

**CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
CORPUS CHRISTI WATER**

**TO:** Peter Zanoni, City Manager  
**FROM:** Nicholas Winkelmann, P.E., Chief Operating Officer  
**COPY:** Mayor & City Council  
**SUBJECT:** WATER SUPPLY UPDATE NO. 56  
**DATE:** May 15, 2026



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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

On April 28, the San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPGCD) convened a preliminary hearing to review protests related to Evangeline Laguna LP (Evangeline) well drilling and transport permits. Administrative Law Judge Alicia Franklin York (Judge) presided over the hearing, which included testimony from legal and technical experts representing the protesting parties and Evangeline.

On May 15, the Judge issued an opinion finding standing for all Protestants and recommending that the requested contested case be granted as to all permit applications, including 22 drilling permits and transport permit for The City of Sinton and the St. Paul Water Supply Corporation. Additionally, the Judge determined that Mr. Charles Ring has standing for a contested case regarding the transport permit. The Judge is also agreeable to setting a hearing date for Mr. Ring's additional protest of the drilling permits.

As the opinion states, sufficient testimony was provided to recommend a full contested case hearing for the Protestants. SPGCD will now consider this opinion in determining the next potential steps for a contested case hearing.

The SPGCD issued a production permit for 24 million gallons per day (MGD) in 2019 and renewed it in 2025. All permit applications fully comply with the SPGCD's rules. 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.

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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, 49,592 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. Pipe fusion operations began on May 14. There are currently two support crews and one pipe crew engaged on site. AEP is on schedule to deliver power to the first four wells to be drilled by August 1.

The delivery date for water for this project will be adjusted once we have more information on the timeline for the next steps from the SPGCD.

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 \$18,52,605, and for the Western Well Field Project, \$27,885,617. 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 previous week, the combined production is as follows: 05/06 13.7 MGD, 05/07 13.4 MGD, 05/08 12.9 MGD, 05/09 11.1 MGD, 05/10 12.5 MGD, 05/11 11.3 MGD, 05/12 11.5 MGD, and 05/13 12.6 MGD. An issue has arisen with the natural gas generators at Wells No. 3 and 5, and CCW crews are actively investigating.

The Western Well Field continues to operate, with eight wells currently online. Five wells are powered by electric, and three 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. Test pumping and water quality sampling will occur over the next week on the ninth well at the well field. Drilling and construction continue on the additional three 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 complete procurement for the first segment of the conveyance line next week, with construction activities initiated 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) will be a required component of the Brackish Reverse Osmosis treatment system. One 3,000,000-gallon ground storage tank has been procured for the pump station at the Western Well Field. CCW Engineering has finalized the design of the pump equipment for these pump stations, and pumps will be ordered within the next week.

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 \$870,899.

### 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.

CCW met with the Seven Seas Water Group this week to discuss a prospective project. Seven Seas holds an option on approximately 5,000 acres of land and intends to pursue agreements for additional property if the project were determined feasible. They are also working to complete a contract to drill a test well on the site, which will be essential for conducting an aquifer test and a hydrogeologic study of the area.

### **Wastewater Reuse**

#### Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

On May 12, Council approved a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR). The CMAR contractor will work closely with the design engineer, Ardurra, to expedite the construction of a conveyance line from the Oso WWTP to Greenwood WWTP. This allows an estimated 10 MGD to be utilized as part of the overall Wastewater Reuse project.

Ardurra has completed 60% of the design, with the remaining 40% estimated to be completed 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 met with TAMUCC representatives this week to further 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.

On May 15, CCW was notified by the Bureau of Reclamation that we will be issued a formal memo concurring with the review team's recommendation to approve the feasibility study for the Inner Harbor project. This official notification is the next step in the grant application process to provide funding.

A Far Field Advisory Committee Meeting was held on May 7. During the 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 the 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 with high-frequency data from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) stations; comparing high-frequency salinity data from USGS (United States Geological Survey), CBI, and TWDB (Texas Water Development Board); 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:

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 of the development partner are expected to be presented to the Board at the May 21 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. CCW has requested a meeting with LAN to discuss the alignment of the conveyance line and the potential connection point.

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 on May 7 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 to 6 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 informed CCW this week that the additional information and their letter of intent will be provided in the upcoming week.

Additional Seawater Desalination Project

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. This information has not yet been provided by Axe H2O.

**Surface Water**

Western Reservoirs (Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir)

As of today, Lake Corpus Christi's reservoir is at 11.1% capacity, while Choke Canyon Reservoir's is at 7.3%. 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 77% full, compared to 76% 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.

On March 16, witnesses for the OCL ratepayers filed direct testimony, collectively proposing adjustments of \$39,900,000 in 2024 and \$36,800,000 in 2025. On May 1 and May 8, the PUC staff filed direct testimony recommending an adjustment of approximately \$6,400,000 to 2024 rates and no adjustment to 2025 rates. The process will continue according to the current schedule detailed below.

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

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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 City staff 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	<i>To be determined depending upon further communication from the SPGD</i>										4	1	5
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) EWF and WWF daily production is dependent upon adherence to the operating protocol established by the bed & banks permit.

Notes continued:

- 4) Evangeline Production estimates will be updated once there is more certainty of the timeline for the next steps in the permitting process.
- 5) Well Production is dependent upon results from pumping and aquifer testing
- 6) Reuse is an offset of the potable water demand