

waterSC

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SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPT. OF
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The Charge for WaterSC

Executive Order No. 2024-22

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

October 31, 2024

Quarterly updates to the Surface Water
Study Committee

Advise on updated State Water Plan

December 31, 2025

**Today's
Focus:
Guiding
Principles &
Conjunctive
Use**

Time	Agenda
1:00 pm	Welcome & Leading the Charge for WaterSC
1:10 pm	Guiding Principles for WaterSC
2:15 pm	Management of Water Resources with Conjunctive Use in SC
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Conjunctive Use Panel Discussion
3:30 pm	Tabletop Discussion: Managing SC Water Resources with Conjunctive Use
4:15 pm	Next Steps
4:30 pm	Adjourn & Networking

Guiding Principles For WaterSC

The Charge for WaterSC

Executive Order No. 2024-22

- Balance the State's *economic, environmental, and social needs*;
- Ensure the *reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and sufficiency* of the State's water resources *for all existing and future uses*, while simultaneously *protecting the environment*; and
- Support and facilitate additional *collaboration* with ongoing efforts and existing initiatives.



The WaterSC Working Group: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Have a statewide resource-focused approach
- Remain committed to the process
- Serve as a voice and connection for stakeholder sectors and categories
- Provide transparency
- Be collaborative and solution-focused

Goals from October

Vision

- SC is the most beautiful & prosperous place
- A model for other states
- Balance growth, economic development & energy needs
- Stewards of the resources & voice for wildlife and recreation

Needs

- Unbiased science-based information
- Holistic approach: One water system (groundwater & surface water)
- Value and legacy of water



Goals from October

How we will work

- Work collaboratively
- Citizen input
- One of many voices
- Plant ideas

Solutions & Outcomes

- Updated State Water Plan
- Conservation
- Efficiency
- Technology
- Regulatory Framework
- Education



Considerations from Other Resources

PPAC Guiding Principles

- Water is a critical resource
- Water planning is a continuous process that requires cooperation & transparency
- Plans must recognize existing laws & regulations but should recommend needed policy changes
- Plans should utilize effective supply & demand water management strategies

Other States

- Colorado Focus Areas
 - Vibrant Communities
 - Robust Agriculture
 - Thriving Watersheds
 - Resilient Planning
- Utah Principles of Water Management
 - Reliable Data
 - Secure Supply
 - Healthy Watershed

Tabletop Discussions:

**What do you believe is
important?**

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Management of Water Resources with Conjunctive Use

Leigh Anne Monroe

March 20, 2025



Outline

- Conjunctive Use
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- Reuse



Conjunctive Use



Conjunctive Use

- What it is:
 - Practice of using ground and surface water to properly manage water resources; using all available conservation and storage techniques viable for a facility
- What it isn't
 - Push to always have both sources available
 - Just having one groundwater source and one surface water source
- Groundwater Management Plans and Operational and Contingency Plans for surface water permittees encourage conjunctive use where available and viable

Benefits of Conjunctive Use in SC

- Allows for better drought management
 - Pond storage
 - ASR
 - Wells vs surface intakes
- Reduction in groundwater pumping in high use areas
- Keeps water resources more reliable year-round
- Better resource availability during peak demand



Challenges with Conjunctive Use

- Alternate sources not always available
- Regulations
- Aquifers not always conducive to ASR (especially in upstate)
- Expense
- Storage capacity/availability

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

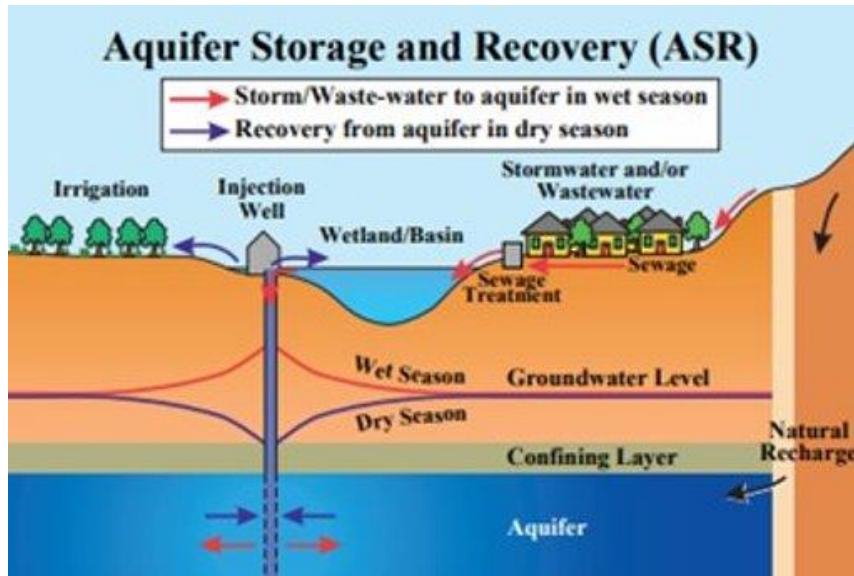


ASR Review

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery – injection of treated water into an aquifer for storage
- Major users with ASR wells in SC:
 - Grand Strand W&SA
 - Mount Pleasant Waterworks
 - Georgetown County WSD
 - Broad Creek PSD
 - Hilton Head PSD
 - Kiawah Island Utility
 - Orangeburg DPU
- Only really viable in Coastal Plain SC due to aquifer characteristics



ASR Benefits



- Makes resource more readily available during peak demand
- Can help prevent or reduce saltwater intrusion and subsidence
- Creates additional resource when surface water is not readily available

Reuse



Reuse

- Means different things based on facility needs and water quality requirements
 - Industrial user capturing cooling water and running through the maximum number of times
 - Recycling wastewater from sewage plant for tower extrusions
 - Power station using a water reclamation pond to collect stormwater for reuse
- Major challenges: regulations, space, location/resource availability





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Get in touch

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Conjunctive Use Panel Discussion

**Christy Holder, Grand Strand Water & Sewer
Brad O'Neal, Coosaw Farms
Darrell Shier, Dominion Energy**

Managing SC Water Resources with Conjunctive Use

Next Steps

Working Group Meetings



Listening Sessions

April 8

- St Helena Island

April 9

- Florence

April 10

- Greenville

Next Steps

- Updating the Surface Water Study Committee (April 3)
- Listening Sessions (April 8-10)
- Working Group Meeting (April 24)

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