

APPENDIX 10
(SOUTH CAROLINA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN)
TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. A drought is a slowly developing disaster that may occur over several months or years. Impacts from drought may occur quickly for some sectors while for others it may take years to have an impact.
- B. A drought event can have a major impact on the State economy, and will affect everything from agriculture to industry to individuals.
- C. Droughts are naturally recurring events in South Carolina. The length and severity has varied greatly over the last 25 years. The worst recorded drought, from 1999 to 2002, was one of the longest and most severe in more than 100 years. The 2007-2008 drought was shorter in duration than the 1999-2002 drought, but it had a stronger intensity, especially for the Upstate region. Parts of the State experienced severe drought again in 2011-2012 and 2016-2017.

II. PURPOSE

- A. Establishes policies and procedures for the State and Counties when responding to a drought situation.
- B. Identifies follow-on State-level actions to assist with and provide relief from severe or extreme drought conditions that have reached a level of disaster beyond the scope of the South Carolina Drought Response Committee.
- C. Provides statewide planning and response strategies that allow State and County Emergency Management officials to effectively and efficiently plan and coordinate the application of local, State, and Federal resources in response to a severe or extreme drought event to prevent loss of life, minimize damage, lessen the economic impact, and protect the environment.

III. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. Not all areas of the State will be affected the same way at the same time during a drought. Therefore, different types of drought response operations may be occurring simultaneously in the State.
- B. State actions in response to “Severe” or “Extreme” drought conditions may be identical as individual communities may be in both conditions in varying degrees.
- C. The State Drought Response Plan may be in effect at the same time other measures are being implemented by the SC Drought Response Committee and local water systems.

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- D. Most response measures will require a Declaration of a State of Emergency by the Governor and may include Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) support.
- E. Legislative action may be required to approve coordination and negotiations with surrounding States to coordinate response measures.
- F. A severe or extreme drought condition could trigger implementation of the South Carolina Emergency Operating Plan (SCEOP).
- G. In extreme circumstances, people could be evacuated to water locations instead of water being delivered to them.
- H. The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) activation for a drought response could be a long-term activation lasting for months or even longer.

IV. SITUATION

- A. For the purposes of this plan “Drought” means a period of diminished precipitation which results in negative impacts upon the hydrology, agriculture, biota, energy, and economy of the State.
- B. Drought conditions are determined by using established means of measuring precipitation, stream flow, soil moisture and well levels. These combined measurements form indices from which the degrees of drought are categorized.
- C. The South Carolina Drought Response Act of 2000 describes four levels of drought conditions:
 - 1. Incipient drought - There is a threat of a drought as demonstrated by drought indices.
 - 2. Moderate drought - There is an increasing threat of a drought as demonstrated by drought indices.
 - 3. Severe drought - A drought that has increased to severe levels as demonstrated by drought indices. This phase must be verified utilizing data, forecasts, and outlooks from various agencies. A drought of this severity normally requires an official declaration by the Department of Natural Resources, and water withdrawals and use restrictions.
 - 4. Extreme drought - A drought that has increased to extreme levels as demonstrated by drought indices.

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South Carolina Drought Indicators and Drought Alert Phases

Indicator	Description	Drought Phase			
		Incipient	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
Palmer Drought Severity Index	Depicts prolonged (months, years) abnormal dryness or wetness; incorporates temperature, precipitation, and soil moisture data	-0.50 to -1.49	-1.50 to -2.99	-3.00 to -3.99	≤ -4.00
Crop Moisture Index	Depicts short-term (up to 4 weeks) abnormal dryness or wetness affecting agriculture	0.00 to -1.49	-1.50 to -2.99	-3.00 to -3.99	≤ -4.00
Standard Precipitation Index	Compares observed precipitation amount (from 1- to 24-month periods) with long-term averages for the same period	0.00 to -0.99	-1.00 to -1.49	-1.50 to -1.99	≤ -2.00
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	Depicts moisture deficiencies in the upper layers of the soil; used to monitor fire danger	300 to 399	400 to 499	500 to 699	≥ 700
U.S. Drought Monitor	A weekly product that uses a variety of drought, climatological, hydrological, soil moisture and other indicators and indices as inputs	D0	D1	D2	≥ D3
Average daily streamflow	*CW – consecutive weeks	111%-120% of the minimum flow for 2 CW*	101%-110% of the minimum flow for 2 CW*	between the minimum flow and 90% of the minimum for 2 CW*	≤ than 90% of the minimum for 2 CW*
Ground Water, Static water level in an aquifer	**CM – consecutive months	between 11 - 20 ft above trigger level for 2 CM**	between 1-10 ft above trigger level for 2 CM**	between the trigger level and 10 ft below for 2 CM**	>than 10 ft below the trigger level for 2 CM**

