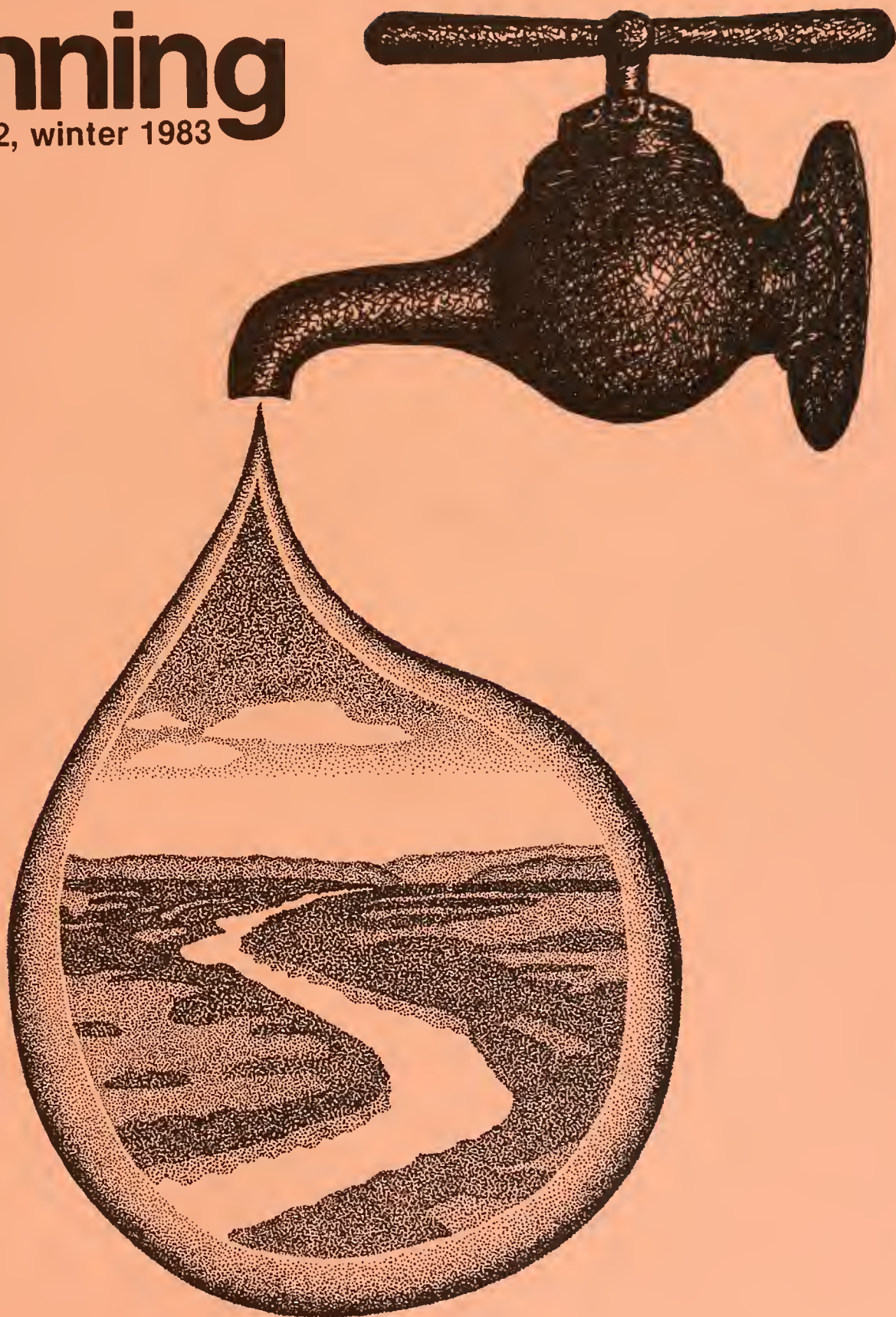


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Introduction: Special Issue on Water Resources Planning

Water resource problems are diverse and widespread. Headlines like "Leaking Tanks Threaten Groundwater", "Sedimentation Prompts Watershed Controls", and "Safe Transport of Toxics Urged" punctuate a growing citizen awareness. In addition to these quality concerns, population growth in the Southeast has resulted in water quantity demand increases -- not just for drinking water supply, but also for uses such as irrigation and cooling in electricity production. Lack of reservoir sites can limit water supply options, and the cost of delay in securing water of adequate quantity or quality can further constrain development. These issues are closely related to other concerns shared by planners. The range of articles presented in this special issue provides an understanding of the breadth of the planning interests (economic development, land use, energy, etc) that overlap with water issues.

Four authors provide a statewide overview of water resources policy and practice. James Kundell examines state strategies for managing water in the Southeast, Todd Miller advocates adoption of a more farsighted and selective growth recruitment and permitting strategy as a first step toward more effective water protection, and William Drummond and Kathleen Heady address North Carolina's role in financing local infrastructure.

Local watershed protection programs are described by two authors. Mary Joan Pugh outlines High Point's watershed performance zone and rating system, which is an innovative attempt to control stormwater runoff by regulating types and intensities of land use. The history of Salem Lake Watershed protection is described by Julie Shambaugh.

Expositions of a more technical nature are also included in this issue. Karen Allenstein lends a critical eye to the potential for groundwater use development in the Piedmont and Mountain regions of North Carolina. Jackie Dingfelder shares excerpts from articles dealing with overall energy consumption and its implications for water resource planning, and an evaluation of the potential for increased use of small scale hydroelectric power.

Sue Snaman's article deals with public management of private wastewater systems, specifically package treatment plants. Douglas Wrenn discusses issues common to urban waterfront redevelopment efforts, and Margaret Kerr's piece on the N.C. Streamwatch Program notes how citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in local water resource management and protection.

Editors' Note: The focus of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association annual conference will be water resources planning, and will be held April 26-27 in Chapel Hill.

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