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Fax

To:	Chole Morrison	From:	John Culpepper
Fax:	668-5110	Pages:	8
Phone:		Date:	
Re:		cc:	

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

Comments:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King Jr., Dr., Suite 1152 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner
Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
Environmental Protection Division
(404) 656-4713

For Immediate Release

May 6, 2008

Level Four Drought Response Continues For Most of North Georgia

With extreme drought conditions stretching across the northern third of Georgia and a forecast for a dry summer, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has announced that level four outdoor watering restrictions will remain in place for EPD permitted utilities and local governments in 55 counties. However, the level four restrictions will be lifted in six counties where drought conditions have improved and replaced with level two watering restrictions.

“Winter rain and rising lake levels bring us hope, but citizens should not be fooled into thinking the drought is over,” said EPD Director Carol A. Couch. “We are in better shape than last fall, but we need to continue to manage our water supply to get us through the long hot summer.”

The announcement was made today following a meeting of the State Drought Response Committee. A Level Four Drought Response prohibits most types of outdoor water use. However Director Couch said that utilities and local governments in the level four counties that do not rely on Lake Lanier and water releases directly from Buford Dam will be allowed to petition for a modified drought response.

“Many local governments have been proactive in making improvements in their water systems,” said Director Couch. “As a result, they are better prepared for drought and the petition process offers some flexibility in how water is managed at the local level.”

Director Couch said a reduction in water releases from lakes Allatoona and Lanier helped raise water levels and she also credited effective water conservation. Under Governor Perdue’s directive, most north Georgians reduced their water use by at least 10 percent from November 2007 through March 2008. The directive expired on March 30.

An EPD analysis of summer water use shows that enforcement of the level four water restrictions combined with voluntary water conservation should achieve a water savings of at least ten percent, so the state directive is no longer in effect, said Director Couch.

The six counties removed from the level four drought response and placed under a level two drought response are Muscogee, Harris, Spalding, Butts, Jasper and Greene counties.

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Changes in the state's drought response in south Georgia also were announced following the committee meeting. Drought conditions have improved in 44 counties that were under a level two drought response and as a result, the drought response will be upgraded to a level one.

The level one drought response area includes Appling, Bacon, Baker, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Colquitt, Cook, Decatur, Early, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Glynn, Grady, Jeff Davis, Jenkins, Johnson, Lanier, Laurens, Liberty, Long, Lowndes, McIntosh, Miller, Montgomery, Mitchell, Pierce, Screven, Seminole, Tattnall, Thomas, Toombs, Treutlen, Ware, Wayne and Wheeler counties.

Under a declared **Drought Response Level One**, outdoor water use may occur on scheduled days within the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

- Scheduled days for odd-numbered addresses are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
- Scheduled days for even-numbered or unnumbered addresses and golf course fairways are Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Use of hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing is prohibited.

The level two drought response area includes Atkinson, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Burke, Butts, Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Clay, Coffee, Columbia, Crawford, Crisp, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Harris, Houston, Irwin, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Lamar, Lee, Macon, Marion, Mc Duffie, Monroe, Muscogee, Peach, Pike, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Randolph, Richmond, Schley, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Tift, Turner, Twiggs, Upson, Warren, Washington, Webster, Wilcox, Wilkinson, and Worth counties.

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Under a declared **Drought Response Level Two**, outdoor water use may occur on scheduled days within the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m.

- Scheduled days for odd-numbered addresses are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
- Scheduled days for even-numbered or unnumbered addresses and golf course fairways are Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The following uses are prohibited under Level Two:

- Using hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing.
- Washing hard surfaces, such as streets, gutters, sidewalks and driveways except when necessary for public health and safety.

The level four drought response area includes Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Elbert, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Hart, Heard, Henry, Jackson, Lincoln, Lumpkin, Madison, Meriwether, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Rockdale, Stephens, Towns, Troup, Union, Walker, Walton, White, Whitfield, and Wilkes counties.

Under a declared **Drought Response Level Four**, most types of outdoor water use is prohibited with some commercial exemptions. In addition, the EPD Director has ordered exemptions to allow the filling of swimming pools and some limited landscape watering.

- Hand watering will be allowed for 25 minutes per day on an odd-even schedule between midnight and 10 a.m. Odd numbered addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Even numbered addresses can water Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Hand watering is defined as one person with one garden hose.
- New landscape can be watered up to three days a week from midnight to 10 a.m. for a period of 10 weeks based on the odd/even schedule.

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- Anyone wishing to water new landscape must register with the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program. The program is hosted on the Urban Agricultural Council web site at www.urbanagcouncil.com. Georgians may also contact their county extension agents for assistance in getting registered.

More information about the drought and water conservation can be found at www.conservewatergeorgia.net and www.georgiadrought.org.

News Media Contact:

Kevin Chambers (404) 651-7970

Guidance for Drought Response Modification Petition Process

Attachment A
Drought Response Modification Petition Form

Permittee: City of Chickamauga

Permittee address: P.O. Box 69, 103 Crittenden Ave
Chickamauga, GA. 30707

Water Withdrawal Permit No.

