

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

CORPUS CHRISTI WATER

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Nicholas Winkelmann, P.E., Chief Operating Officer

COPY: Mayor & City Council

SUBJECT: WATER SUPPLY UPDATE NO. 66

DATE: July 24, 2026



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.

Surface Water

Following recent heavy rainfall in the upper portion of the watershed, CCW is actively monitoring river and stream flows that may improve the reservoir capacity of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir. Data from the USGS National Water Dashboard details current and previous stream flows in ft³/sec for both reservoirs.

Nueces River Gauges Leading to Lake Corpus Christi			Frio River Sub-basin River gauges Leading to Choke Canyon Reservoir		
Gauge Location	July 17 Flow (FT ³ /sec)	July 24 Flow (FT ³ /sec)	Gauge Location	July 17 Flow (FT ³ /sec)	July 24 Flow (FT ³ /sec)
Nueces River at Laguna, Tx, USGS 0190000	34,100	1,180	Hondo Creek near Hondo, TX, USGS 08200720	368	1.4
Nueces River below Uvalde, Tx, USGS 08192000	26,800	334	Seco Creek near D'Hanis, TX, USGS 08202700	244	6.76
Nueces River near Asherton, TX, USGS 08193000	5,370	6,030	Sabinal River at Sabinal, TX, USGS 08198500	1,240	108
Nueces River at Cotulla, Tx, USGS 08194000	0	20,900	Frio River / Dry Frio River near Uvalde, TX, USGS 08197500	18,400	173
Nueces River near Tilden, TX, USGS 08194500	0.03	114	Frio River near Derby, TX, USGS 08205500	21,800	651

**All data in the table above were obtained from the USGS website at 2:00 pm on July 24.*

Western Reservoirs (Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir)

As of today, Lake Corpus Christi is at 32.6% capacity as compared to 20.2% one year ago.

Choke Canyon Reservoir is currently at 15.3% capacity, an increase from 13.1% one year ago and 8.0% one week ago. This rise is attributed to beneficial inflow from the Frio River this week. The USGS gauge near Tilden reports a streamflow of 11,400 cubic feet per second, indicating that additional inflow into the reservoir is expected to persist over the coming days.

The combined Western Reservoir capacity is 20.1%, compared with 15.1% a year ago.

Lake Texana

As of today, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reports Lake Texana's reservoir is 100% full, compared with 98% 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 (City) holds an annual run-of-river right of 35,000 acre-feet. Currently, there are no notices of potential restrictions from LCRA.

Agreed Order

CCW has held multiple meetings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to explore potential modifications to the Agreed Order release requirements beyond the Calallen Barrier Dam. During these meetings, the discussion focused on reviewing the possibility of temporarily suspending pass-thru requirements until the combined capacity of the Western Reservoirs reaches 50%.

TCEQ has indicated that a temporary special conditions request may be granted for up to 120 days, with one possible renewal. CCW will continue to work with TCEQ and will submit this request when appropriate. Additional discussions are scheduled with the Nueces River Authority (NRA) and the City of Three Rivers, the other parties involved in this agreement.

Groundwater

Evangelina Groundwater Project

The San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPCGCD) held its board meeting on July 24. During the meeting, SPCGCD stated that there are no scheduled timelines for the next steps in the contested case process related to permits for the Evangelina Groundwater Project. CCW requested a schedule on this process as soon as possible.

CCW and City staff met with Pape Dawson on July 20 to review the 100% design plans. The full design has been completed on schedule. Construction work on the project continues to progress.

by Garney Construction (Garney), with 158,356 linear feet (LF) of a total 161,300 LF of HDPE and PVC water line delivered to the site, and 20,356 LF of pipeline has been installed. Additional work in progress is associated with the pump station, road construction, site access, and preparation for connection to the Mary Rhodes Pipeline.

Due to permitting delays, water supply is not anticipated before 2026. If permits are obtained by September 1, water delivery is projected to begin in February 2027. The schedule will be revised as additional information from the San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District (SPCGCD) becomes available.

