

Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority: 70 Years of Adventures in Water Resource Management

Glenn M. Page, P.E.
G.M. Page and Associates, LLC



Who we are . . .

- Regional drinking water wholesaler
- Political subdivision of State of Georgia
- 2nd largest water provider in Georgia
- 172 million gallons per day capacity
- 9 wholesale customers in 5 counties
- Serving over 900,000 people





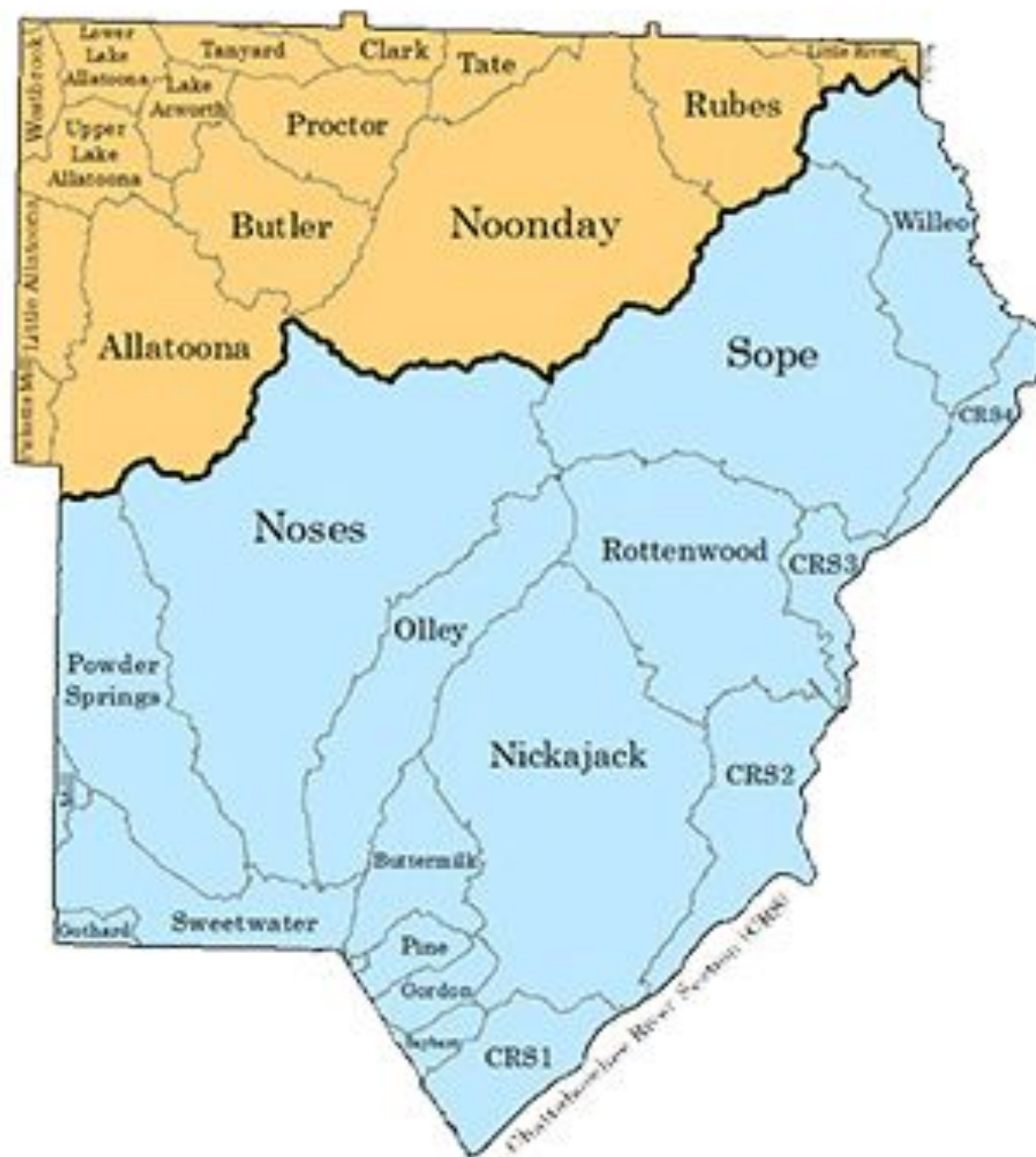
Alabama

Georgia

Alabama
Coosa
Tallapoosa

Apalachicola
Chattahoochee
Flint

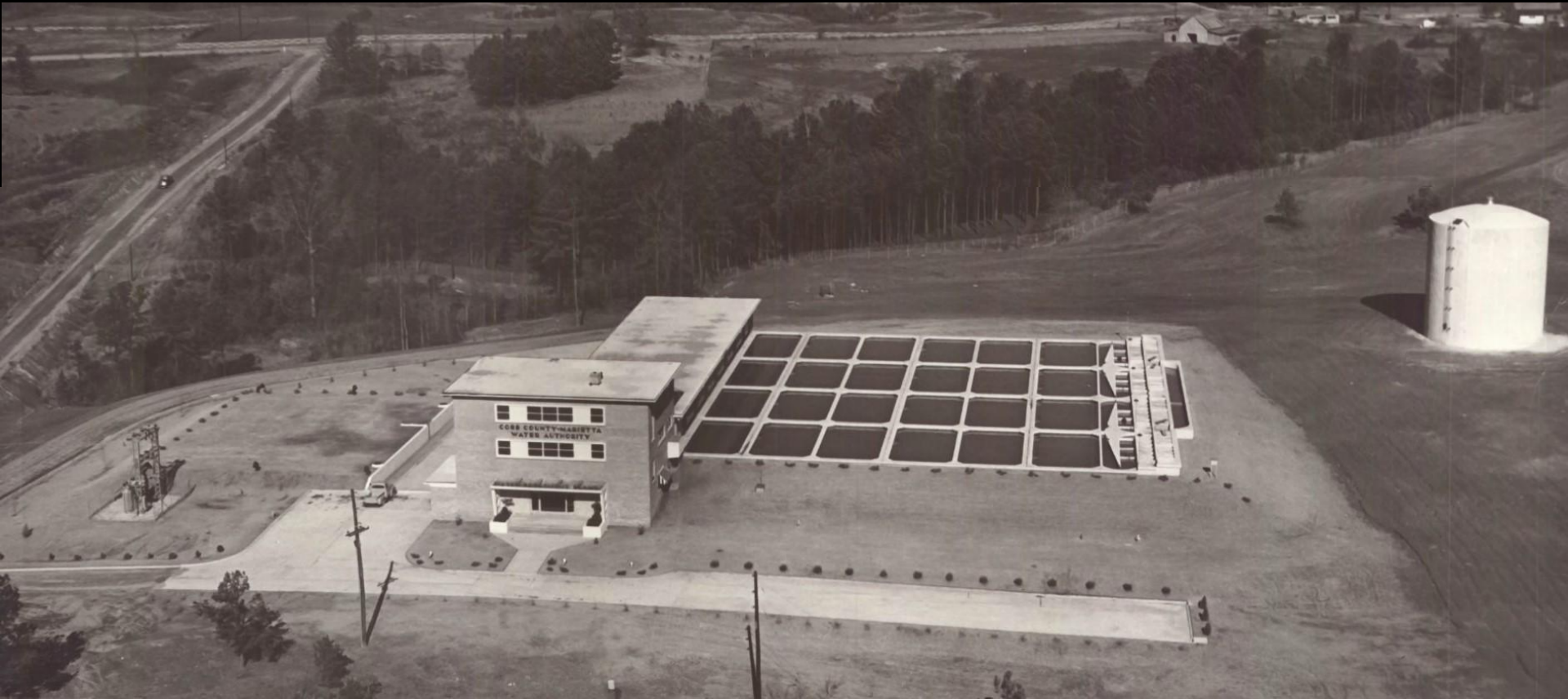
Florida

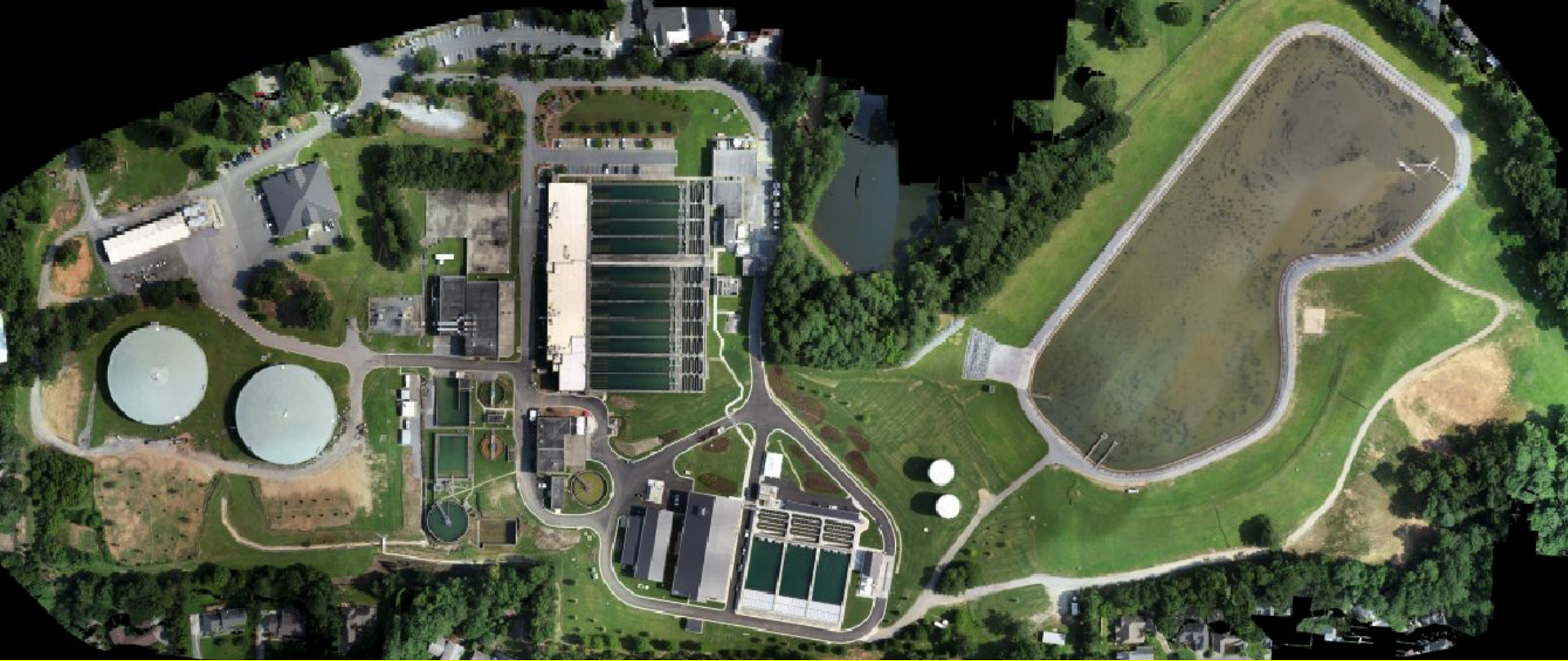


Timeline

- 1941 – Flood Control Act
- 1946 – Allatoona Dam construction commenced (reservoir full in 1950)
- 1946 – Rivers and Harbors Act
- 1950 – Buford Dam (Lake Lanier) construction commenced (reservoir full in 1958)
- 1951 – CCMWA chartered
- 1954 – CCMWA began pumping from Chattahoochee



