



Surface Water Study
Committee Update
April 3, 2025

February & March Focus of WaterSC

Guiding
Principles

State of
Groundwater

The State
Water Plan

Conjunctive
Use

WaterSC Guiding Principles

- "Water is a shared resource with shared responsibility"
- A collaborative approach to develop and implement a science-based actionable plan
- A plan that balances economic, environmental and community needs
- A plan that secures reliable and resilient water resources for the future

Groundwater Use and Reporting Act

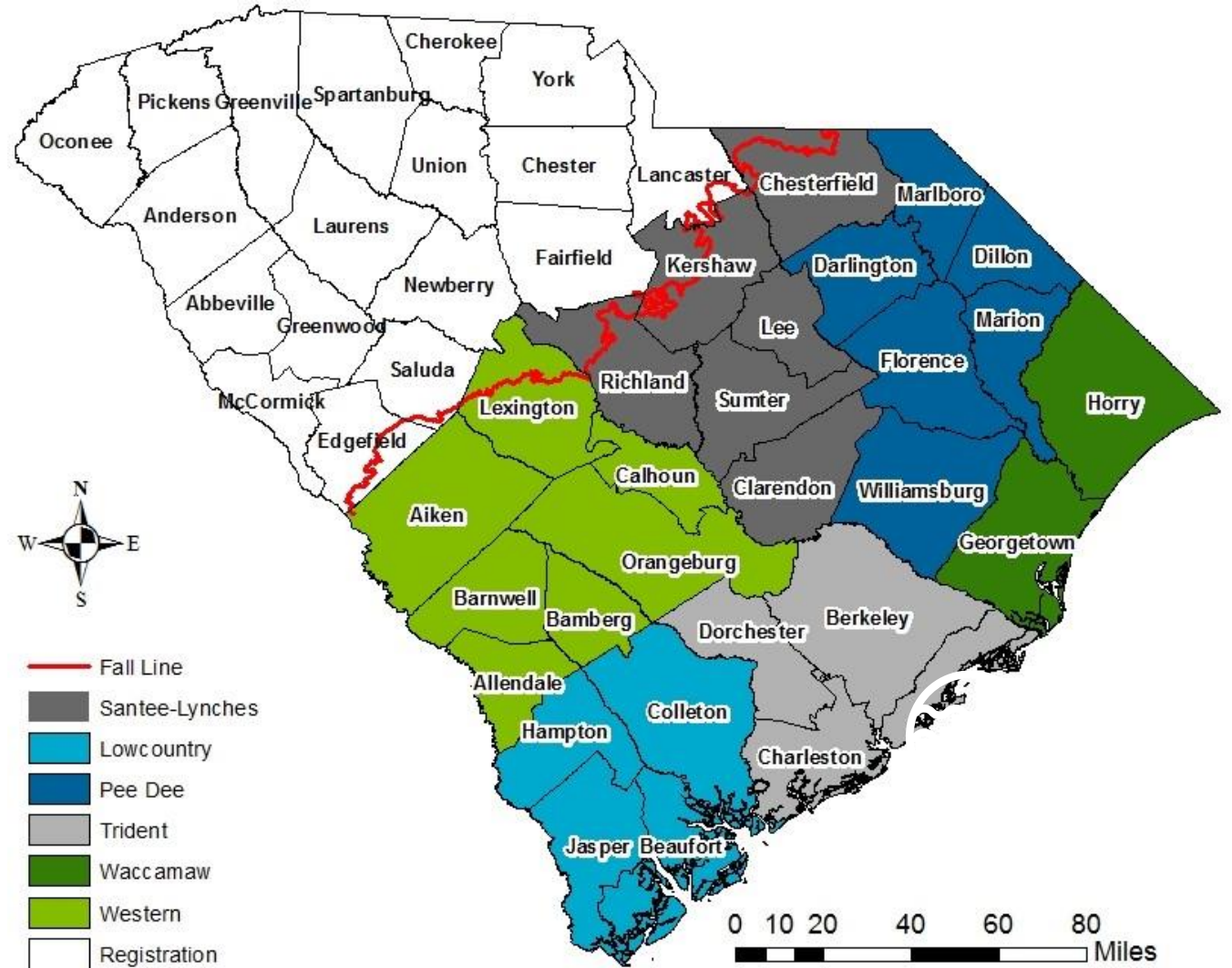
Legislative Declaration of Policy

“The General Assembly declares that the general welfare and public interest require that the groundwater resources of the State be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent to which they are capable, subject to reasonable regulation, in order to conserve and protect these resources, prevent waste, and to provide and maintain conditions which are conducive to the development and use of water resources.”

