper Claiborne/Clayton aquifers. The demonstration project will test the feasibility of ASR, providing critical data on the potential for ASR's to help meet some of southwest Georgia's water needs. The second project is a deep well demonstration project on Tybee Island. This project is exploring technical, environmental, and cost implications of shifting some of the current use of the Floridan aquifer to the Cretaceous aquifer, thus helping to address issues associated with coastal salt water intrusion in the Floridan aquifer. The project will evaluate whether the Cretaceous aquifer can serve as a reliable drinking water supply alternative to the Floridan aquifer for communities on the Georgia coast. This presentation will provide an overview, status update, and description of the regional water management context for these projects.