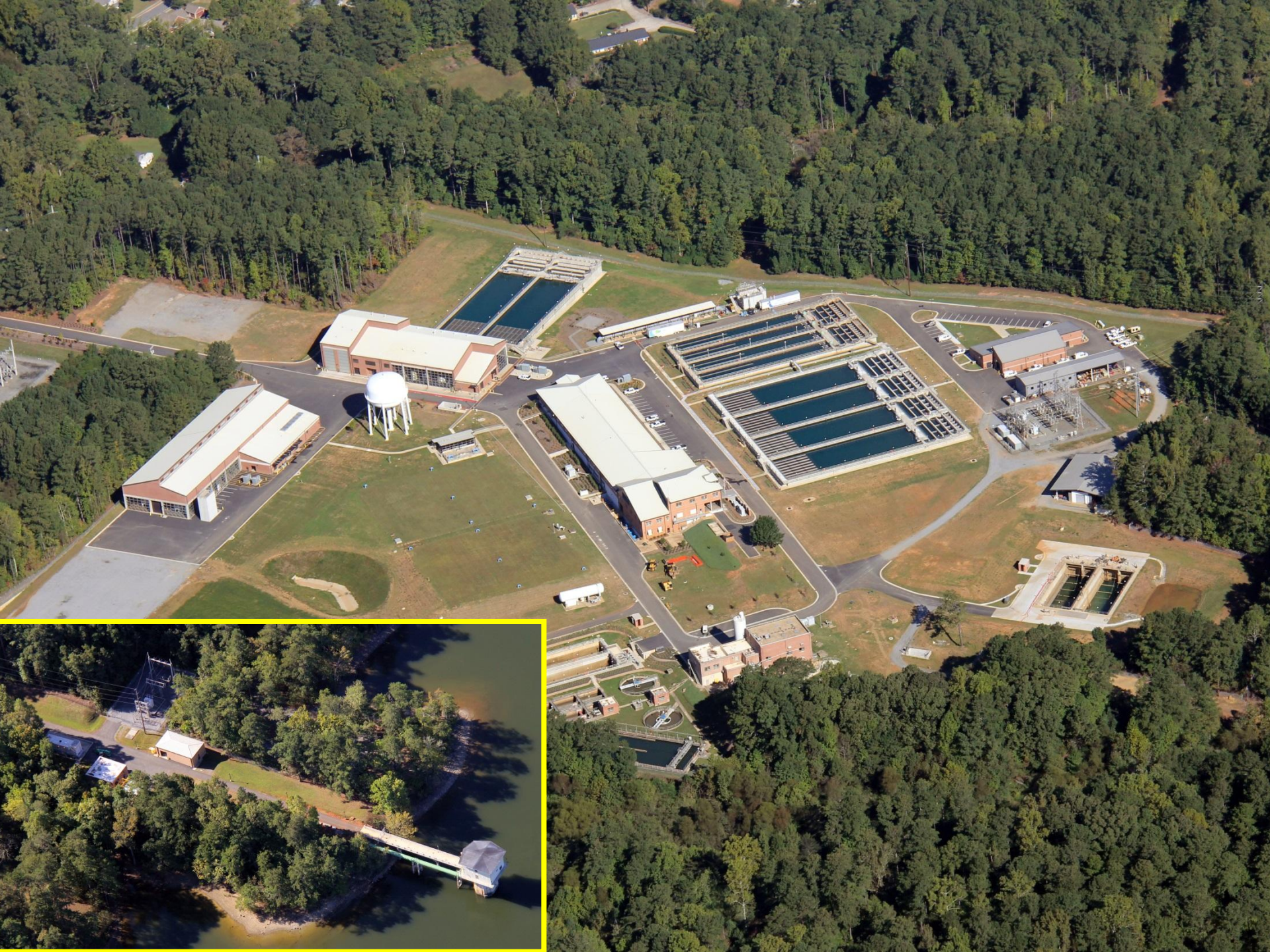




Timeline

- 1958 – Water Supply Act
- 1963 – CCMWA entered into Water Supply Contract with USACE at Allatoona
 - 3 separate storage “spaces” totaling 4.6% (13,140 acre-feet) of Allatoona conservation storage: 1965; 1975 □ 1972; 1982 □ 1978