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V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. The South Carolina Drought Response Committee

1. The South Carolina Drought Response Committee is composed of representatives from the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), SC Department of Environmental Control (DHEC), SC Forestry Commission (SCFC), SC Department of Agriculture (SCDA), South Carolina Emergency Management (SCEMD) and other weather and hydrology experts.
2. The Drought Response Committee is responsible for monitoring the drought conditions in the State, setting the drought level within the State, making recommendations to assist with managing the drought, and supporting the implementation of this plan.
3. The Drought Response Committee shall evaluate drought conditions within Drought Management Areas to determine if a need exists for action beyond the scope of local government. The committee shall consider:
 - Effectiveness of local drought ordinances and plans in protecting and insuring adequate water supplies.
 - Regional impacts of water use on water sources and water users.
 - Short term and extended climatological forecasts.
 - Other relevant information.
4. The Drought Response Committee will consult with representatives of municipalities, counties, commissions of public works, public and private water suppliers, public service districts, power generation facilities, industries, special purpose districts, emergency management agencies, and any other water users in the affected Drought Management Area while evaluating drought conditions and in preparing recommended actions.
5. The Committee is also responsible for evaluating and identifying priorities to support water conservation and mitigation measures for the Drought Management Areas.

B. Committee Recommendations

1. Upon determination that action in addition to local measures is necessary to ensure adequate supplies of water in Drought Management Areas, the Drought Response Committee shall prepare recommendations to reduce or

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alleviate drought impacts and submit the recommendations to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for implementation.

2. If the recommendations involve the curtailment of water use, the committee shall determine which categories of non-essential water use must be curtailed in accordance with South Carolina Code of Regulations, Chapter 121, Section 11, Paragraph 10 (Curtailment of Water Use during Droughts).

C. Plan Activation

1. Upon confirmation of an Extreme Drought Alert Phase, the Drought Response Committee may recommend the Governor issue a public statement that an extreme drought situation exists, and appropriate water-use and withdrawal restrictions be imposed.
2. Should the drought situation continue to deteriorate to the point that the safety, health, or welfare of people or infrastructure within a Drought Management Area is seriously threatened or impacted, the Drought Response Committee will immediately notify the Governor per the South Carolina Code of Regulations, Chapter 121, Section 11, and provide a priority list of recommended actions to alleviate the effects of drought conditions in the affected drought management areas.
3. The Drought Response Committee will also notify SCEMD that drought conditions have progressed to a level that may require the activation of this plan.
4. SCEMD will, upon notification from the Drought Response Committee, conduct a review and based upon the findings activate this plan, if appropriate.
5. Activation of this plan will be based upon pre-identified events that may affect a community's ability to provide for the safety of its citizens due to low or lack of water. These events include:
 - Communities have initiated water restrictions or rationing.
 - Community water supplies are continuing to be depleted to the level of exhaustion.
 - Local utility companies have begun shutting down power generation plants.
 - The requirement of firefighting resources beyond the capabilities of the SC State Forestry Commission and implementing the Fire Fighter Mobilization plans or the Southeastern Forest Fire Compact.