The total expenditure for this project to date, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administration, is \$66,569,521. Additional construction pay requests are currently in review.

On February 17, the Council approved the purchase of groundwater rights at Li Ranch. The closing condition requires the seller to obtain permits for production, drilling, and transportation. Hydrogeologists have identified potential well locations, and the site has been surveyed. This information will be provided to the seller to initiate the well drilling permit application process. The total expenditure for this project is \$316,875, which is solely the option fee.

Nueces Groundwater Program

The progress of the Nueces Groundwater Program continues with test drilling, geophysical logging, and other infrastructure enhancements. A request was made to the Corpus Christi Aquifer Storage and Recovery Conservation District (CCASRCD) to spread the approved production across additional wells in the Western Wellfield. No additional production request was made. The purpose of the request is to enable the CCW to optimize wellfield operations, increase system reliability, and optimize pumping distribution across available wells. This management strategy is designed to optimize the hydrogeologic efficiency of the wellfield. At the June 26 board meeting, the decision to consolidate the production permit was deferred. Interim approvals were granted to facilitate ongoing construction of additional wells.

Test pumping and water quality testing for the eleventh well in the Western Wellfield were completed this week. Permanent pump design for this well is ongoing. Development of the twelfth well in the Western Wellfield will continue through next week. The permanent pump for the tenth well in the Western Wellfield has been procured and is expected to be delivered to the project site within the next two weeks.

Test holes and geophysical logs have been completed at multiple well locations on the Ed Rachal property. Well designs for two of the wells will be finalized today, enabling procurement of production screens. Test hole drilling for an additional well is scheduled for next week, with geophysical logging to follow.

The Eastern and Western Wellfields continue to operate in accordance with the water monitoring protocols established in the bed and banks permit. Over the past seven days, the production from the Nueces Groundwater Program has been 07/22 14.0 million gallons (MG), 07/21 15.5 MG, 07/20 12 MG, 07/19 12.4 MG, 07/18 12 MG, 07/17 11.4 MG, 07/16 10.8 MG.

Nueces Electric Cooperative is making steady progress on infrastructure enhancements to provide a permanent power supply to the Western Wellfield. The infrastructure upgrades along FM 624 and within the wellfield are expected to be completed by the end of August. All improvements are essential to support the operation of twelve wells with a reliable, permanent electric supply. Currently, several wells in the Western Wellfield are powered by temporary generators.

As of today, the current expenditure for the Nueces Groundwater Project, including both the Eastern and Western Wellfield, is \$54,560,620. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) approved the \$30,000,000 grant on January 21, resulting in a total expenditure of \$24,560,620.

Brackish Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Treatment Project

Garver Engineering continues designing the conveyance line, with engineering work at 90% and 100% design projected to be complete on July 23. This portion of the project will convey water from the Western Wellfield to the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant (ONSWTP) without using the Nueces River. This work will be carried out in five construction packages. The full design for one package is complete, and the remaining packages are nearing completion. The contractor for the initial phase of this line is under contract and has begun construction. Three additional contracts associated with the conveyance line are expected to be executed. A pump station will be constructed at the Western Wellfield to complete the conveyance of groundwater to the Brackish Reverse Osmosis plant. The conveyance line and wellfield pump station are expected to be online by the end of December 2026.

Construction of the conveyance line has begun, and 1,060 LF of pipeline is currently installed. Pipeline staging and preparation work has also continued.

A meeting with TCEQ was held this past week to discuss the next steps associated with the permitting and approval of injection well disposal associated with the Reverse Osmosis (R.O.) process. Engineering and design work continues on the disposal processes.

The electrical engineer has determined the electrical components needed, and City staff will coordinate with vendors for procurement. This process will confirm lead times for long-lead electrical equipment. Power is currently available for all equipment related to this treatment project. Additionally, AEP has scheduled upgrades to be completed by 2027 to support ongoing infrastructure improvements at the ONSWTP.

