



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:  
Jason Pierce  
Mgr. Governmental Affairs & Communications  
JPierce@utrwd.com  
972-219-1228

### **UTRWD Receives Federal Permit to Build Lake Ralph Hall *Board of Directors Received USACE's Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit***

**LEWISVILLE, TX – Feb. 6, 2020:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has issued a Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit to the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD) for Lake Ralph Hall, one of the first major reservoirs to be built in Texas in 30 years. This is the final federal permit required to construct the lake. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality granted UTRWD a water rights permit for the proposed reservoir in December 2013. Named after longtime U.S. Congressman Ralph Hall, the reservoir will be located in southeast Fannin County on the North Sulphur River and will provide essential water to North Texans.

“After nearly 15 years of working with USACE, we are excited to receive this permit as it moves us one step closer to building this critically important new reservoir to meet the water needs of our growing communities,” said Larry N. Patterson, UTRWD Executive Director. “After many technical studies and extensive field investigations by both federal and state agencies, the Environmental Impact Statement was completed leading to USACE’s Record of Decision for Lake Ralph Hall. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by UTRWD staff, its consultants, USACE, collaborating agencies and our local partners in Ladonia and Fannin County,” Patterson said.

UTRWD’s water demand within its growing service area is anticipated to increase nearly threefold over the next 50 years, additional water supplies are needed to meet this anticipated future demand. Once complete and fully operational, Lake Ralph Hall will provide residents and business of UTRWD’s service area and southeast Fannin County an additional 54 million gallons per day (MGD) of raw water.

“Design of the Leon Hurse Dam is near completion and construction is expected to begin later this year in order to have the new lake in operation by 2025,” states Mr. Patterson. “Lake Ralph Hall will provide a reliable water supply for many generations.” “We appreciate our Members and Customers demonstrated support throughout the permitting process and the diligent effort by USACE to finalize the studies and issue the permit,” Mr. Patterson continued.

Here are a few facts about Lake Ralph Hall:

- USACE’s Environmental Impact Statement confirmed that the North Sulphur River near the City of Ladonia is a good reservoir site - - limited wetlands, no oil or gas wells or electric transmission lines.
- Will inundate about 7,600 acres (similar in size to Grapevine Lake) but will yield about 30% more water because of greater rainfall in the Sulphur River Basin.
- Helps address severe erosion on the North Sulphur River and will provide a significant aquatic and terrestrial habitat in Fannin County, one that doesn’t exist today.
- Pipeline that now delivers UTRWD’s water from Chapman Lake was built with enough capacity to carry the water from Lake Ralph Hall to UTRWD’s service area.

- Provides economic benefits to Fannin, Denton, Dallas and Collin Counties.
- The Texas Water Development Board's State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) program will be used to fund the project, estimated cost of \$490 million.

For more information and to stay up-to-date on the construction of Lake Ralph hall, visit our website at [www.lakeralphhall.org](http://www.lakeralphhall.org).

### **About Upper Trinity**

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 services, 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.

**For more information, please contact Jason L. Pierce, Manager of Governmental Affairs & Communications at 972-219-1228.**

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### **Attachments:**

1. Signing Ceremony Photograph (Left to Right): Ronna Hartt, Manager of Water Resources Program; Larry N. Patterson, Executive Director; Ed Motley, Lake Ralph Hall Program Manager
2. Map of Lake Ralph Hall

## Lake Ralph Hall Section 404 Permit Signing Ceremony



Left to Right: Ronna Hartt, Manager Water Resources Program; Larry N. Patterson, Executive Director; Ed Motley, Lake Ralph Hall Program Manager

# PROPOSED LAKE RALPH HALL