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- The Drought Response Committee recommends plan activation.
6. The activation of this plan may trigger an activation of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and State Emergency Response Team (SERT). The SEOC may initially activate at an elevated OPGON level, with a limited activation staffed by SCEMD personnel, key SERT agencies and Emergency Support Functions (ESF) as required.
- a. Upon activation, the SERT will develop a Drought Emergency Executive Order for the Governor's signature [See Attachment A (Draft Governor Executive Order)].
 - b. The SERT, in coordination with the Drought Response Committee, will work with local Emergency Management Directors and local water suppliers to develop appropriate response and recovery measures.
 - c. The measures could include but are not limited to:
 - Activation of Points of Distribution (POD) within a community to assist with the distribution of donated or purchased water.
 - Coordination with DHEC, FEMA, and the USACE to assist with drilling of new water wells, desalinization, purification, or other related projects.
 - Providing temporary sheltering for citizens without access to water.
 - Providing relief assistance to communities and individuals affected by the drought.
- D. Actions available to the State to assist communities under this plan may apply under either severe or extreme drought conditions.
- E. Drought Management Areas
- 1. For the purpose of implementing this plan, the State will use four Drought Management Areas. These areas are West, Central, Northeast, and Southern.

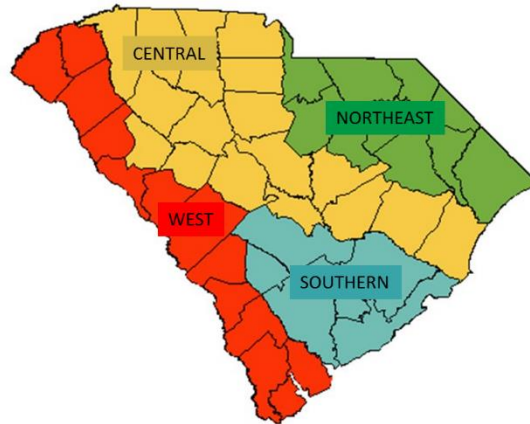
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DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AREA	COUNTIES		
West	Oconee Pickens Anderson Abbeville	McCormick Edgefield Aiken Barnwell Allendale	Hampton Jasper Beaufort
Central	Greenville Greenwood Spartanburg Cherokee York Laurens Union	Chester Greenwood Newberry Fairfield Saluda Lexington	Richland Sumter Calhoun Clarendon Williamsburg Georgetown
Northeast	Chesterfield Marlboro Darlington Florence	Dillon Marion Horry	Lancaster Kershaw Lee
Southern	Orangeburg Bamberg	Colleton Dorchester	Charleston Berkeley

All response, and declaration of drought alert phases, within the four management areas will be based upon the indicators listed in Section IV.C. These indicators can be verified by other means, including, but not limited to other indices; water supply and demand; stream flow data; rainfall records; agricultural and forestry conditions; and general historical climatological data. This will allow equal implementation of response measures across local and city jurisdictions.

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South Carolina Drought Management Areas



South Carolina Drought Management Areas

F. Actions by Phase

1. Preparedness

- a. Once the Drought Response Committee categorizes counties in the State in a “Severe” or “Extreme” drought condition, the Committee may request that the ESF-15 (Public Information) in conjunction with the DNR PIO initiate a statewide Public Information media campaign to minimize the fear and potential misunderstanding citizens would be experiencing and to develop and improve the public understanding of a drought and its impact.
- b. Drought Response Committee
 - (1) The Drought Response Committee will monitor the drought conditions and advise SCEMD of any changes.
 - (2) The Committee will provide updates on the number of communities implementing conservation measures (voluntary and involuntary).
 - (3) The Committee will incorporate current State and Federal research programs into plans for drought response and mitigation.

