

2006 USDA-CSREES National Water Conference

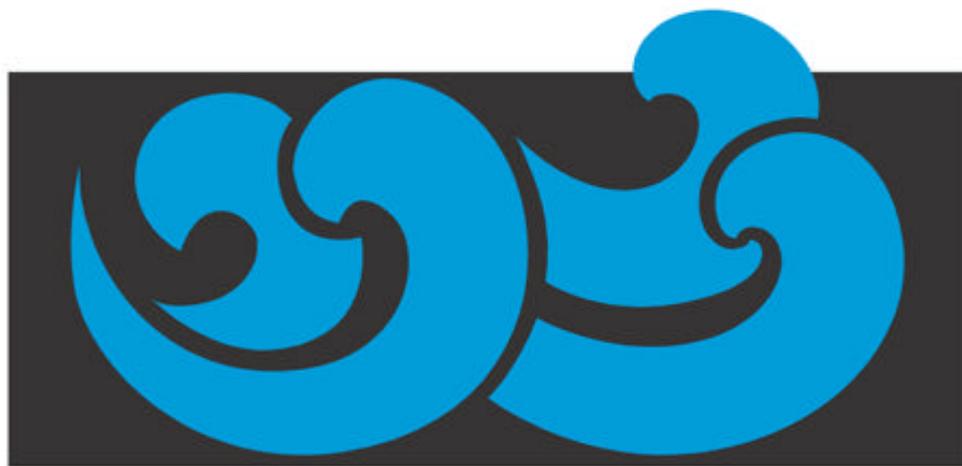
February 5-9, 2006
San Antonio, Texas

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there are several faint, concentric circular ripples that resemble water droplets or raindrops, adding a thematic visual element to the design.

Managing Water Scarcity in the Agricultural Sector: Evolving Issues in the Southeastern U.S.^[1]

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^[1] Presented at the USDA-CSREES National Water Conference, San Antonio, Texas, February 5-9, 2006.
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GEORGIA

Water

PLANNING & POLICY

— CENTER —

**Need to Amend State Laws
to
Meet Challenges of Water Scarcity**



§12-5-31(e)(9) provides that “...the granting of such permit shall not have unreasonably adverse effects upon other water uses in the area, including potential as well as present use;

§12-5-31(f) mandates that “...the director shall give preference to an existing use over an initial application;

and §12-5-31(g) provides that “...the granting of such permit shall not have unreasonably adverse effects upon other water uses in the area, including but not limited to public use, farm use, and potential as well as present use.”

