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## PRESS RELEASE

May 27, 2019  
For Immediate Release  
Contact Pender County Utilities Director Kenny Keel, 919-616-1034

### **Pender County issues water shortage emergency for Eastern Pender**

HAMPSTEAD – Pender County issued a water shortage emergency and system pressure advisory.

"This impacts Pender County Utilities (PCU) customers in Hampstead, Scotts Hill, and areas south of 7390 NC 210 in the far eastern and southern portions of Rocky Point, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River," said Kenny Keel, Pender County Utilities director.

PCU customers are strongly urged to conserve water. Do not wash cars, water lawns, and only use appliances such as clothes washers when filled.

"Pender County commissioners and administration have been working to address infrastructure issues as the county continues to experience tremendous growth," said Randell Woodruff, county manager. "Our staff has been working on options to maintain and keep up with the growth in population."

"It appeared that we still had time to finalize these sources without an impact to the water system," said Keel. "However, the current drought situation, excessive heat, and widespread frequent irrigation within these areas led to our current shortage."

"We have been in negotiations for an interconnection with another water system, as well as the potential construction of a water treatment plant on the east side of the county," said Commissioner David Williams.

"A drought surcharge will NOT be charged," said Chairman George Brown.

"The water shortage and pressure advisory remain in effect for Pender County Utilities water customers," said Keel. "The drought surcharge of 1.5 times the normal water rate will NOT be charged to our customers for the current shortage."

PCU consumers are advised to boil all water used for human consumption - including drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes and food preparation - or use bottled water. Vigorous boiling for one minute should kill any disease-causing organisms that may be present in the water due to low pressure.

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