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- (4) SCEMD will work with the Drought Response Committee to develop a statewide drought mitigation plan.
- c. State Agencies
 - (1) When directed by the Governor, each State agency will develop a list of actions to conserve internal water usage by 10%. Examples include stop watering of landscape and not washing agency cars.
 - (2) All State agencies will develop and refine drought response measures that they can implement. This would include, for example, developing and recommending changes to current drought legislation, relief support, and tracking impacts.
- 2. Response
 - a. Governor
 - (1) May declare a State of Emergency or a Drought Emergency by Executive Order.
 - (2) May also issue emergency regulations to require the curtailment of water withdrawals or to allocate water on an equitable basis.
 - (3) May seek a Federal Disaster Declaration in order to receive Federal resources.
 - b. ESF 15 (Public Information)
 - (1) Issue weekly press releases providing updates on the drought status and actions being taken.
 - (2) Provide information on relief programs available from both the State and Federal level.
 - c. SCEMD
 - (1) In coordination with the Drought Response Committee, advise the Governor regarding the necessity of authorizing the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to grant temporary overweight/overwidth exemptions to carriers transporting essential emergency relief supplies into and through South Carolina in order to support disaster response and recovery.

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- (2) For impacted communities, provide access to State and Federal assistance programs in dealing with a drought emergency.
 - d. The SERT will develop response plans based upon the situation. Some of the remediation could include hauling water, drilling new wells, providing temporary hook ups to other water systems, and coordinating rationing operations.
3. Recovery
- a. Continue drought response activities and monitoring of the drought indicators.
 - b. Assist with implementation of State and Federal relief programs.
 - c. Seek Federal disaster declarations for both Individual and Public Assistance funding.
4. Mitigation
- a. Develop programs and projects to improve water storage and collection capability within the State.
 - b. Continue to develop interoperability between different water systems and river basins.
 - c. Develop and implement long term conservation measures to reduce water usage as the population continues to grow.
 - d. Coordinate with surrounding States to develop a Regional Drought Mitigation Plan.
 - e. Develop and implement permanent solutions to alleviate water shortage issues.
 - f. Encourage the development of drought mitigation plans for industry and municipal public works departments.
 - g. Establish a groundwater well monitoring system to assess hydrologic changes and monitor drought conditions as recommended by the State Water Plan.

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VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General

1. Upon notification of activation of this plan, all State agencies involved in drought response will provide representatives to staff the SEOC.
2. Agencies represented on the Drought Response Committee will provide members to the SCEMD Drought Response Working Group.

B. South Carolina Emergency Management Division

1. Coordinate and direct restoration and recovery operations when local government resources are exhausted.
2. Establish a working group to develop response, recovery, and mitigation plans in response to severe or extreme drought conditions within the State.
3. Develop and initiate a statewide public information campaign as requested by the Drought Response Committee.
4. In coordination with Drought Response Committee, issue weekly press releases providing updates on the drought status and actions being taken.
5. Provide impacted populations access to State and Federal assistance programs in dealing with a drought emergency.
6. Review and update this plan annually.

C. SC Department of Natural Resources, State Climatology Office

1. Provide the Drought Response Committee notification of the onset of each Drought Alert Phase in Drought Management Areas.
2. Continue to evaluate information from various sources and provide updates on the State drought assessment.
3. In coordination with the DHEC, develop a state-wide groundwater well monitoring system to assess well water levels.
4. Evaluate climate outlooks and forecasts to provide information regarding future conditions for the State.
5. Continue to work with the Drought Response Committee to develop and promote conservation and mitigation programs at the local level across the State.

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6. Assist in drafting the Governor's Executive Order.
- D. SC Forestry Commission
1. Provide SCEMD a daily update once the 100 wildfires/day threshold has been reached, and the Fire Fighter Mobilization plan or the Southeastern Forest Fire Compact has been activated.
 2. Upon activation of this plan, be prepared to deploy one or more Incident Management Teams to support drought response activities.
- E. SC Department of Commerce
1. Compile economic loss data from impacted areas of the State by either sector or region.
 2. Where possible, compile the loss of sales tax revenues, increase in unemployment, and decreases in tourism levels or lodging receipts to aid in Federal Disaster Declaration determinations.
 3. Identify major commercial and industrial problem areas.
- F. SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
1. Work with the Drought Response Committee to ease or waive well drilling permit restrictions, as necessary, to support mitigation plans.
 2. Assist SCDNR in their development of a statewide groundwater well monitoring system.
 3. Maintain records including locations of public water supply facilities.
- G. Clemson University Cooperative Extension Agency and SC Department of Agriculture
1. Compile agricultural loss data from impacted areas of the State by either sector or region.
 2. Develop and maintain plans to assist in:
 - Feeding & watering or evacuating large farm animals
 - Poultry water usage for drinking and evaporative cooling
 - Dairy industry water needs for sanitation
 - Swine industry drinking water and waste management

