

**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:** February 27, 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. Subsurface utility exploration (SUE) continues with 42 soil borings being completed. This information will be critical for the pipeline, ground storage tank, and pumphouse foundation design. The Kinder Morgan Pipeline group will be probing to confirm the locations of their assets on the Evangeline property this coming week. Pape Dawson also met with AEP this week to continue its progress towards delivering permanent electric power to the pump station and each of the 24 well sites. The team also met with San Patricio County to discuss various permitting requirements.

With the approval of Amendment 1, procurement of long-lead equipment items is expected to begin next week. The team continues to make every effort to improve schedules and adjust phasing to ensure partial water delivery by November 2026. Pape Dawson and Garney are transitioning the implementation plan to start with pipeline installation, MRP connection, ground storage tank, and pumphouse construction at the beginning of the construction cycle.

San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPGCD) has identified an alternate administrative law judge for the preliminary hearing. The seller is working to schedule this hearing as soon as possible. During the hearing, the judge will review three filed protests and hear testimony. The purpose is to determine whether each protestants has standing. Protests were submitted regarding either the well-drilling permits and/or the transport permit.

City staff also continue to reach out to meet with those who have protested the permit applications.

On February 17, the Council considered and approved the purchase of water rights for Groundwater on the Li Ranch. This agreement depends on the seller securing permits for production, drilling, and transport. After our hydrogeologists identify the well locations on the

## **Water Supply Update**

### **Page 2**

property, the owner can begin 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 \$18,290,991, and for the Western Well Field Project, \$21,402,041. The \$30,000,000 grant was formerly approved by the Texas Water Development Board 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. The TCEQ has declared that the permit is administratively complete.

The Eastern Well Field continues to operate in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and in compliance with all State laws. CCW continues to monitor the water quality from the western reservoirs as the lake levels continue to decline. CCW and staff from Nueces County Water Control and Improvement District No. 3 (NCWCID 3) continue to work together to identify these occurrences along the river. These conditions along with other inputs such as streams and seeps into the river have been contributing to river water quality.

Well Nos. 9, 10, and 11 of the Western Well Field were functionally tested this week with permanent power and met all operational checks.

Updates regarding the other specific wells are as follows:

- Well No. 12 – Installation of the permanent pumping assembly is expected to be completed next week.
- Well No. 13 – The permanent pumping assembly has been designed, and equipment has been ordered.
- Well No. 14 –The permanent pumping assembly has been designed, and equipment has been ordered.
- Well No. 15 – Drilling is complete, and the well is currently being developed, and preparations are being made for test pumping and water quality sampling.
- Well No. 16 – Drilling is ongoing with the 26” under ream. We are expecting to install the production screen and casing next week.
- 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 – Drilling is ongoing.

CCW crews have to date installed the 23,693 linear feet or 4.49 miles of 24”, 16”, and 12” diameter PVC water line required for the operation of this well field.

**Brackish Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Treatment Project**

On February 24, the Council considered and gave approval for the City manager and City staff to negotiate contracts related to the project's implementation. The estimated water delivery for this project is listed in the table at the end of this memo. 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

Design work is being conducted by CCW, Garver Engineering, and Aqualia. Construction is projected to be completed by CCW, multiple local contractors, and Aqualia.

Graver Engineering continues its design of 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 the installation of 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 working to set preliminary meetings with TCEQ to discuss permits for the treatment part 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. The raw water for this process will be provided from the western well field through a conveyance line to the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant.

It is expected that the City will close on the groundwater rights purchase adjacent to the well field in mid-March. The additional groundwater to be delivered under the water right purchase agreement has been included in the water production delivery table below.

**Lake Texana Reservoir Status**

On February 27, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reported that Lake Texana's reservoir capacity was 59%. In comparison, the reservoir was at 70% 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 fall below 50% on April 20 if no additional inflows occur.

## **Water Supply Update**

### **Page 4**

City staff will meet again with LNRA on March 16 to discuss drought conditions and the operational process of curtailing water from Lake Texana.

### **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. Additional discussions with other entities are ongoing regarding future effluent contracts and end users.

Ardurra and CCW are continuing to design the infrastructure needed to convey approximately 10 MGD from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Greenwood WWTP. Ardurra has completed the preliminary engineering report and is moving forward with the full design of the project, which mainly involves 15 miles of 36" conveyance line and a pump station. The pump station will be located at Oso WWTP. The City will meet with contractors next week to discuss the phasing and timing of the conveyance line construction to expedite these efforts.

### **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 will prepare the contract for presentation at a council meeting in April 2026.

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

The Far Field Advisory Committee met on January 22, and a second meeting is scheduled for March 5. During this meeting, the committee will discuss modeler qualifications, and City staff will share their recommendations.

### **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 would provide input to the NRA and these firms regarding the conveyance line design.

The Nueces River Authority (NRA) has issued a formal Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to find a development partner, with responses due by March 6. The NRA anticipates selecting this development partner by mid-June.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has issued a draft intake permit and published it for public comment on February 25. The permit would authorize the diversion and



# Water Supply Update

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>34.6</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
<b>Total</b>														<b>14.7</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
- 7) The raw water for the brackish groundwater reverse osmosis project will be provided from the western well field through a conveyance line to the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant