



Regional Water Supply & Treatment Proposal

Frequently Asked Questions About Forming a Regional Water Board

Q. What are the basic tenets of the regional water board proposal.

A. There are six (6) tenets or items the County proposes to form a Regional Water Board to serve all water wholesalers in Cullman.

For the complete proposal, see www.cullmancowater.org/Regional and select the Regional Water Board Proposal document.

Q. Why is it important to have joint control of a water system?

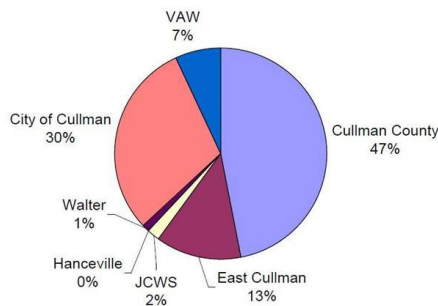
A. Water demands are spread across the entire County and no longer primarily located in the City of Cullman.

The Catoma reservoir and Water Treatment Plant (WTP) have always been regional, serving

Cullman County and other municipalities. However, they have been owned & operated only by the City of Cullman with a limited regional scope in mind.

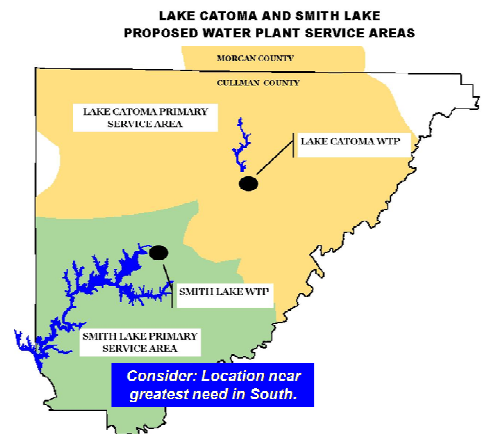
A Regional Water Board will provide the opportunity for each water system being served to have a voice in decisions that ultimately affect rates charged to their customers. It is important that all County citizens have a voice in how their water is provided.

2008-2009 Catoma Water Treatment Plant Usage



Q. How is the water board currently structured and operated?

A. The Utilities Board of the City of Cullman solely owns and operates the Lake Catoma Reservoir and Lake Catoma Water Treatment Plant. Water treated at the Lake Catoma plant is sold to the City of Cullman, which then resells the water to other water systems including Cullman County, VAW, East Cullman, Johnsons Crossing, Walter and Hanceville.



Q What is the goal of the County Commission in providing water to residents of Cullman, whether they are located in Good Hope, City of Cullman, Hanceville, etc.?

A. It is the County Commission's goal to develop a water supply and distribution system that provides a dependable and cost efficient water supply for all citizens of the County.

Q. The Regional Water Board proposal includes \$25 million purchase for the Catoma Water Treatment Plant (WTP). How was this sum determined?

A. The existing Lake Catoma Reservoir and Water Treatment Plant are currently solely owned & operated by the City of Cullman Utilities Board. A \$25 million buy-in by a Regional Water Board guarantees the wholesale customers access to maintain, upgrade and operate these facilities through partial ownership at a net production cost that is similar to or less than the net production costs for other alternatives.

Q. Why would managing and operating one Regional Water Board for all users be beneficial for people in Cullman?

A. Water needs of Cullman County citizens vary across the county. Poultry farmers have different needs than a retired couple. A Regional Water Board better ensures that all needs are considered in the control of operations; in determining rates; and in scheduling upgrades and maintenance.

Q. Have the City of Cullman and the County of Cullman ever worked on projects together?

A. The City and the County have a history of working together on projects including transportation, education, and economic development. The City of Cullman now houses its prisoners in the Cullman County Detention Center; the library is jointly owned as is the Cullman Regional Airport at Folsom Field.

The County and City have numerous joint ventures on spec buildings in the Industrial Parks and have shared water and road projects to industrial sites. Sportsman Lake, a County park, is situated in the City of Cullman and both have helped in its maintenance. One could go on for a long list of projects like EMA, funding for the Cullman Regional Medical Center Emergency Room renovation, Cullman Area Rural Transportation (CARTS), etc.

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