



CARROLL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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OUTDOOR WATER USE IN CARROLL COUNTY: LEVEL 2 DROUGHT

The State of Georgia has declared a Level 2 Drought Response for 52 counties in central and north Georgia including Carroll County. A Level 1 Drought Response, which is the least restrictive of three possible response levels, was declared early this year on September 9th. The upgrade to Level 2 is in response to regional climatic and water supply conditions and in accordance with Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division Rule 391-3-30, Drought Management regulations.

The Carroll County Water Authority's (CCWA's) primary water source, the Snake Creek Reservoir, is about 6 feet below full pool and at approximately 70% of its full pool storage capacity. At the current pool level, the Snake Creek Reservoir stores approximately 11 months of water supply. With local drought conditions persisting, it is prudent to increase water conservation efforts including mandatory water use restrictions in an effort to preserve our water supply.

Effective immediately, outdoor irrigation for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants shall be limited to no more than two days a week as follows:

- Even numbered addresses and sites without an address may irrigate on Wednesday and Saturday between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.; and
- Odd numbered addresses may irrigate on Thursday and Sunday between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

In addition, the following outdoor water uses are prohibited, except as provided below:

- Washing hard surfaces such as streets, gutters, sidewalks and driveways, except when necessary for public health and safety;
- Using water for ornamental purposes, such as fountains, reflecting pools and waterfalls;
- Use of fire hydrants, except for the purposes of firefighting, public health, safety or flushing;
- Washing vehicles, such as cars, boats, trailers, motorbikes, airplanes or golf carts except at such commercial car wash facilities that are connected to a local government's sanitary sewer system or recycle used wash water;
- Non-commercial washing or pressure washing of buildings or structures, except for immediate fire protection; and
- Charity, or non-commercial fund-raiser, car washes.

The following outdoor water uses are allowed under the Level 2 Drought Response:

- Commercial agricultural operations as defined in Georgia Code Section, O.C.G.A. 1-3-3;

- Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances and state guidelines;
- Reuse of gray water in compliance with Code Section, O.C.G.A. 31-3-5.2 and applicable local board of health regulations adopted pursuant thereto; or
- Use of reclaimed wastewater by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department to provide reclaimed waste water;
- Irrigation of personal food gardens;
- 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;
- Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;
- Handwatering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container;
- 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;
- Irrigation of horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;
- Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;
- Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or
- Hydroseeding.

Professional exemptions for some commercial outdoor water uses are exempt from the requirements above. These include:

- Pressure washing;
- Permanent car wash facility, provided that it is connected to a sanitary sewer system of a political subdivision or local government authority or recycles used wash water;
- Construction sites; and
- Watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf.

Lastly, CCWA will implement additional drought response strategies in an effort to lower water usage and preserve our water supply. These actions include:

- Retrofit kits and water saving devices such as shower flow restrictors and leak dye tablets will be available for CCWA customers;
- Leak detection and repair efforts will be accelerated including enhanced notification to customers regarding potential water leaks within customer owned plumbing system; and
- Expand our public information campaign to educate the public on water conservation and wise use of water.

It is anticipated that Level 2 Drought Response limitations and restrictions will remain in place until reservoir levels are replenished or water supply and drought condition change. CCWA will continue to monitor local drought conditions and provide updates to its drought response as necessary. For further information, please contact the CCWA office at (770) 832-1277.