GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

OCT 21 2016

Mr. Jason Robinson
City of Buchanan
4300 GA Hwy. 120
Buchanan, Georgia 30113

RE: Drought Response Variance Approval -- Drought Response Level Three

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 12-5-7 and GA Rule 391-3-30-.08, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has reviewed the City of Buchanan's (City) request for a variance from the current State Drought Response Level 1 to a Drought Response Level 3 in order to implement more stringent restrictions.

EPD understands that the Haralson County Water Authority (Authority) is the sole provider of water to the City, and is aware of the water supply challenges the Authority is currently experiencing. EPD recently granted a variance request to the Authority for a Drought Response Level 3, valid for 60 days from October 18, 2016, with the provision for an extension if ten days prior to the expiration of the Authority's variance, the Tallapoosa River has not recovered to levels sufficient to provide a reliable supply.

The supporting documentation submitted by the Authority, have confirmed that the water level in the Tallapoosa River, the Authority's primary water source, has been at or below the Authority's intake for a considerable period of time. EPD further understands that due to the Authority's water supply challenges, the City, under the emergency provisions provided in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-7(a)(2), is currently imposing drought response restrictions that are more stringent than the current State Drought Response Level 1. To clarify, these emergency provisions are not to exceed seven days unless a variance is granted by the EPD Director.

Therefore, based on this information and in consideration of the ongoing climatic and water supply conditions occurring within your area, EPD has determined that good cause has been shown to support your request. EPD hereby approves a variance for the City of Buchanan to implement Drought Response Level 3 measures in the applicable service areas, as provided in EPD rule 391-3-30.07(4). As you requested, this approval is valid until the Haralson County Water Authority's variance for a Drought Response Level 3 is no longer in effect .

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Mr. Bennett Weinstein, EPD's Water Supply Program Manager, at 404-651-5155.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Dunn
Director

Cc: Mr. Bob Downey, Haralson County Water Authority
James A. Capp
Gail Cowie
Bennett Weinstein