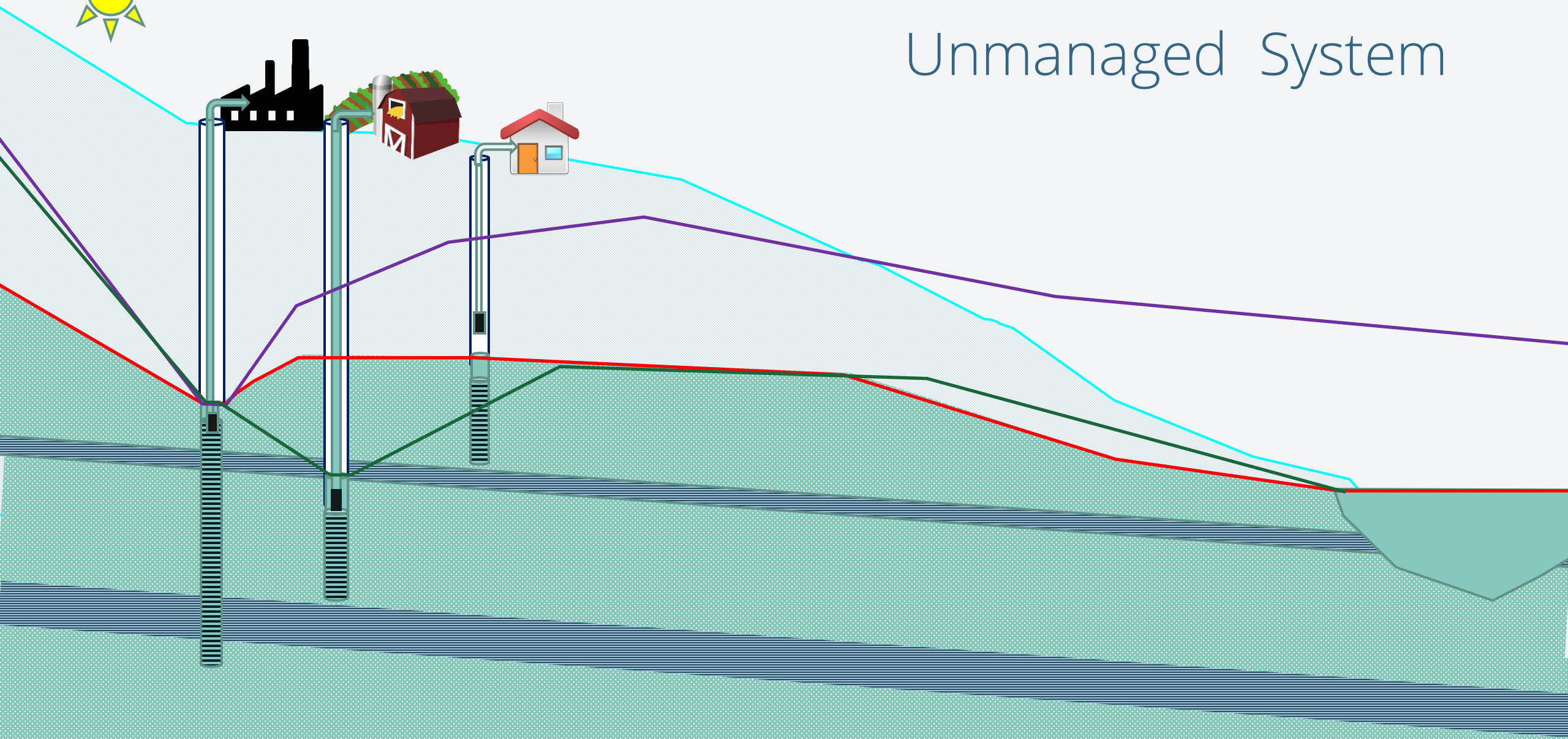
Review of Groundwater Capacity Use Program

