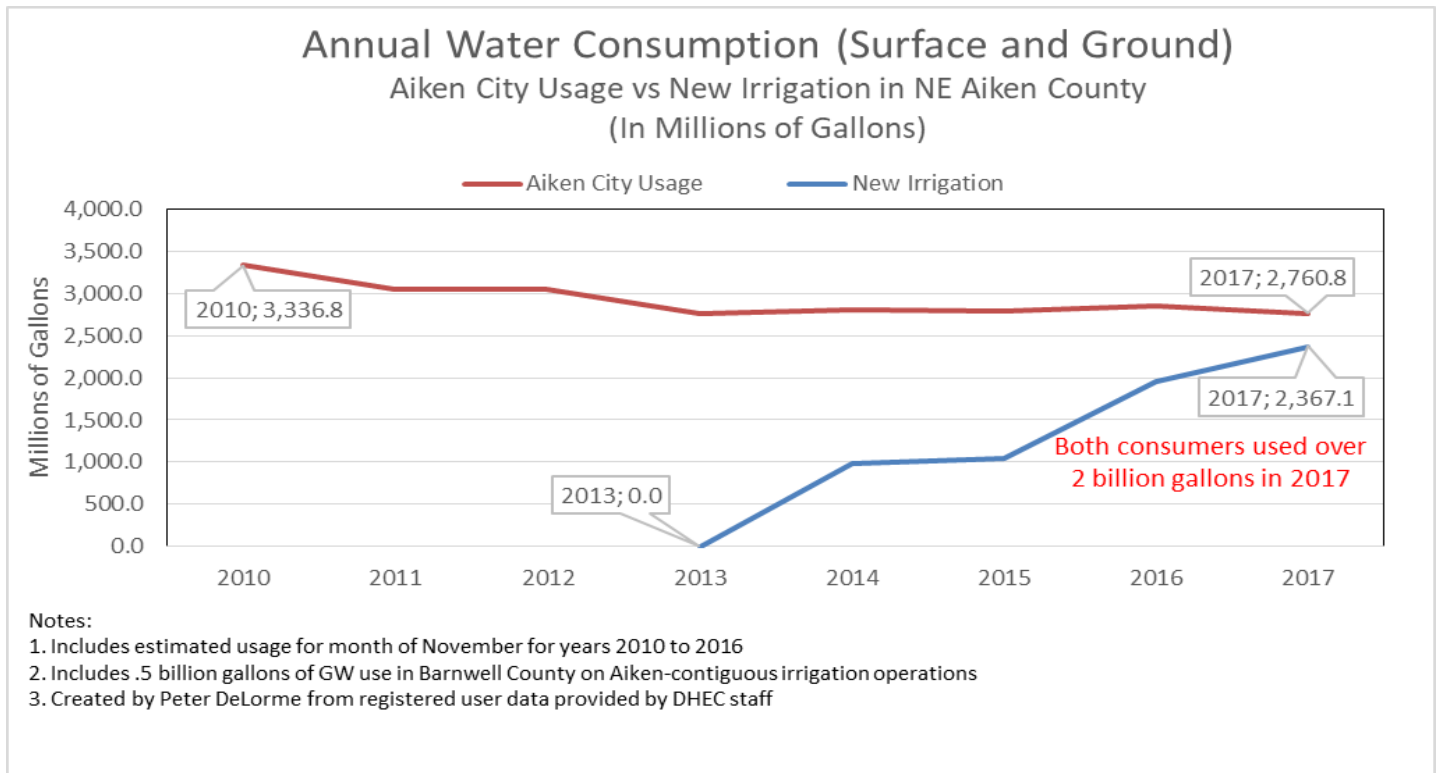


Water for Aiken Through Environmental Reform



Key Points:

1. City of Aiken water consumption has declined slightly in the past eight years; in 2017 it was over 2.7 billion gallons
2. Ground and surface water withdrawals on both sides of State Park Road in the NE corner of the county have seen explosive growth in the last 4 years. Over 2.3 billion gallons of withdrawals have been added to the registered usage in that part of the county.
3. There are two ways one might look at the scale of the change:
 - a. City of Aiken has approx. 31,000 residents; in the 4 years ending in 2017 the new irrigation withdrawals have grown to be the equivalent of adding 26,000 new residents and businesses, almost another whole city.
 - b. Both the USGS and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), estimate a single person uses on average 100 gallons of water per day, or 36,000 gallons per year. Using this metric, the additional withdrawals would meet the needs of over 63,000 people.
4. The changes in usage can be sudden, rapid and large:
 - a. New irrigation needs increased a new city's worth of consumption in just 4 years
 - b. A 23' drop in a local monitoring well occurred in the summer of 2016 when both the Montmorenci Water District and a new irrigation operation started withdrawals within a mile of each other. Monitoring wells in that area historically drop around 3 feet when summer usage peaks.
5. Public water utilities are worried about water resources. City of Aiken and other utilities are jointly funding a USGS assessment of ground water availability.