

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 19, 2025
SUBJECT: Water Supply Update



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

Water Supply Outlook

On September 18, City staff met with State Climatologist John Nielson Gammons. He anticipates that the region will experience La Niña conditions this winter, which could result in below-normal precipitation. He also stated that the current outlook is for neutral conditions later in the spring. This may increase our chance of precipitation.

The water supply dashboard has been updated. Due to the low inflows into Lake Corpus Christi, the estimated ti for Level One Water Emergency is November 2026. The model is based on actual 2024 data, which was very conservative. In 2024, the average inflow into Lake Corpus Christi from January 1 to September 15 was 109 cubic feet per second (CFS) or 217 acre-feet per day. For the same period in 2025, the average inflows were 62 CFS or 123 acre-feet per day, which is 43% less than in 2025.

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.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) granted the Temporary Bed and Banks permit for the City of Corpus Christi's (City) Eastern Wellfield on August 7, 2025. Data and analysis is also being compiled for the submission of a second bed and banks permit, which will be required for the western well field.

Intera Incorporated, the City's project hydrogeologist, has estimated that the preliminary data indicates sustainable pumping from the Eastern Well Field is approximately 11 MGD, and 17 MGD from the Western Well Field. The hydrogeologic model continues to be updated and refined as more data is obtained.

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In the Eastern Well Field, Well Nos. 1 to 7 are complete. The installation of the Well No. 8 permanent pumping assembly is in process, and startup is expected at the end of next week. Crews are also modifying 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 approximately up to 7 to 8 MGD into the Nueces River in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and in compliance with all State laws.

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

- Well No. 9 – Drilling complete, permanent pump is being designed
- Well No. 10 – Drilling complete with test pumping and water quality sampling ongoing through the weekend.
- Well No. 11 – Drilling continues
- Well field site work continues
- Water line and river outfall are currently under design with negotiations for appropriate easements underway

Evangeline Groundwater Project

CCW is actively negotiating with Evangeline Laguna, with two meetings occurring this week on September 17 and 18. During the City Council Executive Session on September 23, staff will be presenting a final term sheet. CCW will also present professional services contracts with Pape Dawson/Hanson to complete the due diligence during the inspection period and conduct preliminary engineering. Due to the emergency situation, staff will be recommending an emergency contract for construction in the coming weeks. HDR has also completed the Mary Rhodes Pipeline (MRP) hydraulic analysis with the estimated inputs from Evangeline. This analysis will be shared with the City's contracted engineers.

We expect to have the property survey and the land appraisal complete by the October 10. The contract agreement is expected to be presented at the council meeting on October 14.

South Texas Water Authority

On September 19, City staff met with leadership from South Texas Water Authority (STWA) to receive an update on their new water supply project. On September 23, STWA Executive Director John Marez will provide the Council with an update to include:

- Test well results
- Volume projections

CCW has not received the information to forward to City Council and expects STWA to provide the requested data on Tuesday.

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

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7, the City will bring a contract for consideration with CDM Smith to complete a condition assessment of the CC Polymers facility. This contract will be less than the originally provided estimate with a reduced timeline for completion.

Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

City staff will meet 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.

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

Gulf Coast Authority and Ardurra

On September 18, City staff met with the Gulf Coast Authority (GCA) to discuss a memorandum of understanding (MOU) related to the effluent reuse project presented by Ardurra at the September 9 council meeting. Another meeting with GCA and Ardurra is set for September 25 to further discuss the project.

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 will meet with leadership from EV Ranch on September 22 to discuss a new business proposal for this potential project.