6 Capacity Use Areas:

- Waccamaw (1979)
- Lowcountry (1981)
- Trident (2002)
- Pee Dee (2004)
- Western (2018)
- Santee-Lynches (2021)



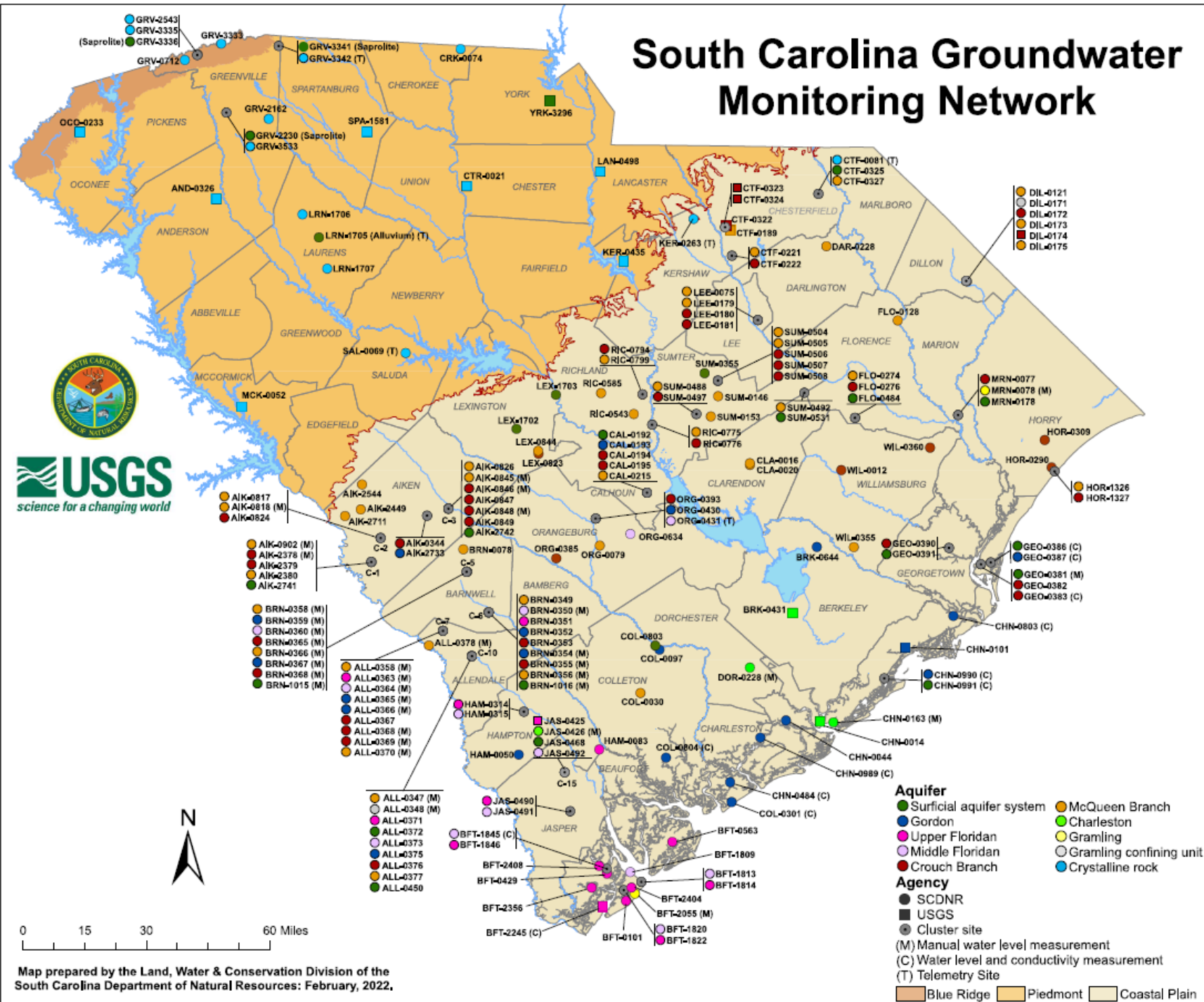
Unmanaged System



Managed System



