Water Issues in Georgia

A Survey of Public Perceptions and Attitudes about Water

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Background

• Survey is a 35-state research effort led by Dr. Robert Mahler, Water Quality Coordinator at the University of Idaho

• Georgia survey conducted through the Southern Regional Water Program, with funding provided by USDA
Background

• Survey instrument contains 59 questions developed by state Water Quality Coordinators throughout the country

• Administered in Georgia in 2009 & 2010
  
  Surveys mailed = 1,998
  Survey returned = 520
  Response rate = 26%
Areas of Interest for Learning More about Water Quality

- Animal waste management
- Irrigation management
- Landscape buffers
- Forest management and water issues
- Watershed restoration
- Nutrient and pesticide management
- Community actions concerning water issues
- Restoring fish and aquatic habitat
- Shoreline clean-up
- Water policy and economics
- Private well protection
- Watershed management
- Septic system management
- Fish and wildlife water needs
- Home and garden landscaping
- Protecting public drinking water supplies
Future likelihood of prolonged drought

- Increasing: 70%
- Decreasing: 15%
- Staying the same: 10%
- No opinion: 5%
Likelihood of Your Local Area Meeting All Water Resource Needs in 10 Years

- Low likelihood
- Medium likelihood
- High likelihood
- No opinion