



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Richard E. Dunn, Director**

**Watershed Protection Branch**  
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Suite 1152, East Tower  
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404-463-1511

Honorable Barbara Mathis  
City of Hiawassee  
50 River Street  
Hiawassee, GA 30546

November 17, 2016

**RE: Level 1 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 1 Drought Response for 58 Georgia counties for permittees using surface and/or groundwater. This declaration applies to your area. (Map of affected counties enclosed.)

A Level 1 Drought Response requires that public water systems implement a public information campaign that shall include, 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. Implementation of this campaign should begin within five days of receipt of this letter. 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>.

A Level 1 Drought Response public information campaign should:

- Remind residents that general outdoor watering is allowed only between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- Target all commercial and residential water use, not just outdoor watering; and
- Emphasize what customers should do and what they may do to be good stewards of our water resources.
- Examples of things to emphasize that residents should do include the following:
  - Regularly check for, and repair, leaks inside and outside their home.

- Don't leave the tap running when shaving, brushing teeth, and face washing.
- Only water your landscape when necessary. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

Please also note that no restrictions may be placed on the thirteen water uses found at Drought Rule section 391-3-30 -.03 (1) (b) under a Level 1 Drought Response declaration. More water conservation information is available at <http://epd.georgia.gov/water-conservation>.

If you have any 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