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Regional Conservation Work Group Recommendations for Year-Round Water Conservation Measures

October 23, 2008

A Regional Conservation Work Group (RCWG) of staff representatives from the Cities of Raleigh and Durham, the Town of Cary, and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) has met periodically from March through October 2008 to develop a set of **consistent year-round conservation measures for consideration** by local governments/water systems in the Triangle Region. The lack of consistency in terminology, number stages in drought response ordinances, water use restrictions, etc. among the various systems caused a significant amount of public confusion during the droughts of 2001-2002 and 2007-2008. In response to this need, the RCWG has reached consensus on the following **year-round water conservation measures** for consideration by the Cities of Raleigh and Durham, the Towns of Cary and Apex, and OWASA:

- Outdoor Watering Schedule
 - Spray irrigation allowed on 3 days per week
 - Odd-numbered street addresses may spray irrigate only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
 - Even-numbered street addresses may spray irrigate only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays
 - Exceptions (watering allowed any day)
 - Drip, microspray and bubbler irrigation systems
 - Hand watering
- New irrigation systems must be equipped with properly operating rain or soil moisture sensors in appropriate locations to prevent irrigation during periods of rainfall or when there is sufficient moisture in the ground for plant health and survival
- “Wasteful water use” prohibited in accordance with local ordinances, standards, or definitions
- Indoor and outdoor water leaks must be repaired within time limits specified in local ordinances, standards, or definitions

The RCWG recognizes that additional year-round water conservation measures may be adopted by local water systems, but concluded that the requirements listed above represent an appropriate baseline for water suppliers in the Triangle Region. The RCWG will continue to evaluate measures to increase consistency in terminology used, the number of water shortage response stages and corresponding water use restrictions for communities in the Triangle Area.

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MISSION STATEMENT

*To serve as an intergovernmental organization for local elected officials
that works proactively on regional issues in order to sustain and improve the quality of life for our citizens.*

The Regional Conservation Work Group participants include the following.

Jessica Bolin, Town of Apex, Utility Engineer
Ed Buchan, City of Raleigh, Environmental Coordinator for Water
Marie Cefalo, Town of Cary, Water Conservation Coordinator
Dale Crisp, City of Raleigh, Public Utilities Director
Pat Davis, Orange Water and Sewer Authority, Utility Manager
Leila Goodwin, Town of Cary, Water Resources Manager
Ed Holland, Orange Water and Sewer Authority, Director of Planning
Bill Holman, Duke University Nicholas Institute, Director of State Policy
James Lim, City of Durham, Conservation Coordinator
Sydney Miller, Triangle J Council of Governments, Water Resources Program Manager
Linwood Peele, NC Division of Water Resources, Water Supply Planning Section Chief
Laurin Sievert, NC Division of Water Resources, Water Conservation Specialist
Vicki Westbrook, City of Durham, Deputy Director of Water Management