



For Immediate Release:
October 11, 2007

Contact: Kevin Goddard
(978) 486-8188

Water restrictions lifted, but department urges continued conservation

LITTLETON – More normal precipitation levels this month and the change of seasons have combined to significantly reduce the town’s water consumption, a condition that supports the lifting of water use restrictions in place over the summer, according to Savas Danos, general manager of the Water Department.

Both the odd/even watering schedule and the ban on watering between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. have been rescinded, but Danos strongly cautioned that unless customers change their consumptive habits, he may be forced to institute seasonal restrictions from April through September next year. He urged customers to practice conservation year-round, and to strike a better balance between winter and summer usage.

Danos suggested that future restrictions may be necessary even without drought conditions based on a dramatic surge in consumption, which he attributes to residential use. “With larger homes, we have seen larger lawns and sprinkler systems, all of which contribute to an increase in water usage,” he said.

--2

In addition, Danos said that the growing popularity and affordability of self-installed sprinkler systems have put an undue strain on the town's resources. At some points over the summer, usage was up nearly 50 percent from the same period last year, Danos said, describing it as an unwelcome trend that must be addressed for the department to successfully manage its water resources.

"We are hopeful that our public education efforts have helped customers develop an awareness of consumption and an appreciation for conservation," he said, adding that both homeowners and new builders should begin to embrace the value of more wooded, natural settings with smaller lawn areas and more drought resistant plantings.

Danos characterized the restrictions as a success since they were instrumental in lowering daily consumption by 300,000 gallons on average and expressed his gratitude for customers' cooperation.

"We appreciate the exemplary efforts our water customers have made in observing the conservation restrictions," Danos said. "Without their assistance," he continued, "we would not have been able to sustain the high demand this summer, which would have made managing our resources much more difficult -- if not outright impossible -- without more severe restrictions."

###