

Water Conservation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2007

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Orange County Commissioners Issue Water Conservation Resolution

The Orange County Board of Commissioners issued the resolution below at the October 23, 2007 regular meeting.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WATER CONSERVATION BY ALL ORANGE COUNTY CITIZENS

WHEREAS, portions of the southeastern United States are currently in the midst of an “exceptional drought,” as classified by the U.S. Drought Monitor, as collaborative effort of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies, and

WHEREAS, Orange County and much of North Carolina is within this identified area of exceptional drought, which is affecting drinking water supplies and agricultural operations, among others, and

WHEREAS, water restrictions are now in place in many communities – including the OWASA service area, where Stage 2 water shortage restrictions have been instituted, and Hillsborough, which has just instituted Stage 1 restrictions, and

WHEREAS, precipitation forecasts currently project the drought to persist into at least early 2008, and

WHEREAS, Governor Michael Easley has asked all North Carolina residents to observe water restrictions in their community and otherwise voluntarily conserve water, and has recently called for a 50% reduction in water use by the end of October, and

WHEREAS, water conservation is important not only to citizens on public water supplies, but also to those on private individual wells – as lessening of water use conserves the amount of water in storage and lightens the hydraulic load on private septic systems:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Commissioners encourages all Orange County citizens to diligently observe water restrictions in the community in which they reside.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board also encourages all citizens not under water restrictions or on private wells to voluntarily conserve water, in keeping with the Governor's request.

This, the 23rd day of October 2007.

Signed by Moses Carey, Jr. – Chair, Board of County Commissioners

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