Our shared vision

The Trinity River Authority of Texas is an innovative, adaptive leader, enriching the Trinity basin as a resource for Texans.

The TRA mission

The Trinity River Authority’s mission is to promote conservation, reclamation, protection and development of the natural resources of the river basin for the benefit of the public.

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The action doesn’t take place if no one is minding the store.

Upcoming 2017 Holidays

- **MON** Memorial Day - May 29
- **THUR** Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 23
- **TUE** Independence Day - July 4
- **FRI** Day after Thanksgiving - Nov. 24
- **MON** Labor Day - Sept. 4
Like other years before it, 2017 arrived as scheduled. Before it’s over, it will pop, clang and whiz right by us like 2016.

The Trinity River Authority started 2016 with lofty goals that required TRA staff members to engage in work with our customers, congressional delegation and leaders. We didn’t really know whether we would accomplish all of our goals going into 2016, but we knew that if we didn’t do the work, nothing would happen. The status quo is not an option for TRA, so we work to position ourselves strategically and to stay in a state of readiness.

A lot of what was in the works came together in December. TRA was finally able to get language passed in federal law that would allow us to pay for the storage at Joe Pool Lake at a reduced cost (see photos on p. 10). The Senate and the House of Representatives each passed the Water Infrastructure Investment in the Nation Act of 2016, which reduced TRA’s interest obligation related to the construction of Joe Pool Lake. This action will go a long way toward using the lake to benefit and enrich the North Texas area. This major accomplishment also eliminates our customers’ obligation to pay for that storage. It took years to get this done, and to see it happen was sort of like making a game-winning field goal. And because we came out on the winning side, we don’t have to start over again this year!

Another major accomplishment in 2016 was entering into an agreement with the city of Houston for the annual sale of 200,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Livingston. This agreement is in line with provisions in Texas’ state water plan. Looking ahead, Houston will now have access to the water when it is needed in the future. Using innovative contracting, we were able to, at the same time, make the agreement a vehicle for us to pay off our liability with the city of Houston for its in-full payment for the lake operations at Lake Livingston for the last 50 years. These accomplishments are directly related to what was set forth in our 2013-2018 strategic plan. The goal was to eliminate our two unfunded liabilities, and we took care of both of them last year; they were in excess of $80 million each. Our next related move will position TRA to be able to fully pay its part of Lake Livingston’s operations.

Unified next steps
TRA’s forward focus will include continued regional planning, expansion of our services and improvement of our use of technology. Additionally, this year will include increased actions related to operations, budget and staffing, career development and planning for attrition. A key ancillary task will be to strengthen salaries and benefits to help people see a future with TRA that allows them to stay, grow and be a part of efforts that are vital to the growth, health and stability of our service areas. That task will also help us prepare to move forward with the deployment of new technologies that will keep TRA positioned for new opportunities. TRA is a regional leader in planning for water and wastewater treatment, distribution and services.
and brokering major transactions and projects. Those projects include things such as reuse and the management of beneficial biosolids. The spring issue of inTRA will cover this in detail.

Growth in our service areas means that TRA has to be strategic in planning for increases in the treatment and use of water and wastewater. As we improve our process for treating wastewater generated by residents, visitors and commuters alike, we will try to reduce our carbon footprint and expand the use of the byproducts of wastewater. Part of that expansion may be in the form of compost and fertilizer products for uses beyond beneficial land application. Related budget information is on p. 14.

Our direction for 2017 will be unified. Pulling together various pieces that we have been building on, such as infrastructure for science, technology development, career development and training, will tie everything together. This unified focus will help prepare the organization to develop its strategic plan for the next five years.

So this is a year to look back at what we have accomplished and look forward to the low-hanging fruit that we’ve created as we make room for more. An added dynamic this year will be the confirmation by the Senate of new board members recently nominated for appointment by the governor. When that happens, TRA staff members will devote time to orient them, educate them and bring them up to speed.

I feel confident that TRA’s staff members are fired up and ready!

Wolf Creek Park is waiting for you ... Come out and enjoy Lake Livingston!

