


**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: May 8, 2026
SUBJECT: WATER SUPPLY UPDATE NO. 55

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

Groundwater

Evangeline Groundwater Project

The preliminary hearing to determine the standing of the three protestants was held on April 28. During the hearing, the administrative law judge heard testimony from the legal teams and experts for both the protestants and the Evangeline Laguna LP team. The judge stated that an opinion on standing would be provided on or before May 10.

The San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPGCD) issued a production permit for 24 million gallons per day (MGD) in 2019 and renewed it in 2025. On April 2, a request was submitted to the SPGCD to issue emergency drilling and transport permits for eleven wells. The eleven wells identified in the request are the farthest from the protestants well locations.

Engineering and construction work on this project continues to progress by both Pape Dawson Engineers (Pape) and Garney Construction (Garney).

Deliveries of the required High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) water line piping continue. As of today, 48,108 linear feet of HDPE and PVC water line have been delivered to the site. The total amount of water line required for the project is 113,000 linear feet. Garney has set up office trailers and currently has 31 crew members on site. Pipe fusion operations are expected to begin the week of May 11.

The Pape and Garney team have committed to a water delivery in November 2026, with an estimated production capacity of 4 MGD. The status of necessary permitting may require adjustments to the production schedule. Once Evangeline Laguna LP receives the Administrative Law Judge's opinion, the City will be able to provide a more definitive update.

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The total expenditure for this project to date, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administration, is \$18,411,222.

On February 17, the Council approved the purchase of groundwater rights at the Li Ranch. A condition for closing the deal is that the seller obtain permits for production, drilling, and transportation. Hydrogeologists have identified potential well locations, and the site has been surveyed with the proposed locations. This information will be provided to the seller so that they can begin the well drilling permit application process.

Nueces Groundwater Program

As of today, the current expenditure for the Eastern Well Field Project is \$18,371,180, and for the Western Well Field Project, \$27,814,661. The Texas Water Development Board approved the \$30,000,000 grant on January 21.

The Eastern and Western Well Field continue to operate in accordance with the approved TCEQ water monitoring plan and comply with all applicable state laws. Over the past seven days, the combined production is as follows: 04/29 13.7 MGD, 04/30 12.3 MGD, 05/01 13.9 MGD, 05/02 13.1 MGD, 05/03 14.2 MGD, 05/04 12.4 MGD, 05/05 12.2 MGD, and 05/06 11.2 MGD.

Monthly service continues to be performed on several gas generators, and the manufacturer is completing repairs on one this week.

The Western Well Field continues to operate, with seven wells currently online. Five wells are powered by electric, and two are powered by temporary generators. Nueces Electric Coop (NEC) is completing an upgrade that will allow all the wells in the Western Well Field to be fully powered by electric. Crews are expected to install another well pump by the middle of next week, increasing the total number of operating wells in the Western Well Field to eight. Drilling and construction continue on the additional four wells associated with the Western Well Field.

Brackish Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Treatment Project

CCW, Garver Engineering, and Aqualia are conducting design work. CCW and City staff met with Aqualia representatives this week to receive updates on delivery and timeline. The first treatment equipment units are expected to be installed in February/March 2027.

Garver Engineering continues designing the conveyance line, with the 75% submittal expected within a week. City staff continue meeting with local contractors to discuss construction. We expect to begin construction on the first segment of the conveyance line by the end of May. The current estimate for completion of the conveyance line is December 2026.

Two 500,000 gallon ground storage tanks have been procured for installation at O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant (ONSWTP), as they will be required components of the Brackish Reverse Osmosis treatment system. One 3,000,000-gallon ground storage tank has been procured for the pump station located at the Western Well Field. CCW Engineering is finalizing the design of the pump equipment associated with these same pump stations.

Preliminary meetings with TCEQ have taken place to discuss permits for the treatment plant, discharge, and well permitting. Discharge discussions with the regulatory agency have included evaporative ponds, an injection well, and surface discharge. CCW is working with AEP and HDR on the electrical service and upgrades required at the ONSWTP for the pumping equipment and the reverse osmosis treatment process. AEP has confirmed that power is available to support the phased implementation and startup of the treatment equipment. The phased implementation will coincide with the delivery of the reverse osmosis treatment units.

