

**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 13, 2026

**SUBJECT: Water Supply Update**

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Corpus Christi Water (CCW) continues to advance multiple water projects to add new sources and diversify the water supply portfolio.

**Evangeline Groundwater Project**

Pape Dawson Engineers and Garney Construction are making significant progress with the design and pre-construction services, with the 60% design documents scheduled for completion by March 27. The Right of Entry (ROE) agreements are complete for all tracts, with subsurface utility exploration (SUE) ongoing. Of the 59 test holes required to properly identify existing gas lines, 48 have been completed. Of the 100 geotechnical borings required, 88 have been completed to provide the required information for the design of the ground storage tank, pumphouse, and other structures and water lines. The design team continues to work with AEP to update schedule and budget information to deliver permanent electric power to the pump station and each of the 24 well sites. Fabrication of the 48", 36", and 30" HDPE pipe for this project has begun this week.

With the approval of Amendment 1, procurement of long-lead equipment items has begun. Garney has finalized contracts with five of the six equipment/materials suppliers and well-drilling companies. The remaining contract will be complete this upcoming week. Garney is also reviewing potential impacts on the supply chain resulting from recent worldwide developments.

The team continues to work on improving schedules and adjusting phasing to ensure partial water delivery by November 2026. Pape Dawson and Garney are transitioning the implementation plan to focus on pipeline installation, MRP connection, ground storage tank, and pumphouse construction at the start of the construction cycle. Garney is expected to mobilize construction trailers and begin on-site work before mid-April.

Amendment 2 for Garney is scheduled to be presented to the Council for consideration on March 17. Amendment 2 will include contracting services for installing pipelines, constructing roads, and building the ground storage tank and pump station.

## **Water Supply Update**

### **Page 2**

The total expenditure to date for this project, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administrative costs, is \$1,696,161.

San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPGCD) has confirmed an administrative law judge for the preliminary hearing. Potential dates for this hearing are being discussed, but the confirmation date has not yet been set. During the hearing, the judge will review three filed protests and hear testimony. The goal is to determine whether each protestant has standing. Protests were submitted regarding either the well-drilling permits or the transport permit. Initially, four protests were filed, but one has been withdrawn. The district issued a production permit for 24 million gallons per day (MGD) on May 16, 2019, and renewed it on January 21, 2025.

City staff also continue to reach out to meet with protesters of the permit applications.

On February 17, the Council approved the purchase of water rights on the Li Ranch. This agreement depends on the seller obtaining permits for production, drilling, and transport. Once our hydrogeologists identify the well locations on the property, the owner can start applying for the necessary permits for transport, production, and drilling.

### **Nueces River Groundwater Wells Project**

As of today, the current expenditure for the Eastern Well Field Project is \$18,316,751, and for the Western Well Field Project, \$24,238,882. The Texas Water Development Board formerly approved the \$30,000,000 grant on January 21.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Bed and Banks Permit application for the Western Well Field was submitted on January 30. TCEQ has declared the permit is administratively complete. The next step is for TCEQ to issue a draft permit for review. Four wells are ready for operation at the Western Well Field.

The Eastern Well Field continues to operate in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and complies with all State laws. Over the past seven days, the Eastern Well Field produced the following volumes: 03/05 4.3 MGD, 03/06 4.6 MGD, 03/07 5.4 MGD, 03/08 2.2 MGD, 03/09 4.6 MGD, 03/10 5.3 MGD, and 03/11 2.8 MGD.

Updates regarding the other specific wells are as follows:

- Well Nos. 13, 14, 15 – The permanent pumping assembly has been designed, and equipment has been ordered with expected material delivery starting next week.
- Well No. 16 – Drilling completed and the well is being developed.
- Well No. 17 – The geophysical log is complete, and the well has been designed. The production screens have been ordered, and we are waiting for delivery.
- Well No. 18 – The geophysical log is complete, and the well has been designed. The production screens have been ordered, and we are waiting for delivery.
- Well No. 19 – Drilling has started.

## **Water Supply Update**

### **Page 3**

CCW crews have installed 25,331 linear feet, or 4.8 miles, of 24", 16", and 12" diameter PVC water lines necessary for operating this well field. Electrical work continues under the NEC to provide permanent power to the entire well field. Currently, four wells have permanent power available.

### **Brackish Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Treatment Project**

On February 17, the Council considered and granted initial approval for the City Manager and City staff to negotiate contracts for the project's implementation. The project will include the following primary tasks:

- Pump Station at the Western Well Field
- 36" conveyance line
- Reverse Osmosis Treatment plant
- Site improvements at O.N. Stevens, including concrete foundation, electrical, and tank
- Discharge methods by evaporative ponds, injection well, and Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit

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 to design the conveyance line, and City staff will meet with local contractors to discuss construction. Additional meetings will also be held with TXDOT and Nueces County to discuss installing the water line.