South Carolina Groundwater Monitoring Network

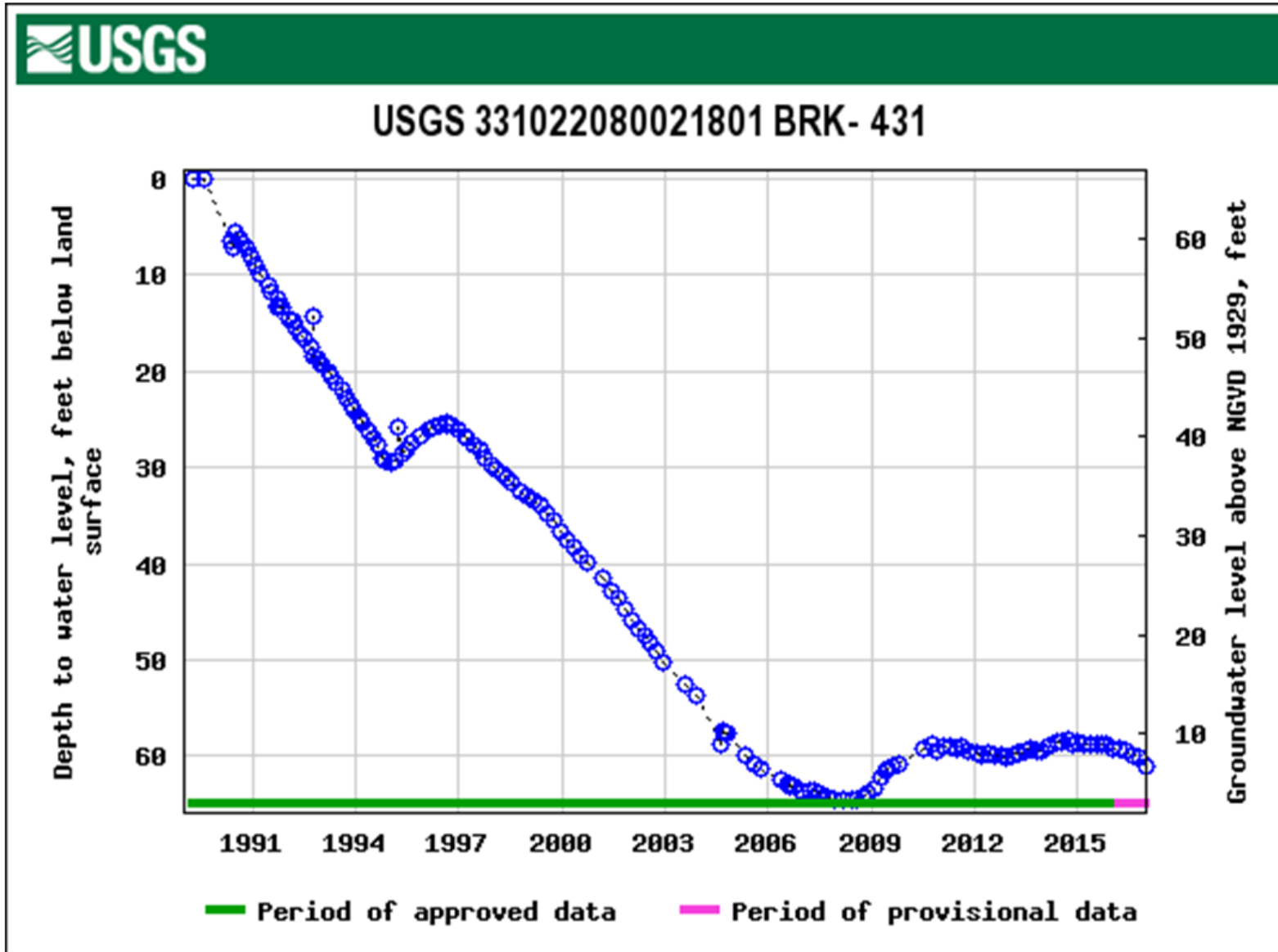


Map prepared by the Land, Water & Conservation Division of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources: February, 2022.