The team is working to complete the conveyance line and the well field pump station by the end of this year. Expected water delivery via the Brackish Reverse Osmosis process is 3.91 MGD in February/March 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.

The current expenditure for this project is \$797,305.

Seven Seas Water Group

On May 5, Council authorized City staff to negotiate with the Seven Seas Water Group (Seven Seas) on a brackish reverse osmosis project in Nueces County. Next week, CCW and Seven Seas will meet to discuss the project and its implementation details, including permitting and timelines. The project aims to start with a production capacity of 10 MGD, with the possibility of increasing to 20 MGD.

Wastewater Reuse

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

The proposal for the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) has been evaluated. The contract for the CMAR contractor will be presented at the meeting on May 12 for Council consideration. The current expected completion timeline for this project is mid-2027. Project delivery and completion dates will be confirmed once a CMAR contractor is selected and has provided input on the schedule developed by Ardurra.

Ardurra and CCW continue to design the infrastructure to convey approximately 10 MGD from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to the Greenwood WWTP. Ardurra has completed the 60% of the design with 100% design estimated to be complete by June 26. Work is ongoing to identify potential land and easement acquisitions for the pipeline and pump station at the Oso WWTP. City staff is working with TAMUCC to discuss the additional property required at the Oso WWTP to accommodate the new pump station.

Ongoing discussions are underway with other entities regarding future effluent contracts and potential end users. Council has approved agreements with Valero and Flint Hills Resources (FHR), the month. Both companies are working hard to improve their delivery schedules to reduce their potable water usage as soon as possible. Valero expects to utilize 3 MGD in phase one of its project and up to 8 MGD in phase two. Flint Hills Resources expects phase one to be at 1 MGD and up to 3 MGD in phase two.

Seawater

Inner Harbor Seawater Desalination

City staff continue to work with Corpus Christi Desal Partners (CCDP) to finalize a contract to complete the 60% design, provide a guaranteed maximum price, and conduct system optimization testing. The contract is projected to be brought to Council for consideration on June 2, 2026.

A Far Field Advisory Committee Meeting was held on May 7. During this meeting, the modeling contractor, Spheros, provided an update on model development and calibration. Modeling progress to date has included grid refinements and bathymetry updates; adding point sources in Inner Harbor and Corpus Christi Bay; refining the Nueces flow; improving tidal boundary inputs; testing the dynamic brine discharge; and reviewing data supplied by the Port of Corpus Christi. The Model Validation approach includes comparing water levels to high-frequency data at NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) stations, comparing high-frequency USGS (United States Geological Survey), CBI, and TWDB (Texas Water Development Board) salinity data, evaluating tidal and daily average patterns, reviewing depth profiles, and comparing temperature with high-frequency information from NOAA stations.

The upcoming schedule for this committee is as follows:

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|--------------|---|
| May 21, 2026 | Review of refined model results and committee feedback |
| May 28, 2026 | Final presentation review of the model to the committee |

At the June 2 Council meeting, the Far Field Model Results are projected to be presented, and Council consideration of the CCDP and owner's representative contracts will be requested.

NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

The NRA evaluation committee continues to review the qualifications of the project's development partner. A recommendation and selection are expected to be presented to the Board at the May 15 Committee meeting.

LAN continues engineering work on the conveyance line. The pre-approval process with Water Utility Contractors has begun, focusing on the construction of the conveyance line and pump stations.

TCEQ issued a draft intake and discharge permit for this facility. A public meeting on the discharge permit is scheduled for May 27.

Barney Davis Seawater Desalination Project

On March 17, the Council approved a motion authorizing City staff to work with CPS Energy to explore options for establishing a seawater desalination treatment plant next to the Barney Davis Power Plant. On April 24, City staff met with CPS Energy representatives, during which CPS Energy reaffirmed its commitment to coordinate with the City on a seawater desalination project at the Barney Davis Power Plant.