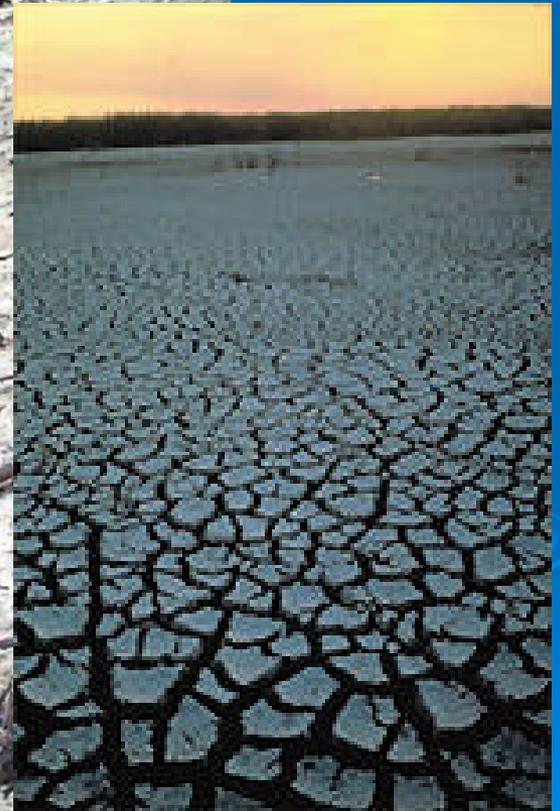
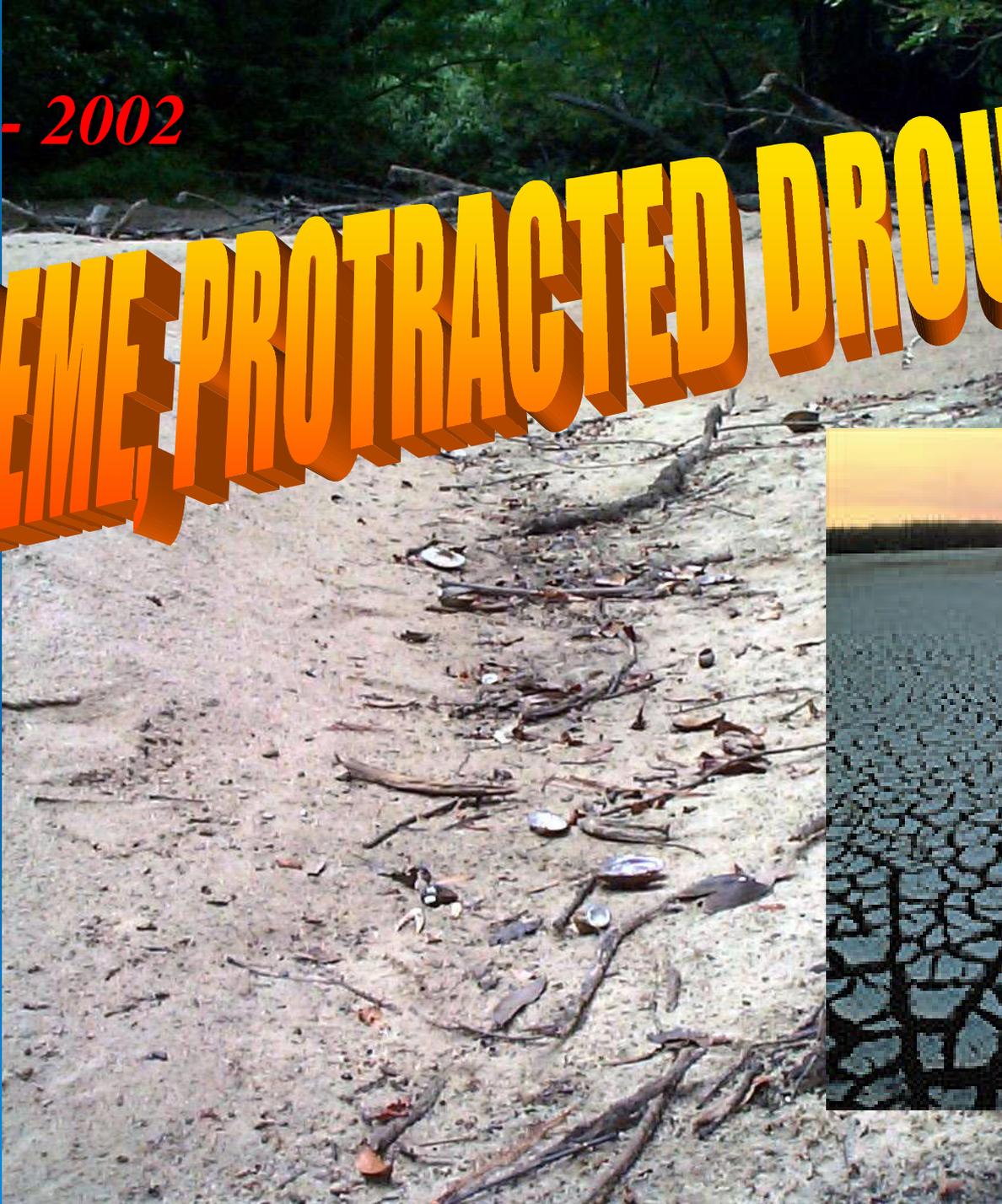
but

§12-5-31(k) (7), which provides that “The director may suspend or modify a farm use permit if he should determine through inspection, investigation, or otherwise that the quantity of water allowed under the permit would prevent other applicants from reasonable use of surface waters for farm use.”

