

# NC is well situated



# Drought has affected many types of agricultural production



# Misconceptions about ag & water

## Water 2030 Report

<b>Publicly Supplied</b>	<b>59.1%</b>
<b>Livestock Irrigation</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Agricultural Irrigation</b>	<b>8.5%</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Industrial Self-Supplied</b>	<b>18.4%</b>
<b>Domestic Self-Supplied</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
	<b>100.0%</b>

From: North Carolina Rural Center, updated 2007

# Ag Irrigation Sources/Area

- **Farm Ponds**
  - **15,864 Irrigation ponds constructed between 1947-64 (Ag Conservation Program)**
- **Withdrawal from surface streams**
- **Groundwater**
- **Irrigated acres: 222,550<sup>1</sup> (IA Survey 2003)**  
**/264,057 (National Ag Stats, 2002)**

<sup>1</sup> wastewater irrigation and controlled drainage not included

# Capacity Use area

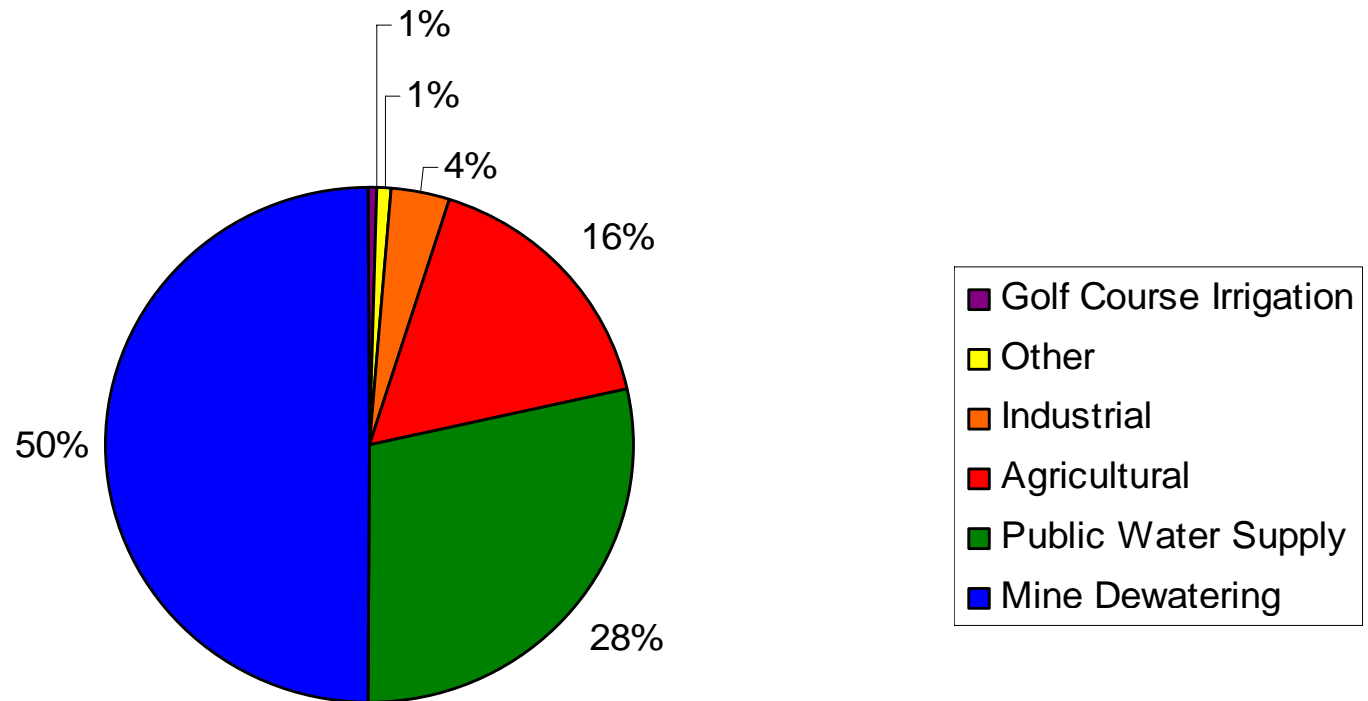
- Monitor  $>10,000$ /day;  
Regulate  $>100,000$   
gal/day
- Over pumping of  
aquifers
  - Water withdrawn  
faster than recharged
- Black Creek and Upper  
Cape Fear
- 15 county area



