

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clay Schultz, Ph.D., Director, Regional Water Project Development

FROM: Rachel Forster, Environmental Reviewer, Team 3 – Northeast (C/D)

DATE: September 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Environmental Summary
Upper Trinity Regional Water District, Fannin County, County, Texas
Lake Ralph Hall Reservoir TWDB Project No. 51001

The District is proposing to construct the Lake Ralph Hall Reservoir in the Sulphur River Basin on the North Sulphur River in Fannin County, Texas. The primary purpose is for municipal water supply. Water from the project is to be used to meet water demands within that portion of Fannin County that lies in the Sulphur River Basin and within the service area of the District. The proposed reservoir will provide a firm yield of approximately 35 million gallons per day (MGD) and up to an additional 19 MGD of indirect reuse. The major project elements include constructing an earthen dam, intake and pump station, state highway bridge over the lake, relocation of various state and county roads, utility relocations, raw water transmission pipeline, balancing reservoir, stream and wetland mitigation plan improvements, administration support facilities, and temporary facilities to support construction.

Pursuant to 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 363.14(d) of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) rules, another state or federal agency's issued decision document or permit may be used in lieu of a separate environmental report to the TWDB if the information required under 31 TAC § 363.14 is available in those documents. The TWDB is basing the environmental review for the project on a Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Ft Worth District Office, Regulatory Branch.

The district submitted a Section 404 permit application to the USACE on June 3, 2008 for the proposed construction of the Lake Ralph Hall Reservoir in Fannin County, Texas, and associated activities.

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Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

A public notice was issued for the project on October 05, 2018. USACE issued a ROD for the Lake Ralph Hall Regional Water Supply Reservoir Project (USACE Project No. SWF-2003-00336) on January 27, 2020. The individual permit (IP) for the proposed Lake Ralph Hall Regional Water Supply Reservoir project was issued by USACE on January 30, 2018.

Conditions and Recommendation

Full consideration has been given to the views and comments of the requisite regulatory agencies and affected persons as documented in the USACE's ROD and IP. Based on an environmental review consistent with 31 TAC § 363.14, the following conditions have been developed:

- Compliance with the terms and conditions of the Individual Permit for the Section 404, Clean Water Act, issued January 30, 2020, by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ft Worth Regulatory Branch (Department of the Army Permit No. SWF-2003-00336);
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources; and
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

With the addition of these conditions, TWDB staff recommends that the Executive Administrator find the specified project elements above to be environmentally sound and that design, acquisition and construction funds be released once other requirements are satisfied.

Enclosures: Project Site Maps, USACE Record of Decision (ROD) and Individual Permit (IP)

TO: File

FROM: Clay Schultz, Ph.D., Director, Regional Water Project Development

DATE: September 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Upper Trinity Regional Water District, Fannin County, County, Texas
Environmental Determination Lake Ralph Hall Reservoir

TWDB Project No. 51001

The attached memorandum contains the staff's view regarding the environmental review requirements as per 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 363.14 for the Lake Ralph Hall Reservoir and associated project activities, as proposed by Upper Trinity Regional Water District (District).

The District is proposing to construct the Lake Ralph Hall Reservoir in the Sulphur River Basin on the North Sulphur River in Fannin County, Texas. The primary purpose is for municipal water supply. Water from the project is to be used to meet water demands within that portion of Fannin County that lies in the Sulphur River Basin and within the service area of the District. The proposed reservoir will provide a firm yield of approximately 35 million gallons per day (MGD) and up to an additional 19 MGD of indirect reuse. The major project elements include constructing an earthen dam, intake and pump station, state highway bridge over the lake, relocation of various state and county roads, utility relocations, raw water transmission pipeline, balancing reservoir, stream and wetland mitigation plan improvements, administration support facilities, and temporary facilities to support construction.

In accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Ft. Worth District Office, Regulatory Office, issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lake Ralph Hall Regional Water Supply Reservoir Project, (USACE Project No. SWF-2003-00336) on January 27, 2020. The USACE ROD constitutes the USACE Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 404(b)(1) guidelines analysis and related compliance determinations the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 404(b)(1) guidelines published at 40 CFR Part 230 (404(b)(1)s), and Public Interest Review under 33 CFR Part 320.4 and Statement of Findings for the application by the District for a USACE permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States.

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The individual permit (IP) for the proposed Lake Ralph Hall Regional Water Supply Reservoir Project was issued by USACE on January 30, 2020.