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- H. SC Office of Regulatory Staff
 - 1. Monitor the nuclear power producing and hydro-electric facilities power production and report any loss of capability due to lack of water.
 - 2. Assist in gathering economic loss information from the energy producing sector in the State.
- I. South Carolina National Guard
 - 1. Develop plans to support water hauling operations to include providing security.
 - 2. Upon activation of the SERT, provide an equipment list of water transport equipment and water purification equipment available within the state.
 - 3. Develop plans to assist in the evacuation of citizens from drought stricken areas to temporary shelter locations within the State.

VII. FEDERAL

- A. Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA's drought response capability is limited to actions under the authority of a Stafford Act Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- B. US Army Corps of Engineers
 - 1. Upon a request from the Governor, USACE may provide the following programs to assist with drought relief:
 - a. The Emergency Well Construction and Water Transport Program
 - (1) Provides for the construction of wells and/or the transport of water to farmers, ranchers, and political subdivisions that are drought distressed.
 - (2) USACE will transport the water at no cost; however, the cost of the water is the responsibility of the requesting organization.
 - (3) USACE will also contract drilling of new wells, but the requesting jurisdiction must pay for the services.
 - b. Other programs available include selling of USACE's reservoirs of surplus water and planning assistance in the development of a state

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drought contingency plan. The planning assistance is a 50-50 cost share program.

2. USACE cannot provide water for livestock, irrigation, or commercial/industrial processing.
 3. Additional USACE assistance is outlined in Attachment B (Programs Available to Support Drought Response)
- C. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
1. Drought monitoring
 - a. The U.S. Drought Monitor is a weekly map of drought conditions that is produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The following organizations collaborate to produce the U.S. Drought Monitor which provides national and state drought status reports:
 - Joint Agricultural Weather Facility (U.S. Department of Agriculture)
 - Climate Prediction Center (NOAA)
 - Local National Weather Service Offices and River Forecast Centers (NOAA)
 - National Centers for Environmental Information (NOAA)
 - U.S. Geological Survey (U.S. Department of Interior)
 - National Water and Climate Center (USDA/Natural Resource Conservation Service)
 - Regional Climate Centers and State Climatologists
 - b. NOAA produces Short-and Long-Term Drought Indicator Blends to depict nationwide drought conditions.
 2. Climate forecasts and outlooks
 - a. The NOAA Climate Prediction Center issues several drought, precipitation, temperature, and climate outlook products.
 - U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

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- U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
- U.S. Hazards Outlook
- Precipitation and temperature outlooks (3-7 days, 6-10 days, 8-14 days, 1 month, 3 months)
-

D. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Upon declaration of an agriculture disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture, both agencies can provide drought assistance in the form of disaster relief loans for farmers and small business owners [See Attachment B (Programs Available to Support Drought Response)].

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

- A Draft Governor Executive Order
- B Programs Available to Support Drought Response
- C Sample Press Releases

ATTACHMENT A TO DROUGHT RESONSE PLAN

DRAFT GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. ____

WHEREAS, the Drought Response Committee has determined that the following Counties of the State of South Carolina are presently in an extreme drought condition and vulnerable to the effects of such a drought to the extent that the loss of life and property are imminent. The affected Counties are

-----.

WHEREAS, I have been advised that the drought is not expected to abate in the immediate future and represents a threat to the safety, security, welfare and property of citizens and transients living in South Carolina.

THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Governor, pursuant to the Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, I hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina. I direct that the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan be placed into effect.