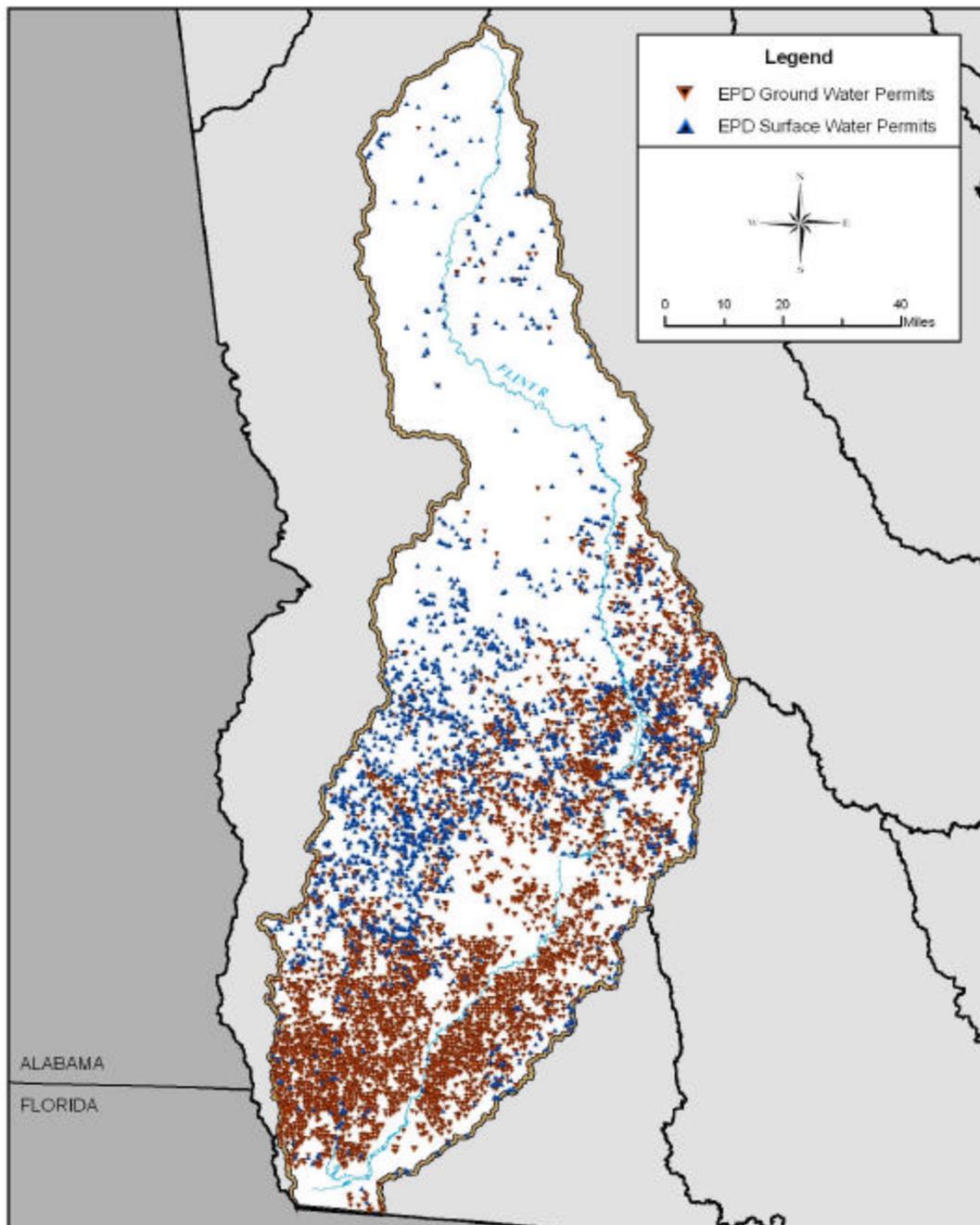


1998 - 2002

EXTREME, PROTRACTED DROUGHT!



