



# 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 Shealy  
City of Waco  
P.O. Box 201  
Waco, Georgia 30182

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

Dear Mr. Shealy:

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 Waco'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.

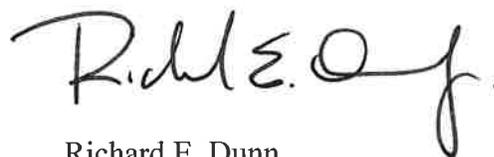
The supporting documentation submitted by the Authority, have confirmed that the water level in the Tallapoosa River, the Authority's primary water source, has been at or below the Authority's intake for a considerable period of time. EPD further understands that due to the Authority's water supply challenges, 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 Waco 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard E. Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "D".

Richard E. Dunn  
Director

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