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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 20, 2009

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Lehigh County Authority Restricts Customers' Water Usage Beginning June 1

Lehigh County Authority is asking all customers in its Central Lehigh Division to limit water usage this summer, beginning June 1, to ensure an adequate supply is available through the upcoming dry season.

LCA's Board of Directors have enacted a ban on nonessential water uses for approximately 16,000 homes and businesses located primarily in Upper and Lower Macungie townships as well as outlying areas in Salisbury, South Whitehall, Upper Milford, Weisenberg and Lowhill townships in central and western Lehigh County.

The restrictions, including a ban on lawn watering and filling of swimming pools, is necessary to prevent possible water supply shortages that may occur during peak usage periods this summer.

LCA's concern about its water supply follows several years of planning for new facilities, including the expansion of two existing wells in the region and negotiations with the City of Allentown for a long-term system interconnection and water supply agreement. However, these projects have been delayed beyond their anticipated construction schedules and the new well supplies will not be available to meet peak-day demands this summer.

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Water usage typically increases during the summer months as residents increase their outdoor activities such as gardening, lawn watering and filling swimming pools. Depending on weather patterns, lawn watering activity can create rapid spikes in water demands in the system, requiring up to 2.5 million gallons of water in a single day, which may stress the water system beyond its normal capacity. If customers participate in these water use restrictions, LCA's water supply is more than adequate to meet average daily demands for normal residential and commercial activities.

LCA asks customers to restrict their use of water for the following activities to ensure an adequate supply is available for drinking water and public fire protection:

- Lawn Watering
- Watering of Athletic Fields
- Watering of Golf Courses
- Washing Paved Surfaces, Sidewalks & Patios
- Operation of Water Fountains
- Washing Cars, Trucks, Campers & Boats
- Serving Water in Restaurants (except by request)
- Filling & Topping Off Swimming Pools

A full listing of water restrictions and exceptions can be found on LCA's web site at www.lehighcountyauthority.org.

This announcement is being made today to get the word out to customers to plan now for the dry months ahead. In particular, customers are encouraged to consider filling their swimming pools early and finishing their spring gardening, paying attention to planting species that are native to Pennsylvania and can thrive in our region with normal precipitation.

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In addition, LCA is unveiling its 2009 Lawn Liberation campaign today, asking customers to consider what other summertime pursuits they may be able to undertake in the absence of their usual lawn watering and mowing activities this summer. As part of the 2009 Lawn Liberation campaign, LCA will be posting water supply updates on its web site and offering opportunities for customers to submit photos and essays to describe their Lawn Liberation activities.

For those customers who are still interested in keeping their lawn watered through the summer, LCA will also be scheduling a workshop later in the summer for the construction of rain barrels which collect rain water for outdoor use.

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Media Notes

- All statements made in this press release may be attributed to Aurel Arndt, LCA's general manager.
- LCA is a nonprofit municipal authority serving more than 19,000 water and sewer customers in 13 municipalities in Lehigh and Northampton counties. LCA provides municipal wastewater collection services to 10 municipalities in western Lehigh County and individual sewer service to roughly 1,700 customers in five municipalities. More information about LCA's services is available at www.lehighcountyauthority.org.