

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

JORDAN LAKE PARTNERSHIP

June 2018

PURPOSE: To provide information about the Jordan Lake Regional Water Supply Partnership (or 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 JLP 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.

RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- The initial focus of the JLP was to coordinate a 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. OWASA requested to retain its existing allocation of 5 percent of Jordan Lake's water supply storage (approximately 5 million gallons per day). DWR began a public process in March 2016 to obtain comments on the applications, and the EMC approved all JLP allocation requests, including OWASA's request in March 2017.
- 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.
- 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 evaluated the capacity for moving treated water through the regional network as it exists today and with possible future modifications. Modeling work was completed in January 2017.
- 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.
- The JLP is currently developing the next phase of the Partnership. This includes potentially adding some new members, testing our interconnections and identifying additional interconnection modeling that will help members prepare for planned and unexpected water needs, updating the regional water supply plan as needed, and developing other projects that will further increase the reliability and resilience of the region's water supply. It is likely that the name will also be changed to recognize that the focus is water supply reliability in the Triangle area and not just on Jordan Lake.

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OWASA'S ROLE: Continued participation in the Jordan Lake Partnership and its successor group 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. In addition, working with our regional partners will help ensure that OWASA and the region is prepared to address an extended drought or major operational emergency.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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JLP: <http://www.jordanlakepartnership.org/>
JL Water Supply Allocation [decision](#)