Timeline

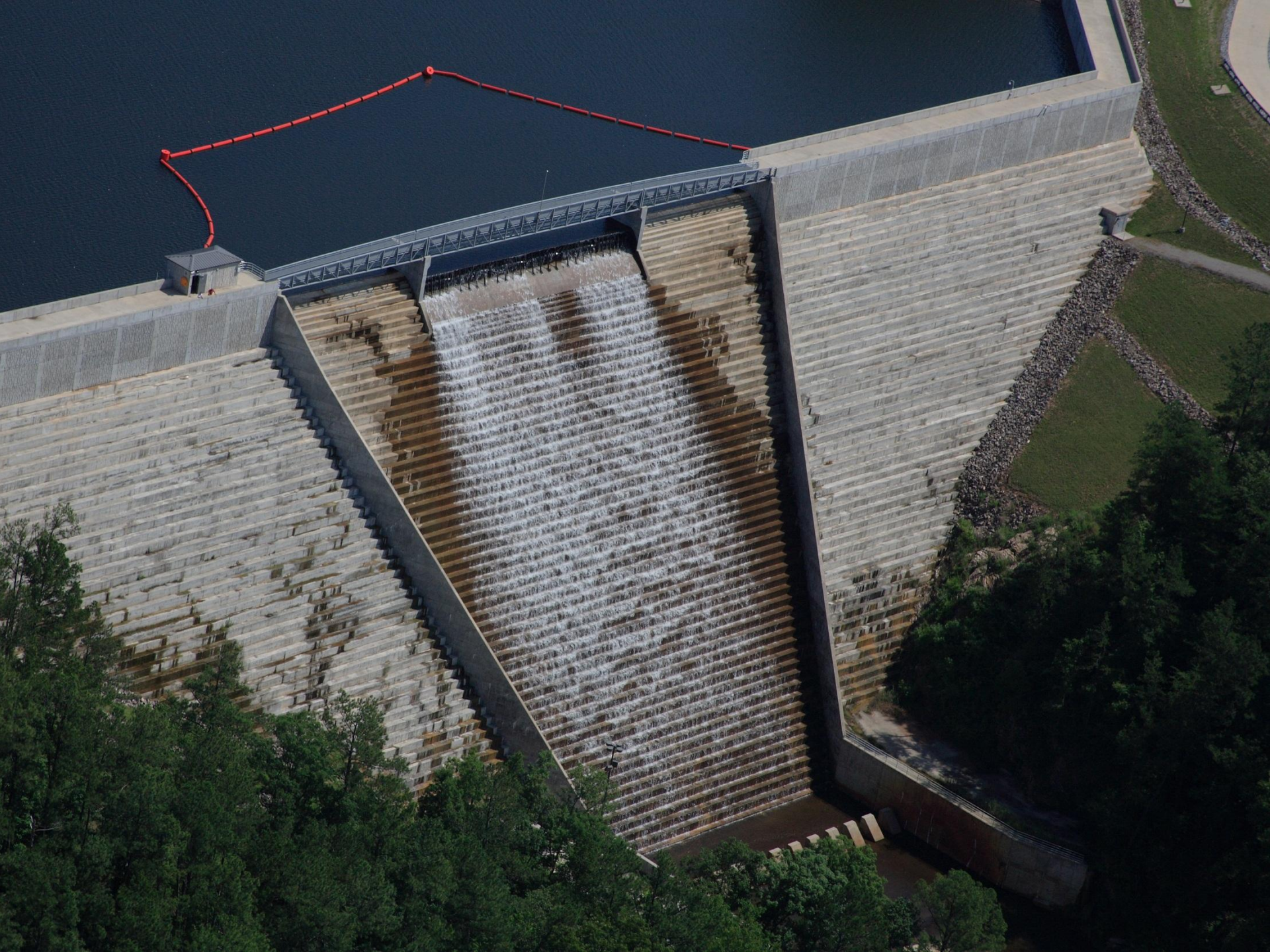
- 1981 – CCMWA requested additional allocation from Allatoona
 - 1986 – annual gross withdrawals exceeded “critical” yield; began discussing “credit” for wastewater returns (“net withdrawal”)
 - 1988 – Drought! CCMWA Master Plan focused on new water supplies (water conservation, groundwater development, reservoirs)
 - 1989 – USACE draft reallocation report recommends reallocation
 - 1990 – Alabama files suit against USACE to prevent reallocation (first shot in the ACT and ACF “Water Wars”)
- ...10 years of fun and games (litigation and executing Master Plan)...then...



