



Georgia's
State Water Plan

Regional Water Conservation and
Development Plan

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Principal Elements of Regional Water Plans

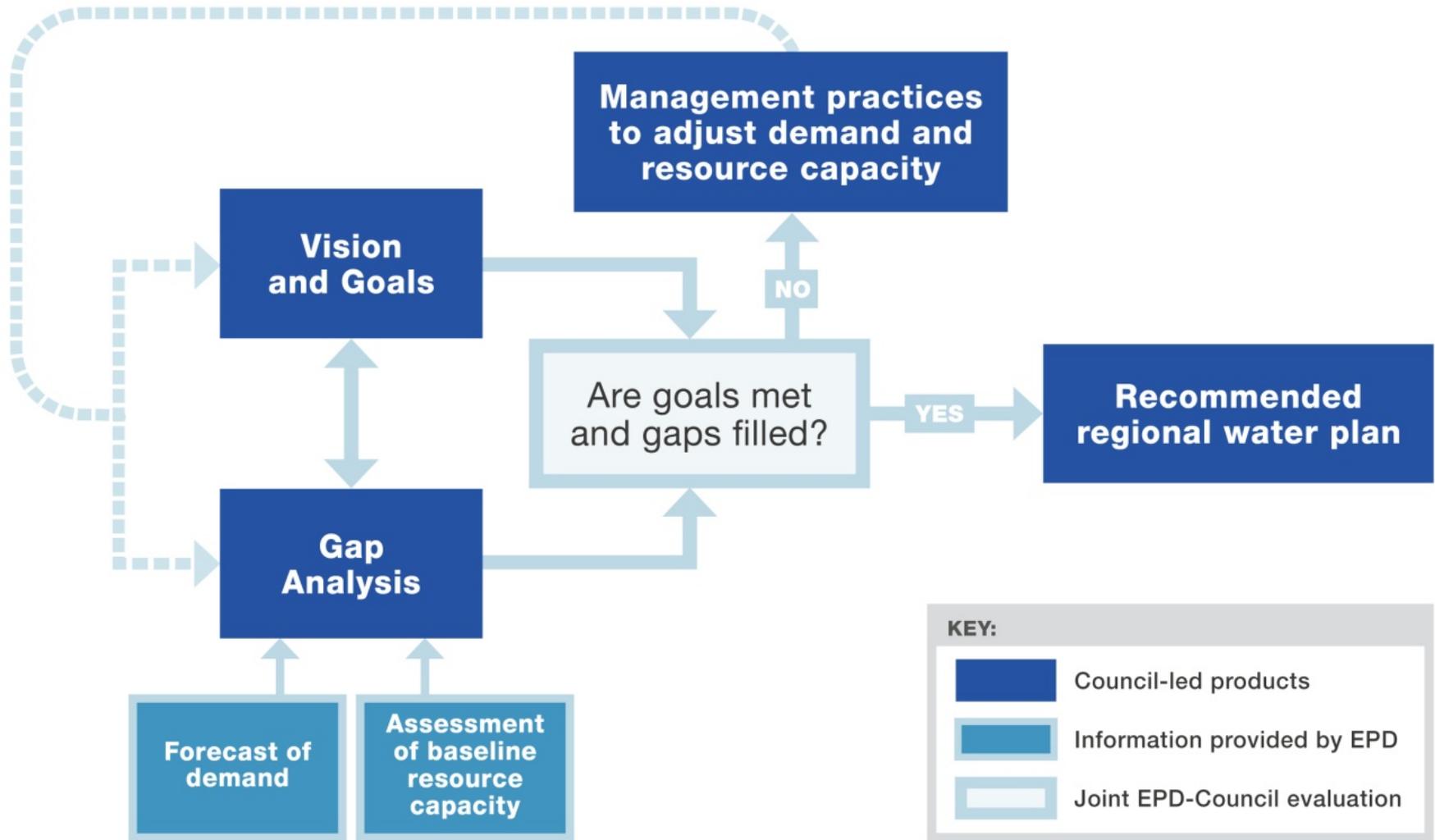
As required by the State Water Plan [Section 14(7)]

- Describe the region's water resources, water users, local governments and education and implementation partners
- Forecast through 2050: population, domestic water use, commercial water use
- Compare forecasts with the water resource assessments
- Based on the comparison, recommended management practices for region
- Outline additional data and information needs
- Determine benchmarks for assessing plan effectiveness

Things to Consider for WDCP

- Plans will have a mix of EPD-provided information and Council-led products
- “Audiences” for plan
- Fulfillment of regional vision and goals
- Maps, figures, tables
- Council member expectations
- “Extra elements” beyond the minimum
- Discuss Table of Contents at CM5

Key Roles of the Planning Council



Regional Water Planning Council Roles and Responsibilities

- 1: Attend and actively participate in regional water planning council meetings
- 2: Sign a MOA and follow operating procedures
- 3: Finalize and follow the Public Involvement Plan
- 4: Receive and incorporate input from local governments and the public
- 5: Draft regional vision and update throughout the planning process
- 6: Understand the water resource assessments
- 7: Understand forecasts of water and wastewater demands
- 8: Compare results of resource assessments with water and wastewater forecasts in order to identify any “gaps”
- 9: Select, refine, and finalize selection of management practices
- 10: Coordinate with neighboring regional water planning councils regarding the selected water management practices
- 11: Prepare a recommended regional water plan and submit to the Director of EPD for review and approval. Make revisions based on comments from EPD and the public.

Definition of a Water Resource “Gap”

“Gap” Definition - Quantity

- The difference between the available resource (i.e., supply) and the sum of needs/demands
- A gap can be defined both geographically and by water use type (surface water quantity and quality; ground water quantity)

Definition of a Water Resource “Gap”

“Gap” Definition - Quality

- The difference between the capacity of receiving waters to assimilate wastewater and the sum of needs/demands associated with the discharge of wastewater
- A quality gap can be also be defined as a portion of a water body that does not meet (or is forecasted not to meet) water quality standards
- A gap can be defined both geographically and by water use type

Addressing a Gap Might Vary Based on:

- Urgency of water resource need
- Size and type of gap or need
- Scale and geographic considerations

The specificity of management practices will vary based on size and nature of identified gaps and needs.

Management Practices

Definition

Any program or activity that:

- Helps meet the regional vision and goals
- Can be employed to ensure that there is sufficient water (surface and groundwater quantity) and assimilative capacity (surface water quality) to sustainably meet future needs
- Management practices can increase resource capacity and/or adjusts forecasted demands (i.e., water efficiency measures)

Identifying Management Practices

Consider:

- Existing planning and project activities of water utilities/providers
- Existing significant and relevant water related studies or plans that identify potential management practices
- Alternatives for areas without existing plans

Next Steps

- Resource Assessment Models – Available *January 2010 (Joint Council Meetings)*
- Management Practices Survey – *Early 2010*
- Initial discussion, selection, and refinement of Management Practices – *Council Meetings 5, 6, and 7*
- Are gaps closed? Are future needs met? Are regional goals met?
- Finalize selection of Management Practices by *December 2010*