

PREFACE

This State Water Supply Plan is the first document of its kind in North Carolina. North Carolina has been working toward development of a State Water Supply Plan for 10 years now, since the passage of legislation in 1989 mandating the state and local water supply planning process.

The State Water Supply Plan is a compilation of over 500 Local Water Supply Plans developed by local government water systems to assess their water supply needs over the next 20 years. This version of the State Water Supply Plan, dated January 2001, is based on the most recent Local Water Supply Plans, most of which were developed during 1998 and 1999. The Division of Water Resources carefully reviewed these plans and worked with local governments to assure that they were as complete and accurate as possible. In addition, the state plan incorporates the 1999 water withdrawal registration data that other water users submitted during 2000. The State Water Supply Plan will be updated at five year intervals, with each update reflecting the most recent Local Water Supply Plans and water withdrawal registration data.

The State Water Supply Plan describes the major water supply issues facing state and local governments now and over the next 5-10 year period, such as how to address the serious decline in ground water levels in portions of our central coastal plain. This document presents relevant information for local communities and their consultants to use when planning for their future water supply needs, such as water conservation, additional water supply alternatives, and the various state regulations and programs affecting water supply planning.

A draft State Water Supply Plan was released in January 2000, based on 1992 Local Water Supply Plan data. In addition to incorporating more recent data, this final version also reflects public and agency comments received during 14 public meetings that were held across the state during June and July 2000 and other written comments received throughout the year.

The State Water Supply Plan is available online at the division's website at www.ncwater.org. For additional information or to provide comments, contact the Water Supply Planning Section in the North Carolina Division of Water Resources at 1611 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1611 or call (919) 733-4064. Comments and inquiries can also be sent by email to DWR at swsp@ncmail.net.