



# CARROLL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **CARROLL COUNTY: OUTDOOR WATER USE LIMITS EASED**

Winter rains and improving drought conditions have prompted the State of Georgia to ease water use limits on 31 counties in northern Georgia including Carroll County. The decision announced on Thursday by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division places Carroll County under a Level 1 Drought Response which is an upgrade from the previously issued Level 2 Drought Response. Level 1 is the least restrictive of three drought response levels.

The Carroll County Water Authority's primary water source, the Snake Creek Reservoir, is currently at full pool up 7 feet from its low point in November. "Rainfall over the last three months has brought the Snake Creek Reservoir level to full pool," said CCWA Executive Director Matt Windom. "We are thankful for the winter rains and the support of our customers in conserving water during times of drought. We are optimistic that our recent weather pattern will continue, but we are keeping an observant eye on climatic conditions and our water supplies."

CCWA encourages all customers to use water wisely even during times of improved drought conditions. Under the current Level 1 Drought Response customers may irrigate outdoors daily for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Customers may also wash cars and perform pressuring washing at home.

The following activities are exempt from all outdoor water uses limitations:

- 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- Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;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.

A number of counties in north Georgia and within the metropolitan Atlanta area remain under a Level 2 Drought Response due to below normal levels in Lake Lanier and lower than normal stream flows. These counties are Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin, Paulding and White.

For further information, please contact the CCWA office at (770) 832-1277.