

CLEAR SKIES OVER BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR

Union City is another step closer to securing a future water supply for its citizens. House Bill 406, which recently passed the House and Senate Natural Resources Committee, will allow the City to proceed with the proposed Bear Creek Reservoir. Bear Creek Reservoir is the planned water supply of Union City and the South Fulton Municipal Regional Water and Sewer Authority. It is a crucial water resource for the residents of Union City.

In the midst of ongoing rate hikes in the water supply from the City of Atlanta, this proposed Reservoir assures that Union City will gain more control over its water system. Union City anticipates that the Reservoir will not only ease concerns about the City's future water source, but will also offer relief from the upward spiral of Atlanta's billing.

Planning for the Reservoir began when the South Fulton Municipal Regional Water and Sewer Authority ('the Authority') was created by the Georgia legislature with House Bill 1421, which the Governor signed into law in April 2000. As a member of the Authority, Union City, along with the other member cities of Fairburn and Palmetto, is tasked with acquiring and maintaining water supply sources to serve its citizens. The draft of House Bill 406 is consistent with the earlier HB 1421 legislation; it will reinforce the Authority's position to provide water supply for its member citizens.

Union City's role in developing the Reservoir is also specified under the regional water supply perspective for the Atlanta area. The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's *Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan* describes construction of the Bear Creek Reservoir by year 2035. The City is dedicated to ongoing progress towards this objective, and is currently in the process of permitting the Reservoir according to schedule. Union City recognizes this responsibility, endorsed in the regional plan, to ensure that the member cities of South Fulton have a dependable and economical water supply.

And with the planning for the Bear Creek Reservoir, the City is doing just that. Union City's efforts will provide its citizens, as members of the Authority, with a reliable source of clean water for many years ahead. With the recent progress of House Bill 406, the City is optimistic that there's a clear path to drinking water security, and clear skies over the plan for the new Bear Creek Reservoir.

Additional information about the Bear Creek Reservoir project will be provided at a public information meeting to be held on May 14th, at 7:00 pm at the Banquet Room, Administration Building of the Fairburn Education Campus, Third Floor, 320 West Broad Street, Fairburn, Georgia. We hope to see you there.