Groundwater Use Permit No. 146-0006

Water Supply ID No. (Safe Drinking Water Permits) 2950000

Drought response modification requested (please circle one):

IV IVa IVb (IVc) More Stringent

Time period for which the requested drought response modification will be in effect: UNTIL OTHERWISE NOTIFIED BY STATE

Water system served primarily by groundwater or springs? YES NO

Water system lies within the 55 county area subject to the current Level IV Drought Response? YES NO

This water system depends on purchases of water from a supplier that withdraws water from Lake Lanier or the Chattahoochee River between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek? If the answer to question is "yes", please provide the amount of water received from Lake Lanier or the Chattahoochee River between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek as a percentage of your total monthly average production or purchases on a yearly basis for calendar year 2007 in Attachment B.

Guidance for Drought Response Modification Petition Process

**Certification and Petition for Permittees Seeking Less Stringent Watering
Restrictions than those Established by the State**

Based on an assessment of the attached supporting documentation*, I have determined that:

- Our distribution system has adequate storage and delivery capacity to meet permitted potability and pressure standards during all demand periods;
- Our raw water sources have adequate storage and/or delivery capacity to meet our community water demands based on the attached documentation.

Therefore, I hereby certify that the attached supporting documentation and the forgoing statements constitute evidence sufficient to support a reasonable conclusion that the current non-statutory outdoor watering restrictions or water use reductions imposed by the state are not necessary and appropriate to avoid or relieve a local water shortage. I hereby petition to be allowed to operate our water system under the drought response modification circled above.



Signature

MAYOR

Title

5-28-08

Date

*Supporting documentation not required for spring and groundwater systems

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 MLK, Jr. Drive, S.E., East Floyd Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Noel Holcomb, Commissioner
Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
Environmental Protection Division

June 3, 2008

Honorable Ray Crowder
Mayor, City of Chickamauga
PO Box 69
Chickamauga, GA 30707

RE: Drought Response Modification Petition

Dear Mayor Crowder:

This is in response to your Drought Response Modification Petition of May 23, 2008 requesting that you be granted a modification to the current non-statutory water use restrictions established by the State.

In considering your request for your groundwater or spring system, I have determined that the water use restrictions established by the State are not necessary or appropriate to relieve or avoid a local water shortage. While you have requested a Level IVc drought response modification, please be aware that EPD's "**Guidance for Drought Response Modification Petition Process**" provides that the least stringent drought response modification that groundwater or spring systems may receive is a Level IVb.

Therefore, I hereby approve a Level IVb drought response modification within your service area through December 31, 2008. Under Level IVb, all outdoor water uses are allowed on an odd/even basis, two days per week between midnight and 10:00 am. Odd addresses may water on Tuesdays and Thursdays; even addresses on Mondays and Wednesdays. At your discretion, odd addresses may water on Thursday and Sundays; even addresses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays

However, please be aware the following outdoor water uses are still prohibited under Section 391-3-30-.04 of the Rules for Outdoor Water Use:

- Using hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing;
- Washing hard surfaces, such as streets, gutters, sidewalks and driveways except when necessary for public health and safety.

The following outdoor water uses are still allowed and are unaffected by the Level IVb drought response modification granted herein:

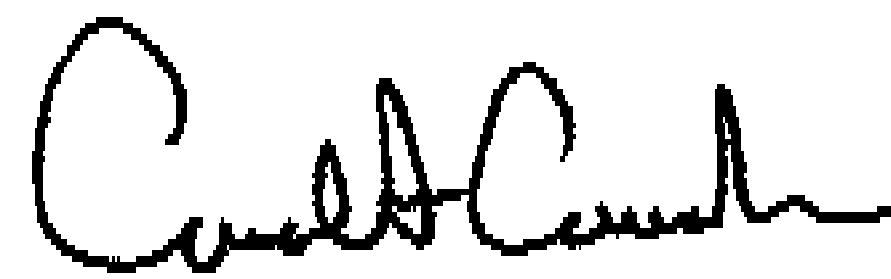
- Outdoor water uses exempt from the Drought Response Level IV outdoor watering restrictions established pursuant to Section 391-3-30-.05 of the Rules for Outdoor Water Use;

- Filling of swimming pools, without restrictions on day or time, as provided for in HB 1281 which was passed by the 2008 General Assembly and signed by Governor Perdue May 14, 2008.

The provisions of my Order dated February 11, 2008 allowing hand watering of existing landscape for 25 minutes per day and watering of new landscape for up to 10 weeks are not applicable within your service area during the Level IVb drought response modifications approved herein.

Please note that Chickamauga is still within the Drought Response Level IV area. If you have questions, please visit our website www.gaepd.com and click on "*Drought and Water Use Information*" for a list of frequently asked questions or call our Drinking Water Compliance Program at 404-656-4807 or Water Withdrawal Permitting Program at 404-675-6236.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Couch
Director