



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

- WHEREAS:** The government of the State of Georgia should *lead by example* in adopting, implementing and promoting water conservation practices; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia is currently developing a Statewide Water Plan to help ensure that Georgia's use of water is sustainable and protects water quality; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia is a large business enterprise and a substantial consumer of water, and water expenses represent a substantial operating cost for State Government; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia is currently experiencing record low rainfall and many of Georgia's rivers, streams and reservoirs are at the lowest levels ever recorded, including the composite storage of the entire Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint system, which is down to less than 45% capacity; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia recognizes its obligation to conserve water under these exceptional drought conditions by imposing the highest level of restrictions on water use in the state's history; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of Georgia's communities and industries have gone beyond the regional ban on outdoor watering by limiting other water uses and implementing even more rigorous conservation measures; and
- WHEREAS:** The Southeast Climatologist Consortium has forecast an unusually mild cool season with little rain; and
- WHEREAS:** The Army Corps of Engineers has not modified the Interim Operating Plan to adjust for this extreme drought; and
- WHEREAS:** Increased water conservation efforts by the agencies and departments of the State of Georgia will result in economic and environmental benefits to the residents of Georgia, including:
- Reducing water consumption from Georgia's water resources
  - Reducing dollars spent on water production and utility costs
  - Extending the life of existing water supplies

- Protecting the environment, including river flows and aquifer levels and the species dependant on them
- Demonstrating responsible use of shared waters

**NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:**

The Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with other state agencies, professional associations and volunteers, shall develop a water conservation implementation plan that outlines water conservation goals, benchmarks and practices for Georgia state facilities, and water conservation goals, benchmarks and practices for Georgia's diverse water use sectors, citizens and businesses.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:**

That state facilities will immediately execute the following water conservation practices to reduce non-essential water use, water waste and water loss:

- Conduct periodic checks of facility restrooms, boiler rooms, etc., to ensure appliances are working at maximum efficiency;
- Comply with the current outdoor water schedule or the outdoor water use ban. In areas operating under a Level 2 Drought Declaration, water use is prohibited between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm;
- Discontinue installation of all new landscaping on state facilities;
- Optimize recovery and use of condensate, where possible;
- Discontinue washing the state fleet except in cases that would compromise driver safety; and
- Limit the use of water used in cleaning state facilities when possible including a complete ban on power washing; and
- Any other water conservation practice that limits the State of Georgia's non-essential water use, water waste, and water loss.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:**

That the Department of Natural Resources shall prepare and coordinate an information campaign and work with state agencies to encourage state employees to conserve water in and around the workplace and home.

This 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007.

  
GOVERNOR