

Mr. Thomas Carter
City of Villa Rica
571 West Bankhead Highway
Villa Rica, GA 30180-1726

November 17, 2016

RE: Level 2 Drought Response Declaration

Dear EPD Permit Holder:

As directed by the Rules for Drought Management, Chapter 391-3-30 (Drought Rule), the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has been monitoring climatic indicators and water supply conditions to assess drought and severity. Drought conditions continue to worsen in many areas of Georgia. A public report on current indicators and conditions, prepared pursuant to the Drought Rule, is available at <http://epd.georgia.gov/water-conservation>.

As EPD Director, because of these conditions, I am declaring a Level 2 Drought Response for 52 Georgia counties for public water systems using surface and/or groundwater. This declaration applies to your area. (Map of affected counties is enclosed.)

The Drought Rule requires permittees to implement specific water demand management measures during a Level 2 Drought Response. While these measures are briefly summarized below, please review the rule and its requirements closely to ensure your system's compliance. The Rules for Drought Management are available at <http://rules.sos.ga.gov/GAC/391-3-30>.

Level 2 Drought Response Summary:

1. Public information campaign as required under a Level 1 Drought Response.
2. General outdoor watering.
 - Even-numbered addresses may only water Wednesdays and Saturdays before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m.
 - Odd-numbered addresses may only water on Thursdays and Sundays before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m.
3. Prohibited outdoor water uses (with some exceptions as provided in the rule).
 - Washing hard surfaces.
 - Water for ornamental purposes.
 - The use of fire hydrants, except for firefighting, public health, safety or flushing.
 - Non-commercial vehicle washing, including charity and fundraising car washes.
 - Non-commercial pressure washing.

4. Select and implement at least four items from the Drought Response Strategies Menu found at Drought Rule section 391-3-30 -.07 (5).
5. No restrictions on the thirteen water uses found at Drought Rule section 391-3-30 -.03 (1) (b).
6. Public water systems shall submit monthly reports to EPD by the 10th of each month.
 - The report will, at a minimum, detail the drought response strategies the system has selected, the extent of implementation, and enforcement strategies.
 - Your first report is due no later than January 10, 2016.
 - Submit the report via email to epd.drought@dnr.ga.gov.
 - The form for this report will be available on EPD's website (<http://epd.georgia.gov/water-conservation>) by December 21, 2016.

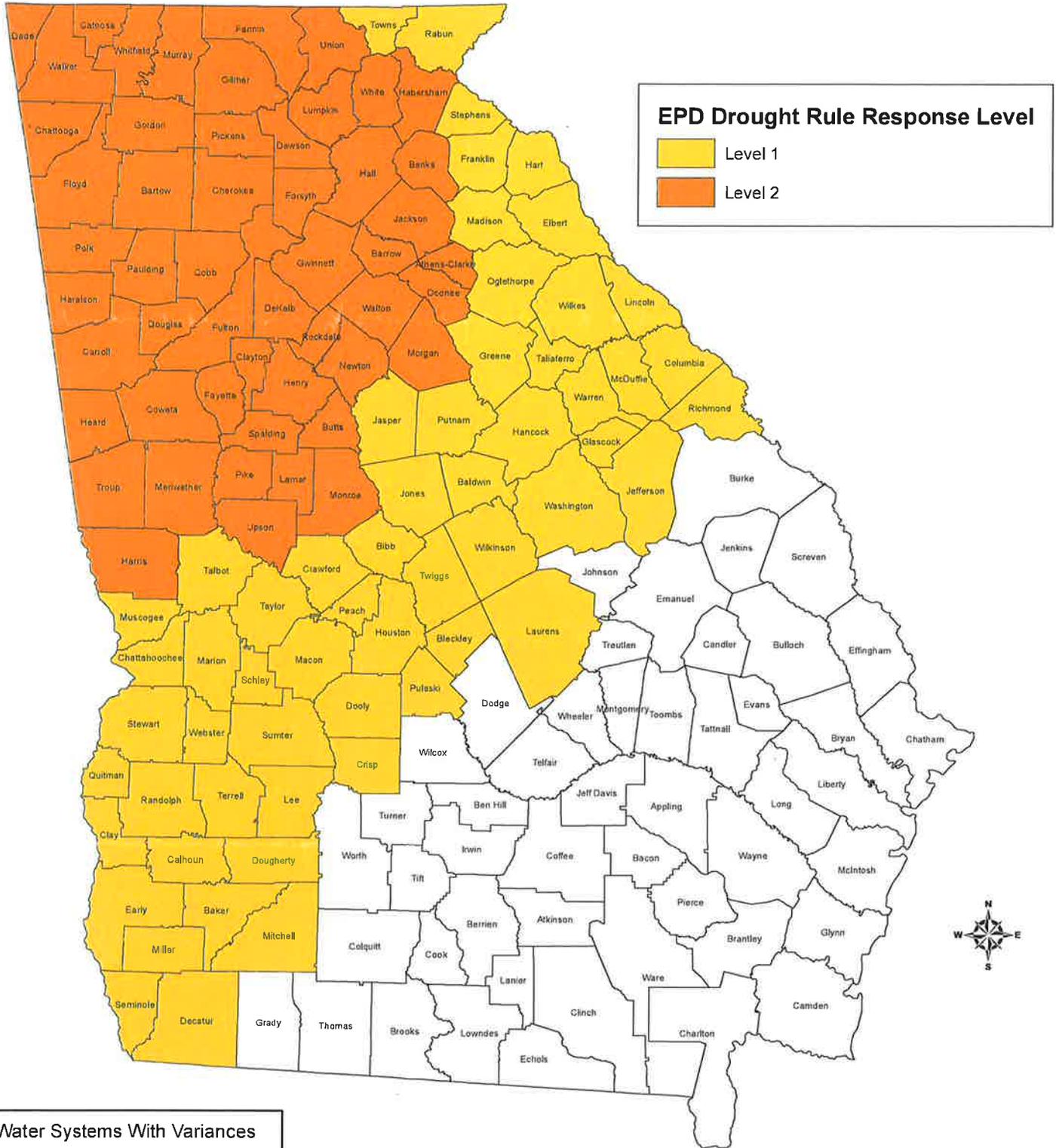
If you have further questions, please contact Bennett Weinstein at 404 651-5155 or Gail Cowie at 404 657-5739. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Dunn
Director
Environmental Protection Division

