

**CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
CORPUS CHRISTI WATER**

TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Nicholas Winkelmann, P.E., Chief Operating Officer
COPY: Mayor & City Council
DATE: March 27, 2026
SUBJECT: WATER SUPPLY UPDATE



Corpus Christi Water (CCW) continues to advance multiple water projects to add new sources and diversify the water supply portfolio. The strategic goal is to develop a diversified water supply portfolio comprising groundwater, wastewater reuse, seawater, and surface water.

Groundwater

Evangeline Groundwater Project

Pape Dawson Engineers and Garney Construction continue making significant progress to advance the project. Design documents for 60% engineering design are scheduled for completion by March 27. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) permit applications for Well Nos. 9 to 14 have been submitted and approved. The next well applications are expected to be submitted to TCEQ by the end of April. This week, 600 feet of 48-inch High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe arrived at the site, with approximately 90% of the 30 miles of pipeline material delivered by the end of July. Garney is also expected to mobilize construction trailers and begin on-site work before mid-April.

The team continues to work to improve schedules and adjust phasing to ensure partial water delivery by November 2026. The approval of Amendment 2 for Garney allows Pape Dawson and Garney to transition the implementation plan to initiate a focus on pipeline installation, MRP connection, ground storage tank, and pumphouse construction at the start of the construction cycle.

The Right of Entry agreements are complete for all tracts. All geotechnical borings are scheduled to be finished by the end of this week, along with the completion of 54 out of 59 subsurface utility exploration holes. Initial drawings were provided to AEP this week so that the power infrastructure can follow the alignment of water lines and roads. AEP has confirmed that they can provide power by August 2026 for the initial set of wells.

The total expenditure to date for this project, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administration, is \$2,366,511.

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San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPGCD) has confirmed an administrative law judge for the preliminary hearing, scheduled for April 28, 2026. During the hearing, the judge will review three filed protests and hear testimony. The purpose is to determine whether each protestant has standing. Protests were submitted regarding either the well-drilling permits or the transport permit. It is the protestant's responsibility to prove that they have standing.

The district issued a production permit for 24 million gallons per day (MGD) on May 16, 2019, and renewed it on January 21, 2025.

On February 17, the Council approved the purchase of groundwater water rights at the Li Ranch. A condition for closing this deal is that the seller obtains permits for production, drilling, and transportation. Hydrogeologists have identified potential well locations for this tract of land and will schedule an on-site review of the locations prior to the initiation of the well drilling permit application process.

Nueces Groundwater Program

As of today, the current expenditure for the Eastern Well Field Project is \$18,355,526, and for the Western Well Field Project, \$24,430,030. The Texas Water Development Board approved the \$30,000,000 grant on January 21.

The Eastern Well Field continues to operate according to the approved monitoring plan and complies with all state laws. Over the past seven days, the following volumes were produced: 03/19 4.8 MGD, 03/20 4.5 MGD, 03/21 4.6 MGD, 03/22 4.2 MGD, 03/23 4.2 MGD, 03/24 4.3 MGD, and 03/25 6.0 MGD.

TCEQ submitted the Bed and Banks Permit application for the Western Well Field on January 30. On March 18, the TCEQ issued the City a Temporary Water Use (Bed and Banks Permit). The permit authorizes the discharge of groundwater from the Western Well Fields into the Nueces River. The discharge of the water is to be in accordance with the operating protocol outlined in the permit.

After the permit was issued, CCW crews began operating the well field on March 19. This past week, the well field has been producing approximately 6 MGD. Of the twelve planned wells for this property, three wells are currently online with the permanent pumping equipment. Four wells will be online by April 3, and six by April 17. There is an electrical issue with one of the control panels which is being corrected by our electrical subcontractor.

CCW crews have installed 25,537 linear feet, or 4.84 miles, of 24", 16", and 12" diameter PVC water lines needed for this well field's operation. Electrical work continues under the NEC to supply permanent power to the entire well field. The concrete pads for the electrical transformers have been poured for all twelve wells on this project site.

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Brackish Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Treatment Project

CCW, Garver Engineering, and Aqualia are conducting design work. Construction is projected to be completed by CCW, multiple local contractors, and Aqualia. Graver Engineering continues designing the conveyance line, and City staff continue to meet with local contractors to discuss construction. Additional meetings will also be held with TXDOT and Nueces County to discuss the installation of the water line. We are expected to begin construction on the first segment of the conveyance line by the end of April.

CCW Engineering continues designing the ground storage tank and pump station at the western well field. Legal and procurement are working toward executing the contract with Aqualia for the modular brackish reverse osmosis treatment. Preliminary meetings with TCEQ have also taken place to discuss permits for the treatment plant, discharge, and well permitting.

CCW is working with AEP and HDR on the electrical service and upgrades required at the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant for the pumping equipment and reverse osmosis treatment process.

The team is working to complete the conveyance line and well field pump station by the end of this year. The anticipated water delivery through the Brackish Reverse Osmosis process is 4 MGD in February 2027, 5.3 MGD in May 2027, 5.3 MGD in September 2027, and 6.7 MGD in March 2028, totaling 21.3 MGD.

Wastewater Reuse

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

CCW continues negotiations with other entities regarding the use of effluent water. City Council has approved agreements with Valero and Flint Hills Resources (FHR). Ongoing discussions are underway with other entities about future effluent contracts and end users. CCW is working to provide updated timelines for when these projects are expected to be operational, creating an offset to demand.

