

## **About the Carroll County Water Authority**

Carroll County Water Authority was founded in 1967 by an act of the General Legislature called the “Carroll County Water Authority Act.” This act created Carroll County Water Authority as a separate political subdivision of the state of Georgia, and granted to the Authority all powers that city and county government have except taxing authority. Being a non-taxing entity, Carroll County Water Authority can neither tax the general public nor is subsidized by the general tax revenues of the local government.

Up until 1985, the Authority operated with a very limited distribution system and purchased all of the water that it needed to serve the customers that it had at that time, as we will continue to do until our water plant is in full operation. In 1986, the voters of Carroll County passed a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (or SPLOST) as a tax to develop water and sewer infrastructure for the county and all the cities. During the next five years, the Authority installed 385 miles of distribution system. We installed six pump stations and six storage tanks. This tax in essence provided for the financial stability of the authority, and gave the authority a large customer base from which to grow.

During the droughts of 1985, 1986 and 1988, it became very evident that the county was going to have to develop additional water supplies. In 1989, the Authority contracted with Southern Engineering Company to do a Water Supply Planning Study and focus on developing long-term water supplies. Southern Engineering Co. evaluated all streams in the county, using some information the Authority had all ready gathered, and chose Snake Creek as the most feasible alternative that would supply the county’s water needs to the year 2030.

The authority began the process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1990 to get a 404 permit in order to build a dam and reservoir on Snake Creek. Because of opposition to this site, it took the authority 3 ½ years to obtain a 404 permit. Immediately before obtaining this permit in August of 1994, a lawsuit was filed against the Authority, keeping the Authority tied up in court for 5 years, preventing us from developing water supply during this period of time.

In December of 1998, the Authority prevailed in its efforts to get this lawsuit dismissed, and again began our efforts to build this valuable water supply. Bids were taken and contracts were issued in early 2000. In March of 2000, we held the groundbreaking ceremony for the water plant. In October of 2000, we also bid our lake project and it is now under construction. As of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001, we are scheduled to begin operation of the water treatment plant with a direct withdrawal from Snake Creek to produce 2 million gallons per day (MGD) until the lake is finished.

We have built a 4 MGD water plant and at the end of this year, with a projected date of November, we hope to begin filling the reservoir to utilize plant capacity by the spring of 2002. As of this date, the Authority is progressing to get all of these projects completed on date and under budget. We invite you to look at a copy of the budget for this project and call the Authority with any questions you might have.