

LOCAL NEWS

City of Pickens lifts water

Winter isn't peak outdoor use season; bans in rest of county still in place

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Water restrictions have been lifted for Pickens city customers, while other bans in Pickens County are still active.

Pickens City Council voted to suspend the restrictions for Pickens wa-

ter customers, but Councilman Fletcher Perry said they could be put back into place if needed.

Pickens City Administrator Chris Eldridge said lifting the restrictions helps customers and said that right now most people would only be pressure-washing their house or

washing their car.

"You're not talking a huge amount of water usage," Eldridge said. "We do have a decent amount of water right now because it's winter."

The suspended outdoor water-use restrictions, originally approved in August, prohibited activities including washing cars, boats, trailers or other vehicles except for business purposes; watering lawns

or gardens; and washing sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts or other hard surfaces.

The drought status for nine Upstate counties, including Pickens, is still at extreme as set by the state Drought Response Committee, according to the Department of Natural Resources Web site.

In response to the dry conditions, some groups

restrictions

across the Upstate have implemented mandatory restrictions on outdoor watering or called for voluntary conservation measures.

Central still has mandatory water restrictions for customers, according to Central Town Administrator Phillip Mishoe.

"It is my understanding that although we have had some rain recently, we are extremely far behind in to-

tal rainfall," he said in an email.

Clemson City Administrator Rick Cotton said Clemson still has its mandatory water restrictions for water customers as well and said the ordinance is tied to the state climatology office's level of drought declaration.

Recent rain across the region has helped raise the water level in Lake Hartwell by around 4 feet.