Garver Engineering is working to complete the full design package for the Brackish R.O. Plant and all required infrastructure at ONSWTP. Aqualia is providing its design drawings for the treatment equipment to be incorporated into the full design package. The design package, including the required electrical improvements, is currently 60% complete. The overall plant permitting package required for TCEQ is expected to be completed in August.

The site civil engineering plans for the improvements associated with this project on the property of the ONSWTP are at 60% after review by CCW. The two 500,000-gallon ground storage tanks located at ONSWTP are expected to be completed in December 2026. Additional site civil work is being conducted to prepare for foundation work for the new R.O. facility.

The expected water delivery via the Brackish R.O. process, using the Brackish Groundwater R.O. treatment equipment provided by Aqualia, is 3.91 million gallons per day (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. CCW met with Aqualia this week to confirm that the delivery and implementation plan is still on schedule.

The current expenditure for this project is \$19,403,639.

Seven Seas Water Group

Seven Seas has an option on approximately 5,000 acres of land and intends to acquire additional properties if the project demonstrates feasibility. Seven Seas has contracted a drilling contractor to perform a test hole at the site, which will be a critical step for conducting an aquifer test and a hydrogeologic study. It is anticipated that the test well will be drilled to a depth of 3,500 feet. The driller will also be installing a monitoring well at the same location and depth as the test well. Following installation, water quality and formation capacity testing will be conducted at the test well. The testing is scheduled for August. This week, CCW visited the site to examine the test drilling and the location.

CCW and its hydraulic modeler are conducting a hydraulic review of the water system to determine how water produced by this facility can be integrated into the overall distribution system.

Wastewater Reuse

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

This project involves delivering reclaimed water from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Greenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant. The infrastructure includes 10.5 miles of 36-inch force main, pump stations, electrical systems, and other mechanical appurtenances delivering approximately 11 MGD of reclaimed water to various entities as contracted. The construction manager at risk (CMAR) contractor, Reytec, has initiated preparation of the storage area, as material delivery, including HDPE piping, will begin on August 3. All required TxDOT permits have been obtained, and construction is expected to begin within the next couple of weeks. The GMP for total construction, including the reclaimed water transmission main, pump station, wet well, and related infrastructure, is \$107,531,622. This portion of the project is expected to be completed by mid-2027.

The current expenditure for this project is \$2,355,659.

Valero plans to use 3 MGD in the initial phase of its project, expanding to up to 8 MGD in subsequent phases. Valero has begun construction, including a pipeline bore under I-37. To date, contractors have installed 28,000 LF of twenty-four-inch pipe. The complete conveyance line is approximately nine miles long. The 10-million-gallon ground storage tank is 60% designed. Valero is expected to begin using effluent water later this year.

Flint Hills Resources (FHR) is progressing quickly on its construction timeline and expects to begin utilizing effluent water within the next few months. Construction activities by FHR at the Allison Wastewater Treatment Plant, with Phase 1 treatment trailers already staged on site. FHR plans to start with 1 MGD and increase to 3 MGD in subsequent phases. Testing of the system is anticipated to commence within two months, with effluent water later this year. Additionally, FHR has initiated discussions regarding startup and commissioning protocols this week.

Ongoing discussions with other stakeholders are progressing on future effluent supply agreements and potential end users.

Seawater

Inner Harbor Seawater Desalination

The City has requested a restructuring of the SWIFT Loan to adjust key milestone timelines due to the delay. The request was formally submitted to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on June 18, 2026. Action on this request was not on the agenda for the July 23 TWDB board meeting. The next TWDB board meeting is scheduled for August 6.

Spheros Environmental submitted a draft far-field model report to CCW. Under the original work plan, Plummer and Associates, the City's consultant, will conduct an independent technical review of the report. The report is expected to be finalized by the end of July. Once finalized, it will be posted on the website for public access.

This week, City and CCW staff continued to communicate with Dr. Wetz from the Harte Institute, Dr. Herzka from UTMSI, and Dr. Stanzel, Executive Director of Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries. The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries, the Harte Institute, and UTMSI informed CCW they do not intend to review the far-field modeling data, inputs, or model scenarios as an independent reviewer.

