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COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department/Division: Fayette County Water System

Department Head: Tony Parrott

Presenter, if needed: Tony Parrott

Preferred Meeting Date: March 13, 2008

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of Water Committee's recommendation to comply with the modified Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division Order and to allow water restrictions as recommended under the State's permit, effective April 1, 2008.

Background/History/Details:

On September 28, 2007, EPD declared a level four drought response across the northern third of Georgia. EPD has determined that allowing some flexibility in outdoor watering exemptions will not jeopardize the state's water supply. Where drinking water supplies are sufficient, permit limits have been modified to 10% below the 2007 summer average (April through September). Filling of pools will be permitted. Hand watering of existing landscaping and watering newly installed landscape will be allowed at specific times as allowed in the State's Order dated February 11, 2008.

The Water System will monitor the levels of the lakes and the usage of the system to be sure that allowing this flexibility in the water restrictions will not adversely affect Fayette County's water supply and that we will be able to meet the 10% reduction during the April through September time period.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of the modified restrictions in the State's Order dated February 11, 2008 and signed by the Director of EPD.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

N/A

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past? No

If so, when?

Do you need audio-visual for the presentation? No

Back-up Material Submitted? Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

- (●) Finance Review Complete
- (●) Purchasing Review Complete
- ( ) Legal Review Complete
- ( ) Administrative Staff Review Complete

Administrator's Approval Yes

Confirmed Meeting Date Thursday, March 13, 2008

- ( ) Recognition/ Presentation
- ( ) Public Hearing
- (●) Old Business
- ( ) New Business
- ( ) Consent
- ( ) Report
- ( ) Other

STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

To: All Water Users in Georgia Counties Under State Drought Response Level 4

ORDER

WHEREAS, September 28, 2007 in response to the record breaking drought and after consulting with the State Drought Response Committee, I declared a level four drought response across the northern third of Georgia which prohibited most types of outdoor water use; and

WHEREAS, On October 23, 2007, Governor Sonny Perdue directed the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to modify current surface and groundwater withdrawal and drinking permits to achieve a 10 percent reduction in withdrawals for permit holders in the 61 North Georgia counties covered under the level 4 drought declaration; and

WHEREAS, The following counties are designated as being under State Drought Response Level 4 due to the existing exceptional drought and the subsequent threats to the water supply in these areas:

Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, Dekalb, Douglas, Elbert, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Greene, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Harris, Hart, Heard, Henry, Jackson, Jasper, Lincoln, Lumpkin, Madison, Meriwether, Morgan, Murray, Muscogee, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Polk, Paulding, Pickens, Rabun, Rockdale, Stephens, Spalding, Towns, Troup, Union, Walker, Walton, White, Whitfield, Wilkes, and

WHEREAS, Although Georgia remains in a serious drought, water storage in lakes and reservoirs has improved and Georgians have demonstrated their dedication to a culture of conservation by exceeding the Governor's call for a 10 percent reduction; and

WHEREAS, Despite the exceptional drought conditions, EPD has determined that allowing flexibility in outdoor watering exemptions will not jeopardize the state's water supply sources or adversely affect others that depend on Georgia's water resources; and

WHEREAS, Water use is important to the quality of life and the social and economic stability of the State; and

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 391-3-30-.04 (6) of the Georgia Rules for Outdoor Water Use (the Rules), it is hereby ORDERED by the Director of the Environmental Protection Division, Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia, pursuant to her authority under the Groundwater Use Act, Water Quality Control Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Georgia Drought Management Plan, Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control (Rules) and Georgia Rules for Outdoor Water Use.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That where drinking water supplies are sufficient, permit limits will be modified to 10% below the 2007 average summer (April through September) water use in recognition of the changes in water use that occur in the summer due to higher evaporation levels, water use for commercial air conditioning systems, watering of food gardens, summer activities, and other allowable water uses. No outdoor water use is allowed, other than for activities exempted in 391-3-30-.05 of the Rules and as authorized below by the Director.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

That filling installed pools is permitted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

That each household, business or other institution/property owner will be allowed to hand water existing landscaping using one garden hose, 25 minutes a day, within the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m., on designated days. The hose must be hand held during watering and equipped with a standard spray nozzle that automatically turns off when not hand held. Odd-numbered addresses may hand water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Even-numbered addresses may hand water Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

That newly installed landscaping which has been in place less than 30 days may be watered up to three days a week within the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m. only for 10 consecutive weeks and during plant installation. Odd-numbered addresses may water newly installed landscaping Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Even-numbered addresses may water newly installed landscaping Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Any person watering newly installed landscaping must register with the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program at http://www.urbanagcouncil.com/ beginning March 15, 2008.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

That local governments and water utilities may adopt restrictions that are more stringent than these restrictions pursuant to Section 391-3-30-.06(1) of the Rules.

It is so ORDERED this 11th day of February, 2008.

Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
Environmental Protection Division
Department of Natural Resources
State of Georgia