

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: March 6, 2026

SUBJECT: **Water Supply Update**

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. The Right of Entry (ROE) agreements are complete for all tracts, with subsurface utility exploration (SUE) ongoing. The 35 test holes for the Kinder Morgan and Williams pipelines will be completed by the end of this week. An additional 69 geotechnical borings are complete, with laboratory data being developed, which is critical for designing water lines, roads, the ground storage tank, and the pump station. The design team continues to work with AEP to update schedule and budget information to deliver permanent electric power to the pump station and each of the 24 well sites. Additional meetings with San Patricio County were held this week to discuss building and drainage permits.

With the approval of Amendment 1, procurement of long-lead equipment items has begun. Garney is finalizing contracts with multiple equipment and materials suppliers and drilling companies. The team continues to work tirelessly to improve schedules and adjust phasing to ensure partial water delivery by November 2026. Pape Dawson and Garney are transitioning the implementation plan to focus on pipeline installation, MRP connection, ground storage tank, and pumphouse construction at the start of the construction cycle.

Amendment 2 for Garney is scheduled to be presented to the Council for consideration on March 17. Amendment 2 will provide contracting services for installing pipelines, constructing roads, and building the ground storage tank and pump station. The expenditures to date for this project for professional services, construction services, legal, and administration are \$1,684,955.

San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPGCD) has identified potential alternate administrative law judges for the preliminary hearing. The seller is working with the district to schedule this hearing as soon as possible. During the hearing, the judge will review three filed

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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. There were initially four protests, but one has been withdrawn. The district issued a production permit for 24 million gallons per day (MGD) on May 16, 2019, and renewed it on January 21, 2025.

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 obtaining permits for production, drilling, and transport. Once our hydrogeologists identify the well locations on the property, the owner can start 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 \$18,316,751, and for the Western Well Field Project, \$23,742,802. The Texas Water Development Board formerly approved the \$30,000,000 grant 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. TCEQ has declared that the permit is administratively complete. The next step is for TCEQ to issue a draft permit for review. Four wells are ready for operation at the Western Well Field.

The Eastern Well Field continues to operate in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and in compliance with all State laws. The Eastern Well Field produced the following volumes over the previous seven days: 02/26 4.8 MGD, 02/27 2.9 MGD, 02/28 4.7 MGD, 03/01 2.2 MGD, 03/02 4.8 MGD, 03/03 4.5 MGD, and 03/04 4.5 MGD.

Updates regarding the other specific wells are as follows:

- Well Nos. 13 and 14 – The permanent pumping assembly has been designed, and equipment has been ordered.
- Well No. 15 – The development and step testing have been completed. The full pumping test and water quality sampling will begin on Monday morning.
- Well No. 16 – Drilling completed and the well is being developed.
- 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 – 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. 19 – Drilling has started.

CCW crews have to date installed the 24,859 linear feet or 4.71 miles of 24", 16", and 12" diameter PVC water line required for the operation of this well field. Electrical work continues under the NEC to provide permanent power to the entire well field.

Brackish Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Treatment Project

On February 17, the Council considered and gave initial 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

CCW, Garver Engineering, and Aqualia are conducting design work. 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 also 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.

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

Lake Texana Reservoir Status

On March 6, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reported that Lake Texana's reservoir capacity was 57%. 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 16 if no additional inflows occur. It is further projected that the reservoir will be below 40% on June 13th if there are no additional inflows.

City staff will meet again with LNRA next week 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. Ongoing discussions are happening with other entities regarding future effluent contracts and end users. CCW is working with us to provide updated timelines for when these projects are expected to be operational, creating a potential offset to demand.

Ardurra and CCW continue to design the infrastructure needed to convey approximately 10 MGD from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Greenwood WWTP. Ardurra projects that the 60% design will be completed by April 23. Work is ongoing on potential land and easement acquisitions required for the pipeline and pump station at the Oso WWTP. Technical Memorandums are also being prepared to address the amount of effluent supplied to the bay system. Once property and easements are finalized and the design is nearly 60%, the City will meet with contractors next week to discuss the phasing and timing of the conveyance line construction to expedite this work.

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 March 5. The committee continued discussing modeling scope and emphasized the importance of using the most accurate inputs. Spheros and Hazen & Sawyer (Hazen) both submitted qualifications for consideration, and these were also discussed by the committee.

On March 6, City staff met with both modeling firms and advised them that Spheros would be the lead modeler on this project as they received the highest scoring total by the City staff review panel and the advisory committee. During the discussion, Spheros identified that they have an existing MSA with Hazen and that they would hire them as subconsultants on this project.

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.

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.

TCEQ has issued a draft intake permit and published it for public comment on February 25. The permit would authorize the diversion and use of 350,000 acre-feet of water annually from a point in the Gulf for municipal and industrial use in Aransas, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties.

The application, technical data, and the draft permit from the Executive Director are available on the TCEQ website at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr-permitting/view-wr-pend.apps. The NRA expects TCEQ to issue the draft discharge permit by the end of February 2026.

South Texas Water Authority

South Texas Water Authority (STWA) will reconsider the contract amendment with Seven Seas at its board meeting on March 9.

CCW continues to work with the STWA and its consulting engineer under the existing memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Water Conservation Advisory Committee

The Water Conservation Advisory Committee held a meeting on February 27, and the next meeting is scheduled for March 27. Before the next meeting, the committee will be given an updated draft plan for review and comments. The updated draft will be based on the committee's comments. At the next meeting, the committee hopes to finalize its comments on the plan update.

Engagement and Outreach Calendar

March 16 – City of Aransas Pass Council Meeting

March 25 – City of Odem Town Hall (Tentative)

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Projected Delivery of New Water Sources

Please be advised that the Evangeline project will be subject to updates once the City attains greater certainty regarding the outcomes of potential negotiations and the preliminary hearing, which could potentially occur in two to three weeks. Further confirmation is being made with Valero and Flint Hills Resources

2026 Project Delivery of Additional Water (MGD)														
Source	Project	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Groundwater	WWF River Delivery					17								17
Groundwater	Evangeline											4	1	5
Groundwater	WWF Extension (ERF Property)					2	1	1	1	1				6
Reuse	FHR												1	1
Total														29

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														34.6

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
Total														14.7

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