

AUGMENTATION OF FLOWS IN THE ACF

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What happens if the Special Master requires Georgia to augment flows in the ACF during droughts? Several options are available for consideration if the Special Master rules this way. First, while not producing any "new" water, above ground storage (reservoirs) or below ground storage (aquifer storage and recovery) of water during high flow events for use during lower flows must be considered. Each option has its benefits and challenges including cost, environmental impacts and benefits, and practicability. Second, Georgia should consider interbasin transfers of water from 1 the Ocmulgee River basin to the Flint River, which would "return" the net transfer of about 50 mgd from the Chattahoochee basin, and 2 the Tennessee River, which has the potential to a "game changer" because of (x) its size, between 250 to 500 mgd is available depending on competing uses, (y) its location "at the top" of Georgia's water use network permits flexibility to directly or indirectly benefit multiple river basins. Finally, Georgia should consider the creation of "new" water via a gulf coast desalination plant feeding the Apalachicola River. This solution is becoming more cost effective with improved technology and addresses the main concerns expressed by Florida and Georgia in the trial before the special Master. We will provide a high level exploration of the benefits and challenges of each option.

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