Ground and Surface Water Permits in the Flint River Basin



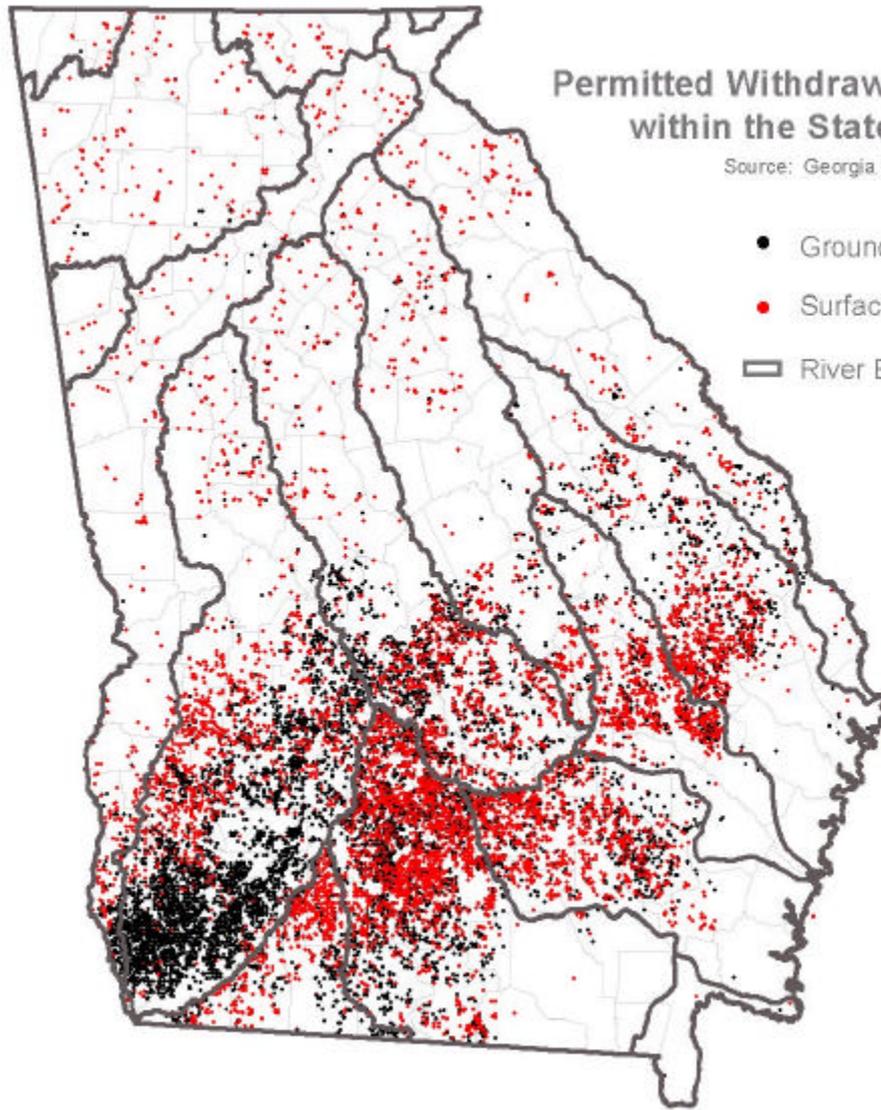
Approximately 7000 permits
Irrigating over 700,000 acres

