

# SUWANNEE-SATILLA REGION

## BACKGROUND

The Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Plan was initially completed in 2011 and subsequently updated in 2017. The plan outlines near-term and long-term strategies to meet water needs through 2050. Major water resources include the Suwannee, Satilla, and St. Marys rivers, some of their tributaries and the Floridan aquifer system. The Suwannee-Satilla Region encompasses several major population centers including Douglas, Tifton, Waycross and Valdosta.

## OVERVIEW OF SUWANNEE-SATILLA REGION

The Suwannee-Satilla Region encompasses 18 counties in the south central portion of Georgia. Over the next 35 years, the population of the region is projected to increase from approximately 416,000 to 499,000 residents. Key economic drivers in the region include agriculture, forestry, professional and business services, education, healthcare, manufacturing, public administration, and construction. Recreation and fishing are also important to the area.

Groundwater, mainly from the Floridan aquifer, is needed to meet about 82% of the future water needs of the Region, with agriculture, municipal, domestic, and industry uses being the dominant demand sectors. Surface water is needed to meet about 18% of these needs, with agriculture as the dominant demand sector.



## SUWANNEE-SATILLA WATER PLANNING REGION



## KEY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL

1. Periodic gaps in modeled surface water availability in the Suwannee and Satilla river basins
2. Sufficient surface water quantity and quality to accommodate future municipal and industrial wastewater needs
3. Low dissolved oxygen reaches in the Suwannee, Satilla and Saint Mary's river basins and other water quality issues
4. Development of groundwater and surface water resources to meet future needs
5. Protection of recreational and environmental resources in the region

## FORECASTED REGIONAL WATER DEMANDS

