

Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority

September 8, 2011

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

RE: DROUGHT RESPONSE REQUEST

Dear Director Barnes:

The Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority met on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 to review the status of drought indicators for the Bear Creek Reservoir. These indicators are reviewed on a weekly basis by Authority members and staff in order to gain a better understanding of current drought conditions. It is our understanding that the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has not invoked any statewide drought management measures to date.

However, the Authority voted to request that it be allowed to invoke Level I of its Drought Contingency Plan, which requires a reduction of 2.5% water usage, which will be accomplished through public education, conservation measures, and outdoor watering restrictions. The watering restrictions approved by the Authority and its members will be implemented on an odd/even basis, following the current state mandated hours of watering. Furthermore, the Authority will reach its goals in part by eliminating exemptions for golf courses (with the exception of tee boxes and greens) and athletic fields.

The Authority also voted to request that it be permitted to move to Level II as provided in its Drought Contingency Plan, which is a 5% water usage reduction, when indicators support that level. The water reduction usage will be accomplished according to the aforementioned policies as well as those of individual counties as provided for in the Drought Contingency Plan.

We appreciate the assistance of EPD on this request and other matters.

Sincerely,



Melvin Davis
Chairman

MD:mjb

C: Kevin Farrell
Jim Dove/Mott Beck, NEGRC
Kirby Atkinson, Atkinson & Cullen
Hill Baughman, Jacobs
Authority Members

20110912-2

JACKSON COUNTY

WATER & SEWERAGE AUTHORITY



POST OFFICE BOX 869 • JEFFERSON, GEORGIA 30549 • 706-367-1741
FAX 706-367-1759

RECEIVED
Environmental Protection Division

SEP 12 2011

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

September 9, 2011

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

RE: Drought Response Request, Jackson County

Dear Director Barnes:

Jackson County is a member of the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority (UOBWA) and, as such, is complying with their request to invoke Level I of its Drought Contingency Plan. The UOBWA request for EPD to allow this is outlined in their letter dated September 8, 2011 (attached "A").

Jackson County is requesting to mirror water use restrictions as outlined in the UOBWA letter in order to achieve the required reduction of 2.5% in water usage. This will be accomplished through public education, conservation measures, and outdoor watering restrictions. The watering restrictions approved by the UOBWA and Jackson County will be implemented on an odd/even address basis, following the current state mandated hours of watering. Furthermore, Jackson County will reach its goals in part by eliminating exemptions for golf courses (with the exception of tee boxes and greens) and athletic fields.

In conjunction with the UOBWA request, Jackson County asks that it be permitted to move to Level II as provided in the UOBWA Drought Contingency Plan, which is a 5% water usage reduction, when indicators support that level. Level II will require Jackson County to further limit outdoor water use as outlined in its Drought Contingency Plan (attached "B").

Jackson County appreciates your assistance on this request. Should you require more information pertaining to this, please do not hesitate to call the Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority Manager at 706-367-1741, X 252.

Sincerely yours,



Randall Pugh
Chairman, Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority

cc: Kevin Farrell, EPD
Jim Dove, NEGRC
Hunter Bicknell, Chairman, Jackson County B.O.C.

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 15, 2011

Honorable Melvin Davis
Chairman
Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority
305 Research Drive
Athens, Georgia 30605-2795

RE: Request for variance from outdoor water use requirements

Dear Chairman Davis:

This is in response to your letter dated September 8, 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 Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority (Authority) has requested the ability to invoke Level 1 of its 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 until such time as you provide notice to EPD that the above referenced restrictions are no longer necessary. This approval applies to all members of the Authority and allows the Authority to invoke all levels of its Drought Contingency Plan.

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

Sincerely;



F. Allen Barnes
Director

cc: Athens-Clarke County
Barrow County
Oconee County
Jackson County