



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

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 implementing a State-wide Water Management Plan to help ensure that Georgia's use of water is sustainable and protects water quality; and

WHEREAS: The government of the State of Georgia is a large business enterprise and a substantial consumer of water, and water expenses represent a substantial operating cost of State Government; and

WHEREAS: The current drought in Georgia continues and droughts will periodically occur in the future, it is important to implement water conservation practices during all conditions in order to sustain resources and forestall water shortage and consequent emergency; and

WHEREAS: Many of Georgia's communities, industries and agencies have exceeded the challenge of reducing water waste, water loss and non-essential water use during the on-going drought; and

WHEREAS: The National Weather Service reports that while recent rains and scattered showers brought some relief to drought-stricken areas of our state, a severe to extreme drought prevails over most of North, East Central and Central Georgia; 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 shall continue to 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 any outdoor water use schedule or regulations that have been put in place by the local governing authority where the facility is located.
- Optimize recovery and use of condensate, where possible.
- Limit the use of water used in cleaning state facilities and vehicles, when possible.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That state agencies and authorities will implement practices that help reduce water usage by 5% over the next 2 years and 2% annually thereafter through the year 2020. Reductions will be calculated on a per square foot basis, using the year 2007 as baseline.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: The Governor's Water Conservation Challenge to local governments, school systems, and businesses will encourage these groups to match the State's commitment by reducing their own water usage by 5% over the next 2 years and 2% annually thereafter through the year 2020. Reductions will be calculated on a per square foot basis, using the year 2007 as baseline.

This 31st day of October, 2008.


GOVERNOR