### **Suwannee-Satilla Watersheds**

# Flood Control Issues, Opportunities and Assistance

Regional Watershed Meeting Tifton, GA November 9, 2011

# In April 2009 a total of 46 Georgia Counties declared Disaster Emergency



# USGS – Historic Flooding between March 27 – April 3, 2009

#### **Rainfall Totals from USGS gages**

- 6.9 inches Satilla River (Atkinson)
- 7.2 inches Satilla River (Waycross)
- 13.3 inches Alapaha River (Alapaha)
- 14 inches Little River (Adel)
- 9.4 inches Withlacoochee River (Quitman)
- 8.7 inches Withlacoochee River (Valdosta)

#### Damage Included

- 1,875 homes
- 29 businesses
- \$60 million in damage to public infrastructure (e.g. roads, culverts, bridges and wastewater treatment facility

### **Flooded homes and businesses**



City of Douglas / Coffee County Courtesy of FEMA



City of Douglas / Coffee County Courtesy of FEMA



City of Tifton / Tift County Courtesy of the Tifton Gazette



### Tift County Courtesy of Tifton Gazette



#### US Highway 84 Courtesy of Valdosta Daily Times



#### Brooks County Courtesy of Valdosta Daily Times



City of Waycross / Ware County Courtesy of First Coast News / Richard Edgy



City of Hahira / Lowndes County Courtesy of Valdosta Daily Times



City of Valdosta / Lowndes County Courtesy of Valdosta Daily Times

## Valdosta Withlacoochee WWTP



FEMA 100-Year Flood Plain

### Revised100-Year Flood Plain

The current FEMA flood maps are based on an outdated analysis: Flood levels exceeded the 100 year FEMA estimates

## Potential factors contributing to floods

- Outdated flood map information.
- Increase in impervious areas over the years throughout the region.
- Different runoff control measures implemented, without regional coordination.
- Some of the existing dams and levees can release significant volumes of water and require coordination and advance notice to downstream communities.

# Solutions for the Suwannee-Satilla Watershed Needs

- 1. Identify storage areas to control storm water flows, while providing a much needed water supply reservoir network (e.g. agricultural needs and low flow conditions).
- 2. Utilize recharge areas, combined with stream buffers, to reduce the stream flow and recharge the aquifers.
- 3. Seek State and Federal funding to implement the solutions that are beyond the legal, financial and institutional capacity of any jurisdiction in the watershed (e.g. The Water Supply Act).

# **Any Questions**

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