March-November
The Trinity River Authority congratulates the winners of the 2016 art contest. The winners, including their grade and school, are as follows: Grand prize winner, Claire Cochran, eighth grade, Providence Christian School, Dallas; Daphanie Ho, seventh grade, Danny Jones Middle School, Mansfield ISD; Amy Tran, sixth grade, Adams Elementary, Arlington ISD; Alexa De la Torre, fifth grade, Calliet Elementary, Dallas ISD; Sonya Villalobos, fourth grade, Adams Elementary, Arlington ISD; Lizbeth Ramirez, third grade, John Haley Elementary, Irving ISD; Megan Li, second grade, Denton Creek Elementary, Coppell ISD; Zharia McGee, first grade, Waterford Oaks Elementary, Cedar Hill ISD.

The contest was open to all first through eighth grade students in TRA’s service area. The area includes the following Texas counties: Anderson, Chambers, Dallas, Ellis, Freestone, Henderson, Houston, Kaufman, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Navarro, Polk, San Jacinto, Tarrant, Trinity and Walker. The theme for 2016 was “Don’t trash our water.” More than 1,200 entries were received. The contest is part of TRA’s outreach to youth to help teach them about the importance of protecting our water supply from pollution, keeping our wastewater system free of trash and conserving our limited water resources.

All winners and their teachers were invited to be publicly recognized during TRA’s October board of directors meeting. The grand prize winner’s artwork was recreated on T-shirts that she was able to share with her entire eighth-grade class, her teacher, family and school administrators. All grade-level winners received copies of their artwork printed onto notecards, certificates and a 2017 calendar that featured all of the winners.
2016 ART CONTEST WINNERS

Claire Cochran
Grand Prize Winner
Providence Christian School of Texas, Dallas

Daphanie Ho
Seventh Grade
Danny Jones
Middle School, Mansfield ISD

Amy Tran
Sixth Grade
Adams Elementary, Arlington ISD

Alexa De la Torre
Fifth Grade
Calliet Elementary, Dallas ISD
2016 ART CONTEST WINNERS

Sonya Villalobos  
Fourth Grade  
Adams Elementary, Arlington ISD

Lizbeth Ramirez  
Third Grade  
John Haley Elementary, Irving ISD

Megan Li  
Second Grade  
Denton Creek Elementary, Coppell ISD

Zharia McGee  
First Grade  
Waterford Oaks Elementary, Cedar Hill ISD
Thank you for all of your hard work in 2016.
Q: Does TRA manage the Trinity River Vision and the Trinity River Corridor Project?
A: No, and TRA gets asked that question all the time. TRA’s main business is providing water supply, water and wastewater treatment and distribution services to our customers within the nearly 18,000-square-mile Trinity river basin. TRA is the largest wholesale provider of wastewater treatment services in Texas. TRA also serves as a sponsor for federal water projects and is responsible for developing and maintaining a basin-wide master plan. A copy of the latest plan can be found on our website at www.trinityra.org under the “Basin Planning” tab.

Q: Does TRA own and operate any lakes or rivers?
A: Yes, TRA completed the construction of Lake Livingston in 1969. The lake is the largest single-purpose reservoir in Texas. Its 455 miles of shoreline touch San Jacinto, Polk, Trinity and Walker counties. The lake serves as a water supply reservoir for the city of Houston. Houston has rights to 70 percent of the water in the lake and TRA has rights to the remaining 30 percent.

Q: Is Lake Livingston used for recreational purposes?
A: Yes, it is. The lake is a great place for boating, fishing and other water-related recreation. Check out p. 3 for more information about Wolf Creek Park, which is located on the lake.

Q: How do I find out the water level in Lake Livingston?
A: Visit TRA’s website. The information is on the home page. Just click on the tab labeled “Lake Information.”
**Elected Officials at TRA**

During the regular board of directors meeting in October, the board honored Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX, 30 District), Joe Barton (R-TX, 6th District) and Sens. John Cornyn (R-TX) and Ted Cruz (R-TX) for their efforts and support toward pursuing federal legislation that will activate new water supply storage at Joe Pool Lake, located in Grand Prairie, Texas, for use in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The Senate and the House of Representatives each passed the Water Infrastructure Investment in the Nation Act of 2016, which was signed into law by President Obama on Dec. 16, 2016.