Georgia Drought Response Declaration November 17, 2016





ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Richard E. Dunn, Director

EPD Director's Office

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For Immediate Release

November 17, 2016

Georgia EPD Elevates Drought Response Levels, Further Restricts Outdoor Water Use

Faced with worsening drought conditions in about three-fourths of the state, along with water supply concerns in some areas, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has declared it will raise the state's drought response to Level 2 in 52 counties and impose a Level 1 Drought Response in an additional 58 counties.

"Today's declaration is driven by an extended period of little or no rain and increasing dryness in the impacted areas," said EPD Director Richard Dunn. "What's more, there is little hope for relief as weather forecasters expect an unusually warm, dry winter across most of the state."

This week marks the 24th week of continuous severe drought in northwest Georgia, the 22nd week for the Atlanta metro area, the 21st week in northeastern parts of the state and the 15th week in central Georgia. In addition there is a decline in soil moisture and some streams are flowing at or below record lows set during droughts in 2007 and 2011.

During a Level 2 Drought Response, outdoor landscape watering is only allowed two days a week determined by odd and even-numbered addresses. Even-numbered addresses and properties without numbered addresses may water on Wednesday and Saturday between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Odd-numbered addresses may water Thursday and Sunday between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Prohibited outdoor water uses include:

- Washing hard surfaces such as streets and sidewalks.
- Water for ornamental purposes, such as fountains.
- The use of fire hydrants, except for firefighting and public safety.
- Non-commercial washing of vehicles.
- Non-commercial pressure washing.
- Fundraising car washes.

Those counties assigned a Level 2 Drought Response are: Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Athens-Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Harris, Heard, Henry, Jackson, Lamar, Lumpkin, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Rockdale, Spalding, Troup, Union, Upson, Walker, Walton, White and Whitfield.

Haralson County and the cities of Griffin, Tallapoosa, Waco and Buchanan have reported water supply issues and have been granted EPD variances to impose water use restrictions greater than state requirements.

A Level 1 Drought Response requires that public water systems implement a public information campaign that includes, at a minimum, public notice regarding drought conditions and drought-specific public service messages in one or more of the following ways: newspaper advertisements, bill inserts, website homepage, social media, and notices in public libraries.

Those counties assigned a Level 1 Drought Response are: Baker, Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Clay, Columbia, Crawford, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Elbert, Franklin, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Hart, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Laurens, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Marion, McDuffie, Miller, Mitchell, Muscogee, Oglethorpe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Rabun, Randolph, Richmond, Schley, Seminole, Stephens, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Taylor, Terrell, Towns, Twiggs, Warren, Washington, Webster, Wilkes and Wilkinson.

The following activities are **allowed** under both Level 1 and Level 2 Drought Responses:

- Irrigation of personal food gardens may be done at any time of day.
- Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf may be done at any time of day for 30 days after installation.
- Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses may be done at any time of day and hand-watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container may be done at any time of day.
- General landscape watering may be done between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the designated days.

More water conservation information is available at <http://epd.georgia.gov/water-conservation>.

News Media Contact:

