

CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA  
WATER SUPPLY WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

September 2008

Adopted by the Mayor and City Council  
of Sky Valley, Georgia

September 16, 2008

RESOLUTION 08-08  
APPROVING AND ADOPTING  
THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA  
WATER SUPPLY WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

WHEREAS: The City of Sky Valley, Georgia Water Supply Watershed Protection Plan has prepared to establish measures to protect the quality and quantity of the present and future water supply of the City of Sky Valley.

WHEREAS: This plan shall apply to all properties located upstream of the Mud Creek Impoundment within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Sky Valley.

WHEREAS: This plan is in accord with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, ratified by the General Assembly and established pursuant to O.C.G.A 12-2-8, covering criteria for water supply watersheds.

WHEREAS: This plan shall not become effective until the time that the City constructs a raw water intake and surface water treatment plant to be utilized for the purpose of supplying municipal water.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, and IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Sky Valley, that this Water Supply Watershed Protection Plan is approved and adopted, as a part of the planning process for future growth, change, development and progress.

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008.

CITY OF SKY VALLEY  
WATER SUPPLY WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

Background

- A. The City of Sky Valley's raw water proposed intake is located at the Mud Creek Impoundment within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Sky Valley. The City current utilized groundwater wells for its water supply, but is exploring the benefit of a surface water treatment plant.
- B. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division has established Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria covering criteria for water supply watersheds. This criterion, ratified by the General Assembly, establishes, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-2-8 a basis to be used by local governments to allow development of a water supply watershed without contaminating the water source to a point where it cannot be treated to meet drinking water standards. This is accomplished by establishing buffer zones around streams and by specifying allowable impervious surface densities within watersheds.
- C. The City of Sky Valley and Rabun County addressed watershed protection as well as other elements in a joint comprehensive plan prepared by the Georgia Mountain Regional Development Center. The plan, titled **Comprehensive Plan for Rabun County, Clayton, Dillard, Mountain City Sky Valley, Tallulah Falls and Tiger, Georgia 2005-2025**, was adopted by the Mayor and City Council of Sky Valley, Georgia July 10, 2006. Elements addressed in the plan include population, housing, economic development, natural and historic resources, land use, community facilities, and implementation.
- D. This Water Supply Watershed Protection Plan, prepared for the City of Sky Valley, is in accord with the Little Tennessee River Water Supply Watershed Regulations and approved by Georgia Environmental Protection Division and Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- E. This plan is developed in accord with the criteria included in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division Rules in order to protect the watershed and obtain additional raw water withdrawal to provide adequate water supplies to the City of Sky Valley.

PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this Water Supply Watershed Protection Plan is to establish measures to protect the quality and quantity of the present and future water supply of the City of Sky Valley; to minimize the transport of pollutants and sediment to the raw water supply; and to maintain the yield of the watershed. This protection is necessary to assure that surface sources of drinking water are of high quality in order to be treated to meet all State and Federal drinking water standards.
- B. In order to provide for health, safety and welfare of the public within Sky Valley, it is essential that the quality of public drinking water be assured. The ability of natural systems to filter stormwater runoff can be threatened by unrestricted development and land disturbing activities associated with development. Stormwater runoff can



introduce toxicants, nutrients and sediment into drinking water supplies, making water treatment more complicated and expensive and adversely affecting water resources used for recreation.

## DEFINITIONS

- A. **Buffer:** Means a natural or enhanced vegetated area with no or limited minor land disturbances, such as trails and picnic areas. Specific buffer uses, consistent with these criteria, may be designated by local governments.
- B. **Corridor:** Means all land within the buffer areas and other setback areas.
- C. **Impervious Surface:** Means a man-made structure or surface which prevents the infiltration of storm water into the ground below the structure or surface. Examples are buildings, roads, driveways, parking lots, decks, swimming pools or patios.
- D. **Perennial Stream:** Means a stream which flows throughout the whole year as indicated on a USGS Quadrangle Map.
- E. **Utility:** Means public or private water or sewer piping systems, water or sewer pumping stations, electric power lines, fuel pipelines, telephone lines, roads, driveways, bridges, river/lake access facilities, storm water systems and railroads or other utilities identified by a local government.
- F. **Water Supply Watershed:** Means the area of land upstream of a governmentally owned public drinking water intake.
- G. **Water Supply Watershed Protection Plan:** Is a land use plan prepared and adopted by local governments for the protection of the quality of drinking water obtained from the watershed.