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**Gratitude and Pastries**

When seventh-grade student Cameron Weeks was assigned to complete a class project on empathy, he noticed that most of his classmates reached out to police, firefighters and doctors to thank them for what they do. Weeks told his mom that they wake up every morning and have fresh water. “There is a water facility right next door that makes this happen. We should thank them,” he said. Cameron and his mom toured the DCRWS facility and brought cookies for the operators to thank them for their service. Cameron is pictured with Clifford Woods operator II (left) and Andrew Moore, senior operator (right).

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**A Season of Giving**

Once again, the DCRWS facility collected nonperishable goods for the Roanoke Meals on Wheels program. The event was coordinated this year by David Hill, operator II.

Employees at the Southern Region water plants, SR Office and LLP collected 425 bags of sugar to donate to the Good Samaritan House. They also prepared baskets for needy families in Trinity, Texas, which were delivered by Dorcus Wills Memorial Baptist Church.
Andrew Lantrip, son of Lisa Lantrip, permit administrator, graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor’s in health. In June, he was selected in the eighth round of the 2016 MLB draft by the Cleveland Indians.

Stephanie Mikus, daughter of Greg Mikus, chief maintenance mechanic, graduated from Texas Woman’s University in August with a Master of Arts degree in music. She is currently working with children at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas as a music therapist.

Nicole Whitlock, daughter of Mike and Nancy Whitlock, land rights administrative assistant, received her bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of Texas at Arlington on Dec. 16.

Howard Williams, operator I, had his third child on July 16. Grace Lyn Williams weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces.

Congratulations and thanks for your service to Justin Lee Davis, master sergeant, USAF, son of Darrell Davis, maintenance supervisor, who is retiring from his military duty after 21 years of service.

Shelbe’ Probasco, daughter of Kim Probasco, operations financial administrator, got engaged to Luke Loffland. They are to be married May 27, 2017.

Matthew Sosa, son of Ricky Sosa, senior maintenance mechanic, took first place at the Lone Star Jr. Bassmasters club. His total catch was 12.28 pounds.

Mitchell Ryan, operator I, welcomed his second son, Charlie Ryan, on Aug. 30.

Eleanor Justine TheBerge, fourth grandchild of Sharon Phelps, lab technician I, was born on Nov. 12.

Marie Burns, permit administrator, welcomed her first grandchild, Riley Nisbet. Riley was born Sept. 20, weighing 9 pounds, 11 ounces.
Congratulations to Fiona Allen, P.E., regional manager, Northern Region; she was among three former students recognized as a 2016 distinguished graduate of the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A & M University. The award recognized Allen, a 1982 graduate, for her contributions and achievements in the civil engineering profession.

Sandrine Hatcheu, internal auditor, received her certification in internal auditing (CIA) in October.

Mark Reeves, engineer maintenance I, received his professional engineering (PE) license in December.

Mitchell Ryan, operator I, received his class C wastewater treatment license in October.

Doug Short, chief information officer, received his Certified Information Security Manager CSIM certification, which is an advanced certification that provides validation for individuals who have demonstrated they possess the knowledge and experience required to develop and manage an enterprise information security program.

Mike Neal, infrastructure and security manager, received his certified information systems security professional (CISSP) certification, which is an independent information security certification governed by the International Information System Security Certification Consortium.

Steve Hunt, IT support tech, received CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Security+ certification, which covers network security, compliance and operation security, threats and vulnerabilities as well as application, data and host security.

Thomas Easo, IT network system architect, received CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Security+ certification, which covers network security, compliance and operation security, threats and vulnerabilities as well as application, data and host security. Also included are access control, identity management, and cryptography.

Vanessa Liu, system and applications manager, received CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Security+ certification covers network security, which compliance and operation security, threats and vulnerabilities as well as application, data and host security.

Jeff Griffin, industrial control systems administrator, received his certified SCADA security architect (CSSA) certification, which provides professionals with an objective measure of competence as well as a recognizable standard of achievement.