Kevin Chambers

404-651-7970

November 17, 2016

Drought Management Fact Sheet

- State laws and rules determine Georgia's response to drought conditions. The statutory framework for drought management is found in OCGA 12-5-7 and 12-5-8. The applicable rule is Chapter 391-3-30 Rules for Drought Management.
- The non-drought schedule allows outdoor watering of established landscapes between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. by anyone served by a public water system. Per the Water Stewardship Act of 2010, this schedule is in effect year-round for purposes of water conservation and pre-drought mitigation. The non-drought schedule currently applies to 49 counties. The others are under Level 1 and Level 2 Drought Responses.
- EPD closely monitors several drought indicators. This information is used to guide the state's response to drought. Reports on these drought indicators and other information related to drought management and outdoor watering can be found on the EPD website at <http://epd.georgia.gov/water-conservation>.
- Drought indicators that are closely monitored include rainfall, volume of water in selected streams, groundwater levels, reservoir levels, short-term precipitation forecasts and soil moisture.
- The state's drought response is centered on the ability of public water systems to supply adequate amounts of water. Therefore, the drought rule allows for targeting of the drought response declaration. Targeting of a declaration can be geographic within all or a portion of defined hydrologic units, counties or other areas and/or by water supply systems or sources.
- There are three levels of drought response available to the EPD Director. The response level is determined by the severity of the drought conditions and the ability of the public water system to meet demand for water and avoid a shortage of water in the impacted areas. Drought response declarations apply to EPD-permitted groundwater and surface water systems.
- The EPD decision-making process for drought response generally follows this sequence: monitoring of conditions, assessing severity and impact on water supply and public reporting of climatic conditions at least semi-annually.
- Should conditions merit, the EPD Director will then communicate (usually by conference call) with permitted public water systems under drought response consideration. The Director may also consult with state and federal entities regarding drought conditions. If a drought response declaration is made, EPD will provide notice of drought status to all public water system permit holders in the affected area. At a minimum, EPD will hold a quarterly conference call with affected permit holders after the drought declaration.

- **Drought Response Level 1** requires permitted public water systems to conduct a public information campaign to explain drought conditions and the need to conserve water. The campaign shall include one or more of the following: newspaper advertisements, bill inserts, website homepage, social media and notices in public libraries. It should target all commercial and residential water use, not just outdoor watering. It should emphasize what customers can do and what they should do to be good stewards of our water resources. **A Level 1 Drought Response is currently in place in the following 58 Georgia counties: Baker, Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Clay, Columbia, Crawford, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Elbert, Franklin, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Hart, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Laurens, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Marion, McDuffie, Miller, Mitchell, Muscogee, Oglethorpe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Rabun, Randolph, Richmond, Schley, Seminole, Stephens, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Taylor, Terrell, Towns, Twiggs, Warren, Washington, Webster, Wilkes and Wilkinson.**
- In addition to the requirements in Drought Response Level 1, **Drought Response Level 2** limits outdoor landscape watering to two days a week determined by odd and even-numbered addresses. This includes planting or maintaining ground cover, trees and shrubs. Even-numbered addresses may water on Wednesday and Saturday between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Odd-numbered addresses may water Thursday and Sunday between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. The following outdoor water uses are prohibited: washing hard surfaces such as streets and sidewalks, water for ornamental purposes such as fountains, the use of fire hydrants except for firefighting, public safety and flushing, non-commercial vehicle washing including fundraising car washes, and non-commercial pressure washing. . Public water systems must also select and implement four or more items from the Drought Response Strategies Menu in the Rule. Examples include an intense public information campaign, restaurants restricted to serving water only upon request, street cleaning prohibited and pool cover requirements. **A Level 2 Drought Response is currently in place in the following 52 Georgia counties: Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Athens-Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Harris, Heard, Henry, Jackson, Lamar, Lumpkin, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Rockdale, Spalding, Troup, Union, Upson, Walker, Walton, White and Whitfield.**
- In addition to the requirements in Drought Response Levels 1 and 2, **Drought Response Level 3** prohibits all landscape watering including planting or maintaining ground cover, trees and shrubs. Watering of personal food gardens can only be done from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. unless using drip irrigation or soaker hoses. Other allowable water uses include hand watering between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., watering of athletic fields or public turf grass recreation areas, watering of golf courses with some limitations, use of reclaimed wastewater subject to the rules and water use during professional installation of irrigation systems. All ten items from the Drought Response Strategies Menu must be implemented.

- Under **Drought Response Level 3**, public water systems are required to implement a drought surcharge program unless they already have tiered conservation rates that meet the criteria specified in the rule. A drought surcharge program would serve as a temporary price incentive for customers to reduce water demand during a declared drought. As specified in the rule, drought surcharge rate(s) shall be distinct from established water rates; shall apply only to the volumetric water rates; and shall be approximately revenue neutral relative to non-drought periods.
- The following thirteen outdoor water uses also are allowed daily at any time of the day by anyone during non-drought conditions and Drought Response Level 1 and Level 2. As described under Drought Response Level 3 some of these activities are subject to additional requirements under those conditions:
 1. Commercial agricultural operations as defined in Code Section 1-3-3;
 2. Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances and state guidelines;
 3. Reuse of gray water in compliance with Code Section 31-3-5.2 and applicable local board of health regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
 4. Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department to provide reclaimed waste water;
 5. Irrigation of personal food gardens;
 6. Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation;
 7. Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;
 8. Handwatering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container;
 9. Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;
 10. Irrigation of horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;
 11. Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;
 12. Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or
 13. Hydroseeding.
- Public water systems may not impose restrictions on outdoor watering that are different from the state requirements unless they obtain a variance from the EPD. Public water systems needing to impose outdoor water use restrictions more or less stringent than the state requirements may apply for a variance from the state's current drought response and EPD is required to act upon that request within 5 business days.

