



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: Prolonged exceptional drought conditions existing across the Northern third of Georgia have created a shortage of water availability at an unprecedented level; and

WHEREAS: Numerous lakes, reservoirs and impoundments have experienced record breaking low water levels putting the availability of drinking water to over 4 million citizens at great risk; and

WHEREAS: The continued depletion of this crucial resource is creating a significant and increasingly severe threat to Georgia businesses, industry, economic stability and the health and safety of Georgia citizens; and

WHEREAS: These hazardous conditions require that Georgia citizens, businesses and industries be extremely vigilant in exercising aggressive water conservation methods; and

WHEREAS: These unprecedented events require the action of the State of Georgia to protect the public health, preserve the safety of the public, prevent major destruction to the environment and protect the social and economic stability of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That a State of Emergency previously declared on October 20, 2007, and extended on November 20 and December 19, 2007, in Baker, Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Calhoun, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, Dade, Dawson, Decatur, DeKalb, Dooly, Dougherty, Douglas, Early, Elbert, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Greene, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Harris, Hart, Heard, Henry, Jackson, Jasper, Lee, Lincoln, Lumpkin, Macon, Madison, Marion, Meriwether, Miller,

Mitchell, Morgan, Murray, Muscogee, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Peach, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Rabun, Randolph, Rockdale, Schley, Seminole, Spalding, Stephens, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Terrell, Towns, Troup, Union, Upson, Walker, Walton, Webster, White, Whitfield, and Wilkes counties due to the existing exceptional drought and the subsequent threats to the water supply in these areas be and is hereby extended for a period of an additional 30 days, until midnight February 18, 2008, or until the end of an additional period of time as may be authorized by further Executive Order.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That personnel and equipment resources of the State of Georgia be made available to assist the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and local governments in the mitigation, preparedness and response activities currently being undertaken.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That there is hereby created and established the Drought Response Unified Command and the Drought Response Working Group consistent with the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan. The Drought Response Unified Command will work together to coordinate a common set of incident objectives and strategies, share information, maximize the use of available resources, and enhance the efficiency of the State's drought response. The Drought Response Working Group will implement an effective and systematic means of assessing and responding to the drought emergency, under the direction of the Drought Response Unified Command.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That the Drought Response Unified Command report to the Governor and be directed by the following individuals: The Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, the Director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, the Executive Director of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, and the Director of the Georgia Division of Public Health. The Unified Command shall report to the Governor through the Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection

Division, who will lead the Unified Command, for all command decisions regarding the State's drought response.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That the following agencies appoint representatives to the Drought Response Working Group: Georgia Environmental Protection Division; Georgia Emergency Management Agency; Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority; Georgia Division of Public Health; Georgia Department of Agriculture; Georgia Department of Human Resources; Georgia Public Service Commission; Georgia Department of Transportation; Georgia Department of Public Safety; Department of Community Affairs, Georgia Forestry Commission; and, other State Boards, Departments, Agencies, Councils, Associations, Institutions or Authorities as necessary.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That the Georgia Emergency Management Agency activate the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division implement the State of Georgia Drought Response Strategy.

This 18th day of January, 2008.


GOVERNOR