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NEWS RELEASE

EPD Issues Level 1 Drought Response Across Georgia, Calls for Water Conservation

HINESVILLE, Ga. (October 21, 2019) – As of Monday, October 21, worsening drought conditions have prompted the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to declare a Level 1 Drought Response across the state.

With the issuance of this response, public water utilities in 103 counties – including Liberty County – will be required to begin a public information campaign to help citizens better understand drought, its impact on water supplies and the need for water conservation.

“This serves as a reminder for all Georgians to use water wisely,” said EPD Director Richard Dunn. “It also gives public water systems an opportunity to educate their customers on the importance of water conservation.”

The EPD uses several factors to determine the level of drought response, including precipitation, stream flows, groundwater, reservoir levels, short – term climate predictions and soil moisture.

In keeping with water conservation activities during this time, citizens are asked to keep outdoor water use limited to the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Exceptions to this limitation can be found at <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/water-conservation>.

Under a Level 1 Drought Response, the following activities may be conducted at any time of day:

- Irrigation of personal food gardens
- Irrigation of new and replanted plants, seed or turf for up to 30 after installation
- Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses
- Hand watering using a hose with an automatic cutoff or handheld container

To learn more about EPD limitations and actions during droughts, please visit <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/drought-management>. Water



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conservation information is available at <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/water-conservation>.

Questions? Please contact Whitney Morris – Reed, Public Relations Manager, at wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org or 912.408.3569.

ABOUT THE CITY OF HINESVILLE:

The [City of Hinesville](http://cityofhinesville.org) was established in 1837 and is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. As the largest city in Liberty County, it serves as the county seat and is home to more than 35,000 people. For more information, visit cityofhinesville.org.

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