Richard Brashear, senior operator, LRWSS
Stacy Rosetta, accounting clerk, LLP
Greg Schneider, senior electrician, CRWS
Peggy Stewart, executive assistant, GO

25 YEARS
Gerald Gebhardt, operator II, CRWS
Eddie Grant, electronic tech chief, CRWS
Russell Gurss, operations division chief, CRWS
Ricky Sosa, senior maintenance mechanic, CRWS
David Odom, chief operator, HRWSS

20 YEARS
Robert Burchett III, maintenance mechanic II, SRSS

15 YEARS
Darrell Davis, maintenance supervisor, LLP
Alison Mackey, chief financial officer, GO
Douglas McMurrin, senior electrician, CRWS
Cloise Miller, chief operator, CRWS
David Poole, operator II, HRWSS
James Spurlock, operator II, TMCRRWS
James Wright, chief pilot, GO

10 YEARS
Steven Conway, operator II, CRWS
Charles Knight, park supervisor, LRF
Bernd Linn, lab tech II, CRWS
Yesha Rai, administrative assistant, GO
Gary Shreve, pilot/mechanic, GO
John Mark Stephens, operator II, TCRWSS

5 YEARS
Bruce Austin, maintenance mechanic II, CRWS
Todd Bacon, inspector II, CMS
Basilio Chavez, chief maintenance mechanic, TMCRRWS
Sean Galbraith, operator II, CRWS
PEOPLE NEWS & RECOGNITIONS

Mary Gaither, lab supervisor, CRWS
Joseph Gedville Jr., maintenance mechanic II, CRWS
Turk Gibson, maintenance mechanic II, CRWS
Jesus Gomez-Longoria, maintenance mechanic II, GO
Lakaz Janiszewski, senior biologist, CRWS
Mario Martinez, operator II, CRWS
Jesse Reed, inspector II, CMS
Melissa Saniuk, accounting manager, GO
Jonathan Sivernell, inspector II, CMS

3 YEARS
Sherry Allen, accounting clerk, SRSS
Rachel Amaro, senior chemist, CRWS
Bob Ayensu, GIS manager, PES
Trey Benton, buyer assistant, CRWS
Kevin Burks, O&M chief, TCWSP
Gerald Collins, park ranger, LRF
Larry Colquitt, operator II, TMCRWS
James Couch, inspector II, CMS
Barron Hall, senior collection system technician, CSG
Sheryl Hanks, biologist, LLP
Sandrine Hatcheu, internal auditor, GO
Vanassa Joseph, communications manager, GO
Prerana Karki, senior accountant, GO
Marcos Martinez, operator I, CRWS
Douglas Morris, maintenance mechanic II, LLP

WELCOME TO NEW HIRES:

CRWS
Jerry Barrera, operator I
Cecil Bryant, maintenance mechanic I
Ancel Bynaum, maintenance mechanic I
Kevin Fregia, operator I
Troy Guter, maintenance mechanic II
James Hammes Jr., maintenance mechanic II

David Hauer, lab tech II
Jason Kinya, operator I
Mike Leist, operator I
William Menciuci, chemist
Armando Palacios, operator I
Classic Rayford, maintenance mechanic I
Stephan Rivers, operator I
Mackenzie Russell, maintenance mechanic I
Pedro Urbina, operator II
Mason Wilson, maintenance mechanic II

CSG
Bruce Fowler, collection system technician II
Kevin Longshore, collection system tech II
Johnathan Comer, inspector I
Michael Zapata, inspector II

GO
Victor Patel, cash & capital projects manager
Sujata Sherchan, accountant

ITSS
Thomas Easo, IT network system architect
John Rice, IT application administrator

LLP
Cheryllyn Douglass, custodian
Caleb Shelly, part-time maintenance helper
Kimberly Kayser, office coordinator II

MCRWS
Charles McMillian, part-time maintenance helper

PES
Monique Nava, GIS tech

TMCRWS
Joseph Chapman, operator I
Jameson Hapner, operator I

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION:

CRWS
Cody Edmondson, operator II
Zachary Jackson, operator II
Quintin Winters, senior operator

