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## L C A M e d i a S t a t e m e n t

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**Contact:** Liesel M. Adam, Customer Care & Communications Manager  
Lehigh County Authority  
610-398-2503, ext. 128

**Date:** December 3, 2008

**RE:** Lehigh County Authority water supply & customer involvement

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Earlier this week, Lehigh County Authority (LCA) sent notification to customers about an important issue that may affect all water customers – water supply planning for 2009. An increase in water demand is projected for next year due to residential and commercial growth that has occurred in western Lehigh County over the past 10 years. New development has already been approved by townships within LCA’s service area for 2009, requiring additional water supply for current and future customers.

LCA is currently seeking a conditional-use approval from Lower Macungie Township for the expansion of two existing wells, which would provide the short-term supply needed for 2009. Approval has already been granted for the expansion of one of the wells by the Delaware River Basin Commission, which is the regulatory agency charged with ensuring that water withdrawals will have no negative impact on water resources.

To address long-term needs, LCA is actively negotiating with the City of Allentown for the purchase of the city’s excess water supply at a rate that would be beneficial to both entities. These negotiations began more than two years ago and are continuing.

LCA’s customer notification was focused on raising customers’ awareness of the issues at hand, including how they may be affected by water-use restrictions if water supply is not developed. In addition, the flier that was sent to all customers seeks to dispel rumors that LCA’s well-drilling activities would be harmful to the environment, and to

– more –

*Every drop matters. Every customer counts.*

**Lehigh County Authority**

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reinforce to customers that LCA is pursuing all available options to provide reliable service, including continuing to negotiate with Allentown for long-term water supply.

Included in this notification was a list of ways customers can get involved if they would like to participate in the planning process. LCA is encouraging customers to participate because they have the most at stake in this issue, facing potential water restrictions or rate increases if an adequate water supply cannot be developed in time for next summer. LCA encourages customers to contact the authority and other decision-makers to share their opinions and help the community make the best decision possible for our future and our precious natural resources.

LCA is a non-profit municipal authority providing water and wastewater service to approximately 40,000 people in Lehigh and Northampton counties. LCA has a long track-record of promoting public involvement and customer outreach including the development of youth education programs, a customer advisory panel, conducting public informational meetings on specific projects, developing an information web site, and more.

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