CCW Engineering continues designing the ground storage tank and pump station at the Western Well Field. Legal and procurement are working towards executing the contract with Aqualia for the modular brackish reverse osmosis treatment. Garver Engineering is also working to set preliminary meetings with TCEQ to discuss permits for the treatment portion of this project.

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, for a total of 21.3 MGD.

### **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. Ongoing discussions are underway with other entities regarding future effluent contracts and end users. CCW is working with them to provide updated timelines for when these projects are expected to be operational, creating a potential offset to demand.

Ardurra and CCW are continuing to design the infrastructure necessary to convey approximately 10 MGD from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Greenwood WWTP. Ardurra

## **Water Supply Update**

### **Page 4**

estimates that the 60% design will 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. Technical Memoranda are also being prepared to address the amount of effluent supplied to the bay system. Once property and easements are finalized and the design is nearly 60% complete, the CCW will work with area contractors to discuss the phasing and timing of the conveyance line construction to expedite the work.

### **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 continue to work with CCDP to prepare a contract for consideration at a Council Meeting in April 2026.

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

The Far Field Advisory Committee met on March 12. The committee met with the selected modeling firm, Spheros, and its subconsultant, Hazen & Sawyer (Hazen). The discussion focused on the modeling process and the path forward. Spheros and Hazen will provide input on the next meeting date to ensure they will have information available for discussion with the committee. The next meeting date will be identified and confirmed once we receive input from the consultants.

### **NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project**

At the February 20 board meeting, the Nueces River Authority (NRA) approved master service agreements with two firms for design services related to the New Water for South Texas Conveyance System. The firms selected are Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc., and HDR. CCW will provide input to the NRA and these firms regarding the conveyance line design.

NRA has issued a formal Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to find a development partner, and five responses were received. NRA plans to select this partner at the June Board of Directors Meeting.

TCEQ issued a draft intake permit and made it available for public comment on February 25. The permit would authorize the diversion and use of 350,000 acre-feet of water annually from a point in the Gulf for municipal and industrial use in Aransas, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties.

The application, technical data, and draft permit from the Executive Director are available on the TCEQ website at [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water\\_rights/wr-permitting/view-wr-pend.apps](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr-permitting/view-wr-pend.apps). The NRA expects TCEQ to issue the draft discharge permit by the end of February 2026.

## **Water Supply Update**

### **Page 5**

#### **South Texas Water Authority**

South Texas Water Authority (STWA) approved the contract amendment with Seven Seas at its board meeting on March 9. This amendment would provide a 3 MGD water supply for STWA and is expected to be delivered within 24 to 28 months.

CCW continues to work with the STWA and its consulting engineer under the existing memorandum of understanding (MOU).

#### **Lake Texana Reservoir Status**

On March 6, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reported that Lake Texana's reservoir capacity was 57%. In comparison, the reservoir was at 68% capacity a year ago.

The current LNRA drought contingency plan mandates reductions in pumping when the lake level falls to 50% capacity. This would then necessitate a 10% reduction in total pumping compared to the previous year. LNRA's current projection is that the reservoir capacity will drop below 50% on April 21 if no additional inflows occur. It is expected that the reservoir will be under 40% by June 16, assuming no additional inflows.

City staff will meet again with LNRA next week to discuss drought conditions and the operational process of curtailing water withdrawals from Lake Texana.

#### **Water Conservation Advisory Committee**

The Water Conservation Advisory Committee (Committee) held a meeting on February 27, with the next meeting scheduled for March 27. The Committee will receive an updated draft plan, based on their feedback, to review and provide final comment. At the next meeting, the Committee aims to finalize its comments on the plan update.

#### **Engagement and Outreach Calendar**

March 16 – City of Aransas Pass Council Meeting

March 25 – City of Odem Town Hall

# Water Supply Update

## Projected Delivery of New Water Sources

Please be advised that the Evangeline project will be subject to updates once the City attains greater certainty regarding the outcomes of potential negotiations and the preliminary hearing, which could potentially occur in two to three weeks. Further confirmation is being made with Valero and Flint Hills Resources

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					17								17
Groundwater	Evangeline											4	1	5
Groundwater	ERF Property (WWF Extension)					2	4	3						9
Reuse	FHR												1	1
<b>Total</b>														<b>32</b>

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
<b>Total</b>														<b>20</b>

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
<b>Total</b>														<b>14</b>

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) Western Well Field Production is dependent upon approval of the TCEQ 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