Core Groundwater Management Strategies

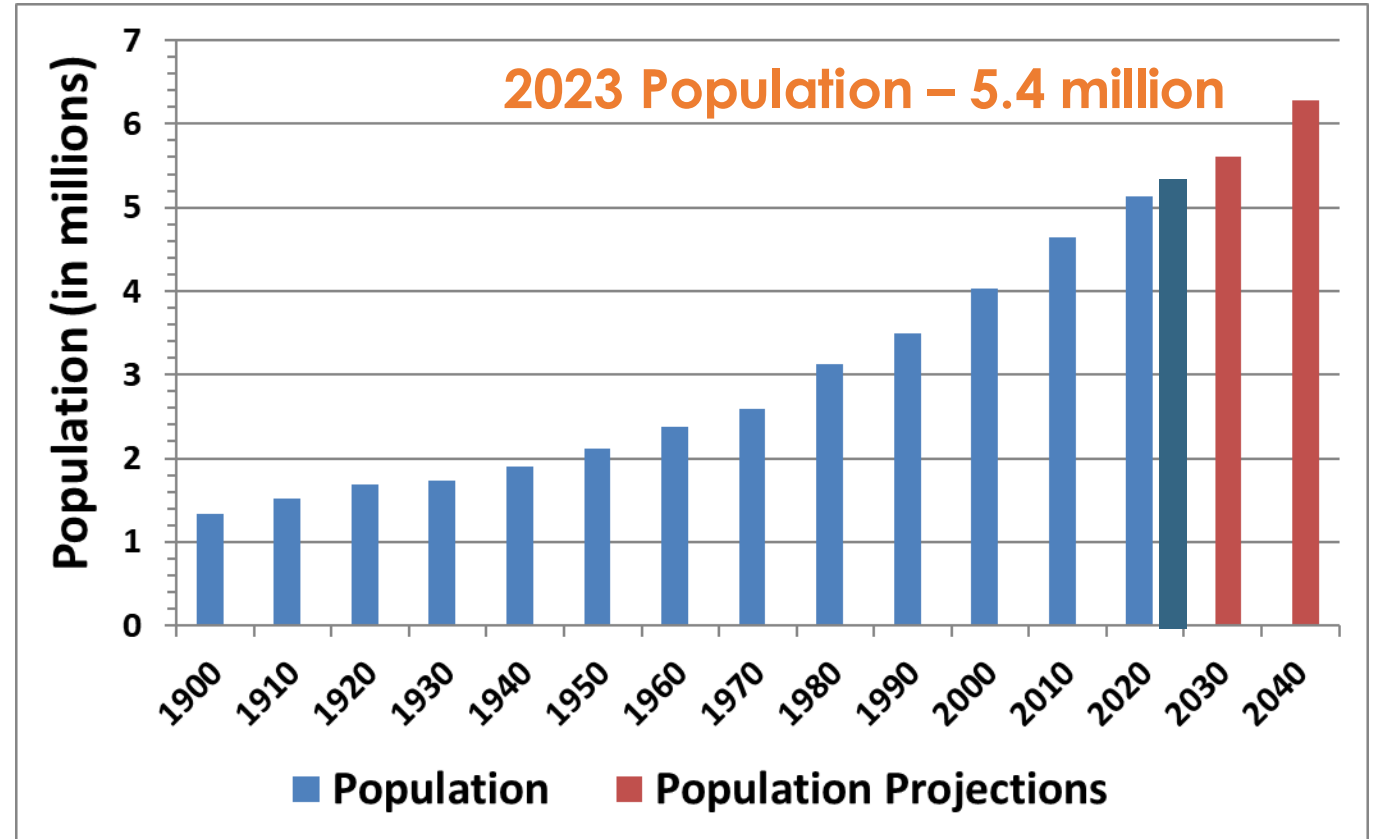
- Comprehensive groundwater monitoring program
- Conservation education for the general public and groundwater withdrawers.
- Plan for continual stakeholder engagement
- 5-year evaluations assess the state of the resource and guide groundwater management recommendations.

