For Immediate Release

March 31, 2006

**Georgia EPD To Hold Town Hall Meetings On Farm-Use Water Management Plan**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has scheduled a series of town hall meetings to help farmers understand the requirements of a new plan to manage agricultural water use in the state’s lower Flint River Basin and to explain the permitting process.

*The Flint River Basin Regional Water Development and Conservation Plan* is based on the recommendations developed by a Stakeholder Advisory Committee during a yearlong series of public meetings, and technical findings of several sound science studies conducted in the Basin. The 19-member Stakeholder Advisory Committee consists of farmers, business people and others from throughout the area.

EPD has held farm-use water withdrawal permit applications since 1999, pending results of the scientific studies and development of a water management plan. The moratorium on new farm-use permits will be lifted, but applications will be closely evaluated to meet the requirements of the plan.

The meeting dates and locations are:

- **Thursday, April 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**
  Albany State University, ACAD Auditorium, Radium Springs Road, Albany
- **Tuesday, April 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**
  Retreat at Lake Blackshear, 2459-H US Highway 280 West, Cordele
- **Tuesday, April 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**
  Charter House Inn, 1401 Tallahassee Highway, Bainbridge

Representatives from EPD will conduct the meetings. A representative from the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission also will attend to discuss metering of newly permitted wells and pumps.


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