## COVERAGE

- A. This Water Supply Watershed Protection Plan shall cover the watershed upstream of the City of Sky Valley's proposed raw water intake located at the Mud Creek Impoundment.
- B. The plan shall apply to all properties located within the Mud Creek water supply watershed within the City of Sky Valley.

## EXEMPTIONS

- A. **Existing Uses:** Any land use within the Mud Creek water supply watershed existing prior to the effective date of this plan is exempt. Any undeveloped lot which is part of a subdivision plat recorded prior to the effective date of this plan shall also be exempted from this plan provided such activities shall not impair the quality of the drinking water stream as authorized by Georgia DNR Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, Chapter 391-3-16.
- B. **Utilities:** Utilities, as defined above, are exempt from the stream corridor buffer and setback area provision of this Water Supply Watershed Protection Plan, if they

cannot feasibly be located outside stream corridor buffer and setback areas, subject to the following conditions:

1. The utilities shall be located as far from the stream bank as reasonably possible.
  2. The installation and maintenance of the utilities shall be such to protect the integrity of the buffer and setback areas as best as reasonably possible.
  3. The utilities shall not impair the quality of the drinking water stream.
- C. Forestry and Agriculture: Forestry and agricultural activities are exempt from the stream corridor buffer and setback area provisions of this Water Supply Watershed Protection Plan in accordance with the following conditions:
1. The activity shall be consistent with best management practices established by the Georgia Forestry Commission or the Georgia Department of Agriculture.
  2. The activity shall not impair the quality of the drinking water stream.

#### BUFFER AND SETBACK PROVISIONS

- A. Perennial stream corridors within a seven (7) mile radius upstream of the City of Sky Valley water supply intake on Mud Creek impoundment shall be protected by the following criteria:
1. A natural vegetative buffer shall be maintained for a distance of 100 feet on both sides of the stream as measured from the stream banks.
  2. No impervious surface shall be constructed within the 150 foot setback area on both sides of the stream as measured from the stream banks.
  3. Septic tanks and septic tank drainfields are prohibited in the 150 foot impervious surface setback area.
- B. Perennial stream corridors outside a seven (7) mile radius upstream of the City of Sky Valley's water supply intake on Mud Creek Impoundment, shall be protected by the following criteria:
1. A natural vegetative buffer shall be maintained for a distance of 50 feet on both sides of the stream as measured from the stream banks.
  2. No impervious surface shall be constructed within the 75 foot setback area on both sides of the stream as measured from the stream banks.
  3. Septic tanks and septic tank drainfields are prohibited in the 75 foot impervious surface setback area.
- C. Impervious Surface Limitations:  
The impervious surface area, including all public and private structures, utilities or facilities, of the entire water supply watershed shall be limited to twenty-five (25) percent, or existing use, whichever is greater.
- D. Prohibited Uses:
1. New sanitary landfills are prohibited, unless provided with synthetic liners and leachate collection systems.
  2. New hazardous waste treatment or disposal facilities are prohibited.



3. Hazardous materials handling facilities are prohibited, unless operations and performed on impermeable surfaces having spill and leak collection systems as prescribed by the Georgia Departmental of Natural Resources.

EFFECTIVE DATE

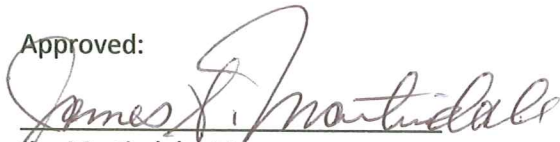
This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon the City's construction of a raw water intake and surface water treatment plant to be utilized for the purpose of supplying municipal water.

CONFLICTS

Should any section or provision of this resolution be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the resolution as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid. All resolutions and ordinances and parts of resolutions and ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed.

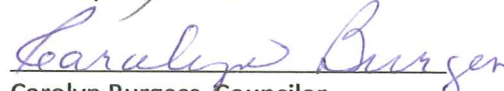
It is so ordained and approved by vote of the City Council of the City of Sky Valley this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008.

Approved:

  
Jim Martindale, Mayor

  
Ray Becker, Council President

  
Ken Kaplan, Councilor

  
Carolyn Burgess, Councilor

  
Tom Ewing, Councilor

  
Helen Kleiber, Councilor

Attest:

  
Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk

First reading approved by City Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008.

Second reading approved by City Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

or

Second reading waived by unanimous vote of all council members present ✓