TERRITORY OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AGAÑA, GUAM 96910
U.S.A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 97-25

RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A DROUGHT RESPONSE AND WATER UTILIZATION GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING FOR AND COORDINATING GUAM'S RESPONSE TO THE THREAT OF A PREDICTED DROUGHT RESULTING FROM THE EFFECTS OF EL NINO WHICH BEGAN IN EARLY 1997 AND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH MOST OF 1998.

WHEREAS, worldwide climatologists are in consensus that an El Niño event is currently in progress and that its effect over the remaining months of 1997 and through the first half of 1998 will be severe weather conditions in many parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, extremely dry or drought-like conditions are predicted for Guam and the islands in the region over the next ten months or more as described in the University of Guam *Pacific* El Niño Southern Oscillating (ENSO) *Update,* published quarterly by the Water and Energy Research Institute (WERI), University of Guam, in collaboration with regional meteorological institutes; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA), an autonomous instrumentality of the government of Guam tasked to manage and operate Guam's water resources, must take the lead in developing a drought mitigation plan to minimize any human suffering or inconvenience, and any adverse economic impact that may result; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to local laws, all water resources belong to all of the people of Guam and, therefore, any threat to the island's water supply is recognized as a community matter; and

WHEREAS, since water supply is a community matter, then any action plan that would affect the supply and availability of water resources must include input from all sectors of the community during its development and prior to its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the island of Guam is committed to assisting neighboring islands in dealing with the effects of El Niño by sharing technical information and providing technical assistance if requested; and

WHEREAS, since the impact of El Niño would be greatly felt by Guam's sister islands in the Marianas and Micronesia, the Governor of Guam is committed to assisting our regional neighbors by including them as part of our community network for the purpose of sharing technical information and providing technical assistance if required;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act, as amended, and the laws of Guam, do order:

1. A Drought Response and Water Utilization Coordinating Committee is established.

2. The members of the Committee established in this Executive Order are:

   a) Governor of Guam;

   b) Speaker, Guam Legislature;

   c) Chairperson, Legislature's Committee on Natural Resources;

   d) General Manager, Guam Waterworks Authority;

   e) Director, Office of Civil Defense;

   f) Chief, Guam Fire Department;

   g) Director, Department of Agriculture;

   h) Director, Department of Education;

   i) Director, Department of Parks and Recreation;

   j) Director, UOG-WERI;

   k) Manager, Guam Visitors Bureau;

   l) Adjutant General, Guam National Guard;

   m) Navy PWC Representative;

   n) Air Force Representative;

   o) President, Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association;

   p) President, Guam Chamber of Commerce;

   q) President, Golf Course Association;

   r) All media - One (1) representative each;

   s) Regional Liaison: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Federated States of Micronesia; and Republic of Belau;

   t) President, Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

3. The Committee shall have Eight (8) working sub-committees: Inter-Agency Technical Working Group; Intra-Governmental Working Group; Public Education; Public Information/Meteorological Monitoring (WERI Scientists); Government Conservation; Residential Conservation; Commercial Conservation; and Legal.

4. Staff and logistical support shall be provided by planners and engineers from among government of Guam agencies who are members of the Committee and from WERI Administration.

5. The Governor shall be the Chairman and the General Manager of the Guam Waterworks Authority shall be Vice-Chairperson.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Agaña, Guam this 14th day of October, 1997.

CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ
Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Lieutenant Governor of Guam