I direct that all prudent preparations be taken at the individual, local, and state levels.

I hereby place specified units and/or personnel of the South Carolina National Guard on State Active Duty pursuant to my authority under Section 25-1-1840 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and I will do so by directing the Adjutant General to issue supplemental orders. I further order the utilization of the South Carolina National Guard's personnel with appropriate equipment, at the discretion of the Adjutant General and in coordination with the Director of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, to take necessary and prudent actions to assist the citizens of this state.

I further order that all licensing and registration requirements regarding private security personnel

SC Drought Response Plan

ATTACHMENT A TO DROUGHT RESONSE PLAN

DRAFT GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER

or companies who are contracted with South Carolina security companies in protecting property and restoring essential services in South Carolina be suspended, and SLED shall initiate an emergency registration process for those personnel or companies for a period specified, and in a manner deemed appropriate, by the Chief of SLED.

Further proclamations and regulations deemed necessary to insure the fullest protection of life and property during this state of emergency shall be issued orally by me and thereafter reduced to writing within the succeeding 24-hour period.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of South Carolina at Columbia, South Carolina this _____ day of _____.

Governor

ATTEST:

Secretary of State

ATTACHMENT B TO DROUGHT RESONSE PLAN
PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT DROUGHT RESPONSE

- I. The United States Department Agriculture (USDA)
- A. Farm Service Resources:
1. [South Carolina Farm Service Agency Office](#)
 - a. [County FSA Offices](#)
 2. [Disaster Assistance Programs](#)- The FSA provides assistance for natural disaster losses resulting from drought, flood, fire, freeze, tornadoes, pest infestation, and other calamities.
 3. [FSA Hay Net](#)- The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) electronic Hay and Grazing Net Ad Service (eHayNet) is an Internet-based service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online. Farmers also can use another feature to post advertisements for grazing land, specifically ads announcing the availability of grazing land or ads requesting a need for land to graze.
- B. [Conservation and Livestock Assistance](#):
1. [FSA Emergency Conservation Program \(ECP\)](#)- The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to restore farmland damaged by natural disasters and for emergency water conservation measures in severe droughts.
 2. FSA Emergency Haying and Grazing
 3. [FSA Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#)- Provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period.
 4. [FSA Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#)- LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the average fair market value of the livestock.
 5. [NRCS Drought Assistance](#)- NRCS has the science-based solutions and technical experts on the ground today to help farmers and ranchers through this drought and to prepare our country for weather events in the future. NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to cope with drought across the nation.

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6. [Rural Development \(RD\): Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants \(ECWAG\)](#)- Helps eligible rural communities recover from or prepare for emergencies that result in a decline in capacity to provide safe, reliable drinking water for households and businesses.
- C. Crop Insurance Assistance:
1. [FSA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#)- NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.
 2. [Risk Management Agency \(RMA\) Crop Insurance Basics](#)
 3. [RMA Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- D. Credit Assistance:
1. [FSA Emergency Farm Loans](#)- USDA designated natural disaster areas qualify for low-interest emergency loans.
 2. [FSA Guaranteed Farm Loan Program](#)- Guaranteed farm loans may be used to construct or repair buildings and fixtures, purchase farmland, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fuel, insurance, and refinance debt.
- II. Department of Commerce (DOC)**
- A. The Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small-interest loans to businesses and small agricultural cooperatives suffering uninsured economic injury due to a disaster, including drought. Loan maximum limit is \$1,500,000 and either a Presidential, SBA or USDA disaster declaration must be made.
 - B. The Economic Development Administration provides 75-25% cost-sharing grants to the State and local governments, certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations, and Indian tribes to assist development and implementation strategies that address adjustment problems resulting from sudden and severe economic dislocation.
- III. United States Corps of Engineers (USACE)**
- A. [Emergency Water Assistance Due to Drought](#)
 1. Overview:
 - a. USACE may provide temporary emergency water assistance for human consumption/usage to a drought distressed area to meet minimum public health and welfare requirements.