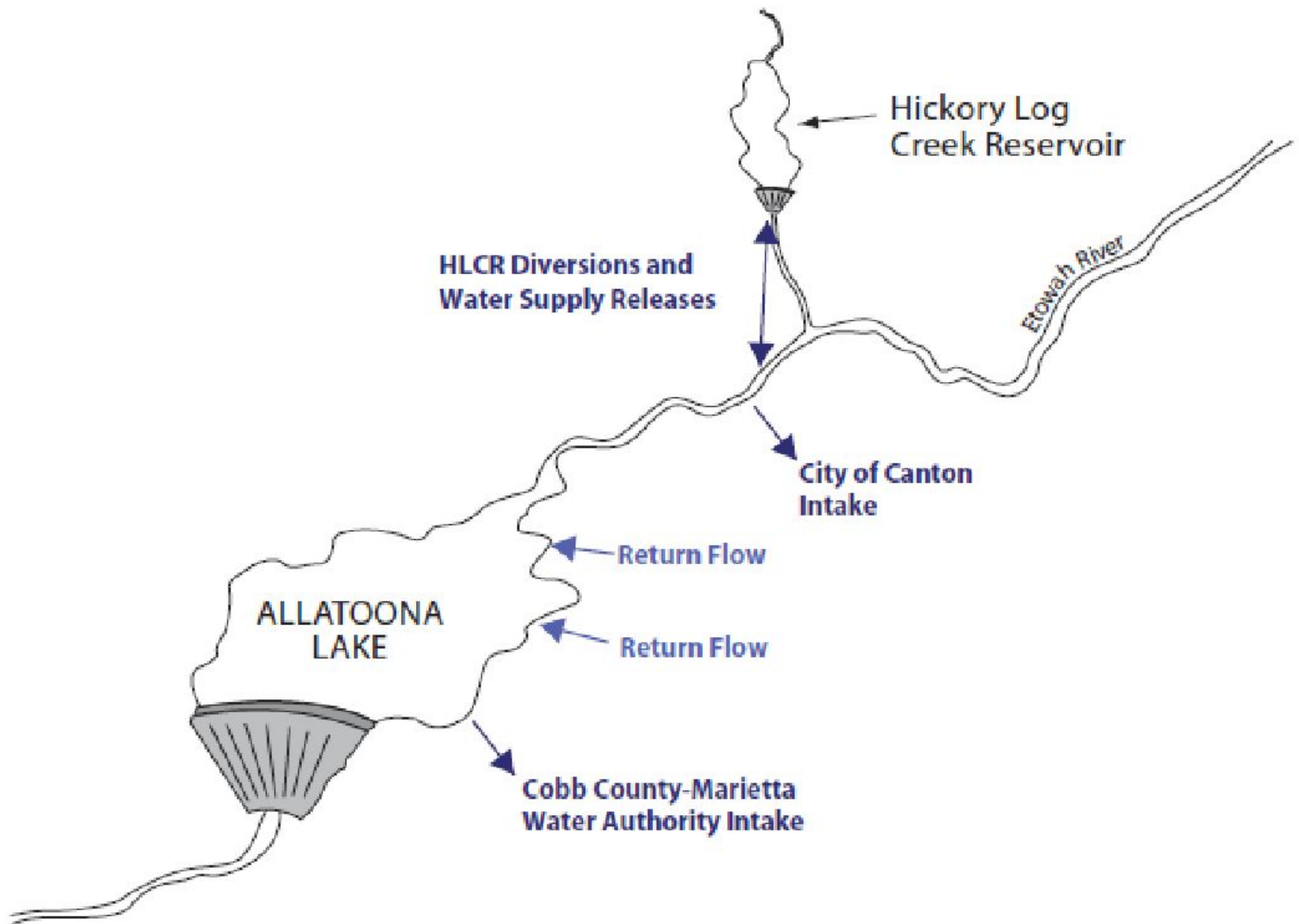
Timeline

- 2000 – CCMWA enters MOA with City of Canton to build Hickory Log Creek Reservoir
- 2004 – Section 404 Permit issued to build HLC project
- 2006 – HLC construction commences (reservoir full in 2010)
- In the meantime, since 1981...USACE had never given an answer to CCMWA's reallocation request









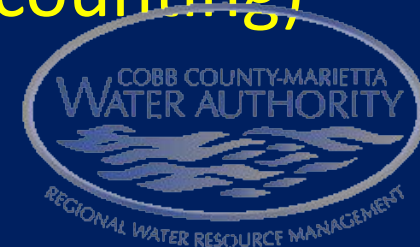
Timeline

- 2007 (during drought of record) – Mobile District (USACE) determines through new storage accounting that CCMWA may have “substantially exceeded its storage allocation”; CCMWA responds with analysis of District accounting...but USACE never replies
- 2012 (another drought) – Mobile District again inquires how CCMWA will stay within its allocation, and begins weekly emails
□ ENOUGH ALREADY!!!



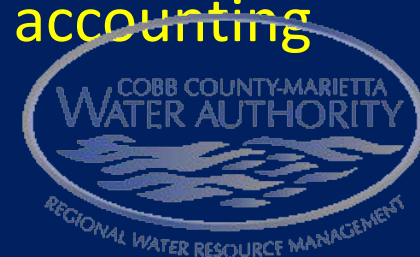
Timeline

- 2014 – CCMWA and State of GA file “failure to act” suit...AND...
- 2014 – GA issues new withdrawal permit to CCMWA after DNR passes “made inflow” rule, SPECIFICALLY ALLOCATING inflows to Allatoona from 2 water reclamation facilities and from HLC to CCMWA (requires daily flow measurement and accounting)
- 2017 – CCMWA files “full is full” suit v. USACE (accounting)



Timeline

- 2017 – USACE ordered to “act,” to complete a reallocation study and issue ROD by 2021
- 2018 – CCMWA and USACE mediate stay of “full is full” suit until reallocation results (Corps agrees to consider CCMWA accounting in alternatives)
- 2020 – Draft reallocation study – split needs between conservation pool and flood pool...but pay! (District did not choose CCMWA accounting, although it performed better)
- 2021 – ROD overturns District recommended alternative and grants CCMWA made inflows using CCMWA accounting methodology (no reallocation required)



Outcomes:

- Local investments in smart infrastructure to return water to the source extend water supply for decades
- Local investment in a water resources project provides drought protection and extends water supply for decades
- 40-year reallocation study approves use of addition and subtraction to yield rational results... FINALLY!
- Language in ROD indicates Georgia's responsibility to allocate water



What's next?

- New or modified water storage contract defining new accounting, recognizing made inflows into Allatoona system
- More legal challenges...and, hopefully
- Nationwide recognition of States' rights to allocate water, and rewarding of smart investments to extend water supplies through reuse



Questions?

