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STATE OF ALABAMA

April 18, 2012

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Gunter Guy, Jr.
Stan Cook
**Alabama Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources**
64 N. Union Street
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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for the information you have provided regarding the water resources of our State. As you have noted, and as a number of commissions,

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study groups, committees, and knowledgeable individuals—both within and outside of state government—have noted, water is one of the State's vital resources, and it must be managed and protected for all who have an interest in it. To further our State's water management efforts, I am requesting that you do the following:

1) Continue the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group. Reconvene the working group, and undertake the actions provided further herein. Bennett Bearden shall serve as chairman of this group and shall report its progress and developments to me or my office in writing on a monthly basis. Thank you in advance for providing Bennett with your cooperation and support.

2) Create a comprehensive database of Alabama's water resources. Gather all existing data and let me know about any additional data that needs to be collected to provide a full understanding of the State's water resources, the current uses of these resources, and the need for these resources (including, but not limited to, industrial, economic, public health and safety, and environmental needs.)

3) Meet with stakeholders. Organize and conduct meetings with my staff, key legislators, and outside stakeholders from groups that represent—at a minimum—economic, industrial, utility, public drinking water supply, public safety, recreational, environmental, ecological, and agricultural interests.

4) Recommend a statewide water management plan by December 1, 2013. Recommend a statewide water management action plan and timeline that takes into account and equitably manages the various demands on the State's water. Create a plan that is science-based, data-driven, and that is in the best interest of the State of Alabama, but that also takes into account and protects proper existing uses of water. Include in your recommendation any proposed legislation necessary to implement such a plan.

Thank you for the work you have already done on this significant state resource, and thank you in advance for the work that you will do in carrying out the goals and objectives set forth herein. Please keep me posted on your progress and do not hesitate to call upon my office and my staff for support and assistance. I believe that this work will benefit all Alabamians now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Robert Bentley
Governor

RB/RCS/vm