

**Renewal of the Cooperative Agreement between the  
Environmental Management Commission, the Division of Water Resources,  
and the Lumber River Council of Governments**

March 11, 2010

Since October 2004, the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), Division of Water Resources (DWR), and the Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG) have worked under a cooperative agreement designed to maintain the health of the region's aquifer system while allowing for its use by the Region's water users. In an effort to maintain this cooperation, these parties agree to re-affirm this cooperative venture through the adoption of this new agreement.

As part of the 2004 agreement, local water users in portions of the Southern Coastal Plain (Bladen, Columbus, Hoke, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland Counties) and the LRCOG undertook several specific actions that included continued monitoring of ground water levels, refinement of usage numbers, planning for future alternative water sources and the development of future water supply plans. The LRCOG and the region's water users have maintained or completed these requirements, and even expanded beyond these minimum requirements in several areas.

The EMC and DWR will continue to review progress of the local water users and LRCOG to assure continued progress towards ground water sustainability while allowing the Region to continue to take responsibility for planning and managing local water resources. As with the previous agreement, the EMC retains its authority to begin the development of capacity use rules at any time if it determines that progress under this agreement is not satisfactory.

In renewing this cooperative agreement, the Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG), with assistance of the region's water users, will undertake the following strategies and objectives.

- Continue to work cooperatively with the DWR to improve and expand the regional well monitoring network through the addition of monitoring wells and well sites. Conduct periodic synoptic surveys to measure ground water levels and maintain efforts to provide historical markers.
- Continue to assist local water users to develop regional alternative water sources that include shifts to surface water, improving water efficiency and developing interconnections where appropriate.
- Continue to refine existing regional water source plans to reflect new source development and new strategies that have been implemented.

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Stephen T. Smith, Chairman  
Environmental Management  
Commission

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James B. Perry, Executive Director  
Lumber River Council  
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Thomas A. Reeder, Director  
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