

**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 1, 2026
SUBJECT: WATER SUPPLY UPDATE



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.

Engineering and construction work continues to progress on this project by both Pape Dawson Engineers and Garney Construction. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has approved the permit applications for 22 wells. Permit applications for the two existing wells will be included in a third application package for TCEQ review and approval. The water system package is expected to be submitted to TCEQ in the first part of May.

Deliveries of the required High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) water line piping continue. As of today, 14,416 linear feet of HDPE and 30,640 linear feet of PVC have been delivered to the site. Clearing and site stabilization work continues at the pump station and the ground storage tank site. One crew from Garney has mobilized on site, and a pipe installation crew will mobilize next week. Pipe fusion operations are expected to begin the week of May 11.

Water Supply Update

Page 2

The team continues to refine schedules and adjust phases to ensure partial water delivery by November 2026. Approval of Amendment 2 for Garney allows Pape Dawson and Garney to transition the implementation plan to focus on pipeline installation, MRP connection, ground storage tank, and pumphouse construction at the start of the construction cycle. As planned in the original construction amendment, the third amendment for Garney construction will be presented to Council for consideration in May. The team remains committed to achieving partial delivery in November 2026, with an estimated production of 4 MGD.

The total expenditure for this project to date, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administration, is \$14,008,7828.

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, \$27,311,266. The Texas Water Development Board approved the \$30,000,000 grant on January 21.

The Eastern Well Field continues to operate in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and complies with all applicable state laws. Over the past seven days, the following volumes were produced: 04/22 5.1 MGD, 04/23 4.5 MGD, 04/24 2.9 MGD, 04/25 5.1 MGD, 04/26 3.6 MGD, 04/27 4.7 MGD, 04/28 2.8 MGD, and 04/29 4.3 MGD. Monthly service was 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 end of next week, increasing the total number of operating wells in the Western Well Field to eight. Over the past seven days, the following volumes were produced: 04/22 8.6 MGD, 04/23 8.5 MGD, 04/24 6.5 MGD, 04/25 9.7 MGD, 04/26 9.5 MGD, 04/27 8.6 MGD, 04/28 8.3 MGD, 04/29 9.3 MGD. Drilling and construction continue on the additional four wells.

CCW crews continue to install well laterals and meter assemblies. The electrical contractor also continues to prepare each well site by installing electrical and operating control panels.

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 delivery and timeline updates. The first treatment equipment units are expected to be installed in February/March 2027.

Water Supply Update

Page 3

Garver Engineering continues designing the conveyance line, with the 75% submittal expected in two weeks. 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 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. CCW Engineering continues designing the ground storage tank and pump station at the Western Well Field. The ground storage tank for the Western Well Field has also been procured. Geotechnical work has been conducted on-site to support the design process. 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 \$688,830.

South Texas Water Authority and Seven Seas Water Group

The Council previously authorized staff to work with STWA and Seven Seas Water Group on a brackish reverse osmosis project in Nueces County. Seven Seas Water Group has informed CCW that it is currently investigating a new project site. City staff will present basic details of the project at an upcoming Council meeting.

Wastewater Reuse

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) has been issued. Proposals will be evaluated, and a contract will be brought to Council in May for consideration. The notice to proceed for construction is expected in September 2026. The selection of the CMAR firm will occur concurrently with the design process. There has been significant interest from CMAR contractors in pursuing this project. 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.

Water Supply Update

Page 4

Ardurra and CCW continue designing the infrastructure to convey approximately 10 MGD from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Greenwood WWTP. Ardurra expects to complete 60% of the design by April 24, 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.

CCW continues negotiations with other entities regarding the use of effluent water. Council has approved agreements with Valero and Flint Hills Resources (FHR). Valero is expected to begin delivering materials for its conveyance line to a staging area at Greenwood WWTP by the end of the month. Ongoing discussions are underway with other entities regarding future effluent contracts and potential end users, including those for effluent from Broadway WWTP.

FHR is working with CCW to integrate an ultrafiltration (UF) and reverse osmosis (RO) water purification system at the Allison Wastewater Treatment facility. This project may proceed in two phases: the first would supply 1 MGD of effluent to the facility via an FHR raw-water line outside the Allison WWTP, replacing raw water typically drawn from the river. If successful, the second would increase capacity to 3 MGD. The UF/RO system, owned and operated by FHR, would be located on FHR-owned property directly adjacent to the Allison plant. Staff met with FHR this past week, and FHR is working to expedite the project.

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 April 23. During this meeting, the modeling contractor, Spheros, stated that the model grid adjustments were complete and that additional inputs had been incorporated into the updated model. The upcoming schedule for this committee is as follows:

May 7, 2026	Model validation discussion and preliminary review of model
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.

Water Supply Update

Page 5

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 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 water quality and treatment staff met with Aquatech representatives this week to discuss the project and water quality parameters. CCW is coordinating a meeting with Aquatech next week to further discuss the potential agreement and project.

Surface Water

Western Reservoirs (Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir)

As of today, Lake Corpus Christi's reservoir is at 8.7% capacity, while Choke Canyon Reservoir's is at 7.3%. The combined capacity of these reservoirs stands at 7.7%.

Lake Texana

As of today, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reports that Lake Texana's reservoir is 66% full, compared to 77% at this time last year.

The drought contingency plan for LNRA and Lake Texana requires a 10% reduction in water use when the reservoir level falls below 50%. When the reservoir drops below 50%, the prescribed

Water Supply Update

Page 6

reduction volume will be deducted from the total contractual water amounts for the City of Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi Water at the end of the year. The plan also requires a 20% reduction when the reservoir level falls below 40%. It is currently projected that the reservoir will be below 40% capacity in September.

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 in May.

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 1, 2026	PUC Staff Direct Testimony
May 8, 2026	Objections to PUC Staff Direct Testimony
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>)

Water Supply Update

Page 7

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