

20110617-1

# City of Americus

"A Shining City on a Hill"



Mayor Barry Blount  
City of Americus  
101 W. Lamar St.  
Americus, Ga. 31709  
229-924-4411

Mayor  
Barry Blount

RECEIVED  
Environmental Protection Division

JUN 17 2011

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

F. Allen Barnes  
EPD Director  
Georgia EPD  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. S.E.  
Suite 1152 East Tower  
Atlanta, Ga 30334-9000

### Councilmembers

Walton Grant  
District 6

Eloise Paschal  
District 2

Lou Chase  
District 3

Lorenzo Johnson  
District 5

Juanita F. Wilson  
District 1

Carla G. Cook  
District 4

**RE: Permit # GA2610000**

Sirs;

This is a formal letter of request for variance from the current Georgia Water Stewardship Act requirements. The City of Americus has always followed outdoor water use restriction guidelines set by The State of Georgia, however we believe that with the current exceptional drought conditions in Southwest Georgia requesting a variance at this time would be a proactive measure.

Lately, The City of Americus Water Department has experienced longer than normal run times on our high service pumps. We are averaging run times of 20-22 hours a day when we normally run only 13-16 hours per day. We currently have only four (4) wells in operation in by the city. Water levels are also down dramatically. Mr. Richard Campbell, Senior Water Operator, tested all city wells on June 6, 2011 and found that our water levels has dropped an average of 10 feet in the last 30 days.

Due to the current drought condition we have also taken extra steps to educate the public on the current restrictions. They include but are not limited to, PSA's on our local radio stations, articles in our local paper, talks to local organizations by the code enforcement officer, and posting of restrictions on the City's web page.

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We have also started more stringent enforcement of the restrictions through our code enforcement officer. He has started a daily ride around program to warn violators using tips that are given to him by other city employees, and also by tips that are called into the E911 center.

These levels do not affect us operationally at this time, but feel that if the drought conditions continues we could be in for a shortage of water for public use. With more stringent restrictions we hope to at least level off the drop in water levels or see the level rise back to their normal levels.

The city has also adopted building codes that deal with water conservation in future building projects, such as high efficiency plumbing, cooling tower systems and water reclamation systems for grey water. Our Natural Gas Department has also put into place a program that will help customers to replace conventional hot water heaters with more efficient On Demand systems. This helps in both gas conservation and water conservation.

We are requesting to implement the same restriction that were in Chapter 391-3-30-04 Level II drought restrictions. These restrictions would allow outdoor water use from 12:00 midnight to 10:00A.M. only on odd and even day schedule. The City of Americus is divided by State Highway 280 (Lamar Street). Lamar Street is the north/south boundary for the City.

The Odd/Even schedule we would like to use is as follows:

**North of Lamar Street on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.**

**South of Lamar St. on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.**

**Total ban on Fridays**

**Washing of hard surfaces, such as streets, sidewalks, gutters, and driveways will be prohibited except when necessary for public health and safety.**

**Use of fire hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing of systems.**

We request to utilize this system due to the fact we currently have one code enforcement officer to monitor the restrictions. This will allow him to monitor the restrictions efficiently, and make it easy for our citizens to understand since it was the system used in the past.

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We respectfully request a various to implement these restrictions under our current exceptional drought conditions. Enforcement of these restrictions will be done by passing a City Ordinance to adopt them. We will continue to monitor the well levels and remove the restrictions as soon as possible.

Thank You in advance for considering our request. If there are any question you may call Bernard Kendrick, Director of Public Works @ 229.924.7111

Barry Blount  
Mayor City of Americus

Mayor  
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# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, East Floyd Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

Mark Williams, Commissioner

F. Allen Barnes, Director

Environmental Protection Division

July 22, 2011

Honorable Barry Blount  
Mayor, City of Americus  
101 West Lamar Street  
Americus, GA 31709

RE: Request for variance from outdoor water use requirements

Dear Mayor Blount:

This is in response to your letter requesting a variance from the current outdoor water use requirements of the Georgia Water Stewardship Act as found in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated §12-5-7. As provided for in Section 12-5-7(a)(1) of the Act, the Director of EPD may grant such a variance provided there is sufficient evidence such restrictions are needed to avoid or relieve a local water shortage.

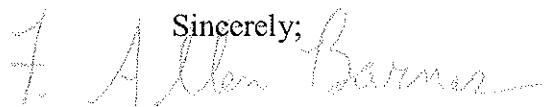
Specifically, the City of Americus has requested that outdoor watering be allowed on an odd/even basis only from 12:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. as follows:

- North of Lamar Street on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday;
- South of Lamar Street on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday;
- No outdoor watering on Friday; and
- Washing of hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, gutters, and driveways only when necessary for public health and safety.

Based upon the information you provided in support of your request, and in consideration of the exceptional drought conditions occurring within your area, your request is hereby approved and may remain in effect until such time as you provide notice to EPD that the above referenced restrictions are no longer necessary.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact Mr. Ken Shepard of our Southwest District at 229-430-4144.

Sincerely;



F. Allen Barnes  
Director