EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26
WATER SYSTEM PROTECTION

In light of the continuing drought and the obvious necessity of protecting North Carolina's water supply for all necessary individual and industrial uses, and under the legal authority vested in me as Governor by provisions including, but not limited to, Article III of the Constitution of North Carolina, N.C.G.S. § 143-341(8) and N.C.G.S. § 147-12, I hereby ORDER that:

(1) All state government agencies discontinue "non-essential" water use until further notice; and, (2) All such agencies immediately develop and begin implementing long term, financially feasible conservation measures.

Furthermore, I hereby REQUEST that all other state-sponsored institutions comply with the above directives.

In addition, I hereby ESTABLISH a Water System Protection Team chaired by the Secretaries of Crime Control and Public Safety, and Environment and Natural Resources. The team may include representatives of the state Departments of Administration, Agriculture, and Commerce, and shall work closely with the League of Municipalities, the Association of County Commissioners, and other local leaders.

The team's principal duties will include:

- providing guidelines to assist state agencies and state-sponsored institutions in complying with this Executive Order and monitoring compliance;
- assisting drought-stricken communities in enhancing conservation efforts and assessing water supply capacity, and;
- providing technical assistance, expedited permits, and other support.

The team will also work closely with, and act upon the recommendations of, the Drought Monitoring Council and will assist ongoing efforts to secure adequate federal assistance.

This Executive Order is effective August 15, 2002.

Done in the Capital City of Raleigh, North Carolina, this 15th day of August 2002.

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

ELAINE F. MARSHALL
SECRETARY OF STATE