# Division of Water Resources: Operation Types > 100K Permitted Capacity

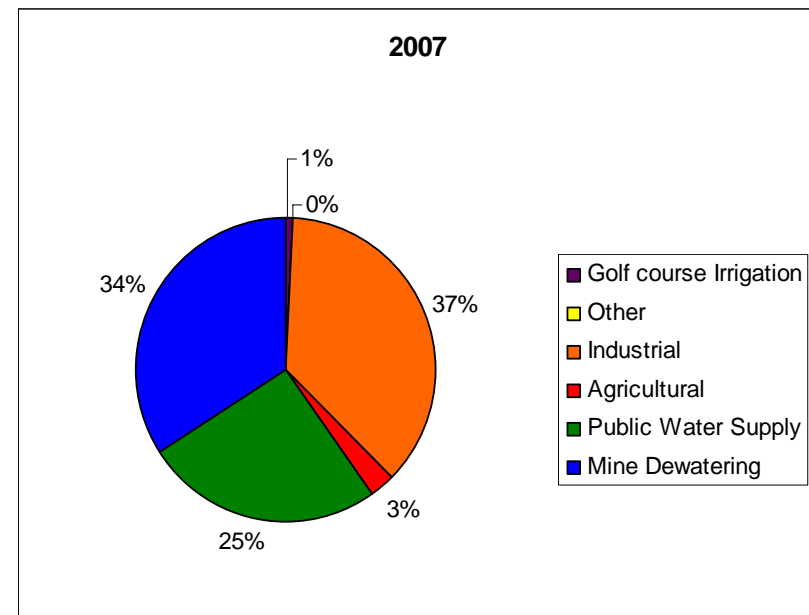
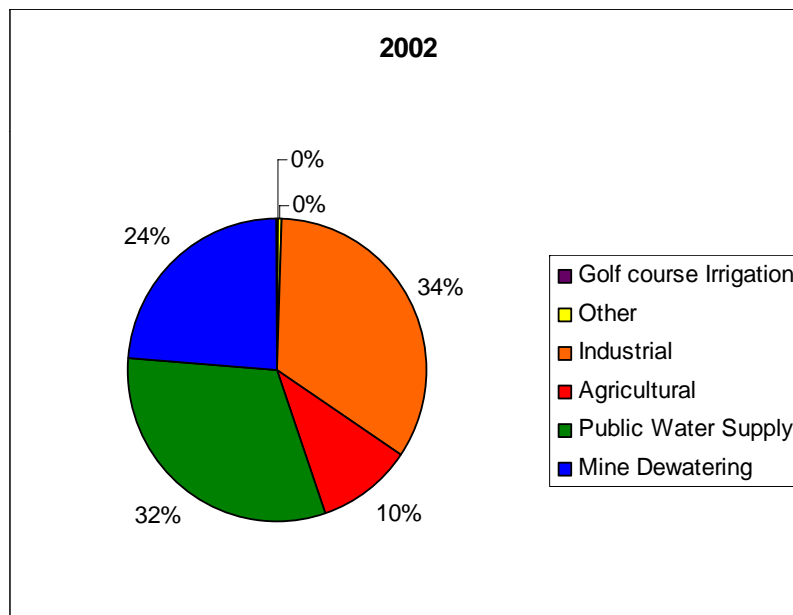
*Ag is 16% of permitted capacity, actual use is less.*

### Division of Water Resources: Operation Types >100K



# DWR CCPUA REPORTED USAGE

Registered & Permitted  
Ground & Surface



# Green Industry Targeted

- **\$8.6 billion economic impact in NC**
- **151,900 jobs**
- **Water Wise Works campaign**
- **Creates and maintains “natural capital” in our manmade urban environments**
- **Enhances health, safety and quality of life**
- **Increases tax base and reduces stormwater runoff infrastructure**


# Mitigate risk

- **Regulatory framework that facilitates a partnership**
- **Allows farmers to drill wells, to build and maintain ponds, install irrigation systems**
- **Do we need revamped disaster programs?**

# **Agriculture is NC's No. 1 business**

## **Main lessons we learned from the drought:**

- **We are partners with all North Carolinians in feeding the population, maintaining open space and providing environmental services**
- **Facilitate individual farmers in mitigating their own risks from drought**
- **Create incentives for water wise thinking in all North Carolinians**
- **North Carolina must place emphasis on our water infrastructure. Think of where we could be if we put the same emphasis on water as we do on highways**



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