FHR is working with CCW to integrate an ultra-filtration (UF)/reverse osmosis (RO) water purification system into the Allison Wastewater Treatment facility. This project could have two phases, with the first phase supplying 1 MGD of effluent to their facility through an FHR raw water line outside the Allison Plant. This water would replace the raw water normally taken from the river. If the first phase is successful, the second phase would increase this volume to 3 MGD. The UF/RO system would be owned and operated by FHR and located on property owned by FHR directly adjacent to the Allison plant. CCW will meet with FHR on Thursday, March 19, to further review their design proposal and permitting requirements.

Ardurra and CCW continue designing the infrastructure to convey approximately 10 MGD from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Greenwood WWTP. Ardurra expects the 60% design to be finished by April 23. Work is ongoing on potential land and easement acquisitions needed for the pipeline and pump station at the Oso WWTP. Once property and easements are

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finalized and the design reaches nearly 60%, CCW will work with area contractors to discuss the phasing and scheduling of the conveyance line construction to expedite the project.

Ardurra has also completed the draft of an environmental tech memorandum regarding the effluent flows to Oso Bay and Oso Creek.

Seawater

Inner Harbor Seawater Desalination

At the February 24 meeting, the City Council authorized staff to negotiate and draft a contract with the Corpus Christi Desal Partners (CCDP). City staff continues working with CCDP to finalize a contract for Council review at a meeting in April 2026.

The request for qualifications (RFQ) for the City's agent and representative was also issued, and two organizations submitted their qualifications. City staff is currently reviewing these documents. The City's agent and representative will only be engaged if the contract with Corpus Christi Desal Partners (CCDP) is approved.

Council approved a modeling contract with Speheros at the March 17 Council Meeting. The modeler has stated that they will complete a significant amount of work by the end of April, with the final report to follow. The next Far Field Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on April 3, and the modelers will attend this meeting.

NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

Preliminary engineering work has started on the conveyance line by the two contracted design firms, LAN Inc. and HDR Inc.

The NRA continues to review the qualifications of the four proposers for the treatment plant developer. It is expected that a selection will be made at the June Board of Directors Meeting.

TCEQ issued a draft intake permit and published it for public comment on February 25. The application, technical data, and draft permit from the Executive Director can be viewed on the TCEQ website at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr-permitting/view-wr-pend.apps. The NRA anticipates TCEQ will issue the draft discharge permit by the end of February 2026.

Barney Davis Seawater Desalination Project

On March 17, Council approved a motion to authorize City staff to work with DPS Energy to explore options for a seawater desalination treatment plant next to the Barney Davis Power Plant.

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CC Polymer (Aquatech)

March 24, Council approved a motion to authorize City staff to negotiate a water supply agreement with Aquatech, who has reached an agreement with CC Polymer to complete the plant, install the necessary infrastructure, and obtain all required permits for operating the existing desalination facility to sell water to the City. Aquatech is a privately owned company that was founded in 1981 and is based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. City staff is coordinating a meeting to begin these discussions.

Western Reservoirs

On March 27, the reservoir capacity for Lake Corpus Christi is 9.1%, and 7.8% for Choke Canyon Reservoir. The combined capacity percentage of these reservoirs is 8.2%.

Lake Texana Reservoir Status

On March 20, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reported that Lake Texana's reservoir capacity was 54%. In comparison, the reservoir was at 67% capacity a year ago.

It is expected that the reduction volume required when the reservoir falls below 50% will be calculated and potentially deducted from the total water contractual amounts at the end of the year for the City of Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi Water. The City staff and CCW are continuing discussions with LNRA to understand the operational modifications needed and how reductions would be accounted for if the reservoir drops below 40% capacity.

The City's water supply contract with LNRA is for a total of 31,440 acre-feet annually from Lake Texana, with options for additional or interruptible water of 12,000 acre-feet if available. This additional water has not yet been provided this year. Additionally, the City has purchased 10,000 acre-feet from Formosa Plastics for the year 2026.

City staff will meet again with LNRA in the coming weeks to further discuss drought conditions and the operational process of curtailing water from Lake Texana.

Water Conservation Advisory Committee

The Water Conservation Advisory Committee held a meeting on March 27 and continued to make good progress. The committee decided to hold another meeting on April 24 to do a final review and page turn of the document.

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Projected Delivery of New Water Sources

The Evangeline project will be updated once the City has more certainty about the outcomes of potential negotiations and the preliminary hearing. Reuse estimates will be revised once construction schedules are confirmed.

2026 Project Delivery of Additional Water (MGD)														
Source	Project	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Groundwater	WWF River Delivery			5	6	6								17
Groundwater	ERF Property (WWF Extension)				2	2	3	2						9
Groundwater	Evangeline											4	1	5
Reuse	FHR												1	1
Total														32

2027 Project Delivery of Additional Water (MGD)														
Source	Project	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Groundwater	Evangeline	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	16
Reuse	FHR												1	1
Reuse	Valero												3	3
Total														20

2028 Project Delivery of Additional Water (MGD)														
Source	Project	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Groundwater	Evangeline	2	1											3
Reuse	Valero	5												5
Reuse	Additional Customers	6												6
Total														14

Notes:

- 1) Western Well Field (WWF)
- 2) The projected delivery for each of our new water supply sources will be updated weekly as various factors influence the completion and partial completion of each project.
- 3) Eastern Well Field and Western Well Field daily production is dependent upon adherence to the operating protocol established in the bed and banks permit.
- 4) Evangeline Production estimates will be updated once we are more certain of the timeline for the next steps of the permitting timeline.
- 5) Well Production is dependent upon results from pumping and aquifer testing
- 6) Reuse is an offset of the potable water demand