

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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Noel Holcomb, Commissioner  
Carol A. Couch, Ph. D., Director  
Environmental Protection Division  
404/656-4713

June 12, 2006

Ms. A. Katie Kirkpatrick, P.E., Board Chair  
Ms. Deborah A. Philips, Executive Director  
Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition  
3200 Town Point Drive, NW  
Suite 100  
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

Dear Ms. Kirkpatrick and Ms. Philips:

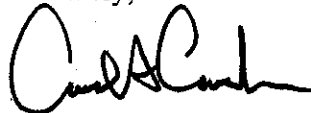
On behalf of the Water Council, thank you and GIEC associates for the contributions you continue to make to the Water Council's effort to prepare Georgia's first comprehensive statewide water management plan. In that regard, thank you for your letter of May 26, 2006.

Your letter points out "...there are at least two imperatives ..." to which the state water plan must address its attention. You suggest that these imperatives are an ample supply of safe clean water supplies to support Georgia's economy through meeting a host of off-stream needs and to protect public health, as well as water to attend to instream needs. Further you assert that the discussion package that EPD provides to the various advisory committees - related to the third management objective - must properly reflect attention to both of these imperatives rather than favoring a single imperative. Without equivocation, I fully agree with your assertions on each of these points. It is the aim of the Water Council to accurately and fully execute the intent of the 2004 Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Planning Act, and clearly the intent of the Act is to have the Plan address both off-stream and instream water needs without prejudice. Reports prepared by the Vinson Institute are not the sole source of information used in the preparation of advisory decision packages.

Late during the week of June 4, 2006, the discussion package for the third management objective was sent to the respective basin advisory committees. I have enclosed the package for your perusal. I am sure you will find that the package reflects that balanced approach to addressing the imperative intended by the statute.

Again, on behalf of the Water Council, I look forward to your continued contributions to this important process and product.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Couch  
Director