

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

JORDAN LAKE PARTNERSHIP

April 2016

PURPOSE: To provide information about the Jordan Lake Partnership (JLP), OWASA's participation in that effort, and the role of Jordan Lake in OWASA's water supply future. (Please see also the related briefs about OWASA's Long-Range Water Supply Plan and the 2001 Water and Sewer Management, Planning, and Boundary Agreement.)

BACKGROUND: The Jordan Lake Regional Water Supply Partnership was created in 2009 by local jurisdictions and water utilities in the Triangle region. Its primary purpose is to jointly plan for the expanded, cost-effective, and wise use of Jordan Lake's available water supply and to identify opportunities for collaboration on the future development and use of water supply facilities at the lake.

Current members include City of Durham, Cary, Chatham County, Apex, Hillsborough, Holly Springs, Morrisville, Orange County, OWASA, Pittsboro, Raleigh, Sanford, and Wake County.

Durham serves as the JLP's lead agency and provides overall administrative support. Fountainworks, a private consultant, facilitates and coordinates all JLP activities. Additional consulting services are employed for special technical and planning projects.

CURRENT INITIATIVES: JLP efforts are currently focused on a coordinated response to the NC Environmental Management Commission's (EMC) Jordan Lake water supply allocation process. In January 2010 the EMC agreed to proceed with a review of existing and proposed "Fourth Round" allocations. Water supply entities intending either to retain their existing storage allocations or to request additional allocations submitted applications to the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) in November 2014. DWR began a public process in March 2016 to obtain comments on the applications; the comment period will close in May 2016. The date of the EMC's final application decisions will depend on the public comments submitted.

UPCOMING AND RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- DWR released the combined Neuse- Cape Fear River Basins Hydrologic Model in fall of 2013. This computer tool provided the technical basis for evaluating both local and basin-wide impacts of JLP members' Jordan Lake allocation requests.
- The Jordan Lake Partnership's *Triangle Regional Interconnections Study, Phase 1 (December 2011)* presents detailed data for existing and proposed interconnections among Triangle Area drinking water systems. The report is the first of its kind in compiling and mapping regional information at this level of detail. A second phase of the project began in May 2014. Computer simulations will evaluate the capacity for moving treated water through the regional network as it exists today and with possible future modifications. Work is near completion on Phase 2 of the project.
- The Partnership released its *Triangle Regional Water Supply Plan – Volume I, Regional Needs Assessment* in May 2012. This report is an inventory of Triangle Area water system service areas, current supply sources, population and demand forecasts, and estimated future water needs. It represents a common base of information to be used by individual Partners preparing their respective Jordan Lake water supply storage allocation requests. The *Triangle Regional Water Supply Plan – Volume II: Regional Water Supply Alternatives Analysis* was finalized in October 2014, and provides a collaborative plan for meeting each Partner's projected water needs through 2060.
- A focus group of the JLP which included the City of Durham, Chatham County, Town of Pittsboro, and OWASA evaluated the feasibility and costs associated with developing a new water supply intake on the western side of Jordan Lake. The City of Durham funded the study, and OWASA will use the results to evaluate Jordan Lake as a water supply alternative when it updates its Long-Range Water Supply Plan.

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OWASA’S ROLE: OWASA currently holds a Level I allocation of 5 percent of Jordan Lake’s water supply storage capacity, which is equivalent to a yield of about 5 million gallons per day (mgd). Continued participation in the Jordan Lake Partnership will support OWASA’s efforts to retain and gain access to its water supply allocation, which will become an increasingly important “insurance policy” during periods of severe drought or emergency – especially until the expanded Quarry Reservoir is available in approximately 2035.

LINKS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

JLP: <http://www.jordanlakepartnership.org/>

JL Water Supply Allocation:

http://www.ncwater.org/Permits_and_Registration/Jordan_Lake_Water_Supply_Allocation