

*The City of Blakely would like to make residents aware of the information below*

## **Georgia Environmental Protection Division Declares Drought Response Level 1**

On April 27, 2026, after consideration of the drought severity and the water resource impacts, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) declared a state-wide Drought Response Level 1 for public water systems using surface water and/or groundwater.

Outdoor water uses between the hours of 4 PM and 10 A.M. is still allowable and unaffected by a Drought Response Level 1. Public water systems may not impose restrictions on outdoor watering that are different from state requirement unless they obtain a variance from EPD.

As required by state law and rules, EPD determines whether specific environmental conditions warrant a drought response declaration based upon the severity of drought conditions and the impacts to water supply.

### **Below are some recommended conservation measures:**

- Limit outdoor watering to early morning or late evening hours
- Avoid watering during rainfall
- Fix leaks and dripping faucets promptly
- Use water-efficient practices when washing vehicles or equipment
- Reduce non-essential water use where possible

The City will continue to monitor conditions closely and will provide updates if additional measures become necessary.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping conserve water and ensure adequate supply for essential needs, including public safety and fire protection.