

John A. Ward III
City Manager

Amie Vaughan
Finance Director

Priscilla A. Murphy
City Clerk



Jim Joiner
Mayor

Council Members:
Kathy DuBose
Randall "Bosic" Griffith
C.D. Kidd III
Steve Kinney
Roy W. Plott

September 22, 2011

Mr. F. Allen Barnes, Director
Georgia Environmental Division
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1152
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RECEIVED
Environmental Protection Division

SEP 23 2011

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

RE: DROUGHT RESPONSE REQUEST

Dear Director Barnes:

The City of Jefferson augments its water supply by purchasing water from Jackson County Water and Sewer Authority (JCWSA) who, in turn, is a member of the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority (UOBWA). Both authorities have petitioned EPD, and have been approved, to invoke Level One of its Drought Contingency Plan.

In recognition of the Level One water use restrictions invoked by UOBWA and JCWSA, the City of Jefferson is requesting to mirror the water use restrictions as outlined in the UOBWA letter dated September 8, 2011. Please note that the city's own surface water storage reservoir is currently at approximately half its storage depth. This condition requires us to purchase increasing quantities of water from JCWSA.

The goal of invoking the Level One water use restrictions is to achieve a 2.5% reduction in usage. This reduction will be accomplished through public education, conservation measures, and outdoor watering restrictions. The water use restrictions approved by UOBWA and JCWSA will be implemented on an odd/even address basis, following the current state mandated hours of watering.

Furthermore, the City of Jefferson requests to follow UOBWA and JCWSA in moving to more restrictive water use levels should the need arise.

The City of Jefferson appreciates your understanding and assistance regarding this request. Should you require additional information please feel free to contact me at 706 367 7896 or jkillip@cityofjeffersonga.com.

Sincerely,


Jeff Killip
Public Works Director

C: John Ward – City Manager

City Hall
147 Athens Street
Jefferson, GA 30549



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Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, East Floyd Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

Mark Williams, Commissioner

F. Allen Barnes, Director

Environmental Protection Division

September 29, 2011

Mr. Jeff Killip
Public Works Director
City Hall
147 Athens Street
Jefferson, Georgia 30549

RE: Request for variance from outdoor water use requirements

Dear Mr. Killip:

This is in response to your letter dated September 22, 2011, requesting a variance from the current outdoor water use requirements of the Georgia Water Stewardship Act (Act), as found in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 12-5-7. Specifically, the City of Jefferson has requested the ability to mirror Level One of the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority's Drought Contingency Plan, which allows outdoor watering on an odd/even schedule between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.

As provided in Section 12-5-7(a)(1) of the Act, the Director of EPD may grant such a variance provided there is sufficient evidence that the more stringent restrictions are needed to avoid or relieve a local water shortage. Based on the information you provided in support of your request, and in consideration of the ongoing drought conditions occurring within your area, your request is hereby approved and may remain in effect for 90 days. This approval allows the City to mirror all levels of Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority's water use restrictions. If after 90 days the restrictions are still necessary, the City can submit updated information supporting water use restrictions and a request for renewal of the variance.

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Mr. Brett Blackwelder or Mr. Kirk Chase in the EPD Drinking Water Program at 404-656-2750.

Sincerely;



F. Allen Barnes
Director

cc: Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority