

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2008**

### **RIVANNA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY DROUGHT WATCH IS LIFTED MAY 13, 2008**

Charlottesville, VA (Tuesday, May 13, 2008) – Chairman Mike Gaffney of the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (RWSA) announced today that based on an evaluation of recent rainfall, a Drought Watch condition is no longer warranted and is being lifted. The current Drought Watch was initially declared almost 10 months ago in July 2007, and during this period conditions were elevated to Drought Warning for about 4-1/2 months between mid-August and early January.

According to the McCormick Observatory at the University of Virginia, 4.25 inches of rain has been recorded in the Charlottesville area during the first twelve days of May, which compares favorably to an average of 4.86 inches for this area for the entire month of May. Stream flows at gauging stations within the local area have increased dramatically since April 19 and have been maintained above seasonal average since April 22. This represents the first extended period when local streams have run above seasonal averages since a year ago in April 2007; during several weeks in the fall of 2007 at the height of the recent drought, streams had fallen to less than 25% of seasonal average.

Chairman Mike Gaffney stated “we are very pleased that recent weather events allow me to report that drought conditions are lifting across Central Virginia. This is also a chance to thank our citizens for their efforts to conserve water. It has really made a difference in helping us manage the water supply over the past year. We now hope that more of our citizens will extend those recent efforts and make water conservation a continuing habit.”

The prognosis for the next few months is becoming more optimistic, but RWSA has committed itself to maintained diligence in observing weather trends. “Recent rainfall is a nice shot in the arm as we look toward early summer,” stated Mr. Tom Frederick, Executive Director of RWSA. “However, we must be mindful that we are moving toward summer, which is historically the driest seasonal period of the year for stream flow. Climatologists are getting mixed results and no clear trends from which they can suggest if the current rainfall trend will continue into summer, or if future conditions will return to dry. We will continue to monitor the situation, and issue further reports to the public as warranted.”

#### **PRESS RELEASE CONTACT:**

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