

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

CORPUS CHRISTI WATER

TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager

FROM: Nicholas Winkelmann, P.E., Interim Chief Operating Officer 

COPY: Mayor & City Council

DATE: September 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Water Supply Update

Corpus Christi Water (CCW) continues to evaluate various supplemental water supply projects.

Nueces River Groundwater Wells Project

As of today, the current expenditure for the eastern well field project is \$15,587,816 and \$2,408,669 for the western well field. The state has committed to providing a \$30,000,000 grant for this work.

In the Eastern Well Field, Well Nos. 1 to 7 are complete with the completion of well no. 8 scheduled to take place on September 27. Modifications have been completed to Well No. 1 to seal off lower-quality water in an effort to decrease the overall total dissolved solids (TDS) from the well. The City is currently discharging up to 8 MGD into the Nueces River in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and in compliance with all State laws. A planned shutdown of the eastern well field took place earlier this week to provide for detailed source sampling along the river.

In the Western Well Field, the status is as follows:

- Well No. 9 – Drilling complete, permanent pump has been designed.
- Well No. 10 – Drilling complete with test pumping and water quality sampling complete.
- Well No. 11 – Drilling continues
- Well field site work continues
- Water line and river outfall have been designed with construction scheduled to begin

Evangeline Groundwater Project

During the September 23rd council meeting, council approved the negotiated term sheet for fee simple groundwater rights which will be the basis for a final contract. Components of the term sheet include:

- Purchase price of \$7,437 for 22,789 acres of groundwater rights

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- \$1,000,000 earnest and option payment for a 120-day inspection period with an additional \$3,250,000 to be escrowed at the end of the inspection period and applied to the purchase price at closing.
- The seller will have 180-days after the inspection period to provide final, non-appealable permits for twenty-two wells, production permit, and transport permit with closing to occur sixty days after all permits are obtained. The seller has stated that they would work to begin obtaining the permits as soon as the contract is signed.
- Seller to provide clean and indefeasible title to groundwater rights with no rights of reverter with title insurance at closing.
- Conveyance of existing groundwater wells and appurtenances.
- Assignment of surface use agreements and surface accommodation agreement to the City

Additionally, council approved agreements with Allensworth & Porter, LLP, T. Baker Smith, and Pape Dawson Engineers for legal, survey, and engineering professional services. An initial kick off meeting with Pape Dawson was held on September 24th to begin engineering due diligence and pre-design for the project.

South Texas Water Authority

On September 23, STWA Executive Director John Marez provided an update to council and provided the following information:

- The STWA Board of Directors approved the offering of water to City of Corpus Christi on September 9, 2025
- Raw water quality results from their test well were provided to the city as requested
- The water purchased by the City will be treated/finished water and meet or exceed all TCEQ primary and secondary drinking water standards
- The final target of phase 1 of the project is 13 MGD with 3 MGD for STWA and 10 MGD available for sale to the city
- There could be an option to add additional water in 10 MGD increments
- A potential contract has been drafted by STWA to prepare for potential future negotiations

CC Polymers Seawater Desalination Treatment Plant

On August 27, City staff met with leadership from CC Polymers. CDM Smith, the City's consultant, has prepared a draft technical memo reviewing the proposal from CC Polymers and has recommended that a condition assessment be completed prior to any agreement. On October 14, the City will bring a contract for consideration with CDM Smith to complete a condition assessment of the CC Polymers facility.

Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

City staff met with John Byrum, Executive Director of the Nueces River Authority (NRA), to continue discussions regarding a reservation agreement and fee on September 22. On October 7, CCW intends to present a reservation agreement with the NRA to the council for consideration.

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The option fee for 56,007 acre feet per year or approximately 50 MGD is a one-time payment of \$2,737,622.16.

The option fee for 44,806 feet per year or approximately 40 MGD is a one-time payment of \$2,198,011.28.

The option fee for 33,604 acre feet per year or approximately 30 MGD is a one-time payment of \$1,642,563.52.

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

CCW has been in discussions with multiple entities regarding the use of effluent water from our wastewater treatment plants.

Gulf Coast Authority and Ardurra

On September 24, City staff met with the Gulf Coast Authority (GCA) and Ardurra to discuss the effluent reuse project presented by Ardurra at the September 9 council meeting. A follow up meeting with Ardurra is scheduled for October 1 to discuss the most efficient and most effective approach for the conveyance of effluent.

Garver

Garver continues to investigate reclaimed water potential with a focus on the following three options.

- Conveyance of effluent and TCEQ permitting to take water to the Nueces River
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- Direct potable reuse

Garver has also been communicating with TCEQ to understand any potential requirements for discharging effluent water from one of the wastewater treatment plants into the Nueces River. The summary of alternatives and input on the required permitting is expected to be available within the next couple of weeks. We plan to provide a briefing to discuss the status.

EV Ranch Groundwater

CCW met with leadership from EV Ranch on September 22 to discuss their potential new approach to this project. At their request, a follow up meeting will be held early October.