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**AUGUSTA WATER  
OPERATING PROCEDURES AND POLICY MANUAL**

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Approved By: Board of Directors  
Effective Date: March 9, 2015

Emergency Management  
Policy No. 8.1  
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**Water Shortage**

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to provide for the declaration of official phases of water supply shortages and the implementation of voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures throughout the service areas of Augusta Water in the event a shortage is declared. Water systems in Augusta County are permitted and operated as several separate systems. Limited interconnection exists. This policy may be applied to all systems or to individual systems as required by circumstances at the time of the declaration.

**DECLARATION OF A DROUGHT WATCH, WARNING, OR EMERGENCY**

Whenever Augusta Water finds that raw water or finished water supplies are below the level necessary to meet normal needs and that shortages exist, it shall be empowered to declare either a stage of Drought Watch, Warning, or Emergency exists depending on the guidelines as set forth in Augusta County Code Section 24.13.F. Simultaneously the Executive Director will request the Augusta County Board of Supervisors to declare the same stage as applicable.

**SHORTAGE WATER RATES**

Following the declaration of a Water Shortage Emergency, Augusta Water shall have the right to adopt shortage water rates designed to conserve water supplies. Such rates may provide for, but will not be limited to, (a) higher charges per unit for increasing usage (increasing block rates); (b) uniform charges for water usage per unit of use (uniform unit rate); (c) extra charges for use in excess of a specified level (excess demand surcharge); (d) discounts for conserving water beyond specified levels; or (e) rates to establish and enforce rationing by applying a penalty for the volume of water consumed above allocated consumption level.

**PRIVATE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS (NON-POTABLE)**

Augusta Water recognizes that there exist many private non-potable water systems in Augusta County expressly for irrigation. Where such a system is in use during any water shortage condition, the owner is requested to post signs stating that a private non-potable system is used for irrigation.

**ENFORCEMENT**

Enforcement shall be as described in Augusta County Code, Section 24.13H.

**SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this Policy is declared unconstitutional, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the constitutionality of the remainder of the Policy and its applicability to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.