Previous documents on current and prior modeling and aquatic life assessments are available on the project page at www.securingwater.corpuschristitx.gov.

NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

On July 7, City staff and CCW met with the NRA and two of its design engineers, LAN and HDR, to discuss the project and review preliminary design concepts for the pumping system and conveyance line. As a result of this meeting, CCW and its engineering team will analyze the alignment to identify the optimal connection point. CCW will also conduct hydraulic modeling and other analyses to complete preliminary engineering assessments, providing insights into the costs associated with the City's portion of the project.

NRA stated that its development partner, IDE, is advancing the project design from pre-design to 30%. They are also preparing a Class 4 construction estimate to identify the potential cost of treating water at this facility. This work is planned to be completed in 90 to 120 days.

A stakeholder group for the project has also been formed, which will include representatives from each entity participating in the project through the development fee. The group's intent is to provide an opportunity for the NRA to share updates and direct information with its project partners. The first meeting of this stakeholder group has yet to be scheduled. The project currently has an anticipated plant cost of \$6.2B.

On June 17, TCEQ approved the final water rights permit for Harbor Island. Although an approved 50 MGD discharge permit already exists, the plan is to forgo it and instead use the TCEQ draft offshore discharge permit for the plant, which is expected to receive full approval by the end of the calendar year. A modification to one of the General Land Office's issued permits has also been requested.

Barney Davis Seawater Desalination Project

The City is working with CPS Energy to schedule a meeting with the new interim CEO, Mr. Frank Amaraz. The meeting is intended to confirm prior discussions with CPS Energy and to further discuss next steps for pursuing seawater desalination at the Barney Davis site. Per CPS Energy staff, the meeting is expected to take place in early August.

CCW will be finalizing a contract with HDR to support strategic planning for the Barney Davis Seawater Desalination project. This includes coordinating with CPS Energy and preparing to proceed under a public-private partnership (P3) arrangement. Additionally, RSAH2O is providing professional services associated with the further review of a Public Utilities Agency (PUA).

CC Polymer (Aquatech)

The draft non-binding letter of intent continues to be reviewed by both parties. Once the letter of intent is signed, the City will set up recurring meetings to continue discussions regarding the potential contract and implementation. A follow-up meeting regarding the letter of intent is scheduled for July 27.

CCW is currently modeling the connection point and the integration of this additional water into the distribution system.

Key components of the water delivery timeline, which are initiated upon execution of a water sale agreement, include the following:

- Six months maximum for the establishment of the SPV, and the Financial Investment Decision to start after the execution of the water sale agreement
- Twelve months for the build-out of the plant and the construction of the potable water infrastructure after the Final Investment Decision, with the ability to provide 9.4 MGD
- Six additional months for the ability to provide a total of 12.5 MGD
- Eighteen additional months for the ability to provide a total of 14 MGD

Following the completion of the Final Investment Decision, construction activities will work in parallel.

Status of Water Rate Appeals through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

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 May 1 and May 8, PUC Staff filed direct testimony recommending an adjustment of approximately \$6,400,000 to 2024 rates and no adjustment to 2025 rates.

City staff and consultants completed their participation in the hearing for merits which took place on July 13 and July 14. The hearing involved multiple City staff members, consultants, and legal representatives over the two-day period. These include NewGen Strategies & Solutions LLC and Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law.

On August 5, initial briefs are due. Reply briefs, along with proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Ordering Paragraphs, are due August 16.

Upcoming Community Engagement

On Wednesday, July 15, a community engagement event was held at the Ethel Everly Senior Center. Approximately 20 community members attended. During the event, CCW discussed the advancement of new water supply projects and the strategic plan to diversify the water supply portfolio.

Additional community engagement events are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, August 6	Grace United Methodist Church, 14521 Northwest Boulevard District 1- 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, August 26	Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center, 2021 Agnes St. District 1- 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, September 16	Lindale Senior Center, 3135 Swantner Drive District 2- 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm