

March 30, 2009

Dr. Carol Couch
Director
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King Drive, SE
Suite 1152 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Extension of 650 cfs at Peachtree Creek past April 30, 2009

Dear Dr. Couch,

However thankful we are for the recent rain, we can not lose sight of the fact that our region and state are very much still in the midst of a water supply crisis. Nor should we lose sight of what it means specifically for Georgia's largest reservoir, Lake Lanier. As reported in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* on March 13, Lake Lanier had more than 1 million fewer visitors in 2008 compared with 2005, the last year it was full. It goes without saying what a damaging impact this has had on north Georgia's economy over the last couple of years, on top of what is facing our nation as a whole.

But as you know, Lake Lanier is much more than a tourism destination. Three and a half million people and businesses depend on Lake Lanier for their water supply and livelihoods. Last fall, the 1071 Coalition formed as a grassroots effort to reform current management practices of Lake Lanier. Named for the feet above sea level which is full pool for the lake, the coalition is comprised of community leaders, business owners, chambers of commerce, residents and other citizens in the Lake Lanier area concerned with the preservation of the lake's water levels and their impact on our regional economy.

We are therefore extremely grateful for EPD's request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce releases from Buford Dam to 650 cfs through April 30, 2009. As your department's analysis indicated, the reduced releases do not impair water quality or threaten water intakes below the dam. And coupled with the recent rainfall, this request granted by the Corps has added several feet to the lake level.

But we still have more than 10 feet of dried up shoreline to cover before we reach the lake's full pool and rejuvenate the ailing area's economy. Therefore, the members of the 1071 Coalition ask that EPD extend your request of the Corps so that the flows remain at 650 cfs until June 30, 2009 or whenever EPD determines through monitoring that the increased flow of 750 cfs is required to maintain water quality standards.

With kindest regards,

Grier Todd
President

Kit Dunlap
Vice President



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1071 Coalition is a non-profit organization comprised of citizens, civic groups, business and other entities dedicated to maintaining water levels in Lake Sidney Lanier that sustain water supply, recreation, and economic prosperity through the advocacy of appropriate, science-based water releases necessary for the ACF river basin.

www.1071COALITION.org