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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Hanover, Pa. – On November 20, 2023, the Borough of Hanover announced mandatory water conservation measures requiring all water customers to stop all non-essential water use until such time that the Borough lifts the order. Failure to abide by water conservation measures could result in fines, legal action, and potential water shut-off.

The announcement comes as the next step in conserving the Borough's water resources. Previously, in September, the Borough suspended bulk water sales and asked all water customers to voluntarily conserve water. The decision to move to mandatory water conservation is based on the combination of several months' unusually low rainfall and a standing DEP release-requirement which maintains wildlife resources. Moreover, the Borough is in the process of filling the Sheppard-Myers reservoir which was drained to complete a required PA DEP renovation project. These factors taken in total make mandatory water conservation measures the most prudent way to maintain water resources.

The main goals of the mandate are to increase awareness of water usage and to try to alter behaviors to conserve water. The Borough monitors water use system-wide on a daily basis and tracks how much is put into the system and how much is consumed (or lost through what are known as "unallocated water losses" for leaks, blow offs, main breaks, etc.). As such, Borough staff will have a good idea if conservation measures help to reduce usage.

Using water for cooking, drinking, bathing, and flushing toilets IS considered essential use, and customers may continue to use water for these purposes. Non-essential water uses are listed in Borough regulations and specifically include: watering gardens, lawns, flowers & golf courses; washing automobiles, trucks, trailers, vehicles, outdoor structures, streets, sidewalks, driveways, etc.; operating fountains; filling pools or spas; operating water-cooled AC which does not have built in water conservation; using water from hydrants for construction purposes; flushing systems; and usage by commercial farms or nurseries other than the bare minimum to preserve stock.

Commercial car washes will be allowed to continue operation with proof that they recycle the water used for operations. Most newer car washes actually capture, filter, treat, then reuse the water; however, if a commercial car wash simply discharges wash water to a sewer drain, it will be required to cease operations at this time. Car washing at a residence is strictly prohibited until the conservation mandate is lifted.

Aside from public reporting, all Borough staff will be monitoring and reporting any observed violations and will report their findings directly to the Water Resource Director who will compile and present a daily summary to the Borough Manager. Violations of the mandate will result in a warning, and if a violation is repeated a formal notice of violation and penalties will be served. A third incident could result in termination or restriction of water service. Enforcement will be a joint effort between the local police department having jurisdiction and the Borough of Hanover Borough through its Code Enforcement division as applicable.

The community is all in this together. Any misuse use of water decreases available resources for legitimate purposes, and one person violating the mandate is a misuse of water that could be used by others for legitimate purposes/uses.

When restrictions are lifted Borough staff will notify all customers that conditions have improved and that water conservation measures are no longer needed. Notice will be provided on all Borough media (website, social media, automated alerts, etc.). The Borough of Hanover water utility must ensure water is available to fight fires and meet other critical needs. The participation of every community member counts toward wise use of our water resources. Questions can be directed to the Borough of Hanover Department of Water Resources at 717-637-3877 x 3006.

The Borough of Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania, was incorporated in 1815. It is governed by the Borough Council, overseen by the Borough Manager, and staffed by administrative, public service, public works, sewer, water, refuse and engineering professionals. Known as the Snack Food Capital of the World, Hanover is home, not only to numerous food industries, but also to manufacturing, technology, commercial sales, and services. Hanover Borough offices, located at 44 Frederick Street, can be reached at 717-637-3877 or by email at [Info@HanoverBoroughPA.gov](mailto:Info@HanoverBoroughPA.gov). More information is available at [www.HanoverBoroughPA.gov](http://www.HanoverBoroughPA.gov).