Drought Management Plan

*Note to the utility: The specific content of this Ordinance or Resolution should be reviewed with the utility's general legal counsel and bond counsel if the utility has any indebtedness outstanding to insure its enforceability.

Section I: Declaration of Purpose and Intent Talatha Rural Water understands the fundamental need to make efficient use of the limited and valuable water resource under its stewardship in order to protect the public's health and safety and environmental integrity. The purpose of this document is to establish a plan and procedures for managing water demand and evaluating supply options before and during a drought- related water shortage. The intent is to satisfy the requirements of the Drought Response Act of 2000 (Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, Section 49-23-10, et seq., as amended) with the goal of achieving the greatest public benefit from domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection and to provide water for other purposes in an equitable manner. Therefore, Talatha Rural Water has adopted this Drought Management Plan and Drought Response Ordinance that provide the policies and the authority to fulfill this obligation. The Drought Management Plan outlines the framework by which Talatha Rural Water will internally prepare for water shortages. The Ordinance provides the regulations by which Talatha Rural Water will manage and control its customer water usage during various levels of a drought.

Section II: Definition of Terms For the purposes of this Plan and the accompanying Ordinance, the following definitions will apply:

Aesthetic Water Use: Water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools and waterfalls.

Commercial and Industrial Use: Water use is integral to the production of goods and/or services by any establishment having profit as its primary aim. Conservation: Reduction in water use to prevent depletion or waste of the resource.

Customer: Any person, company or organization using finished water owned or supplied by the (water system).

Domestic Water Use: Water used for personal needs or for household purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation or for cleaning a residence, business, industry or institution.

Drought Alert Phases: There are four drought alert phases to be determined by the Drought Response Committee for the State of South Carolina. The four phases are:

1)Incipient Drought

2)Moderate Drought

3)Severe Drought

4)Extreme Drought

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Drought Response Management Areas: There are four drought management areas corresponding to the major river basins in South Carolina. The four areas are:

1) West or Savannah

2) Central or Santee

3) Northeast or Pee Dee

4) Southern or Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto.

In order to prevent overly broad response to drought conditions, drought response measures shall be considered within individual drought management areas or within individual counties, as applicable.

Drought Response Committee: A committee composed of State and local representatives created for the purpose of coordinating responses to water supply shortages within Drought Management Areas and making recommendations for action to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and/or the Governor. The Committee is composed of State agency representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division of the Office of the Adjutant General, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, South Carolina Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Forestry Commission, and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, as well as local committees representing counties, municipalities, public service districts, private water suppliers, agriculture, industry, domestic users, regional councils of government, commissions of public works, power generation facilities, special purpose districts and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Essential Water Use: Water used specifically for firefighting, maintaining in-stream flow requirements and satisfying Federal, State or local public health and safety requirements.

Finished Water: Water distributed for use after treatment. The terms “water use,” “water user,” and “water customer” refer to finished water use unless otherwise defined.

Institutional Water Use: Water used by government, public and private educational institutions, churches and places of worship, water utilities, and organizations within the public domain.

Irrigation Water Use: Water used to maintain gardens, trees, lawns, shrubs, flowers, athletic fields, right-of-way and medians.

Non-essential Water Use: Categories of water use other than Essential Water Use. Examples of non- essential water use include landscape irrigation and the washing of buildings, parking lots, automobiles, etc.

Residential Equivalent Unit (REU): An equivalency unit defined to be equal to one single- family residence. Talatha Rural Water allocated water capacity equals 250 gallons per day per REU.

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SC Dept. of Natural Resources: The State agency with primacy to implement the provisions of the Drought Response Act.

Water Supply Shortage: Lack of adequate, available water caused by drought to meet normal demands.

Section III: Drought Management Plan

A. Introduction: To ensure that Talatha Rural Water adequately manages its water system during drought-related conditions, an organized plan is necessary for system operation and reliability, proper communications, effective coordination and ultimate allocation of water use. Prior planning Talatha Rural Water ability to respond to drought will complement the conditions and to enforce the related Ordinance.

