

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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'DROUGHT WATCH' ADVISORY LIFTED
FOR UPPER JAMES RIVER REGION

RICHMOND, VA. – The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has lifted the “drought watch” advisory previously issued for the upper James River basin. A return to near-normal precipitation during the early spring has resulted in increased stream flows, ground water levels and reservoir levels across the Upper James River and Shenandoah valleys.

This includes the counties of Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Craig and Rockbridge; the cities of Buena Vista, Covington and Lexington; and the towns of Clifton Forge, Fincastle, Iron Gate, New Castle and Troutville.

According to the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force, a group representing state and federal agencies, the main factors contributing to the removal of the drought watch in the Upper James River basin are:

- Precipitation since October 1, 2012, totals more than 71.5 percent of the normal amounts expected for this period.
- Stream flows and ground water levels have increased to levels greater than 25 percent of historic recorded flows.
- The increased water flow into Lake Moomaw in Alleghany County has allowed the reservoir to remain at its full-pool elevation.

Statewide information on the current drought status is available on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterSupplyWaterQuantity/Drought.aspx>

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