



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

- WHEREAS: Because Georgia's water resources are precious and vital to the support of the state's economy, the protection of public health, the welfare of our natural systems, and the enhancement of the quality of life for all citizens, it is critical for the state to ensure their sustainable management; and
- WHEREAS: Numerous federal, state and local agencies implement water-resources-related laws, ordinances, and programs that create a strong foundation for Georgia's water policy; and
- WHEREAS: Increases in population, economic development, and irrigated agriculture, as well as periodic drought conditions, pose significant challenges for the effective implementation of water-resources-related laws, ordinances, and programs; and
- WHEREAS: Increased understanding of the intricate relationship between water quantity and quality and surface and ground water systems emphasizes the need for comprehensive, integrated water resources management across multiple levels of government; and
- WHEREAS: Water resources management challenges and the need for comprehensive, integrated water resources management can be met by the implementation of an effective state comprehensive water resources management planning program; and
- WHEREAS: The Board of Natural Resources, on March 26, 2003, approved the Georgia Drought Management Plan, as developed by a cross section of citizens and resource managers from across the state, to recommend and require measures that will reduce water consumption by citizens, governments, industries, and commercial entities in Georgia; and

WHEREAS: The Drought Management Plan mandates pre-drought measures to conserve water and post-drought response measures appropriate to minimize the effects of drought; and

WHEREAS: It is important for the State to lead by example and demonstrate its commitment to sound water management and conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That there is created the Georgia Water Resources Council to ensure coordination, cooperation and communication among state agencies and their water-related programs and activities.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Georgia Water Resources Council shall be comprised of the commissioners or directors of the following state agencies as voting members:

Department of Natural Resources;  
Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources;  
Soil and Water Conservation Commission;  
Department of Community Affairs;  
Department of Human Resources;  
Department of Agriculture;  
Georgia Forestry Commission; and  
Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the chairpersons of the Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment may serve *ex officio* in an advisory capacity to the Georgia Water Resources Council to provide a legislative perspective in discussions and to build institutional knowledge of the nuances of the state comprehensive water resources management planning process in the General Assembly.

IT IS FURTHER

**ORDERED:** That the Director of the Environmental Protection Division shall serve as chairperson of the Georgia Water Resources Council. The Environmental Protection Division shall provide administrative support for the Georgia Water Resources Council.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That the Georgia Water Resources Council shall set forth its recommendations for the contents and scope of the state comprehensive water resources management plan. The Georgia Water Resources Council shall submit such document to the Governor and General Assembly before the 2004 regular session, in anticipation of the General Assembly passing water planning legislation.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That the Georgia Water Resources Council shall draw upon the expertise and shall seek the counsel and assistance of other private and public entities with expertise in water management as appropriate.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That all state departments, agencies, boards, bureaus, commissions, authorities, councils, and corporations shall implement the initiatives set forth in the Drought Management Plan as they relate to their mission and to the extent that it is practical to do so.

**ORDERED:** That the Department of Natural Resources shall implement the provisions of the Drought Management Plan as soon as practicable.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That all state departments, agencies, boards, bureaus, commissions, authorities, councils, and corporations shall develop their own internal water conservation programs with mechanisms and procedures to reduce their water usage.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That all state departments, agencies, boards, bureaus, commissions, authorities, councils, and corporations with water-related regulatory or programmatic functions shall work together in a spirit of cooperation so as to avoid duplication of effort and conflicting initiatives and directives.

This 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2003.

  
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GOVERNOR