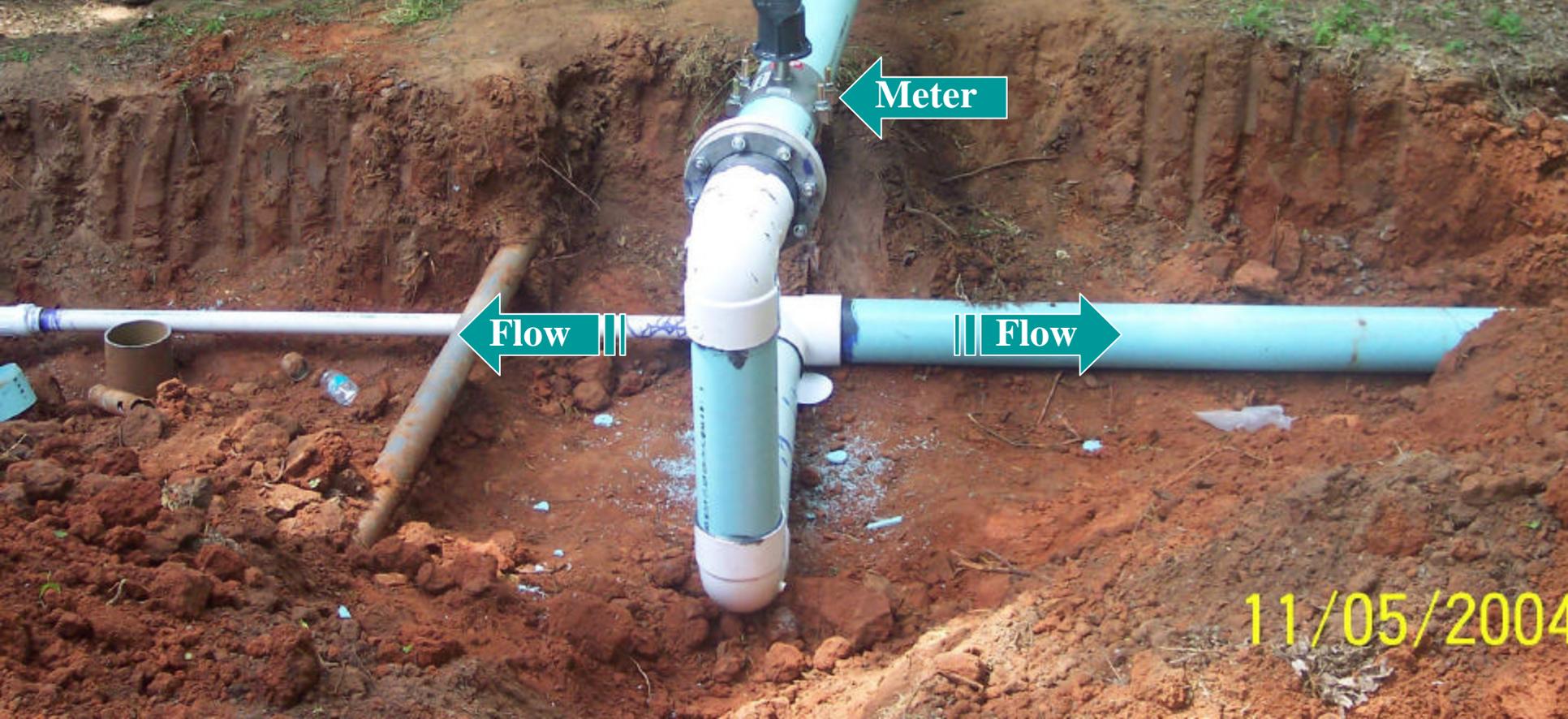
Measuring Agricultural Water Use



Permitted Withdrawals for Irrigation within the State of Georgia

Source: Georgia DNR EPD





Meter

Flow

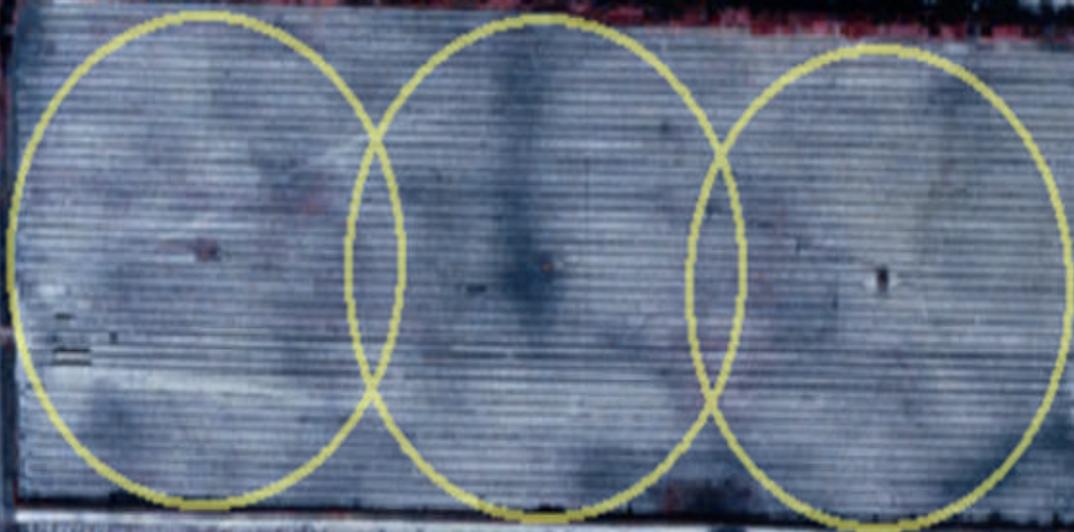
Flow

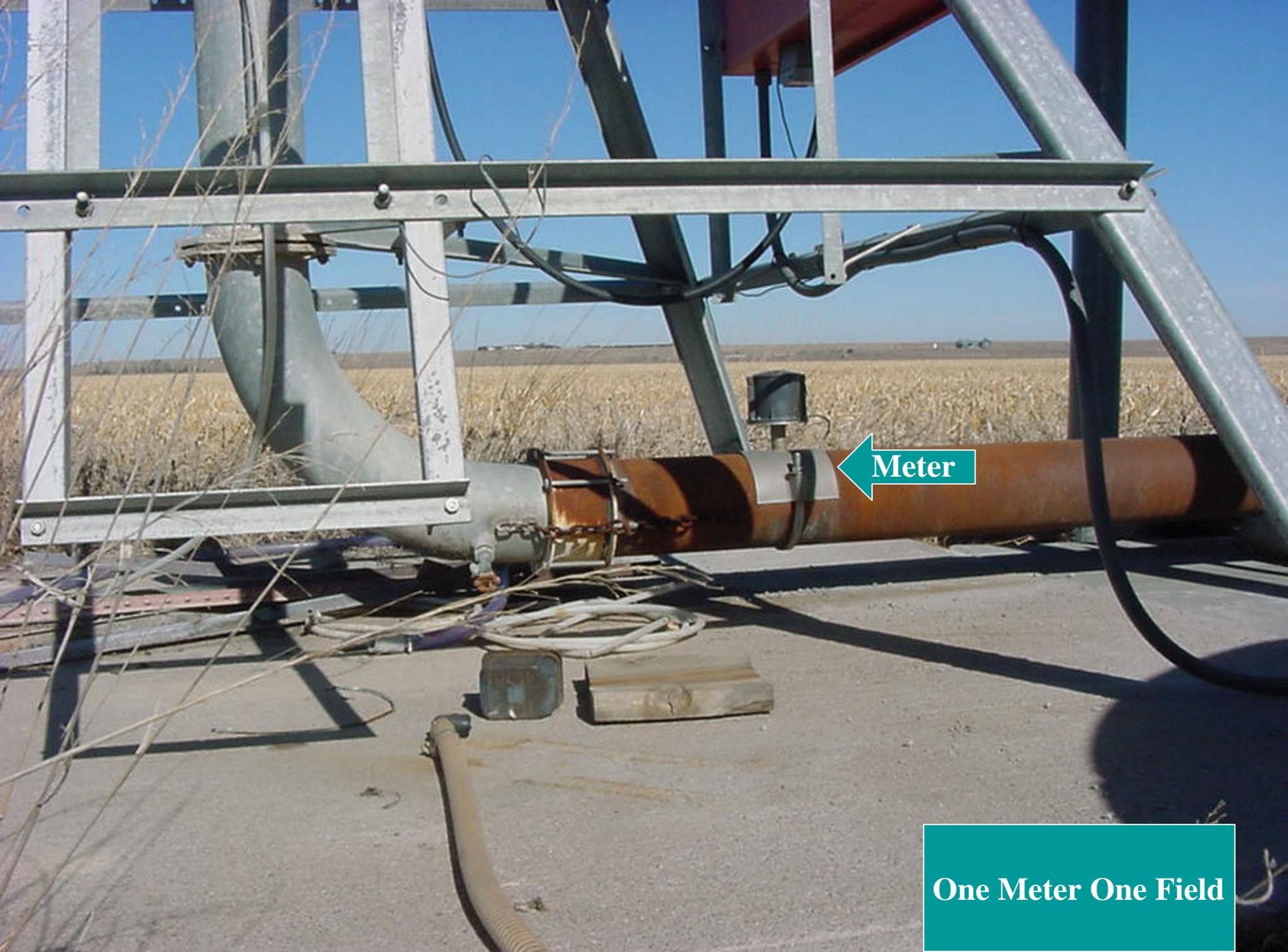
11/05/2004



10/02/2004

04-08436-6





← Meter

One Meter One Field



03-02521-8

ACT/ACF RIVER BASINS

Interstate Water Allocation



Options: Conserve, Augment, Other?



AQUIFER STORAGE



RECOVERY



PERMITTED TRADING



It Happened Quickly

- Georgia's Population in 1960-**3,943,116**
- Number of Agricultural Irrigation Systems in 1960- **0**
- Georgia's Population in 2003-**8,684,715**
- Number of Agricultural Irrigation Systems Today- **21,000** plus



Thank You