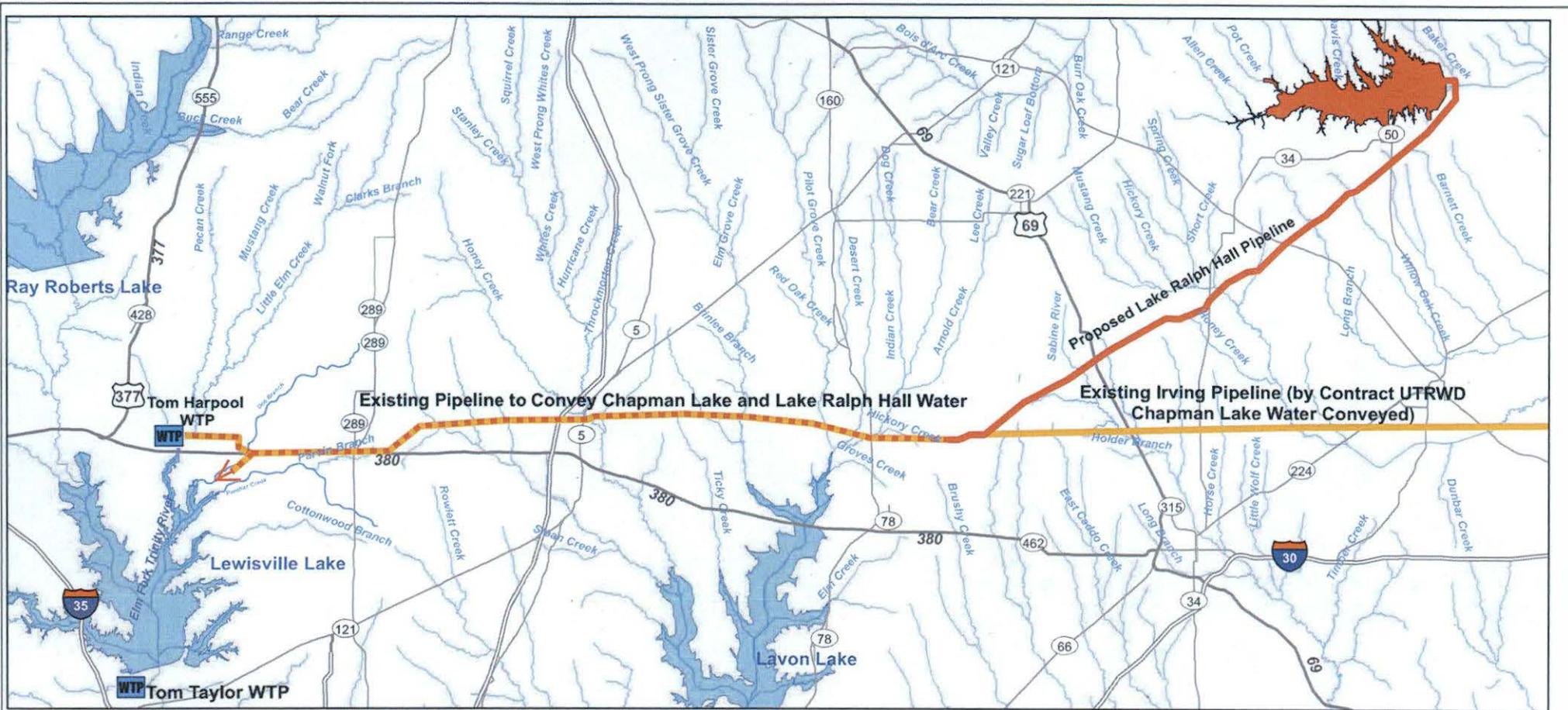
The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is issuing this Environmental Determination (ED) which, in effect, adopts the ROD, and covers the project components included in the IP. The issuance of this ED satisfies the requirements for project elements funded through the SWIFT, WIF, and EDAP programs pursuant to 31 TAC § 363.14.

Based on TWDB staff review of the USACE's ROD the proposed project meets the program requirements in 31 TAC § 363.14 with the following conditions:

- Compliance with the terms and conditions of the Individual Permit for the Section 404, Clean Water Act, issued January 30, 2020, by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ft Worth Regulatory Branch (Department of the Army Permit No. SWF-2003-00336);
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources; and
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

With the addition of these requirements, design, acquisition, and construction funds may be released once all other requirements are satisfied.

Enclosure



Lake Ralph Hall

Location Map

SWF-2003-00336 Plan 1 of 3 January 28, 2020

Legend

-  Water Treatment Plant
-  Proposed Lake Ralph Hall Pipeline
-  Existing Pipeline to Convey Chapman Lake and Lake Ralph Hall Water
-  Existing Irving Pipeline (by Contract UTRWD Chapman Lake Water Conveyed)
-  Proposed Lake Ralph Hall