CC Polymer (Aquatech)

On March 24, the Council approved a motion authorizing City staff to negotiate a water supply agreement with Aquatech, which has agreed with CC Polymers to complete the plant, install the necessary infrastructure, and obtain all required permits to operate the existing desalination facility and sell water to the City. Aquatech is a privately owned company founded in 1981 and based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

CCW, City staff, and Aquatech met this week to discuss the project. During this meeting, Aquatech advised that 8 MGD of the 9.4 MGD capacity would be available one year after contract execution and financial closure, with an additional 5 MGD accessible two years later. City staff were informed that no permit modifications would be needed for the current TCEQ intake and discharge permit. However, a TCEQ permit will be required for the plant to operate as a potable water supply facility.

Aquatech will be providing additional information to City staff within one to two weeks.

Additional Seawater Desalination

On May 5, Axe H2O presented to the Council a proposal for a potential seawater desalination plant on the south side of Corpus Christi. CCW and City staff have been in contact with Axe H2O representatives and are awaiting additional information to evaluate the contractual terms and the feasibility of their proposed business concept.

Surface Water

Western Reservoirs (Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir)

As of today, Lake Corpus Christi's reservoir is at 10.5% capacity, while Choke Canyon Reservoir's is at 7.4%. The combined capacity of these reservoirs stands at 8.3%.

Lake Texana

As of today, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reports that Lake Texana's reservoir is 79% full, compared to 77% at this time last year.

Lower Colorado River

The Lower Colorado River is managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The City of Corpus Christi holds an annual run-of-river right of 35,000 acre-feet. Currently, there are no notices of potential restrictions from LCRA.

Water Conservation Advisory Committee

The Water Conservation Advisory Committee met on April 24 for a final review of the updated plan. The completed plan will be presented to Council on May 19.

Status of Water Rate Appeals through the Public Utilities Commission

In March 2024 and March 2025, Outside-City-Limits (OCL) ratepayers, led by large-volume customers, appealed their water rates to the Texas Public Utility Commission (PUC). The cases were consolidated under PUC Docket 56427. The current schedule is as follows:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| May 15, 2026 | Responses to Objections to PUC Staff Direct Testimony |
| May 18, 2026 | Deadline to send discovery on PUC Staff Direct Testimony |
| May 22, 2026 | City Rebuttal Testimony |
| May 27, 2026 | Objections to City Rebuttal Testimony |
| June 3, 2026 | Responses to Objections to City Rebuttal Testimony |
| June 5, 2026 | Deadline to take depositions on all parties |
| June 5, 2026 | Deadline to file dispositive motions, if any |
| June 5, 2026 | Deadline to supplement discovery on direct testimonies |
| June 8, 2026 | Deadline to serve discovery on City Rebuttal Testimony |
| June 12, 2026 | Deadline for responses to dispositive motions, if any |
| June 17, 2026 | Submission of Witnesses to be Cross-Examined |
| June 17, 2026 | Deadline for prehearing submissions, including Hearing Exhibits, Witness Lists, and Final Waivers of Cross Examination |
| June 17, 2026 | Deadline for prehearing filings |
| June 17, 2026 | Prehearing Conference (<i>via videoconference</i>) |
| June 24-26, 2026 | Hearing on the Merits (<i>via videoconference</i>) |
| July 10, 2026 | Initial Briefs |
| July 24, 2026 | Reply Briefs (<i>including proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Ordering Paragraphs</i>) |

Projected Delivery of New Water Sources

The Evangeline project will be updated once the City has more certainty about the outcomes of the preliminary hearing. The administrative law judge is expected to issue the opinion on standing on or before May 10. We are expecting the reuse estimates to improve, but first need to verify additional information before estimated delivery dates can be adjusted.

| 2026 Projected Delivery of Additional Water (MGD) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| Source | Project | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | Total |
| Groundwater | WWF River Delivery | | | 6 | 6 | 5 | | | | | | | | 17 |
| Groundwater | ERF Property (WWF Extension) | | | | | | 5 | 4 | | | | | | 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