CMS
Richard Postma, construction management services manager

DCRWS
Howard Williams, operator II

GO
Julie Ball, accounting associate

PES
Addison Stucky, environmental scientist I

TCRWS
Misty Barnett, operator II

TMCRWS
Larry Colquitt, operator II

TCWSP
Randall Lyons, electronic tech II

Recognitions from June 2-Nov. 31, 2016
2017 BUDGET SUMMARY
The Trinity River Authority’s fiscal year 2017 annual budget was approved by our board of directors at its regular October meeting. The budget details authority-wide revenues of $285 million and expenditures of $283 million. A $15 million increase in expenses, (5.7% more than fiscal year 2016) is anticipated. The bulk of the increase is from the personal services accounts, the other services and charges accounts and the debt service accounts.
• Other services and charges increased by $6,834,117 (8.8%) over the FY16 annual budget due to an increase in several accounts including biosolids hauling, professional services, information technology, and repair and maintenance expenses. Other services and charges make up 30 percent of the overall budget.
• Personal services increased by $3,367,031 (7.9%) due to merit increases, new positions, and increases in employees’ health benefit cost.
• Debt service costs increased $2,668,100 (2.1%) from the FY16 budget as a result of an increase of 4.35 percent at Central Regional Wastewater System. Several of the operating projects saw relatively small increases in debt service after refunding savings were applied. Debt service makes up 45 percent of TRA’s overall budget.

Some major initiatives that impact TRA’s annual budget include the following:

Lake Livingston/Wallisville
Construction continues on the hydropower project at Lake Livingston Dam through the cooperative efforts of the East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc., the city of Houston, and TRA. Construction will continue through FY18. This project is funded by the East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Central Regional Wastewater System
At CRWS, development of the Phase III Solids Project will continue. The project will likely reduce the annual weight of biosolids from 210,000 wet tons per year to 105,000 (50% reduction) wet tons per year, as well as reducing odors and creating the possibility for additional uses for the biosolids.
A Phase V rehabilitation project will include replacing infrastructure in the aeration basins. New infrastructure in this project will allow the plant to accomplish biological nutrient removal. This project will last through 2017. Upon completion, CRWS will achieve a lower phosphorus discharge to the Trinity River as well as a substantial energy savings.
Several pipeline projects will be underway including the Bear Creek Interceptor and the Elm Fork Interceptor as well as lift station and manhole rehabilitation work.

Mountain Creek Regional Wastewater System
In FY17, the city of Mansfield will be added as a customer of the system. Design work for the Railport Improvements Project has started, which addresses rehabilitation and future needs at the lift station. MCRWS will implement efforts to reduce overall wet weather flow impacts to the system and evaluate improvements of electrical power usage for efficient and cost-effective system operation.

Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System
Construction is underway at the Kirkwood and Cade Branch pump stations. The Henrietta Creek (HC)-1 relief project construction will continue through FY17. Final design is underway for the HC relief projects for segments 25HC-1, 25HC-3, and 25HC-4, as well as the preliminary design for the 25HC-5 segment.

Red Oak Creek Regional Wastewater System
Capital improvements to the system include the Bear Creek Lift Station, Force Main and Gravity Outfall Improvements project. Final design of the Bear Creek System will be completed in 2017. The final design for the improvements to the Red Oak Creek Interceptor, segments 40RO-1 and 40RO-2 is currently underway.

Ten Mile Creek Regional Wastewater System
Pipeline design projects for 2017 include the TM-1 Phase I and II relief interceptor project, which consists of approximately 17,000 linear feet of new 72-inch diameter gravity flow pipeline and the replacement of the DeSoto Meter Station. The Cedar Hill Lift Station will see improvements as well.

Information Technology
IT initiatives include improving the current network and systems infrastructure, with an emphasis on cybersecurity, as well as upgrading imaging software in combination with extensive accounts payable automation and centralization.

Human Resources
A project team will be working on the implementation of a Human Capital Management System, which will continue through FY17. Emphasis will continue on the recently established wellness program. During FY17, TRA plans to employ 477 employees. This includes 17 additional positions (15 full time and two part time).

For a detailed look at TRA’s FY17 budget, visit our website at www.trinityra.org, and look for financial information under the “Business Services” tab.
Enriching the Trinity Basin as a Resource for Texans

inTRA is published by the Trinity River Authority’s communications division for TRA’s valued employees, directors, consultants and other interested individuals. To be added to the mailing list, or to submit information for publication, contact the communications division at communications@trinityra.org.