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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fairburn, Palmetto and Union City Secure Permit To Withdraw Water From Chattahoochee

The cities of Fairburn, Palmetto and Union City have secured a state permit to withdraw surface water from the Chattahoochee River, ensuring residents and businesses have a reliable source of water for decades to come.

“Obtaining a water withdrawal permit from EPD is a monumental win,” said Shayla Nealy, mayor pro tempore of Union City and chairperson of the water authority. “The hard work of elected officials in our member cities will pay dividends for years to come, ensuring we have an adequate water supply for residents, businesses and industry looking to locate in our municipalities.”

The permit issued by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division is the first of its kind for the Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water & Sewer Authority, whose member cities are Fairburn, Palmetto and Union City. The Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin Control Manual was finalized in 2017, providing a sufficient amount of water for direct withdrawal that had not been previously guaranteed.

The permit allows for the authority to withdraw a maximum of 11.4 million gallons per day (mgd) during a 24-hour period, with a monthly average of 8.55 mgd and an annual average of 7.12 mgd. The authority must submit a monthly Surface Water Withdrawal Report to EPD. The permit is renewable after 10 years.

The authority has acquired a water treatment site and recently secured the engineering firm Krebs Engineering to complete the preliminary design of the treatment facility. The preliminary design work is anticipated to be complete in approximately six months from the issuance of the notice to proceed.

“With permit now in hand, we can move forward from vision to conceptual engineering needed to withdraw, treat and distribute water. Myself, along with the governing Board, look forward

to furthering the goals of this authority, in hopes of producing water to tap for our residents and businesses in the very near future.”