

***Water Use Reduction and Efficiency* Points: 5**

22.) Government DCA Water First Community

Become a DCA Water First Community.

DESCRIPTION OF MEASURE

The local government is a WaterFirst Community. WaterFirst is a voluntary community partnership between local governments and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) that is aimed at improving the efficiency of water use and protection of water. To become a Water First Community, a local government must exceed current requirements in eight categories: Watershed Assessment, Stormwater Master Planning, Water Supply Planning, Water Supply Protection, Water Conservation, Wastewater Treatment Systems and Management, Residual Biosolids, and Water Reclamation and Reuse.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR CREDIT

- ✓ A copy of the current WaterFirst Community designation for the jurisdiction

The Douglasville/Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority received its designation as a WaterFirst Community on February 4, 2009 as per attached documentation.

Sonny Perdue
Governor


Georgia™
Department of
Community Affairs

Mike Beatty
Commissioner

February 4, 2009

Peter J. Frost
Executive Director
Douglasville-Douglas County
Water and Sewer Authority
P.O. Box 1157
Douglasville, Georgia 30133

Dear Mr. Frost:

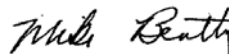
On behalf of the Department of Community Affairs, I would like to congratulate Douglasville/Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority (WSA) on its designation as a WaterFirst Community. I ask that you please withhold from making this announcement in your community as I would like to arrange a press conference to be held in Douglasville so that I might present you with the official designation and recognize those who have worked so hard to gain this recognition. We also have to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding that will be signed as part of the designation ceremony.

As a WaterFirst designee, the Water First Reviewers noted that Douglasville/Douglas County WSA had achieved numerous accomplishments including: the recent construction of an impressive new wastewater treatment plant, an extensive educational program reaching all segments of the population, strong zoning and land-use regulations protecting your watershed, and an impressive stormwater management program.

I commend you on your efforts thus far and will look forward to watching the community continue to be a leader in water-related innovations and education. As a part of the WaterFirst team Douglasville/Douglas County WSA will serve as an outstanding example for other communities across the state. As a WaterFirst Community we are counting on you to share the lessons you have learned with others who are working to improve their water stewardship practices.

I will look forward to seeing you at the designation ceremony. If you have any questions, please contact Deatre Denion at (912) 704-4136 or via email at deatre.denion@dca.ga.gov.

Sincerely,



Mike Beatty
Commissioner

cc: DCA Region Representative
Kimberly King, DCA Communications Director
Mayor of City of Douglasville
Chairman of Douglas County



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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
AND
DOUGLASVILLE-DOUGLAS COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY**

1. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (hereafter DCA) and Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority (hereafter WSA) is designed to formalize the WaterFirst Community Program Designation that has been granted to the WSA for being an environmental steward. This MOU delineates responsibilities and conditions pertaining to the benefits and responsibilities of being a WaterFirst Community.

2. BACKGROUND

The WaterFirst Community Program is a voluntary partnership between local governments, state agencies, and other organizations working together to enhance the quality of life through the wise management and protection of water resources.

3. INTENT

It is DCA's goal to provide assistance to local communities that wish to manage their water resources wisely and to acknowledge and reward those communities that are pursuing environmental excellence beyond what is required by law.

4. FINANCIAL

There are no application or membership fees associated with being a WaterFirst Designated Community.

5. DCA's RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Provide resources, tools and support to help meet water management goals
- B. Provide State-wide recognition for being environmental stewards including but not limited to being listing on DCA's:
 - 1. Website;
 - 2. WaterFirst Outreach Flier;
 - 3. WaterFirst Presentations;
 - 4. Press announcement and periodic releases; and
 - 5. Case studies.
- C. Provide two road signs and authorization to use the WaterFirst trademarked logo.
- D. Annual eligibility to apply for DCA Community Block Development Grants for water related projects.
- E. Host special "issue retreats/workshops" addressing critical water stewardship issues.
- F. Work with federal and state agencies to maintain and identify and solicit additional WaterFirst program incentives.

6. WSA RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Continue to strive for environmental excellence in all areas of water resource management.
- B. Develop a comprehensive and measurable water conservation program.
- C. Maintain compliance with water related permits and maintain Qualified Local Government status.
- D. Participate in the WaterFirst Community Program by supporting WSA staff member participation as a WaterFirst Reviewer.
- E. Provide support and encourage WSA staff to attend or participate in at least one WaterFirst function over the 5 year term.
- F. Notify DCA's WaterFirst Program Coordinator of any water permit violations or significant water management issues that occur.

7. ELIGIBILITY

Subject to the terms and conditions of the granting agency, WSA shall be eligible for the WaterFirst program incentives, including but not limited to:

- A. A 1% point interest rate reduction from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) state loan program for water related projects.
- B. Access to WaterFirst peer network and resources.
- C. Access to special "issue retreats/workshops" addressing critical water stewardship issues.
- D. Bonus points on the Environmental Protection Division's 319 Grant applications.
- E. Use of the WaterFirst trademark and signs.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Effective date of this MOU shall commence upon the date signed by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs and the Executive Director of WSA.

9. TERMS

The term of this MOU shall commence upon the date WSA was designated a WaterFirst Community and may be renewed in five years.

10. TERMINATION

- A. If for any reason WSA has its status of a Qualified Local Government revoked, they shall be immediately terminated as a WaterFirst Community and forfeit all rights and eligibilities granted to a WaterFirst Community.
- B. Either party may terminate this MOU at any time with thirty days notice in writing to the other party. Such notice shall be given by personal delivery or by certified mail, return receipt requested. This MOU may also, be terminated by mutual written consent of the parties specifying the termination date herein.
- C. At the time of termination under Sections 9 or 10 of this MOU, all benefits will be withdrawn and the use of the WaterFirst logo and signs shall no

longer be displayed or used by WSA. WSA shall have 30 days to remove the WaterFirst designation signs and cease using the WaterFirst logo or risk sanctions from the DCA, including but not limited to loss of eligibility as a qualified local government.

11. NOTICES

Notices regarding the terms and conditions of this MOU shall be considered given by personal delivery or by certified mail, return receipt requested to the following:

Director,
Environmental Management
Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231

Executive Director
Douglasville-Douglas County
Water and Sewer Authority
P.O. Box 1157
Douglasville, Georgia 30133

ATTEST

All terms of this Memorandum of Understanding are hereby acknowledged and agreed to, as certified by the signature of the duly authorized officers and agents affixed hereby.

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

(6) 
Mike Beatty
Commissioner

4/29/09
Date

Douglasville-Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority


Peter J. Frost
Executive Director

4.29.09
Date