GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY-HOMELAND SECURITY
STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

The State of Georgia is vulnerable to a wide range of natural or man-made disaster/emergencies. The Georgia Emergency Management Act, as amended (The Act) gives the local governments of the State the authority to make agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies, and through such agreements to ensure the timely reimbursement of costs incurred by the local governments which render such assistance. Under the Act the Agency has authority to coordinate assistance between local governments during emergencies and to provide available resources where needed.

This mutual aid agreement is entered pursuant to authorities contained in Articles I through III, Chapter 3, Title 38, Official Code of Georgia Annotated, including O.C.G.A. § 38-3-29, specifically.

ARTICLE I
STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT, DEFINITIONS AND AUTHORITIES

This Agreement is made and entered into between the participating political subdivisions, which approve and execute this agreement, hereinafter called "Participating Parties" and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Homeland Security (GEMA-Homeland Security). For purposes of this agreement, the following terms and expressions shall apply:

(1) "Agreement" means this agreement, sometimes called the "Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement" (SWMAA).
(2) "Assistance" includes personnel, equipment, facilities, services, supplies and other resources furnished to a Requesting Party pursuant to this agreement during an emergency or disaster.
(3) "Assisting Party" means a Participating Party that provides assistance pursuant to this agreement during a disaster or emergency.
(4) "Authorized Representative" means a Participating Party's elected or appointed official or employee who has been authorized in writing by that party to request, to offer, or otherwise to provide assistance or an employee of GEMA-Homeland Security designated by its Director under the terms of this agreement.
(5) "Participating Parties" means the several counties and municipalities of the State of Georgia or combinations thereof that have become parties to this agreement by their approval and execution of this agreement.
(6) "Requesting Party" means a Participating Party that requests assistance pursuant to this agreement during a disaster or emergency.

Any term or expression not defined in this agreement shall have the meaning specified in the Georgia Emergency Management Act, (the Act)as amended and rules promulgated thereunder, unless used in a context that clearly suggests a different meaning.

ARTICLE II
GENERAL PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to provide for mutual assistance between the Participating Parties in managing any emergency or disaster that is duly declared by the governing authority of any political subdivision that is a Participating Party, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, human caused disaster, civil emergency aspects of resource shortages, community disorders, insurgency, enemy attack, acts of terrorism, other significant events or a national security activity.

ARTICLE III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The prompt, full and effective utilization of resources of the Participating Parties, including any resources on hand or available from the State or Federal Government or any other source, that are essential to the safety, care and welfare of the people in the event of any locallydeclared emergency or emergency declared by the Governor shall be the underlying principle on which all articles of this agreement shall be understood.