Management = Success



Need for State Water Planning

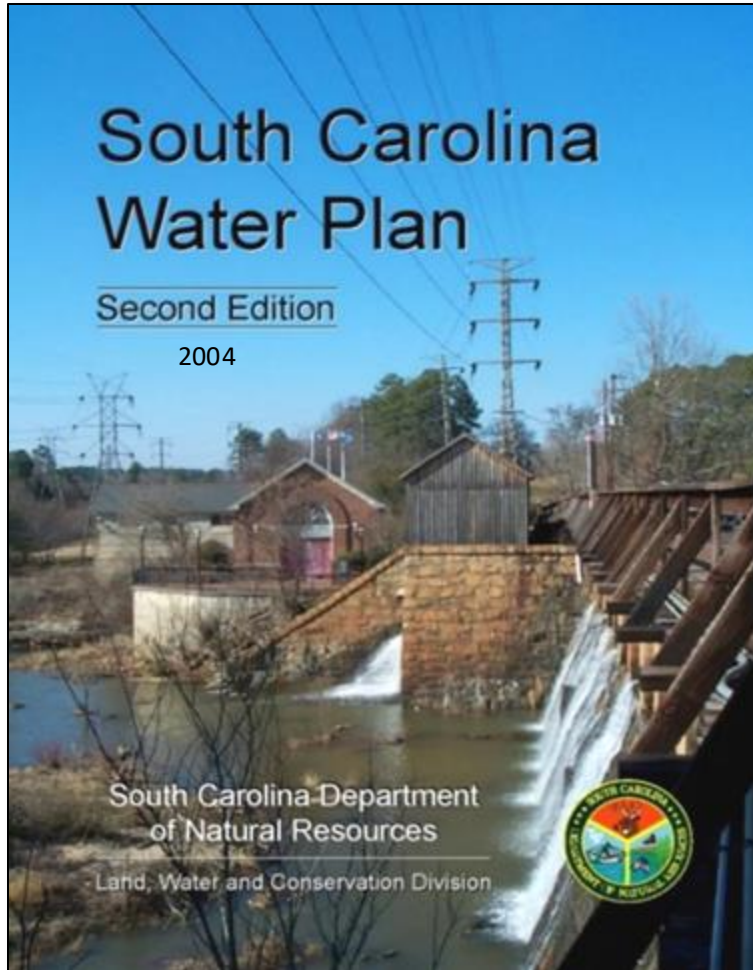
- Population growth leads to increased water demand
- New industry with water resource needs
- Variation in rainfall



SC Population Growth from 1900 – 2023 and Projections for 2030 – 2040

Data from the SC Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, 2024, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2024.

History of State Water Planning



- **First edition of the State Water Plan in 1998.**
- In **2004**, the **second edition** of the South Carolina Water Plan incorporated **lessons learned** from the **drought of 1998-2002**.
- Recommended developing a **regional water plan for each major river basin** in the State.
- SCDES coordinates a broad collaborative stakeholder process to **update the State Water Plan**.

Conjunctive Use

What it is

- Practice of 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

Provides options, availability, and resiliency of the resource

Conjunctive Use Panel Discussion

March 20, 2025

- Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority (ASR)
 - Quick response and support during emergencies—fires & hurricanes
 - Availability to meet peak demand
 - Economical alternative for peak demand
- Coosaw Farms (Drought Management)
 - Use pond storage & stormwater reclamation
 - Wells and surface water intakes for different crops and timing in growing season
- Dominion Energy
 - Transition to surface water from groundwater to protect the resource
 - Improve long-term reliability
- Improved year-round reliability of water resources





Water 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 for cooling towers & golf course irrigation
 - Power station using a water reclamation pond to collect stormwater for reuse
- Major challenges: regulations, space, location/resource availability

Upcoming Listening Sessions

April 8

- Penn Center, St. Helena Island

April 9

- Clemson University Pee Dee Research & Education Center, Florence

April 10

- ReWa, Greenville



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