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- b. USACE assistance is supplemental to state and local efforts. Long term solutions to water supply problems are the responsibility of state and local interests.
2. Types of Assistance:
- a. Transport of water to local water points,
 - b. Distribution of bottled water,
 - c. Temporary connection of a new supply to the existing distribution system,
 - d. Installation of temporary filtration
 - e. Use of military units with water purification/storage/ distribution capability.
 - f. USACE assistance for the measures listed above will be at 100 percent Federal cost,
 - g. Wells constructed by USACE will be paid for by the applicant.
3. Criteria and Conditions:
- a. Governor's Request. A written request for assistance is required from the governor or his/her authorized representative.
 - b. An applicant submitting a request directly to USACE will be referred to the State Emergency Management Agency or equivalent office.
 - c. Drought Distressed Area. A drought distressed area is one that the Director of Civil Works or the Assistant Secretary of the army (Civil Works) determines to have an inadequate water supply that is causing, or is likely to cause, a substantial threat to the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the area, including the threat of damage or loss of property.
 - d. There must be a definable need in the immediate future that cannot be met totally by state and local actions underway or planned.
 - e. Where reasonable conservation measures will ensure adequate supplies to meet the need for public health and welfare, there should be no need for a detailed evaluation or assistance by USACE.
 - f. A credible plan for providing a long-term solution must be developed by the local and state governments and executed

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expeditiously. If a long-term solution is not expeditiously pursued, USACE assistance is not permitted.

4. Evaluating Potential Drought Distressed Areas:
 - a. In evaluating a potential "drought distressed" area, consideration must be given to both the measurements used to define the drought and the magnitude of the impacts of the drought on the area under investigation.
 - b. Therefore, the investigation must indicate that a shortage of water exists, and that the shortage is severely affecting the health and welfare of a major segment of the population in the area proposed for designation as "drought distressed."
5. Limitations of Provision of Water:
 - a. Water for livestock, irrigation, recreation, or commercial/industrial processing will not be provided under this authority.
 - b. Non-USACE Expenses. The purchase or acquisition of the water and the storage facility at the terminal point are non-USACE expenses.
 - c. Permanent Facility. Where the recommended option for transporting water includes a permanent facility, there must be clear justification for such an action. Costs for such a permanent facility will be borne by the public sponsor.
6. Availability of Surplus Water in USACE Reservoirs:
 - a. Section 6 of the 1944 Flood Control Act (PL 78-534) provides authority to make agreements with states, municipalities, private concerns, or individuals for surplus water that may be available at any reservoir under the control of the Department of the Army.
 - b. When appropriate, this authority should be considered in providing emergency water assistance.
7. Contaminated Source Assistance:
 - a. Under certain conditions, USACE can also provide water emergency assistance to any locality confronted with source of contaminated water causing or likely to cause substantial threat to public health.

ATTACHMENT B TO DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN
PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT DROUGHT RESPONSE

IV. Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)

- A. With a Presidential Disaster Declaration, under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Section 403, Essential Assistance, Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) may be authorized to provide assistance in order to:
 - 1. Save lives and preserves property.
 - 2. Provide for the public health and safety, including provision of food, water, medicine, and other essential needs, including movement of supplies or persons.
- B. Public Assistance (PA) assistance may be authorized to reimburse the State and local applicants and Indian tribes for water resources they have contracted for and acquired for mass care purposes.
- C. These missions would be cost-shared at not less than 75% Federal share.

V. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- A. EPA may be issued a technical assistance mission assignment to conduct environmental assessments of potable water situation, and provide guidance to the State, local governments, and Indian tribes for meeting safe water drinking standards.
- B. Technical assistance provided through the EPA is at no cost to the State.

VI. Health and Human Services/Public Health Service (HHS/PHS)

- A. HHS/PHS may be issued a technical assistance mission assignment to assess the public health situation at risk and make appropriate recommendations to the State, local governments, and Indian tribes to preserve public health and safety standards. Technical assistance provided through the HHS/PHS is at no cost to the State.
- B. HHS/PHS may be issued a DFA mission assignment to provide the necessary public health and medical assistance and commodities needed such as Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) or medical supplies if the State and local governments cannot provide them. Assistance provided during Presidential Disaster Declarations is subject to 75% federal cost sharing. Costs for assistance provided without of a Presidential Disaster Declaration are absorbed by the State.

