## **Gwinnett County Government** NEWS RELEASE Charles E. Bannister, Chairman

Board of Commissioners

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## **NEW TOILETS SAVE** NINE MILLION GALLONS

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Jan. 20, 2009) – Gwinnett residents will have reduced water use by almost nine million gallons annually by replacing more than 1,500 old, inefficient toilets through last November under a rebate incentive program once the new fixtures have been in use for a year. Commissioners on Tuesday voted to extend the rebate program and provided up to \$300,000 to cover its cost.

A Gwinnett water customer who replaces two 3.5-gallons-per-flush toilets with specified new models that use 1.28 gallons can get up to \$200 in rebates from the County. Board Chairman Charles Bannister said, "This program is part of our comprehensive water conservation program, and we believe it is well worth the cost despite tough economic times and tight budgets."

Lake Lanier is still about 14 feet below normal and rainfall continues to be less than average. A toilet rebate program could become mandatory in all metro counties under a draft water conservation and water supply plan for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Atlanta metro area). Draft plans are available for public review and comment on the MNGWPD's website at <u>www.northgeorgiawater.com</u> or questions can be answered at (404) 463-8645. Details and the rebate application form are also available on the site.

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