



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CASEY CAGLE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

October 14, 2009

Colonel Byron Jorns
District Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile Engineer District
PO Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

Dear Colonel Jorns,

Georgia and the US Corps of Engineers have much to celebrate in that for the first time in over four years Lake Sidney Lanier has now reached full pool. I want to share my appreciation for the work you and your staff have done in aiding in the effort. I am writing to request that the Corps of Engineers maintain the water level of Lake Sidney Lanier in Georgia above the full-pool level of 1071 for as long as possible. Earlier today, the USGS reported that Lake Lanier's water level reached 1071 for the first time in over four years. As rain continues to fall even today, I expect the Lake to continue to rise, and as we move into what I am told will be a cooler, wetter than normal winter this would seem to be an opportune time to raise and maintain the lake level.

Roughly four billion gallons of water are stored in Lake Lanier in the 1069 to 1070 foot range, and between 1070 to 1071 is stored an additional five billion gallons. These few additional feet of height result in extraordinary expansion of storage. I understand that with virtually no additional infrastructure development and cost, water could be stored up to the 1073 or potentially 1074 level. All that Lake Lanier would need to reach this mark would be additional rain and well managed releases. These few feet would offer billions of gallons of supplementary storage for both Atlanta and other downstream users. This would not affect downstream user water quantity or quality, as releases could continue at the 650cfs level, but I ask that the Corps not increase the release amounts simply because the lake is at or above 1071.

As Georgia and the Atlanta area continues to do our part to conserve water, I would ask the Corps to strongly consider maintaining Lanier at these higher levels. This is the right time and opportunity to store more of our state's liquid gold and "put a little away for an un-rainy day."

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do to assist you or the Corps.

Sincerely,

Casey Cagle,
Lt. Governor of Georgia