



LAKE RALPH HALL RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

Critically Needed New Water Supply Lake Moves Forward to TCEQ Commissioners

Lewisville, TEXAS (June 25, 2013) – Today, administrative law judges for the State Office of Administrative Hearings recommended approval of the pending water rights permit for Lake Ralph Hall, a critically needed new water supply lake that would be Texas' first in more than 20 years.

This recommendation moves the proposed new water supply lake one step closer to approval. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is expected to make a final determination on the pending permit later this year.

Lake Ralph Hall is a critical project, necessary for Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD) and the North Texas region to avoid a future water supply crisis. Upper Trinity serves families and business in more than 25 communities in the Denton County area. The State of Texas has confirmed in its Texas Water Plan the need for Lake Ralph Hall, and the water it will provide to UTRWD's customers.

"On behalf of the Members and Customers of the UTRWD, we applaud the recommendation of the administrative law judges," said Thomas E. Taylor, UTRWD Executive Director. "Lake Ralph Hall is critical to meeting the region's growing water needs; and, the pending permit is one step closer to being approved."

Upper Trinity plans to use all the water that is available from its existing diversified water portfolio, yet there will not be enough to avoid an expected shortfall without Lake Ralph Hall. More water from Dallas, increased water conservation efforts and more reuse of existing supplies are all vital. However, additional water supplies are absolutely critical, making Lake Ralph Hall an important defense against a future water crisis.

"The proposed Lake Ralph Hall in Fannin County is the right size, can be completed in time to protect against a potential water supply crisis and is the lowest-cost source of new water supply available for Upper Trinity customers," Taylor said.

Further, Taylor said "The site of the proposed lake is unique, with no cemeteries, oil or gas wells or pipelines, or transmission lines, and it will make a positive environmental contribution to the area by restoring wetlands and mitigating a long-term soil erosion problem. The lake has strong local support in Denton County where most of the customers live who will use the water - - and in Fannin County where the lake will be built."

Lake Ralph Hall will benefit families and businesses in North Texas and Fannin County, including:

- Contributing approximately \$18 billion in economic benefits to Denton, Dallas, Collin and Fannin Counties, including jobs and economic development;
- Providing approximately 30 million gallons per day of reliable water supplies for use by communities, families and businesses in North Texas and Fannin County; and
- Stimulating additional revenues for state, county and local governments.

In addition to helping mitigate the soil erosion problem along the North Sulphur River in Fannin County, Lake Ralph Hall is also expected to improve wetlands, wildlife habitat, and provide new opportunities for fishing, hunting, water recreation and family fun in the area.

About the Upper Trinity Regional Water District:

Upper Trinity is a regional water district created by the Texas Legislature in 1989 for the benefit of cities and utilities in the Denton County area. Its mandate is to develop regional plans for water supply, and to provide both

water and wastewater services on a wholesale basis to cities and utilities within its service area, including all of Denton County and portions of Dallas and Collin Counties. Upper Trinity is a leader in public education regarding water conservation and water quality protection, and regularly conducts programs concerning drought tolerant landscape techniques, landscape practices and more efficient water use. Recently, the Upper Trinity took further action to help protect the watersheds above water supply reservoirs. The Board of Directors created the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust to work with communities, landowners and developers in preservation of watershed and riparian assets. To learn more, please visit www.utrwd.com

Additional information about the Lake Ralph Hall project, is available at www.lakeralphhallinfo.com. For more information, contact Jason Pierce, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, 972-219-1228 or JPierce@utrwd.com.

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