

**Permit holders in the former 55 County Level IV area decreased water use in October 2009 by more than 5% when compared to October 2008 and reduced water use by over almost 12% when compared to October 2007**

**Background**

Although non-drought outdoor water use schedules went into effect June 10, 2009, EPD is continuing to monitor water usage of permittees who use more than 100,000 gallons per day in the former 55 county Level IV drought response area that were required to report water usage during the Level IV drought response.

**October 2009 versus October 2008 and October 2007 Water Use**

October 2009 water use by 168 permittees using more than 100,000 gallons per day decreased by 5.6% or 37 million gallons per day when compared to October 2008. Each of these permittees was under Level IV outdoor watering restrictions in October 2008, while in October 2009, permittees had returned to non-drought outdoor water use schedules. **Compared to October 2007, when Level IV watering restrictions were in effect, water use in October 2009 was reduced by 11.9% or 84 million gallons per day.** In October 2009, 111 permittees either decreased or did not increase their water use compared to October 2008, while 55 increased water use when compared to October 2008, and two permittees (Locust Grove and Ephesus) failed to report. However, compared to October 2007, 121 permittees either decreased or did not increase their water use in October 2009 and only 45 increased water use. The fact that water use in October 2009 is less than that when less stringent water use restrictions were in place in October 2006 demonstrates Georgian's continued commitment to water conservation efforts. Table 1 provides a summary of water use by river basin.

Table 1  
Summary of October 2009 versus October 2007 and 2008 Level IV Water Use Reductions by Basin (MGD)

BASIN	OCTOBER 2007 WATER USE (MGD)	OCTOBER 2008 WATER USE (MGD)	OCTOBER 2009 WATER USE (MGD)	WATER USE REDUCTIONS FROM OCTOBER 2007 (MGD)	% REDUCTION IN USE FROM OCTOBER 2007	WATER USE REDUCTIONS FROM OCTOBER 2008 (MGD)	% REDUCTION IN USE FROM OCTOBER 2008
Chattahoochee and Flint	420.96	389.49	362.67	58.29	13.8%	26.82	6.9%
Coosa, Tallapoosa and Tennessee	184.07	169.81	164.02	20.05	10.9%	5.79	3.4%
Oconee and Ocmulgee	85.79	85.00	81.45	4.34	5.1%	3.55	4.2%
Savannah	13.24	12.78	12.00	1.24	9.4%	0.78	6.1%
<b>All Basins</b>	<b>704.06</b>	<b>657.08</b>	<b>620.14</b>	<b>83.92</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>36.94</b>	<b>5.6%</b>