VII. Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). May be provided to those applicants who lost their jobs due to the drought not to exceed 26 weeks of assistance after a disaster is declared.

ATTACHMENT B TO DROUGHT RESONSE PLAN
PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT DROUGHT RESPONSE

VIII. Fire Suppression Grants.

- A. May be provided from the President's Disaster Relief Fund for use in a designed fire complex at the request of a Governor and concurrence from the USFS Principal Advisor to FEMA which threatens life and property and constitutes a threat of a major disaster.
- B. This is a reimbursement grant for the State's wildfire fighting costs. The State must first meet annual floor cost (5% of the State's average annual expenditures for firefighting) on a single declared fire. Then FEMA will pay 70% of costs for that declared fire and all subsequent declared wildfires.
- C. After the State's costs exceed annual average, FEMA will pay 70% of all costs for declared fire with no deduction for floor costs. After the State's costs exceed twice the annual average, then FEMA will reimburse 100% of the State's eligible costs.

IX. American Red Cross (ARC)

- A. Under its own authorities, ARC may provide the following:
 - 1. Technical consultation and guidance to State and local governments when planning for water distribution to residents.
 - 2. Establishing and staffing designated water distribution sites.
 - 3. Coordinating voluntary agency activities designed to support local community response efforts.
 - 4. Providing voluntary personnel to assist local government response actions, including providing limited potable water quantities.
- B. ARC does not provide assistance to commercial, industrial or agricultural corporations with drought or water-shortage caused losses.

ATTACHMENT C TO DROUGHT RESONSE PLAN

DRAFT GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER

For Immediate Release

South Carolina Emergency Management Division
2779 Fish Hatchery Road, West Columbia, SC 29172

SCEMD, GOVERNOR CALL ON CITIZENS TO CUT WATER CONSUMPTION

COLUMBIA – The South Carolina Emergency Management Division, in concert with Governor _____, is calling on citizens across South Carolina to cut water consumption.

The Governor also is asking each of the state’s public water systems to report to the State the amount of water used daily. The consumption totals will be made available to the public to help communities and the public monitor the success of water-saving measures.

“I am calling on South Carolinians to cut our water use,” the Governor said. “Whenever you use water, cut the amount by half, whether it is taking a shower or washing the dishes.”

The Governor also expressed appreciation for cooperation from all of the State’s public water systems, local officials and citizens.

South Carolina is suffering from a (severe/exceptional) drought, and water resources are critically low. “Water consumption must be reduced now and for the foreseeable future if we are to avoid a water supply emergency,” the Governor said.

Here are some tips for water conservation that can be used now to start saving right away:

1. Stop watering lawns and shrubbery at homes and businesses; do not wash home exteriors, driveways or sidewalks; do not wash cars; and restaurants should **ONLY** serve water when patrons ask.
2. Check plumbing for leaks. If found, repair them. In a typical home, leaks amount to about 15 percent of all household indoor water use.
3. Use indoor water wisely. Turn off water while shampooing, shaving and brushing your teeth to reduce the time water is running.
4. Take time to locate your main water shut-off valve and the water meter in your yard. Knowing where the main shut-off is can potentially prevent the loss of thousands of gallons of water.
5. Use dry cleanup methods, such as brooms and vacuum cleaners, to reduce both indoor and outdoor water use.
6. Take advantage of free water. Catch rainwater from your gutters and use it to water your flowers and vegetables. Collect water from the bath/shower while waiting for it to heat up; use for watering plants.
7. Use appliances wisely. Run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads to maximize efficiency.
8. Avoid using sink disposals for food scraps.

For more ideas and water conservation information, click on the SCEMD web site at WWW.SCEMD.ORG.