B. Designation of Water System Drought Response Representative: Administering a Drought Plan requires the skills needed to undertake a comprehensive public information program and the judgement required to deal with equity issues arising from enforcement of a mandatory program. Someone who has these skills will be selected by the water system to manage the water system's program and serve as the principal contact for the news media as the water system's Drought Response Representative. The Drought Response Representative for Talatha Rural Water is Jermaine Holmes, 4 Aspen Ct. Aiken SC 29803 Ph: 803-646-3595 email: trc.maintenance@gmail.com

C. Description of Water System Layout, Water Sources, Capacities and Yields: Talatha Rural Water is in the Savannah Drought Response Management Area of South Carolina. The system serves 550-600 customers at 278 Westward, North & South of Silver Bluff Road. The system has an elevated tank of 75,000-gallons; additional elevated tank of 250,000 gallons. The system has 3 ground water wells which are fed or pumped from the Middendorf Aquifer. Well 1 is located at 4 Aspen Court, Aiken SC, with a yield of 30 TGD. Well 2 located at 278 (middle well) yield 70.5 TGD. Well 3 located at Silver Bluff/ Desto Dr. yield 105 TGD. The SCDES total permitted capacity of the water system operated by Talatha Rural Water is 56.8 million gallons yearly withdrawal.

D. Identification of Water System Specific Drought or Water Shortage Indicators: Operators of every water system must develop historical trends that are valuable indicators of a system's ability to meet demand when demand begins to outpace supply. The Talatha Rural Water has developed triggers for use during drought or demand water shortages that describe when specific phases of the Drought Response Ordinance are implemented. The system triggers are as follows:

Moderate Drought Phase

1. Elevated storage falls below 30% of total capacity
2. Average daily use greater than 75% of capacity for 5 consecutive days
3. Aquifer stabilized static level drops 10 feet

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Severe Drought Phase

1. Elevated storage falls below 50% of total capacity
2. Average daily use greater than 80% of capacity for 5 consecutive days
3. Aquifer stabilized static level drops 20 feet

Extreme Drought Phase:

1. Elevated storage falls below 25% of total capacity
2. Average daily use greater than 95% of capacity for 5 consecutive days
3. Aquifer stabilized static level drops 40 feet

E. Cooperative Agreements and Alternative Water Supply Sources: Successful drought management requires a comprehensive program by water utility. In many situations, administrative agreements are required with other agencies to fully implement the plan. Agreements with other water purveyors may be necessary for alternative water supply sources. Other agreements that strengthen conservation efforts by large users may be necessary. The Talatha Rural Water identifies the following agreements that are in place to facilitate the implementation of this plan. Talatha Rural Water supplies potable water to 550-600 customers. Talatha Rural water has an emergency tie in with the town of Jackson SC Water System. This agreement states that the water is only for an emergency event.

F. Description of Pre-Drought Planning Efforts: Before the occurrence of a water supply shortage and the need to implement the emergency provisions of the Ordinance, it is important that certain pre-response measures have been taken with the aim of conserving the system's source of water, as well as the water distributed to the customer. In regard to the conservation measures listed below, the Talatha Rural Water has taken the following actions.

1. Identification of all major water users in the district
    - We Care Management
    - Silver Bluff High School
    - New Ellenton Middle School
    - 5- Aiken County Government Buildings
2. Identification of those users with whom there are conservation agreements:
   N/A
3. A vigorous public education program is critical for achieving substantial water use reductions. An effective public outreach program will keep the public informed about the water supply situation, what actions will mitigate drought emergency problems, and how well the public is doing in terms of meeting the programs goals. Keeping the public involved, informed and participating in the decision-making process is key to implementing an effective drought management Plan.

    - Talatha Rural Water issues announcements on the monthly bills, mail letters of notifications and our website.
    - The Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is posted on our website.

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G. Description of Capital Planning and Investment for System Reliability and Demand Forecasting:
Water utilities routinely find that capital improvements to the system strongly enhance their ability to get through times of drought. It is important that every water utility aggressively plans and builds for future needs. The utility must continue to provide for the system operation flexibility, improved pumping and storage capacity and new technologies to meet the demands of tomorrow.

- Presently Talatha Rural Water can produce more water than can be sold