



January 31, 2025

The Honorable Henry McMaster  
State House  
1100 Gervais Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

RE: WaterSC Status Update and Request for Guidance on Executive Order No. 2024-22

Dear Governor McMaster,

As Chair of the WaterSC Water Resources Working Group, I am writing to provide you with a status update of our work and request guidance on submitting the remaining reports ordered in Executive Order No. 2024-22.

WaterSC has met monthly since October 2024 and its participants have spent numerous hours meeting with sector constituents in preparation for those monthly meetings. Additionally, WaterSC sought and received many comments from the public concerning South Carolina's water resources and hosted a public listening session earlier this month.

The WaterSC meetings have had presentations and facilitated discussions focused on the State of Surface Water. Information presented in these meetings have included:

- State Agency Focus from the SC Department of Commerce
- State Water Planning History
- Surface Water Use and Modeling
- The Status of River Basin Council's Recommendations and Themes
- Surface Water Legal Framework
- State Agency Focus from SC Department of Natural Resources on Drought Monitoring and Response

In facilitated discussions, the working group has outlined broad goals and shared concepts but has not reached consensus on any recommendations at this time. This group remains committed to continuing its work together towards future recommendations and advising on the update of the State Water Plan. Likewise, the WaterSC process will continue to offer opportunities for expanded stakeholder and public engagement.

As you are aware, the Surface Water Study Committee has filed a joint resolution to move the date of its report to March 2, 2026, and amending its scope to include ground water. I respectfully request your guidance on how WaterSC should proceed with its deliverables under this new schedule, particularly in regard to reporting the state of surface water and consensus issues to the Committee. As noted above, WaterSC has made considerable progress, and additional time to examine these issues would prove useful in informing the Committee as it proceeds with broader scope and an expanded timeline.

Thank you very much for your continued leadership, service, and prioritization to ensure our State's natural resources are managed in the best interests of all South Carolinians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Myra C. Reece".

Myra C. Reece  
Chair, WaterSC  
Interim Director, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services

CC: Trey Walker, Chief of Staff